

We Go Out In God's Name

*Having gathered together in God's name and been fed by God's Holy Word,
we go out in God's name bearing the peace of Christ to the world.*

Connecting with our Community

‡Hymn for Commitment *Count Your Blessings* (See screens)

‡Charge and Benediction

May the Spirit of the Living God, Made known to us most fully within life's Dark Wood:

Go before you to show you the way;

Go above you to watch over you;

Go behind you to push you into places you may not necessarily go yourself;

Go beneath you to uphold and uplift you;

Go beside you to be your strong and constant companion;

And dwell within you to remind you that you are surely not alone,

And that you are loved—loved beyond your wildest imagination.

And may the fire of God's blessing burn brightly Upon you, and within you, Now and always.

Amen.

‡Congregational Sung Benediction (Congregation echoes words in bold.)

There's a path (**There's a path**) ... and it leads us out together.

To the Wood (**To the wood**) ... where the darkness hovers still.

We are sent (**We are sent**) ... and the Spirit goes before us.

God says, "Go (**God says, "Go**) ... be my presence in the world."

‡Postlude *Amazing Grace*

‡Please stand as you are able in body or spirit.

Service Material References

Series based on *Gifts of the Dark Wood* by Eric Elnes

All liturgy by Marcia McFee, www.worshipdesignstudio.com

There's a Path and *Come and Rest*, words by Marcia McFee, music by Chuck Bell.

Contemporary reading excerpted from David Whyte, *Crossing the Unknown Sea* (New York: Riverhead Books, 2001), 129–35.

Blessing from *Gifts of the Dark Wood* by Eric Elnes.

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN

February 22, 2026

Ist Sunday in Lent



Welcome to First Presbyterian Church
Bienvenue à La Première Eglise Presbytérienne de Champaign
Bienvenidos a La Primera Iglesia Presbiteriana

삼페인 제일 장로교회에 오신것을 환영합니다.

Si vous souhaitez que le service soit traduit en français,
procurez-vous un récepteur et des écouteurs à l'arrière du sanctuaire.

Welcome to worship!

When you enter the worship space, please be mindful of the silent prayers of those around you.

We invite you to share your contact info in the Friendship Pad when passed,
then to stay after the service for coffee and fellowship.

Mingle with other friends and guests and learn more about this congregation's ministry. **Welcome home!**

We Gather Together In God's Holy Name

God calls us together as "children." How wonderful it is to be so loved! Our natural response is worship.

Prelude *Arioso*

J.S.Bach

Chiming of the Hour on Tower Bell

Greetings & Welcome/Act of Friendship & Prayer Concerns

Please pass the Friendship Pad, noting with whom you are sitting, and list prayer concerns on the prayer request cards in the pews.

✠Call to Worship (✠Please stand as you are able in body or spirit.)

Opening Prayer

✠Hymn of Praise *Here I Am to Worship* (See screens)

Call to Confession (Congregation may be seated.)

Prayer of Confession

For giving fear too much face-time,

Forgive and restore us, O God.

For digging in rather than going with the flow,

Forgive and restore us, O God.

For holding on too tight when what we need to do is let go,

Forgive and restore us, O God.

Silence is kept.

Kyrie #577 *Lord, Have Mercy*

Assurance of Pardon

Passing of the Peace

We Gather Around God's Holy Word

At the center of Christian life and worship is God's Word incarnate in Christ and God's Word as recorded in scripture. We hear the story of God's love in scripture and sacrament and we say, "Thanks be to God!"

Word with Children

Prayer for Illumination #204 *Stay With Me* (vs. 1)

Scripture in French *1 Corinthians 13:11-12*

Ceci est la Parole du Seigneur./Gloire à Dieu (pronounced "glow-ah ah dew")

Contemporary Reading in English

Message

Rev. Beth Wagner

A Time for Reflection

✠Hymn for Reflection *Through It All* (See screens)

We Respond to God's Word

As God invites us to be disciples of his Son, we prayerfully respond to God with affirmations of faith and acts of self-giving, commitment, and thanksgiving.

Reception of New Members

Dennis Arthur; Anne Craig; Stephen Kemboi; Noni Ledford; Kayode Oke

For Those Received by Reaffirmation of Faith

Profession of Faith

Welcome

Invitation to the Offering (We are invited to return God's tithes and give our offering.)

Offertory

Response of Gratitude #607 *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

Prayer of Dedication & Thanksgiving

Prayers of the People *Come and Rest* (See screens. Choir sings first time through; then leads congregation in the echo.)

The Lord's Prayer (pg. 35; in the language or wording most familiar to you.)

This Week

Sunday, February 22

- 9:00 AM Worship/Sanctuary
- 10:10 AM Adult Sunday Discussion/Parlor
- 10:10 AM Easy English Fellowship/Rooms 204 & 207
- 10:10 AM Sunday School/CE Building Classrooms
- 10:15 AM Tech Assistance/Library

Monday, February 23

- 9:15 AM ELL Classes/CE Building & Café
- 1:00 PM GROW/Chapel
- 1:00 PM Knifty Knitters/Parlor & Zoom
- 1:00 PM DREAAM After School Academy/CE Building
- 5:30 PM AA/Centennial Hall

Tuesday, February 24

- 9:15 AM ELL Classes/CE Building & Café
- 9:30 AM PW Coordinating Team/Zoom
- 10:30 AM Church Staff/Parlor & Zoom
- 12:00 PM Classic Book Study/Parlor & Zoom
- 1:00 PM DREAAM After School Academy/CE Building
- 4:30 PM World Mission/Parlor & Zoom

Wednesday, February 25

- 9:15 AM ELL Classes/CE Building & Café
- 10:00 AM Coffee with Beth/Good Judy's Bagels
- 11:00 AM Francophone Ministry/Library
- 1:00 PM DREAAM After School Academy/CE Building
- 5:30 PM DREAAM Family Dinner/Centennial Hall
- 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal/Choir Room
- 7:30 PM Wednesdays We Gather/Zoom

Thursday, February 26

- 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study/Parlor & Zoom
- 9:15 AM ELL Classes/CE Building & Café
- 10:30 AM Circle of Joy/Parlor & Zoom
- 11:00 AM Christ Community Church Korean Choir/Chapel
- 12:30 PM Windsor of Savoy Bible Study/Windsor of Savoy
- 1:00 PM Circle of Faith/Parlor & Zoom
- 1:00 PM DREAAM After School Academy/CE Building
- 7:00 PM Circle of Peace/Parlor & Zoom

Friday, February 27 Church Office closes 12 noon

- 8:15 AM Men's Prayer/Zoom
- 12:00 PM New Americans/Chapel
- 1:00 PM DREAAM After School Academy/CE Building
- 7:00 PM French Prayer/Zoom

Saturday, February 28

- 9:30 AM DREAAM Illini Mentoring/Centennial Hall
- 6:00 PM Francophone Bethesda Fellowship/Chapel

Announcements

- Laura Aull Johnston** is our liturgist this morning. If you would like to serve as liturgist on a Sunday morning, contact **Carol Miles**.
- Large print bulletins** available for use on Sunday mornings. Ask an usher if you cannot find one.
- We have access to our hearing assistant loop during worship. This technology allows people with hearing aids equipped with **T-Coil technology** to hear the service through their hearing aids. If you know you have T-coil technology, plan to turn on the T-coil via your phone each Sunday morning.
- We are glad you're here!** Questions about First Pres, see **either pastor** after the service or contact the church office (info@firstpres.church).
- Please join us after worship for our **Adult Sunday Discussion**. During Lent, will be using a series from Darkwood Brew called *Gifts of the Dark Wood*. This morning kicks off the series with *The Gift of Uncertainty*. The speaker is Brian McLaren, author of *A New Kind of Christianity* and *We Make the Road by Walking*. Discussion leader is **Ken Chapman**.
- Pastor Beth, Dennis Arthur and Kayode Oke** will be available in the church library at 10:15 this morning to assist congregants with their **tech needs or questions**.
- Please wear your **name tag** to help our **staff** get acquainted.
- Anyone interested in **donating flowers for use on Sunday mornings during worship**, please contact **Nancy Dankle @217.778-4088** or nkdankle@icloud.com.
- We are collecting royalties each time we hear a **Spiritual** in our service. Royalties were never paid for this music. Money we collect will go to the DREAAM Choir. A donation box is on the Welcome Center.
- Join **Pastor Beth** for **coffee in February on Wednesdays from 10 AM - 12 NOON** at Good Judy's, 2740 S. Philo Road in Urbana.
- Gather at the church at 11:30 AM Friday, February 27, as we go together to catch the bus to and from the free Thai lunch and the **YMCA Friday Forum** and Conversation Cafe. Check the February newsletter for topic and speaker.
- Copies of the 2025 Annual Report** can be found in the kiosks or on the church website.
- There will be a **Congregational Meeting** Sunday, March 1, immediately following worship for the purpose of electing a **Pastor Nominating Committee**. If unable to attend in-person, a zoom link will be provided via email the week of the meeting.
- If you or a loved one is **in the hospital or in need of a pastoral visit**, contact the church office.
- Check out the **book cart** in Westminster Hall. Donate a book for others to enjoy and take some.
- The **February newsletter** is available in the kiosks or at firstpres.church/newsletter.
- Please **do not park** in the spaces marked Reserved 24/7 behind Meyer/Capel Law office on Sundays.
- If unable to attend church**, watch our 9 AM service live each Sunday at firstpres.church/live. The Sunday **service video** is available on-line this week; audio sermon available the following Sunday at 10:30 AM on WDWS 1400AM.
- Scam/Email Spoof Alert ...** Please know that your pastors will **never** send a text, email or voicemail asking you to help them by purchasing gift cards. The latest spoof is an email with an attachment. Most note FEB with a "proposal." This is a scam, you should immediately delete the message and not open the attachment. If in doubt, please contact the church office.