

First Presbyterian Church

Ninth at Washington, Michigan City, Indiana

March 15, 2026

10:00 A.M. (Sanctuary)

4th Sunday in Lent



Sadao Watanabe, Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind (1975)

THE WORSHIP OF OUR LORD

† † †

** Indicates those who are able, please stand*

† † †

WE GATHER BEFORE GOD

† WELCOME – WORSHIP – CELEBRATE – SERVE †

PRELUDE: “He Leadeth Me”

S. Douglas

WELCOME

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP: “Bless His Holy Name”

A. Crouch

*CALL TO WORSHIP: (Psalm 146) please join in unison

One: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!

All: I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to God all my life long.

One: Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord:

All: Who made heaven and earth, and all that is in them.

One: Who executes justice for the oppressed and gives food to the hungry.

All: The Lord sets the prisoner free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.

One: The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.

All: The Lord watches over the strangers and upholds the orphan and the widow,

One: But the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

All: The Lord will reign forever. Praise the Lord!

*HYMN #280 “Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound” (pew hymnal)

WE ARE RENEWED IN GOD’S GRACE

CALL TO CONFESSION: (from Psalm 103:8) (Spoken by liturgist)

The Lord is merciful and gracious; slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. Confident of God’s character, let us confess our sins together so that we might receive healing and peace.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (Please join in unison)

Almighty and merciful God, we continue to want more, blind to the blessings we already possess. We want everything now, blind to the value of patience and hard work. We take so much delight in our own accomplishments that we are blind to people in need. Forgive us! Cleanse us of our entitlement, anxiousness and pride. Help us see the world with your eyes so that we can be people of gratitude, courage and compassion, because of what we see in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen

SILENCE IS KEPT

WORDS OF ASSURANCE: (from Jeremiah 33:31-34)

Pastor: “The days are surely coming,” says the Lord, “when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel. I will put my law within them; I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God and they shall be my people. I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.”

All: We believe the good news of the gospel.

Pastor: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and our sins are remembered no more.

*SINGING GOD’S GLORY: Gloria Patri “Glory to the Father” #567 (Please join in unison)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen Amen Amen.

***SHARING THE PEACE OF GOD**

Pastor: Since God has forgiven us in Christ,
let us all forgive one another,
and pass the peace of Christ to each other.
The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you!

(Worshippers are invited to turn to their neighbors, offer the greeting "The peace of Christ be with you", and one may respond with the words, "And also with you." Worshippers may also share a handshake, hug or other expression of Christ's peace.)

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

CHILDREN'S SERMON

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION: (Please join in unison)

Holy, magnificent God, as the Scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed, allow us to see you clearly in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING:

1 Samuel 16:1-13

ANTHEM: "Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior"

T. Kirkland

SECOND READING:

John 9: 1-41, selected verses

SERMON: "The Blame Game"

Rev. Ericka Parkinson Kilbourne

Children (K-5) are excused for Sunday school. Please join Ms. Laura and Mr. Andrew in the lobby to walk up together as a group. Youth (grades 6-12) please join Ms. Jennifer.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: (Psalm 23:1-6) please join in unison

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters, he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole lifelong.

EXPRESSING OUR GRATITUDE IN OUR OFFERING

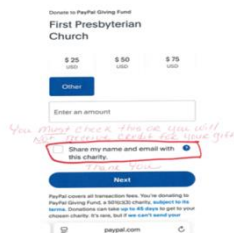
OFFERTORY: "Wondrous Love"

T. Kendall

Many ways to give and give back  paypal.com **Click on link**

<https://www.paypal.com/fundraiser/112574644767835624/charity/3545525>

OR Scan here:



When giving on PayPal, please be sure to **SHARE your name and email address so we can give proper credit for the gift!!**

*Doxology Song #592
"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH/ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASTORAL PRAYER

Lord's Prayer (together, using "debts")

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN: #2235-b "We are Marching" (Sing the Faith hymnal)

WE GO OUT IN GRATITUDE TO SERVE IN GOD'S NAME

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE: "Trumpet Tune in C"

H. Purcell

SHARE OUR PRAYERS WITH:

For each of us to share the Gospel with someone this week:

- Gerald Anderson, Jennifer Arnold, Dave Dougherty, Sandy Dougherty, Stan Holdcraft, Johanna Miller, Barb Reichert, Margo Shank, Mary Steider, Donna Wiseman and Jerry Yacullo for health needs
- Michele Bartels as she is recovering from surgery
- Pray for our Military and their families
- AmeriCorps and Peace Corps workers and their families

GUESTS AND VISITORS

We are delighted to welcome you and worship with you today! **First time visitors**-we would love to connect with you. Please text "welcome" to 219-300-9867 and share your contact information with us.



The CHANCEL FLOWERS are given to the glory of God from Peggy McAnally and Michele Bartels in celebration of St. Patrick's Day and their Irish heritage.

SERVING TODAY

Ministers	All Members of the Congregation
Preacher	Rev. Ericka Parkinson Kilbourne
Organist	Carol Garrett
Liturgist	Brian or Judy Spiece
Youth Liturgist	Jerry Kilbourne
Greeter(s)	Marilyn Cook
Ushers	Peggy McAnally
Video and Sound Team	Mark Smith and Antoinette Jackson



MEMORIALS/DONATION

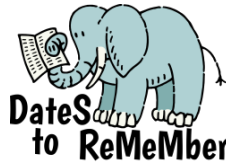
THE GENERAL FUND received a donation from Atty. Michael & Bonnie Harping. We are thankful for your kindness!

Enjoy your special day!

March 03 Brenda Branch
 March 06 Stan Holdcraft
 March 07 Amy McDaniel
 March 13 Jennifer Blank
 March 15 Rick Blank
 March 20 Walt Barbknecht





March 24 Thea Mosher
 March 25 Sean Towle
 March 26 Nicholas Simpson
 March 28 Andrea Gasaway
 March 29 Linda Jackson
 March 31 James Molden



EVENTS, DATES AND/OR TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. THIS LIST WILL BE UPDATED WEEKLY AS OF TODAY, THIS IS THE MOST RECENT INFORMATION AVAILABLE.

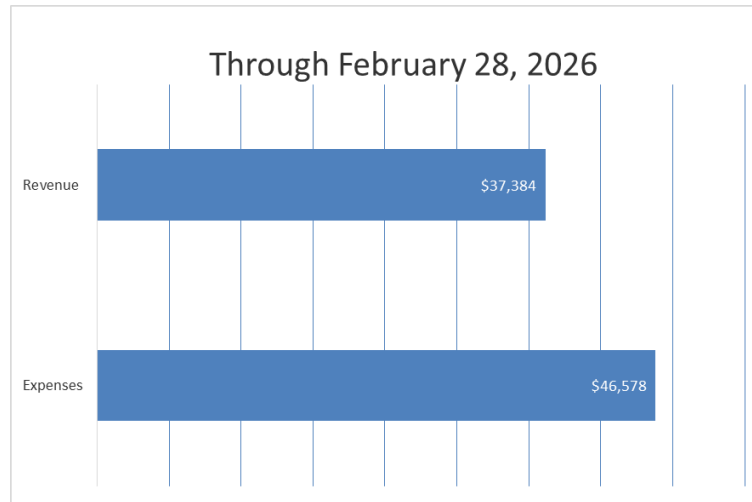
- ❖ March 15 Sunday 9 a.m. Adult Ed Class with Pastor Ericka
- ❖ March 15 Sunday 10 a.m. Worship service (4th Sunday in Lent) with Pastor Ericka
- ❖ March 15 Sunday school after sermon
- ❖ March 15 Sunday Blood pressure screening
- ❖ March 15 Sunday after worship Mission meeting
- ❖ March 16 Monday Pastor Off
- ❖ March 17 Tuesday St. Patrick's Day 
- ❖ March 17 Tuesday 10 a.m. 3B
- ❖ March 18 Wednesday 1:30 p.m. Elisabeth Circle meeting
- ❖ March 18 Wednesday 6:30 Session meeting
- ❖ March 18 Wednesday 8 p.m. Sailboat Church book study at Hacienda with Pastor Ericka
- ❖ March 19 Thursday 10 a.m. 3B
- ❖ March 19 Thursday after 3B Sailboat Church book study with Alice and Lois
- ❖ March 19 Thursday 5:30 p.m. Girl Scouts meeting
- ❖ March 20 Friday "Mr. Rogers Day"
- ❖ March 20 Friday First Day of Spring
- ❖ March 20 Friday Office closed-Pastor by appointment
- ❖ March 20 Friday 11 a.m. Sailboat Church book study at Lakeshore Coffee with Pastor Ericka
- ❖ March 21 Saturday 11 a.m. Sailboat Church book study at Peggy's house 1406 York St. with Peggy McAnally and Michele Bartels
- ❖ March 21 Saturday 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Soup Kitchen
- ❖ March 21 Saturday Tweens to Kroc Center
- ❖ March 22 Sunday 9 a.m. Adult Ed Class with Pastor Ericka
- ❖ March 22 Sunday 10 a.m. Worship service (5th Sunday in Lent) with Pastor Ericka **NOISY OFFERING**
- ❖ March 22 Sunday school after sermon
- ❖ March 23 Monday Pastor Off
- ❖ March 24 Tuesday 10 a.m. 3B
- ❖ March 25 Wednesday Sailboat Church book study groups will be **COMBINED** for the last meeting in the the church undercroft **DETAILS TO FOLLOW SOON**
- ❖ March 26 Thursday 10 a.m. 3B **LAST CLASS FOR THIS SECTION**
- ❖ March 27 Friday Office closed-Pastor by appointment
- ❖ March 28 Saturday 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Soup Kitchen
- ❖ March 29 Sunday 9 a.m. Adult Ed Class with Pastor Ericka
- ❖ March 29 Sunday 10 a.m. Worship service (PALM SUNDAY) with Pastor Ericka
- ❖ March 29 Sunday Holy Week Begins
- ❖ March 29 Sunday school after sermon
- ❖ March 29 2 p.m. - 3 p.m. Palm Sunday event in Valparaiso (see Pastor for details)
- ❖ March 30 Monday of Holy week
- ❖ March 30 Monday Pastor Off
- ❖ March 31 Tuesday of Holy Week
- ❖ April 01 Wednesday of Holy Week
- ❖ April 01 Wednesday April Fool's Day
- ❖ April 02 Thursday Maundy Thursday 

- ❖ April 03 Friday Good Friday 
- ❖ April 04 Saturday Great Vigil of Easter
- ❖ April 04 Saturday 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. Soup Kitchen
- ❖ April 05 Sunday 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Easter Breakfast (FOOD SIGN UP SHEET ON EBL DOOR)
- ❖ April 05 **NO** Sunday 9 a.m. Adult Ed Class with Pastor Ericka
- ❖ April 05 Sunday Easter Day 10 a.m. Worship (Resurrection of the Lord) Communion Sunday  with Pastor Ericka
- ❖ April 05 **NO** Sunday school

CHURCH CHAT

“Any or all information is subject to change without notification”

FINANCIALS



LILY ORDERS

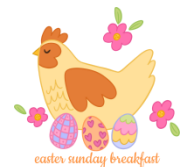
Order forms are available by the usher’s table. The cost this year is \$10.00 per plant and you will be able to take yours after worship on April 5th. Please be sure to check the box at the bottom of the form to let us know if you will or will not be taking your plant(s)

Deadline to order and pay for your lily will be on March 29th.
If you have any questions, please contact the office. Thank you.



EASTER BREAKFAST

Join us Easter Sunday for Breakfast from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 am.
The “food” sign-up sheet is on the door of the Edith Boyd Lounge.
Hope to see you there!!



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY



Are you looking for a fulfilling way to serve your church community? Would you find joy in keeping organized records of session minutes and congregational statistics? We are now in an active search for a new Clerk of Session. And if you choose to step up to the task, you have the great opportunity to learn from our most recent Clerk, Laura Kittle, and also Alice Yacullo, who served before her. You would not be alone! Please prayerfully consider serving the congregation in this way. If you have any questions, you can direct them to Pastor Ericka, Laura Kittle, or Alice Yacullo.

MISSION COMMITTEE

The committee is collecting shampoo and conditioner for the YMCA care closet.
Thank you in advance for your donation.

PW PROJECT

During the month of March until after Easter we are collecting boxes of Kleenex and powdered drink mix for the overnight shelter. Thanks for your generosity.

Carol Garrett
Coordinating Moderator

CHANCEL FLOWERS

We have the following dates available if you would like to sponsor the Chancel Flowers in honor or memory of someone or something. The cost is \$35.00 and the money goes to our Children in Need fund. In April the available dates are April 19 and April 26. If you would like one of these dates or have additional questions, please contact me in the church office. I will post dates for upcoming months in the near future.

Thank you, Diane Yettaw, Administrative Assistant

JOIN US FOR A LENTEN STUDY 2026

SAILBOAT CHURCH BY JOAN S. GRAY

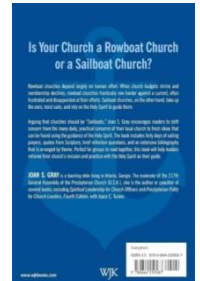
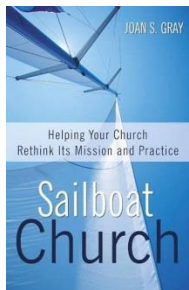
WEEKLY STUDY GROUPS FOR SAILBOAT CHURCH:

- March 18th Wednesday 8pm Hacienda with Pastor Ericka
- March 19th, Thursday 11am after 3B with Alice Yacullo and Lois Miley
- March 20th, Friday 11AM Lakeshore Coffee with Pastor Ericka
- March 21st, Saturday at Peggy's house 1406 York St. MC with Peggy McAnally and Michele Bartels

Books are available online at amazon.com

FORTY DAYS OF PRAYER

For a church to learn to sail, we need to be willing to consider what it would be to become sailors. We invite you to join us in using the guide to Forty Days of Prayer found at the end of Gray's book. We will also be posting this prayer practice daily through Lent. Where will the Holy Spirit take us in this thoughtful study? How can you be part of this prayer and study opportunity?



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

A brochure with information and different ways to give is included in today's bulletin. There are envelopes for giving in the pews and on the usher's table.

Thank you, Mission Committee



LIGHTS

As a commitment to care for our earth and with the ever-rising cost of NIPSCO, we are asking that you **PLEASE** turn lights off when you are exiting a room at the end of your meeting/gathering. Thank you.

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For prayer requests
Contact Brian Spiece at
jspiece@hotmail.com

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Facebook - First Presbyterian Church Michigan City
WiFi password: 1holyGod!

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