



# *First Sunday in Lent*

## *Worship of Almighty God*

*First Presbyterian Church of Warren, Ohio*

**February 22, 2026**      *\*Those who are able, please stand.*      **10:00 A.M. Worship**

**WELCOME!** It is good when the people of God gather for worship, praise, prayer, and mutual support. Whether you are here for the very first time today, or you are a 50+ year member, or your FPC tenure is anywhere in between, may the Lord bless you with encouragement, peace, and the hospitality of the people of God.

*Please note your presence and provide contact information and any requests in the “Ritual of Friendship” booklet. Then return it to the first person.*

### **GOD’S PEOPLE GATHER TO WORSHIP**

**PRELUDE**

“Poor Wayfaring Stranger”

Spiritual

### **AS YOU PREPARE FOR WORSHIP**

***Realities, plus Hope:** At the beginning of Lent, we are reminded that our possessions, our rulers, our empires and our projects, our families, even our own lives do not last forever. “You are dust, and to dust you shall return.” (Genesis 3:19)*

*Worship throughout these forty days try to pry loose our fingers, one by one, from presumed securities and plunge us into unknown baptismal waters, waters that turn out to be not only our death tomb, but, surprisingly, our womb of life! Rather than falling back into nothingness, we fall back on everlasting arms.*

*-- Peter C. Bower, PCUSA Theology & Worship Office*

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

*based upon Isaiah 43*

Leader: God is our refuge and strength, a present help in trouble.

**All: Therefore, we will not fear.**

Leader: God’s love endures forever.

**All: God sent Christ into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.**

Leader: Behold, says the Lord, I am doing a new thing.

**All: God’s love endures forever.**

**\*OPENING HYMN** “Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”

No. 166

**\*CALL TO CONFESSION**

**\*PRAYERS OF CONFESSION** *(In Unison, then Silently)* based upon Psalm 51

**Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love; according to Your abundant mercy, blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin!**

**For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.**

**Against You, You only, have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight.**

**Behold, You delight in truth in the inward being, and You teach me wisdom in the secret heart. Purge me, and I shall be clean. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation....**

*(A quiet moment for silent individual prayers)*

**\*KYRIE**

“Lord, Have Mercy upon Us”

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON** *(Worship Leader and In Unison)*

Leader: Friends, put your trust in the good news of the Gospel:

All: **In Jesus Christ, we are fully forgiven!**

**\*CELEBRATION SONG** “Glory Be to the Father”

No. 581

## **GOD’S WORD IS PROCLAIMED**

**WE SEEK GOD’S ILLUMINATION** *(In Unison)*

**Holy God, Your divine truth outlasts all the generations.**

**Your perfect Word enlightens all the generations.**

**Enliven our minds and our souls, Lord, as we are gathered today around what You would have us to hear, and to believe, and to do.**

**Amen.**

**HEBREW TESTAMENT READING**

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**ANTHEM**

“Ev’ry Time I Feel the Spirit”

Trad.

**NEW TESTAMENT READING**

Matthew 4:1-11

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**SUNDAY MESSAGE**

“Lent: Giving Up Control”

Pastor Greg Gillispie

### **WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

**\*PROFESSING THE FAITH OF THE CHURCH** *from A Brief Statement of Faith (1991)*

**We trust in Jesus Christ.**

**We trust in God, Whom Jesus called Abba, Father.**

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit.**

**God sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,  
and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church.**

**The Lord rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,  
engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism,  
feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,  
and calls women and men to all ministries of the church.**

**The Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all  
peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and  
culture, to hear the voices of people long silenced,  
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.**

**With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or  
in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

**\*HYMN**

“Change My Heart, O God”

No. 695, sing twice  
Plus, one more refrain

### **INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF THE LENTEN DISCIPLINE**

#### **LENTEN LITANY**

Call and response: **“Save us, O Lord.”**

Concluding prayer:

Jesus, Lamb of God, **Have mercy on us.**

Jesus, bearer of our sins, **Have mercy on us.**

Jesus, redeemer of the world,

**Grant us Your peace. Amen.**



**SUPPER AND VISION-CASTING: FEBRUARY 25:** This will be an evening for prayerful conversation and important discussions, as our ordained leadership boards meet together to identify the small handful of priorities which FPC will carry through the rest of 2026. While all Elders and Deacons will be the core of these conversations, please do not leave it solely to these folks to do the discernment. All the people of the congregation are eagerly invited to be part of this process. Everyone has something to add – newcomers, team leaders, long-time members, paid staff, the congregation at-large. All of us can benefit by listening to each other. We'll provide supper starting at 6:00 (and if you'll be later, arrive when you can and we'll feed you). Rev. Barry Chance (the leader of our regional presbytery) will guide the small group and larger discussions, dreams and brainstorming across a couple of hours. You will be in the parking lot before 8:30.

Please contact an Elder or the Church Office to RSVP, so that the right number of meals can be ordered, if you have specific dietary needs, or if you want to request carpooling or childcare.

**RADIO MINISTRY** is funded by **Janet Williams**. Our service is broadcast at 10:00 a.m. Sundays on 1570 AM and 97.7 FM and talk 977.com. Donations for the Radio Ministry may be placed in the offering plate; contributions may also be mailed to the Church Office with "Radio Ministry" in the memo of the check.

**THE DEACONS** would like to thank all who remember the Deacons' Cupboard while shopping. They are requesting **frosting, toilet tissue, paper towels, and toothpaste** for the month of **February**. You may leave your items in the Deacons' box in Fellowship Hall.

**LENTEN BIBLE STUDY:** The next Lenten study will be on **Friday, February 27**. We will enjoy a salad bar dinner and fellowship at 6:00 p.m. followed by a video and discussion. The studies are self-contained, so you can pick the evenings that fit your schedule. Sign up in Fellowship Hall and mark your calendars!

**THE FIRST SUNDAY SPEAKER SERIES** will be held on **Sunday, March 1**, after worship in the Parlor. Our speakers will be **Geri Romito and Brittany Kennedy** from Direction Home of Eastern Ohio. Geri, a social worker in the Outreach Department, goes out into the community to raise awareness of the programs and services that Direction Home of Eastern Ohio offers to older adults that can promote independence. Brittany is the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Volunteer Coordinator and works to advocate for residents of long-term care facilities and helps to ensure that the residents' voices are heard.

**THE CHILI COOK-OFF** raised \$204.00 for the Deacons' Missions. Our 2026 winners were: First Place, Julie Trowbridge; Second Place, Russell Zampino; and Third Place, Ray Rubrake. Thank you to all those who entered their delicious chili and to those who tasted and voted for their favorites.

**SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE** is a mission who provides beds for children who are without. The Deacons and the Lent Committee have decided to make this our mission for Lent. We are accepting monetary donations or twin-size sheets, comforters, blankets and pillows. Please place your donations on the table in the Sanctuary or in the Church Office.

PASTOR:  
 DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY:  
 DIRECTOR OF FAMILY AND YOUTH MINISTRY:  
 WORSHIP LEADER:  
 RADIO, LIGHTS AND SOUND SYSTEM:  
 VIDEO PROJECTION:

*Rev. Greg Gillispie  
 Melanie A. Vlad  
 Marissa Welke  
 Mary Chuirazzi  
 Alexis Musgrove  
 Bob Stahl*



**EASTER FLOWERS** – Easter is **Sunday, April 5, 2026**. We are now taking orders for flowers to grace our Sanctuary. We will again offer a variety of flowers. Please complete the form below and include payment with your order. Checks should be made payable to First Presbyterian Church. Please turn in the completed form (with payment) to the Church Office or put it in the offering box. Orders must be received by **Wednesday, March 11**, in order to secure your selections. (If orders are received after the deadline, choices cannot be guaranteed.)

-----Tear here-----

In memory/honor of (circle one) \_\_\_\_\_

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

Easter Lilies/**\$10.00** each \_\_\_\_\_

Hyacinth/**\$8.00** each \_\_\_\_\_

Daffodils/**\$8.00** each \_\_\_\_\_

Tulips/**\$8.00** each \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ for FPC Endowment Fund

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ for FPC Deacons' Pantry

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

## WEEK-AT-A-GLANCE

Sun, Feb. 22	- <b>First Sunday of Lent</b> - <b>Choir Rehearsal</b> ..... <b>8:30 am</b> - <b>Worship</b> ..... <b>10:00 am</b> - <b>Sunday School, B</b> ..... <b>10:15 am</b> - <b>Newcomers Gathering, P</b> ..... <b>11:15 am</b> - <b>Bell Choir</b> ..... <b>11:15 am</b>
Mon, Feb. 23	- OA, P ..... 10:00 am - Girl Scouts, B..... 5:30 pm - AA, MC ..... 7:00 pm
Tues, Feb. 24	- Al-Anon, MC ..... 9:30 am - NA, MC ..... 7:00 pm
Wed, Feb. 25	- Someplace Safe, B ..... 5:00 pm - AA, MC ..... 6:30 pm - <b>Supper and Vision-Casting, FH</b> ..... <b>7:00 pm</b>
Fri, Feb. 27	- <b>Church Office Closed</b> - <b>Lent Bible Study, FH</b> ..... <b>6:00 pm</b>
Sat, Feb. 28	- <b>Dianne Martin Visitation</b> ..... <b>10:00 am</b> - <b>Dianne Martin Memorial Service</b> ..... <b>11:00 am</b> - AA, MC ..... 11:00 am - Private Party, FH..... 2:00 pm
Sun, Mar. 1	- <b>Second Sunday of Lent</b> - <b>Communion/2 Cents a Meal</b> - <b>Choir Rehearsal</b> ..... <b>8:30 am</b> - <b>Worship</b> ..... <b>10:00 am</b> - <b>Bell Choir</b> ..... <b>11:15 am</b> - <b>First Sunday Speaker, P</b> ..... <b>11:15 am</b>

FH-Fellowship Hall   MC-Mable Culver   P-Parlor   B-Badger Hall   T-Tieffle Lounge   Z-Zoom