

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
FEBRUARY 22, 2026
FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

As you arrive for worship, greet each other with a smile and soft words, but please remember there are those who cherish a time of quiet before worship.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE Cheryl Mayhew, organist
"Glory to His Name" Lani Smith

LENTEN READING—WEEK 1 Lay Leader: Claudia MacRae
L: Temptation. It has an evil connotation and rightly so. Think of the very first temptation written in the book of Genesis. The passage speaks of Adam and Eve's choice to pick the fruit from the only tree in the Garden of Eden that God commanded them to leave alone. Well, the serpent said they could, why not? How many times have we been in a situation where "someone" said we could do "something" that we knew we shouldn't and we did it anyway? There will always be a "someone" who gives us authority; we act upon it and usually get in trouble. Sound familiar? Are we looking for the wrong "someone" to give us the green light in our lives? Even Jesus, as written in the book of Matthew, was led into the desert by Satan to tempt Him. Satan kept pushing Jesus because Satan told Him that he was that "someone". The one who could give the whole world to Jesus. BIG TEMPTATION. In today's world, thousands would jump on that offer. However, Jesus knew from where His strength came. GOD. All God wants from us, is to come to Him when we have questions or feel unsafe, lean on Him when we are weak and/or sad, and have faith in Him even when others proclaim to be that "someone". It didn't go so well for Adam and Eve because they didn't trust in God or come to Him asking for strength when being tempted. In this Lenten season, let us try to come to God, trusting in Him to not be tempted by the many "someones" or sins in this world.

† OPENING HYMN *"Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley"* #80

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)
All: Loving Father, forgive us when we follow the pack, knowing it may not be right. Help us to be strong when we feel weak and unable to fight off the wickedness around us. Remind us to be righteous, kind and humble in everything we do and say. Show us the path to You every day. Amen.

† WORDS OF ASSURANCE (unison)
L: Lord, temptation can be a very strong urge and one that can be hard to turn away from in our daily lives.
P: Lord, we acknowledge our weaknesses and pray for Your forgiveness.
L: Let us take this time to ask God for strength and His redemption.
P: We want to come to God for His help, strength, and love. We desire to be faithful Christians.
All: In Jesus Christ we are saved. Thanks be to God!

† GLORIA PATRI words on screen
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost: As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. World without end. Amen. Amen.

CHORAL ANTHEM *"River in Judea"* Chancel Choir
(Feldman/Leavitt)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE
(Children are dismissed to Sunday School)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE / THE LORD'S PRAYER words on screen
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, the power and the glory forever. Amen.
(Please keep joys and concerns brief. This is time for prayer)

OFFERING
Offertory *"I Lay My Sins On Jesus"* Lani Smith
† Doxology words on screen
Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below. Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.
† Prayer of Dedication (responsive)
L: God of grace, you have gifted us with life in Christ.
P: Today we bring the gifts of our work and the gifts of our hearts.
L: May all that we bring and all that we are be your means of grace in the world,
P: that all people may encounter your good news. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS
Old Testament Lesson: Genesis 2:15–17; 3:1–7 Old Testament pgs. 2-3
New Testament Lesson: Matthew 4:1–11 New Testament pg. 3

HYMN OF PREPARATION *"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"* #260

MESSAGE *"Do You Trust Me?"* Pastor Ken Locke

† CLOSING HYMN *"When We Are Tempted to Deny Your Son"* #86

† BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *"Postludium"* Donald Lee Moore

†Please stand if you are able.

Join us in Fellowship Hall following the service for coffee and refreshments.

- * Please sign and date the attendance pad.
- * Be sure to silence your cell phones.
- * We have a fully staffed Nursery available for newborn through 2 years old. Located in the upstairs hallway (nearest the back door), the 2nd door on the left. A changing table is available in the Nursery, as well.

SCRIPTURES & MESSAGE NOTES

Genesis 2:15-17
The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, 'You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.'

Genesis 3:1-7
Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God say, "You shall not eat from any tree in the garden"?' ² The woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; ³ but God said, "You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not die; ⁵ for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.' ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Matthew 4:1-11
Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ² He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. ³ The tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.' ⁴ But he answered, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."' ⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you", and "On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone."' ⁷ Jesus said to him, 'Again it is written, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."' ⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour; ⁹ and he said to him, 'All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.' ¹⁰ Jesus said to him, 'Away with you, Satan! for it is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him."' ¹¹ Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.