

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

Minute for Mission – One Great Hour of Sharing

✦ **Hymn for Commitment #216** *Beneath the Cross of Jesus*

✦ **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** *Create in Me a Clean Heart*

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

Service Material References

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 from Susan Orlean (book, *The Orchid Thief*), Charlie Kaufman and Donald Kaufman (screenplay), *Adaptation* (Los Angeles: Columbia/Tristar, 2002).

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

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN

March 29, 2026

Palm Sunday



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 *Above All*

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.)

(See screens. Soloist sings first time through; then leads congregation in the echo second time through.)

Opening Prayer

✦**Hymn of Praise #197** *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna*

Call to Confession *(Congregation may be seated.)*

Prayer of Confession

For hesitating to join the parade of life with our whole selves,

Forgive and restore us, O God.

For letting fear keep us from walking alongside our neighbors,

Forgive and restore us, O God.

For shying away from struggle even when we know what is right,

Forgive and restore us, O God. *Silence is kept.*

Confession Response #577 *Lord, Have Mercy*

Assurance of Pardon

Hear these words of assurance: God continues to invite us to this parade...it is never too late.

God asks us to be companions—and we can...it is never too late. God is with you, forgiving and restoring you to wholeheartedness.

Thanks be to God! Amen!

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 *Luke 19:29-42a*

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

Anthem *Ubi Caritas*

Ola Gjello

Contemporary Reading in English

Message

Rev. Joe Lundy

A Time for Reflection

✦**Hymn for Reflection #214** *You Are My Refuge, Faithful God*

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.

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

Offertory *Oblivion*

Gary Winder, clarinet; Yuxi Chen, piano

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, March 29

- 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
- 10:10 AM Tech Assistance/Library
- 10:30 AM Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary

Monday, March 30

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

Tuesday, March 31

- 8:30 AM Men's Breakfast Bible Study/Parlor & Zoom
- 9:15 AM ELL Classes/CE Building & Café
- 10:30 AM Church Staff/Parlor & Zoom
- 12:00 PM Classic Book Study/Parlor & Zoom
- 1:00 PM Coffee with Beth/Mad Goat Coffee
- 1:00 PM DREAAM After School Academy/CE Building
- 5:30 PM DREAAM Family Dinner/Centennial Hall

Wednesday, April 1

- 9:15 AM ELL Classes/CE Building & Café
- 11:00 AM Francophone Ministry/Library
- 1:00 PM DREAAM After School Academy/CE Building
- 5:15 PM Children's Ministry/Zoom
- 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal/Choir Room
- 7:30 PM Wednesdays We Gather/Zoom

Thursday, April 2 Maundy Thursday

- 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study/Parlor & Zoom
- 9:15 AM ELL Classes/CE Building & Café
- 11:00 AM Christ Community Church Korean Choir/Chapel
- 12:30 PM Windsor of Savoy Bible Study/Windsor of Savoy
- 1:00 PM DREAAM After School Academy/CE Building
- 2:30 PM Congregational Care Deacons/Parlor & Zoom
- 4:00 PM Spiritual Formation/Zoom
- 6:00 PM Maundy Thursday Soup Supper & Communion Service/Centennial Hall

Friday, April 3 Good Friday; 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
- 7:00 PM Good Friday Service/Sanctuary

Saturday, April 4

- 8:00 AM Choir Rehearsal with Instrumentalists/Sanctuary
- 8:30 AM DREAAM Imagine STEM Classes/CE Building 2nd Floor
- 9:30 AM DREAAM Illini Mentoring/Centennial Hall
- 6:00 PM Francophone Bethesda Fellowship/Chapel

Announcements

- The flowers in the Sanctuary this morning are donated by **Barbara Clark and family** in loving memory of **Stu Clark**.
- Sarah Laufenberg** is our liturgist this morning. If you would like to serve as liturgist on a Sunday morning, contact **Carol Miles**.
- We welcome **guest musician Gary Winder on clarinet** to this morning's worship service.
- 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 be reminded our service time changes beginning Sunday, April 5 (Easter) to 9:30 AM.**
- Please join us after worship in the Parlor for our **Adult Sunday Discussion**. During Lent, we will be using a series from Darkwood Brew called *Gifts of the Dark Wood*.
- Our graduate student members** are available this morning after worship in the church library 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.
- Spring flowers** will help brighten our Sanctuary Easter morning. Plants are \$15 each. If you would like to give a plant in memory or honor of someone, please place your check/cash in an envelope marked "spring flowers" along with a note for whom they are given.
- Did you know that there are three airports within the bounds of our Presbytery where the **TSA officers are currently working without pay?** There are 10 officers at the Decatur airport, 17 officers at the C-U airport, and 10 officers at the Marion airport. If you want to help, please donate with TSA in the memo line. We will be purchasing \$20 gas gift cards.
- 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. Donation box is on the Welcome Center.
- Join **Pastor Beth** for **coffee in March Tuesdays from 1-3 PM** at Mad Goat Coffee in Champaign.
- Jean René Balekita** will present a free concert Thursday, April 9, at 5 PM in the Krannert Center Lobby stage 5.
- Copies of the 2025 Annual Report** can be found in the kiosks or on the church website.
- 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 **March 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 the 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 ...** Your pastors will **never** send a text, email or voicemail asking you to purchase gift cards. If in doubt, contact the church office.

Kickstart the First Presbyterian Church Food Pantry!

Please help fill our Easter basket with these items on Easter Sunday, April 5. Bring any or all of the foods from this shopping list to help kickstart the food pantry's soft launch in July. While we encourage donations throughout the year, April 5 will be our special "Fill the Easter Basket" day.

FPC Food Pantry Shopping List



Dry goods
<input type="checkbox"/> beans (bag)
<input type="checkbox"/> beans (canned)
<input type="checkbox"/> rice
<input type="checkbox"/> oatmeal
<input type="checkbox"/> pasta
<input type="checkbox"/> lentils
Main course/protein
<input type="checkbox"/> chili with beans
<input type="checkbox"/> Kraft Mac & Cheese with squeeze cheese packet (no substitutions)
<input type="checkbox"/> tuna (chunk light or white)
<input type="checkbox"/> canned chicken breast
Vegetables
<input type="checkbox"/> canned peas
<input type="checkbox"/> canned green beans
<input type="checkbox"/> canned mixed vegetables
<input type="checkbox"/> canned corn
<input type="checkbox"/> canned carrots
Miscellaneous
<input type="checkbox"/> spaghetti sauce
<input type="checkbox"/> powdered milk
<input type="checkbox"/> tomato soup
<input type="checkbox"/> chicken noodle soup

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Upcoming Events

April 2 Maundy Thursday

6 PM Soup Supper and Communion Service/Centennial Hall

April 3 Good Friday

7 PM Combined Service with First Methodist Church/First Pres Sanctuary
Choirs from both churches will present special music

April 5 Easter Sunday

9:30 AM Worship, OGHS offering, Food Pantry collection
Special music will include selections from Handel's *Messiah* with string quartet and soloists

April 12 Music Sunday/Second Sunday Brunch

9:30 AM Worship
Our Choir will combine with the Choir of First Presbyterian Church of Urbana to present the *Faure Requiem*

April 19 Clarinet Recital

3:00 PM Clarinet recital featuring **Gary Winder** in the Sanctuary

May 2 Piano & Classical Guitar Concerto

3:00 PM A concert featuring church musician **Yuxi Chen** and **Yuan Cao**, classical guitar, in the Sanctuary



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