



Digital Fast: 40 Days of Space for God

Worship of the Living God

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Welcome Rev. Lara Musser Gritter

* Call to Worship Dr. Randy Kirby

For forty days and nights the rain fell,
and the waters covered
the face of the earth.

Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.

Moses spent forty days on the mountain,
learning the commandments of God.

Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.

For forty years the people wandered,
seeking the land of God's promise.

Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.

Elijah traveled forty days in the wilderness
to hear the voice of God in the silence.

Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.

Jesus fasted and prayed for forty days
and was tested by the devil.

Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.

* Song *Open The Eyes Of My Heart*
Paul Baloche

* Confession of Sin

**God of mercy,
you sent Jesus Christ to seek
and save the lost.**

**We confess that we have wandered
from your way and become lost
in the wilderness of days and years.**

**We are misled by pride,
for we see ourselves pure
when we are stained,
and great when we are small.**

**We have failed in love, neglected justice,
squandered time, and ignored your truth.
Have mercy, O God, and forgive our sins.
Return us to paths of righteousness and love
through Jesus Christ, our Savior.**

Assurance of Forgiveness

* Response *Glory Be to the Father*
John Stafford

Proclamation of the Word

Children's Message

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture: Exodus 33:17-34:1, 6-10

Scripture: Exodus 34:27-33

Sermon Rev. Lara Musser Gritter

Moment for Reflection

Responding to the Word

* Affirmation of Faith Rev. Josh Musser Gritter
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

Minute for Ministries Showing Up: Dan Cagle

Offering

Offertory Praise Team
Caroline Forrester, soloist
Show Me Your Glory
Kathy Frizzell | Kim Walker-Smith

* Doxology *Doxology (God Be Praised)*
Louis Bourgeois | Thomas Ken

* Prayer of Dedication

Sending to share the Word

* Song *God Of Wonders*
Marc Byrd | Steve Hindalong

* 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 celebration of their marriage and in honor
of their parents, LaRue and Joel Neilson and Elizabeth
and Don Bergsma by Keaton and Trey Bergsma.
Keaton and Trey were married on March 15, 2025,
here at First Pres.**

JOYS & CONCERNS

Joe Wilson, Syana Johnson (Barry and Kathy Sang's granddaughter), Doug Lassiter, Melanie Sink Bailey

The family of Betty Fellows who died March 8.

CONTINUING CONCERNS

Fred Aggers, Bill Baker, Jim Carli, Rachel Culler, Alice Edwards (Tracy Smith's mother), Scott Hay, Richard Hudson, Vonnie Jordan (Mike Jordan's mother), Sandy Lee, Reba Parsons, Frank Saunders, Ebbie Whisenant, Sharon Whittington, Gerhard Wolf, Acey Worthy

CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays: Alex Lee, Chad Hoskins, Bob Bruce, Debbie Collins, Caylee Snow, Rachel Culler, Steven Lescoe, Robin Jordan, Teresa Rufty, Sloan Summitt, Tom Fisher, Dotty Shantz, Maria Bassett, Meredith Swaim, Cindi Graham, Julie Fuller, Drew Weant, Matthew Dailey, EJ Repsher, Camden Honeycutt, Bridget Brown, Stephanie Cunningham, Mark Lee, Carol Waters, Zach Robinette, Victor Wallace, Alexandra Drye

Anniversaries: Mark and Brenda Byrd, Christopher and Taylor Cook, Del and Carol Denny

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Mar 16	5:00	Youth
Mar 17	3:00	Grow in Friendship Team
	5:00	Fund Team
	6:00	Gather Team
	7:00	Session
Mar 18	10:00	Staff
Mar 19	7:00	Lenten Prayer Breakfast
	9:00	Yoga, Randy's Bible Study Group
	12:00	2nd Quarter Newsletter deadline
	5:00	Handbells
	5:30	First Kids
	7:00	Choir Rehearsal
Mar 20	6:30	Music Teams @ RHM, LCW Rehearsal
Mar 21-23		HS Youth Retreat
Mar 22	4:00	Handbell Festival Concert
Mar 23	8:30	Contemporary Worship-Lewis Hall
	9:45	Unified Adult Sunday School, Children's Sunday School, New Elder Training
	11:00	Traditional Worship-Sanctuary

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.

Worship: Do you enjoy worship? Do you love the peace you feel sitting in the pew? The delight of Communion? The joy of community? The beauty of the decorations at Christmas? All of this takes effort and volunteers. We are in great need of Captains to coordinate the volunteers for each worship service at First Pres. Join in contributing to the worship services you so love. Let a pastor know if you're interested.

Music: Join us on Saturday, March 22, at 4:00 pm, in Lewis Hall for our annual Handbell Festival Concert. Bring your friends!

Grow in Friendship: JOY is going to tour the tulips in Concord on Thursday, March 17, at 10:00. We will leave from church in the van, tour the flowers, and then enjoy lunch. Cost: lunch. Call the church office to let us know you want to go by March 21.

Grow in Friendship: Presbyterian Women are collecting diapers and wipes during Lent for One Church One Child. Donations can be dropped off in the church office.

Worship Services: It's Easter Lily Time! Use the QR code, email Christine, or pick up a paper order form. Help us decorate for Easter Sunday! Deadline: April 11. Cost: \$13 each.



Easter Lilies



Trevor's Class sign-up



College Scholarships due by April 25

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CORE

APNC: It's time to form our Associate Pastor Search Committee. If you would like to nominate someone or volunteer for the committee, please contact Lynn Miller or Christine to let them know as soon as possible.

BRANCHING OUT

Community Ministries: Dr. Trevor Eppheimer will lead a book study, sponsored by the Messinger-Williams Family Community Education Initiative at Hood Theological Seminary, during Lent, here at First Pres. He will be discussing Ross Douthat's book, Believe: Why Everyone Should Be Religious, Wednesdays, March 19-April 16, at 11:00, in our conference room. Use the QR code or email teppheimer@hoodseminary.edu to register.

Seasonal Outreach: Lenten Prayer Breakfasts are held on Wednesdays at 7:00 am, in Lewis Hall throughout Lent. Sign up by calling the church by Monday each week or by noting it in the Friendship pads. Cost: Adults: \$7, Children/Youth: \$3, 4 & under are free. This week: Rev. James Demmel, Associate Pastor, St. John's Lutheran Church.

Youth Team: Parents of HS Seniors and College Grads, the church office is collecting their information so we can celebrate them. Please send in from which school they are graduating. For college students, send in their school, degrees, and any high honors.

Showing Up: United Way Day of Caring needs volunteers to help landscape and other general projects at Overton Elementary School on May 1. Sign up by April 1 to get a free t-shirt (size needed). Contact Mike Drinkard at mikedrinkard@gmail.com to volunteer.

Lent 2025

Unified Adult Sunday School
in Fellowship Hall

March 2: Kick Off & Introduction (Pastor Lara)
Reading: Page 1-85

March 9: Lent 1 (Stephen Bullock)
Reading: Chapter 6 Detach

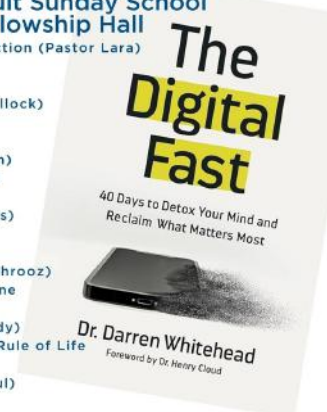
March 16: Lent 2 (Pastor Josh)
Reading: Chapter 7 Discover

March 23: Lent 3 (David Potts)
Reading: Chapter 8 Delight

March 30: Lent 4 (Maggie Behrooz)
Reading: Chapter 9 Determine

April 6: Lent 5 (Pastor Randy)
Reading: Chapter 10 Digital Rule of Life

April 13: Lent 6 (William Paul)
Reading: What Sparks Joy?



First Presbyterian Church

Where God's Love is Alive for Mission

March 16, 2025

8:30 am

2nd Sunday in Lent

Welcome! Thank you for joining us today.



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

