



Week of February 23 – February 28

Scripture of the Week:

“The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

John 3:8 NRSV

“He said to me, ‘This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, says the LORD of hosts.’”

Zechariah 4:6 NRSV

February 23, 2026

As I reflect on where I’ve seen the Holy Spirit at work in our church, I can’t help but think of the renewal we are experiencing at First Presbyterian. When Michael Bailey returned from his three-month sabbatical, many of us sensed something special — a renewed enthusiasm, deeper joy, and a Spirit-led purpose. That kind of renewal doesn’t come from simply stepping away. It comes from stepping closer to the Lord. Upon Michael’s return in August, the FPC Session read *Sailboat Church*, a book that challenges churches to stop rowing endlessly with their own strength and instead raise their sails and let the Holy Spirit provide the power. This was such a vivid picture for me and caused me to think a lot about how our Session should lead our church going forward. A rowboat depends on human effort as its source of power — more meetings, more plans, more striving. A sailboat depends on wind for its source of power — God’s wind.

Zechariah 4:6 says, “Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,” says the Lord.

The church was never meant to be powered by exhaustion. It was meant to be led by the Holy Spirit.

And over these past couple of months, it feels as though we are seeing and feeling more of the Spirit-driven wind — not frantic activity, but steady movement. Not rowing harder but adjusting our sails to engage with the wind. Michael’s sabbatical was not a pause in leadership; it was an act of trust — trusting that Christ is the true head of the church, and that the Holy Spirit is the One who moves us forward, and your Session has embraced that belief and faith. This invitation is not just for church leadership — it’s for all of us as a church and individuals. May we be a sailboat church — attentive to the wind of the Spirit, willing to adjust, and trusting that He will carry us where He wants us to go, which very well may be in a different direction than we have been rowing.

Come, Holy Spirit! (Elder David Wright)

February 24, 2026

On a very cold January day, I was driving the "Feed My Sheep Bus" and was parked in front of the Soup Bowl. My riders were returning to the bus grateful for the warm meal they had received but clearly feeling the cold weather. I noticed a lady across the street handing out wool mittens, hats, and some coats, and mentioned it to the riders. They immediately went across the street and returned so thankful for the warm clothes they had received. I felt the presence of the Holy Spirit in the kindness of the lady handing out the warm clothes, but even more so, saw the Spirit in the joy and gratitude in those who had received the gifts. "Come, Holy Spirit." (Anonymous).

February 25, 2026

From my vantage point in the choir, I enjoy noticing things in our beautiful sanctuary, and often am drawn to light coming in from the southeast windows of the church. One Sunday, illumined brightly by this light, there stood the walker of Tom Jones, one of our beloved older members. By this image, the Holy Spirit called forth gratitude in me for all those for whom age or infirmity has not dampened their will to worship, whether at home or a healthcare or residential care facility and unable to physically attend, or present in person among us. What an inspiring witness to the ongoing workings of the Holy Spirit through our years, an example for all generations. (Elder Danny Potts)

February 26, 2026

Several years ago, I checked off an item on my Bucket List. I learned how to knit baby blankets for the babies of our church. It is the Holy Spirit that is always present with each stitch of love. Our neighbors had their baby early, the week our daughter got married. I finished her blanket quickly. This baby now needs a new liver. She always has her blanket with her and will take it to Philadelphia as she gets a portion of her father's liver. The Holy Spirit is certainly at work. (Elder Susan Campbell)

February 27, 2026

When my husband, Billy, died unexpectedly, I was devastated and felt so weak and did not know what to do. But as hours passed, I knew the Holy Spirit was helping me in my frailty. The Holy Spirit lived inside of me and helped me grow closer to God. We had not made any plans for such a tragedy, but my children and Michael Bailey, through the comfort and reassurance they shared, continuously reminded me that the Holy Spirit was interceding for me during that time. Since we had no plans for burial, I asked Michael for help in making difficult decisions and, through the intercession of the Holy Spirit, we were provided a columbarium vault that someone had just cancelled in that hour.

We all have times when we feel weak and don't know what to do. The Holy Spirit helps us align with God's will by interceding for us during those times. The Holy Spirit was truly my source of comfort and assistance. The Holy Spirit came alongside me and my family, as believers, to provide guidance, strength, and support through the divine and spiritual presence of God. I was also comforted by the knowledge that the Holy Spirit raised Christ from the dead, and the Holy Spirit will give eternal life to believers in Christ, including Billy.

(Elder Beth Curtis)

February 28, 2026

One example of the Holy Spirit at work in our Church is witnessed during the commissioning of mission teams. These are powerful reminders of the presences and strength of the Holy Spirit. Each member of the team stands in front of the congregation not knowing exactly what lies ahead. The members are giving their time and taking a leap of faith. In the face of uncertainty, each person is placing their trust in the Holy Spirit that the actions of the team can be used to glorify His Kingdom. (Elder Bebo Patton)