

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

March 1, 2026

*"No act of virtue can be great if it is not followed by advantage for others.
So, no matter how much time you spend fasting, no matter how much you sleep
on a hard floor and eat ashes and sigh continually, if you do no good
to others, you do nothing great."
~ John Chrysostom*

TRINITY BELLS

*OPENING MUSIC

"You're Worthy of My Praise"

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(Based on Mark 8:31-38)

Leader: Let us not be ashamed of our Savior. Let us sing and praise our
God out loud.

**People: In the midst of the crowd, we will praise you. In our
community, we will bear witness to our faith.**

Leader: Let us set our minds on divine things.

People: Let us take up our cross and follow Christ.

*#579 GLORIA PATRI

CHANCEL CHOIR ANTHEM

"The Gift of Love"

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO CONFESSION

When we cry to God in prayer of confession, God hears. Let us approach God's
throne of grace with confidence and faith.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Savior God, the public spectacle of the cross calls us to account. We
hesitate and hedge when opportunities arise to speak of you. We are shy in
faith and not bold to proclaim. Your story saves, yet we keep it to
ourselves. Forgive our reticence of faith. Forgive the ways we fail to serve
as public witnesses. Help us be your candlelight, held high to set the world
aglow. Amen.**

*(now that we have confessed as a congregation, let us confess our own sins in
the silence of our hearts)*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: God does not forsake us. Our God is a gracious God,
abounding in steadfast love. Know that in Jesus Christ, you
are forgiven and be at peace.

People: Thanks be to God. Amen.

OFFERING

Prayer of Dedication

*Doxology

*CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

#77 "Forty Days and Forty Nights"

*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

SONG OF PREPARATION

"Be Still"

SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 4:1-5; 13-17
John 3:1-17

SERMON

"The Promise of Eternal Life"
Rev. Paul Masters

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Nicene Creed (pg. 15 in the Hymnal)

**We believe in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and
of all things visible and invisible;**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of
the Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very
God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father by whom
all things were made; who for us men, and our salvation, came down from
heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was
made man, and crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and
was buried, and on the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,
and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father. And
he shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead, whose
kingdom shall have no end.**

**And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life, who
proceedeth from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son
together is worshipped and glorified, who spoke through the prophets, And
we believe in one holy and apostolic church, We acknowledge one baptism
for the remission of sins. And we look for the resurrection of the dead, and
the life of the world to come. Amen.**

CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN #516 "Lord, We Have Come at Your Own Invitation" /
#505 "Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

*BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

*SENDING MUSIC

Helpful Notes

- 1) We say "debts" and "debtors" in the Lord's Prayer
- 2) Asterisks (*) = Please stand as you are able
- 3) Offering – Our offering basket can be found in the entrance to the
sanctuary or you can give electronically using the QR code found in the
'Stewardship News' section of this bulletin

Prayers for March 1st – 7th

Friends of the Congregation:

Missy Nelson (Friend of the Moellers),
Alan Scott,
Tom Masters (Paul's Brother),
Larry Riblet (Heather Peck's Uncle) &
Ann Raschka (Karen Amman's Sister)

Prayer Families:

Brian & Jennifer Pederson (Kyle)
Gavin Pederson
Richard & Joan Pederson
Steve & Carol Pederson

Pray for: (a ministry in our Presbytery; a ministry in Fort Dodge)

First Presbyterian Church, State Center &
Harvest Vineyard

Stewardship News

Attendance on February 22nd was 117 (77, 18 FB, 22 YT). The offering on 02/22/26 was \$18,525.00. The amount needed each week is \$10,655.56. The total contributions through 02/22/26 are \$67,605.29. The amount needed through 02/22/26 is \$85,244.46.



Thank you to our volunteers today

Ushers: Gary Gronbach & Brian Pederson

Communion Servers: Jean Stanley, Linda Whiting, Marlene Zech & Ruth Hancock

Vocals: Bruce Walrod & Jan Moeller

Musicians: Greg Merritt, Steve Kelleher, Jake Merritt & Gabriel Alves

Bus Driver: Don Miller

Elder: Brian Pederson

Northwestern College Band

The Northwestern College band will be performing with the Iowa Central band on March 26th. Harlan VandeBerg's friend, Gerry Bouman, is the director of the Northwestern college band.

Scholarship Applications are Available!

Scholarship applications are available on the table outside the office door, with Amy in the office and online at: <http://fpcfd.org/information/scholarship-applications/>. **Applications must be in the church office by 10 AM on Wednesday, April 1st.**

Sewing Donations

If you have any sheets, flannels or mattress pads you are looking to get rid of, the sewing ladies can use them! Please bring your donations into the office or to the sewing room on Wednesday mornings.

BINGO!

We will **NOT** have BINGO with Karen Amman this month. The next one will be April 1st.

BINGO at Friendship Haven

Join our middle and high schoolers for Bingo in the Celebration Center at Friendship Haven on March 4th at 6:00 pm.

No Wednesday Programs – March 11th

We won't have youth programs or all-ages dinner on March 11th.

Senior Sunday

Senior Sunday will be May 17th. Seniors, please come into the office to choose a quilt that will be given to you on Senior Sunday.



First Presbyterian Church
1111 5th Avenue North, Fort Dodge, Iowa
Lead Pastor, Rev. Paul Masters
Executive Pastor, Chris Helton
Director of Music, Gabriel Alves
A/V Tech. & Comm. Director, Mary Alves
A/V Specialist, Kristal Torres
515-576-2091
March 1, 2026

Website: www.fpcfd.org
YouTube: FPC Fort Dodge





Would you like to donate an

Easter Lily

at FPC in memory of a loved one this Easter?

Donor Name _____

In memory of _____

~ Lilies will be \$9 each ~

Return forms with payment to the office by March 9th
They will be displayed in church on Easter Sunday, April 5th

Please plan to pick up your lily after the Easter service

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When we participate in One Great Hour of Sharing...

We create possibility for people forced to flee their homes in search of safety.

We support recovery efforts when disasters devastate communities.

We empower partners to build sustainable futures.

We walk alongside our siblings to work for more just immigration laws and processes.

Our gifts show people they are not alone and that people they don't know see them and care enough to respond.



Following the prophet Micah's call to do justice

A group of young adults from First Presbyterian Church of Salem, New Jersey, volunteered at a disaster recovery host site at New Hope Presbyterian Church in Asheville, North Carolina, after the devastation left behind by Hurricane Helene.

SMASH (Struggle for Miami's Affordable and Sustainable Housing) is the first community land trust and affordable housing cooperative that uses a community land trust model, providing sustainable and preserved land that the community controls and builds power to make housing a human right.

Years of war and natural disasters have culminated in severe famine in South Sudan. An agricultural project with Hope Restoration South Sudan focuses on vegetable farming, giving women refugees vegetable kits comprised of assorted seeds like okra, onions, tomatoes, kudhura, sukuma and other types of vegetables, which they can grow and sell.



**ONE GREAT
HOUR OF SHARING**

Please give generously.
If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

February 18–April 5, 2026

Join with Presbyterians worldwide in responding to Christ's call to ministries of compassion for the most vulnerable around the world.

If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!

This Lenten season, please give generously to One Great Hour of Sharing.

WAYS TO GIVE —

- + Through your congregation
- + Online at pcusa.org/give-oghs
- + Text OGHS to 91999 to give
- + Scan this QR code



-or-

You can help sustain these important ministries that are supported by One Great Hour of Sharing by making an online gift at any time throughout the year. Checks may be sent to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); P.O. Box 643700; Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.

Thanks to your heartfelt gifts, One Great Hour of Sharing currently supports projects in over 100 countries.

IF WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT!

To learn more about how your gift to One Great Hour of Sharing makes a difference, visit pcusa.org/oghs



One Great Hour of Sharing is one of three annual Churchwide Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). These Special Offerings play an important role in defining what it means to be a connectional church in the 21st century, bringing together the diversity of the PC(USA) to focus and take faith-based action on shared concerns. The Offerings offer opportunities for partnership, learning, and witness and profoundly affect the life of the church as a collective witness to Jesus Christ's love for the whole church.

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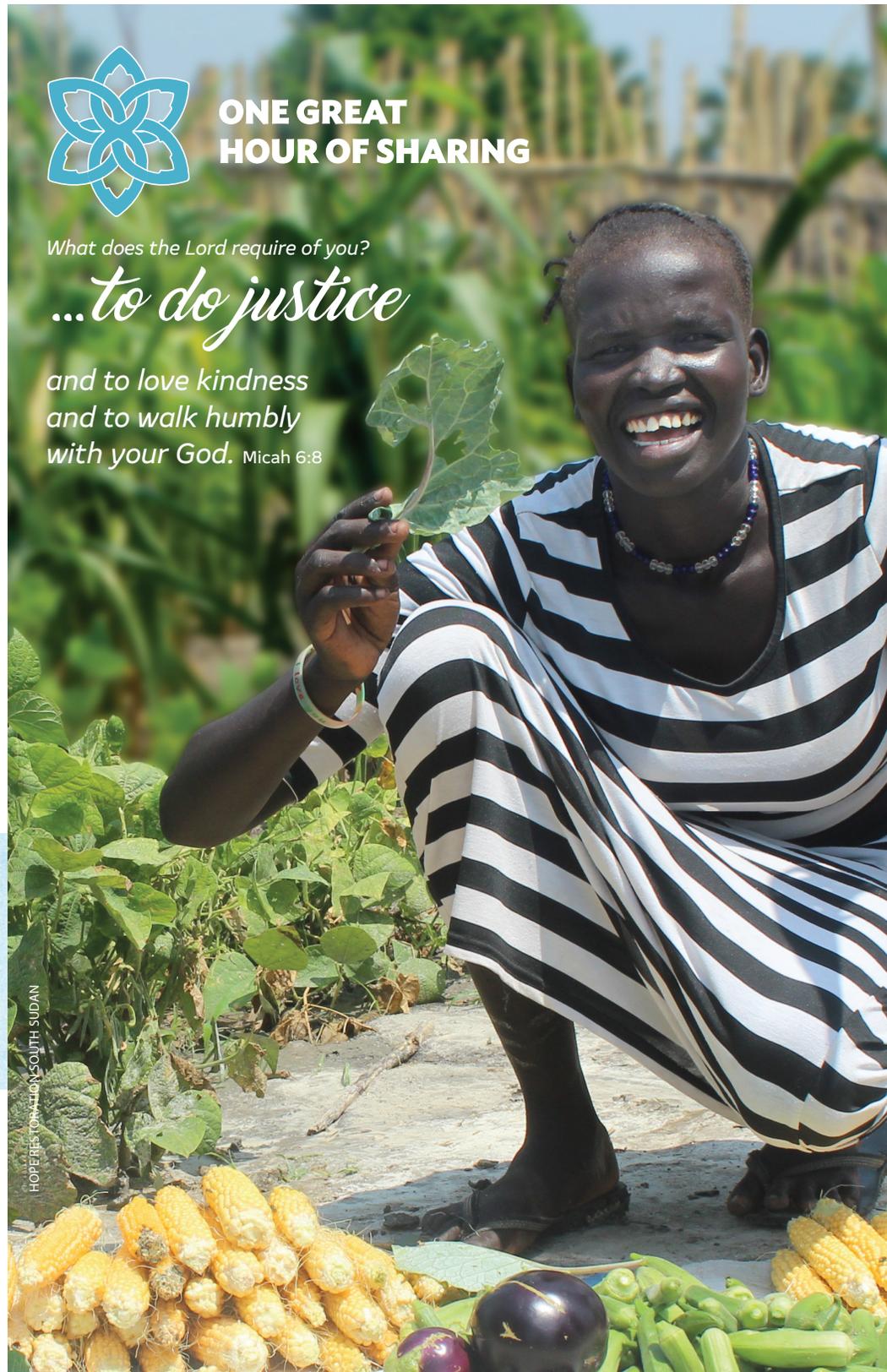


ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

What does the Lord require of you?

...to do justice

*and to love kindness
and to walk humbly
with your God.* Micah 6:8



HOPPER FOUNDATION SOUTH SUDAN

LENT

77

Forty Days and Forty Nights

AUS DER TIEFE RUFE ICH 7.7.77

George Hunt Smyttan, 1856; alt.

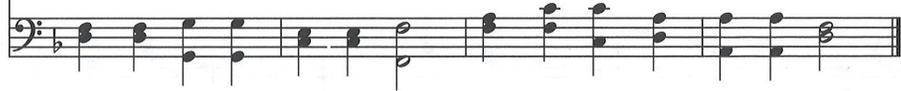
Attr. Martin Herbst, 1676



1. For - ty days and for - ty nights You were fast - ing in the wild;
 2. Shall not we Your sor - row share And from world - ly joys ab - stain,
 3. Then if Sa - tan on us press, Flesh or spir - it to as - sail,
 4. So shall we have peace di - vine: Ho - lier glad - ness ours shall be;



For - ty days and for - ty nights Tempt - ed, and yet un - de - filed.
 Fast - ing with un - ceas - ing prayer, Strong with You to suf - fer pain?
 Vic - tor in the wil - der - ness, Grant that we not faint nor fail!
 Round us, too, shall an - gels shine, Such as served You faith - ful - ly.



5. Keep, O keep us, Savior dear,
 Ever constant by Your side;
 That with You we may appear
 At the eternal Eastertide.

$\text{♩} = 50-54$

Be Still

Be still my heart and know
 In letting all my weakness show
 He provides a place for me to go
 He lifts me off the ground

I quiet down and rest
 He restores my hope again
 I lift my eyes and look to Him
 He lifts me off the ground

So open up my heart and trust
 Open up my eyes to see
 That He who placed the sun
 The moon and stars
 Is here with me

Stop your striving now
 Heaven's peace is all around
 I say His name and my walls come down
 He lifts me off the ground

I am not alone
 You're with me every step
 Seasons come and go
 But You have never left

You're Worthy Of My Praise

I will worship (I will worship)
With all of my heart (with all of my heart)
I will praise You (I will praise You)
With all of my strength (all my strength)
I will seek You (I will seek You)
All of my days (all of my days)
I will follow (I will follow)
All of Your ways (all Your ways)

I will give You all my worship
I will give You all my praise
You alone I long to worship
You alone are worthy of my praise

I will bow down (I will bow down)
And hail You as King (and hail You as King)
I will serve You (I will serve You)
Give You everything (everything)
I will lift up (I will lift up)
My eyes to Your throne (my eyes to Your throne)
I will trust You (I will trust You)
Trust You alone (You alone)

Lord, We Have Come at Your Own Invitation

1. Lord, we have come at Your own in - vi - ta - tion,
2. Here, at Your ta - ble, con - firm our in - ten - tion,
3. When, at Your ta - ble, each time of re - turn - ing,

Cho - sen by You, to be count - ed Your friends;
Give it Your seal of for - give - ness and grace;
Vows are re - newed and our cour - age re - stored:

Yours is the strength that sus - tains ded - i - ca - tion,
Teach us to serve with - out pride or pre - ten - sion,
May we in - creas - ing - ly glo - ry in learn - ing

Ours a com - mit - ment we know nev - er ends.
Lord, in Your king - dom, what - ev - er our place.
All that it means to ac - cept You as Lord.

Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread 505

ST. FLAVIAN CM

James Montgomery, 1825

Day's Psalter, 1562

1. Be known to us in break - ing bread, But do not then de - part;
2. There sup with us in love di - vine; Thy bod - y and Thy blood,

Sav - ior, a - bide with us, and spread Thy ta - ble in our heart.
That liv - ing bread, that heav - en - ly wine, Be our im - mor - tal food.