

The Vision



February
2026

WE LOVE
because
HE FIRST
loved us.

1 JOHN 4:19

First Presbyterian Church

309 Lincoln Street, Johnstown, PA 15901



From Pastor Danielle's Desk

Dear Church Family,

February often feels like the quiet middle of winter. Cold days linger, and spring still seems distant. Yet the daylight slowly grows longer, reminding us that seasons always move forward, even when the change is gradual.

Our spiritual lives follow similar rhythms. There are times of quiet waiting, times of growth we cannot yet see, and moments when God is at work beneath the surface. Even in winter seasons of life, Christ's light continues to shine.

“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.” — John 1:5

The Closing Weeks of Epiphany

As February begins, we continue in the season of Epiphany, a time that focuses on how Christ's light is revealed to the world. Scripture during these weeks reminds us that faith is not meant to stay hidden. It becomes visible through how we live, serve, forgive, and love one another.

Mid-month we celebrate the Transfiguration, when Jesus' glory was revealed on the mountaintop. In that moment, the disciples glimpse who Christ truly is before they must follow him down the mountain toward Jerusalem and the cross. Like them, we receive moments of clarity and encouragement, not to stay in comfort, but to carry Christ's light into everyday life.

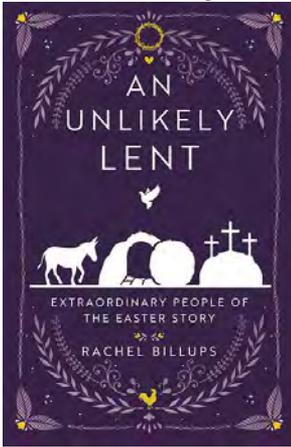
Preparing for the Journey of Lent

*“Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.” — Psalm 51:10*

Soon we begin the season of Lent, a forty-day journey inviting us into reflection, repentance, and renewal as we prepare for Easter. Lent asks us to slow down spiritually. It invites us to examine our hearts, release what weighs us down, and return again to God's grace. In a world that pushes constant activity, Lent reminds us that

growth often comes through prayer, honesty, and stillness before God.

Lenten Study: Walking the Story Together



This Lent, we will gather each Tuesday at 10:30 AM for a study using *An Unlikely Lent* by Rachel Billups.

This study explores the Easter story through the eyes of people often overlooked in the crowd surrounding Jesus. Through their experiences we encounter themes of devotion, courage, freedom, opposition, and companionship. Seeing the story from the margins reminds us that resurrection is not only a past event but an invitation into new and unexpected life today. All are welcome to join us as we walk this season together.

Gratitude and Hope in a New Chapter

As I continue settling into ministry with you here at First Presbyterian Church, I am deeply grateful for the welcome and kindness already shown. Even in winter, I see signs of life and possibility among you; in worship, music, service, and the care you show one another and our neighbors.



“I thank my God every time I remember you.” — Philippians 1:3

I look forward to discovering together how God is calling us to share Christ’s love in new ways within our community, especially with those who feel unseen or forgotten.

A Closing Prayer for the Month Ahead

My prayer for all of us this month is simple: that we make room for God’s light to guide and renew us as we move toward the Lenten season together.

“The Lord will guide you continually.” — Isaiah 58:11

Grace and peace,
Rev. Danielle Kendig



February 2026 Preaching Plan

Carrying the Light Forward: Throughout the month of February, our worship will trace a gentle but meaningful journey from Epiphany toward Lent. We begin by remembering what faithful life truly looks like; walking humbly with God and trusting that God’s blessing often rests in ordinary, faithful living. From there, we explore how that faith takes visible shape in the world, becoming salt and light through acts of justice, compassion, and love. On Transfiguration Sunday, we gather on the mountaintop as Christ is revealed in glory, receiving light and clarity not to hold onto, but to carry with us into the days ahead. This season reminds us that faith is not only revealed...it is lived, embodied, and carried forward, even when the path leads us beyond the mountaintop and into deeper trust.

Sunday, February 1- 4th Sunday after Epiphany

Sermon Title: *What Faith Looks Like*

Scripture: Micah 6:1–8; Matthew 5:1–12

Sunday, February 8 – 5th Sunday after Epiphany

Sermon Title: *When Faith Becomes Visible*

Scripture: Isaiah 58:1–9a [9b–12]; Matthew 5:13–20

Sunday, February 15 – Transfiguration of the Lord

Sermon Title: *Carrying the Light Forward*

Scripture: Exodus 24:12–18; Matthew 17:1–9

Wednesday, February 18 – Ash Wednesday Evening Service

Sunday, February 22 – 1st Sunday of Lent



Wellness Page



Four Things You Can Do To Prevent Falls

- 1) **Talk openly with your healthcare provider about fall risks & prevention.** Tell a provider right away if you fall, worry about falling, or feel unsteady. Have your doctor or pharmacist review all the medicines you take, even over-the-counter medicines.
- 2) **Exercise to improve your balance and strength.** Exercises that improve balance and make your legs stronger, lower your chances of falling. Lack of exercise leads to weakness and increases your chances of falling.
- 3) **Have your eyes checked.** Once a year, check with your eye doctor, and update your eyeglasses, if needed. You may have a condition like glaucoma or cataracts that limits your vision. Poor vision can increase your chances of falling.
- 4) **Make your home safer.**
 - Remove things you can trip over (like papers, books, clothes, and shoes) from stairs and places where you walk.
 - Remove small throw rugs or use double-sided tape to keep the rugs from slipping.
 - Keep items you use often in cabinets you can reach easily without using a step stool.
 - Have grab bars put in next to and inside the tub, and next to the toilet.
 - Use non-slip mats in the bathtub and on shower floors.
 - Improve the lighting in your home. As you get older, you need brighter lights to see well. Hang light-weight curtains or shades to reduce glare.
 - Have handrails and lights installed on all staircases.
 - Wear well-fitting shoes with good support inside and outside the house.



ATTENTION! ATTENTION!

“FIRST PRESBY HAS TALENT” has been rescheduled for February 15th. Hope to see you all there for our Third Sunday Program!



SM

Souper Bowl Offering Sunday - February 8th -

The original prayer of the Souper Bowl of Caring was: **“Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat.”**

This mission/outreach was organized in 1990 by the Rev. Dr. Brad Smith then the pastor of Spring Valley Presbyterian Church in Columbia, South Carolina.

Since that time the Souper Bowl of Caring has grown to include schools, businesses, civic organizations and churches of all faiths.

A special offering will be received in our congregation **on Super Bowl Sunday, February 8th.**



Hello! Winter sure made its presence known! I just want to say “Welcome” to Heith Bragg! He has been Installed as Deacon in January of this year. He has served as Deacon in the past and

we’re so happy to have him join us again! Please watch for any activities we will be doing in the near future. I will post them in the Vision, Friday e-newsletters, and Sunday bulletins! Please make sure to check on your neighbors, stay safe, & stay warm! Blessings!

— Wendi Sokira, President Board of Deacons.



Spring Cleaning for the Soul

Ash Wednesday is February 18, 2026, and it marks the beginning of the 40 days of Lent. Lent hints of spring, a time when the earth begins to awaken from a winter's nap, and new growth bursts forth all about us.

More personally, it is an opportunity to enter into a springtime for our spirit. For centuries Christians have used the 40 days of Lent to seek spiritual growth. Sincere repentance, a changing of heart, casting off old sinful practices and seeking to commune with our creator help us go in the right direction. Spending serious time in silence and prayer focuses our attention. Reading spiritual literature, becoming more knowledgeable about the New Testament, meeting in small groups with other Christians to share personal stories of faith can all be immensely stimulating. Joining with others to serve the helpless and hopeless can strengthen our spiritual life.

Lent is a time to let God do “spring cleaning” within us. It’s our opportunity to allow God to help us toss out the “stuff” that hinders us and then freshen up the “new creature” we are meant to be as followers of Christ.

OUR STEWARDSHIP

GIVING IN DECEMBER		YTD
Member Giving	6453	59383
Major Repair Fund	60	2273
Organ Fund	10	155
Loose Offering	434	6677
Special Offerings	120	500
First Fruits	0	1145
Total Giving	8148	81763



ATTENDANCE

December	07 -	29
December	14 -	19
December	21 -	31
December	28 -	21



Genevens will start meeting again the second Sunday of each month starting in February, weather permitting! I'd like to go back to having pot luck directly after Sunday service in the Social Hall downstairs. ALL are welcome!! Please join in, bring in something yummy to share, and enjoy a little extra fellowship time!

—Wendi Sokira, President of Genevens



CELEBRATING OUR MEMBERS

Membership Anniversaries

We would like to recognize the following active members who are celebrating membership anniversaries in the month of January:

- 46 Years - Timothy Conrad**
- 43 Years - Bernice Risbon**
- 30 Years - Corrine Helman**
- 18 Years - Roberta Markley**
- 18Years - William Markley**

**And celebrating an anniversary
in the month of February:**

- 39 Years - Curtis Kalmbach**

**Happy Anniversary! We are blessed to
have each of you in our church family.**



FEBRUARY

2026

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Sunday Sch. 9:30 Worship 10:45	2  GROUNDHOG DAY 6:30 Nar-Anon	3	4	5	6	7 12:15 PM Enrichment Day at Westmont Presbyterian
8 SS 9:30 Worship 10:45 After worship: 193rd ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING Caring Committee Genevens	9 6:30 Nar-Anon	10	11 10:00 Admin	12	13	14 Valentine's Day 
15 S.S. 9:30 Worship 10:45 Noon: Talent Show 3rd Sunday Lunch & Program	16 Presidents' Day 6:30 Nar-Anon	17	18 Ash Wednesday Evening Service	19	20	21
PASTOR DANIELLE AWAY 						
22 S.S. 9:30 Worship 10:45 First Sunday of Lent	23 6:30 Nar-Anon	24 10:30 Lenten Bible Study	25	26	27	28
PASTOR DANIELLE AWAY 						



A Vision Rooted in Faith and Freedom

George Washington's wisdom has been an inspiration for large numbers of our leading men and women in every decade since his time. He had the uncanny foresight of seeking to build a nation upon the bedrock of strong patriotism, unquestioned integrity, opportunities for all, high ideals and love of God.

May our great land, conceived in prayer for peace, bring new concepts of living to all the peoples of the world.

— *James Francis Cook, in The Etude*



2026 Per Capita – Our Per Capita offering, which supports the work of the presbytery, synod and general assembly, has been set at **\$55** per active member.



Special Dates

- **Black History Month**, February 1-28, 2026
- **Groundhog Day**, February 2, 2026
- **Valentine's Day**, February 14, 2026
- **Presidents Day**, February 16, 2026
- **Ash Wednesday**, February 18, 2026

HAPPY
Birthday
 FROM YOUR
 CHURCH FAMILY



February
 BIRTHDAYS



JANUARY
 BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Jennifer Hindman
- 3 Owen Tressler
- 4 Brian McLeary
- 4 Grant Cruse
- 6 Wyatt McFarland
- 12 Joselyn Shawley
- 14 Ava Hindman
- 21 Pam Lauterbauch
- 27 Cayla Cramer
- 31 Jillian Foster
- 31 Nina Foster

- 1 Eryka Bickel
- 3 Michael Edmiston
- 4 Linda Gleason
- 4 Roy Shaffer
- 5 Robert Hull
- 8 Steve Hunt
- 8 Amanda Wagner
- 11 Ryan Gleason
- 13 Allison Ayres
- 13 Ashley Jeschonek
- 19 Kristina Favor
- 21 Trista Wagner
- 22 Michelle Bragg
- 22 John Foster
- 22 Corrine Helman
- 22 Zane Kendig
- 25 Kent Roach
- 27 Charles Benson
- 28 Rick Hanley



Celebrating
 -WITH-
you

PUZZLE



LOVE CODE BREAKER

Change some of the letters below to reveal this verse!

Change:

C's to L Z's to H P's to R

J's to A Q's to T X's to E

K's to O

(The other letters stay the same.)

" L _____
C K V X Q Z X C K P D Y K U P

_____ G K D W I Q Z J C C Y K U P

_____ Z X J P Q J N D W I Q Z J C C

_____ Y K U P S K U C J N D W I Q Z

_____ J C C Y K U P M I N D J N D

_____ W I Q Z J C C Y K U P

_____ S Q P X N G Q Z "

Mark 12:30



LOVE IS Action!

Love isn't just a feeling — it's something we do! This simple activity reminds us that acts of love, big or small, can grow and bless others.

What you need:

- Construction paper (brown for the trunk, pinks and reds for hearts)
- Scissors
- Glue or tape
- Markers or crayons

What you do:

1. Cut a large tree trunk and branches out of brown paper and glue it onto a sheet of paper or poster board.
2. Use colorful paper to cut several hearts — these will be your "leaves."
3. On each heart, write loving actions like "share my toys," "pray for others," or "help clean up."
4. Glue the hearts onto the branches to create a full, love-filled tree.
5. Hang it somewhere visible as a reminder to put love into action every day!

"Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth."
- 1 John 3:18 (NIV)

* A JAR OF * Love and Appreciation



Sometimes we forget to show love and appreciation to people who are closest to us. Use this fun craft to let everyone in your family know how much you care.

What you need:

- Plastic jar with lid
- Heart-shaped foam pieces
- Heart-shaped stickers
- Glue
- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Pencil or crayons

What you do:

1. Decorate the jar and lid with heart-shaped foam pieces and stickers.
2. Cut out 2" or 3" heart shapes from the construction paper.
3. On each paper heart, write what you appreciate and love about your family and each member. Have all family members do this, too.
4. Place the heart messages inside the jar. Fold them in half, if necessary.
5. On each day in February, pull out one heart and read the message aloud to the family.
6. Notice the changes in your family when everyone feels loved and appreciated!



Thank You!

The Stewardship Committee thanks the members of our congregation who returned their pledge cards for the

giving year 2026. In doing so you have demonstrated your commitment to the work of the church of Jesus Christ and helps our financial team to better plan.

A new directory will printed in March. If you have a change in address or phone number, or would like to give us your email address, please call the church office. Thank you!



NewsLetter DEADLINE

PLEASE have your articles for the March VISION into the office by February 17th!!!



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FOOD PANTRY
ITEMS ARE
COLLECTED
EVERY SUNDAY!
THANK YOU!!





THE SESSION has rescheduled the **Annual Congregational Meeting** for Sunday, **February 8th**, after worship, for the purpose of receiving the 2025 reports and electing the nominating committee. Please plan on attending in person.



The Love God Desires

God's love is never meant to stop with us; it's meant to flow through us. When we love others, we reflect his very heart. As 1 John 4:12 (NIV) reminds us, "If we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us."

This is the true mark of a Christian — love that reaches beyond comfort zones, opinions and differences. Jesus said in John 13:35 (NIV), "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

The world is watching, not to see how loudly we profess our faith but how deeply we practice it. Every act of compassion, every gentle word and every moment of grace reveals something divine — God's love at work in us. The more we give that love away, the more it grows within us, mirroring the heart of Christ, who gave Himself for all.

So ask yourself: Does the world recognize you as his disciple by the way you love?



WE LOVE
BECAUSE HE FIRST
LOVED US.

1 JOHN 4:19, NRSV



The Pastor Will Be Away

Rev. Danielle Kendig will be away from the office from February 16 - 27.

If you have pastoral care needs during this time, please contact Charnet Koch, Pat Betts, or Caroline in the office for the pastor on call.



+Christian Symbol+ CORNERSTONE

The cornerstone is a symbol for Christ. It has Old Testament roots in Isaiah's prophecy (Isaiah 28:16). In the New Testament, Christ is called the cornerstone in Ephesians 2:20. The IHC and XP on the stone's sides are abbreviations for "Jesus" and "Christ" in Greek.



Bible Quiz



The New Testament uses several Greek words to describe love. Which of the following best represents the **selfless, sacrificial** love that God shows to humanity?



- A) Eros
- B) Phileo
- C) Agape
- D) Storge



Rene Bacon (Gindlesperger)

Sarah Bantly (Muncert)

David Barrett (B. Thiel)

Family of Bill Barkhimer

The Don Bash Family

Bonnie Bash

Judy Bash

Dave & Dorothy Belz

Sherri Bennett (Mapes)

Chuck Benson

Robin Bergeron (Cruse)

Deb Bickel

Michelle & Heith Bragg

Janet Braude

Family of Mary Cruse

Family of John Davis

George Demchak & Family
(Koch)

Hunter Donaldson Family

Marlene Eisenhauer

Family of "Ike" Eisenhuth

A. Scott Eisenhuth (Ike)

Ashlee Fecko (Koch)

Richard Feller

Adrienne Figura

Nina Foster

Randy & Leslie Freenock

Dave & Marilyn Gehlman

Joyce Gerlach

Roy & Agnes Gindlesperger

Jacob Gram (Gerlach)

Griffith Family (Rummel)

Faye Huber

Rex Hutzell (Davis)

Marlene James

Tom Koch & Family

Carolynn Kolesar

Ava & Dylan Kresak

Family of Mark Kresak

Peg Lambert

Walt Leitenberger (Gindlesperger)

John Markley (Markley)

Bill & Bobbi Markley (Bragg)

John McClure

Family of Connie Meyers

Emma Miller (Gerlach)

Serena Miller (Clark)

Family of George Moehler

Stephanie Neill (B. Thiel)

Ron & Brenda Noon

Tom Osterbloom (Gindlesperger)

Larry & Susan Pearce

Sue Porsch

Pat Ripple

Tina Risbon

Kent Roach

Sheila Rogerson (B. Thiel)

Debbie Rummel

John & Judy Sierocky (Foster)

Family of Michelle Smith

J. Andrew Smith (Gindlesperger)

Josh Sokira (Sokira)

Robby Sokira, Jr. (Sokira)

Paul Sprague (Williams)

Owen Szanto (Gindlesperger)

Zowalla Thiel

Trista Wagner

Jackie Weaver

Susan Weaver (B. Thiel)

Cynthia Weimer (Weaver)

Russell White (Benson)

Lynne & Bill Williams

Sharon Yoder (Bash)

Yost Family

Serving in the Military

Luther Flores

Richard Kovach

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GOD'S BLESSINGS TO:

