



Once again we have the opportunity of furnishing flowers for our Easter morning worship service, April 5th. We have been offered the following wholesale prices. We are using a different florist, so some of the choices may not be the same as in previous years. If you would like to place an order, please complete the form and attach your check made payable to “First Presbyterian Church” with the notation “Easter Flowers” marked in the corner. You can order by mailing your request in or dropping your request in the offering plate. Flowers will be available for you to take home following the 11:00 AM service on Easter Sunday. The deadline for ordering is Sunday, March 16th.

Lilies	\$14.00 each	_____
Hyacinths	\$13.00 each	_____
Daffodils	\$13.00 each	_____
Tulips	\$13.00 each	_____

I would like to furnish _____ plants for Easter.

IN MEMORY OF

_____ Or _____

IN HONOR OF

_____ I wish to take my flower(s) after worship (Circle one) Yes No
Check attached Yes No

Signed _____

As you wish to appear in bulletin
ALL FLOWERS TO BE DELIVERED
MAY BE DONE BY DONOR.



The First Presbyterian Church of Sharon, Pa.

E m p h a s i s

March 2026

Real (?) and Human Real

I was listening to music on my I-Phone a couple nights ago. Usually, I get it started with something like “Harvest Moon” by Neil Young, and then the algorithm of the You Tube program will pick songs that are similar. And so it did, one song after another.

And then it played a song I had never heard before. And I really liked it. It is called “Ashes and Steel” by singer Chris Stapleton. I listened to it a few times. I loved the country and blues sound. I liked Chris Stapleton’s vocals. And the lyrics were thoughtful and deep poetry. As I listened, I thought “Ashes and Steel” would be a great illustration for Lent.

So, the next day I went to work on the song. I wanted to print out the lyrics so I could reflect on them and pick a few for this article. But I couldn’t find just the lyrics online. I looked everywhere. No lyrics. There was the You Tube video with lyrics. But no plain old lyrics. So, I thought maybe the song was so new that no one had posted the lyrics on the internet yet (but I knew that was hardly possible).

Doing a little more work online, I discovered that the song wasn’t by Chris Stapleton at all. It was Artificial Intelligence generated. AI generated the country/blues sound of Chris Stapleton. It had the strong vocals of Chris Stapleton. It had the thoughtful real life and real faith lyrics of Chris Stapleton that sounded like poetry. It even had videos of Chris Stapleton singing while the song played. But it was AI! Needless to say, I was very disappointed. I really liked the song. But it just didn’t seem “real.”

“Real?” So, I did a little “Lenten pondering” about that. On the one hand the song is real. You can go to You Tube and play it. But on the other hand, it just didn’t seem real to me because it didn’t come from human experience and reflection and creativity. AI just copied and put together a massive amount of information to make the song.

“Real?” So, I remembered the book *The Velveteen Rabbit* by Margery Williams. In the story the Velveteen Rabbit asks the wise old Skin Horse what it means to be real. The Skin Horse replies, “Real isn’t how you are made. It’s a thing that happens to you. When a child loves you for a long, long time—not just to play with, but REALLY loves you—then you become Real.” I think there’s some good wisdom there. Real isn’t about how you’re made (like an AI generated song). Rather “real” is about human experiences and relationship and love (which the song did not have).

There are a lot of things that masquerade as “real.” “Ashes and Steel” fooled me for a while. But in the end, I believe the greater truth is in the wisdom of the Skin Horse. “Real” is a human thing we experience in relationships of love. And maybe that’s something to ponder during Lent.

—The “Real” Glenn

March 2026 Preaching and Worship Schedule

- 1
- 2nd Sunday of Lent. Exodus 20:7-11. Dr. Hink preaching.
- 8
- 3rd Sunday of Lent. Taizé style of worship. Exodus 20: 12-13. Dr. Hink preaching.
- 15
- 4th Sunday of Lent. Exodus 20:14-15. Dr. Crooks preaching.
- 22
- 5th Sunday of Lent. Exodus 20:16-17. Dr. Hink preaching.
- 29
- Palm/Passion Sunday. Isaiah 50:4-9a, Matthew 26:47-56. Dr. Hink preaching.

March Worship Notes

*The Season of Lent is a 40-day period in the Church calendar that invites us to slow down and reflect on our lives and our faith before Holy Week and Easter. More specifically, Lent invites us to ponder our sin and mortality, discovering once again our dependence on God’s grace and power revealed in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

*During the Season of Lent, Dr. Hink and Dr. Crooks will be preaching on the Ten Commandments. Knowing and living according to the Commandments is a central part of both Jewish and Christian faith.

*Worship at 1st Church will change on the 3rd Sunday of Lent, March 8th. Worship on that Sunday will reflect more a “Taizé” style. Taizé is a quiet, reflective style of worship that includes scripture, sung prayers, candles, and silence. It invites worshippers to quietly reflect on their lives and their faith and wait upon God.

*Holy Week begins on March 29th with Palm/Passion Sunday. It then moves on to Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday. Maundy Thursday worship (7:00PM) includes communion and the darkening of the sanctuary as the Passion Story is read. This is a powerful and moving service. Easter Sunday celebrates the resurrection of Christ with flowers, beautiful music, and communion.

Puzzle!

HOW'S THE WEATHER?

Use the code below to fill in these forecasts in places where Jesus traveled:

CODE:

A=☺	D=❄	H=❁	M=☆	P=◆	T=■	W=☒
B=●	E=✦	I=✱	N=↑	R=●	U=☐	Y=☞
C=☼	G=✱	L=★	O=↓	S=○	V=☒	Z=☞

Mt. Hermon

○↑↓☒

Jericho

❄↓■

Jerusalem

☆✱★❄

Dead Sea Area

■●↓◆✱☼☺★❄✦☺■

Sea of Galilee

✱☐○■☞☒✱↑❄○

Mediterranean Coast

●✦✦☞☞

Answers: snow, hot, mild, tropical heat, gusty winds, breezy

FRUIT PALM TREES

These cheerful “palm trees” make a bright reminder of the celebration that greeted Jesus as he entered Jerusalem.

What you need:

- Bananas (for the tree trunks)
- Kiwis or green grapes (for the palm leaves)
- Mandarin oranges (for the ground)

What you do:

1. Slice bananas in half lengthwise and place vertically on a plate.
2. Arrange kiwi slices or grapes at the top to form palm fronds.
3. Add oranges at the base.
4. Serve immediately or chill until ready to serve.

Scripture Tie-In:

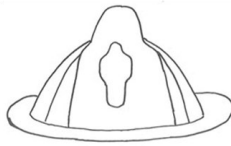
“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”

—Matthew 21:9 (NIV)

MISSION TEAM PRAYER PROGRAM



Sharon Police Department
March Adopt-a-Cop
Capt. Mark Adamo



Sharon Fire Department
March Adopt-a-Firefighter
Brian Friesen



Edward McCullough
December 26, 2025

Donna L. Moore
February 2, 2026

Dorothy (Dottie) Bieber
February 11, 2026



Ridgewood 724-347-0998
One Elston Way,
Hermitage, PA 16148
Gail Hink, 206
Gables Care Center
351 Lahm Dr, Hopedale, OH43976
Betty Hudson



- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Lyle Derrenbacher | 15 Jeff Pisano |
| 4 Joe Dillinger | 15 Jack O'Donnell |
| 4 Patricia Puntureri | 16 Dan Getway |
| 5 Jack O'Donnell | 18 John Ackley |
| 6 Carter Jones | 18 Robbie Smith |
| 7 Sarah Sowers | 20 Mary Lou Dunlap |
| 7 Kyle Lindey | 25 Steve Carlson |
| 13 Thalia Heiges | 28 Suellen Thompson |
| 14 Diane Shardy | 30 Brenda Hall |
| 15 Susan McKinney | |

March SPECIAL DATES

- ♦ World Day of Prayer, *March 6*
- ♦ Daylight saving time begins, *March 8*
- ♦ St. Patrick's Day, *March 17*
- ♦ First day of spring, *March 20*
- ♦ Holy Week, *March 29-April 5*
- ♦ Palm/Passion Sunday, *March 29*



So, who are the Old Testament prophets and what is their message? The prophets are not easy. But once we begin to understand their context and the basic themes of their messages, they become fascinating. And Jesus also made the prophets a part of his message and life. In fact, Jesus may have understood himself as a type of "apocalyptic/end times prophet and Messiah."

Dr. Hink and Dr. Crooks will continue the Sunday School series on the Old Testament prophets. The class meets in Fellowship Hall each Sunday from 10:00-10:45AM. Come and discover the timeless message of the prophets, and how that message became part of Jesus message and life. Everyone is welcome.



Are you interested in finding out more about becoming a member of 1st Church? Do you wonder about the history of 1st Church? Are you curious about the vision and staffing of 1st Church? Do you wonder about Presbyterian theology and how it is both similar and different than other Christian denominations? Would you like to ask questions about a ministry or the building or the stained-glass windows? If you have been visiting 1st Church and wonder about such things, then a discussion about joining 1st Church may be for you.

Due to busy schedules, the membership class scheduled for February has been moved to mid-spring (late March or mid-April). If you are interested in the class, or would like to find out more about it, contact Nancy in the Church Office. Once Dr. Hink knows some people are interested, he will schedule a class.



Church Attendance for January 2025				
2025		2026		Online
5th	77	4th	77	74 views
12th	85	11th	86	84 views
19th	74	18th	68	131 views
26th	<u>72</u>	25th	<u>0</u>	0 views
	308		231	
	29%		32%	

Financial Giving News
January 2026

Operations Budget		Mission Budget	
1st Sunday	2,193.38	1st Sunday	571.00
2nd Sunday	2,272.36	2nd Sunday	148.50
3rd Sunday	2,267.87	3rd Sunday	128.50
4th Sunday	3,085.87	4th Sunday	273.50
Total for January		Total for January	1,121.50
Budget for January	15,718.42	Budget for January	1,333.33
Balance for January	(5,898.94)	Balance for January	(211.83)
Total for Year to Date		Total for Year to Date	1,121.50
Budget for Year to Date	15,718.42	Budget for Year to Date	1,333.33
Balance for Yr to Date	(5,898.94)	Balance for Yr to Date	(211.83)

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!

- ♦ The Book Network ends with delivery scheduled in early March to Akron Children’s Hospital.
- ♦ One of our Firefighters had an accident on the job. We give thanks his injuries were not life-threatening.
- ♦ Corner Box Ministries quietly continues to provide educational supplies to children with limited access.

What’s Coming Up?

- ♦ Turkey & Fixin’s are coming up! Please note the article.
- ♦ Frontlawners are gearing up for the spring mowing of our Lots of Love.
- ♦ The Blue Coats Team will soon complete their work as we approach the spring thaw. It was a good winter for us to share!
- ♦ Education is the cornerstone of Mission. An event is in the works.

How Can I Help?

- ♦ You already have! Thank you for your generous pledge for 2026.
- ♦ Support our Youth! Their mission adventure starts July 26, 2026.
- ♦ Join the mission-minded people of FPC. Be a vessel of the love of Jesus Christ!

Outside Opportunities!

Meals On Wheels is a mission the First Presbyterian Mission Committee already supports financially. They always need “boots on the ground.”

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Presbyterian Women wish to extend their thanks to the members and friends of First Church for their support of the Sharon Schools Pantry Non-Food Drive. Thank you for the following items which have been delivered to Sharon High School Pantry for distribution where needed. Included were monetary donations that were used to purchase other needed items.

- 83+ hats

89+ gloves

9 T-shirts

204 Toothbrushes

56 pairs of socks

45 Toothpaste

7 cards of hair ties

12 Chapstick

1 Mouthwash

1 bottle of laundry detergent
- 31 deodorants

26 underpants

8 bottles of hand gel

24 packages of tissues

3 razors

4 packages of feminine pads

1 bodywash

10 flosses

3 packages of wipes

Looking Ahead—Mark your calendars for these events:
Sunday, May 31, 2026—PW Spring Tea
Saturday, November 7, 2026—PW Holiday Sale

“Just Like Thanksgiving” Turkey Luncheon
Save The Date—March 22nd 12:00 Noon

Menu: Turkey, Stuffing, Potatoes, Gravy, Vegetable,
Choice of Cole Slaw or Cranberry Salad, Dessert, and Drink.

Youth On A Mission! We are asking all 1st Presbyterian members to support our Summer Youth Mission Trip. To raise money for this venture, our youth will be providing a luncheon on March 22nd at noon. This luncheon is coordinated by Lynn Pyle, cooked by Chef Beth Pyle, served by the Youth Participants and Parents and Grandparents.

The Youth Mission Trip is scheduled for July 26, 2026. There will be a total of 9 participants (3 chaperones) driving to Niagara Falls, New York, to participate with an organization called Youthworks. Our group will remain together and work alongside other Christian youth from other churches. Youthworks was established in 1994 to meet ongoing needs. Activities include home repair projects, beautification projects, food distribution, and activity at a community center—all supervised by the Youthworks staff.

There is a request for a \$15.00 donation per meal. All \$15.00 will go toward the Youth Trip. Donations accepted. Take-out available after the meal.



Ministry Through Technology

It is a different day. And some change has happened fast. Technology has become a part of the ministry at 1st Church. Through technology, 1st Church reaches out and connects with many more people.

All Sunday morning worship services are produced online on the 1st Church YouTube Channel. Every Sunday over 100 people choose to share in worship online. Some watch it live. Others watch it later at a more convenient time. We are thankful for the wonderful and professional job our techs do in producing worship online.

1st Church also has an active Facebook Page. The Page has the most current information and pictures about what’s happening at 1st Church. Check it out.

1st Church is also getting a new website. For 15+ years, the current website has served 1st Church well. There you can find contact information, sermons, and past publications of the 1st Church newsletter, “Emphasis.” Look for the new 1st Church website this spring.

Faith and Perspective

A Christian is the keyhole through which other folks see God.
—Robert E. Gibson

You are as young as your faith, as old as your doubt; as young as your self-confidence, as old as your fear; as young as your hope, as old as your despair.
—Samuel Ullman

Faith is to believe what we do not see; and the reward of this faith is to see what we believe.
—St. Augustine

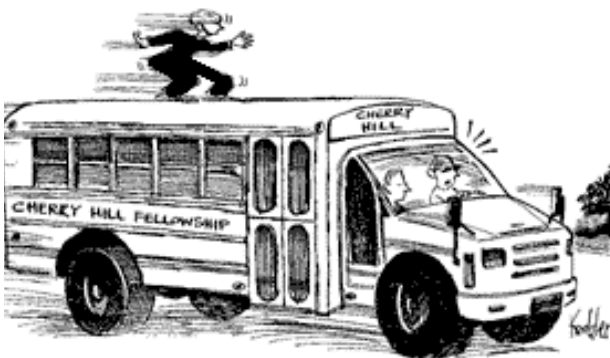
What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us.
—Ralph Waldo Emerson

The only trouble with Easter coming soon is that we have to walk through a graveyard to get there.
—Barbara Brown Taylor



Reverend Rolland has a real small church.

March Merriment



"I really don't think our membership requirements should be modeled after Reality TV!"

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 2nd Sunday in Lent After lunch at 1st- Snow tubing 12:30 Carillon Choir- 206	2 6:00 Scouts 7:00 SVC-FH	3	4 7:00 Men's Fellow- ship-Panera 1:00 Staff-106	5	6	7 
8 3rd Sunday in Lent 10:00 D&M-Library 12:00 Deacons-106 12:00 Worship Team- Parlor 12:00 Mission Team-FH 12:30 Carillon Choir-206	9 5:00 Presbytery Operation Team- CR 6:00 Scouts 7:00 SVC-FH	10	11 12:00 Mary/Martha Circle-FH 1:00 Program Staff- CR	12	13	14
15 4th Sunday in Lent 12:30 Carillon Choir- 206 6:00 Session Meeting- 206	16 6:00 Scouts 7:00 SVC-FH	17 	18 7:00 Men's Fellow- ship-Panera 1:00 Staff-106 6:00 Property Team -106	19	20 	21 10:00 SVC Board -206
22 5th Sunday in Lent Luncheon in FH 12:30 Carillon Choir- 206	23 6:00 Scouts 6:00 Flow Mtg.- Library 7:00 SVC-FH	24 6:00 Amateur Radio -FH	25	26	27	28
29 6th Sunday in Lent 12:30 Harp recital- Chapel 12:30 Carillon Choir- 206	30 7:00 SVC-FH	31		Sunday Worship @ 1st 9:00 Choir Practice-303 10:00 Adult Sunday School-FH 11:00 Worship in the Sanctuary 12:00 Fellowship@1st in the Library FH=Fellowship Hall CR=Conference Room		