



First Presbyterian Church

March 2026

THINK

¹⁹ You must understand this, my beloved brothers and sisters: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger, ²⁰ for human anger does not produce God's righteousness. (James 1:19)

This Sunday we talked about being peacemakers, beginning with having discipline to think before we speak or act of anger. I shared this helpful acronym for "think" to use in deciding whether to speak or not:

Is it true,
is it helpful,
is it inspiring,
is it necessary,
is it kind?

Friends, this is how the work of peacemaking begins. Be slow to anger and slow to speak. Pray for our enemies. Keep our eyes on Jesus. Take care of the ones Jesus blesses. Amen.

Peace ~
Rev. Annie Melick

MARCH

2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4 Messy Church 6:00pm Choir 7:30pm	5 Elizabeth Circle 6:30pm	6	7
8 Session meeting	9	10	11 Miriam Circle 10:00am Moms Group 10:00am Choir 7:00pm	12 Elizabeth Circle 6:30pm	13	14
15 Liturgy training following church	16	17	18 Choir 7:00pm	19 Elizabeth Circle 6:30pm	20	21
22 Sandwich Ministry following services	23	24	25 Choir 7:00pm	26 Elizabeth Circle 6:30pm	27	28 Easter Egg Hunt
29 Fundraiser Pancake breakfast following services	30	31 Choir practice 6:30pm - dress rehearsal				



1st	Braden Schmidt	17th	
2nd		18th	Tim Garber Don Pollock Jone Simpson Alaina Schaeffer
3rd	Jack Mann	19th	Tom Weaver
4th	Matt Shoemaker	20th	Jillian Ditmer
5th	Brad Neavin	21st	Aubrey Smith
6th		22nd	Josh Haynes
7th	Lois Morrow	23rd	
8th		24th	Doug Moore Jackie Wright
9th	Jim Shepherd Kelly Smith	25th	
10th	Sharon Kramer	26th	Tom Hypes
11th	Tonna Ditmer	27th	
12th		28th	
13th	Claudia Anderson Brian Wright	29th	Amber Fogle
14th	Luke Pool	30th	
15th			
16th	Beth Mickelson		

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Session
First Presbyterian Church, Eaton OH
January 11, 2026

The regular meeting of session was held in person in the church Gathering place following Sunday worship. A quorum was present. Pastor Annie opened the meeting with prayer at 12:04 P.M.

Members present: Bill Brower, Bill Clayton, David Sikora, Mary Neavin, Randy Wright, Taylor Clabaugh, Kathy McCreary, Coni Rutherford, Michael Fomin and Marie Hayes, Clerk. Also present was Rev Terry Kukuk, Executive Presbyter

Members excused: Pat Anderson and Riley Buehner

Members absent: None

Session demographics for 2026: Six men and Six women

Treasurer's Report: December treasurer's report was emailed prior to the meeting. **On motion** by Kathy McCreary and seconded by Mary Neavin to approve the treasurer's report as written.

Motion carried. There were questions on how to change the giving amount for automatic deductions. Someone will reach out to Doug Moore, treasurer, for help/answers to this question.

Approval of the Minutes: December session minutes and minutes of the Dec 21st Congregational meeting were emailed to session members prior to the meeting. **On motion** by Bill Brower and seconded by Kathy McCreary to approve the minutes as written. **Motion carried.**

Communications: Taylor Clabaugh and Kathy McCreary will attend the Zoom Presbytery meeting in February.

Report of the Moderator: Checked with committee chairs to make sure they have submitted their annual report to the clerk. Committee assignments are complete and committees should be scheduling their first meeting. New officer training for four Elders was held Sunday, January 4th after worship. Pastor Annie will have vacation time, April 6 – 12th.

Report of the Clerk: **On motion** to hold the annual congregational meeting on Sunday, January 18th, Motion carried. Session meetings in 2026 will be the 2nd Sunday of the month unless otherwise noted. We need to change April session meeting to April 19th as Pastor Annie will be on vacation on April 12th and change May's meeting to the 17th as May 11th is Mother's Day. **On motion** by David Sikora and seconded by Taylor Clabaugh to change the dates of April and May session meetings. **Motion carried.** Clerk, Marie Hayes has completed the 2025 statistical report. **On motion** by Mary Neavin and seconded by Bill Clayton to approve the 2025 statistical report. **Motion carried.**

January minutes continued:

Arrangements for the Lord's Supper: Approval of 2026 communion dates, typically the 2nd Sunday of the month. **On motion** by David Sikora and seconded by Bill Brower to approve the following 2026 communion dates; Jan 11th, Feb 8th, March 8th, April 2nd (Maundy Thursday), April 19th, May 17th, June 14th, July 12th, August 9th, Sept 13th, Oct 4th (World Communion Sunday), Nov 8th and Dec 13th. **Motion carried.**

Reports of the Permanent Committees:

Worship and Fellowship: The head usher calendar was passed around at the meeting to allow session members to choose four to five weeks to serve as head usher throughout the year. The Lord's Supper was celebrated on Sunday, Jan 11th. New Elders, Pat Anderson, Coni Rutherford, Riley Buehner and Michael Fomin were installed and ordained during Sunday worship on Jan 4th.

New Business and action items: **On motion** by Kathy McCreary and seconded by Taylor Clabaugh to elect Doug Moore as Treasurer and Marie Hayes as Clerk for 2026. **Motion carried.**

Presentation from Rev Terry Kukuk, Executive Presbyter on "Good Futures". This course empowers congregations to creatively use their church buildings and property to align money and mission.

Next Meeting: Sunday, February 8th; please read the 4th chapter in the Spiritual Leadership for Church Officers handbook for discussion at the meeting.

Adjournment and closing prayer: Session business having been concluded the meeting was adjourned with prayer by Pastor Annie at 1:30 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marie Hayes
Clerk of Session



**Liturgist Training
Sunday, March 15 after church**

New liturgists are invited to attend this training after church with Pastor Annie. It will take about 20 minutes once everyone is ready to start. Just come down front and be seated in the first pews facing the communion table.

Current liturgists are also encouraged to attend for a refresher and to go over anything that may have changed since the last time we did a training.

If anyone is interested in being a liturgist, please contact Pastor Annie for more information.

Worship Lent Series 2026 - The Work of Imagination

March 8, 2026. HOLY CONFRONTATION

Scripture: Matthew 15:21–28 & Numbers 27:1–11

Actor: “Woman” Taylor Clabaugh

Communion Sunday

March 15, 2026. HOLY CONFRONTATION

Scripture: Matthew 15:21–28 & Numbers 27:1–11

Actor: “Hired Hand” Shelley Moore

Choir: “Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)”

March 22, 2026. HOLY CONFRONTATION

Scripture: Matthew 15:21–28 & Numbers 27:1–11

Actor: “Coin Bearer” Jack Mann

March 29, 2026. Palm Sunday. SACRED PROTEST

Scripture: Matthew 21:1–17 & Galatians 6:1–16

Actor: “Resident” Tesha Smith

Choir: “Love of God” Solo: Ashleigh Mondello-Garrett



Messy Church

A FAMILY FOR ALL

WEDNESDAY MARCH 4TH 2026

EVERYONE IS WELCOME! DINNER
STARTS AT 6PM SERVICE TO FOLLOW
THEN CRAFTS! ENDS AT 7:30!

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Sandwich Ministry



Join us in the kitchen downstairs on the fourth Sunday of every month following our worship service to participate in our sandwich ministry. Following the sandwich assembly, we will hand out the sandwiches from our church. In the warmer months, we will extend our reach into the community... Stay tuned for more updates on this exciting & evolving ministry!

Plans are underway for our annual Easter egg hunt. We are asking for donations of candy and small fidget toys.

Egg hunt will be March 28th. Please have donations to the church by Sunday, March 22.

Watch for more information in the bulletin.



The Youth will have their annual pancake breakfast on Palm Sunday, March 29th, following the church service. This will be a fundraiser for their mission trip.

Following the delicious pancakes we will move on to our Mission project. We will be assembling raised garden planters as our mission project. The raised garden will be placed outside of our church along the courtyard sidewalk. This raised garden will be accessible for volunteers to help take care of our community garden throughout the growing season.

Prayer for our Springfield Neighbors

Check out this article about the situation in Springfield, Ohio. Covenant Presbyterian Church (one of the churches in our presbytery) is affected. Please pray for Covenant and their pastor, Rev. Jody Noble.

SPRINGFIELD, Ohio — Nearly a month after a federal judge's ruling stopped the termination of deportation protection for Haitian immigrants, many in Springfield, Ohio, still are holding their breath.

Temporary Protective Status (TPS) offers immigrants legal standing, worker permits and protection from deportation. It first was offered to Haitian immigrants living in the U.S. after the 2010 catastrophic earthquake that destroyed much of the capital city, Port-au-Prince, and other cities.

Though Temporary Protective Status still applies, federal authorities have appealed the decision, and TPS could be cut in a moment's notice. Bomb threats disrupted government offices, places of worship and advocacy centers a week after U.S. District Judge Ana Reyes' decision. The city remains on tenterhooks.

On Tuesday evening, the local NAACP hosted two members of the group's Legal Defense Fund. Emahunn Rahem Ali Campbell, assistant counsel, and Victor Dempsey, a community organizer, listened as community members expressed their fears.

Some people quoted in this story will not be named out of fear of reprisals.

Campbell said Department of Homeland Security officials have made it clear that as soon as TPS ends, Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers will immediately begin detention arrests.

"What needs to happen to protect our community members?" Dempsey asked. "When our kids are grandparents, will they tell the same stories we tell?"

Vehicles that resemble those used by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement are parked at local hotels. Suspicious visitors show up at homes. Neighbors watch out for neighbors. And it's not only the Haitian immigrants who are afraid to leave their house.

A woman said her neighbor's son won't walk to play basketball after school. Another said she knows people who won't attend community choir. Others won't go to work.

Community groups take food and other necessities to the homes of those afraid to go out. An NAACP member said he often works from home for fear of detention.

The immigrants' fear isn't simply detention or leaving a community in which they have settled. Their home country has been labeled as "Do Not Travel" by the U.S. State Department for six years. Gangs control 90% of the capital city, Port-au-Prince. A new government in place after several years still is not stable.

With their protection from deportation evaporating, thousands of Haitian families will face detention and expulsion to a home country ripped apart by violence and government collapse.

The Rev. Viles Dorsainvil said while strategy and organization is essential for the short term, the community needs to advocate for larger changes.

"Until we have a strong immigration policy, this will continue to happen," he said. "The immigration conversation in the U.S. is a vicious cycle. It never resolves."

Dorsainvil is executive director of the Haitian Community Help and Support Center.

The Rev. Adam Banks of First Baptist Church, Springfield, also spoke of changes needed for the future of the city. He is a part of the Amos Project, a social network securing help for the vulnerable in Ohio.

"We are together in this season," he said, "standing in solidarity with our Haitian neighbors, providing services. We are building safety and democracy, securing long-term investment in the Southside, loving our neighbor and our

Dorsainvil said support from the community provides untold help for the immigrant community.

“People outside of Springfield should know that Haitians families in Springfield still live with so much uncertainty,” Dorsainvil said. “Commuting is a serious issue since they can’t renew their driver license. Secondly, they are in need to pay for legal service, rent, utilities, et cetera.”

Many groups and organizations in Springfield “are mobilizing resources to support those families,” Dorsainvil said.

Embracing their Haitian neighbors hasn’t been linear, said the Rev. Jody Noble of Covenant Presbyterian Church.

“Like all cities, the people of Springfield have very different views about welcoming immigrants,” she said. “The city and her leaders have found ways to hold everyone together in these truly trying times.”

The faith community has been at the forefront of caring for neighbors.

“I believe in the power of prayer,” Noble said. “I invite our brothers and sisters in Christ to please pray for God to give our city and her leaders the wisdom and strength to all continue to hold together in the days to come.”

Kirkmont 2026

Beginner's Camp

June 7 – 10
Completed grades k – 3
\$430.

PYC Jr.
June 14-20
Completed grades 3-6
\$665.

PYC Camp
June 14-20
Completed grades 7-12
\$665.

Camp Rejoice
July 5-11
Completed grades 3-12
\$665.

You & Me Camp

July 11 – 12
Ages 3-17 with an Adult
\$160 per adult. \$60 Per child.



Messy Church

Olympics February 2026







Youth Ski Trip





Valentine Youth Fundraiser





Sandwich Ministry February 2026





Easter Lily 2026

Lily orders are due Sunday, March 22. Place order in offering plate or deliver to the church office. Please include Payment.

ORDER DEADLINE: Sunday, March 22, 2026

In memory / honor of: (circle one)

Total Plants \$20.00 X _____ = \$ _____

Please make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church, write Lily in the note line along with order form. Cash orders, please use envelopes marked Lily on the windowsills or on the Information Table.

Please pick up your plant after the Easter Sunday Service.

Your Name/phone number:

Questions please call: Ann Murray 937-336-0116 or 937-456-3754

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 of War

Sarah Gregg –Continuing cancer treatment, Cy Acheson's granddaughter

Cy Acheson - pray for strength and healing

Logan Eifort - stable but still needs prayers, Keith & Chris Jones grandson

Stacy Creech - prayers for breast cancer treatment, Margie's friend

Jack & Nancy Turner - recovering at home

Deb Tintsman - lymphoma, Molly Hurd's aunt

Ron Mickelson - recovering at home

Remember and Uphold:

Diane Kline - Vancrest

Alice Lindley

Our Shut-Ins at Home:

Marge Jordan, Julia Withrow, Zoe Barnes

For our Nation and those who serve

Church Members & Friends In The Service

Lt. Mac Altom/ U.S. Army

Jeremy Barnes/ Navy

Cameron Rife / U.S. Navy

Nicholas Rife / U.S. Navy

Laura Soper/ Air Force Reserve

Cliff Garey / Navy

Ryan Kiracofe / Air Force

Michael Richwald, Air Force National Guard

Zack Pool/ Air Force

Tanner Crabtree/ Army

Ryan Hall / Army

Grant Davis / Army Reserve

Richard (Alex) Trogdon/ Navy

Grace Wagner / Basic Training

Miguel Martinez/Army Reserve- Active

Justin McIntosh - Army National Guard

Addam Moore/ U.S. Marines

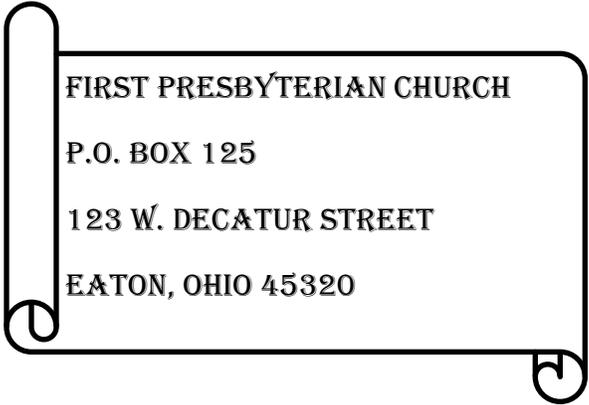
Brett Barnes / Navy

Drew Roach / Navy

Soldier's Prayer

Dear Lord, please bless our soldiers, protectors of our land. Servants called to battle when our country takes a stand. Our country's prayers are with them no matter where they roam. Please listen when they are lonely and return them safely home.

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



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
P.O. BOX 125
123 W. DECATUR STREET
EATON, OHIO 45320



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

Church Contact Information

123 West Decatur Street / P.O. Box 125 Website www.eatonfpc.org
Phone (937) 456-3754 Email office@eatonfpc.org Office Hours 10-2, Mon.-Thurs.
Worship - Sunday's at 10:30am

Church Staff

Pastor: Rev. Annie Melick pastorannie@eatonfpc.org (440)-308-7664
Director of Youth Ministries: Beth Pool eatonfpcyouth@gmail.com (937) 248-1671
Office Administrator: Ann Murray office@eatonfpc.org (937) 336-0116
Music Director: Claudia Anderson (765) 977-1013

Session Contacts

Moderator of Session: Pastor Annie Melick
Clerk of Session: Marie Hayes clerk@eatonfpc.org

Finance & Congregational Care: *Bill Clayton, Bill Brower, Mary Neavin, David Sikora

Worship & Fellowship Committee: *Coni Rutherford, Pat Anderson, Marie Hayes

Christian Education & 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, Riley Buehner, Michael Fomin

Nominating Committee: *Mary Neavin, Bill Brower,
Congregation Reps: Jack Mann, Linda DeLuca

Treasurer: Doug Moore, treasurer@eatonfpc.org
Financial Agent: Anne Grim

* Chairperson

Social Media Accounts
Website: www.eatonfpc.org
To Give On Line: www.eatonfpc.org, click Giving Tab
YouTube Channel: Eaton First Presbyterian Services
Facebook Page: Eaton First Presbyterian Church
Facebook Group: First Presbyterian Youth