



First Sunday in Lent February 22, 2026



Prayer of Preparation

God of mercy, you meet us not only in moments of clarity and affirmation, but also in wilderness and weariness.

As we begin this season of Lent, steady us in the truth that we are not alone. You know the wilderness. You know testing, grief, temptation, and uncertainty.

Draw us near to your throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find help in our time of need. Through Jesus Christ, who walks with us in every hard place. Amen.

We Enter into God's Presence

**Please stand in body or spirit*

Prelude

And Can It Be That I Should Gain

arr. Brent Edstrom

Welcome / Greetings

MJ Floreno

Signing of the Friendship Pad & Prayer Cards

MJ Floreno

*Call to Worship

One: Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness.

All: In every wilderness, God is still present.

One: We do not journey alone.

All: Christ knows our vulnerability and journeys with us.

One: Let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace.

All: Let us worship the God who meets us in mercy.

***Opening Hymn # 166** *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days*

Prayer of Confession

Rev. Renee Roederer

All: Merciful God, we confess that the wilderness unsettles us. When life feels heavy, we grasp for control. When fear whispers accusations, we begin to believe them. We are tempted to choose easy answers over faithful ones and self-protection over love. Forgive us when we forget who we are and whose we are. Restore us in your grace, and strengthen us to follow Christ, who faced temptation and remained faithful in love.

(A time of silent, personal prayer).

Words of Assurance

Rev. Renee Roederer

Hear the good news: we do not have a Savior who stands far off from our struggles. Jesus knows the wilderness and meets us with mercy. Because of him, we may draw near to God with confidence and receive grace in our time of need. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and made new.

All: Thanks be to God

Prayer for Illumination

MJ Floreno

Holy God, as your Word is read and proclaimed, quiet the noise within us. In seasons of wilderness and testing, we need more than information — we need your living voice. Open our hearts to receive what you would say to us today. Strengthen us through these scriptures, that we may trust your mercy, turn away from what diminishes life, and follow Christ with courage. By your Spirit, form us through your Word. Amen.

We Hear God's Word

New Testament Reading	Hebrews 4:14-16 (New Testament pg. 220)	MJ Floreno
Anthem	<i>Now Glad of Heart</i> Chancel Choir	by Austin Lovelace
Gospel Lesson	Luke 4:1-13 (New Testament pg. 61)	Rev. Renee Roederer
Sermon	"The Wilderness."	Rev. Renee Roederer

We Respond to God's Word

Offertory & Collection of Prayer Cards

Rev. Renee Roederer

*Doxology #606

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host. Praise
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

Prayers of the People, Prayers of Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer MJ Floreno

Generous and merciful God, we thank you for the gifts that have been given and the hands that have offered them. In seasons of abundance and in seasons that feel like wilderness, you remain faithful. Receive these offerings as signs of our trust in you. Use them to bring mercy where there is hardship, hope where there is despair, and courage where there is fear. Shape us also to be living offerings, walking the way of Christ with integrity and love. We give all that we are and all that we have into your gracious hands. Amen.

Receive these prayers, O God — spoken aloud and held in silence — and gather them into your mercy and love, as we join our voices in the prayer Jesus taught us, saying:

“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.”

We Follow God's Word into the World

*Hymn of Sending # 757 *Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples*

*Benediction

Rev. Renee Roederer

Postlude

How Firm a Foundation

arr. Jason Payne

Please Welcome Back, Rev. Renee Roederer, Today's Guest Preacher.

Our preacher today is Rev. Renee Roederer. She is a Presbyterian (PCUSA) minister who lives in Ann Arbor, Michigan. She is the Senior Director of Programs and Community Care at the Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan where she connects with individuals and families and provides educational information, resources, referrals, companionship, and support. Renee enjoys choral singing, hiking, photography, and traveling, and she's an avid writer. One of her greatest joys in life is the large, chosen family she has built over time, with whom she enjoys keeping in touch, laughing hard, and reflecting on life.

Lenten Study: “Unanswered Prayer” (March Mondays at 10:00 a.m.)

Several of you participated in the first Prayer Course that the Revitalization Team hosted last spring for Lent. Join us this Lenten Season for a five-week journey through the second Prayer Course called “Unanswered Prayer,” something we have all dealt with.

The prayer course will be held every Monday morning, 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m., in Room 208/210 (with the new A/V equipment!) from March 2 – March 30. The course consists of a video, discussion questions, and practical prayer activities.

Sign up on the sheet on the “Sign-up Kiosk or online: <https://tinyurl.com/FPCF-Lenten2026>

Questions? Ask Sharon Cressman or Colleen Tavor.

“My eyes pour out tears to God.” (Job 16:20)

Ushers Needed

We are looking for ushers to serve once a month, even or odd. If you are interested, please see Deborah Draper.

Individual Offering Envelopes Will No Longer Be Supplied

As the demand for individual offering envelopes no longer meets the minimum order requirement, envelopes were not ordered for 2026-saving \$250. Leftover boxes of envelopes from previous years are available; please contact the office if interested. The use of monthly electronic withdrawals (ACH) is also encouraged, which is easy to use.

QR Code for Donations!

If you ever forget to go to the ATM, or simply don't carry cash on you, we're including the church QR code for a more streamlined donation process. To donate, just scan the QR code and follow the prompt.



Hospitality Time Schedule

You are invited to bring ONE food item on ONE Sunday each month. Your Sunday depends on the first letter of your last name. It would be greatly appreciated if you are also able to help with set-up or clean-up. Please note healthy options are welcome as well such as fruit, eggs, cheese & crackers, veggies etc. Here's the upcoming schedule:

March 1: Last names beginning E-K

March 8: Last names beginning L-R

March 15: Last names beginning S-Z

March 22: Last names beginning A-D

First Presbyterian Church Staff

Ministers of the Church

Parish Associate/Temp Acting Head of Staff

Minister of Music

Office Administrative Assistant

Sexton

AV Tech Intern

Members of the Congregation

Rev. Craig S. Aue

Peter Cartwright

Jennifer Taub

Richard Spurgeon

Lidia Neathamer



Connecting Our Community

Sharing together in ministry is a privilege that shapes us as the community of Christ. Unlike the early church in Acts 2, we do not hold all things in common, just a tiny share of our gifts to nurture the work of the Holy Spirit among us. Thank you for sharing in our life together and the work of the Presbytery of Detroit.

2026 Per Capita \$41/ Per Member

- Presbytery of Detroit – \$26.34
- Synod of the Covenant – \$ 3.40
- General Assembly – \$11.26

The 2026 Per Capita is based on the congregations' reported membership for **December 31, 2024**. These amounts have increased slightly over time, but well below the rate of inflation, reflecting the increased cost of doing our work and careful stewardship.

To fulfill the Presbytery of Detroit Per Capita obligations with the PC (U.S.A.) and the Synod of the Covenant, the Presbytery of Detroit funds 100% of the Per Capita owed to General Assembly and the Synod, even the deficit of what congregations do not submit.