

**THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

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Tara Lewellen, Music Coordinator
Hope Labutis, Secretary/Treasurer
Gary Collins, Maintenance

Office hours: Tues, Wed, Thurs 9:00-2:00pm



March 2026

CHURCH ELDER INFORMATION

Thank you, Session, for your faithful service to FPC.

Clerk of Session – Priscilla Hare

Class of 2028:

Becky Mahon – Church Life
Ed Jobes - Personnel

Class of 2027:

Karen Fish - Evangelism & Outreach
Linda Smith - Property

Class of 2026:

Keith Hare - Finance
Chris Rainey - Worship

WORSHIP

Pulpit Supply Pastors for March

March 1	Communion	Liz Tietz, CRE
March 8		Liz Tietz, CRE
March 15		Liz Tietz, CRE
March 22		Liz Tietz, CRE
March 29	Palm Sunday	Rev. Diane Flynn

SCRIP



The next Scrip order is **March 1**. Please consider ordering gift cards from our Scrip program. Remember that the funds generated are used for church needs. Thank you to all who order on a regular basis. See Gaye Gibson to order.

Y-HEALTHY BACKPACK PROGRAM



FPC is still actively participating in food packing and food delivery at the facility on Swans Rd. If you are interested in participating in a Community Packing Party please sign up

at the link below:

<https://signupgenius.com/#!/showSignUp/10C084FABA922A0F9C61-50942615-ymca>

CONGREGATIONAL CARE



March Birthdays

Becky Mahon 3/16

Karen Fish 3/29

March Anniversaries

There are no anniversaries in March.

MAKE ME A BLESSING

The most requested food items for the blessings box include: nuts and trail mix, tuna or chicken in pouches, pop tarts, crackers, ready-to-eat soup/pasta, and granola bars. Please remember that canned goods are best with pop top lids.

If it is easier for you to purchase a gift card, please mark it for the Blessings Box and Hope will do the shopping for you and haul in the groceries. Thank you for your help!



EVANGELISM AND OUTREACH: LENTEN OFFERING



As a reformed church following the liturgical calendar, we will soon be celebrating the season of Lent. Lent is likely the most important season of the entire liturgical year as we commemorate the passion and death of Jesus. It is to be a season of prayer, fasting and giving of extra time, talent and financial resources to honor all that Christ has done for us.

As a tradition of our church for over 75 years, this church has received a special Lenten offering, and the session has approved this offering again this year. The offering will be divided equally between our local Salvation Army and the international organization, World Vision.

World Vision International is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families and communities, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion or gender. World Vision serves the poor and oppressed as a demonstration of God's unconditional love for all people. They provide access to sustainable clean water, food, healthcare, safe living space and education as a part of their care to children around the world. They also provide disaster care and support refugees.

The Newark Salvation Army is an evangelical part of the Christian church. Its mission is to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in his name without discrimination. Our local corps is focused on alleviating poverty. The center provides meals each day through a soup kitchen, a choice food pantry, community dinners and summer feeding programs for children. Other programs include programs for the homeless, adult education, job service programs, senior and elderly assistance, programs for teens and

children, clothing distribution and worship services.

This special offering begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18 and ends on Palm Sunday, March 29, 2026. You will find special envelopes to receive this offering in the sanctuary.



God of mercy and justice,

When we fast, we must be able to fast, we must choose to give up food, or screen time or our daily latte or soft drink. We also know that right now, so many of our neighbors and so many of Your children in the world are without a choice. Your children, our neighbors are without food. Your children, our neighbors are without access to clean water. Your children, our neighbors are without power. Your children, our neighbors are without hope.

Father, we ask You to fix it. All the while, we know that Your response would ask us how we plan to partner with You to fix it. We know that You call us to bring compassion, justice, kindness, wisdom, imagination and love to their needs. Hear our prayer for them. Hear our prayer to You.

In this season of Lent, we pray that we will be guided by the Holy Spirit to give sacrificially so that the lives of Your children, both those who give and those who receive will be changed. In the name of Jesus we pray with humble hearts. Amen

EVANGELISM AND OUTREACH MINUTE FOR MISSIONS

A Few Needs for Operation Christmas Child 2026:



As promised, the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Committee will give you notice when we are short of items we need for our shoeboxes for 2026.

For Boys 10-14:

- Tools (hammer, screwdrivers, tape measure, etc.)
- Socks (larger boys and adult sizes)

For Girls 10-14:

- Dolls (Barbie type)
- Socks (larger girls and adult sizes)

For Boys and Girls, all ages:

- Washcloths

Many thanks and blessings to our caring and generous congregation!

EVANGELISM AND OUTREACH MINUTE FOR MISSIONS



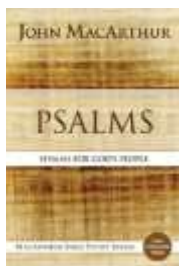
Starting Strong

Starting Strong Apartment Supplies:

We are collecting cleaning, paper, hygiene, household, and laundry supplies to provide for foster youth transitioning into adult life. (See the entire list of suggested items in the sanctuary.) Place your donations in the laundry basket in the sanctuary. We will continue the collection through the year. If you are out shopping and find a great bargain, consider blessing foster youth in this way.

"And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased." - Hebrews 13:16

GOOD MORNING BIBLE STUDY



The Good Morning Bible Study resumes meeting on Thursday mornings at 10 a.m. in the Gold Circle Room on March 5th. Join Linda Smith and friends as they continue their study in Psalms. Everyone is welcome!

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Our Lenten Adult Bible Study starts Sunday, March 1st. Join us in person or over Zoom on Sundays. Together we will draw closer to the Lord during this holy season. Stay after for a time of Coffee Fellowship in the Fellowship Hall!



EASTER FLOWERS



Easter flower orders are being taken until March 8th only. Please get your memorial orders in early this year via the order form in the sanctuary.

PROPERTY REPORT

FPC February 2026 Property Report:

The exhaust pipe for the Chapel furnace was repaired and a combo smoke/carbon monoxide detector was installed. Cost \$60.00



Bros. Masonry has set up to return to work, weather permitting. We signed an additional contract for \$9,625.00 for an area that was missed in the original estimate.

DB Organ is supposed to get the organ up and running this week. If not, hopefully before Easter.

-The Property Committee

FINANCE REPORT



The First Presbyterian account balances as of Tuesday, February 24, 2026 are:

Checking: \$14,761.04

Savings: \$10,331.37

SCRIP: \$2,559.09

-Keith Hare, FPC Finance Chair

**ANSWERED PRAYER:
TRANSITIONAL PASTOR,
REVEREND DIANE FLYNN**



We are so pleased to welcome Rev. Flynn on her first Sunday, March 29th – Palm Sunday. Please make plans to attend and celebrate with us!



Ways to Pray for Your Pastor as They Relocate:

- Peace in transition
- Comfort and release for current congregation
- Stress-free and smooth adjustment
- Wisdom in decisions
- Safety and protection
- Joy and hope in new opportunities



Psalm 91 – For protection and stability in a new place...

Those who live in the shelter of the Most High will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty. This I declare about the Lord: He alone is my refuge, my place of safety; he is my God, and I trust him. For he will rescue you from every trap and protect you from deadly disease. He will cover you with his feathers. He will shelter you with his wings. His faithful promises are your armor and protection. Do not be afraid of the terrors of the night, nor the arrow that flies in the day. Do not dread the disease that stalks in darkness, nor the disaster that strikes at midday. Though a thousand fall at your side, though ten thousand are dying around you, these evils will not touch you.

Just open your eyes, and see how the wicked are punished. If you make the Lord your refuge, if you make the Most High your shelter, no evil will conquer you; no plague will come near your home. For he will order his angels to protect you wherever you go. They will hold you up with their hands so you won't even hurt your foot on a stone. You will trample upon lions and cobras; you will crush fierce lions and serpents under your feet! The Lord says, "I will rescue those who love me. I will protect those who trust in my name. When they call on me, I will answer; I will be with them in trouble. I will rescue and honor them. I will reward them with a long life and give them my salvation."



CHURCH LIFE: POTLUCK



**meet.
greet.
eat.**

Please join us on Palm Sunday, March 29h for Rev. Diane Flynn's first week here at FPC. We will be having a Meet & Greet Potluck Fellowship after service and would love to see you there! Bring a dish to share and a word of welcome for our new pastor. ☺

HYMN STORY: WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDEROUS CROSS



*"When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.*

*Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all."*

This classic hymn of Isaac Watts has often been called the greatest hymn in the English language. Another contemporary of Isaac Watts said of it, "There may be a few others equally great, but there is none greater." All one needs to do to realize the truth of this statement is to sing this majestic hymn. Isaac Watts based this hymn on the Scriptural reference of Galatians 6:14. "But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world." The original title was "Crucifixion to the World by the Cross of Christ." Later the title was changed to "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross."

Watt's lifelong ambition, according to his own words, was to be a servant to churches and a helper of Christians. Dr. Watts won and held the hearts of a large share of the English speaking world over a long period of years, despite the fact that as a child he was never strong, and despite the fact also that he was forced to resign a pastorate because of poor health. For the latter thirty years of

his life, he was more or less an invalid, but devoted himself in comfortable and happy surroundings to the writing of many of the beautiful hymns, still popular today. It was an age of great hymn writers. Watts was a contemporary of Doddridge, the Wesleys, Newton and Cowper.

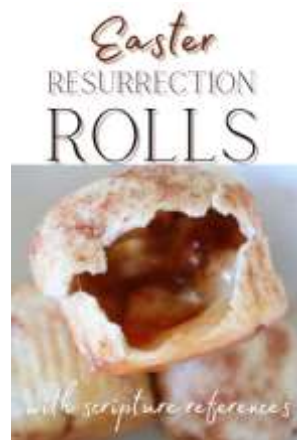
The majestic phrases of this deeply solemn hymn are as moving today as when Watts penned them in 1707. The hymn has been set to more than one tune, but perhaps the most popular is that of Edward Miller, who wrote his music in 1790, some forty-two years after Watts' death.



Reference

<https://plymouthbrethren.org/article/10165>

A RECIPE TO SHARE: RESURRECTION ROLLS



In the Labutis family, a yearly tradition was making resurrection rolls for a fun way to remember that the tomb was empty! I thought this might be something fun for you to do with the children in your life, or just for a sweet treat on Easter Sunday. They are so

easy to make with frozen dinner rolls and marshmallows. Here is my favorite recipe!
Happy Easter!

- Hope

<https://laurennicolejones.com/easter-resurrection-rolls-empty-tomb-rolls/>