

Service for the Lord's Day

March 22, 2026

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Preparation

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE Erbarm' dich mein, o Herre Gott (BWV 721) J. S. Bach

WELCOME, JOYS, AND CONCERNS Tom Setzler

LENTEN INTROIT "God So Loved the World" R. Steven Branyon
God so loved the World that He gave His only Son, that whoso'er believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

LENTEN LITURGY

I sent the Spirit of truth to guide you, and you close your hearts to the Counselor. I pray that all may be one in the Father and me, but you continue to quarrel and divide. I call you to go and bring forth fruit, but you cast lots for my clothing, and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Lord, have mercy.

NAILING OF THE CROSS

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Welcome to the weary and the worn.

Welcome to the wiggly and the eager.

Welcome to the skeptical and the seeking.

Welcome to the early risers and those still trying to wake up.

Welcome to the rule followers and the rule breakers.

Welcome to those hungry for justice and those desperate for mercy.

Welcome to the sinners and the saints.

This is God's house.

You can make yourself at home here.

Let us worship our just, merciful, and faithful God!

† HYMN 320 The Church of Christ In Any Age (v.1-5) Wareham

† CALL TO CONFESSION

Jesus once said to a crowd, "Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone." Friends, none of us are without sin. None of us get it right all the time. None of us can get by without God's grace. In the Prayer of Confession, we acknowledge this truth. We put down our stones and we turn to God for forgiveness. Join me in this act of transformation. Let us pray:

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we love to live our lives by the rules. We love clear answers. We love right and wrong. We love swift justice. We love to pick up stones, but you show us another way. You welcome shades of gray and nuanced conversation. You prioritize mercy over legality. You prioritize people over tradition. You prioritize love over everything. Forgive us for losing sight of what truly matters. Forgive us for clinging tighter to laws than to each other or to you. Forgive us. Soften our hearts. Root us in mercy, justice, and love. With hope for a better tomorrow, we pray. Amen.

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Church family, Jesus saw a crowd ready to throw stones and invited them to choose another way. Jesus offered them grace, mercy, and compassion, and the same can be said for us. So hear and believe the good news of the gospel: **Our God is a God of mercy. Our God is a God of compassion. Our God is a God of grace. We are forgiven, loved, and invited to choose another way. Thanks be to God for yet another second chance. Amen.**

† RESPONSE 577 "Lord Have Mercy"

† PASSING OF THE PEACE

May the peace of Christ be with you. **And also, with you.**
As God's forgiven people, let us pass the peace of Christ to one another.

Proclamation

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES Alice Smith

RECOGNITION OF STAFF

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Holy One, when you speak, we don't want to miss it. When you bend down and write in the dirt, when you move through the trees, when you wake with the dawn, when you tug on our heart, or whisper into our dreams, we don't want to miss it. So today we pray, clear out the cobwebs in our ears. Quiet the steady stream of thoughts marching through our minds. Open up space in our hearts so that we can receive your word for us today. With hope we pray. Amen.

GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 23:23-24

ANTHEM Create In Me A Clean Heart, O God Carl F. Mueller

Create in me a clean heart, O God: and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence; and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation; and uphold me with Thy free Spirit.
Then will I teach transgressors Thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto Thee.

GOSPEL LESSON John 8:2-11

MESSAGE *Good News is Rooted in Justice, Mercy and Faithfulness* Rev. Nick Setzer

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH "Apostle's Creed" pg. 35

† HYMN 630 Fairest Lord Jesus (v.1-4) Crusaders' Hymn

Dedication

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY Thee We Adore Adoro Te Devote Handbell Choir

During this time you are invited to come forward with your "Good News Leaf" and place it on the tree.

† DOXOLOGY 606 "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

† OFFERTORY PRAYER

You have shown us, O God, the sacrifice that you desire. Now use these gifts— and use our lives— to liberate the oppressed, to break the bonds of injustice, to feed the hungry, welcome the poor, and unite the human family; all in the name and for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

† HYMN 314 Longing for Light, We Wait in the Darkness (v.1-5) Christ Be Our Light

† BENEDICTION

† CHORAL BENEDICTION "Jesus, We Just Want to Praise You"
(Sung by all) William J. Gaither

Jesus we just want to praise You. Jesus, we just want to praise You. Jesus, we just want to praise You. Praise You for bringing us love.

† POSTLUDE Glory Be to Jesus arr. Robert Hobby

† Stand as you are able

Today's organ music reflects the fact that Passion Sunday was originally celebrated on Lent V. We hear Bach's paraphrase of Ps. 51 "O God be merciful to me according to Thy great pity. Our service concludes as we hear "Wen in Leidenstagen" "Glory be to Jesus who in bitter pains poured for me the lifeblood from His sacred veins".

As we prepare for Easter and Vacation Bible School, we need your help!

- We need individually wrapped Easter candy that can be put into eggs.
- We also need your empty clear gallon milk, tea, & juice jugs. We want to build an Igloo for VBS.
- On Easter morning, we will need flowers for blooming the cross

ONLY 1 MORE FEAST GATHERING LEFT! JOIN US!

Wed. 3-25...Pizza/Salad...Finance Committee...We will be packing the Rise Against Hunger bags. Please copy & paste this into your internet browser to register: events.riseagainsthunger.org/FirstPresbyterianYork2026

ACOLYTE TRAINING

Any child 2nd grade through 6th grade who would like to be an acolyte or who is currently an acolyte is required to attend this training meeting on Wednesday, March 25th at 5:15pm in the sanctuary.

SNOWBALL MOUNTAIN CHALLENGE IS OUR THEME FOR 2026 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL, JUNE 22-25. FIND YOUR STRENGTH IN GOD. "I CAN DO ALL THINGS THROUGH HIM WHO STRENGTHENS ME" (PHILIPPIANS 4:13) We will have a planning meeting TODAY from 3-4:30pm

SUMMER OF 2026 DATES FOR MONTREAT CONFERENCES ARE SET!

Youth Conference at Montreat July 11-18 (9th-12th)
Middle School Conference at Maryville College July 15th-19th (6th-8th)
Please put these dates on your calendars for next summer now! We have lots of youth who are eligible to go!

Presbyterian Women are now accepting applications for the 2026-2027 Iva Bryson Barnwell and Kitty Sandifer Scholarship. This opportunity is for all rising and current college and graduate students. Please contact the church or Liz Ann Hill (lizannhill15@gmail.com) for an application and to ask any questions. The applications are **due by APRIL 1ST!**

A SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS Thank you for joining us today. We're glad you're here and hope that you'll experience God's love as we worship together. If you would like to know more about us, please call our church office (684-2356) and ask to speak with our pastor. May God's peace be with you.

OUR PRAYER CONCERNS:

All caregivers, Justin Snipes (son of Melissa & Patrick Young & grandson of Micky & Joe Howe), Matt Bozarth (Friend of Leigh Dayton) that is suffering from a rare cancer), Wayne McCormick, Jr., Mark Good (Friend of Jody Templeton has cancer), Gloria Ludwig (Stacey Walden's grandmother), Leigh Dayton, Shane Vickery (friend of Jake Walden) Joe & Mickey Howe, Archie Buchanan, Jim Ballard (Brother in law of Ann Lee), Robert Clewis (Shelia Herron's son), Danny Allman (19 yr. old nephew of Mike Allman), Jackson (friend of the Waldens), Bill Herron(Leukemia), Donna Jo McKinney Ferrell and Jane McKinney Bolin (have cancer, they are nieces of Brenda Brandon), Chip Lee (father of Bethany James), Patti Whiteside (Joanna Setzler's step mom) recovering from broken hip, Jim Bolduc (Surgery), Lorraine Stewart, Mike Allman, Sr. (brain cancer), Linda Lee (sister in law of Eddie & Ann Lee injured in auto accident), Bruce Richardson (friend of Jake Walden), Jody Templeton (Surgery) & Julie Setzer (Jane Ratliff's daughter) has bone cancer.

RETIREMENT/NURSING HOMES-HOMEBOUND

Barbara & Bob Falls, Jane Spratt & Lorraine Stewart

FLOWERS: The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God by the Hill Family in memory of Judy Moore. Judy was a wonderful neighbor, friend & valued church member. She will be greatly missed by all!

LITTLE DISCIPLES 22 Ruthie Deas 29 Henley Lester	NURSERY Susan Hill Jenny Hill	BOB DRAGNER BLANKET DRIVE We will be collecting blankets thru March. Leave donations in the PATH boxes.
ACOLYTES 22 Elizabeth Hiott/Carter Setzer 29 Mackenna Zesiger/James Caveny	CROSS BEARER Eliana Setzer Tallon Zesiger	

The 2026 flower calendar is open. Anyone who would like to (sponsor) the flowers during the coming year please contact Ree Dillon at 803-526-1098. Open months are July and November.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING This is one of three annual Churchwide Special offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) received during the season of Lent, each gift to OGHS helps to improve the lives of people in challenging situations such as disaster, hunger, poverty, climate change, and immigration/migration and refugees The offering can be put in the envelopes provided. Please put OGHS on memo line of your check. We will collect for this offering until Easter (April 5)

SET UP FOR HEARING AIDS TO CONNECT TO SANCTUARY AUDIO
Scan: the QR code above to download the ListenWiFi app
Connect: your phone to the Wi-Fi Network
 FPCOY_AL_Audio-5G Password: fpc\$2356
Open: the ListenWiFi app
Click: "Venue Scan" on the app and the audio will connect to your device
Listen: Make sure your phone is paired to your bluetooth headphones or hearing aid.



CALENDAR FOR THIS WEEK

Sun.	3-22	7:30am Session Meeting 10:00am Adult Sunday School 10:15am Children's Palm Processional Practice Sanct. 11:00am Worship 3:00pm VBS Planning Meeting 6:00pm Youth
Mon.	3-23	5:00pm Handbells 6:00pm Ladies Bible Study 8:00pm AA
Tues.	3-24	7:45am Sr. Highs Southern Touch 6:00pm Grief Share
Wed.	3-25	10:00am Acts Study 5:15pm Acolyte practice 6:00pm FEAST 6:00pm Choir Rehearsal
Sat.	3-28	9:00am McNeel in Use 9:00am Leader Fest Unity
Sun.	3-29	PALM SUNDAY 10:00am Adult Sunday School 10:15am Children practice Palm Procession in Sanctuary 11:00am Worship/Commun. 5:00pm Confirmation 6:00pm Youth Stuff Eggs

MARK YOUR CALENDARS
WYCCMA Holy Week Services
 Divine Savior Catholic Church
 March 30-April 3
 Short service at noon followed by lunch each day. Our church will be providing hotdogs on Tuesday.

Preschool Art Show and Silent Auction
 Please join us April 30th from 5-7 in McNeel for a special fundraiser hosted by the Preschool. Come see the children's art, as well as bid on special art pieces and other items. Proceeds go towards the church and preschool needs. Thank you for your support!

BOOK CLUB
 APRIL 21ST AT 6:30PM
 The book that we will be reading is "The Correspondent" By Virginia Evans. Please join us! All are welcome!

PATH NEEDS:
 Cereal and canned meats like Vienna sausages, chicken, tuna, etc. Please leave them in the PATH boxes at the back door parking lot.

Session Members & Their Committees

Liz Ann Hill...Clerk & Personnel & IT	Rick Beard.....Property
Jenny Hill.....Asst. Clerk & Family Life	Pete Carroll....Property
Eddie Lee....Worship & Personnel	Donna Langford..Cong. Care & PW
Ronnie Bailes..Finance & Personnel	Sonya Kent....Congregational Care
Melissa Allman....Family Life & Personnel	Jamie Caveny..Family Life
Lynn Leake...Worship	Jay Leake.....Property
Christopher Black..Personnel & Finance	Shawn Jarrett...IT
Debbie Lowe...Congregational Care	Jake Walden...Mission/Evangelism
David Dickson..Mission/Evangelism	Neil McWhorter...Finance
Angie Pratt....Mission/Evangelism	Tom Setzler....Congregational Care

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
 10 West Liberty Street, York, SC 29745
 Office Phone (803) 684-2356 Fax (803) 684-2347
 Church's E-Mail: firstpresbyk@comporium.net
 Pastor, Rev. Nick Setzer (903)315-7559
 Web Site: [fpcyorksc.org](http://www.fpcyorksc.org)
<http://www.facebook.com/FirstPresbyterianYork>
<https://www.youtube.com/c/FirstPresbyterianChurchYorkSC>

To tithe or give online, scan the code below with your smartphone.




First Presbyterian Church
 York, South Carolina
 March 22, 2026
 Fifth Sunday in Lent

Faithfully serving God and Community