



# Baptism of the Lord Sunday

## Worship of the Living God

### Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Welcome Rev. Josh Musser Gritter

\* Call to Worship Rev. Lara Musser Gritter

#### **Come to the waters!**

The voice of the Lord is over the waters;

**the God of glory thunders,**

the Lord is over mighty waters.

**The voice of the Lord is powerful;**

the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.

**Let us worship the Lord together!**

\* Song *Cornerstone*  
Edward Mote | Eric Liljero

\* Confession of Sin

**Gracious and merciful God,**

**in baptism, you offer us unconditional love, yet we believe lies that tell us we are never enough.**

**You offer forgiveness for our sins**

**yet we cling to our failures and resist forgiveness.**

**You offer welcome and belonging**

**yet we don't hold individuality and community together.**

**We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.**

**Renew our baptism that we might rest in your love and share it with others.**

\* Assurance of Forgiveness

\* Response *Glory to God,  
Whose Goodness Shines on Me*  
Paul M. Vasile

## Proclamation of the Word

Children's Message Stephen Bullock

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture: Psalm 29

Scripture: Isaiah 43:1-7

Sermon Rev. Josh Musser Gritter

Moment for Reflection

## Responding to the Word

\* Reaffirmation of Baptism  
*As you process forward, a pastor will take water from the font and sign you with the symbol of the cross saying "Remember your baptism and be thankful."*

\* Affirmation of Faith Dr. Randy Kirby  
*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; he descended into hell; 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.**

Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer

Announcements & Celebrations

Offering

Offertory Emma Blackwell  
*Nothing to Fear*  
Audrey Assad | Isaac Wardell

\* Doxology *New Doxology*  
Louis Bourgeois | Thomas Ken

\* Prayer of Dedication

## Sending to share the Word

\* Song *Down To The River To Pray*  
Eric Bright

\* Benediction

Benediction Response

Postlude

\*Those who are able are invited to stand.

**Bold** indicates words spoken in unison.

**The flowers this morning are given to the glory of God, and in honor of our pastors and church staff by Carolyn Alexander.**

## JOYS AND CONCERNS

Nick Langdon, Jim Mitchell, Karl Hales, Alex Hales (Karl Hales's son), Bob Coleman, Rocky Mead (Chris Mead's father)

Eva Nelson and family, on the death of her step-father, Ray Bowden

Carol and Acey Worthy on the death of her mother, Tootie Ross

Dyke and Deborah Messinger on the marriage of their son, Trevor Messinger, to Nick Berning on December 23

Myrnie McLaughlin and family on the death of her husband, John McLaughlin

## CONTINUING CONCERNS

Fred Aggers, Rob Bachhuber Kathy Sanborn's broth-in-law), Ann Blankenship, Bill Baker, Bob Bruce, Amy De Graaf (Dan and Karen De Graaf's daughter-in-law), Alice Edwards (Tracy Smith's mother), Richard Franklin, Reba Parsons, Scott Hay, Richard Hudson, Tricia Johnson, Vonnie Jordan (Mike Jordan's mother), John Laughlin, John McLaughlin, Frank Saunders, Dianne Scott, Denny Shantz, John Smith, Ryan Snyder, Ebbie Whisenant, Sharon Whittington

## CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays: Tom Bost, Katelyn Lee, Ed Muire, Rhonda Shaw, Carr Garner, Lisa Schnuit, Jeanette Whitley, Carolyn Alexander, Dan Cagle, Melissa Heilig, Al Dunn

Anniversary: Preston and Glenda Askew

## MUSIC, STREAMING LICENSES

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## MINISTRY FOCUS

### DEEPLY ROOTED

**Welcome!** We welcome all new and returning visitors to First Pres. We are glad you're here and hope you feel God's presence as you worship and fellowship among this community of believers. Children are always welcome in worship. However, if your little one needs some time to wiggle or play, a nursery is available for children 4 and younger. Please see an usher for more information.

**First Pres 101** classes will be held on January 12 and 19 at 9:45 in the Welcome Center (classroom closest to Lewis Hall). If you are thinking about joining First Pres or want to know more about us and Presbyterians, this is your opportunity. Please let the church office know you will be attending for planning purposes.

**Grow in Friendship: JOY** (Just Older Youth) will have a Game Day on Tuesday, January 21, from 3:00-6:00 in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring soup/stew/chili or a dessert to share. Salad, snacks and drinks will be provided. Bring your favorite board/card game and invite your friends! RSVP by January 16 and let us know what food you are bringing.

**Worship: Sunday, January 26 Youth Sunday.** Join us for a unified worship service in Lewis Hall at 11:00. Please do not miss this opportunity to hear our graduating high school seniors speak about their faith journeys.

### CORE

**Staff:** Don't assume we know! Your pastors and congregation want to care for you through prayer, visitation, letters, and more, but we can't do that unless you tell us something is going on. Let us love you.

**Giving Update:** As of January 9, we have received 182 pledges for a total of \$985,690. If you have not yet turned in your 2025 pledge, we must have them by January 15 for budgeting purposes. Thank you!

**Congregational Meeting:** The Session has called a congregational meeting for Sunday, January 26, at 10:40 in Lewis Hall. The purpose of this meeting is to vote on the 2025 budget and pastors' terms of call and to elect new officers.

**Child Protection Training** Sunday, February 9 at 9:45.

### BRANCHING OUT

**Showing Up:** Our next Red Cross Blood Drive will be held on Tuesday, January 14, 2:00-6:30. Please go online to reserve your time now.



**Showing Up: 2 Cents a Meal** offering will be collected on Sunday, January 19.

**Community Ministries:** Justice and Message - Join a discussion group in January! Break up your winter with lively conversation and new friendships sponsored by the Race & Justice Ministry Team. Two Zoom discussion groups will kick off new topics in January.

- "The Spirit of Justice" Subtitled "True Stories of Faith, Race, and Resistance," this book by Jemar Tisby will be the focus of our 7:00 pm Wednesday discussions starting January 8. This stirring book introduces historic figures you've not met before and reveals biblical connections you may not have made. Monica Green and Barrie Kirby will lead. Email [barrie.m.kirby@gmail.com](mailto:barrie.m.kirby@gmail.com) to sign up.

- "The Message" Ta-Nehisi Coates' latest book has stirred controversy on the topic of Palestine, but it covers other topics as well. The 7:00 pm Sunday group will focus on this book starting January 12, led by Esther Atkins-Smith and Beffie Cook. To sign up, email [egravescook@yahoo.com](mailto:egravescook@yahoo.com).

### THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

|        |           |  |
|--------|-----------|--|
| Jan 12 | 8:30      | Contemporary Worship-Lewis Hall            |
|        | 9:45      | Sunday School, First Pres 101 class        |
|        | 11:00     | Traditional Worship-Sanctuary              |
|        | 5:00      | Youth                                      |
|        | 7:00      | RJM Study on Zoom                          |
| Jan 13 | 9:30      | MomCo                                      |
|        | 10:30     | Prayer Shawl                               |
|        | 12:30     | Communicate Team                           |
| Jan 14 | 10:00     | Staff                                      |
|        | 2:00-6:00 | Red Cross Blood Drive                      |
|        | 6:00      | Stephen Ministers                          |
| Jan 15 | 5:00      | Handbells                                  |
|        | 5:30      | First Kids, Property Team                  |
|        | 7:00      | Choir Rehearsal,<br>RJM Book Study on Zoom |
| Jan 16 | 6:30      | LCW Rehearsal,<br>Open Horizons @ RHM      |
| Jan 19 | 8:30      | Contemporary Worship-Lewis Hall            |
|        | 9:45      | Sunday School, First Pres 101 class        |
|        | 11:00     | Traditional Worship-Sanctuary              |
|        | 5:00      | Youth                                      |
|        | 7:00      | RJM Study on Zoom                          |

# First Presbyterian Church

Where God's Love is Alive for Mission

January 12, 2025 at 8:30 am

Welcome! Thank you for joining us today.



**MISSIONAL PRIORITIES**  
 Spirit-Centered Discipleship    Hands-On Local Mission  
 Friendships Across Differences    Embracing the Unchurched

