

The Third Sunday in Lent

March 8, 2026

WE ASSEMBLE TO WORSHIP GOD

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

OPENING VOLUNTARY

It Is Well with My Soul

arr. Craig Phillips

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT (Hymnal 395, v.1)

Blessed Jesus, at Your Word

LIEBSTER JESU

Blessed Jesus, at your word we have come again to hear you; let our thoughts and hearts be stirred and in glowing faith be near you. By your gospel true and holy, teach us, Lord, to love you solely.

*CALL TO WORSHIP from Psalm 22

One: You who fear the Lord, praise him!

All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him and stand in awe of him!

All: We will tell of God's name to our brothers and sisters; in the midst of the congregation we will praise God.

One: Let us worship the God who keeps covenants!

*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 409 (vv. 1, 2 & 4)

God Is Here

ABBOT'S LEIGH

WE CONFESS OUR SIN

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, our faith is weak in the face of crisis. Our hope collapses when we are threatened or attacked. We seek our own safety and trust in objects we can create and control. We speak much and risk little. But you, O God, have given your promise that you will never forsake us. Forgive us for becoming impatient and not trusting that promise. We pray in Jesus' name,

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: Hear this good news. Our Lord, who walked this earth and faced temptation, understands our struggles and temptations. Jesus stands ready to listen, to forgive, and call us to new life.

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 (Greatorex)

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

Oh Love

Elaine Hagenberg

Oh Love, that will not let me go. I rest my weary soul in Thee; I give thee back the life I owe, that in thy ocean depths its flow may richer, fuller be. O Joy, that seeks me through the pain, I cannot close my heart to thee; I trace the rainbow through the rain, and feel the promise is not vain, that morn shall tearless be.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Genesis 17:1-6

(Pew Bible p. 12)

Romans 4:13-25

(Pew Bible p. 145)

THE SERMON

God's Covenant with Humanity

Dr. Lee Zehmer

Walk by Faith - Jeremy Camp

Will I believe You when You say/Your hand will guide my every way

Will I receive the words You say/Every moment of every day

Well I will walk by faith/Well even when I cannot see

Because this broken road/Prepares Your will for me

Help me to rid my endless fears

You've been so faithful for all my years

With one breath You made me new/Your grace covers all I do

Well I'm broken/But I still see Your face

Well You've spoken/Pouring Your words of grace.

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TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

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

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN OF RESPONSE 51

To Abraham and Sarah (I Will Be Your God)

LLANFYLLIN

*WE SAY WHAT WE BELIEVE – from A Declaration of Faith 3:1

To the world in its rebellion and alienation

God promised blessing and restoration.

The Lord chose Abraham and his descendants

as bearers of that promise for all peoples.

They had done nothing more than others

to deserve the Lord's favor,

but God loved them and made them his own.

We acknowledge God's freedom and grace.

Though we are unworthy,

the Lord has made us his own in Christ.

God has chosen us as his servants for the sake of the world and destined us to be his daughters and sons, giving us love and life, calling us to worship and honor him.

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

Ah, Holy Jesus

arr. Dale Wood

*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

We give our gifts in love and thanksgiving for all that we have been given. Help us give with hearts and minds open to the possibilities of what we can do to heal the brokenness of our world. Let our love travel where we do not, making pathways of peace where there are none, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

WE ARE SENT TO SERVE GOD AND NEIGHBOR

*CLOSING HYMN 838

Standing on the Promises

PROMISES

*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

Jesus, I Will Ponder Now

Wilbur Held

The flowers today are given to the Glory of God by James and Kim Crean in celebration of their daughter Katie's 12th birthday.

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: Susan Dove **March 15:** Janelle Chubb
Elder/Deacon on Duty Today: Sheryl Smith, Jonathan Nichols
Elder/Deacon on Duty March 15: Scott Harris, Allen Katz
Monitor/Greeter Today: Rod Hicks **March 15:** Barry Goodner
Acolytes Today: Millie Goodner, Mason Goodner
Acolytes March 15: Keaton Esposito, Amelia Skinner

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, Manfred Liewald, Donna Martin

Help for HOPE March collection is GRITS. Any brand and any variety (long-cooking, quick cooking, or instant) are needed. Leave your contributions in the Narthex by **March 15**. The Mission and Outreach Committee and the clients of HOPE of Rock Hill thank you.

The Nominating Committee will be preparing a slate of nominees for election to serve as members of the Session and the Board of Deacons for the term 2027-2029. Nominating forms are in the Narthex and at each Sanctuary door. Place completed forms by **March 22** in the offering plate or in Box #15 outside the Church Office.

Easter Lilies: Order forms are in the Narthex. The lilies are \$12.00 each. Submit payment when you place your order. Place your orders by March 22 in the offering plate OR in Jonna's box (#33) by the Church Office.

Ladies Night Out is Tuesday, March 10 at 6:00 pm at The Journeyman restaurant, 129 Oakland Ave., Rock Hill. Notify Linder Tucker by Monday, March 9 at 6:00 pm to make reservations. We will not carpool.

The Retirees Lunch is Thursday, March 12 at noon at the Red Bowl Restaurant. Sharon Floyd of the Better Bound Bookstore and Youth Development will speak.

FPC Basketball Recognition will be held during the service on Sunday, March 15 in worship. After worship, teams and their families are invited to a lunch. Chicken and dessert will be provided. Please bring a side to share. A \$10 donation is asked per family. RSVP to your coach or in the Church Office by March 11.

Rock Hill Music Club presents Winthrop University Professor and pianist, Tomoko Deguchi, on Sunday, March 15 at 3:00 pm at First Presbyterian Church.

Plentiful Harvest Kitchen is Sunday, March 22: Shifts are from 2-4 pm to cook and 4-6 pm to serve & clean-up. Contact Jennifer Abernathy to volunteer.

The Easter Egg Hunt will be on Sunday, March 29: Lunch will be at noon in Hopkins Hall. The Egg Hunt will be held outside after our lunch. Crafts will follow inside. The rain plan will be the Sanctuary. Please RSVP for lunch by Wednesday, March 25 with the Church Office.

Calling FPC Artists! On Easter Sunday, we will celebrate together the gifts of the spirit, the approachability of God in prayer, and the beauty of resurrection and hope at our Easter Breakfast and Flowering of the Cross. Artists (photography, paint, pencil, clay, cloth, yarn, etc.) are invited to share their works in thanksgiving and glory to God at the breakfast. Display tables will be available. Reach out to Kara with any questions and to share your art.

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, March 8 *Family Promise Host Week*
 9:30 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal
 10:00 am Sunday School
 11:00 am Worship
 12:15 pm Mission/Outreach Mtg.
 3:30 pm Handbells
 4:30 – 7:00 pm MS/HS Bible Studies/Snack Supper
 5:00 pm Children's Choirs

Monday, March 9
 9:00 am Property Committee
 7:00 pm Matthew 25 Lenten Study

Tuesday, March 10
 10:00 am Women's Bible Study
 4:00 pm Seniors Exercise Class
 6:00 pm Ladies Night Out
 6:30 pm Rock of Ages

Wednesday, March 11
 6:00 pm Yoga
 6:30 pm Men's Bible Study

Thursday, March 12
 12:00 pm Retirees Lunch
 4:00 pm Seniors Exercise Class
 5:00 pm Pickleball Play

Sunday, March 15
 9:30 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal
 10:00 am Sunday School
 11:00 am Worship
 12:00 pm Basketball Families Luncheon
 3:00 pm Rock Hill Music Club Program
 3:30 pm Handbells
 5:00 pm All Youth Group
 5:00 pm Children's Choirs
 6:00 pm HS Youth DR Mission 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

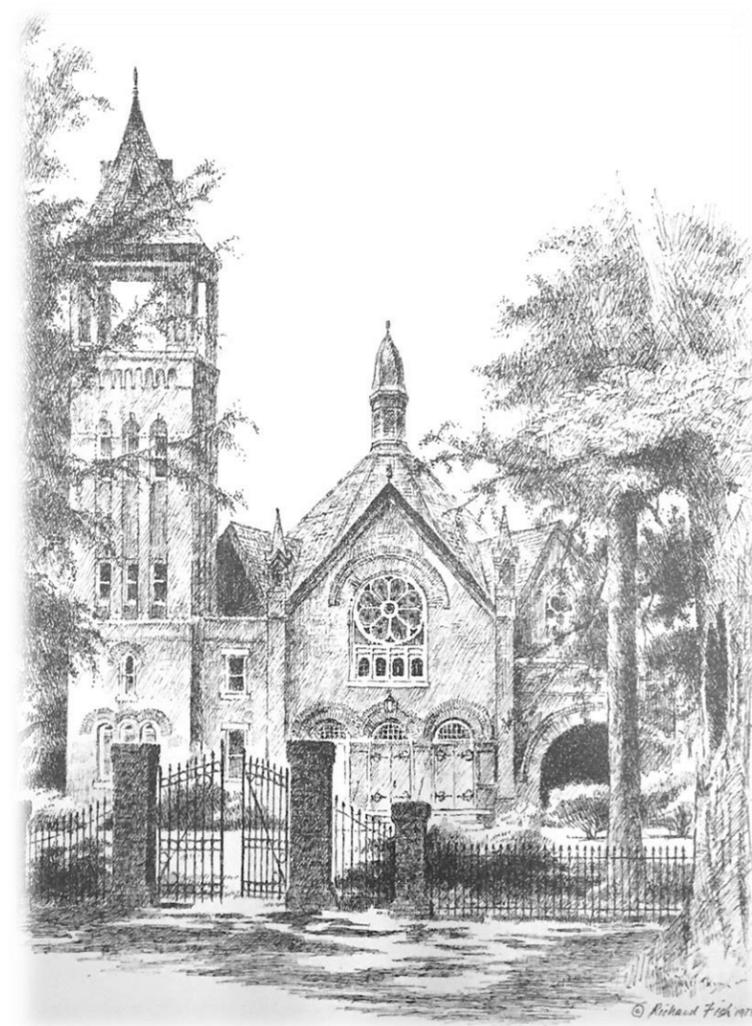
<u>Class of 2026</u>	<u>Class of 2027</u>	<u>Class of 2028</u>
Jennifer Abernathy	Beth Janicke	Cameron Lawson
Heather Dellinger	Allen Katz	Carolyn Johnson
Kathy James	Joan Musselwhite	Jonathan Nichols
Margaret Joiner	Steve Roberts	Richard Quandt
Dave Keely	Sherry Hutchison	Betsy Forrest

Deacons of the Month for March

Kathy James, Joan Musselwhite, Cameron Lawson

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