

First Presbyterian Church
200 North 7th Street
Paducah, KY 42001
Return Service Requested

The Voice

First Presbyterian Church

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March 2026

To Know Him and To Make Him Known

Dear Siblings in Christ,

As we step into March, we find ourselves at a meaningful crossroads. March brings the close of the first quarter of the year and opens the door to nine more months of possibility in 2026. It invites us to reflect on where we've been and to anticipate what God is still unfolding before us. We pray that this month births something new – hope not yet seen, felt, or fully realized.

February marked us with ashes on Ash Wednesday, reminding us of a sacred truth: from dust we come, and to dust we shall return. The ashes humbled us. They grounded us. And now March asks us to remain there a little longer. It urges us to sit in the dust, to dig our toes deep into it, and to allow God to do holy work within us.

Lent is not always comfortable. It invites reflection, repentance, and surrender. Yet it is in this grounding that we find strength. From ash, we learn to rise.

The Good News we are expecting in April begins here. Our journey toward Easter is shaped by these weeks of preparation. The joy of the Resurrection is rooted in how we walk through these days of reflection and hope. Just as March signals the end of winter and the quiet stirring of spring, so too does God awaken something new within our souls.

May this month ground us in the promise of what is to come.
May it strengthen our spirits.
May it awaken us to the dawn on the horizon.

March, please be good to us.

With hope,

Lex

MARCH WORSHIP

***March 1-The Good News is...Great Love for
God and Neighbor
Matthew 25:35-40***

***March 8-The Good News is...Together, the
Impossible is Possible
Mark 6:32-44***

***March 15-The Good News is...Protection
and Care for the Vulnerable
Matthew 19:13-15***

***March 22-The Good News is...Rooted in
Justice, Mercy, and Faithfulness
John 8:2-11***

***March 29-The Good News is...Inspiring Us
to Act
Matthew 21:1-11***

Upcoming Events

Monday, March 2-Bible Study 12pm in Memorial Hall & on Zoom

Wednesday, March 4-Lenten Supper & Teaching 5:30pm

Monday, March 9-Bible Study 12pm in Memorial Hall & on Zoom

Tuesday, March 10-PW Circle at Linda Suitor's home 10am

Wednesday, March 11-Lenten Supper & Teaching 5:30pm

Sunday, March 15-Paducah Singers Concert at Immanuel 5pm

Monday, March 16-Bible Study 12pm in Memorial Hall & on Zoom

Monday, March 16-LILs 6pm at Piper's

Tuesday, March 17-Book Club at Shirley Wrinkle's home 1:30pm

Tuesday, March 17-Session 7pm in Memorial Hall

Wednesday, March 18 Lenten Supper & Teaching 5:30pm

Thursday, March 19-TOTs 6pm at Paducah Beer Werks

Saturday, March 21-Kate Bowler Event at Immanuel Baptist 9am-12pm

Sunday, March 22-Ragtime Riches Concert at Broadway Methodist 4pm

Monday, March 23-Bible Study 12pm in Memorial Hall & on Zoom

Tuesday, March 24-Palm Cross making in Fellowship Hall 10am

Wednesday, March 25-Lenten Supper & Teaching 5:30pm

Sunday, March 29-Palm Sunday in Worship

Monday, March 30-Bible Study 12pm in Memorial Hall & on Zoom

Treasurer's Report-January 2026

	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under)
Income	42,415	35,448	6,967
Expenses			
Benevolences	7,526	7,776	(250)
Church Staff	23,247	25,291	(2,044)
Administrative	7,623	3,780	3,843
Worship	94	638	(544)
Christian Life	2,048	979	1,069
Property	2,688	3,517	(829)
Missional Outreach	-	233	(233)
Buddenbaum	527	417	110
	43,753	42,631	1,122
Net Total	(1,338)	(7,183)	5,845

The summary operating statement for January is presented above. We are off to a strong start on the income side due to several members that made contributions for 2026 prior to the end of 2025. Those gifts were recognized in January. Expenses were over budget for the month primarily due to the fact that a quarterly property insurance premium was paid in January. Your continued financial support of First Presbyterian Church is greatly appreciated. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Karen Durbin, Treasurer

March Birthdays

4~Avery Miller	22~Chandler Smith
5~Jon Hoy	26~Ainsley Ballert
6~Polly LeBuhn	28~Charlie Wolfrom
8~Jim Gould	30~Mina Smith
11~Sandy Meredith	31~Harry Stratemeyer
12~Annabelle Wilham	
13~Sally Marshall	
13~Lisa McClintock	
15~Finola Bowden	
15~Emory Masthay	
18~Seamus Bowden	
18~Anita Lentz	

March Anniversaries

14~Ken & Dana Marvin	
26~Jim & Linda Gould	
28~Hutch Smith & Martha Emmons	

Wonderful Wednesdays

The children of Wonderful Wednesdays are continuing their study of the miracles of Jesus, such as the Wedding at Cana, Casting the Net on the Other Side, Healing the Paralyzed Servant of a Royal Soldier, Healing a Paralyzed Man through the Roof, and Casting Demons into Pigs.

We were grateful to be asked to paint the trees for our church family's use during Lent. You will find the initials of the artist on the bottom of the trunk. Please keep these special ones in your prayers during this Lenten season, too. Our children range from age 4 through 5th grade. They meet weekly from 4-5:30pm for snacks, music, study, and crafts and can bring a friend. We will be sharing our music with the congregation at the Family Night Supper on April 22nd. Mark your calendar now and join us for this special evening.

Presbyterian Women

The Presbyterian Women will be gathering on Tuesday, March 10th at 10am at the home of Linda Sutor. Linda will be leading us through Lesson Seven of the Horizon's Bible Study, "Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ." All women of the church are "Presbyterian Women" and are invited to join us for our monthly Bible study and projects.

Upcoming PW Projects:

Each quarter our church is assigned an item to be used by the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Program for storm relief victims and also for school kits. In an effort to be fiscally responsible, we order the assigned items from Amazon and ship them directly to the warehouse in Ferncliff, Arkansas. In January-March, we will be funding nail clippers and new pencils with erasers. Any and all donations can be made to First Presbyterian Women which will allow us to increase our donations churchwide.

Lifelong Learning Class

The Lifelong Learning Class will continue its study of Luther: Gospel, Law, and Reformation through March. The next lectures will include the following topics.

- Controversy over the Lord's Supper (3/1)
- Controversy over Infant Baptism (3/8)
- Grace and Justification (3/15)
- Luther and the Bible (3/22)
- Luther and Erasmus (3/29)

Please join us for some interesting discussions.

If you have any ideas for future studies, please feel free to share them with our class.

Children's Corner

The children of the church spent the Fall studying the order of worship so that they would be able to participate in worship at “their table.”

Let us continue sharing what we learned:

*Prelude-the time when we bring our conversations to a close and prepare our hearts for worship...

*Prayer for Illumination – A prayer to center our hearts and minds to hear the scripture

*First Reading – Scripture reading from the Old Testament – selected from the Lectionary which moves sequentially through major stories and themes from the Old Testament and related Gospel selection for the day in a three-year cycle

*Anthem – Choral response, carefully selected to enhance the scripture and sermon

*Second Reading – The New Testament reading, typically from the Gospels

*Sermon-The minister's interpretation of the scripture readings

*Affirmation of Faith – Affirming what we believe, usually by using the Apostle's Creed

Thank you for continuing to model appropriate worship behavior for our children.

Book Club

Book Club will be meeting at the home of Shirley Wrinkle on Tuesday, March 17th at 1:30pm. If you think you might be interested in Book Club, don't hesitate. All are welcome!

We will be discussing Jeff Zentner's *In the Wild Light*, which is this year's community-wide One Book Read.

Looking ahead, our April book will be *Same Kind of Different as Me* by Ron Hall.

Did You Know...

In 2016, several members of our church wanted to make a difference in our community by caring for our environment. Several years ago the Earth Care Committee was formed and made efforts to assist the church in becoming more green. Many of you use your own mugs and store them in a special cabinet in the kitchen and/or Westminster Hall. Hutch Smith still collects glass and transports it to Marion. Recycle bins were purchased for each classroom, the office, and the kitchen. Although we continue our efforts to collect paper, plastic, and cardboard, we are in need of individuals or groups to take these items from the church to the GFL Environmental Facility on State Street or to their residence to place in home recycle bins. If you would be willing to assist in this continued project, please contact Amber in the church office.

One Great Hour of Sharing

One Great Hour of Sharing supports the causes of hunger and poverty alleviation, disaster relief, community development, climate change, immigration/migration and refugee advocacy. These vital areas of ministry – chosen by the PCUSA General Assembly – go a long way to ensure that every person is able to live into the fullness of life that is God's promise to all of us. This Lenten Season, may we do our part to be the Church together by supporting One Great Hour of Sharing and the justice ministries it supports. Donation envelopes will be in the pew racks on March 11th. Fish coin boxes will also be made available that day. And all participation is welcomed.

Palm Cross Making Get Together

Join us on Tuesday, March 24th at 10am in Fellowship Hall as we gather to create palm crosses in preparation for Palm Sunday. This meaningful tradition helps us reflect on the celebration of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem while enjoying fellowship and conversation with one another. All are welcome - whether you've made palm crosses before or would like to learn for the first time. Come share in this hands-on time of creativity, community, and spiritual reflection as we prepare our hearts for the coming Holy Week.

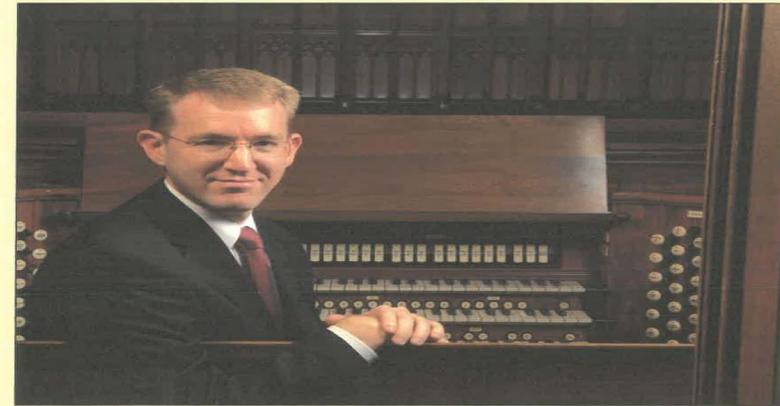
SAVE THE DATE!
HOMELAND:
VOICES OF OUR AMERICAN JOURNEY



Sunday, March 15, 2026, 5:00 pm
Immanuel Baptist Church
3465 Buckner Lane
Paducah, KY 42001
Free Admission

Paducah Singers will present Homeland: Voices of Our American Journey on Sunday, March 15th at 5pm at Immanuel Baptist Church. A celebration of our nation's 250th Anniversary, the concert will feature songs and poetry that elicit a sense of home, including spirituals and works by Runestad, Berko, Gershwin, and Kern. Admission is free.

COMING TO PADUCAH



RAGTIME RICHES
a concert featuring ragtime pianist **Scott Dettra**

Sunday, March 22 at 4:00 pm
Broadway United Methodist Church
Paducah, KY

Free and open to the public

*"His virtuosity was simply remarkable."
- The Washington Examiner*

*"Top notch technique and musicianship."
- The Dallas Morning News*

Go to scottdettra.com to learn more about the artist

Scott Dettra, the beloved nephew of Jean and Sandy Meredith, is acclaimed as one of America's foremost concert organists. Formerly the organist at the Washington National Cathedral, he currently serves as Director of Music at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in McKinney, Texas. Scott is known for his ragtime piano skills, and he created the Ragtime Riches program to entertain audiences of all ages while also educating them about the cultural roots and lasting impact of ragtime music.

Jean's children, grandchildren, and closest friends are sponsoring this concert in honor of her 90th birthday which we celebrated in November. We hope you will join us for this special event in the sanctuary of Broadway United Methodist Church. The concert will run just over an hour with no intermission.