

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

February 22, 2026

THE CHURCH GATHERS

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

“O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

Arr.: Lani Smith

GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Patty June, Liturgist

Leader: As darkness gives way to light and winter sleep to fresh beginnings,

People: We come today to be reminded of God's love for us.

Leader: Like the green shoots of renewed life, stirring beneath the soil,

People: We welcome an awakening of God's word in our lives.

Leader: In this time of reflection and repentance,

People: We affirm our identity, we claim our security, as children of God. Let us worship together!

*HYMN #206 (see bulletin)

“O Love How Deep, How Broad, How High”

Adapted: E. Miller

*CALL TO CONFESSION

In a time of testing, let us pause in these moments of confession to examine our own hearts, looking for how we have failed to live up to that which God has commanded, followed by a time of silent confession. Let us pray...

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Lord, we confess that our confessions are not a substitute for genuine repentance. We live in a broken world and are a broken people. We harm your good creation, including ourselves and others, because we have not fully grasped the depth of your love for us. Lord give us clarity of that love so that we may truly seek your Kingdom both in and around us. Help us know that you are faithful in our unfaithfulness, and by your grace we will be transformed in our thinking, our actions, and our loyalties so that we may love you with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and love your creation with the love you have shown us... our prayers continue in silence...

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

Hear and receive the good news: In Jesus Christ, we have been forgiven! Know this and be at peace.
Amen.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Share the peace of Christ with one another.

*HYMN #377 (see bulletin)

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

Kathleen Thomerson

WE RESPOND TO GOD WITH OFFERINGS AND PRAISE

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

God is generous and calls us to offer our time, talents and resources back to God, the giver. God has modeled this generosity like a parent giving up an only child. Love and gratitude lead us to give abundantly.

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

“Gavotte”

Samuel Wesley

*DOXOLOGY

OLD HUNDREDTH

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Take these, our gifts, as we offer them today, O God. Use them for your glory and kingdom’s expansion. May these gifts go toward freeing the captives, feeding the hungry, comforting the lonely, and healing the world. As Christ’s body, use us too, in service to repairing the breached, broken places in our community. Amen.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

DISMISSAL FOR CHILDREN’S CHURCH

WE PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING:

Jonah 4

ANTHEM

“Order My Steps”

Burleigh/Schrader

SECOND READING:

Luke 19:1-10

SERMON

“Misconceptions That Harm: Rethinking Sin”

Austin Pounds

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

The Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

*HYMN #159 (see bulletin)

“Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts”

Henry Baker

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

Leader: May the dust of the wilderness hold our footprints lovingly in our Lenten journey.

People: **May the God of covenant hold us close.**

Leader: May the Christ of the wilderness walk with us.

People: **May the Spirit who descended like a dove lead us in the way of life. Alleluia! Amen!**

*POSTLUDE

“Chorale Prelude”

J.S. Bach

(*) *We stand as we are able*

*The flowers are given to the glory of God
and in honor of Julie Strickland in celebration of her birthday.
Michael, Elizabeth, Sara and Andrew Strickland*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ELDERS OF THE MONTH: Laura Perry Johnson and Marshall McCranie

Monday, February 23 at 7 a.m. Biscuits & Blessings

Tuesday, February 24 at 9 a.m. LENT STUDY begins at Shalom Café (6 week study) — see below

Wednesday, February 25 at 5:30 p.m. WATCH SUPPER

Thursday, February 26 at 1 p.m. Card Playing

Sunday, March 1 at 8:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast (at FPC)

Sunday, March 1 at 3:30 p.m. Resonance Alternative Worship Service

Monday, March 2 at 7 a.m. Biscuits & Blessings (youth breakfast/study)

Monday, March 2 at 10 a.m. PW Board Meeting

Tuesday, March 3 at 9 a.m. LENT STUDY begins at Shalom Café

Wednesday, March 4 at 4 p.m. Prayer Shawl

Wednesday, March 4 at 5:30 p.m. WATCH SUPPER

SUNDAY, MARCH 8 – DAYLIGHT SAVINGS, SET CLOCKS FORWARD ONE HOUR

LENT STUDY

THIS TUESDAY, February 24 at 9 a.m., we will begin our Bible study for the season of Lent. The study group will gather at Shalom Café each Tuesday from Feb. 24 through March 31, to study *Why Did Jesus Have to Die?* by Adam Hamilton. Contact Austin Pounds with questions or to order a printed copy of the book (also available on Kindle).

Austin: dcefirstpresmoultrie@gmail.com.

PRESBYTERY MISSION TRIP TO WESTERN NC: APRIL 26 - MAY 2, 2026

A joint mission trip with Savannah Presbytery has been scheduled to provide Hurricane Helene related relief in and around Canton, North Carolina. Up to 20 volunteers are needed to perform a variety of services, from group support and transportation to clean-up, repairs and new construction under local guidance. The service week will \$20 per person

April 26-May 2, plus meals. Interested individuals can get more information or a volunteer application from Tom McFarland at mcfarlandthomasr@hotmail.com or by calling him at 229-942-0224. *Donations to assist with trip expenses can be made at on our online giving link at www.flintriverpresbytery.org. Please note that your donation is for disaster relief and note in the memo that this is for the April NC mission trip.*

WATCH SUPPER

RESERVATIONS: 229-985-3158 or firstpresmoultrie@gmail.com

MENU Wednesday, February 25:

Regular: Hamburger Steak with gravy, Cornbread, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Salad Bar

Children: Hamburgers and French Fries

Diet: Baked Chicken, Steamed Vegetables or Salad Bar

Dessert: Strawberry Shortcake or Ice Cream and Cookies