

The First Sunday in Lent

February 22, 2026

WE ASSEMBLE TO WORSHIP GOD

**Rise in body or in spirit... (as indicated below)*

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Wondrous Love

arr. Craig Phillips

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT (Hymnal 681, v.3)

This Is the Day the Lord Hath Made NUN DANKET ALL 'UND BRINGET EHR'
Blest be the Lord; who comes in power with messages of grace,
who comes in this accepted hour to save our sinful race.

*CALL TO WORSHIP from Psalm 27

One: The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

All: The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

One: The Lord will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble;

All: I believe that I shall see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.

One: Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage.

*OPENING PRAYER WITH THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN 299

You Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim

HANOVER

WE CONFESS OUR SIN

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, one by one the disciples left all they had to follow the long-awaited Messiah. You promised them hardship, rejection, a loss of comfort, hostility, suffering and, finally, a cross to carry. We give lip service to following you but complain when it is difficult; worry when we cannot see where you are leading; question "why" when suffering inevitably comes; and choose to ignore the parts of the gospel that disrupt our sense of security. Forgive us, Lord. Forgive our selfish desire to have it both ways — to follow but at no cost; to claim you but not risk anything on your behalf; to embrace new life without experiencing the garden of Gethsemane. Remind us that we live not for ourselves but for you in the world. Give us boldness and courage, by the power of your Spirit, to be your disciples in truth and deed, not just in word.

Silent Prayer -How have you disappointed God, others, or yourself?

AMEN.

*KYRIE ELEISON

O Lord, Have Mercy

ORÉ PORIAJÚ VEREKÓ

O Lord, have mercy; O Christ, have mercy; O Lord, have mercy, have mercy on us.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: The God of creation is a God of mercy who is quick to forgive all who come in repentance.

All: We believe the Good News that in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

*RESPONSE (Hymnal 581)

Glory Be to the Father

GLORIA PATRI (Greaterex)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end, Amen, amen.

THE WORD OF GOD PROCLAIMED

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Rev. Kara Wheeler

(Children through 2nd grade are welcome in Children's Church with Ms. Kara).

ANTHEM

The Gift of Love

O WALY WALY/arr. Hal H. Hopson

Though I may speak with bravest fire, and have the gift to all inspire, and have not love; my words are vain, as sounding brass, and hopeless gain. Though I may give all I possess, and striving so my love profess, but not be given by love within, the profit soon turns strangely thin. Come, spirit, come, our hearts control, our spirits long to be made whole, let inward love guide every deed. By this we worship and are freed. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Daniel 1:1-10; 3:8-15; 6:10-14

(Pew Bible p. 772)

THE SERMON

The Courage in Daniel

Dr. Lee Zehmer

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

What is God saying to you through Scripture, sermon and song?

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN OF RESPONSE 329

God Is Our Refuge and Our Strength

WINCHESTER OLD

*WE SAY WHAT WE BELIEVE – A Declaration of Faith 2:2

Evil is whatever works against the loving purpose of God for human beings and all creation.

Natural forces may have evil effects.

Sinful human choices may produce evil results.

Evil may become institutionalized in our social structures.

Whether we understand evil personally or impersonally,

we cannot explain how it originated in a world made good.

But we can affirm that evil is God's enemy as well as ours.

In Christ, God shared our agony over evil

and broke the back of its power

by bearing the worst it could do.

God works continually to overcome evil.

In the end it will be utterly defeated.

Therefore, we have courage to endure evil, to learn from it, and combat it.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Please touch the plate as it is passed to offer your time, talents, and tithes to God.

OFFERTORY

In Heavenly Love Abiding

arr. Jerry Westenkuehler

*RESPONSE

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below. Alleluia, alleluia! Praise Him above ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Loving God, as you have shared life and love with us, lead us to share even more generously our lives and our love. May we know that as we give and share, others come to know you in our lives and our love. Direct our steps in discipleship and renew our devotion to you so that through your church we might be helpful and generous in love to a world in great need. Amen.

WE ARE SENT TO SERVE GOD AND NEIGHBOR

*CLOSING HYMN 307

God of Grace and God of Glory

CWM RHONDDA

*THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (Hymnal 541, v. 1)

God Be with You Till We Meet Again

RANDOLPH

God, be with you till we meet again; loving counsels guide, uphold you, with a shepherd's care enfold you: God be with you till we meet again.

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

arr. Sharon Rogers

Guests...WELCOME to First Presbyterian Church!

We are pleased that you have chosen to worship with us and pray that you will discover anew God's love for you today.

Please sign the Friendship Pad with your contact information when it is passed. Church members and staff would be delighted to provide you with more information about FPC.

Nursery Care Today: Joanne Edwards **March 1:** Mary Alice Owen
Elder/Deacon on Duty Today: John Blackwelder, Jennifer Abernathy
Elder/Deacon on Duty March 1: Rob Joiner, Heather Dellinger
Monitor/Greeter Today: Steve Roberts **March 1:** Barry Goodner
Acolytes Today: Alexander Roberson
Acolytes March 1: Henry Goodner, Ben Williams

Remember the following in prayer: Worth Kendall, Mary Tice, Shirley Burton, Beth Easley, Michele Horne, Rev. Barry Lambert, Keira Esposito, Ashley Platts, Nancy Lowery, Colleen Lathan, Jean Horton, Will Read, Manfred Liewald

Our Annual Congregational Meeting is today at the end of the worship service.

Help for HOPE: Thank you for your generous contributions of dried beans during the month of February that resulted in 105 bags of beans for the clients of HOPE of Rock Hill. In the month of March, we will be collecting GRITS. Any brand and any variety (long-cooking, quick cooking, or instant) is needed and appreciated. Please leave your contributions in the narthex by **March 15**. Thank you on behalf of the Mission and Outreach Committee and the clients of HOPE of Rock Hill.

Gospel of Matthew- Chapter 25 Lenten Study: Join us for this in-depth study on Mondays, February 23 to March 30, 7:00 to 8:00 pm. In-person is preferred, but Zoom-hybrid will also be available. Join us however you prefer! The study is for adults and older youth. As Pastor Lee has directed us all “Reflecting the light of Jesus into our community and beyond.” Contact Dave Keely to participate.

Mission and Outreach Opportunities: The HOP (Hunger Outreach Program) Ministry will meet on February 24 at 2:30 pm in Hopkins Hall! Join us at the Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen on Thursday, February 26 at 10:00 am. Reach out to Wendy Blanchard for info.

Acolyte Recognition: Join us on Sunday, March 1 as we recognize our acolytes during worship for their dedication and service.

Rolling in Rock Hill FPC has an opportunity to delight a Rock Hill family by sprucing up their home's exterior with paint (and love) on Saturday April 18. We encourage you to be a part of our FPC team for this event. Fresh air, working on your painting skills, and the satisfaction of helping a neighbor are just some of the benefits of joining our team for this great community event. **We ask that you sign up by Sunday, March 1.** Please contact Richard Quandt or Ken Roberts with questions.

Family Promise: Thanks for all the wonderful volunteers at FPC who host families experiencing homelessness. FPC will host again the week of March 8 -14. We will need overnight hosts, dinner providers, and greeters to open the building, visit with our guests, and help other volunteers. **Use the QR code to sign up for March.**



Plentiful Harvest Kitchen Is Sunday, March 22: Shifts are from 2:00-4:00 pm to cook and 4:00-6:00 pm to serve and clean-up. Three to four volunteers are needed per shift. Covenant PC handles the menu and we provide the workers. If you are interested in this opportunity, please reach out to Jennifer Abernathy.

Save the Date! An Acolyte Training will be held on Sunday, April 26 at 9:15 am. The training is for all current acolytes and those entering 3rd grade in Fall 2026 and older. Please contact Sheryl Smith if you will be attending or have any questions.

This QR Code may be used for all online contributions to the church. There is a 1% processing fee for Checking/ACH transfers and 3% fee for Credit Card transaction.



Church Office Hours
Monday – Wednesday: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Thursday: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
Friday: Closed

This Week’s Calendar

Sunday, February 22
9:30 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal
10:00 am Sunday School (*Seekers/New Covenant*)
10:30 am Reception of New Members-Chapel
11:00 am Worship and Annual Cong. Meeting
3:30 pm Handbells
5:00 pm Children’s Choirs

Monday, February 23
7:00 pm Matthew 25 Lenten Study

Tuesday, February 24
8:30 am Walking Group
10:00 am Women’s Bible Study
2:30 pm HOP
4:00 pm Seniors Exercise Class
6:30 pm Rock of Ages

Wednesday, February 25
6:00 pm Yoga
6:30 pm Men’s Bible Study

Thursday, February 26
8:30 am Walking Group
10:00 am Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen
4:00 pm Seniors Exercise Class
5:00 pm Pickleball Play

Sunday, March 1
9:30 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal
10:00 am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship with Communion
3:30 pm Handbells
4:30 pm Middle School Bible Study/Dinner
5:00 pm Children’s Choirs
5:30 pm High School Dinner/Trip Mtg

Members of the Session

Susan Roberson, Clerk

<u>Class of 2026</u>	<u>Class of 2027</u>	<u>Class of 2028</u>
John Abernathy	Paul Horne	Clair Roberts
Jimmy Campbell	Ann Hunsucker	Bo Redmond
Scott Harris	Chip Hutchison	John Blackwelder
Elizabeth Owen	Julia Nichols	Cynthia Johnson
Susan Roberson	Sheryl Smith	Rob Joiner

Members of the Diaconate

Beth Janicke, Moderator

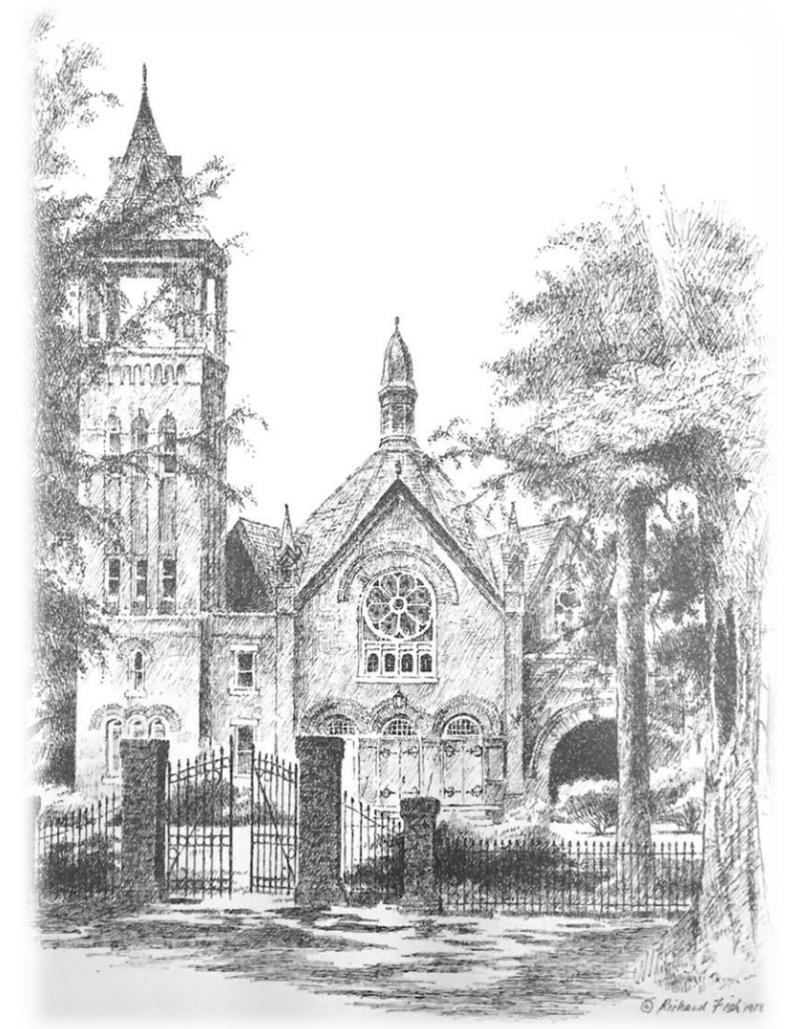
<u>Class of 2026</u>	<u>Class of 2027</u>	<u>Class of 2028</u>
Jennifer Abernathy	Beth Janicke	Cameron Lawson
Heather Dellinger	Allen Katz	Carolyn Johnson
Kathy James	Joan Musselwhite	Jonathan Nichols
Margaret Joiner	Steve Roberts	Richard Quandt
Dave Keely	Sherry Hutchison	Betsy Forrest

Deacons of the Month for February

Heather Dellinger, Allen Katz, Carolyn Johnson

Office Staff and Contact Information

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First Presbyterian Church

234 East Main Street
Rock Hill, South Carolina 29730
Organized 1869

We are a diverse family of believers in Jesus Christ, who seek to glorify God by celebrating and sharing God’s renewing and transforming love as we:

- Worship* the living God with joy and thanksgiving
- Teach* the Word of God to deepen our faith and grow in our love of Christ
- Serve* others through sharing our unique gifts of the Holy Spirit
- Fellowship* with one another to energize our life together as a congregation
- Nurture and Embrace* all of God’s children.

Dr. A. Lee Zehmer – Senior Pastor
Rev. Kara Wheeler – Associate Pastor of Family Ministries
Dr. Donald M. Rogers – Director of Music
M. L. Marley – Organist
Angela Harris – Director of Cherub Choir
Ashley Platts – Director of Handbell Choirs