



Welcome

First Presbyterian Church

February 1, 2026

Message One



Welcome to this sanctuary.
Welcome to this time of worship and wonder.
Welcome to this family of faith.

We're glad you're here today and pray that your experience
with us in worship is both challenging and uplifting!

Our ushers are available to assist you as needed.

For more information about First Presbyterian Church, we invite you
to visit our website. There you will find out the ways to keep in touch,
how we live our faith, our different partnerships and so much more.

Our website address is: www.firstpresracine.org

If you're interested in receiving news about the church,
please call 262.632.1686 or email: shelley@firstpresracine.org

Rev. Darren Utley—Church Pastor
pastordarren@firstpresracine.org

Today's Service

PASTOR—Rev. Darren Utley

LITURGIST—Sharon Campbell

MUSICIANS—Alejandro Alumbremos, Mark Paffrath,
Pat Badger, Dave Titus

MEDIA TECH SPECIALIST—Steve Comeau

*Please stand as you are able.

[Bold type] indicates text to be spoken by the congregation.

[Bold italic type] indicates song to be sung by the congregation.

We Gather to Worship

As a courtesy to everyone, please mute your mobile device.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sharon Campbell

Welcome! May you find God's love, peace, grace, and joy as we worship today.

PRELUDE

Living Hope | *P. Wickham, B. Johnson; arr. P. Keveren*

POEM OF INVITATION

Blessing of the Gate | *Jan Richardson*

Press your hand
to this blessing,
here along
the side
where you can feel
its seam.
Follow the seam
and you will find
the hinges
on which
this blessing turns.
Feel how
your fingers
catch on them—
top,
bottom,
the slightest pressure
sending the gate
gliding open
in a glad welcome.

Wait, did I say
press your hand
to this blessing?
What I meant was
press your hand
to your heart.
Rest it over that
place in your chest
that has grown
closed and tight,
where the rust,
with its talent
for making decay
look artful,
has bitten into
what you once
held dear.
Breathe deep.

Press on the knot
and feel how it
begins to give way,
turning upon
the hinge
of your heart.
Notice how it
opens wide
and wider still
as you exhale,
spilling you out
into a realm
where you never dreamed
to go
but cannot now imagine
living this life
without.

*OPENING HYMN

Let All Things Now Living

[GtG Hymn #37]

Alejandro Alumbremos, Mark Paffrath, Pat Badger, Dave Titus

*ACT OF PRAISE

All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly

[GtG Hymn #509, v. 1]

*All who hunger gather gladly;
Holy manna is our bread.
Come from wilderness and wandering.
Here, in truth, we will be fed.
You that yearn for days of fullness,
All around us is our food.
Taste and see the grace eternal.
Taste and see that God is good.*

*PASSING THE PEACE

As Christ welcomed everyone,
no matter what their background or social standing;
as Christ welcomed enemies & friends, outcasts & leaders,
foreigners & neighbors, let us open our hearts and homes and lives.
Let us be like Christ to everyone we meet.
Peace be with you.
And also with you.

CHORAL ANTHEM

Wondrous Love | Southern Folk Hymn, arr. Marie Pooler

Chancel Choir

Proclaiming the Word

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 5:1-12

[NT 4]

SERMON

Message One

Rev. Darren Utley

Responding to the Word

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

Goodness of God | arr. Phillip Keveren

*SONG OF RESPONSE

Lead Me, Guide Me
[GtG Hymn #740]

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We have seen the valley.
We have seen a sky without stars.
We have seen the longest night, and still we believe.
We believe in a with-us God.
We believe in the hope of tomorrow.
We believe that good news is louder than fear.
We believe this good news is for all people.
So even when our knees shake,
even when our voice trembles,
even when fear is all around us,
we will hold onto that good news.
We will reach for each other.
We will look for God in our midst.
We will sing songs of joy.
We will proclaim: Unto us, love is born.
We have seen the longest night,
and we have seen unimaginable love.
So still, we believe. Amen.

OFFERING/OFFERTORY

Lead, Kindly Light | *John B. Dykes, arr. Michael Bailey*

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen!

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord be with you,
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts,
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God,
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

SHARING THE BREAD & THE CUP

Wonderful, Merciful Savior | Dawn Rogers,
arr. Brian Buda

Please be assured that the communion bread will always be gluten-free.

Going Forth to Minister

*CLOSING HYMN

When the Lord Redeems the Very Least
[GtG Hymn #852]

*BENEDICTION

*SUNG BLESSING

Sometimes a Light Surprises
[GtG Hymn #800, v. 4]

*Though vine nor fig tree neither their longed-for fruit should bear,
Though all the fields should wither, nor flocks nor herds be there,
Yet God the same abiding, his praise shall tune my voice;
For while in him confiding, I cannot but rejoice.*

POSTLUDE

Postlude | Cedric Elmer

This week...

Sun., Feb. 1 st	9:30 ^{AM} 10:40 ^{AM}	Worship Service Annual Meeting & Chili Tasting— LL-Dining Room
Mon., Feb. 2 nd	9:00 ^{AM}	Staff Meeting via Zoom
Tues., Feb. 3 rd	10:00 ^{AM}	Delivery for Food Pantry
Wed., Feb. 4 th	4:00 ^{PM}	Food Pantry
Sun., Feb. 8 th	9:30 ^{AM} 10:40 ^{AM}	Worship Service Fellowship

Today's flowers are in memory of Bill Anderson—given by his family.

Prayer Matters

Heartfelt thoughts & prayers for all who have recently experienced the loss of a friend or family member. May they know peace and comfort during these difficult times.

Prayers of comfort & healing for Evelyn Vanderheyden, Jen Seversen, Don Tobias, Elie Hunt, Jeremy Nitz, Peggy Taylor, Ginny Holle, Ken Schacht, Vi Shufelt, Sheila Lawrence, Peggy Wagner, Ed Lehmann, Austin Moulds, Mac & Marilyn MacCaughey, Ellen Easley, Sandra Hopkins, Kay Mahl, Mary Johnson, Leah Fisher, Barb Stevenson.

As they deal with physical, emotional and/or spiritual issues, please pray for Mary Ann—mother of Cheryl Nitz; Mark—son of Sharon Campbell; Josephine—aunt of Georgia Herrera; David—friend and Dan & Joyce—parents of Shelley Maurer; Jack Flynn and Mary—sister of Gretchen Hermann; Ainara—sister of Alejandro Alumbrosos; David—brother of Ed Lehmann; the paternal grandfather of Autumn Eifert; Carol—sister of Ginny Holle; Chad—son of Sheila Lawrence; the grandfather of Jay Perrone; Amy—daughter of Jim & Bonnie Eastman and sister of Jenny Eastman; Nancy—girlfriend of Ken Schacht; Elena & Ezequiel Romero—parents of Deb Utey; Masako—mother of Fumi Nakayama; Nancy—mother of Gloria Zember; John—son of Mac & Marilyn MacCaughey; Ramona, Steve, Susan, Sandra, John, Liz and Gabby—friends & family of the Galles; John—husband of Sandy Hawley; Chuck—husband of Sue Pehlivanian; Laurel—niece of Curt & Victoria Vollman; Meyer Schaal; Tim—family member of Sheila Lawrence; Scott Mohn—friends of the Paffrath family.

Prayers for those in the service — Evan Humphreys, Col. Jay Brooke, Jared Smith, Jordan Smith, Nicholas Hansen.

Thank you for your continued prayers for everyone. They are powerful!

TODAY IS THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATIONAL

In the lower level dining room, directly following worship.

The annual meeting will be followed by the...

FIRST ANNUAL DENNIS REESER MEMORIAL CHILI TASTING EVENT



As with so many Church fellowship gatherings, the man behind the scenes getting everything set up and working correctly was Dennis Reeser. His amazing generosity of time coupled with a fantastic skill set and wonderful sense of humor added so much joy to our Church Family. There is not a First Pres event where he does not come to mind, and he is deeply missed. So, plan to come and eat some chili, spread some joy, help feed some hungry people with your free-will offering and raise a spoon to the memory of our friend who showed us daily what love in action looks like.



It is important that we all help take care of our communities. And you have generously done that through our different missions - especially to the First Presbyterian Food Pantry. We are asking for your help again.

During these bitter cold months, donations of new or clean, gently used winter hats, mittens, gloves and scarves (all sizes) for our food pantry clinics would be greatly appreciated. These items can be left in the food collection box located across from the office, by the elevator door.