



First Sunday in Lent • February 22, 2026
Glorify God, Make Disciples of Jesus Christ, and Meet Human Needs

GATHERING

God of wilderness, as we devote these forty days to You, shape us by Your Holy Spirit into the image of Christ our Lord, so that we may be ready, by Your grace, to confront the power of death with the promise of eternal life and be salt and light. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

LENTEN PRAYER

Hashivenu

Israeli

Take us back to you, Lord, and we shall return. Renew our days as in the past.

***Please see **TODAY IN WORSHIP** for the symbolism behind the Lenten Prayer and the bowl of sand.*

WORDS OF WELCOME

PRELUDE

Prelude to the 1st Cello Suite

J.S. Bach; arr. S. Ciulei

Dr. Silviu Ciulei, guitar

* CALL TO WORSHIP

People of God, on this wilderness journey, what will you eat?

The word of the Lord is our daily bread.

People of God, in this time of temptation, how will you live?

Our faith is in the faithfulness of God.

People of God, at this kingdom crossroad, whom will you serve?

We worship the Lord our God alone.

* HYMN 775

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

WALK WITH ME

CONFESSiON AND PARDON

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Lord God, You know the ways of good and evil. You know the things that tempt us and the things that give us life. You know our nakedness, and You know our sin. We confess that we have disobeyed Your word, denying Your providence and care and relying on our own cleverness. Have mercy on us, we pray: cover us with Your grace, feed us with the bread of life, and re-create us in Your image; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Now, O Lord, transform us as we continue our confession in silence.

KYRIE (Hymn 551)

Lord, Have Mercy

LAND OF REST

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy upon us.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, Believe the Good News of the Gospel.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

NEW TESTAMENT READING

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Romans 4:1-8 (NRSV)

NT pg. 154

ANTHEM (11 A.M.)

Psalm 32

J. Helgen

Kate Vellis, alto

Happy are those whose transgressions are forgiven and whose sin is put away! While I held my tongue, my bones withered away because of my groaning all day long. Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not conceal my guilt. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin. You are my hiding place; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance. Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD; shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES (11 A.M.)

Sarah Whitfield

*(Afterward, children in kindergarten through 2nd grade will be dismissed to Kids-4-God.)**** HYMN 649**

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

AMAZING GRACE

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Psalm 32 (NRSV)

This is the Word of the Lord.

OT pg. 506

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

The guilt of my sin | The Joy of His Forgiveness

Fred Lundy

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**RESPONDING***** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

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; he descended into hell; on 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.

OFFERING**OFFERTORY**

Andante

D. Reis

*Dr. Silviu Ciulei, guitar**** DOXOLOGY**

Hymn 606

*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.*

*** THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION (8:30 A.M.)

(Gluten-Free Bread)

SENDING*** HYMN 739**

O for a Closer Walk with God

CAITHNESS

*** BENEDICTION**

Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sound

G. Shearing

*** POSTLUDE**

TODAY IN WORSHIP

WORSHIP LEADERS: Jonathon Haney, Mark Hults, Fred Lundy, Sarah Whitfield

ELDER ON DUTY: Elizabeth Bolton

ACOLYTE: Luci Best

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & ORGANIST: Mitch Rorick

CHAPEL USHER: Tom Chamberlain; **SANCTUARY USHERS:** Paul Bennett, Mary Lou Schubert, Stephanie Tyler

A/V TEAM: Owen Best, Dania Moreno, John Rayl, Elijah West

WE'VE ENTERED THE SEASON OF LENT, a time of prayer and self-examination in preparation for the resurrection of Jesus Christ at Easter. Forty days in length, the Lenten season is from Ash Wednesday to Easter (Lenten Sundays are not included in the forty day count). The forty days are like the flood of Genesis, Moses' sojourn at Mount Sinai, Elijah's journey to Mount Horeb, and Jesus' time of testing in the wilderness. This Lent we've added a bowl of sand to represent Jesus' testing, and our own testing, in the wilderness. Additionally, during Lent following the ringing of the bell to start worship, we will hear, or sing, Hashivenu. The text for Hashivenu is from Lamentations 5:21.

As part of our gathering hymn, we sing "I want Jesus to walk with me; all along my pilgrim journey." In a sense, we journey with Jesus during this season of Lent, a season leading to the glorious resurrection on Easter. Our anthem, "Psalm 32," hymn of the day and postlude, "Amazing Grace," and sending hymn, "O for a Closer Walk with God," point to the Psalm 32 scripture for today.

We are grateful to Kate Vellis, who has sung many solos at First Presbyterian Church, for singing the Lenten Prayer and anthem. Joining us also is Dr. Silviu Ciulei, Head of Guitar Studies at the University of Florida. A Latin Grammy winning album artist, Silviu has won top prize in some of the most prestigious competitions. Also an acclaimed flamenco guitarist, he has traveled to the south of Spain to study flamenco guitar where he lived in Cadiz, Madrid, and Seville.

Thank you for joining us in worship today. We pray that you experience Christ's presence in our midst and that His presence will sustain you in the week ahead. Visitors are welcome to participate in the worship and the work of First Presbyterian Church. If you feel a call to commit your life to Jesus Christ and His Church, please speak to the pastor or an elder after worship.

Senior Pastor
Rev. Mark Hults - pastor@1stpc.org
Director of Music and Organist
Mitch Rorick - music@1stpc.org
Director of Young Adult & Family Ministry
Fred Lundy - youngadult@1stpc.org
Director of College Ministry
Jonathon Haney - college@1stpc.org
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Andrew Netardus - events@1stpc.org
Head Sexton - Tony Cogdill
Sexton - Margaret Hill
Property Coordinator
John Rayl - png.1stpc@gmail.com

LAMENT AND LONGING FOR HEALING

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me 775

1 I want Jesus to walk with me;
 2 In my trials, Lord, walk with me;
 3 When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;

I want Jesus to walk with me;
 in my trials, Lord, walk with me;
 when I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;

all along my pilgrimage,
 when my heart is al-most breaking,
 when my head is bowed in sorrow,

Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.
 Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.
 Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

The two equal phrases in each line suggest that this African American spiritual shares some characteristics of work or field songs that were used to coordinate the efforts of slaves involved in tasks (road clearing, ditch digging, etc.) that needed combined rhythmic strokes.

TEXT: African American spiritual
 MUSIC: African American spiritual; arr. Nolan Williams Jr., 2000
 Music Arr. © 2000 GIA Publications, Inc.

WALK WITH ME
 8.8.8.9

THANKSGIVING

649 Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved. How pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come. 'Tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures. He will my shield and
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found, was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

As was his custom, the author wrote this hymn to accompany his sermon on 1 Chronicles 17:16–17, preached on January 1, 1773; he called it "Faith's Review and Expectation." Much of its current popularity comes from this now-familiar tune, an association that began in 1835.

TEXT: Stanzas 1–4, John Newton, 1772; stanza 5, *A Collection of Sacred Ballads*, 1790; Navaho, Albert Tsosie
 MUSIC: *Columbian Harmony*, 1829; arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1910, alt.

AMAZING GRACE
 CM

Text Phonetic Transcr. Cherokee, Kiowa, Creek, and Choctaw © Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference;
 Phonetic Transcr. Navaho © Albert Tsosie

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Romans 4:1-8 (NRSV)

¹ What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ² For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³ For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness."

⁴ Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵ But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness. ⁶ So also David speaks of the blessedness of those to whom God reckons righteousness apart from works:

⁷ "Blessed are those whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; ⁸ blessed is the one against whom the Lord will not reckon sin."

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Psalm 32 (NRSV)

¹ Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. ² Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

³ While I kept silence, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long. ⁴ For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. (*Sé lah*)

⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the guilt of my sin. (*Sé lah*)

⁶ Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them. ⁷ You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance. (*Sé lah*)

⁸ I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you. ⁹ Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding, whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle, else it will not stay near you.

¹⁰ Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.

¹¹ Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

DISCIPLESHIP AND MISSION

O for a Closer Walk with God 739

1 O for a clos - er walk with God, a
 2 Re - turn, O ho - ly Dove, re - turn, sweet
 3 The dear - est i - dol I have known, what -
 4 So shall my walk be close with God, calm

calm and heaven-ly frame, a light to shine up -
 mes - sen - ger of rest! I hate the sins that
 e'er that i - dol be, help me to tear it
 and se - rene my frame; so pur - er light shall

on the road that leads me to the Lamb!
 made thee mourn and drove thee from my breast.
 from thy throne, and wor - ship on - ly thee.
 mark the road that leads me to the Lamb.

Merely longing for a restored relationship with God is not enough; real repentance requires amendment of life (stanza 3). The similarity of stanzas 1 and 4 suggests both continuity and improvement. This tune was one of the new common tunes in the Scottish Psalter of 1635.



Hymn Festival Concert for a Cause - Sunday, February 15

Thank you to Robert A. Hobby, the choirs, brass, bells, ice cream team, and guests who joined us for a beautiful afternoon of worship at our Hymn Festival and Concert for a Cause! A free-will offering was received to benefit *Helping Hands Clinic* and *Made for More*. If you were unable to attend but would like to contribute, you may give using PushPay or place a check in the offering plate payable to First Presbyterian Church, memo "Concert for a Cause - Hymn Festival."



1stpc Music Lunch Series - Tuesday, February 24 at 12:15 p.m.

For our final lunch concert of the season, we welcome Dr. Lauren Hodges on the viola with Alan Clark on piano. A compact and engaging program that moves from poetic reflection to striking innovation: perfect for a midday escape! Featured pieces: *Fantasy Pieces*, R. Schuman; and *Sonata No. 1*, N. Roslavets. Gather in the sanctuary for the concert and bring your own lunch or purchase one for \$5.

College Scholarships



Pick up an application form in the church office or by email at business@1stpc.org. Submit the application, transcripts, and two letters of recommendation by Friday, March 27.

Scholarship Committee Members Needed

The Trustees are seeking a few volunteers to assist with reviewing scholarship applications. This is a short-term commitment with a clearly defined time frame, and your thoughtful input would be greatly appreciated. We are looking for 3-5 individuals. If you are willing to help or would like more information, please reach out to Kate Vellis, Geoff Spiegel, or the church office. Thank you for supporting our students and this important ministry.



Year-End Contribution Statements

Statements will be sent upon request. Please email or call Trudy Bonerba and specify if you prefer to receive your statement by email or regular mail.



Doctor Koinonia

This semester, we are excited to revisit with two of our distinguished senior advisor guests at Doctor Koinonia, our support group ministry for young physician faculty:

- Thursday, February 26: Rev. Mark Hults, Senior Pastor, will lead an interactive discussion on "God's Call: How to recognize it, what it means scripturally, and how to persist through its challenges."
- Thursday, April 16: Dr. Donald Caton, anesthesiologist and published historian/author, will discuss "The significance of pain," spiritually and beyond, based on his numerous writings.

For more information, contact Serendipity at DoctorKoinonia@gmail.com.



Trumpet & Organ Concert - Friday, February 27 at 7 p.m.

Acclaimed Minnesota Orchestra and former Canadian Brass trumpeter Charles Lazarus teams up with organist and former Director of the National Lutheran Choir, David Cherwien for an evening of exciting and virtuosic music making. For more information, visit www.1stpcmusic.org.

Pick-up a calendar page from the ushers or click the link in the weekly email for all this week's ministry events. Children's worship guides are available at all entrances.

Online Contributions



Visit our website, www.1stpc.org, to make an online donation. Click the GIVE button at the top of the page. You can contribute to the General Budget or use the drop-down menu, change to Other, and specify the designated ministry in the memo section. Text contributions, bill pay through your bank, and electronic funds transfers are also options. Contact Trudy Bonerba.



T-Coil installed in the sanctuary, and Hearing Assist devices available in the Narthex.

Tune in to Cox Channel 11 **now from 9-10 a.m.** for our televised broadcast [cc](#) or MyTV 28.2 for over the air broadcasts

Current Worship video, audio, and archives at 1stpc.org

Ministries & Staff

At First Presbyterian Preschool, children are fully prepared for school in a caring, Christian environment. Classes are offered 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. Early Childhood Accredited.

Preschool Director

LISA HERSHKOWITZ - preschool@1stpc.org

Our Children and Youth Ministries provide a multi-generational approach of Christian example as the church family comes alongside parents to lead children to become fully devoted disciples of Jesus Christ.

Nursery Care during worship for children 6 weeks through pre-kindergarten. **Contact:** Victoria Bernard - toralleigh@gmail.com

Kindergarten through 2nd grade children are excused from worship for **Kids-4-God** to spend time growing their faith on Sundays during the school year. **Contact:** Evelyn Lewis - cityfr122@gmail.com

LOGOS is a mid-week ministry during the school year with worship arts, Bible time, recreation, and family dinner for students age 3 through high school. **Contact:** Bev Vloedman dvloedman@aol.com

Youth Connection meets for fellowship and food with Bible study and mentoring for students in grades 6-12. (see **YA&FM** contact)

Our College Ministry seeks to launch students into a life of pursuing Christ, trusting in Him, and growing with others. Join us for Sunday worship & lunch and Tuesday Bible study at 7 p.m. Bring a friend!

Director of College Ministry

JONATHON HANEY - college@1stpc.org

Young Adult & Family Ministry (YA&FM) is for marrieds and singles, with or without kids, in grad school or in vocation. We gather for Bible Studies and to get to know each other better and would love the chance to do life with you.

Director of Young Adult & Family Ministry
FRED LUNDY - youngadult@1stpc.org

With choirs for ages three and above, our **Music Ministry** welcomes everyone to sing or ring and to dedicate their music to God. Our concert season includes Concerts for a Cause, which support local and global mission partners.

Director of Music and Organist
MITCH RORICK - music@1stpc.org

Additional Staff

Senior Pastor

REV. MARK HULTS - pastor@1stpc.org

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Head Sexton

TONY COGDILL

Sexton

MARGARET HILL

Glorify God
Make Disciples of Jesus Christ
Meet Human Needs



First Presbyterian
Church of Gainesville

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, February 22, 2026

8:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion - Iona Chapel
9:30 a.m. Gordon Hoover Class: Mark 15 - Ross Teigen - Library
9:45 a.m. Multiply Class: Luke 4:14-30 - Rose Anna R. - Room 201
10:45 a.m. Nursery Care - Room 204
11:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary
11:20 p.m. Kids-4-God - Room 217
12:00 p.m. Fellowship Time - Gordon Hall
12:00 p.m. College Cafe - Serving Room
12:15 p.m. Guitar Class - Room 201

Monday, February 23, 2026

Tuesday, February 24, 2026

10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting - Parlor
12:15 p.m. Lunch Series - Lauren Hodges, viola; Alan Clark, piano
6:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting - Parlor
7:00 p.m. Trajectory College Bible Study - Gordon Hall

Wednesday, February 25, 2026

3:30 p.m. LOGOS - Enter through sanctuary doors or gate on SW 1st Ave
5:45 p.m. LOGOS Family Time Dinner - Gordon Hall
6:30 p.m. Jubilate Ringers - Bell Room 215
7:15 p.m. Session - Room 201

Thursday, February 26, 2026

6:00 p.m. Carol Ringers - Bell Room 215
7:15 p.m. Chancel Choir - Choir Room

Friday, February 27, 2026

7:00 p.m. Trumpet & Organ Concert - Sanctuary

Saturday, February 28, 2026

Sunday, March 1, 2026

Second Sunday in Lent

8:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion - Iona Chapel
9:30 a.m. Gordon Hoover: Mark 16 - Elizabeth Bolton - Library
9:30 a.m. Carol Ringers - Sanctuary
9:45 a.m. Multiply Class: Luke 4:31-44 - Room 201
10:00 a.m. Choral Scholars - Sanctuary
10:15 a.m. Cherub, Junior, & Senior Choirs - Sanctuary
10:45 a.m. Nursery Care - Room 204
11:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary
11:20 p.m. Kids-4-God - Room 217
12:00 p.m. Fellowship Time - Gordon Hall
12:00 p.m. College Cafe - Serving Room