

FIRST THINGS FIRST

NEWS FOR THE CHURCH FAMILY AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STERLING, COLORADO

MARCH 2026



... The great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting,

HOSANNA!

BLESSED IS THE ONE WHO COMES

IN THE NAME OF THE LORD.

John 12:12-13

A MESSAGE FROM MICHELLE. . .

Saint Patrick

I don't always remember to wear green on St. Patrick's Day, but I love the Celtic tradition. Some of my favorite hymns are from this tradition: *Be Thou My Vision, God Be the Love to Search and Keep Me, Christ Be Beside Me/ Morning Has Broken, The King of Love My Shepherd Is...*

There's a very strong sense of "with-ness" in the prayers and theology of the Celtic tradition. Prayers both *ask* for God to be with us, and also *claim* the deep and abiding presence of God with us — within both people and nature. There's a Celtic proverb that says, "Heaven and earth are only three feet apart." What a helpful reminder to be open to the in-breaking of God's kingdom in our ordinary, everyday lives!



Perhaps St. Patrick is most famous for his "Breastplate" prayer. Here's a portion of the prayer:

I arise today, through the strength of heaven, the light of the sun, the radiance of the moon, the splendor of fire, the speed of lightning, the swiftness of wind, the depth of the sea, the stability of the earth... I arise today, through God's strength to pilot me, God's might to uphold me, God's wisdom to guide me, God's hand to guard me, God's shield to protect me, God's host to save me from snares of devils, from temptation of vices, from everyone who shall wish me ill, afar and near...

*Christ with me, Christ before me,
Christ behind me, Christ within me,
Christ beneath me, Christ above me...*

*I bind to myself today the strong power of an invocation of the Trinity,
the Creator of the Elements.*

Let us remember how near God is to us — in each other, in creation, and even in ourselves. May the Spirit of God uphold us this Lent, and always.

Rev. Michelle



COMMUNITY
Lenten Services

**JOIN US EVERY WEDNESDAY NOON FOR A
 LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICE AND LUNCH.
 SERVICE BEGINS AT 12:05 AND CONCLUDES AT 12:35
 LUNCH FROM 12:35 - 1:00**

**LUNCHESES WILL BE AVAILABLE TO EAT AT THE CHURCH
 OR TAKE WITH YOU. FREE WILL OFFERING GIVEN TO
 COOPERATING MINISTRIES OF LOGAN COUNTY.**

**SERVICES ARE AT
 FAITH CORNERSTONE CHURCH
 230 WILLIAMS PLACE... 522-0140**

**Feb 18
 Jodie Harless
 Faith Cornerstone**

**March 11
 Michelle Witherspoon
 First Presbyterian**

**April 1st
 Spencer Green
 Willard & Christ Church**

**February 25
 Lew Champ
 First Christian**

**March 18
 Kristie Firme
 Retired**

**March 4
 Richard vonSteinman
 First English Church**

**March 25
 Terry Krayenhagen
 Peetz Community**



UPCOMING EVENTS...

First Friday @ First Presbyterian

*Orpheus Club
Young Artists*

Area High School Students



March 6, 2026

12:05 to 12:35

onsite, or online: www.youtube.com/@FPC.Sterling

COMMUNITY EVENTS . . .

AMERICANS



Grand Opening March 21, 2026
Exhibit Closing May 10, 2026

The Overland Trail Museum in Sterling, Colorado will host the Smithsonian traveling exhibition, **“Americans”** March 21 – May 9, 2026. The exhibition from the Smithsonian’s Museum on Main Street and the National Museum of the American Indian explores how deeply intertwined American Indians are in the history, popular culture and identity of the United States.

The Overland Trail Museum has been chosen by History Colorado to host “Americans” as part of the Museum on Main Street program—a national/state/local partnership to bring exhibitions and programs to rural cultural organizations. Sterling is one of five Colorado communities to be chosen for this exhibition.

Based on a major exhibition at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C., “Americans” highlights the ways in which American Indians have been part of the nation’s identity since before the country began. Images of American Indians are everywhere, from imagery on commercial products and professional and high school sports mascots, to classic Westerns and episodes of Seinfeld and South Park. Indian names are everywhere too, from state, city, and street names to the Tomahawk missile. Beyond these images and names are familiar historical events and stories—Thanksgiving, Pocahontas, the Trail of Tears and Battle of Little Bighorn—that have become part of everyday conversation.

Through photographs, hands-on interactives, objects, and videos, the exhibition offers a new way of understanding a country forever fascinated, conflicted and shaped by its relationship with American Indians.

You are invited to join us for the opening of **Americans** on **Saturday, March 21 at 10:00 am**. A special welcome and remarks from honored guests will begin at 10 am with light refreshments served. Following the program you are invited to explore this fascinating exhibit. Please call the museum at 970-522-3895 for more information!

Feeling Called to Connect & Lead with FPC?



Seeking Elder & Deacon Nominations

The nominating committee would like your help. If you would like to serve in one of these offices, or if you know of someone you think would be a good Deacon or Elder, please make that recommendation to the Nominating Committee with this form. Anyone who is an active member of First Presbyterian Church of Sterling, Colorado, is eligible to serve. Please note that any suggestion submitted is a recommendation to the Nominating Committee and does not constitute a nomination. The Nominating Committee will consider all recommendations and decide which among them shall be presented to the congregation. Nominations will also be taken from the floor at the congregational meeting.

If you wish to recommend yourself, or someone else, to be nominated, please fill out this form and turn it in to the church office as soon as possible.

I believe that _____ would serve the church well as a member of the Session because _____

_____.

I believe that _____ would serve the church well as a Deacon because _____

_____.

Submitted by: _____

Elders

The following information is quoted from the Book of Order (Part II of the Presbyterian Constitution) describing generally the role of Elder.

Elders are chosen by the people. Together with ministers of the Word and Sacrament, they exercise leadership, government, and discipline and have responsibilities for the life of a particular church as well as the church at large, including ecumenical relationships. They shall serve faithfully as **members of the session**. (G-10.0102) When elected commissioners to higher governing bodies, elders participate and vote with the same authority as ministers of the Word and Sacrament, and they are eligible for any office.

Elders should be persons of faith, dedication, and good judgment. Their manner of life should be a demonstration of the Christian gospel, both within the church and in the world. (G-6.0106)

a. It is the **duty** of elders, individually and jointly, to **strengthen and nurture the faith and life of the congregation committed to their charge**. Together with the pastor, they should encourage the people in the worship and service of God, equip and renew them for their tasks within the church and for their mission in the world. . .

Elders at First Presbyterian Church

The following information describes some of the particulars of being an Elder at First Presbyterian Church.

Elders are elected to serve on Session for a **three-year term**. We are currently looking for Elders to serve in the class of **2029**, beginning in January of 2027 and ending in December of 2029. (There are three classes of three Elders, plus one youth Elder, for a total of 10 on Session.)

Session meetings are at 6pm on the **third Tuesday of each month**. Meetings usually last between 1-1 ½ hours. Special meetings may be called as needed.

Session members are expected to serve on at least one committee. The committees of session are: Christian Education, Fellowship, Finance, Membership/Stewardship, Property, Personnel, and Worship & Sacraments. Each committee presents a unique set of responsibilities for committee members. Most committees meet once a month; some meet less often. Session members typically serve as the chair of a committee for two years. The Personnel committee is comprised of all the committee chairs.

Session members also assist in serving communion during church.

Deacons

The following information is quoted from the Book of Order (Part II of the Presbyterian Constitution) describing generally the role of Deacon.

The office of deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of **sympathy, witness, and service** after the example of Jesus Christ. Persons of **spiritual character, honest repute, of exemplary lives, brotherly and sisterly love, warm sympathies, and sound judgment** should be chosen for this office.

a. It is the **duty** of deacons, first of all, to **minister to those who are in need, to the sick, to the friendless, and to any who may be in distress** both within and beyond the community of faith. . .

Deacons at First Presbyterian Church

The following information describes some of the particulars of being a Deacon at First Presbyterian Church.

Deacons are elected to serve on the Board of Deacons for a **three-year term**. We are currently looking for Deacons to serve in the class of **2029**, beginning in January of 2027 and ending in December of 2029. (There are three classes of four Deacons, plus one youth Deacon, for a total of 13 on the Board of Deacons.)

The Board of Deacons meet as needed, and communicate by email/text to coordinate.

At FPC, Deacons serve regularly as Sunday morning **ushers**. Deacons also **visit the elderly** and take turns **delivering bulletins** to 3-4 people in nursing homes, attending session meetings, and being the “First Response” Deacon. The First Response Deacon will be notified if there are any situations (such as illness or death in the family) that require special assistance (such as meals) from the Board of Deacons. The First Response Deacon is not required to provide the assistance, but the First Response Deacon arranges for care from within the Board of Deacons or from among members of the congregation.

The Board of Deacons is responsible for coordinating the following schedules: Ushers, First Response, Fellowship Coffee. Usually one deacon is assigned to coordinate one of the above schedules. (Not every Deacon will be called upon to coordinate a schedule.)

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Military Personnel

Luke Brigham (Randy & Terry's son) | Thomas Gage Snyder (Kim Schlup's son)
Cameron Venn (Doris Ramsel's grandson)

For those with special needs or concerns....

Grace Ann (Connie Clark's relative)
David Balabanis Family
Joe Baran (in-law of Ted & Penny Propst)
Jackie Barton
Sharon Bennett (Neblett's son-in-law's mother)
Tye Bennett (Neblett's grandson)
Clark Bernhardt
Norm Blackburn
Brenda Boeff
Randy Brigham
Leah Burt (friend of Judy Rounph)
CEDEPCA (Protestant Ministry in Guatemala)
Cooperating Ministry
Sally Craig (friend of Jackie Reynolds)
Jeanne Crouch & Family
Dave and Marsha Davis
Sarah Davis
Andrew DeSouza (Michelle Hawkins' son)
Gary Espinosa (Arden Fennell's family)
Family Resource Center
Carolee Goldsmith (mother of Brandon Eaton)
Meredith Goodwin (friend of Propsts)
Mike Hawkins (Michelle Hawkins' brother)
Highlands Camp
Sonja Holden (friend of Arden Fennell)
Robert Koehler (friend of Laura Guenzi)
Debby Korrey (Delinda's & Darla's sister)
Jim Leh
Delinda Korrey McDowell
Rose Neblett

Dirk Nye and Regine Bendelow (Jackie Barton's step-father & mother)
Mari Paradise (Jim Neblett's sister)
Jeni Porter (In-law of Blackburns)
David Prince (Tanna's brother)
Emma Rich (Granddaughter of Gary & Kay Rich)
Cadie, Hailey and Austen Rose (Jason Rose family)
Leslie Rudolph (sister of Mike Tyson)
Betty Scharf
Linda Schoyer (Sister of Connie Sue Clark)
John Seffens (friend of Mike Tyson)
Darrell Smith and family
Montelle Smith
Becky Stieb, Justin & Torin (friends of Michelle Hawkins)
Charlie & Roseanne Thompson (friends of Neblett's)
Sharon Treacy (mother of Laura Guenzi)
Amy & Byron Uhrich (Jill Vollmer's parents)
Under the Umbrella
Robert Vance (Michelle White's dad)
Laurie Weskamp Wagner (Jeff's sister)
Jeff Weskamp
Jean Williamson
Michelle Wilson (friend of David Chrisp)

Do you have an update on anyone listed
on our church prayer list?
We'd love to hear the good news of recovery,
healing and answered prayer.

If you have a joy to report, let us know!

SAVE THE DATE!



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JUNE 8-12

We've hardly had any snow this year, and with the Winter Olympics on, maybe you're craving some wintery adventure...

Save the date for FPC's **Vacation Bible School: Snowball Mountain Challenge!**

More information coming soon!

SESSION. . .

Highlights of the January 20, 2026 Session Meeting

A thank-you letter was received from Northeast Colorado Health Department for a donation to the Life Source program.

One person was removed from the active member roll because of death.

Jomari Lechtman and Mike Tyson were elected to serve as presbytery commissioners in 2026.

The following policies were approved:

Anti-Racism Policy; Code of Conduct with Youth and Vulnerable Adults; Harassment-Free Policy; and Sexual Misconduct Policy.

Approved using a video from “A Sermon for Every Sunday” for the sermon on January 25, 2026, at the worship service in Rev. Michelle’s absence.

The annual fire inspection identified an issue with the fire system in the fellowship hall panel which may require some rewiring.

Property met with Mark Rodine to continue discussions about bids to make the doors of the church more secure and to install security cameras.

An ELMST Fund request was approved for the amount of \$3,348.16.

The Annual Congregational Meeting was set for February 22, 2026, during fellowship lunch.



Held Together in Faith Since 1878

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sterling, Colorado

Your generosity makes
mission & ministry possible...

Thank you!

Profit & Loss Summary	January 2026
Total Income	\$36,136.73
Total Expense	24,661.23
Net Ordinary Income (Loss)	11,475.50
Budgeted Transfers	0
Other Transfers	0
Net Ordinary Income (Loss) with Transfers	11,475.50

Food Pantry

You may bring your donations to the church
and put them under
the table outside the church office,
or in the box in the elevator vestibule.

Cooperating Ministry: March
Chunky Soup (with pop tops if possible)
and Canvas Shopping Bags

NJC Food Pantry:
Nutritious Non-Perishable
Prepared Foods

THANK YOU!

March **BIRTHDAYS**

- 3** Cohen Guenzi
Pieper Jackson
Tara Guenzi
- 6** Lilly Nelson
- 7** Janet Kloberdanz
- 9** Jim Williamson
- 10** Milo White
- 11** Gene Miller
Jay Harris
Silvia Kalb
Lora Boren
- 14** Amanda Steele
Cory Jackson
- 15** Arden Fennell
- 16** Joyce Lebsack
Jackson Guenzi
- 20** Jeff Reeves
- 23** Dana Harris
- 26** Allie Miller
Ellen Miles
- 28** Neala Carmicheal

Birthday Sunday:

March 8

Happy Birthday...
May your day be blessed!

HIGHLIGHTS: February



SERVING IN CHURCH — MARCH

USHERS

March 1	Liz Chaney, Brenda Christenson
March 8	Laura Guenzi, Lora Boren
March 15	Sue Weingardt, Jane Robinson
March 22	Delinda Korrey McDowell, Ken McDowell
March 29	Carrie Lovenburg, Alex Hicks



FIRST RESPONSE/BULLETIN DELIVERY

March	Sue Weingardt
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FELLOWSHIP COFFEE

March 1	Personnel Committee
March 8	Membership/Stewardship
March 15	Fellowship Committee
March 22	Finance Committee
March 29	Women's Bible Study

LITURGISTS

March 1	Bob Smith
March 8	Connie Ham
March 15	Pam Werner
March 22	Pam Trimble
March 29	Jill Vollmer

COUNT OFFERING

March 1	David Chrisp
March 8	Bev Cumming
March 15	Connie Ham
March 22	Linda Meisner
March 29	David Chrisp

AV TEAM

March 1	Justin Cranwell (sound) Callie Jackson (slides)
March 8	Dean Boeff (sound) Pam Trimble (slides)
March 15	Justin Cranwell (sound) Myra Westfall (slides)
March 22	Jeff Christenson (sound) Callie Jackson (slides)
March 29	Dean Boeff (sound) Pam Trimble (slides)

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

March 8	Pam Werner
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ACOLYTES/BIBLE BEARER

March 1	Jim & Rose Neblett
March 8	Guenzi Family
March 15	Ted & Jeannie Park
March 22	Dennis & Cheryl Kaan
March 29	Mike & Pam Werner

COMMUNION—MARCH 1, 2026

Prepare	—Sue Weingardt, Tanna Prince
Serve	—Dennis Kaan, Cheryl Kaan, Jackie Reynolds

Remember to let the church office know if you trade serving dates with someone (522-2708).

Serving schedules subject to change. Check the website for most up-to-date schedules.

March 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10:30 Worship/ Communion 11:30 Fellowship Coffee		5:00 Zumba	10:00 Worship & Sacraments	4:30 Zumba 5:30 Bells 6:30 Chancel Choir	12:05 First Friday Concert	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
10:30 Worship 11:30 Fellowship Coffee with Birthday Celebration Daylight Saving		5:00 Zumba		4:30 Zumba 5:30 Bells 6:30 Chancel Choir		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
10:30 Worship 11:30 Fellowship Lunch Newsletter Deadline	12:00 Finance Meeting	5:00 Zumba 6:00 Session		1:30 Women's Bible Study 4:30 Zumba 5:30 Bells 6:30 Chancel Choir		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
10:30 Worship 11:30 Fellowship Coffee		5:00 Zumba		4:30 Zumba 5:30 Bells 6:30 Chancel Choir		
29	30	31				
Palm Sunday 10:30 Worship 11:30 Fellowship Coffee		5:00 Zumba				

Spring Forward

Set your clocks ahead!
Sunday, March 8



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

130 S. 4TH STREET ~ STERLING, CO 80751

WORSHIP

Sunday, 10:30 a.m.

onsite ~ online

www.facebook.com/fpc.sterling

www.youtube.com/@FPC.Sterling

CHURCH PHONE 970.522.2708

Fax 970.522.1365

WEBSITE www.firstpressterling.org

OFFICE HOURS: M/W/F: 9-noon T/Th: 1-4
(or by appointment)

Staff:

PASTOR

E-mail pastor@fpcsterling.org

MICHELLE WITHERSPOON

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

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RASHELL FRITZLER

BOOKKEEPER

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KARLEE MANUELLO

MUSIC COORDINATOR/ORGANIST

ELSIE FETZER

CHOIR DIRECTOR

DARLA KORREY GERTNER

BELL CHOIR DIRECTOR

LINDSEY JACKSON

PROPERTY MANAGER

JANET KLOBERDANZ

NEWSLETTER TEAM

BEV CUMMING
TAMMIE MALONE
JACKIE REYNOLDS