

# First Presbyterian Church

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## *Celebrating 175 Years*



March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025

We welcome you not as strangers but as a part of God's family! We are a community of faith that gathers to praise our Lord and Savior, serve others, search for answers, and enjoy the fellowship of one another. We hope today you will be challenged and discover encouragement. The peace of Christ be with you!

## SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent

March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025

### GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

*Worship begins with the Prelude. Please use this time for **silent** preparation.*

PRELUDE

"Prelude on Softly and Tenderly"

Tom Danich

## GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

## CHORAL INTROIT

Freylinghausen

“Create in Me a Clean Heart”

## CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Leader: We are offered an amazing gift from God.

People: *We are a new creation in Jesus Christ; the old has passed away, the new has come.*

Leader: This is a day for forgiveness and reconciliation. Let us celebrate God’s love for the lost who are found.

People: *The glad cries of deliverance surround us. Shouts of joy arise from our hearts.*

Leader: God provides new opportunities that aren’t deserved.

People: *With joyful hearts we celebrate in a grace that is beyond our imagination.*

Unison: *We gather to rejoice and praise the new hope that God provides.*

## PRAYER OF PRAISE

### \*HYMN OF ADORATION # 435

“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

### \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

*Gracious God, we have tasted Your goodness in Christ our Savior. We confess that our ways are not nearly as kind and loving as Yours. We often sin abundantly or without concern for those around us. Yet You are the One who comes running to save us from our countless sins. You bring joy to the sin that longs to strangle us. You are our hope in the midst of our eternal failures. Forgive our sin, O God, and help us to embrace You, our loving Parent, who comes running to our aid. Amen.*

### \*DECLARATION OF PARDON

### \*GLORIA PATRI

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen, amen.*

## A MOMENT WITH OUR CHILDREN

### \*HYMN OF PREPARATION # 649

“Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.*

PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Psalm 32, page 506

ANTHEM

John McDermott

“In the Bulb There is a Flower”

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 15:1-3,11b-32, page 78

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

SERMON

The Rev. Rick Martindale

“The Vastness of God’s Love”

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Part 3, Page 38

“A Brief Statement of Faith”

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

Sarah Liles

“Lenten Meditation”

\*DOXOLOGY

Hymn # 606

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SENDING GOD’S WORD INTO THE WORLD

\*HYMN OF COMMITMENT # 771

“What Is the World Like”

\*CHARGE AND BLESSING

\*CHORAL RESPONSE

Omer Westendorf

“Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”

POSTLUDE

Don Besig

“Praises Unending”

*\*Please stand if able.*

**Opportunities for the Week of March 30<sup>th</sup> – April 6<sup>th</sup>**

Today:	9:00 a.m.	Christian Education meeting, <i>conference room</i>
	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship Service
	4:00 p.m.	Easter Egg Hunt and Youth Group
Monday:	10:00 a.m.	PW Bible Study
	11:00 a.m.	PWCT Meeting
	6:30 p.m.	175 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee Meeting, <i>conference room</i>
Tuesday:	6:15 p.m.	Men’s Group, <i>conference room</i>

Wednesday: 12:00 p.m. Community Lenten Series at Carthage United Methodist Church  
5:30 p.m. Choir Practice  
Saturday: 7:30 a.m. Robbin's Food Bank  
8:00 a.m. Church Clean-Up Day  
Sunday: 10:00 a.m. Sunday School  
11:00 a.m. Worship Service  
12:10 p.m. Hand Bell Choir Practice  
2:00 p.m. Crop Walk, *Union Pines High School*

### **Announcements**

Handbell Choir practice will begin the first Sunday in April and will be held the first and third Sunday of each month following Sunday Service.

We have numerous "ministry baskets" in the Family Life Center. For the month of April, we are collecting peanut butter crackers and raisins for Backpack Pals.

Church "Clean-Up Day" is scheduled for this Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup>. You can work outside or work on cleaning the inside.

The 2025 Crop Walk will take place next Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m.

Easter is coming! Prepare to purchase Easter Lillies for the Easter service. We will celebrate with our Sunrise Service and breakfast. The sign-up sheet for breakfast is in the lower narthex. Join us in worship and fellowship on April 20<sup>th</sup>.

We will begin our 4-week Bible study with *The Chosen* beginning on Wednesday, April 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. Please come!

The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God by Debbie & Robert Gordon.