First Presbyterian Church, Lancaster, PA
Sunday, March 15, 2026 | 10:30 a.m.
The Fourth Sunday of Lent

Leading in Worship Today
The Rev. Dan Snyder
The Rev. Claire George-Drumheller
Chris Snyder, Worship Host

MUSIC
Mark Williams, Guest Choir Director
Matt Weaver, Organist
The Chancel Choir

The healing of a blind man sparks difficult questions, most poignantly,
Do we know Jesus?

∗ *Please stand in body or in spirit.*

PRELUDE ***Meditations on Irish Tunes***
I. St. Columba — arr. Healey Willan
II. Slane — arr. Gordon Young

WELCOME

INTROIT ***Open my Eyes, That I May See*** — Clara H. Scott

Open my eyes, that I may see glimpses of truth thou hast for me.
Place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes; illumine me, Spirit divine!

*CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Lord Christ, how do you see the world?
ALL: Open our eyes to see clearly the light of the world.
ONE: Holy Spirit, how are you moving?
ALL: Illumine our minds to perceive God's glory.
ONE: Almighty God, we have gathered.
ALL: Prepare our hearts to see and to trust. Let us worship God.

*HYMN #802 ***The King of Love My Shepherd Is*** — ST. COLUMBA

*CALL TO CONFESSION (from Ephesians 5:8-14)

ONE: We will know our actions are right when the fruits of our labors are good and true. Christ is the light that exposes all we keep hidden, and Christ offers us healing and renewal instead of judgment. Let us confess our sins to God.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ALL: God of compassion and mercy, we sometimes fail to see what you are doing in the world. We want you to act in ways we predict, but we forget that you do what is good, not what is expected. Forgive us when we do not recognize your miracles. Forgive us when we doubt the wisdom of your actions. Forgive us when we do not respond to your call, ignoring what we need to do to show the world your love and grace.

(silent confession)

*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS (from Psalm 23)

ONE: In loving grace, God restores our souls and leads us in right paths for his name's sake. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow us all the days of our lives, and we will dwell in the house of the Lord our whole lives long.

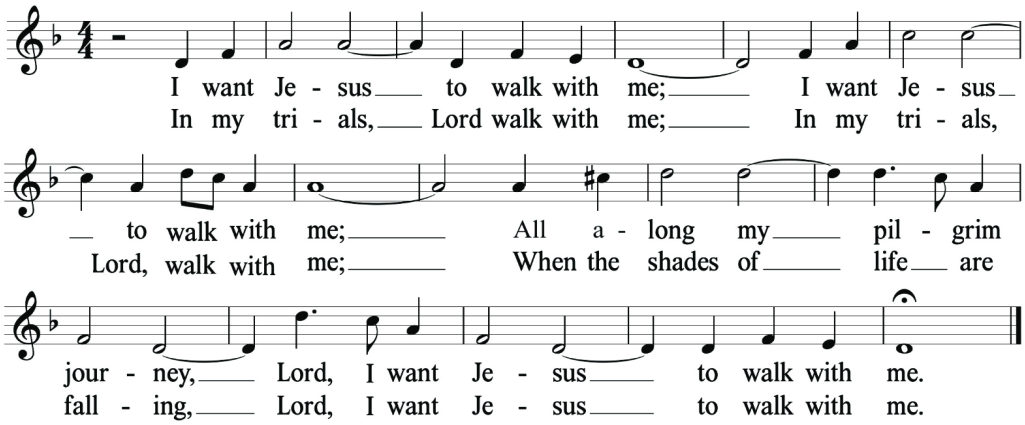
ALL: In Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

ONE: The peace of Christ be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE ***I Want Jesus to Walk with Me*** Traditional Spiritual



WORSHIP ARTS BLESSING

Children through 7th grade can meet their Worship Arts teachers at the front of the sanctuary.

God be with you here.

God be with you there.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

ALL: Faithful God, your church is listening. Send us your Spirit to give us courage to ask honestly, humility to listen deeply, and faith to trust what you reveal, that we may follow Jesus more closely. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING: **John 9:1-41** (pg 78 NT in the pew Bible)

ONE: The word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

*HYMN #314 ***Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness*** CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Adapted from the Barmen Declaration (8.11, 14-15)

ALL: We believe Jesus Christ is God's assurance
of the forgiveness of all our sins;
in the same way and with the same seriousness,
Christ is also God's mighty claim upon our whole life.
Through Christ we are delivered from the godless fetters of this world
for a free and grateful service to God's creatures.
We reject the false doctrine
that there are areas of our life that do not belong to Jesus Christ,
or in which we do not need his grace.
Jesus Christ, as he is attested for us in Holy Scripture,
is the one Word of God
which we have to hear, to trust, and to obey. Amen.

ANTHEM ***Open My Eyes*** K. Lee Scott

During this time of music, you are welcome to come forward to present your offerings, to leave a prayer request, or to light a candle as a symbol of your prayer.

Open my eyes and I shall see; incline my heart and I shall desire;
Order my steps and I shall walk in the ways of your commandments.
O God, be my only Lord, and beside you let there be none else,
No other, none else with you.
Teach me to worship you and serve you in all my undertakings
With truth of spirit, with honor of body, with blessing of mouth both in public and private.
Open my eyes and I shall see; incline my heart and I shall desire;
Order my steps and I shall walk in the ways of your commandments.

ORISON ***Precious Lord*** Thomas A. Dorsey

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

ALL: 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.

*HYMN #694 ***Great God of Every Blessing*** AURELIA

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE ***Open My Eyes (coda)*** K. Lee Scott

POSTLUDE ***Londonderry Air*** arr. Darwin Wolford

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Chancel Flower Dedication

Today's flowers are given in loving memory of Andy Aastad by his wife, Carol Aastad, and family.

Welcome, Visitors!

We would love to reach out and say hello! Write your contact information on the back of the orange prayer cards or leave your email address at the Visitor's Table. We are grateful you have joined us for worship and hope you will come back again soon and often.

Palm-Passion Sunday, March 29

9:00 a.m. Shirk Hall & 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary
LCTV & YouTube

Palm-Passion Sunday is a day of drama and paradox, triumph and tragedy as we hear the crowd's shouts of "Hosanna!" turn to demands for Jesus to be crucified. Even during the triumphal entry into Jerusalem, the cross is in sight.

Holy Week

Maundy Thursday, April 2

7:00 p.m., Shirk Hall

On Maundy Thursday, we remember the new commandment that Christ gave us, that we love one another as Christ has loved us. We also celebrate the Lord's Supper, remembering the final meal Christ shared with his disciples before his death.

Good Friday Tenebrae, April 3

7:00 p.m., Sanctuary

Good Friday marks the day Jesus was crucified. "Tenebrae" means shadows, and as we hear the story of Jesus' journey towards death, the shadows lengthen and the lights grow dim.

Resurrection of the Lord

Easter Sunday, April 5

9:00 a.m. Shirk Hall &
10:30 a.m. Sanctuary
LCTV & YouTube

On Easter Sunday we celebrate the great mystery of our faith—that Jesus Christ is risen from the dead.

Zoom Connect Group

March 25 | 7:00 p.m.

Join Tom and Connie Paisley during Lent for a 60-minute Zoom gathering featuring Lenten conversation and reflection.

Use QR codes to register or email Beth in the church office: beth@fpclancasterpa.org

Easter Small Groups

Great is the mystery of faith: Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again. This Easter season, engage Scripture and build community by joining one of our 4-week Small Groups. Groups will meet during the weeks of April 5, April 12, April 19, and April 26, and discussions will focus on Scripture passages for the upcoming Sunday and the impact of Easter on our lives of discipleship.

In order to receive communication from your leaders, please sign up for the Small Group of your choice by following the QR code (below), or by contacting the church office (info@fpclancasterpa.org).

Men's Group @ the Richards'
The Richard Family Home (address will be sent to registrants)
Mondays, 6:00 p.m. (4/6, 4/13, 4/20, 4/27)
Josh Richard and Dan Snyder, co-leaders

Women's Small Group
Thornhill Winery Tasting Room (1945 Fruitville Pk.)
Tuesdays, gather at 6:30 p.m.; study at 7:00 p.m. (4/7, 4/14, 4/21, 4/28)
Carol Aastad, Linda Cushman-Baugh, Carol Lytch, & Jan Masland, co-leaders

Thursday Morning Men's Group
FPC Library
Thursdays, 7:00-8:00 a.m. (4/9, 4/16, 4/23, 4/30)
Dan Snyder, Leader

Women's Bible Study
FPC Community Arts Annex (Room 1)
Thursdays (4/9, 4/16, 4/23, 4/30)
9:30-10:00 a.m., gathering; 10:00-11:00 a.m., study
Alison Mekeel & Donna Wilcox, co-leaders

Willow Valley
North Activity Room & North Auditorium
Thursdays, 1:00-2:00 p.m. (4/9, 4/16, 4/23, 4/30)
Claire George-Drumheller and Beth Horst, co-leaders
*Open to all! Group communications will include location details

Thursdays on Zoom
Thursdays, 7:00 p.m. (4/9, 4/16, 4/23, 4/30)
Millard & Carolyn Fisher, co-leaders

CARE MINISTRY POTLUCK

Tuesday, March 17 | 5:30-7:30 p.m.
in the FPC Chapel

Join us for an evening of food, fellowship, and meaningful conversation.

Mary Schreiber of Willow Valley Communities will help us explore, "What does a church community look like when it effectively supports families who are walking alongside a loved one with dementia?"

Whether you're already part of our Care Ministry or simply interested in learning more, this is a wonderful opportunity to connect, share, and grow together. All are welcome!

Use the QR code to RSVP or contact Beth Horst: beth@fpclancasterpa.org

EASTER LILY FLOWER DEDICATIONS

PLANTS WILL BE DISPLAYED ON EASTER SUNDAY, IN BOTH THE SANCTUARY & SHIRK HALL.

YOU CAN TAKE YOUR PLANT(S) FOLLOWING THE SERVICES THAT DAY.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

YOU CAN ALSO EMAIL YOUR DEDICATION TO INFO@FPCLANCASTERPA.ORG

GIVEN BY: _____

IN MEMORY OF _____

OR

IN HONOR OF _____

$20 PER PLANT DEADLINE: MARCH 20

PAYMENT:

CHECKS SHOULD BE MADE OUT TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ("EASTER LILY" IN THE MEMO LINE)

ONLINE PAYMENTS MAY BE MADE THROUGH REALM: UNDER THE "GIVING" TAB SELECT "FLOWER FUND" IN THE FUND DROP-DOWN LIST AND "EASTER LILY" IN THE MEMO LINE.

Mission Opportunities

Crispus Attucks Food Pantry
Wednesday, March 25
12:45-3:45 p.m.

Carpool from the church at 12:30 p.m.
Contact Patti Overly to volunteer:
patti@fpclancasterpa.org

Rise Against Hunger Food Packing Event
Sunday, March 22 in Shirk Hall
11:35 a.m.

Set up help needed at 10:00 a.m.
All ages welcome! We will combine rice, soy, dehydrated vegetables, and a packet of 20 vitamins and minerals into 10,000 life-changing meal packages that will be transported to schools in Honduras.

Ways to Give: Mission Giving

Our Mission Partners in the first quarter are nonprofits that support those of our community experiencing food insecurity.

Power Packs, based in Lancaster, provides free ingredients and recipes for weekend meals, as well as pantry staples such as peanut butter and cereal, to low-income students and their families.
www.powerpacksproject.org

Anchor Lancaster, based in First United Methodist Church in downtown Lancaster, provides free, hot breakfasts, showers, laundry services, a day shelter and other services to low-income people.
www.anchorlancaster.org

Rise Against Hunger, based in Raleigh, NC, provides free meals to the needy in 41 foreign countries, including Honduras, where it works with the Lancaster-based Central American Relief Effort (CARE), which has close ties to FPC.
www.riseagainsthunger.org

Session Update

Submitted by Cody Smith, Elder

The Session met on February 25 for its regular meeting, beginning with reflection and prayer. Below are highlights and updates:

The Session joyfully received Alicia Sarver into church membership. The baptism of Presley Sarver was approved and will take place April 26 during the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

The Presbytery has introduced resources for a new requirement that congregations develop an Anti-Racism Policy. Our church will begin exploring this work in the coming months, including inviting outside facilitators to help guide discussion and learning as we consider what this might look like for our congregation.

From the Worship Committee: The prayer team will again participate during Communion Sundays at the 10:30 a.m. service. Christmas Eve worship planning will include additional safety measures for candlelight services, including electric candles options for children and fire extinguishers.

From Mission and Care: Twenty mission partners attended a recent officers' retreat dinner, strengthening relationships and identifying ways the church can better support their work. Upcoming efforts include 1) a series of 3 workshops that bring partners together for meaningful conversations; the first topic for discussion is burnout; 2) quarterly expressions of appreciation or gestures of gratitude to our partners; this quarter we will order lunch in conjunction with work on food insecurity; and 3) organized breakout groups in collaboration with our mission partners to brainstorm for the future.

From Formation: The Valentine's event drew about 30 participants and received positive feedback. Planning is underway for Palm Sunday, Rise Against Hunger food packing event, and other upcoming programs, including our next youth mission trip to Honduras.

From Finance: 16% of planned contributions have already been received for this year. Renovation project bids are being finalized, with a tentative start date of April 6, 2026. The sanctuary is expected to remain usable during renovations. Facility work includes gutter repairs, addressing heating issues in the offices, and adding a balcony railing, which should be done by Easter.

From Personnel: Rachel Coder is now on a hybrid, work from home schedule. We have hired a new secretary, Charlotte, who will begin work on March 16. Welcome!

From Communication: Discussion on inter-church communication began in their quarterly meeting. Looking at the 5 ways we disseminate information to our members and visitors: website, email, LCTV, bulletin, and streaming. Started conversation about how to better connect with all subsets of our audience. Also discussed Holy Week promotion.

From Pastoral Report: The church Wedding policy is in the process of being updated. And small groups are happening during Eastertide this year, as opposed to last year's Lenten Groups.

The Session is grateful for the continued ministry, generosity, and participation of the congregation as we serve together in faith!

Celebrating
Children at FPC

Dear parents of young children,

Relax! God put the wiggle in children; don't feel you have to suppress it in God's house! All are welcome!

Sit toward the front where it is easier for little ones to see and hear what's going on. They tire of seeing the backs of others' heads.

Quietly explain the parts of the service and actions of the pastor, ushers, musicians, etc.

Sing the hymns, pray, and voice the responses. Children learn liturgical behavior by copying you.

If you have to leave the service with your child, feel free to do so, but please come back. As Jesus said, "Let the children come to me."

Remember, the way we welcome children in church directly affects the way they respond to the church, to God, and to one another. Let them know they are at home in this house of worship.

Dear church members,

The presence of children is a gift to the church and they are a reminder that our congregation is growing.

Please welcome our children and give a smile of encouragement to their parents.

Family Ministry

Katie Kindig
Director of Family Ministry

Sunday Mornings

The Nursery

Suggested for 6wks up to 4yrs
Second Floor, open 9:00-11:30 a.m. / Professional Staff

Nursery students engage in free-play, a short Scripture lesson and organized activity time.

We ask that you assist with your student's hand-washing upon arrival. We have hand sanitizer stations as well.

A nut-free snack is provided. Please bring a labeled water bottle and alternative snacks if needed. A changing table, with quiet room are also available.

Worship Arts Faith Formation

Suggested for 4yrs through grade 7

Worship Arts begins with a combined lesson and then splits to separate age-appropriate groups to study. A peanut free snack is offered.

Taught by FPC volunteer teachers, we study Scripture through reading, dramatic play, storytelling, and song.

Students begin worship in Shirk Hall (9:00 a.m.) OR the sanctuary (10:30 a.m.) with their families.
Teachers will escort students who wish to participate in Worship Arts to the upper level following the "Worship Arts Blessing."

Parents attending the 9:00 a.m. service - Students will be escorted back to you before the end of the service.

Parents attending the 10:30 a.m. service - Students will return to the sanctuary at the end of worship or can be picked up in the lobby.

Youth Ministry

Designed for grades 7-12 and led by Family Ministry staff and volunteers.

March 15—Study and day retreat to Gretna Glen retreat center, 12:30-4:00 p.m. Pick-up & drop-off at FPC. Dress for both indoor and outdoor activities.

March 22—Service Sunday: *Rise Against Hunger*, in Shirk Hall, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Pizza provided

March 29—Event at Urban Air, 4:30-6:00 p.m. Pick-up & drop-off at venue, 2040 Bennet Ave., Lancaster. Suggested cost: $40/pizza and drink provided. RSVP to katie@fpclancasterpa.org

Online prayer request here:

Large-print hymnals are available. Please alert an usher or greeter if you would like one for today's service.

Guest WIFI Password:
Welcome2FPC