

## **Connect and Serve**

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

**Valentine's Cards** - We want to send some love to our homebound members and other special friends of First Pres. Today in Fellowship Hall you'll find the cards on tables by the Chapel. Please take a moment to sign your name and/or a short note. "...God is love." 1 John 4:8

**February Mom's Group Today** - Moms of babies to high schoolers are welcome to join us today, Sunday, February 1st from 4:00 to 5:30 pm at the church. We will be putting together Valentine's Day goodie bags for Wednesday lunch friends along with our usual sharing and hanging out together. Childcare will be provided. Any questions? Contact Mary Hambleton ([emham@verizon.net](mailto:emham@verizon.net)) or Liz Single ([lizsingle@gmail.com](mailto:lizsingle@gmail.com)).

**Lenten Dinner Groups at First Pres** - There may be no better way to get to know someone then 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.

**February School's Off Day Camp** - First Pres is offering a new School's Off Day Camp for elementary aged kids on Monday, February 16, 2026 featuring a day of Winter Olympics fun! Wondering how your kids can practice ski jumping, curling, ice hockey and bobsledding all in the church building? We have plans - we just need kids to come play with us. Sign-up through the Sign-up tab of the church's website. We are also looking for adults willing to help referee the fun for a portion of the day. Talk to Sara Pantazes for more information.

**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.

**Kids Choir Discovery Day** - Kids Choir is starting a new season and we'd love to give your kids a sneak peek! Whether they are regular, occasional, or have never been choir members, this is a quick and easy chance to see what kid's choir is about. Join us today, February 1, from 10 - 10:30 am in the Chapel to meet our new choir director, Laura Moreschi, and have some musical fun. Reminder that kids choir is open to children ages 4 years old - 5th graders. Talk to Laura or Sara Pantazes with any questions.

**2026 Women's Retreat** - Next month's Women's Retreat will be here before we know it. Fantastic plans are underway to make this a nurturing, special day for attendees to grow in friendship and faith, make some fun goodies to take home and, most of all, rest "in the sanctuary of women" and in the love of the Lord. The registration deadline is February 15. Sign up today through the church's website and talk to Pastor Caroline or Sara Pantazes with any questions.

**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.

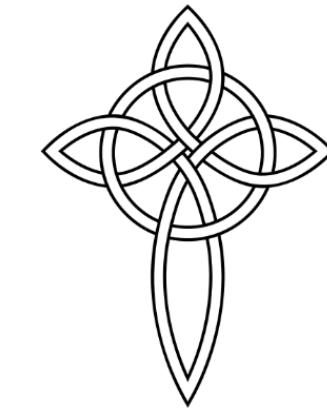
From something as simple as a blanket, amazing things can happen. CWS Blankets are all about sharing love through a simple act of kindness. A blanket can be a suitcase, a pillow, a bed, a tote, and a curtain in a tent for privacy. A blanket can also provide warmth in a refugee camp or for someone who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

February 1, 2026



## **Order of Worship for the Fourth Sunday After Epiphany**

*\*Please rise in body or spirit*

Prelude

Cantad al Señor

arr. Susan Geschke

Call to Worship\*

Let us kneel in the darkness,  
**until we see God's light emerge.**

Let us wait with hope filled hearts,  
**as Christ's image grows within us and shows us life.**

Let him speak to us and teach us love,  
**until we open our hearts to be his home. Amen.**

Hymn 265 \* Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun

Welcome

Prayer of Confession

**O God, we live as if the light had never defeated the darkness. We confess that we ignore Christ sent to be among us, to be for us. We've kept the birth of your Son confined to the Christmas season and do not yearn for his birth each moment in our waiting hearts. (con't)**

**May we all come to your light, and all rulers  
to the brightness of your rising. Lord, you came to us  
in the fullness of time. Forgive us for not  
opening our eyes to your coming.**

**Let the earth ring with song. Let the light break forth.  
Let us all rejoice in the miracle of love.  
Let Christ come into the fullness of our time  
that we might feel his grace and forgiveness. Amen.**

Assurance of Forgiveness  
Christ is our redemption, our salvation,  
the light who redeems the darkness of the world.  
**Christ redeems us and in the face of our sin  
washes us clean. 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\*

Commissioning      Nathan Preuhs  
Director of Youth Ministry

Special Music      I've Got Peace Like a River  
arr. Sandra Eithun

First Scripture Reading      Psalm 130      OT p. 573

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory      Jacob's Ladder      arr. Daniel Kallman

Doxology and Prayer of Dedication\*  
**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heav'ly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*After the prayer, children are invited to join their teachers  
for a short lesson in the Chapel.  
They will return to their families after the sermon for  
Communion.*

Second Scripture Reading      Isaiah 60:1-9      OT p. 690

Sermon      Unsettling Redemption  
Rev. Andrew Esqueda

Hymn 511\*      Come, Behold! the Feast of Heaven

Invitation to the Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them up to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise! ...**

**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.**

Communion of The Lord's Supper

*Communion will be served using the ancient practice of intinction.*

*Beginning with those in the front rows,  
please come down the center aisle to receive the bread and cup.*

*If you would prefer to be served where you are seated,  
please notify a server  
and the elements will be brought to you.  
The bread is free of gluten, nuts, egg, and dairy.*

Prayer After Communion

Hymn 418\*      Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling

Blessing\*

Postlude      Festive Trumpet Tune  
David German

*Assisting in worship today:  
The Chancel Ringers  
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  
**Laura Moreschi**, Children's Choir Director  
**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)*