

E-Blast News

February 8, 2026– February 15, 2026

Dear Saints,

There are great differences in the timing of our reliving and celebration of Jesus' life in how we see it year to year in the Lectionary. Some years we take 9 Sundays after Epiphany to get to the Transfiguration and the beginning of Lent.

This year the lectionary rushes us to Lent in 5 Sundays after Epiphany. We celebrate Jesus' words and skip from our being Salt/Light/the gift of the Law, to the Transfiguration (which we will celebrate this Sunday, February 15).

That means this year we pass over:

- not insulting our siblings, not committing adultery, not sinning, not divorcing, not swearing deceitfully but giving straightforward honest answers;
- overcoming evil with suffering, not refusing the one who begs from you, loving your enemies, praying for those who persecute you, going the second mile, be perfect as God is perfect;
- serve only one master, not worry, strive first for the kingdom of God and everything needful will be given to you; and
- doing the will of God in heaven, being wise and not foolish.

Now we pause to consider the report of Jesus talking with Moses and Elijah on a mountain with Peter, James and John as witnesses.

I confess I have too easily stepped into and out of the story of the Transfiguration. But, our reaction ought to be one of amazement. How are we to take this story? as fact? as legend? as too good not to be true? Come and think with us about this amazing story as we prepare for the season of Lent.

Yours in Christ's Service,

Will

A treasurer's request

All general offerings should be a separate check by itself to the church. Any other offerings such as Per Capita, Christmas Joy, or Samaritan's Purse can be on one check. This is so your donations can be correctly and accurately tracked.

Thank you,

Edward, Treasurer

Per Capita request



The Session is requesting each congregational member consider giving their fair share of the Presbytery's per Capita cost this year. What that covers is the Presbytery's expense to govern and provide missions to congregations in their Presbytery.

In years past it was mandatory from each church based on church membership numbers, but in recent years it has been voluntary. The cost this year is **\$13.00** per member.

Envelopes have been placed in the pews marked *Per Capita*. Please feel free to use them or if writing a check write *Per Capita* in the message portion. Please place the envelope in the offering plate.



Seahawks win Super Bowl



The Seattle Seahawks dominated from the very beginning to win Super Bowl LX despite our overwhelming congregational support of 70-32 (cans & money total) in favor of the New England Patriots.

This marks the second year in a row, our odds on favorite hasn't won, but the most important score is that we have given generously to the Center for the Needy.

Thank you to everyone who was a part of this worthy mission.

There's always next year.

Shrove Tuesday in February

FPC's celebration of Shrove Tuesday sees us partnering again with St. Edmund's Episcopal Church in Pfrangle Hall. Last year nearly 100 people came to eat and enjoy fellowship. This year's date is **Tuesday, Feb. 17 from 5-7 p.m.**

Please plan to be a part of this all-you-can-eat dinner. It's pancakes, sausage, toast, orange juice, coffee, and water.

Tickets are **\$8** and can be purchased in the front office or from Jill. Tickets can also be bought at the door.

Mardi Gras, synonymous with Carnival celebrations in New Orleans, Venice and Rio, is marked in similarly festive fashion around the world.

However, what began as a holiday rooted in religious tradition has become a cultural phenomenon, leading to parties for the sake of partying, and not necessarily in anticipation of 40 days of penance between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday.

Along the way, **Shrove Tuesday** emerged as the last day of Shrovetide, the week preceding the start of Lent. The word **Shrovetide** is the English equivalent of Carnival, which comes from the Latin words *carnem levare*, meaning "to take away the flesh."

To prepare for Lent, Christians prepared pancakes to deplete their stock of eggs, milk, butter and fat, giving rise to Pancake Day in England. As the tradition spread through Europe, it became Mardi Gras in France, where waffles and crepes are prepared as part of a lavish feast.

Church Prayer List

FPC – FAMILY / FRIENDS

Bobby & Charlaire Adams, Diane Brantley, Marsha Browning, Mary Dow, Emerson, Michele Ehret, Sue Fender, Earl & Kay Frierson, Kathy Gamiotea, Gina Green, Verna Haynes, Jane Hayward, Ernie Hewitt, Donna Jones, Jimmy Lanier, Greg, Heidi, and Hannah Lepianka, Lisa Letson, Jill Logan, Keith Markey, Cary Mercer, Kenny O'Neal, Judy Onofri, Dana Parrish, Gabriel Quave, Jim Reinhart, Stephanie Purvis Rohling, Gene Scott, Bob & Pam Simmons, Tina Turzio, Margaret White, Debbie Webb and Laurie York.

MILITARY LIST:

Julian Davis U.S. Army Medical Corps.

Sean Davis U.S. Army Medical Corps.

Senior Airman Roland Phelps

E6 Curtis Johnson U.S. Navy Medical Corps.

CM1 Ryan Maassen U.S. Navy Sea

Look What's Coming...

Sunday	Feb. 15	9:45 Adult Sunday school 10:30 Choir practice 11:15 Worship Service 11:15 Annual Congregational/ Corporation meeting 11:15 Collection 4 Needy
Monday	Feb. 16	President's Day Office Closed
Tuesday	Feb. 17	10:00 Card Making Class 5-7 Shrove Tuesday
Wednesday	Feb. 18	Ash Wednesday 12:30 Bible study 3:00 p.m. Handbells practice 4:00 p.m. Choir practice
Friday	Feb. 20	12:30 Men's luncheon at Reef & Beef's
Sunday	Feb. 22	9:45 Adult Sunday school 10:30 Choir practice 11:15 Worship Service

Contact Information

Homebound members' addresses

For those sending cards...

Jackie Combs	9408 Rochester Rd., Minerva, OH 44657
Peggy Dees	2692 NE Hwy 70 #747, Arcadia, FL 34266
Norma Fisher	1013 E. Gibson St., Arcadia, FL 34266
MaryAnn Treadwell	11741 Lake Aston Court, Apt 113, Tampa, FL 33626
Frank & Terry West	1224 SW Scott Dr., Arcadia, FL 34266

Military

CM1 Ryan Maassen	13972 Shields Bridge Rd., Belle Haven, VA 23306
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Missions At Work

Bill's Paper Angels

Collection for Bill's Paper Angels is the 1st Sunday of the month.

March 1 (next collection date) February 23 (next distribution date)

NEEDED: plastic toothbrush holders any size and sanitary napkins

Arcadia Center for the Needy

Collection for Arcadia Center for the Needy is the 3rd Sunday of each month.

Next collection date: March 15

NOTE: You may donate at any time. If donating by envelope, please put Arcadia Center for the Needy in the memo section. We also collect cans with pop up tops. These can be dropped off at the office.

Celebrations



February birthdays

Feb. 6– Leslie Hale

Feb. Mary Pete Martin

Feb. Brennen Fender

Feb. 15– Jan LoPorto

Feb. 18– Susan Head

Feb. 22– LeAnne Maassen

Feb. 23- Kathy Tanner

Feb. 24- T.C. Thomas

Feb. 27- Adalyn Knoche

Feb. 28- Nicole M. Jiskoot

Church Information

Attendance/Offering

Attendance Last Sunday: 35

Via Facebook: 18

Offering:

Year to Date: \$20,571.00

Session

2026: Jeff Adams, Ellie Sutphin, David Maassen, Don Knoche

2027: Jackie Harris, Donnie Knoche, Tyler Maassen, Edith Wildt

2028: Dave Bremer, Becky Delahunty, Sue Maassen, Mitzie McGavic

Catch us on Facebook

Be sure to sign up for our Facebook page and **like** our page.

Also, visit our website www.firstpc.church we have information, pictures, services that you can listen to if you can't make it to church. If you have questions, or problems call the office. 863-494-4434.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR WEBSITE

Type in www.firstpc.church

You will see the sermon on the main page now, so just click on it.