

1st Sunday  
in Lent



the good news is...

so good, it catches  
us by surprise

February 22, 2026 11:00 a.m.



## ~ The Gathering ~

Greeting

Rev. Matt Nieman

Prelude

*Lord Jesus, Think on Me*

Carlson

Tami Newsom, organ

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.**

\*Hymn #210

*Our God, Our Help in Ages Past*

St. Anne

\*Call to Confession

\*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)*

\*Kyrie eleison #565

Weaver

\*Declaration of Forgiveness

\*Gloria Patri #567

Weaver

\*The Peace

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

## ~ The Word ~

Prayer for Illumination

Thom Haig

**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.**

First Scripture Reading: John 2:1-11

[Pew Bible pg. 93]

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to You, O Christ.**

Psalm 32

Dr. Angela Batey, cantor

Guimont



Lord, for - give the wrong I have done.

Happy those whose offense is forgiven, whose sin is remitted.

O happy those to whom the Lord imputes no guilt, in whose spirit is no guile. (R)

But now I have acknowledged my sins; my guilt I did not hide.

I said: "I will confess my offense to the Lord." And you, Lord, have forgiven the guilt of my sin. (R)

You are my hiding place, O Lord; you save me from distress.

You surround me with cries of deliverance. (R)

Rejoice, rejoice in the Lord, exult, you just!

O come, ring out your joy, all you upright of heart. (R)

Second Scripture Reading: Matthew 13:31-32

[Pew Bible pg. 14]

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to You, O Christ.**

Sermon

"The Good News Is...So Good It Catches Us By Surprise"

Rev. Matt Nieman

## ~ The Response ~

## Affirmation of Faith

Prayer by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | [sanctifiedart.org](http://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.

## The Anthem

## *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me*

arr. Bruce Trinkley

## Chancel Choir

The text for this anthem may be found in *The Hymnal*, #363

## In the Life of the Church

## Call for the Offering



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.

## ~ The Sending ~

\*Hymn #280

## *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound*

## Amazing Grace

### \*Benediction

\*Congregational Response #363 *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me* Walk With Me  
**I want Jesus to walk with me.**  
**I want Jesus to walk with me.**  
**All along my pilgrim journey, I want Jesus to walk with me.**

\*Postlude

*Christ, Thou Paschal Lamb*

Tami Newsom, organ

Walther

Usher ~ Thom Haig

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](mailto: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 a special time of Fellowship after worship.*

*Narthex  
Nibbles*

#### 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](http://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](http://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.

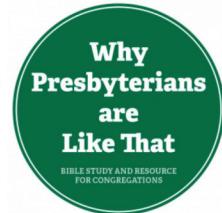
No lesson to prepare - come as you are!

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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup>.  
Sign up in the Narthex.**

