

\* Hymn 804 *Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart*

\* 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 581 *Glory Be to the Father*  
**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.**

### Proclamation of the Word

Children's Message

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture: 1 Kings 19:1-9

Anthem *When God Delivered Israel*  
Alex Johnson, cello,  
Sarah and Jason Bamford, violins  
Norman L. Warren

Scripture: 1 Kings 19:10-13

Sermon Rev. Josh Musser Gritter

Moment for Reflection  
*Jesus Paid It All*  
Carol Tornquist

### Responding to the Word

\* Affirmation of Faith *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 Sanctuary Choir, Alex Johnson, cello,  
Sarah and Jason Bamford, violins  
*Deep Peace*  
Elaine Hagenberg

\* Doxology 606 *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*  
**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise God, all creatures here below;  
praise God above, ye heavenly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
Amen.**

\* Prayer of Dedication

### Sending to share the Word

\* Hymn 634 *To God Be the Glory*

\* Benediction

\* Benediction Response *Go, My Children, with My Blessing*  
**"Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.  
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.  
In my love's baptismal river  
I have made you mine forever.  
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own."**

Postlude

*Rondeau in D*  
Jean-Joseph Mouret

\*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 the 2025 First Presbyterian Church  
Confirmation Class: Campbell Aron, Charles Coleman, Ace  
Dufour, Georgia Heilig, Camden Honeycutt, Gabe Lee, and  
Holly Whittington by Meredith & Ryan Honeycutt.**

### JOYS AND CONCERNS

Dottie Thomason, Melanie Sink Bailey

Margaret Almeida and family on the death of her husband, Tony Almeida.

### CONTINUING CONCERNS

Fred Aggers, Bill Baker, Bob Bruce, Alice Edwards (Tracy Smith's mother), Scott Hay, Richard Hudson, Vonnie Jordan (Mike Jordan's mother), Reba Parsons, Ebbie Whisenant, Sharon Whittington, Gerhard Wolf

### CELEBRATIONS

**Birthdays:** Lee Johnson, Cathy Adams, Christine Mowery, Frank Adams IV, Gabe Dufour, Suzanne Jenkins, Steve Coggin, Roxanne Myers, Jenny Steinman, David Upton, Sherry Bryan, Bowie Leary, Lauren Smith, Jenna Bassett, Frank Eason, Carol Gamble, Kyna Grubb

**Anniversaries:** Dan and Karen De Graaf, Harry and Denise Fink, Ben and Tiffany Fisher

---

### CHURCH LIFE

**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 infants-4 Pre-K. Please see an usher for more information.

### MINISTRY FOCUS – DEEPLY ROOTED

**Worship: Today at 8:30, we welcomed new members** Ellen Dalrymple and Jonas and Nolas Spry to our family of faith.

**Worship: Sunday, April 6, at 11:00, we will have a Unified Worship service** in the Sanctuary for Confirmation Sunday. A reception in Lewis Hall will follow the service.

**Grow in Faith:** We have 3 more weeks of our special Lenten "Digital Fast" Unified Sunday School. This Sunday, we welcome Maggie Behrooz to lead our discussion. On April 6, Pastor Randy leads us and April 13, we welcome William Paul. We hope you will join us. Our discussions are lively.

**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! Deadline: April 11. Cost: \$13 each.

**Grow in Faith: Vacation Bible School is coming soon!** Register your children now (purple QR Code). We also need MANY volunteers (black QR Code)! June 16-19, 5:00-7:30 pm, dinner included!

### MINISTRY FOCUS – CORE

**High School Senior & College Undergrad Scholarships:** All forms are due in no later than April 25!

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

### MINISTRY FOCUS – BRANCHING OUT

**Showing Up: Sunday, April 6,** is our day to bring in items to help restock the shelves at RHM. Peanut butter, cereals, and canned goods are needed.

**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: Shirley Holt, Board of Zion Hills Community & Families Center

**Community Ministries: Two new discussion groups** will get underway in April, sponsored by the Race & Justice Ministry Team: "**The Four Pivots: Reimagining Justice, Reimagining Ourselves**" - Starting April 6, the Sunday group will discuss this book by Shawn A. Ginwright, a scholar of youth development and social and emotional healing. Esther Atkins Smith and Beffie Cook will lead. If you'd like to take part, please email egravescook@gmail.com. "**Creating a Culture of Repair**" - Starting April 9, the Wednesday group will discuss this book by Robert Turner, a Baltimore pastor who formerly served at Vernon AME Church in Tulsa, Oklahoma, the only edifice that survived the 1921 Race Massacre there. Discussion leaders are Monica Green and Barrie Kirby. To join in, please email barrie.m.kirby@gmail.com. **In both cases, the Zoom meetings start at 7:00 pm and last one hour.**

**Showing Up: Sign up now for our April 22 Red Cross Blood Drive.** Appointments are available from 2:00 until 6:30 pm. Help give life to others!



**Youth: Our annual TWAM 5K and Fun Run** is set for Friday, May 2. Our Glow Kids Run is at 6:30 pm and our 5K Glow Run and Walk is at 7:00 pm. This year, we will meet at Overton Elementary and run on the greenway and part of the Catawba College Environmental area. Register now to run/walk!



### THIS WEEK

Mar 30	8:30	Contemporary Worship-Lewis Hall
	9:45	Unified Adult Sunday School, Children's Sunday School
	11:00	Traditional Worship-Sanctuary
	5:00	Youth
	5:30	Grow in Faith Team
Mar 31	10:00	MomCo Team
April 1	10:00	Staff
April 2	7:00	Lenten Prayer Breakfast
	9:00	Yoga, Randy's Bible Study
	11:00	Trevor's Book Study
	5:00	Handbells
	5:30	First Kids
	7:00	Choir Rehearsal
April 3	6:30	LCW Rehearsal
April 5	6:00	Confirmation Dinner-Fellowship Hall
April 6	9:45	Unified Adult Sunday School, Children's Sunday School, Elder Training, Youth Breakfast & Bible
	11:00	Unified Worship-Sanctuary
	12:00	Reception for Confirmands-Lewis Hall
	5:00	Youth
	7:00	RJM Book Study

### MUSIC, STREAMING LICENSES

CCLI Copyright License 839878 / ONE LICENSE #A-732148 / Streaming License 20111248

# First Presbyterian Church

March 30, 2025

11:00 am

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent  
The Digital Fast: 40 Days of Space for God**



### Mission Priorities

Spirit-Centered Discipleship      Friendships Across Differences  
Hands-on Local Mission              Embracing the Unchurched

### Worship of the Living God

### Gathering around the Word

Prelude Teresa de Freitas

*Prelude in G minor*  
Paul Fey

Welcome Rev. Josh Musser Gritter

\* Call to Worship Rev. Lara Musser Gritter

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.**