

**Offering our Talents, Time, and Treasure:** In response to the Good News of God's saving love in Jesus Christ, we are invited to give of ourselves and our resources. If you are seeking ways to share your time and your talents, please speak to one of the pastors. Financial contributions may be placed in the offering plate or donated by texting 704-288-7459 or by using the "Give" button on the church's website (firstpresconcord.org).

**Large Print Hymnals, printed copies of the sermon, and a hearing assistance system are available. We have an AED Machine in the Narthex.** Please speak to an usher for assistance with any of these items.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Today's flowers** are given to the glory of God in appreciation of God's love, peace, and comfort, and to honor and remember Terry and Anita Brown's 56th wedding anniversary.

**Lunch Bunch** will bring the much anticipated, rescheduled program on the Holocaust with Dr. Doug Kelling, Tuesday, March 24th at 11:45 AM in Davis Hall. Call to make your reservation by Thursday, March 19, : 704-788-2100 #7.

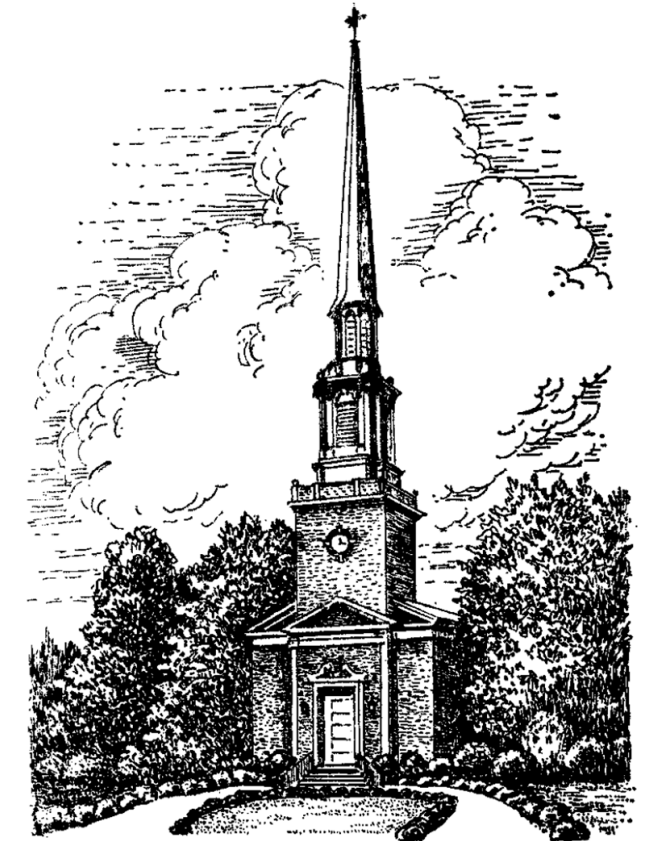
**RSVP for an Interfaith Iftar in Davis Hall on March 16** - After our joyful Friendsgiving celebration and potluck in November, our Muslim neighbors at Mosaic have invited us to share an interfaith Iftar with them. An iftar is the meal that takes place just after sunset, when Muslims break their fast during their holy month of fasting and prayer, Ramadan. It is also the first time since 1863 that the beginning of Ramadan has coincided with the beginning of Lent (our season of fasting and prayer!) a coincidence that will not take place again until 2189. We are excited to mark the occasion with another evening of learning about fasting and prayer in our own as well as in other religious traditions, building new and deeper friendships, and sharing good food with neighbors. You are invited to join us on Monday, March 16. We will begin to gather at 7:00 PM and food will be served after sunset at 7:32 PM. You can RSVP using the link in last week's Banner.

**A Congregational Meeting** will follow worship next Sunday, March 15, for the purpose of electing the class of 2029 elders and deacons.

## WEEKLY SCHEDULE

<b>Later Today</b>	
2:00 PM	Theo of Golden Group (off campus)
3:00 PM	Circle 5 (Library Conference Room)
<b>Monday, March 9</b>	
11:00 AM	Circle 4 (off campus)
1:15 PM	Cabarrus Red Cross Vip Blood Drive (Davis Hall)
7:00 PM	Boy Scouts (Will Young High School Room)
7:00 PM	Racial Equity Reads (Library Conference Room)
<b>Tuesday, March 10</b>	
11:00 AM	Labyrinth Walk (Commons)
11:30 AM	Circle 3 (Davis Hall)
6:30 PM	Session (Library Conference Room)
7:00 PM	Al Anon Mtg (Commons)
<b>Wednesday, March 11</b>	
10:30 AM	Bible Study (Library Conference Room)
2:00 PM	Staff Meeting (Fellowship House Sunroom)
7:00 PM	Theo of Golden Group (off campus)
7:30 PM	Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
<b>Saturday, March 14</b>	
12:00 PM	Earthcare, PFSA Workshop (Davis Hall)
<b>Sunday, March 15</b>	
9:45 AM	Sunday School Classes (Various Rooms)
10:30 AM	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
11:00 AM	Worship (in person and live streamed)
12:00 PM	Congregational Meeting (Sanctuary)
2:00 PM	Theo of Golden Group (off campus)

# Third Sunday in Lent



**First Presbyterian Church  
70 Union Street North  
Concord, North Carolina**

**Sunday, March 8, 2026**



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
CONCORD

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

(704) 788-2100

**Rev. Ellen Crawford True, Senior Pastor**  
**Rev. Casey Aldridge, Associate Pastor**  
**René Prager, Director of Christian Education**  
**Rev. Bryan Hovey, Parish Associate**  
**Dr. Jacqueline Yost, Director of Music and Organist**  
**Dr. Jeffrey W. Price, Choirmaster**  
**Amy Woolwine, Clerk of Session**  
**Kirby Bullard, Moderator, Board of Deacons**

For a comprehensive list of officers, visit the church website:

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



# SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

## PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

As the music plays, you are invited to pause, reflect, and pray silently as we prepare for worship.

If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,  
and night wraps itself around me,"  
even the darkness is not dark to you;  
the night is as bright as the day,  
for darkness is as light to you.  
~Psalm 139:11-12

## PRELUDE

## GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please sign the Friendship Pad found on the center aisle of each pew and pass it to your neighbor.*

### VOLUNTARY

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come and worship  
**People:** **the God who seeks us out,**  
Leader: the God who knows us completely,  
**People:** **the God who never lets us go,**  
Leader: the God who loves us  
**All:** *more than we can begin to imagine.*

**\*HYMN 686** *God of Our Life* SANDON

### CALL TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy One, you have called us and claimed us as your own, making us disciples, students and followers of Jesus. Forgive us when we lose our way. Forgive us for losing our nerve. In your mercy, remind us of your grace and give us a fresh measure of your courage as we promise again to follow where your Son, our Savior leads. Amen.**  
*Time for silent confession follows.]*

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel.  
**People:** **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE 184** *Calm to the Waves* CALM SEAS  
Calm to the waves. Calm to the wind. Jesus whispers, "Peace, be still." Balm to our hearts. Fears at an end. In stillness, hear his voice.

## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION** lay reader, Jim Monroe

**FIRST LESSON** Psalm 139:1-2, 7-12 pew bible, page 577  
This is the Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

**SECOND LESSON** John 18:12-27 pew bible, page 112  
This is the Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON** Rev. Ellen Crawford True

### MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

**\*HYMN 218** *Ah, Holy Jesus* HERZLIEBSTER JESU

**\*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

**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.**

### INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP AND CALL TO OFFERING

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM** *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*  
(Sanctuary Choir) arr. James Mulholland

(1.) Come, Thou fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing Thy grace; streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise. Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above: praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unchanging love. (2.) Here I raise my Ebenezer. Hither by Thy help I'm come: and I hope by Thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home. Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God; He to rescue me from danger, interposed His precious blood. (3.) O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be. Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to Thee; prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love; Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for Thy court above!

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

### \*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**You are ever faithful, O God. In the light of day and in the darkest corners, you are with us always, and we are grateful. Take our gifts and our lives and use them for your good work in your coming kingdom in Jesus' name, Amen.**

## BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

**\*HYMN 435** *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy* In BABILONE

### \*BENEDICTION

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE** *Amen in C minor* Jacquie Yost

### POSTLUDE

*\*Those who are able, please stand.*  
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**Worship Notes:** This morning's affirmation is The Apostles' Creed: "Although not written by the apostles, the Apostles' Creed reflects the theological formulations of the first century church...In a time when most Christians were illiterate, oral repetition of the Apostles' Creed, along with the Lord's Prayer and the Ten Commandments, helped preserve and transmit the faith of the [church] ...By the eighth century, the creed had attained its current form." --from the preface to the Apostles' Creed in the PC(USA) *Book of Confessions.*

**Welcome to First Presbyterian Church!** We are so glad you are here. You are invited to join us for study, service, education, and fellowship in addition to worship. If you have questions or would like to learn more about this community, please speak with one of the pastors following worship.

**Sanctuary Safety**—In our ongoing efforts to care for all who work, play, and worship on our campus, we are being intentional about access to buildings throughout the week and on Sundays. All sanctuary doors are locked after worship begins on Sunday mornings, with the exception of the main doors leading to the narthex. Worshipers are free to exit by any of the doors at any time. To re-enter, please come through the doors to the narthex.

**Children are always welcome here.** We have a wonderful nursery and childcare for infants through preschool each Sunday in the Will Young Building. Worship bags for young children are available in the narthex near the front doors. Please speak with an usher for assistance. In order to comply with our Child Protection policy, we ask that a parent/caregiver accompany children under 12 to the sanctuary restroom.

**Pew Prep** - We invite any kindergarten and first grade children to attend Pew Prep after the Children's Message. Our volunteers will lead the children to the Children's Chapel on the second floor of the Education Building where they will engage in fun activities while learning about different aspects of worship. The goal of Pew Prep is to provide education that allows our young worshipers to understand and fully participate when they are in the sanctuary. Volunteers will bring the children back to the sanctuary during the Doxology and they will return to sit with their family.