

1st Sunday
in Lent



the good news is...

so good, it catches
us by surprise

February 22, 2026 9:00 a.m.



This service is being recorded by video and audio means.

*We invite you to stand as able.

*BabySteps (Nursery) is available for infants to children 2 years of age
Kids ages 3-4 meet in Room D prior to the beginning of Worship for KidsQuest
K-5th Graders will be dismissed to KidsQuest during Worship*

~ We Gather ~

Prelude

Way Maker
Worship Team

Verse 1

You are here moving in our midst
I worship You I worship You
You are here working in this place
I worship You I worship You

Chorus

(You are) Way Maker Miracle Worker Promise Keeper
Light in the darkness my God that is who You are

Verse 2

You are here touching ev'ry heart
I worship You I worship You
You are here healing ev'ry heart
I worship You I worship You

Verse 3

You are here turning lives around
I worship You I worship You
You are here mending ev'ry heart
I worship You yeah I worship You Lord

Bridge

Even when I don't see it You're working
Even when I don't feel it You're working
You never stop You never stop working
You never stop You never stop working

Call to Worship

The good news of the gospel is:

manna in the desert, water turned into wine, love after loss, forgiveness after pain.

The good news of the gospel is:

release for the captive, hope for the hopeless, mourning turned to dancing, and strangers turned to friends.

So come on in. There's no time to waste! This surprising good news is here for you.

Let us worship this good-news God.

*Opening Song

Amazing Grace/Peaceful Easy Feeling

1. Amazing Grace!

How sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see. *(Chorus)*

2. The Lord has promised good to me,

His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures. *(Chorus)*

CHORUS

'Cause I got a peaceful, easy feelin'
I know He won't let me down.
'Cause I'm al – ready standin'
On solid ground.

3. When we've been there ten thousand years,

Bright shining as the sun;
We've no less days to sing God's praise,
Than when we first begun. *(Chorus)*

*Prayer of Confession

Loving God, somewhere along the way we picked up the message that in order to be faithful, we have to be serious. We have to pray on our knees without ceasing. We have to be somber in worship and quiet in our studies. We have to check our wiggles and our questions at the door. But then you say the kingdom of God is like a mustard seed—unruly and untamed. You turn water into wine—surprising and extravagant. And all of a sudden, we wonder: Can we be like that mustard seed? Can we be faithful and unruly? Can we be playful and curious? Can we be messy and still be yours? We know the answer already. The Spirit whispers: *of course, of course, of course.* Forgive our doubt. Pull us closer into your embrace. With faith like a mustard seed, we pray.

(please continue in silent prayer)

*Declaration of Forgiveness

*The Peace

The Peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

Kids grades K-5 are invited to meet at the front of the church to travel to KidsQuest together (in Room D)

~ We Proclaim ~

A Moment with the Children

Mason Warren

Prayer for Illumination

John Begovich

Holy One, it is easy to see the mustard plant and forget to marvel at the seed. It is easy to taste good wine and not appreciate it. It is easy to miss the holy that is in our midst. So as we turn to your text today, we pray, surprise us. Speak to us. Move through us. Draw us closer to your good news. We wait with bated breath. Amen.

Scripture Readings: John 2:1-11

[Pew Bible pg. 93]

Matthew 13:31-32

[Pew Bible pg. 14]

Sermon

“The Good News Is...So Good It Catches Us By Surprise”

Rev. Matt Nieman

~ We Respond ~

Affirmation of Faith

Prayer by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ. It sounds like welcome and feels like home. It sounds like laughter and feels like mercy. It sounds like love and feels like a seat at the table, so I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ. I have seen it alive in the world. And even when my heart aches, even when wars rage, even when mercy feels out of reach, I remember the one who welcomed the children and led with nonviolence. I remember the one who cared for the vulnerable and inspired those around him. I remember that the good news really is good news, for I have seen it alive in the world. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Musical Reflection

Goodness of God Worship Team

Verse 1

I love You Lord
Oh Your mercy never fails me
All my days
I've been held in Your hands
From the moment that I wake up
Until I lay my head
I will sing of the goodness of God

Chorus

All my life You have been faithful
All my life You have been so so good
With every breath that I am able
I will sing of the goodness of God

Verse 2

I love Your voice
You have led me through the fire
In darkest night
You are close like no other
I've known You as a father
I've known You as a friend
I have lived in the goodness of God

Bridge

Your goodness is running after
It's running after me
Your goodness is running after
It's running after me
With my life laid down
I'm surrendered now
I give You everything
Your goodness is running after
It's running after me

CCLI Song # 7117726 Ben Fielding | Brian Johnson | Ed Cash | Jason Ingram | Jenn Johnson
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In the Life of the Church

Call for Giving



You can use the QR code to give online or place your offering in the baskets located at the Sanctuary doors. Thank you for your gifts.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

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.**

~ We Go Out Into the World ~

*Closing Song

Build Your Kingdom Here

VERSE 1

6 Come set You rule, and reign in our hearts a - gain. In - crease in us, we
11 pray. Un - veil why we're made. Come set our hearts a - blaze with hope, like
17 wild - fire in our ver - y souls; Ho - ly Spir - it, come, in-vade us now..

17 We are Your church; We need Your pow'r in us.

VERSE 2

We seek Your kingdom first. We hunger and we thirst;

Refuse to waste our lives, For You're our joy and prize.

To see the captives' hearts released; The hurt the sick the poor at peace.

We lay down our lives for heaven's cause.

We are Your church; We pray revive this earth. (Chorus)

CHORUS

5 Build Your king - dom here. Let the dark - ness fear. Show Your
10 might - y hand. Heal our streets and land.. Set Your church on
15 fire. Win this na - tion back. Change the at - mos - phere. Build Your
king - dom here, we pray!

VERSE 3

Unleash Your kingdom's pow'r, Reaching the near and far.

No force of hell can stop Your beauty changing hearts.

You made us for much more than this; Awake the kingdom seed in us.

Fill us with the strength and love of Christ.

We are Your church; We are the hope on earth. (Chorus)

*Charge and Benediction

Today's Worship Team

Sandra Bohlken, piano & vocals ~ Joey Nieman, guitar & vocals

Dan Primka, bass ~ Kevin Zetina, cajon & percussion

Mindy Houlihan and Laura Nieman, vocals

A/V Team ~ Ken Ladrach, David Long, and Mason Warren

Please use one of the methods below to record your attendance with us today:



Scan this QR code and click on the generated google doc link, or

- Go to <https://tinyurl.com/record-FPC-attendance>, or
- Email the office at office@fpctn.org, or
- Sign the pew attendance pad.



Members

Angie Batey, Pat Dail, Wayne Davis, Brian Davison, Steve Dehmlow, Marilyn Felts, Dean & Lucy Fleming, Jeff Gary, Frank Guess, Judy Ireland, Ken Ladrach, Debbie Long, Beth & Jimmy Loyless, Ann McAnally, Scott & Debby McKinney, Maria Medina, Irma McGuffey, Kirk Morris, Tami Newsom, Donna Phillips, Marie Shear, Chris Sparks, Dawson Sweetland

Looking for ways to be involved in Worship?

Sign-up to be an usher, scripture reader, or communion server!

All ages are invited to sign up.

Please go to: <http://tinyurl.com/FPCvolunteerSignUp> and sign up in the appropriate available time slot. If you have any questions, contact Mikie Lancaster, Ken Ladrach, or the church office (865/966-9547).



Join us for Holy Week Services





Grounding
ourselves in
the good news
this Lent

Our Lenten theme this year is provided by



Join us Sundays as we ground ourselves
in the good news each week.
You may also use the Lenten devotional
provided at the link below.

Graphic design by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman | Photography by Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Lenten Devotional

Our friends at A Sanctified Art have provided a special e-reader version of this year's Lenten devotional, which you can access on your computer and mobile devices: online.flippingbook.com/view/546389771 In order to protect their work, please refrain from sharing this link or posting it on social media.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE



Are you a Stephen Ministry with FPC but are currently inactive, or have you been a Stephen Minister in a previous church? If you are interested in serving again within our congregation, please let us know! We would love for you to be a part of our ministry team! Contact Beth Martin, Jeanie Oakley or Joanie Scheuer.

Sign up to provide Nibbles for our 11:00 worship fellowship time after the service!
<https://tinyurl.com/NarthexNibbles> or use the QR code



Sunset Gap Food Pantry Drive: A huge thank you to all who participated in the collection for the food pantry. The food was greatly appreciated. In January, with only 2 weeks open, they served 432 families. Thank you for your generosity.



SPIRITUAL FORMATION



Geography of the Spirit
Stories of the Land of the Bible
Mondays at 5:30 in Room A from February 9 to March 30



People who live in Palestine and Israel often call the land of the Bible, "The 5th Gospel," as it tells the story of our faith in unique and unforgettable ways. Want fresh perspective and deeper understanding of a faith rooted in another place, time, language and culture? John Sharp has spent time in the Middle East, and wants to share a very experiential approach to Christianity's birthplace. This will be a pilgrimage for the mind and heart that provides vivid, lasting images and understanding that permanently enriches faith.

The class meets on Mondays from 5:30-6:30pm from now thru March 30.

Sunday morning Adult Classes at 10am



Soul Cafe now meets in Room A. John Sharp facilitates a lively, interactive experience around worship themes and content for the day.

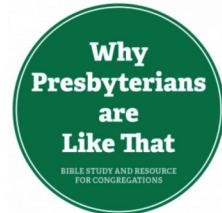
No lesson to prepare - come as you are!

Pastor Matt's class has started a new study called "Why Presbyterians Are Like That."

Each Sunday, we'll look into elements of faith that are foundational to our identity.

They include: The Bible, Grace, Response, Brains, Justice, Sin, and Hope.

Join us in the Library!



CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

Thank you to those who participated in the Surprise Valentine Brunch. We had lots of fun sharing the love!



This Week at FPC

Sun, Feb 22

- 9am Casual Worship Service/Sanctuary
- 10am Soul Cafe/Room A
Pastor Matt's Class/Library
- 11am Traditional Worship Service/Sanctuary
- 12pm Nibbles in the Narthex
- 5:30pm Youth Group/Youth Room

Mon, Feb 23

- 10am Chair Yoga/Narthex
- 11am Library Reserved
- 5:30pm The 5th Gospel Class/Room A
- 6pm TVP Auditions/Sanctuary, Narthex, FH
- 7pm Session/Library

Tues, Feb 24

- 10am PW Coordinating Team/Library, Zoom
- 11am Prayer Shawl Ministry/Youth Room
- 12:15pm Big Fish Chapel/Sanctuary
- 6:30pm CS Leaders #444/Library
- 7pm BS #444/FH, Room A, Narthex

Wed, Feb 25

- 12pm Parlor reserved
- 12:15pm Big Fish Chapel/Sanctuary
- 1pm PW Bible Study/Library
- 6pm Casual Worship Music Rehearsal/Room A
- 6pm Handbell Rehearsal/Sanctuary
- 7:30pm Chancel Choir/Room A

Thurs, Feb 26

- 8am Men's Bible Study/Narthex
- 12pm Pastors Lunch/Library
- 12:30pm Neighborhood Book Club/Youth Room
- 6:30pm Cub Scouts/FH, Narthex, Room A, Room D, Parlor

Fri, Feb 27

- 10am Chair Yoga/Narthex
- 7pm Roane Choral Rehearsal/Room A
- 7pm Gentle Yoga/Narthex

SAVE THE DATES



The Menu

- Appetizer - Crab dip
- Salad - Frozen Fruit Salad
- Entree - Asian Grilled Salmon, Mushroom Risotto & Roasted Asparagus
- Dessert - Million Dollar Pie

The Foodies is a fun fellowship event that meets quarterly in small groups of 6-8 people.

Participants bring an assigned dish to pass from a designated menu. We meet at the home of a designated host for a great dinner and fellowship.

**The first gathering of 2026 will be
March 21st.
Sign up in the Narthex.**

