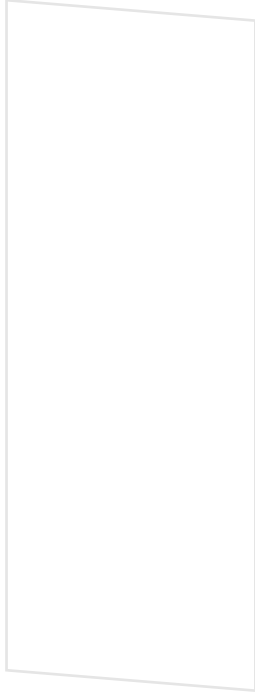


March 2025



**First Presbyterian**  
**Church of Parkersburg**  
GATHERING, GROWING, CARING, GOING

1341 JULIANA STREET  
 PARKERSBURG, WV 26101

Phone: 304-422-5426

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E-mail: [office@fpcpborgwv.org](mailto:office@fpcpborgwv.org)

Visit us at:

[www.fpcpborgwv.org](http://www.fpcpborgwv.org)

 [facebook.com/fpcpborg](https://facebook.com/fpcpborg)

WE ARE A NURTURING, VIBRANT  
 CONGREGATION, REACHING OUT  
 TO THE COMMUNITY AND  
 STANDING AS A BEACON  
 OF CHRIST'S LOVE  
 AND PROMISE.

**Sunday Worship:**  
 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.  
 livestream on Facebook - 10:30 a.m.  
 Children's Church  
 & Sunday School 10:30 a.m.



**Article Deadline: 15th of each month**

If you would like to be added to either our email or postal mailing list, please contact the church office to leave your name and preferred contact information: 304-422-5426 or [office@fpcpborgwv.org](mailto:office@fpcpborgwv.org).



*first things*  
**FIRST**

**MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

March 2025



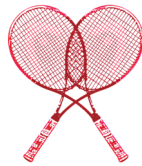
WE ARE A NURTURING, VIBRANT CONGREGATION, REACHING OUT TO THE COMMUNITY  
 AND STANDING AS A BEACON OF CHRIST'S LOVE

*First Presbyterian*  
**Church of Parkersburg**  
GATHERING, GROWING, CARING, GOING



On Wednesdays, we have been looking at the Dark Wood and the gifts that come in those times.

In his book *Gifts of the Dark Wood*, Eric Elnes talks about what he calls “sweet spot moments” that can help us find our way forward during difficult times. These moments are like the sweet spot in a tennis racket, golf club, and baseball/softball bat. Apparently the sweet spot on a tennis racket is a place near the center that propels the ball with more power and less vibration to the hands. When players hit the sweet spot, it feels effortless; players don’t have to put as much energy into just hitting the ball and can instead put their energy into actually playing the game. The sweet spot is difficult to find and to hit consistently, however. Players have to practice hard, noticing how their swing changes under different circumstances. So it is with life. Elnes writes, “Just as the sweet spot of a racket is found by adjusting to the continuous impacts made by a ball moving in the opposite direction, so your internal sweet spot tends to be revealed through direct challenge. You keep adjusting your responses until they begin coming from a place where you feel most fully yourself- most fully free, yet wholeheartedly engaged and alive.”



These sweet spot moments can also be compared to a rubber ball that has been held under water. When let go, the ball swiftly rises to the surface; the deeper you hold it, the more it strains to rise. This is like our soul; even though difficult times and “cares of the world” can hold us down, we have a natural desire to rise.

This is the “sweet spot” that we yearn for: that place where we cry “home” even if we’ve never experienced it before. But there’s a struggle that’s attached to this spot. As Elnes notes, “In the context of your experiences of challenge and struggle within the Dark Wood of life, sweet-spot moments act like homing signals, indicating your internal true north. In this respect, the Dark Wood is a sacred space where you not only meet God, but meet yourself- your true self that is most directly connected to, and in conversation with, the divine.” So when life is filled with struggle and nothing seems right, watch for those “sweet spot” moments. Join us on Ash Wednesday, which is March 5, as we begin a worship series exploring these gifts of the Dark Wood, and sweet spot moments.



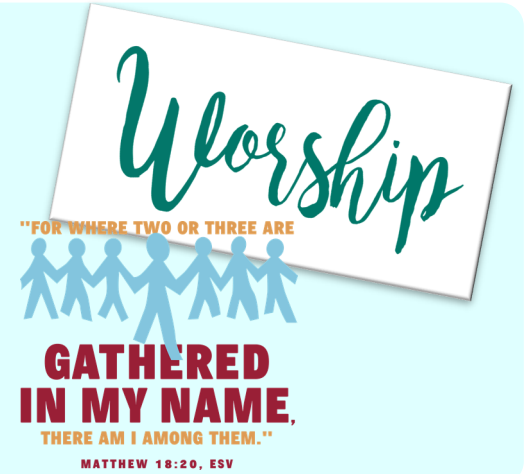
Blessings and Peace!

Pastor Annie

# Lent

## A PRAYER FOR LENT

O Lord, open my eyes that I may see more clearly the condition of my soul. If there is darkness, mean-spiritedness, egotistic pride ... or worse within, cleanse me from all unrighteousness. Renew a right spirit within me and make me truly Christ-like in all my thoughts and actions. And when I begin to edge away from your will, please stir up my conscience until I am in harmony with you again. In Christ's name. *Amen.*



**Book Study**  
 Wednesdays @11:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.  
 March 12 (7 p.m.), 19, 26, April 2, 9

*Gifts of the Dark Wood*  
 by Eric Elnes, Ph.D.

**Lenten Worship Series**  
 Beginning at Ash Wednesday Worship  
 March 5 @7 p.m.

**Choose-a-Hymn Sunday is March 30**

To choose a hymn for worship that day, grab a form from the foyer, fill it out and return to the offering plate or to the office mailbox no later than **Sunday, March 16.**

## Communion Servers



### March 2nd

- Amy Leach
- Ann Leach
- Barbara Lucas
- Melanie Thompson

**ASH Wednesday**  
 March 5

**Drive-up Ashes**  
 at the front door of the church  
 7 - 8 a.m. and 12 - 1 p.m.

**Worship at 7 p.m.**  
 Ashes and Communion  
 Lenten Worship Series begins:  
*Gifts of the Dark Wood*

The Beginning of  
 OUR LENTEN JOURNEY



### Happy Anniversary!

Paul & Nancy Brooks 6th  
 Rod & Sally Emerick 28th

### Happy Birthday!

Emma Kaufman 6th  
 Joe Foley 10th  
 Rosalie Rogers 13th  
 Nancy Cutlip 14th  
 Eric Johnson 22nd  
 Carl Gheen 23rd  
 Pat Ellenberger 28th



### FESTIVAL OF FAITH

Festival of Faith, a day of learning through keynote and workshops, fellowship, and worship, is **Saturday, March 22**, at First Presbyterian Church in Charleston, from **9:30 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.**



**March 3** is the early registration deadline (with a lower cost), to order lunch or request childcare.

Click here <https://wvpresbytery.org/fof-2025/> for more information.

### Lydia Circle - March 20

All ladies are invited to lunch at Mary B's Restaurant, Garfield Avenue, at **11 a.m.** We share a meal, have a lesson and socialize. If you'd like to attend, text or call **Barbara Lucas** at **304-580-1274**.

**ALL WOMEN ARE INVITED!**

Lydia Circle meets monthly on the *third Thursday*.



### Special Dates in March

- Transfiguration Sunday - 2nd
- Ash Wednesday - 5th
- World Day of Prayer - 7th
- **Daylight-Saving Time begins - 9th**
- St. Patrick's Day - 17th
- First Day of Spring - 20th



Sunday,  
April 6

Following  
10:30  
Worship

Baked Steak  
will be  
served.

Sign up in  
the foyer



Sponsored by The Deacons  
**You're Invited!**

### A Journey with Christ

*Lent is an occasion for us to journey with Christ ... into tomorrow. For you never walk with Christ long but what the dawn breaks, the sun shines and hope breaks through.*

—C. Neil Straight



### Kids Prayer Partners Game Day Sunday, March 9

Immediately following 10:30 Worship, the Kids and their Prayer Partners will gather in the Harris Room for Game Day, a time of food, games and lots of fun! We want everyone, kids and prayer partners alike, to bring their favorite board or other indoor games to share.

Lunch will be served, so please join in the fun! If you have any questions, see Kelly Beckett.

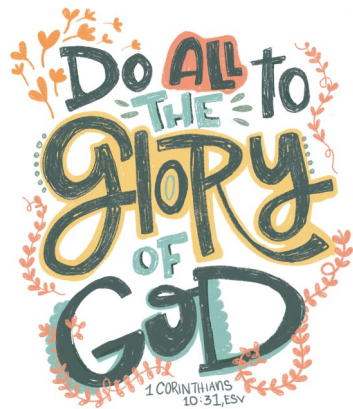
# DOLLARS & SENSE

Here and on the next page is the latest update on church finances from our Treasurer. Keep in mind, reports are a month behind due to the publishing date of the newsletter. If you have any questions, you may contact Chris Alfred at [finance@fpcburgwv.org](mailto:finance@fpcburgwv.org)

## Sunday, March 16

# ANNUAL MEETING

Immediately following 10:30 Worship we will hold our Annual Congregational Meeting in the Sanctuary. We will receive annual reports from church boards and committees and the approved 2025 Budget. It is also an opportunity for you to ask any questions you may have.



## Financial Statement as of January 31, 2025

2024 Budget	Budget	Actual
<b>Income</b>		
Sunday Offerings		
<i>Pledges</i>	\$ 86,445.00	\$ 23,117.00
<i>Contributions</i>	\$ 66,301.00	\$ 1,327.00
<i>Per Capita</i>	\$ 700.00	\$ 60.00
Sunday Offerings	\$ 153,446.00	\$ 24,504.00
<i>Facility Rentals</i>	\$ 38,500.00	\$ 3,212.40
<i>Other Income</i>	\$ 100.00	\$ 126.07
<i>Misc. Income</i>	\$ -	\$ 221.83
<i>Interest from F. Trust</i>	\$ 50,000.00	-
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 242,046.00</b>	<b>\$ 28,164.30</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
<i>Discipleship</i>	\$ 4,000.00	\$ -
<i>Mission</i>	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -
<i>Worship &amp; Music</i>	\$ 5,550.00	\$ -
<i>Salaries</i>	\$ 140,273.00	\$ 14,690.98
<i>Facilities</i>	\$ 70,211.00	\$ 4,541.94
<i>Per Capita</i>	\$ 3,273.00	\$ -
<i>Communications</i>	\$ 600.00	\$ -
<i>Office Expenses</i>	\$ 17,200.00	\$ 436.99
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 242,046.00</b>	<b>\$ 19,669.91</b>
<b>Difference</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 8,494.39</b>

## ASSETS

<b>FPC CHECKING</b>	
Operating Fund	\$ 13,019.76
Restricted Funds	\$ 50,243.45
Deacons Fund	\$ 3,615.61
<b>Total Checking</b>	<b>\$ 66,878.82</b>
<b>PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN FUNDS</b>	
Checking	\$ 129.25
Savings	\$ 1,627.84
<b>Total PW Funds</b>	<b>\$ 1,757.09</b>
<b>INVESTMENTS</b>	
Deacons CD	\$ 6,058.01
Morgan Stanley Stocks	\$ 192.72
United Bank Founders Trust	\$ 19,591.94
Wesbanco Founders Trust	\$ 1,516,722.88
Presbyterian Women Investments	\$ 163,467.19
<b>Total Investments</b>	<b>\$ 1,706,032.74</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 1,774,668.65</b>



First Presbyterian is hosting the next **Community Meal** on **Sunday, March 23, from 2:00-3:30.**

Food items are covered, but we need your help with setup, serving and cleanup. If you'd like to volunteer, please sign up in the foyer.



## Friendship Park Easter Egg Hunt

We will host an Easter egg hunt for the neighborhood children at Friendship Park in April - date TBA.

We will need volunteers, so look for the signup sheet soon.



We also need donations of **pre-filled** plastic eggs, or individually-wrapped candy to fill eggs (no empty eggs please). A collection point will be in the front hallway.

Listed below are the highlights from the **FEBRUARY** meeting of Session:

## Session HIGHLIGHTS

- The Session Planning Retreat will be happening on March 15.
- On April 6, the Deacons will host a **SPRING FLING** Luncheon with baked steak.
- On **April 25 at 7 p.m.**, Ella Rockhold will have a cello recital in our Sanctuary, assisted by Scott and others. All are welcome.





# MARCH

2nd: **Transfiguration Sunday / Communion** / Mary Quick, pulpit supply

5th: **Ash Wednesday** - Drive-up ashes: 7-8 a.m. & 12-1 p.m., Front Entrance  
Worship - 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary / **Communion**



8th: **WV Central Credit Union** (private event) - 5 p.m., Stevenson Hall

9th: **Daylight-Saving Time begins** / First Sunday in Lent  
**Kids & Prayer Partners Game Day** - 11:30 a.m., Harris Room

12th: **The Gathering** - 6 p.m., Harris Room

15th: **Session Planning Retreat** - 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m., Harris Room

16th: **Congregational Meeting** - 11:30 a.m., Sanctuary

20th: **Lydia Circle** - 11 a.m. - Mary B's Restaurant / **Spring Begins!**

23rd: **Community Meal** - 2 p.m., Stevenson Hall



30th: **Choose-a-Hymn Sunday** - forms available in the foyer

# APRIL

(An Easter Egg Hunt at Friendship Park will be on a Saturday yet to be decided.)

6th: **Spring Fling Luncheon** provided by the Deacons - 11:30 a.m.

13th: **Palm Sunday**

17th: **Maundy Thursday** - Worship - 7 p.m., Sanctuary / **Communion**



18th: **GOOD FRIDAY** - Worship with cluster at Westminster - 7 p.m.

20th: **Easter Sunday** - Sunrise Worship, 6:30 a.m.; NO 8:30 Worship; 10:30 a.m.  
Worship in Sanctuary; Easter egg hunt following Worship

25th: **Ella Rockhold Cello Recital** - 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary (with Scott and others)

## Easter Flower Dedication 2025

To dedicate a flower for use in the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday, complete this form and return it with your donation to the church office, or place in the offering plate.

**Suggested donation per flower is \$10.00**

Make checks payable to: *First Presbyterian Church*, with notation "Flowers."

~ **DEADLINE FOR ORDERS IS APRIL 6 ~**

IN MEMORY OF: \_\_\_\_\_

TO HONOR: \_\_\_\_\_

TO CELEBRATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**DONATED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF FLOWERS: \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please take your flowers home after worship on Easter Sunday.







**PLEASE CLIP AND RETURN TO THE OFFICE NO LATER THAN APRIL 6.**

# March

2025 



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																											
<p>“Of one thing I am perfectly sure: God’s story never ends with ashes.” —Elisabeth Elliot </p>						<p><b>1</b> <b>8:30 AM</b> Facilities Mgmt. / Saturday Stewards <b>11:30 AM</b> HA Mtg.</p>																																											
<p><b>2</b> <i>Communion / Transfiguration Sunday</i> Mary Quick, pulpit supply <b>8:30 AM</b> Worship <b>9:30 AM</b> Confirmation Class <b>10:00 AM</b> Coffee Hour <b>10:30 AM</b> Worship</p>	<p><b>3</b> <b>6:00 PM</b> Deacons Mtg. <b>6:00 PM</b> KOM Knitters</p>	<p><b>4</b> <b>6:00 PM</b> Worship &amp; Discipleship Comm.</p>	<p><b>5</b> <i>Ash Wednesday</i> <b>7:00 AM</b> Drive-up ashes <b>12:00 PM</b> Drive-up ashes <b>6:00 PM</b> Girl Scouts <b>7:00 PM</b> Worship Ashes / <i>Communion</i></p>	<p><b>6</b> <b>3:30 PM</b> Personnel Comm. <b>6:00 PM</b> Cub Scouts <b>6:00 PM</b> Women’s Ensemble <b>7:00 PM</b> Juliana Ringers <b>7:15 PM</b> Boy Scouts</p>	<p><b>7</b> OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p><b>8</b> <b>11:30 AM</b> HA Mtg. <b>5:00 PM</b> Private Meeting &amp; Dinner</p>																																											
<p><b>9</b> <i>1st Sunday in Lent</i>  DAWLIGHT-SAVING TIME BEGINS <b>8:30 AM</b> Worship <b>9:30 AM</b> Confirmation Class <b>10:00 AM</b> Coffee Hour <b>10:30 AM</b> Worship <b>11:30 AM</b> Prayer Partners Game Day</p>	<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>11</b> <b>6:00 PM</b> Financial Mgmt.</p>	<p><b>12</b> <b>11:30 AM</b> Book Study <b>6:00 PM</b> Girl Scouts <b>6:00 PM</b> THE GATHERING <b>7:00 PM</b> Book Study</p>	<p><b>13</b> <b>1:00 PM</b> PEO meeting <b>6:00 PM</b> Women’s Ensemble <b>7:00 PM</b> Juliana Ringers <b>7:15 PM</b> Boy Scouts</p>	<p><b>14</b> OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p><b>15</b> <b>11:30 AM</b> HA Mtg. <b>4:00 PM</b> Private party</p>																																											
<p><b>16</b> <i>Cents-Ability Offering</i> <b>8:30 AM</b> Worship <b>9:30 AM</b> Confirmation Class <b>10:00 AM</b> Coffee Hour <b>10:30 AM</b> Worship <b>11:30 AM</b> Congregational Meeting</p>	<p><b>17</b> <b>6:00 PM</b> Session </p>	<p><b>18</b></p>	<p><b>19</b> <b>11:30 AM</b> Book Study <b>3:30 PM</b> Staff Meeting <b>6:00 PM</b> Book Study <b>6:00 PM</b> Girl Scouts</p>	<p><b>20</b> <i>First Day of Spring</i> <b>11:00 AM</b> Lydia Circle / Mary B’s <b>6:00 PM</b> Cub Scouts <b>6:00 PM</b> Women’s Ensemble <b>7:00 PM</b> Juliana Ringers <b>7:15 PM</b> Boy Scouts</p>	<p><b>21</b> OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p><b>22</b> <b>11:30 AM</b> HA Mtg.</p>																																											
<p><b>23</b> <b>8:30 AM</b> Worship <b>9:30 AM</b> Confirmation Class <b>10:00 AM</b> Coffee Hour <b>10:30 AM</b> Worship <b>2:00 PM</b> Community Meal</p>	<p><b>24</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Parkersburg Pride</p>	<p><b>25</b></p>	<p><b>26</b> <b>11:30 AM</b> Book Study <b>6:00 PM</b> Book Study <b>6:00 PM</b> Girl Scouts</p>	<p><b>27</b> <b>6:00 PM</b> Women’s Ensemble <b>7:00 PM</b> Juliana Ringers <b>7:15 PM</b> Boy Scouts</p>	<p><b>28</b> OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p><b>29</b> <b>11:30 AM</b> HA Mtg.</p>																																											
<p><b>30</b> <i>Choose-a-Hymn Sunday</i>  <b>8:30 AM</b> Worship <b>9:30 AM</b> Confirmation Class <b>10:00 AM</b> Coffee Hour <b>10:30 AM</b> Worship</p>	<p><b>31</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Mission Comm.</p>	<p>A world of nice people, content in their own niceness, looking no further, turned away from God, would be just as desperately in need of salvation as a miserable world – and might even be more difficult to save. —C.S. Lewis</p>				<p><b>Jesus</b> (jē'zəs) The Way. The Truth. The Life.</p>	<p><b>April 2025</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>T</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> </tr> <tr> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> </tr> <tr> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30			
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