

GATHERING

Loving God, you have given me the gift of this new day, and you send me out to live it fully and well. Help me to be attentive to your direction and leading. Whatever this day may hold, I trust that you will keep me in all my comings and goings. In your Son's name, I pray. Amen.

LENTEN PRAYER (11 A.M.)

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

Bound for the Promised Land

J. Kriske & R. DeLelles

Cherub Choir, Junior Choir, Senior Choir; Dr. Wendy Gunther, conductor

On Jordan's stormy banks I stand and cast a wishful eye, to Canaan's fair and happy land where my possessions lie. I am bound for the promised land, oh, who will come and go with me? I am bound for the promised land. Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray the Lord my soul to keep. If I should die before I wake, I pray the Lord my soul to take.

* **CALL TO WORSHIP**

As God set Abram, Sarai, and Lot on a journey,

God calls us to follow in trust.

God is able to make us more than we have been

and blesses us on the way.

* **HYMN 49**

The God of Abraham Praise

LEONI

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, we come before you in need of forgiveness and grace. You call us to trust in you completely, but we do not. We are timid and fearful as we follow your lead. We justify our actions and words, though we know they are not what you require. We struggle to understand the new life Christ offers, preferring old habits to risky change. Forgive us, we pray. Help us to be born again into the life of Christ, trusting that you have included us by grace in the family of faith. 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

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Genesis 12:1-8 (NRSV)

This is the Word of the Lord.

OT pg. 10

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM (11 A.M.)

Step by Step

D. Strasser

Cherub Choir, Junior Choir, Senior Choir; Dr. Wendy Gunther, conductor; Ross Teigen, guitar leader

O God, You are my God, and I will ever praise You. I will seek You in the morning and I will learn to walk in Your ways. And step by step You'll lead me, and I will follow You all of my days.

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES (11 A.M.)

Fred Lundy

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

* HYMN 39

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

FAITHFULNESS

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Romans 4:1-8 (NRSV)

This is the Word of the Lord.

NT pg. 154

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

God's Covenant with Abraham

Rev. Mark Hults

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

What Wondrous Love Is This

D. Wagner

Carol Ringers; Rebecca Ruescher, conductor

* 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 37	Let All Things Now Living	ASH GROVE
* BENEDICTION		
* POSTLUDE	Choral Dorien	J. Alain

TODAY IN WORSHIP

WORSHIP LEADERS: Jonathon Haney, Mark Hults, Fred Lundy

ELDER ON DUTY: Rick Young

ACOLYTE: Dalyla Neuhaus

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & ORGANIST: Mitch Rorick

COLLABORATIVE PIANIST: Anait Piloyan

CHAPEL USHER: Rose Anna Rutledge; **SANCTUARY USHERS:** Roger Bachmann, Matthew Morse, Carol Turner

A/V TEAM: Kaylee Bleeker, Kimberly de Fretes, Jack Harling

THE FLOWERS IN WORSHIP are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Gracelynn Christine Fosser.

WE WELCOME THE NEWEST MEMBERS OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY: Esther Kim, Junsang Park, Stephanie Tyler, Katherine Whisler, and Michael McAleer & Lily Lewis.

TODAY IS THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT. Our gathering hymn, hymn of the day, and sending hymn connect to this theme. The offertory, "What Wondrous Love Is This," is played by our Thursday handbell ensemble. The text for this hymn arrangement can be found in our *Glory to God* Hymnal, #215. As our students sing and play Orff instruments, for our prelude, "Bound for the Promised Land," we can look forward to eternal life with Christ, and live in confidence that we are bound for the promised land. The anthem, "Step by Step," features our students singing and some guitarists from the guitar class Ross Teigen is currently leading. We are grateful to Ross for teaching this class. As you hear this anthem, consider that as Abraham was led by God, we are also led by God. The somber postlude, "Choral Dorien," is by French organist, composer, and soldier Jehan Alain. Alain died at the age of 29 while serving in World War II.

The season of Lent is a 40-day period of prayer and self-examination in preparation for the resurrection of Jesus Christ at Easter. 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, following the ringing of the bell to start worship, we will hear, or sing, Hashivenu. The text for Hashivenu is from Lamentations 5:21.

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.

Let Us Remember in Prayer and Correspondence: Marilyn Ast and Leon & Jayne Fox. Our men and women in the services: Ashley Dace, Matt Gowdy, Brian Hill, and Dan Williams; and first responders: Nick Gonzalez and Paul Samala.

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

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John Rayl - png.1stpc@gmail.com

49 The God of Abraham Praise

1 The God of A-braham praise, who reigns en-throned a-b-ove,
 2 Your spir - it still flows free, high surg - ing where it will.
 3 Your good - ly land we seek, with peace and plen - ty blest,
 4 You have e - ter - nal life im - plant - ed in the soul;

the An - cient of E - ter - nal Days, the God of love!
 In proph-et's word you spoke of old and you speak still.
 a land of sa - cred lib - er - ty and Sab - bath rest.
 your love shall be our strength and stay, while a - ges roll.

The Lord, the great I AM, by earth and heaven con-fessed,
 Es - tab-lished is your law, and change-less it shall stand,
 There milk and hon - ey flow, and oil and wine a - bound,
 We praise you, liv - ing God! We praise your ho - ly name:

we bow be - fore your ho - ly name, for - ev - er blest.
 deep writ up - on the hu - man heart by your strong hand.
 and trees of life for - ev - er grow with mer - cy crowned.
 the first, the last, be - yond all thought, and still the same!

TEXT: Moses Maimonides, 12th cent.; vers. Daniel ben Judah Dayan, 1404; stanzas 1, 3, trans. Thomas Olivers, c.1770, alt.; LEONI stanzas 2, 4, trans. Max Landsberg, Newton M. Mann, and William C. Gannett, 1884, 1910, alt. 6.6.8.4.D
 MUSIC: Jewish melody, 17th cent.; adapt. Meyer Lyon and Thomas Olivers, 1770

39 Great Is Thy Faithfulness

1 *Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther;
 2 Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring-time and har - vest,
 3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,

there is no shad - ow of turn - ing with thee.
 sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove
 thine own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide,

Thou chang - est not; thy com - pas - sions they fail not.
 join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness
 strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row:

As thou hast been thou for - ev - er wilt be.
 to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
 bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

Refrain

Great is Thy faith - ful - ness! Great is Thy faith - ful - ness! Morn - ing by

morn - ing new mer - cies I see; All I have need - ed Thy

hand hath pro - vid - ed; Great is Thy faith - ful - ness, Lord, un - to me!

Written as a meditation on Lamentations 3:22-23, this text is one of the few hymns among the 1200 poems by this Methodist writer and pastor that has gained much currency. The tune that appears here was composed especially for these words, and the pairing has proved enduring.

TEXT: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923
 MUSIC: William Marion Runyan, 1923
 Text and Music © 1923, ren. 1951 Hope Publishing Company

FAITHFULNESS
 11.10.11.10 with refrain

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OLD TESTAMENT READING

Genesis 12:1-8 (NRSV)

¹ Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ² I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

⁴ So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. ⁵ Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother's son Lot, and all the possessions that they had gathered, and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran; and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan. When they had come to the land of Canaan, ⁶ Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. ⁷ Then the Lord appeared to Abram, and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him. ⁸ From there he moved on to the hill country on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; and there he built an altar to the Lord and invoked the name of the Lord.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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.

CREATION AND PROVIDENCE

37 Let All Things Now Living

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. It consists of two staves of music. The first staff has a melody with chords G, D, G, Am, and D above it. The second staff has a melody with chords G, C, G, D, and G above it. The lyrics are written below the notes.

1 Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks-giv - ing
 2 By law God en - forc - es, the stars in their cours - es,
 to God our Cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise;
 the sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine;

G D G Am D

who fash-ioned and made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us,
the hills and the moun-tains, the riv - ers and foun-tains,

G C G D G

by guid - ing us on to the end of our days.
the depths of the o - cean pro - claim God di - vine.

Harmony G E Am D

God's ban-ners are o'er us; pure light goes be - fore us,
We too should be voic - ing our love and re - joic - ing;

G Em D A7 D

a pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night:
with glad ad - o - ra - tion, a song let us raise,

G D G Am D

till shad - ows have van - ished, all fear - ful - ness ban - ished,
till all things now liv - ing u - nite in thanks - giv - ing:

G C G D G

as for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.
to God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise!

Written for an easy-to-sing folk melody familiar in England as well as Wales, this 20th-century North American text bears many resemblances to both Psalm 148 and the traditional canticle *Benedicite, omnia opera Domini* (Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord).

TEXT: Katherine K. Davis, 1939, alt.
MUSIC: Welsh folk melody; harm. Gerald H. Knight, 20th cent.
Text © 1939, 1966 E. C. Schirmer Music Company
Music Harm. © Royal School of Church Music

ASH GROVE
6.6.11.6.6.11.D

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1stpc Music Lunch Series - Thank you!

We had a wonderful February of music and fellowship. Thank you for joining us on Tuesdays, and thank you to the team that made the Lunch Series possible: Elizabeth Bolton, Jenny Chamberlain, Karen Coffey, Frank Counts, Carol Israel, Andrew Netardus, Laura Netardus, Susan Roland, Stephanie Tyler, and Beth Wood.



Remember Our Mission Partners During Lent

Lenten traditions often include a focus on prayer, sacrifice, and preparation as we move toward Easter. In this season, please also consider those in need in our community. We have a wire cart at each of the main entrances to the sanctuary for food donations to Gainesville Community Ministry's food pantry. Dried goods like grains, potatoes, and rice are always helpful, as are canned vegetables and fruits. Thank you for your generosity.



College Scholarships

Application forms for the Kirkpatrick family, J. Wayne Reitz, John R. Greenman, William K. "Bill" Robertson, Ruth Maren, Charles and Mary Ross, Howard and Emily Patton, and Hank and Margaret Weech 2026-2027 scholarships are available in the church office or by email at business@1stpc.org. Submit the application, transcripts, and two letters of recommendation by Friday, March 27.



Cookies for Sunday Fellowship

Do you appreciate getting to know the congregation after worship on Sunday while also enjoying a sweet treat? If so, please consider donating cookies for fellowship time. Sign up on the whiteboard in Gordon Hall on Sundays or contact Carol Israel at ceisrael@cox.net.



Journey through Lent to Easter

We invite everyone – young and old – to continue to build the paper chain in our sanctuary which symbolizes our shared faith journey. Art supplies will be available in Gordon Hall and the chapel. Create a paper strip with a symbol of creation, birth, or beginnings, and add a favorite Bible verse or hymn. Can we fill the sanctuary? What about Gordon Hall?



Monday Morning Women's Bible Study

All women of the church are invited to a Bible study on the book of James. Our first meeting will be on Monday, April 13 at 10:30 a.m. We will meet twice a month for four months. Before we meet in April, please read the New Testament book of James and purchase and read the (short!) book *How to Read the Bible* by David Platt (available at Publix, on Amazon, or contact Jenny). We will work through both books together over the next several months. Call or email Jenny Chamberlain in the church office (communications@1stpc.org) with questions.

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  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 - toraleighb@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 - citytr122@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

JONATHAN 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



Weekly Calendar

Sunday, March 1, 2026

- 8:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion - Iona Chapel
- 9:30 a.m. Gordon Hoover: Mark 16 - Tim Schubert - 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
- 12:15 p.m. Guitar Class - Room 201

Monday, March 2, 2026

Tuesday, March 3, 2026

- 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting - Parlor
- 5:00 p.m. Local Missions - Parlor
- 6:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting - Parlor
- 7:00 p.m. Trajectory College Bible Study - Gordon Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Circle 5 Presbyterian Women (PW) Bible Study
Questions? Contact Bev Vloedman - dvloedman@aol.com

Wednesday, March 4, 2026

- 1:30 p.m. Chocolate Lovers PW Bible Study - Parlor
Questions? Contact Betsy Berry - betsypwberry@gmail.com
- 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

Thursday, March 5, 2026

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

Friday, March 6, 2026

Saturday, March 7, 2026

Sunday, March 8, 2026

Third Sunday in Lent Daylight Saving Time Begins

- 8:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion - Iona Chapel
- 9:30 a.m. Gordon Hoover: Romans 1 - Perry Foote - Library
- 9:30 a.m. Jubilate Ringers - Sanctuary
- 9:45 a.m. Multiply Class: Lent Study - Room 201
- 10:00 a.m. Chancel Choir - Sanctuary
- 10:30 a.m. Alleluia Choir - 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