



Fircrest Presbyterian Church

FPC Update February 18, 2026

Ash Wednesday

Dear FPC,

Today is Ash Wednesday—a threshold we cross together into the season of Lent. It is a day of dust and honesty, of ancient words spoken over us: *"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."* We receive the mark of the cross in ashes on our foreheads, a visible sign of our mortality and our need for God's mercy. It is somber, yes, but also strangely tender—a reminder that we belong to God, even in our fragility.

If you're able, join us tonight at **5:30 pm at Manitou Presbyterian Church** as we enter this season together. If you can't make it this evening, **Rev. Greg Kaurin is offering drive-by ashes at St. John's Lutheran Church (8602 Bridgeport Way SW, Lakewood) at noon today.**

Lent is a forty-day journey (not counting Sundays) that mirrors Jesus' time in the wilderness. It's a season of fasting, prayer, and reflection—a time to strip away what distracts us and draw closer to God. Traditionally, Christians have given up something during Lent, but the deeper invitation is not just subtraction. It's about making space for God to meet us in new ways.

This year, I want to share an invitation from Pope Leo XIV that reframes what it might mean to fast during Lent:

"I would like to invite you to a very practical and frequently unappreciated form of abstinence: that of refraining from words that offend and hurt our neighbor. Let us begin by disarming our language, avoiding harsh words and rash judgment, refraining from slander and speaking ill of those who are not present and cannot defend themselves. Instead, let us strive to measure our words and cultivate kindness and respect in our families, among our friends, at work, on social media, in political debates, in the media and in Christian communities. In this way, words of hatred will give way to words of hope and peace."

What if, this Lent, we fasted from cruelty? From gossip? From the quick and cutting remark? What if we practiced the discipline of kind speech—not as naivety, but as resistance to the forces that divide and diminish us?

This Sunday: The First Sunday of Lent

We'll gather for worship and continue this journey together. More details to come in the days ahead.

Congregational Life & Ministry

- **BEMA Discipleship Group**

Sundays at 12:00 pm — Open to all! If you've been curious about joining, this is your invitation. Come give it a try.

- **Save the Date: Hunger Walk with Emergency Food Network**

Saturday, May 2, 8–11 am at Fort Steilacoom Park, Lakewood

- **Monthly Worship Service at The Village Senior Living**

Starting Sunday, March 15 — Join us as we partner with Manitou Presbyterian to offer third-Sunday gatherings for our senior neighbors.

Into the Wilderness

The ashes remind us: we are dust, and we are beloved. May this Lenten season be one of honesty and grace, of letting go and drawing near.

Blessings,

Pastor Taeler

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Taeler Morgan

Pastor - Coach - Cultivator

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Fircrest Pres., Pastor <http://www.fircrestpres.org/>

Gather Tacoma, Pastor <https://www.facebook.com/gathertacoma>

Olympia Presbytery, Cultivator <https://www.olypres.org/>



Bookkeeper/Treasurer Email

Please use this email to contact Robin for any financial communications: **Bookkeeper/Treasurer email: fircrestbooks@gmail.com.**



Church Calendar

[You can find the church calendar here.](#) Please let us know if you have any problem accessing the calendar, and/or whether you have any updates for us to add.

Coming Up on the Calendar:

Fellowship Potlucks with Gather Tacoma following worship on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Sundays of the month.

Sundays, following worship: BEMA Discipleship Bible Study Group.

Tuesday February 24: Session Meeting, 6:30pm via Zoom.

Wednesday February 18, 5:30pm: Ash Wednesday Service with Manitou Presbyterian at Manitou Presbyterian Church.

Friday March 6, 3:00pm: Janice Miller Memorial Service.

Save the Date: Hunger Walk – Saturday, May 2

Mark your calendars for this year's Hunger Walk benefiting the Emergency Food Network. We'll walk together on **Saturday, May 2, from 8–11 a.m.** at **Fort Steilacoom Park** in Lakewood.

Whittier Elementary Resource Room is looking for volunteers. Please see Kris for additional information.

February Food Bank Donations:

Families Unlimited: Chili, Pop-Top Soups, Mac-n-Cheese, Canned Tuna & Chicken, Cereal, Canned Fruit.

Proctor Food Bank: *Heavy plastic and paper bags.*

We are still collecting egg cartons!

***Note: Click on images or drag corner to enlarge**

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