

**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.



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"Come Ye Souls By Sin Afflicted" Joseph Swain | Kevin Twit CCLI Song #7079450 © 2013 Twit, Kevin | "Lord Who Throughout These 40 Days" CCLI Song # 280458 Claudia Frances Ibotson Hernaman © Words: Public Domain Music: Public Domain | "Spirit of God" CCLI Song # 7131574 George Croly | Karl Digerness © 2010 Cardiphonia Music | "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



**First Sunday in Lent**

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**First Presbyterian Church**

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

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## 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

**TODAY AFTER WORSHIP,** we'll pack breakfast bags to take to "Our Neighbors Place" shelter in Erie. Bagged breakfast bags are provided to folks as they leave the shelter in the morning. So, join us downstairs for coffee hour and help pack bags! Should be quick, fun and Spirit-filled! Matthew 25 in action!

**PICK UP A LENTEN FLIER** at the back of the sanctuary.

**NORTH EAST FOOD PANTRY IS ASKING FOR EGG NOODLES.** If you'd like to support our neighbors in need, pick up a few bags next time you're at the store 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!

**IF YOU HAVE A PRAYER REQUEST, JOY, OR CONCERN TO SHARE,** please speak with Pastor Gregg or call or text his cell phone at (814) 460-3123. You can also email our prayer chain at [jlivingston@neo.rr.com](mailto:jlivingston@neo.rr.com) or text Jane Livingston at (814) 504-1135.

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

## SENDING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

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

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

\* **BENEDICTION**

\* **POSTLUDE**

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## 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.



## First Presbyterian Church

North East, PA

First Sunday in Lent

March 9, 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

**MOMENT FOR MISSION**

Elder Bob Nelson

### SILENT PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

\* **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly.

**Congregation: Gather the elders and all the inhabitants of the land to the house of the Lord your God, and cry out to the Lord.**

Alas for the day! For the day of the Lord is near and as destruction from the Almighty it comes.

**Let us worship God.**

Joel 1:14,15

\* **OPENING PRAISE**      “Lord, Who Throughout These 40 Days”

Lord who throughout these forty days for us didst fast and pray.  
Teach us with Thee to mourn our sins and close by Thee to stay.

As Thou with Satan didst contend and didst the victory win.  
O give us strength in Thee to fight in Thee to conquer sin.

And through these days of penitence and through Thy Passiontide.  
Yea evermore in life and death, O Lord with us abide.

Abide with us that so this life of suffering overpast.  
An Easter of unending joy, we may attain at last.

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**God of mercy, you sent Jesus Christ to seek and save the lost. We confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your way. We are misled by pride, for we see ourselves pure when we are stained, and great when we are small. We have failed in love, neglected justice, and ignored your truth.**

**Have mercy, O God, and forgive our sin. Return us to paths of righteousness through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

*Silent Confession*

### **\* ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

“We Will Feast in the House of Zion”

See insert

In Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

## **PROCLAIMING THE WORD**

### **CHILDREN’S BLESSING**

### **SPECIAL MUSIC**

### **SCRIPTURE READING**

Joel 1:14-20

### **MESSAGE**

## **RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

### **\* RESPONDING IN SONG**

“Spirit of God”

Spirit of God, descend upon my heart.  
Wear it from earth through all its pulses move.  
Stoop to my weakness mighty as Thou art,  
And make me love Thee as I ought to love.

I ask no dream, no prophet ecstasies.  
No sudden rending of the veil of clay.  
No angel vision, no opening skies  
But take the dimness of my soul away.

Teach me to feel that Thou art always nigh.  
Teach me the struggles of the soul to bear.  
To check the rising doubt, the rebel sigh.  
Teach me the patience of unanswered prayer.

Hast Thou not bid me love Thee, God and King.  
All, all Thine own soul, heart and strength and mind.  
I see Thy cross there, teach me to cling.  
O let me seek Thee and O let me find.

Teach me to love Thee as Thine angels love.  
One holy passion filling all my frame.  
The presence of Thy descended Dove.  
My heart, an altar and Thy love the flame.

### **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.**