

## **\*Affirmation of Faith**

***We believe the death and life cycles of creation are a gift to our survival. We believe there is a season for life and death, from spring to winter, or the rainy season to the dry season. We believe God breathes life into dust, transforming the decay of our universe into life itself. We grieve when death is wrought by sin and injustice. We lament when we lose the people and pets we love. We trust that in God's dream of a righteous, loving kin(g)dom, even death will be made right. We believe God's creative imagination is bound not by binaries or hierarchies or life and death, but only by love and justice. When our lives end, we believe our souls, formed by the very breath of God, live in glory with Jesus. We believe every life is worthy of dignity, even in death.***

## **Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer**

Rev. Melick

**Response:** Lord, in your mercy, *All: Hear our prayer.*

***Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.***

## **The Imposition of Ashes**

Rev. Melick

**\*Sending Hymn #702    Christ Be Beside Me**

## **\*Charge and Benediction**

Rev. Melick

**\*Congregational Response    Threefold Amen    Hymn #601**

Rev. Melick

## **This Week at FPC**

February 19 – 6:30pm, Elizabeth Circle  
February 21 – 6:00pm, Valentine Dinner fundraiser  
February 22 – 12:00pm, Sandwich Ministry following services  
February 22 – after service, Stay and Play  
February 22 – 1:00pm, 4-h meeting in the Gathering Place

## **Mark Your Calendars**

February 25 – 7:00pm, Choir practice  
February 26 – 6:30pm, Elizabeth Circle  
March 4 – 6:00pm, Messy Church

**Common Good Food Bank** - They are in need of the following: Macaroni and cheese, pasta (shells, rotini, etc.), noodles, rice, pasta and rice mixes, hamburger helper, instant mashed potatoes.

**Blessing Box** – With the cold upon us we could use some Hats and gloves of all sizes.

**Valentine Dinner Fundraiser** – Dinner is February 21<sup>st</sup> 6:00pm - 8:30pm, cost is \$20 per person. Sign-up for either meal and if you would like take out or if you are eating in. This is the Youth fundraiser for their mission trip. Thank you.

## Prayers of First Presbyterian Church Family and Friends

"Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you"  
~Jeremiah 29:12

### **In our continuing prayers:**

#### Countries at War

Sarah Gregg - continuing cancer treatment, Cy Acheson's granddaughter  
Cy – pray for strength and healing  
Logan Eifort – stable but still needs prayers, Keith & Chris Jones grandson  
Stacey Creech – prayers for breast cancer treatment, Margie's friend  
Jack & Nancy Turner – recovering at home  
Deb Tinstman – lymphoma, Molly Hurd's aunt  
Ron Mickelson – continuing prayers

### **Remember and Uphold:**

Diane Kline – Vancrest  
Alice Lindley

### **Our at Home Shut-ins**

Marge Jordan, Julia Withrow, Zoe Barnes

For our Nation and those who serve

### **Church Members & Friends In The Service**

Mac Altom/U.S. Army	Zack Pool/ Air Force
Addam Moore/ U.S. Marines	Jeremy Barnes/ Navy
Tanner Crabtree/ Army	Brett Barnes / Navy
Cameron Rife / U.S. Navy	Laura Soper/ Air Force Reserve
Nicholas Rife / U.S. Navy	Cliff Garey / Navy
Grant Davis / Army Reserve	Ryan Kiracofe / Air Force
Richard (Alex) Trogdon/ Navy	Drew Roach / Navy
Grace Wagner/Basic Training	Ryan Hall / Army
Miguel Martinez/Army Reserve- Active now	Justin McIntosh, Army National Guard
Michael Richwald, Air Force National Guard	

Please contact our prayer chain coordinator, Ann Murray, 937-336-0116,  
email: [annmurray916@yahoo.com](mailto:annmurray916@yahoo.com), call the church office, 937-456-3754,  
[office@eatonfpc.org](mailto:office@eatonfpc.org), or drop a note in the offering plate with updates.

## Prayer of Confession and Passing of the Peace

### Call to Confession

Susan Schauer

### Prayer of Confession

**Liturgist:** Siblings in Christ, let us confess our sins to God, laying down our burden of guilt into the grave of forgiven wrongs, where shame is conquered forever. Holy God, you created life from dirt, breathing air into our lungs, and entrusting us to live rightly. Today, as we remember our mortality with ashes and prayer, we confess our tendency to forget.

**All: We have forgotten our Creator. We have forgotten that we came from dust and we shall return to dust.**

**Liturgist:** Remind us of our fragile humanness, held delicately in the palm of your hand. Remind us to observe and appreciate creation—this incredible universe imagined for your glory and life's flourishing.

**All: Forgive us for living as if we are invincible. Forgive us for living as if we are powerless.**

**Liturgist:** For you are both the great God of all living things and the precious Spirit that inhabits each of us.

**All: Have mercy upon us, your children. Amen.**

## Declaration of Forgiveness and Passing of the Peace

**Liturgist:** May the peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

### \*Our Response of Praise – #581 *Gloria Patri*

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.*

### Prayer for Illumination

Susan Schauer

**Old Testament Scripture Reading**

Joel 2:12-14

**New Testament Scripture Reading**

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

### Response:

**Liturgist:** This is the Word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

**Sacred Turning**

Rev. Melick

*First Presbyterian Church*  
*February 18, 2026*  
*Ash Wednesday*

**Welcome & Announcements**

Rev. Melick

**Prelude**

**\*Call to Worship**

Susan Schauer

**Liturgist:** Beloved of Christ, let us enter this holy space of worship and this holy time of Lent.

**All: We come, turning and returning to God.**

**Liturgist:** We gather knowing that God embraces our whole selves.

**All: We come laughing or weeping, rejoicing or mourning, confident or doubting, carefree or burdened.**

**Liturgist:** We begin in dust and in quiet, seeking courage to begin again.

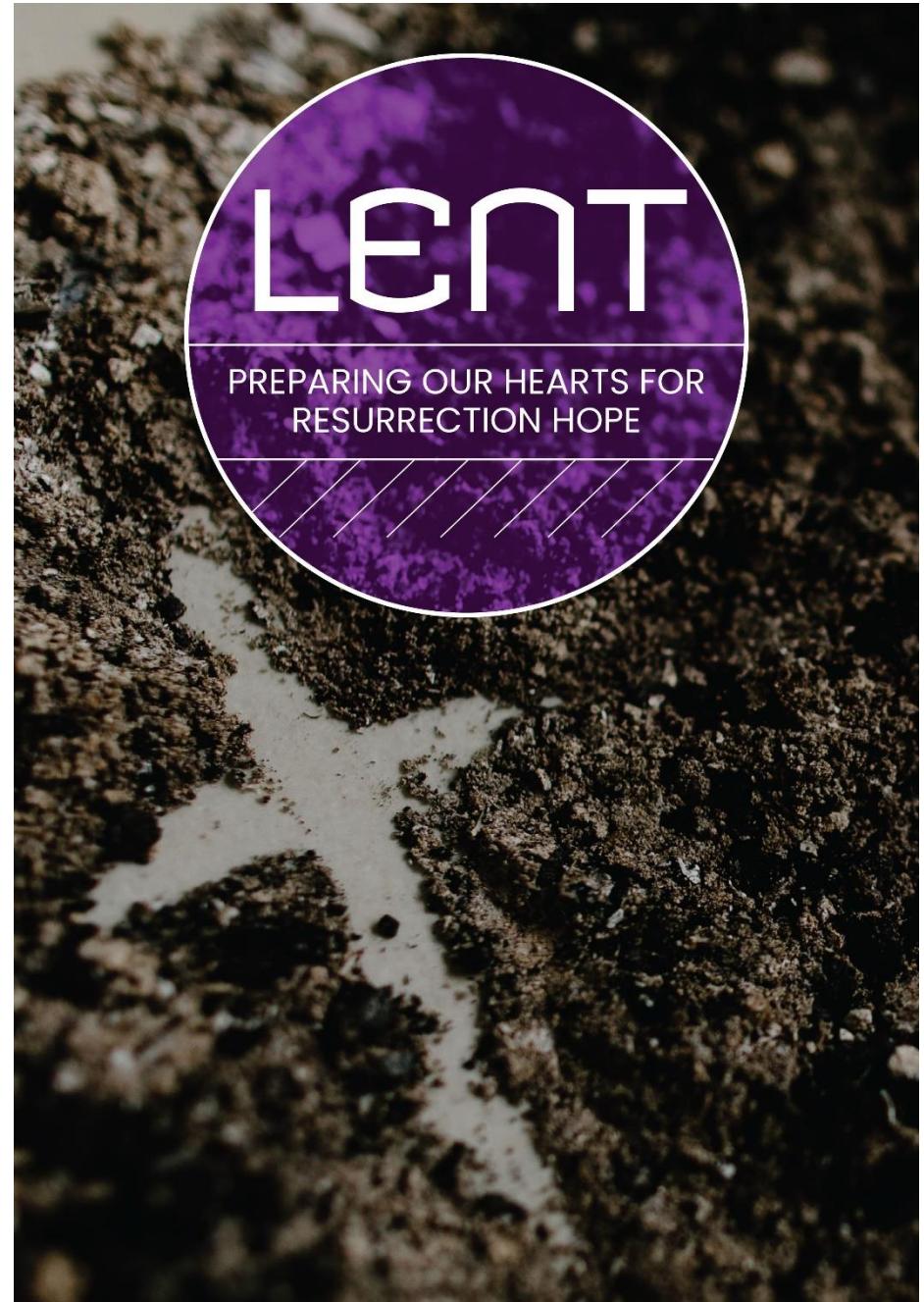
**All: We come, for God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.**

**Liturgist:** We take on the disciplines of Lent as acts of faithful resistance.

**All: We come to dream of a world renewed. We imagine a world at peace.**

**We lift our voices in praise.**

**\*Opening Hymn #433 Sign Us With Ashes**



## Church Contact Information

123 West Decatur Street / P.O. Box 125   Website [www.eatonfpc.org](http://www.eatonfpc.org)

Phone (937) 456-3754 Email [office@eatonfpc.org](mailto:office@eatonfpc.org) Office Hours 10-2, Mon.–Thurs.

Worship – Sunday's at 10:30am      Adult Sunday School starts at 9:30am

### Church Staff

**Pastor:** Rev. Annie Melick [pastorannie@eatonfpc.org](mailto:pastorannie@eatonfpc.org) (440)-308-7664

**Director of Youth Ministries:** Beth Pool [eatonfpcyouth@gmail.com](mailto:eatonfpcyouth@gmail.com) (937) 248-1671

**Office Administrator:** Ann Murray [office@eatonfpc.org](mailto:office@eatonfpc.org) (937) 336-0116

**Music Director:** Claudia Anderson (765) 977-1013

### Committees and Officers 2024

**Moderator of Session:** Pastor Annie Melick

**Clerk of Session:** Marie Hayes, [clerk@eatonfpc.org](mailto:clerk@eatonfpc.org)

#### **Finance and Congregational Care:**

\*Bill Clayton, Bill Brower, Mary Neavin, David Sikora

#### **Worship and Fellowship Committee:**

\*Connie Rutherford, Pat Anderson, Marie Hayes

#### **Christian Education and Mission Committee:**

\*Taylor Clabaugh, Kathy McCreary, Randy Wright, Riley Buehner, Michael Fomin

**Personnel Committee:** \*Randy Wright, Bill Clayton, Pat Anderson

**Presbytery Commissioners:** Kathy McCreary, Taylor Clabaugh, David Sikora, Coni Rutherford, Pat Anderson, Riley Buehner, Michael Fomin

**Nominating Committee:** \*Mary Neavin, Bill Brower

**Congregation Reps:** Jack Mann, Linda DeLuca

**Treasurer:** Doug Moore, [treasurer@eatonfpc.org](mailto:treasurer@eatonfpc.org)

**Financial Agent:** Anne Grim

\*Chairperson

## *First Presbyterian Church*



*February 18, 2026*

**Our Mission:**  
*Listening to God's call, following in the way of Jesus  
and serving neighbors through the Spirit.*

~Approved by Session November 2016



123 W. Decatur St., Eaton, Ohio 45320