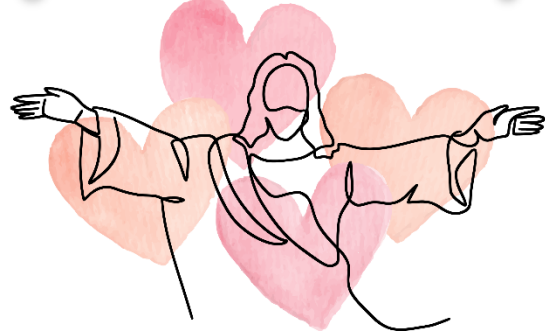


## Fourth Sunday in Lent March 15, 2026

### *Jesus Comes Running*



#### **Prayer of Preparation**

Almighty Lord, many of us in our journey with you will be a prodigal. We are prone to wander from the God we love, from your truth and your Word. O guiding God, through your Holy Spirit grant that the Word you speak to us this day may take root in our hearts, and bear fruit to your honor and glory. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

### **We Enter into God's Presence**

*\*Please stand in body or spirit*

#### **Prelude**

*Fairest Lord Jesus*

arr. Brent Edstrom

#### **Welcome / Greetings**

Mike Rogers

*Signing of the Friendship Pad & Prayer Cards*

#### **\*Call to Worship** (1 Chronicles 16:8-10)

Mike Rogers

One: Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name;

**All: make known his deeds among the peoples!**

One: Sing to him, sing praises to him;

**All: tell of all his wondrous works!**

One: Glory in his holy name;

**All: let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice!**

One: With thanksgiving and praise, let us worship God.

#### **\*Opening Hymn #518** *Your Only Son (Lamb of God)*

**Prayer of Confession**

Rev. Steven Nuss

O gracious God, we are thankful that your mercy is higher than the heavens, wider than our wanderings, deeper than all our sin. Forgive our frivolous attitude toward life, our callousness toward suffering, our envy of those who have more than we have, our obsession with creating a life of constant pleasure, our indifference to the treasures of heaven, our neglect of your wise and gracious law. Forgive us, we pray. Restore to us the joy of your salvation. May your peace flavor our walk with Christ. This we pray in Jesus' precious, holy name. Amen

(A time of silent, personal prayer).

**Words of Assurance** (Psalm 103:10-13)

Rev. Steven Nuss

One: Hear the Good News! God does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is God's steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does God remove our transgressions from us. As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.

**All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

**We Hear God's Word**

**Prayer for Illumination**

Mike Rogers

All: Everlasting God, through your Holy Spirit, open our minds that as the Scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may be led into your presence, your truth and taught the depths of your heart for us. May your Spirit guide our reflection upon your Word. Through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

**Old Testament Reading**

Jeremiah 31:16-20 (Old Testament pg. 734-735)

Mike Rogers

**Anthem**

*He Is Exalted*  
Bell Choir

arr. Peggy Bettcher

**Gospel Lesson**

Luke 15:11-24 (New Testament pg. 78-79)

Rev. Steven Nuss

**Sermon**

Jesus Comes Running

Rev. Steven Nuss

**We Respond to God's Word**

**Offertory & Collection of Prayer Cards**

Rev. Steven Nuss

**\*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.**

O God of Life, there are days when the burdens we carry are heavy on our shoulders and weigh us down, when the road seems dreary and endless, the skies gray and threatening, when our lives have no music in them, when our hearts are lonely, and our souls have lost their courage. However, we offer our thanksgiving to you, O God, for you flood our path with light, you turn our eyes to where the skies are full of promise; you tune our hearts to brave music; you give us the sense of companionship with heroes and saints of every age; and so quicken our spirits that we may be able to encourage the souls of all who journey with us on the road of life.

To your honor and glory, and in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray together: **“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 #475**    *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

**\*Benediction**

Rev. Steven Nuss

**Postlude**

*Postlude On "Maccabeus"*

arr. Jason Payne

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### **Please Welcome Back, Rev. Steven Nuss, Today's Guest Preacher.**

Rev. Steven Nuss, an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church USA, and a member of the Presbytery of Detroit. He has served churches in Ohio and Michigan and retired as a chaplain at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit. Currently he serves as a volunteer in the No Member Dies Alone ministry at the Michigan Veteran Home in Chesterfield Township. He is married to his wife Kathy, who recently retired from the Clinton-Macomb Library for the Blind. They are the proud parents of two wonderful young adults, Emily and Joshua.

### **Lenten Study: "Unanswered Prayer" (Mondays in March at 10:00 a.m.)**

Join us this Lenten Season for a five-week journey through the second Prayer Course called "Unanswered Prayer", every Monday morning, 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., in Room 208/210 (with the new A/V equipment!) 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)*

### **Hospitality Training**

Sign up for our Hospitality Training on Saturday, March 21 at 9:30am -12:30pm to learn about how to help our congregation fulfill our mission to “Welcome All”. We will be teaching how to serve as greeters and ushers. You can see if you can help with those roles but also learn skills to share the gift of hospitality. Sign up online <https://tinyurl.com/FPCFHosp>

### **Palm Sunday Potluck**

Please join the Nurture committee for a Palm Sunday breakfast potluck on March 29, after worship. Nurture will be providing sausage and pancakes, and we welcome breakfast-oriented side dishes to share. Come and enjoy some of your breakfast favorites and the warmth of fellowship as we enter Holy Week.

### **Mission Outreach for Union City, Michigan**

As many of you know there was an EF 3 tornado that caused significant damage in Union City, Michigan recently. Our Mission Committee offered to coordinate financial support from our church as well as sending funds from the Mission Committee budget. They send the money collected to those in need of help before the end of the month. If you are interested in supporting the recovery effort you can use an offering envelope or check with Tornado Relief written on it.

### **QR Code for Donations!**

If you ever forget to go to the ATM, or simply do not carry cash on you, we include 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 is the upcoming schedule:

March 22: Last names beginning A-D

March 29: Last names beginning E-K

April 5: Last names beginning L-R

April 12: Last names beginning S-Z

## **Church Calendar March 15 to March 22, 2026**

### **Sunday, March 15**

9:00am - 10:00am The Wired Word

10:00am - 11:00am Worship In-Person & Livestream Service

11:30am-1:00pm Session Discussion/Study Group

### **Monday, March 16**

10:00am – 11:30am Lenten Study: Unanswered Prayer

6:00pm - 7:00pm Soul Stretch Yoga

6:30pm - 7:30pm Boy Scouts

### **Tuesday, March 17**

#### **St. Patrick's Day**

10:30am – 12:00pm Phoenix Circle

4:00pm - 6:00pm PNC Meeting -Library

7:00pm - 9:00pm Scouts Troop Meeting

7:15pm - 8:30pm JOY Book Study

### **Wednesday, March 18**

2:00pm - 3:00pm Future Church Prayer Group

6:30pm – 8:30pm Session Meeting

### **Thursday, March 19**

6:00pm - 7:00pm Choral Bells Practice

7:20pm - 8:50pm Chancel Choir Practice

### **Friday, March 20**

#### **First Day of Spring**

### **Saturday, March 21**

9:30am – 12:30pm Hospitality Training for Ushers and Greeters

### **Sunday, March 22**

9:00am - 10:00am The Wired Word

10:00am - 11:00am Worship In-Person & Livestream Service

# 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

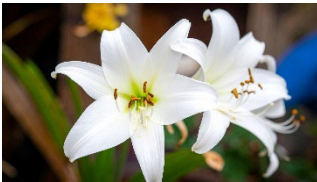
Rev. Craig S. Aue

Peter Cartwright

Jennifer Taub

Richard Spurgeon

Lidia Neathamer



## 2026 Easter Flowers Order Form All orders are due by Monday, March 30!



Please place your order for Easter lilies, tulips, and/or azaleas (all in 6-inch pots with foil cover) by completing this form and returning it along with your payment. Plants may be taken after the 10:00am Easter worship service on April 5 or left for delivery to a homebound member.

\_\_\_ I / We wish to donate the following plant(s) for decorating the church on Easter Sunday and/or to support a community member in need. Please use the following recognition in the Easter bulletin:

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_  
name of person(s)

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_  
name of person(s)

Ordered by: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ I / We would like to order the following number of plants:

\_\_\_\_\_ Red Tulip plant - \$13 each

\_\_\_\_\_ Fresh Produce for CARES - \$15 each

\_\_\_\_\_ Easter Lily plant - \$16 each

Total due \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Payment included with order

\_\_\_ Please deliver my plant(s) to a homebound member.