

WORSHIP



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH of
RICHARDSON

JANUARY 25, 2026 | LONGEST NIGHT

Responding to God's love and grace, we WORSHIP with joy, NURTURE with faith, and SERVE others with love.

At First Presbyterian Church of Richardson, we believe that God's love is for everyone—without exception. We welcome all people to worship, serve, and grow with us, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, physical or mental ability, marital status, or economic circumstance. We affirm the worth and dignity of every person as a beloved child of God, created in God's image. As a church rooted in God's grace, we seek to live with open hearts and open minds. We commit to being a safe and affirming space for all, especially those who have been hurt or excluded by the church in the past. In our worship, our leadership, our fellowship, and our service—we welcome you. We see you. We honor your full humanity. You are welcome here. You are not alone. You are loved.

We Gather Around the Word

WELCOME

*OPENING PRAYER | *Responsively*

Bob Wright, Liturgist

Dear God,

There is more suffering, loss, and fear in the world than we can hold all at once.

The news keeps coming. The grief keeps piling up.

The weight of it presses in from every direction.

Help us learn when to listen and when to rest.

Help us stay open to those we love

without being overwhelmed by everything we cannot fix.

Sometimes our hearts struggle to trust love when so much feels fragile and uncertain.

When our hearts begin to fill, slow the anxious thoughts that rush in and drain them again.

Teach us gentler ways of protecting ourselves -

Ways that do not harden us or close us off from one another.

When our hearts are wounded, we are quick to turn inward in fear.

Help us resist seeing threat where there is none

and pushing away what might actually heal us.

It is confusing to live with human hearts in a hurting world.

So remind us that while our hearts may break, expand, ache, heal, close, open, and overflow,
none of this diminishes the part of us made in your image.

Nothing can extinguish the life you have placed within us.

Nothing can erase the love you have already planted here.

May we continue to notice small acts of kindness, simple beauty, and unexpected grace.

So that we heal in ways we did not think possible.

So that we grow in compassion we did not know we carried.

And for that, we give thanks. Because you remain with us.

Amen.

OPENING VOLUNTARY

“Sonata Op. 27, No. 2”

I. Adagio sostenuto, Ludwig van Beethoven

Terry Metzger, Piano

**Please stand in body or spirit*

*CALL TO WORSHIP and LIGHTING OF CANDLES | *Responsively*

Bob Wright, Liturgist

In a season marked by constant crisis, by conflict near and far,
by uncertainty that follows us from our homes into the wider world,

we come seeking shelter, honesty, and rest.

We light these candles as signs of God's steady presence
when life feels fractured or overwhelming.

We light a flame for those whose hope feels thin—

for people worn down by relentless news, by repeated loss, by fears that do not let go.

May God meet them with courage and quiet strength.

We light a flame for those living with anxiety— for hearts unsettled by change,
for minds carrying too much at once,

for those navigating uncertain paths at home, at work, or in the world.

May God surround them with peace that does not demand certainty.

We light a flame for those who ache for joy—

for laughter that feels distant, for lightness that seems out of season,

for moments of grace that arrive unexpectedly.

May God remind them that joy can coexist with sorrow.

We light a flame for love that has been strained or broken—

for relationships wounded by betrayal or neglect, for grief that lingers,

for loneliness that feels invisible, and for communities divided by fear and violence.

May God hold them in steadfast love.

As these lights grow among us, may we remember that we do not face this long night alone.

God is here. We are here for one another.

Come, Holy God. Meet us here. Hold us through the darkest night. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN | #796 "We Come To You For Healing, Lord"

CALL TO CONFESSION *and* PRAYER OF CONFESSION | *Unison*

**Gracious God, when despair and suffering overwhelm us,
we cry out for you and feel abandoned.**

We doubt your presence and your promises.

We believe you have turned away from us in anger.

We ask why you have forsaken us.

In these moments, strengthen us in faith and fill our hearts with courage.

We believe, God. Help our unbelief. Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS | *Responsively*

Psalm 103:17

"The steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting."

Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI | #649 "Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound" (vs. 3-4)

*Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come.*

*'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.*

*The Lord has promised good to me;
his word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.*

*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The Peace of Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

TIME FOR TINY THEOLOGIANs

Children of all ages are welcome to join us up front for a brief children's lesson. Children between the ages of 0-kindergarten are then welcome to go to the nursery following the lesson, or return to their seats.

We Proclaim the Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 42

NRSV OT Pg. 515

Restore us, O God

Make your face shine on us, that we may be saved.

Refrain: *Don't be afraid, I am with you....*

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 30

NRSV OT Pg. 505

Restore us, O God

Make your face shine on us, that we may be saved.

Refrain: *Don't be afraid, I am with you....*

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 43:1-7

NRSV OT Pg. 672

Restore us, O God

Make your face shine on us, that we may be saved.

Refrain: *Don't be afraid, I am with you....*

SILENT REFLECTION

Where is a place of metaphorical darkness in your life?

Where is light in your life?

Who or what are you holding before God in this season of darkness?

What small act of faith, presence, or care could carry light into that darkness?

We Respond to the Word

*HYMN OF RESPONSE | #819 “Be Still, My Soul”

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH | *Unison*

Lamentations 3:22-33

**Because of the Lord’s great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail.
They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.
I say to myself, “The Lord is my portion; therefore I will wait for him.”
The Lord is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him;
it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.
It is good for a man to bear the yoke while he is young.
Let him sit alone in silence, for the Lord has laid it on him.
Let him bury his face in the dust— there may yet be hope.
Let him offer his cheek to one who would strike him,
and let him be filled with disgrace.
For no one is cast off by the Lord forever.
Though he brings grief, he will show compassion, so great is his unfailing love.
For he does not willingly bring affliction or grief to anyone.**

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Alice Hernandez

LIGHTING OF CANDLES and HYMN | #39 “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

*As you are comfortable, you may come forward and light a candle.
The candle can be lit as a prayer request for you or someone you love,
as a light to honor someone lost, or as a signal of hope.
When you return to your seat, we invite you to draw a paper prayer request
from the basket to pray over throughout the week.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and THE LORD’S PRAYER | *Unison*

**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.**

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

CALL FOR OFFERING

OFFERTORY

“River”

Leon Bridges

Terry Metzger, Piano and Vocal Solo

*Been traveling these wide roads for so long
My heart's been far from you, ten-thousand miles gone*

*Oh, I wanna come near and give ya every part of me
But there's blood on my hands and my lips are unclean*

*In my darkness I remember momma's words reoccur to me
"Surrender to the good Lord and he'll wipe your slate clean"*

*Take me to your river, I wanna go, oh, go
Take me to your river I wanna know*

*Dip me in your smooth waters, I go in
As a man with many crimes come up for air
As my sins flow down the Jordan*

*DOXOLOGY | #15 “All Creatures of Our God and King (vs. 4)

*All who for love of God forgive,
all who in pain or sorrow grieve,
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*Christ bears your burdens and your fears;
so, even in the midst of tears,
sing praises! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

We Are Sent Out to Bear the Word in the World

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*SENDING HYMN | #840 “When Peace Like a River (It is Well With My Soul)”

*BENEDICTION

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

“Clair de lune”

Claude Debussy

Terry Metzger, Organ

WEEK AT A GLANCE:

Sunday, January 25

Coffee Class: 9 am, A111

Present Word: 9 am, A109

Children's Sunday School: 9-10:15 am, CE Building

Nursery: 9-11:30 am, CE Building

Worship: 10:30 am, In-Person & Online

Monday, January 26

Faith Sharing: 1 pm, Library

Book Discussion Group: 2 pm, Library

Tuesday, January 27

Prayer Group: 6:30 am, Phone

Tuesday Morning Bible Study: 10 am, Library

Pastor's Bible Study: 1:30 pm, Google Meet

Wednesday, January 28

Sometimers: 8-11 am

Handbell Rehearsal: 5:45-7:15 pm

Choir Rehearsal: 7:30-9 pm

Saturday, January 31

Church Clean-up Day: 9 am-2:30 pm

Taiwanese Ministry Bible Study: 2-4 pm, Library

Sunday, February 1

Coffee Class: 9 am, A111

Present Word: 9 am, A109

Children's Sunday School: 9-10:15 am, CE Building

Nursery: 9-11:30 am, CE Building

Worship: 10:30 am, In-Person & Online

**For the full events
calendar that includes
our Community Partners,
please scan the QR code.**



POSTPONED DATE TBD

Movie Screening at
St. Barnabas Presbyterian Church
1220 West Belt Line Road
Richardson, TX 75080

THE LIBRARIANS

Directed by Kim A. Snyder

[Click here](#) to register and
learn more about the film!

America's
war on
books
is more
than a
war on
words.



Inclement Weather Information

We are closely monitoring the weather forecast for this week and will make a decision regarding Office Hours for Monday and Tuesday as needed. Keep an eye on your email for any church-wide communication regarding this winter storm.

Thank you!

Church Clean Up Day!

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31 / 9-2:30PM

PLEASE ENTER THROUGH DOOR C BY THE OFFICES

Please remember to dress comfortably.

We will be providing donuts in the morning and pizza for lunch!

If you have any of the following items that you are willing to bring and use, this will make our tasks a little easier!

- Vacuum cleaner with attachments
- Hand-held vacuum
- Small shampoo spot cleaner
- Old towels or drop cloths

This will also be another **Electronic Recycling** event. If you have items that did not get included in the Electronic Recycling drive on December 13, bring them on January 31. If you aren't volunteering and just dropping items for the recycling, bring them to door C.

BRUNCH AND ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Church!

**SUNDAY,
FEBRUARY 1
BRUNCH SERVED
AT 10:30 AM;
WORSHIP AT 10:45 AM
FELLOWSHIP HALL
SEE YOU THERE!**

