

## **Connect and Serve**

*Please see the website ([firstpreswc.com](http://firstpreswc.com)) for a complete list of programs and ways to connect.*

### **In Memoriam**

Fay R. Leary

*Member of First Presbyterian Church*

*April 10, 1952 – March 16, 2025*

Our sympathy and prayers are with her family and friends.

**The Rosebuds** are to the glory of God and in honor of the births of Lachlan Coast Turner, born December 23, 2025, child of Bailey Claeys and Bailey Turner, and grandchild of Brian and Julie Claeys and of Caroline Jean Sellers, born January 14, 2026, child of Samantha and Jeremy Sellers, and grandchild of Gail Rader.

**Offices Closed** – please note that the church offices will be closed on Monday, January 19, in recognition of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. federal holiday.

**Lenten Dinner Groups at First Pres** - There may be no better way to get to know someone than over a shared meal. We are looking for hosts to open their homes for our Lenten Dinner Group Gatherings, which will take place in late February and March. You'll pick the date and time, provide the main dish and your home, and then FPC members can sign up to attend and bring a dish to share. Your dinner group can be a simple supper, a fancy spread, just appetizers, desserts, delivered pizzas, it is up to you! And you also choose how many people you'd like to host. The hope is to have lots of us mix and mingle with one another in many homes throughout the Lenten season. If interested in hosting, please sign up via the church website Sign-Up tab.

**January Parents Night Out** - Attention all parents! You are invited to a fun, relaxing evening out on Friday, January 23 at the home of Diane and Brett Damadio. We'll be gathering from 6-8 pm for light food, drinks and time together. We love our kids but this is a parent-only event (let us know if you need some babysitters!). RSVPs are appreciated through the Sign-up tab of the church's website or reach out to Diane at [diane.damadio@gmail.com](mailto:diane.damadio@gmail.com).

**Red Cross Blood Drive** - First Pres will be hosting a Red Cross Blood Drive on Friday, January 30, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. Find more details in this past week's Wednesday E-News.

**First Pres Travelers March Trip** - First Pres Travelers has a trip planned to a Murder Mystery Dinner (noon) on Tuesday, March 3rd, at the Mount Hope Estate & Winery in Lancaster County. For more information, please contact Thom and Irene Clapper at [psuthom@verizon.net](mailto:psuthom@verizon.net).

**2026 Women's Retreat** - All women of First Pres are invited to a one-day Women's Retreat on Saturday, February 28 at Downingtown Country Club. Our theme of "In the Sanctuary of Women" will guide us through a day of learning, fellowship, fun and worship. More information and the sign-up page can be found on the Sign-up tab of the church's website; click on "Women's Retreat." Please sign up by February 15. Talk to Pastor Caroline or Sara Pantazes with any questions.

**Youth Retreat** - We're so excited to be going back to Gretna Glen for our Winter Refresh retreat February 20-22. Winter Refresh is for both Middle and High School, and we can't wait for another awesome retreat together. Registration is open and filling up fast, so don't miss out! Go to the Sign-Up tab on the church website to register.

**Blanket the World with Love, Warmth and Faith** - Presbyterian Women are hosting our 3rd Annual Souper Bowl Sale to benefit Church World Service's Blanket Sunday Event on Sunday, February 8.

From something as simple as a blanket, amazing things can happen. CWS Blankets are all about sharing love through a simple act of kindness. A blanket can be a suitcase, a pillow, a bed, a tote, and a curtain in a tent for privacy. A blanket can also provide warmth in a refugee camp or for someone who has experienced a natural disaster

During coffee hour, we will be asking for a donation of \$15.00 for a quart of one of three soups - Chicken Soup, Turkey Chili and Spinach Tortellini. Payments can be cash or check made out to First Presbyterian Church (cards and Venmo can't be accepted). You can also support CWS by giving a donation to our bake table. CWS can buy a blanket for as little as \$10.

Please support us by doing an amazing show of Love, Warmth and Faith. Your act of kindness will give hope to people who have lost everything.

**First Presbyterian Church of West Chester**

**January 18, 2026**



### **Order of Worship for the Second Sunday after Epiphany**

*\*Please rise in body or spirit*

Prelude 1<sup>st</sup> Movement from Horn Concerto No. 2

W. A. Mozart

Call to Worship\*

Sing aloud with gladness:

**God is gathering his people.**

From the farthest parts of the earth we come:  
**All who struggle, and all who seek new life.**

The lost are given a path home;  
**Let us worship the God who welcomes us.**

Hymn 757\* Today We All Are Called to be Disciples

Welcome

Moment for Ministry – Women's Retreat

Prayer of Confession

**Holy and loving God,  
we come before you and one another  
to confess that we too often  
choose shadow instead of light.  
We claim to follow you,  
even as we neglect to do your will.  
(con't)**

We harden our hearts, seek idols,  
and fail to live as you invite us to.  
Today we surrender to you our fears,  
our vain ambitions, our pride and apathy.  
Forgive the pain we have inflicted on others,  
and restore your light in our souls and our lives.  
Renew a right spirit within us.  
Through Christ our Savior we ask this. Amen.

#### Assurance of Forgiveness

The light came into the world not to condemn,  
but to save us.

**Epiphany is good news for all who seek God.**

In Christ's name, our sins are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

#### Response\*

**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. Amen.**

#### Passing the Peace\*

#### Children's Message

*During the singing of the following response, children may join their teachers for Sunday School. Families can pick up their children after the service in their classrooms on the 2nd floor.*

Response      God of Great and God of Small      Hymn 19

Special Music      Amazing Grace      arr. Tim Curd

First Scripture Reading      Isaiah 42:1-9      OT p. 670

Anthem      Jacobs's Ladder      Daniel Kallman

Prayers of the People and The Lord's 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.**

#### Invitation to the Offering

Offertory      Nocturno      Franz Strauss

#### Doxology and Prayer of Dedication\*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Hymn 279\*      Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove

Second Scripture Reading      John 1:29-34      NT p. 92

Sermon      *The Mystery Made Known*  
Rev. Andrew Esqueda

Hymn 451\*      Open My Eyes, That I May See

#### Blessing\*

Postlude      Placare, Christe, servul is      Marcel Dupre

*Assisting in worship today:  
Ellie O'Hare-Goman, French horn  
The Chancel Choir*

*All are welcome in worship. We are a community of people of all ages who cry, vocalize, stim, fuss, stand, sit, and come and go as needed. The sounds of people are the joyful noise of God's creation.*

*Audio amplifiers are in a basket at the back of the sanctuary. There are also screens in Fellowship Hall that stream the service if you need to step out.*

*The nursery is available for children ages 0-3 years. Please ask a greeter if you would like additional information about Sunday School or children's programming.*

**Stewardship** - We are in our final stretches of meeting our budget for 2026. We give thanks for your generosity, and a huge thank you to all that have already pledged. If you have not pledged yet, or maybe you've never pledged before, your generosity will greatly benefit the ministries of our church as we seek to follow Christ in the world. Stewardship is one of our practices of faith and we invite you to join us in this practice this year and in the years to come.

You can pledge by going online, filling out a pledge card, or by scanning the QR code below:



*First Presbyterian Church Staff*  
**Rev. Andrew Esqueda**, Senior Pastor  
**Rev. Caroline Cupp**, Senior Associate Pastor  
**Sándor Kádár**, Director of Music  
**Sara Pantazes**, Director of Faith Formation  
**Nathan Preuhs**, Director of Youth Ministry  
**Elizabeth Hess**, Director of Engagement  
**Ann Ellis**, Choir Accompanist  
**Kiana Rivera**, Lead Singer, Contemporary Band  
**Jennifer Rosenberg**, Preschool Director  
**Greg Ondo**, AV Tech  
**Claire Kramer**, Office Administrator  
**Peter Galloway**, Director of Operations  
**Sara Ford**, Facilities Manager

*Emails at [firstpreswc.com/staff](http://firstpreswc.com/staff)*