

## OFFERING OUR TENTH AND GIFTS BEYOND

1. Place your envelopes in the plates at the back of the sanctuary.
2. Give through PayPal at [paypal.me/fpcne](https://paypal.me/fpcne) or [FPCNE.ORG](https://FPCNE.ORG). Scan the QR code in the pew pocket to go right to the church's Paypal account.
3. Speak with Pastor Gregg for details on setting up direct deposit.



Check out the bulletin boards throughout the Assembly Room and hallways.

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“Come Ye Souls By Sin Afflicted” Joseph Swain | Kevin Twit CCLI Song #7079450 © 2013 Twit, Kevin | “O Christ the Great Foundation” Samuel Sebastian Wesley © Public Domain | “Spirit of Gentleness” CCLI Song # 101393 James K. Manley © 1978, 1980 Manley, James K.  
| “We Will Feast In The House Of Zion” Joshua Moore, Sandra McCracken CCLI Song #7041364 © 2015 Integrity Worship Music; Paper News Publishing; joshmooreownsthismusic

Return  
to the  
**LORD**  
your **God**

for he is gracious  
and merciful.

Joel 2:13



## Third Sunday in Lent

### First Presbyterian Church

25 West Main Street | North East, PA 16428  
(814) 725-8641 | [FPCNE.ORG](https://FPCNE.ORG) | Follow us on Facebook

## WELCOME



**WELCOME TO ALL.** You enter this church not as a stranger, but as a child of God, joining in worship with our Christian family. Please take a moment to complete a Visitor/Guest Card, located in the pew racks, and place it in the collection plate at the back of the sanctuary or give directly to Pastor Gregg. We are glad you are here.

**TO PREPARE FOR WORSHIP**, please turn off or silence cell phones, tablets, and all other wireless electronic devices upon entering the sanctuary.

**FOR FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN**, nursery care is available for infants and young children through pre-K.

**ASSISTANCE FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED** is available. Please contact a member of the media team to use the assisted listening devices.

**RESTROOMS** are located across from the office area and down the hallway in the Christian Education wing.

**PARKING IS AVAILABLE** in the designated church parking spaces on the south and east side of the church, as well as street parking. The municipal building parking lot west of the church is also available on nights and Sunday mornings.

**TODAY'S LITURGICAL COLOR IS PURPLE**, which is used during the penitential season of Lent as a vivid reminder of the contempt and scorn Christ endured and the sacrifice he made for our eternal salvation.

**WEDNESDAY EVENING PRAYER AND DEVOTIONAL** is held on Facebook on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 PM (ET). Please contact Pastor Gregg directly to share any prayer requests.

### CONTACT INFO YOU MIGHT NEED

- Contact Pastor Gregg anytime at (814) 460-3123 (call or text) and [pastortownsend@yahoo.com](mailto:pastortownsend@yahoo.com).
- Contact music director Jane Livingston at (814) 504-1135 (call or text) and [jlivingston@neo.rr.com](mailto:jlivingston@neo.rr.com).

## CHURCH NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PICK UP A LENTEN FLIER AND EASTER FLOWER ORDER FORM** at the back of the sanctuary.

**TODAY'S FLOWERS** are given by Steve and Beth Seymour in honor of Brittany Joseph's birthday.

**NORTH EAST FOOD PANTRY IS ASKING FOR EGG NOODLES.** If you'd like to support our neighbors in need, pick up a few bags and drop them in the Assembly Room.

**SIGN UP TO PROVIDE FLOWERS ON SUNDAY MORNING IN HONOR OR MEMORY OF A LOVED ONE OR OCCASION.** Please email [jlivingston@neo.rr.com](mailto:jlivingston@neo.rr.com) with bulletin details.

**PLEASE SIGN UP TO HOST COFFEE HOUR.** All you need to do is make the coffee and drinks, set out the necessary supplies and "host." If you'd like to provide snacks or cookies, it is appreciated but not required. The sign-up sheet is in the Assembly Room. It's a wonderful time for fellowship. Let's all pitch in to help!

**A HEARTFELT THANK YOU TO THE GENEROUS BOOK DONATIONS** to the library. Your kindness is deeply appreciated!

**ALL WOMEN ARE INVITED! THE SPRING GATHERING OF PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN OF LAKE ERIE PRESBYTERY** will be held on Saturday, April 5, at the First Presbyterian Oil City Church. Please see the flyer on the bulletin board in the Assembly Room or contact Deanna Ott for details.

**PLEASE SUBMIT ALL BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS** by Wednesdays.  
Email Pastor Gregg or Jane.

You sang in a stable. You cried from a hill.  
Then You whispered in silence when the whole world was still.  
And down in the city, You called once again,  
When You blew through Your people on the rush of the wind.

**Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,  
Blow through the wilderness calling and free.  
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,  
Stir me from placidness wind, wind on the sea.**

You call from tomorrow. You break ancient schemes.  
From the bondage of sorrow, the captives dream dreams.  
Our women see visions. Our men clear their eyes,  
With bold new decisions, Your people arise. **(Chorus)**

#### SILENT REFLECTION

**PASTORAL PRAYER 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.

### SENDING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

\* **CLOSING SONG**      "Come Ye Souls By Sin Afflicted"  
See insert

\* **OFFERING OUR TENTH AND GIFTS BEYOND**

\* **BENEDICTION**

\* **POSTLUDE**

\* \* \* \* \*

## First Presbyterian Church

North East, PA

Third Sunday in Lent

March 23, 2025, 10:30 A.M.

Jane M. Livingston, Director of Music

Gregg D. Townsend, Pastor

*\*Indicates to stand if you are able*

*SHARING OUR JOYS, CONCERNS, AND PRAYER REQUESTS. Please fill out a Prayer Card located in the pew racks and give to Pastor Gregg before the service.*

### GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

#### GATHERING MUSIC

**WELCOME**

Pastor Gregg Townsend

#### SILENT PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

\* **CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER**      Beth Seymour  
Leader: Let us worship God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ.

**Together: We are new creations; the old has gone, the new has come!**

Let us worship God as Christ's ambassadors.

**Through us and through our worship may we announce the good news to all.**

Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.

**Praise God! We are reconciled, redeemed, renewed!**

—based on John 4:24; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Let us pray:

**Lord God, in this season of Lent we look forward to our remembrance of Jesus' death and our celebration of his resurrection. We pray that your Spirit will renew in us today our anticipation for these events and our awareness that Jesus' death and resurrection are a sure source of hope and life. In the power of Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

**\* OPENING PRAISE**      “O Christ, the Great Foundation”

O Christ, the great foundation on which your people stand.  
To preach Your true salvation in every age and land:  
Pour out Your Holy Spirit to make us strong and pure,  
To keep the faith unbroken as long as worlds endure.

Baptized in one confession, one church in all the earth,  
We bear our Lord’s impression, the sign of second birth:  
One holy people gathered in love beyond our own,  
By grace we were invited, by grace we make You known.

Where tyrants’ hold is tightened, where strong devour the weak,  
Where innocents are frightened, the righteous fear to speak,  
There let Your church awaking attack the powers of sin,  
And, all their ramparts breaking with You the victory win.

This is the moment glorious when He who once was dead  
Shall lead His church victorious, their champion and their head.  
The Lord of all creation. His heavenly kingdom brings,  
The final consummation, the glory of all things.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Remember that our Lord Jesus Christ is able to sympathize with us in our weaknesses. In every respect he was tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Let us confess our sins to almighty God.

—based on Hebrews 4:15-16, NRSV

**Almighty God, you despise nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts, that, truly repenting of our sins and acknowledging our brokenness, we may obtain from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*Silent Confession*

**\* ASSURANCE OF PARDON**      See insert

“We Will Feast in the House of Zion”

In Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**PROCLAIMING THE WORD**

**CHILDREN’S BLESSING**

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Joel 2:18-27

**MESSAGE**

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

**\* RESPONDING IN SONG**      “Spirit of Gentleness”

**Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,  
Blow through the wilderness calling and free.  
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,  
Stir me from placidness wind, wind on the sea.**

You moved on the waters.  
You called to the deep.  
Then You coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep.  
And over the eons You called to each thing:  
Wake from your slumbers and rise on your wings.  
**(Chorus)**

You swept through the desert.  
You stung with the sand.  
And You goaded Your people with a law and a land.  
And when they were blinded with their idols and lies,  
Then You spoke through Your prophets to open their eyes.  
**(Chorus)**