

Happy Valentine Day



The First Presbyterian Church of Sharon, Pa.

Emphasis

FEBRUARY

2026

"The Front Door"

The Christmas decorations came down in my house about the middle of January. The tree came down. The outdoor wreaths and lights came down. The ornaments and angels and santas and snow globe all came down. They have gone into boxes for hibernation in the basement awaiting the next Christmas season. I don't do a lot of decorating. But the house still looks a little bare now.

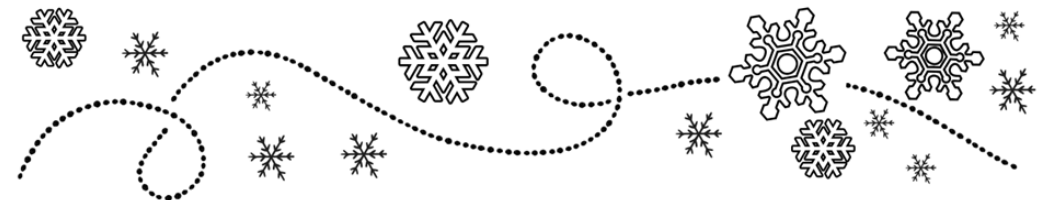
But there is one thing I haven't taken down yet. I still have about 30-40 Christmas cards taped to the outside of the pantry doors. I pass the doors when I go to my office or the front door. And when I walk by I see the beauty and the colors and the words of peace and joy and hope and the names of friends and family. They are good reminders of who I am and what I believe and the community of which I am a part. And that's a good thing. So I haven't taken them down yet.

Some Jewish homes have a mezuzah. A mezuzah is a small container placed in a front door post containing a scroll with the Shema written on it. The Shema is the center of Judaism. It is both a statement of faith and a prayer: "Hear O Israel, the Lord is our God, the Lord is One" ("Hear O Israel, the Lord is our God, the Lord only"). Placed in the doorpost it is to remind those in the house who they are and what they believe and the community of which they are a part when they leave and come home. It is a good thing.

It is a troubling time. It is easy to get caught in endless news cycles and feel overwhelmed with worry and fear. And while Christian faith calls us to work for the kingdom of God in our world, the world and the issues of the world are not what define us. Rather we are defined by what we believe and the way we choose to live and the community of which we are a part. It's good to be reminded of that regularly when we walk in and out our front door. I think I'll leave the Christmas cards up for a while.

"Think of us this way, as servants of Christ and stewards of God's mysteries."—I Cor. 4:1

—Glenn



February 2026 Preaching and Worship Schedule

- 1 Luke 7:18-23. Dr. Hink preaching. Minute for Mission: Book Network
8 Luke 19:41-48. Dr. Crooks preaching.
15 Scout Sunday. Luke 20:9-19. Dr. Hink preaching.
18 **Ash Wednesday. 7PM.**
22 1st Sunday of Lent. **Communion.** Exodus 20:1-6. Dr. Hink preaching.
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February Worship Notes

*1st Church welcomes Scouts from Troop 3 and their families to worship on Feb. 15th. Some of the Scouts will assist in worship. Troop 3 is the 1st Church Troop.

*The Church season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on Feb. 18. Lent is a 40-day season of reflection on sin and mortality in preparation for Holy Week and Easter. The Ash Wednesday service begins at 7PM, and is a quiet, reflective service including the ancient Church practice of imposition of ashes (for those who choose to receive that sign of repentance).

*During the season of Lent, Dr. Hink and Dr. Crooks will be preaching on the Ten Commandments from Exodus 20. The Commandments are a gift from God for a life lived well for a person and for a community.

A Look Ahead at Worship

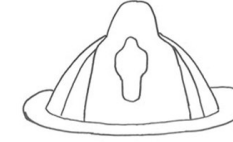
March 8—The normal worship style of 1st Church will change this Sunday to reflect a Taizé style (simple service, candles, sung prayer, periods of silence, scripture, brief sermon).

March 29—Palm Sunday. The season of Lent will conclude and Holy Week will begin with a special harp concert by harpist Kirk Kupensky. The concert will follow worship (12:30) and be shared in the intimacy of the chapel.

April 2—Maundy Thursday, 7PM. Communion. This powerful service will once again include the darkening of the sanctuary as the Passion Story is read.

April 5—Easter Sunday. Communion. We will celebrate the center of Christian faith, the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

MISSION TEAM PRAYER PROGRAM

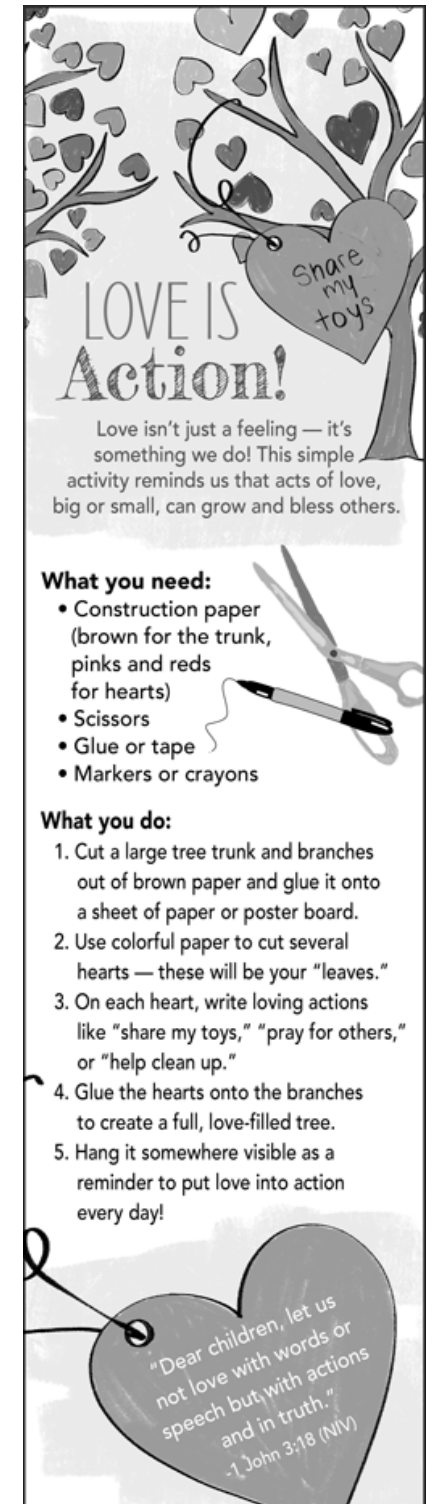


Sharon Police Department
February Adopt-a-Cop
Capt. Mark Hynes

Sharon Fire Department
February Adopt-a-Firefighter
Peircen Fenton



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|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Sarah Litman | 17 Virginia Reed |
| 2 Piper Raatz | 17 Brodie Miller |
| 3 Ann Malsom | 17 Kaylie Smoot |
| 4 Debbie Datchuk | 18 Jeff Goodridge |
| 5 Trent Litman | 18 Stephen Brown |
| 5 Doug Pyle | 18 Susan Szakacs |
| 5 Jessie Roberts | 18 Tracy Plyler |
| 5 Michele Esper | 20 Cassie Nespor |
| 5 Heath Miller | 21 Carol Rauch |
| 7 Catherine Woodings | 23 Park Lenhart |
| 9 Robyn Ruth | 23 Elizabeth Goodman |
| 11 Rhett Getway | 25 Marcia Moyer |
| 12 Alexis Sherba | 25 Julia Schmucker |
| 13 David Moyer | 26 Dr. Francisco Yao |
| 15 Wanda Marks | 26 Babs Quincy |
| 16 Tom Litman | 26 Kiara Wilson |
| 16 Mary Lou Sample | |



What you need:

- Construction paper (brown for the trunk, pinks and reds for hearts)
- Scissors
- Glue or tape
- Markers or crayons

What you do:

1. Cut a large tree trunk and branches out of brown paper and glue it onto a sheet of paper or poster board.
2. Use colorful paper to cut several hearts — these will be your “leaves.”
3. On each heart, write loving actions like “share my toys,” “pray for others,” or “help clean up.”
4. Glue the hearts onto the branches to create a full, love-filled tree.
5. Hang it somewhere visible as a reminder to put love into action every day!

Puzzle!

We see hearts everywhere and love sharing cards and greetings with friends and family.

Use the code to discover a special message from God — perfect for any day, any month.

CODE:



Jeremiah 31:3



Ridgewood 724-347-0998

One Elston Way,
Hermitage, PA 16148
Gail Hink, 206

Gables Care Center

351 Lahm Dr, Hopedale, OH 43976

Betty Hudson



February SPECIAL DATES

Black History Month
Groundhog Day, February 2
Valentine's Day, February 14
Presidents Day, February 16
Ash Wednesday, February 18

Membership Discussion



Dr. Hink will be leading a discussion on church membership on Sunday, February 22nd, 10:00-10:45AM. Everyone who has been visiting 1st Church is welcome to this discussion. The discussion will include a brief overview of 1st Church history, church organization, key Presbyterian theology, and the process of becoming a member. There will also be time for any questions people might have. If you are interested in participating in the class, please contact Nancy in the church office (724-981-2211 ext. 1, or nancy.fritz@1stpcs.org) so appropriate arrangements can be made.

ADULT Sunday School

The Bible is the “library” of the Christian faith. It is a collection of different books written at different times in different circumstances that reflect on the mystery of God. The Bible is not easy, but it is fascinating. It invites questions and pondering. And often it invites those who read it to discover something new about the text, God, or life.

An adult Sunday School class meets from 10:00-10:45AM in Fellowship Hall at 1st Church. The class is led by Dr. Hink and Dr. Crooks. The class is currently studying the 8th C Old Testament prophets Amos, Hosea, Isaiah 1-39, and Micah. These prophets dared to speak truth to the political powers of their day and addressed the dynamic situation of their historic contexts. And in many ways, they still speak truth to power and address the dynamic situation of this day. Everyone is welcome.



Church Attendance for December 2025

2024		2025	Online	
1st	95	7th	100	79 views
8th	95	14th	69	119 views
15th	65	21st	100	77 views
22nd	80	24th	205	94/73 views
24th	215	28th	62	105 views
29th	67		536	474 views
	617	39%	40%	

Financial Giving News
December 2025

Operations Budget		Mission Budget	
1st Sunday	3,520.14	1st Sunday	525.00
2nd Sunday	2,909.14	2nd Sunday	155.00
3rd Sunday	5,396.14	3rd Sunday	240.00
4th Sunday	3,653.63	4th Sunday	930.00
Total for December		Total for December	1,850.00
Budget for December		Budget for December	1,385.50
Balance for December		Balance for December	464.50
Total for Year to Date		Total for Year to Date	22,377.50
Budget for Year to Date		Budget for Year to Date	16,626.00
Balance for Yr to Date		Balance for Yr to Date	5,751.50

Mission Corner

“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters, you did for me.”—Mathew 25:40

Update!

PW coordinated the Sharon Pantry Drive and the Blessing Bags were filled in January. Mission Committee applauds this outreach!

Our new Mission Committee budget and financials are available at any time to any member.

What’s coming up?

Our book drive has been re-named the “Trent Litman Akron Children’s Hospital Book Network”. NEW books will be collected in February.

A Fundraising Luncheon for the Youth Mission Trip is scheduled for March 22nd. Support our Youth!!!

How Can I Help?

Bring in a new book(s) for the Book Drive.

Read about Blessing Bags on Dorothy’s Bulletin Board.

Adopt-A-Firefighter program - Pray for our firefighters.

Outside Opportunities!

Jim Leuenberger (long-time FPC friend) is a missionary in Sudan. If you are interested in a more direct connection with Sudan, you can be included through an email connection.



TRENT LITMAN'S BOOK DRIVE FOR AKRON CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

In 1998, Read Across America Day was established to honor Dr. Seuss. It celebrates the betterment of education and the joy of reading. This special day always falls on Dr. Seuss's birthday March 2nd.

As Schools across America celebrate this day, Trent Litman couldn't help but feel bad for those children that missed out on the celebrations because they were hospitalized.

To date, Trent has been able to deliver almost 1,800 books to Akron Children's Hospital that were donated by members of First Presbyterian Church! March of 2025 was Trent's fourth and final year of this program he penned The Book Network. But never fear, as that is not the end of this story.

The Mission Team is proud to announce that it will take over this wildly popular mission in Trent's honor. The hospital has even started a program where people dress as book characters, come in on Read Across America Day and read to the patients....all due to Trent's mission.

In February there will be a box outside of the Sanctuary for donations and it will remain there until February 25th. The Hospital asks for newly purchased books with the age range from 0 – 18. It wouldn't hurt to include a few books for parents who also may be spending a lot of time at the hospital with their children.

If you would like to make a monetary donation, just make sure to include a note so office staff know where to direct the funds. Members of the mission team will purchase books on your behalf.

Trent and The Mission Team would like to thank you in advance for your support!



REMINDER!

Sunday February 1, 2026, 5:00 PM

Chili & Soup Cook-off.



A new Bible study group, Five O'clock Somewhere, will be meeting at 5:00 pm on February 10 and 17 as a home study. Our study will begin on the book: *For Such A Time As This: An Emergency Devotional* by Hanna Reichel. The book can be purchased on Amazon. If you don't want to purchase the book, we can share. Location to be decided. If you would like more information and to sign up, call or text Debbie Derrenbacher at 724/866-1588.



Stop, Look and Lis-

ten

Why should we observe Lent?

We observe Lent because it causes us to STOP. Lent says, "Stop and rest awhile." Lent says, "Stop doing wrong."

We observe Lent because it tells us to LOOK. Look inward for an honest self-examination. Look upward to see the cross of Christ with healing and love. Look forward to the hope of the Resurrection.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 12:30 PM Carillon Choir Practice-206 5:00 Chili and Soup Cook-Off-FH	2 6:00 Scouts 7:00 SVC Rehearsal-FH	3 11:30 Memorial Committee-106	4 7:00 Men's Fellowship-Panera 1:00 Staff Mtg.-106	5	6	7
8 10:00 D&M-Library 12:00 Worship Team-Parlor 12:00 Mission Team-FH 12:00 Deacons-106	9 6:00 Scouts 7:00 SVC Rehearsal-FH	10	11 12:00 Mary Martha Circle-FH 1:00 Program Staff-CR	12	13	14 
15 Scout Sunday 6:00 Session-206 6:00 Poetry Prose and Pastry-Library	16 6:00 Scouts 7:00 SVC Rehearsal-FH	17	18 7:00 Men's Fellowship-Panera 1:00 Staff Mtg.-106 7:00 	19	20	21 10:00 SVC Board-206
22 1st Sunday of Lent	23	24 6:00 Amateur Radio-FH	25	26	27	28
				Sunday Worship @ 1st 9:00 Choir Practice-303 10:00 Adult Sunday School Class-FH 11:00 Worship in the Sanctuary 12:00 Fellowship @ 1st in the Library FH=Fellowship Hall CR=Conference Room		