

We welcome you to this service of prayer and praise! Out of courtesy to the people around you, please ensure that your mobile devices are set to silent mode.

Regular Print: Leader

Bold: Congregation

**Asterisk: Please stand if able*

“What happened on that day (of Easter) became, was, and remained the centre around which everything else moves. For everything lasts its time, but the love of God – which was at work and was expressed in the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead – lasts forever. Because this event took place, there is no reason to despair, and even when we read the newspaper with all its confusing and frightening news, there is every reason to hope.”

–Karl Barth, *Insights: Karl Barth’s Reflections on the Life of Faith*
Westminster John Knox Press (2009), p.30

✠ WE GATHER AROUND GOD’S WORD ✠

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude *Récit de Cornet* anonymous, from the Carpentras manuscript (17th century)

Call to Worship: (from Psalm 146)

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

I will sing praises to God all my life long.

Happy are those whose help is in God, creator of heaven and earth, who is forever faithful:

Seeking justice for the oppressed and for the hungry;

Setting prisoners free and opening the eyes of the blind;

Lifting up those who are bowed down and loving the righteous.

The Lord protects strangers and upholds the orphan and widow;

The Lord our God will reign forever, for all generations. Praise the Lord!

Prayer of Adoration

***Opening Hymn: #504** We Come as Guests Invited WIE LIEBLICH IST DER MAIEN

*Prayer of Confession:

Heavenly Father, we are prone to move in every direction except yours. Like with Jonah, taking the boat seems better than hiking in the desert. Lord, we’re sorry. Forgive us for ignoring your voice and your path. We’re sorry for how far we have wandered without even realizing it. We’re not even sure how we got to the place we have found ourselves, but are trying to remember your way and grace. Forgive us when we have become insensitive to the hurt in the world. Forgive us for changing the channel when

we see bad news rather than offering a prayer. Forgive us for tuning you out when your truth seems inconvenient. Lead us back into your presence and peace. Teach us to sing with truth, “Here’s my heart Lord, take and seal it” that you might seal it for your courts above. Amen.

*Silent Prayer of Confession

*Assurance of Pardon (from Ephesians 2)

God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead in our sins, made us alive together in Christ. By his surpassing grace we have been saved! Friends, believe the good news of the gospels.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

*The Trisagion

music: Kevin Dill (2019)

(org.) Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly God, ho - ly and
migh - ty, ho - ly and im - mor - tal one, have mer - cy up - on us.

✠ WE LISTEN AS THE SCRIPTURES ARE PROCLAIMED ✠

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading: Psalm 1:1-6

Pew Bible p.602

Message for Young Disciples

Vickie Fischer

New Testament Reading: Galatians 5:14-26

Pew Bible p.232-233

Sermon: WHERE’S THE BEEF

The Rev. Benjamin Black

✠ WE RESPOND IN FAITH AND GRATITUDE ✠

***Sung Affirmation of Faith: #481**

I Believe in God the Father

GENEVAN 42

Offertory Interlude (11:00)

Agape

Howard Starks (1928–2018)

(Your prayer requests may be written on the blue prayer cards and placed in the offering plate.)

*Hymn of Thanksgiving: Take My Life and Let It Be

Frances Ridley Havergal (1874), alt.

Kevin Dill (2024)



1 Take my life and let it be con - se - crat - ed, Lord to thee;
 2 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;
 3 Take my sil - ver and my gold: all is yours a thou - sand - fold;
 4 Take my will and make it thine: it shall be no lon - ger mine;



take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.
 take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sa - ges from thee.
 take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy roy - al throne.
 take my - self, and I will be fit to serve and fol - low thee.

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.

The Sacrament of Communion

✠ WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD ✠

*Closing Hymn: #166 Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days ST FLAVIAN

*Benediction

Postlude Vesper Voluntary #3 Edward Elgar (1857-1934)

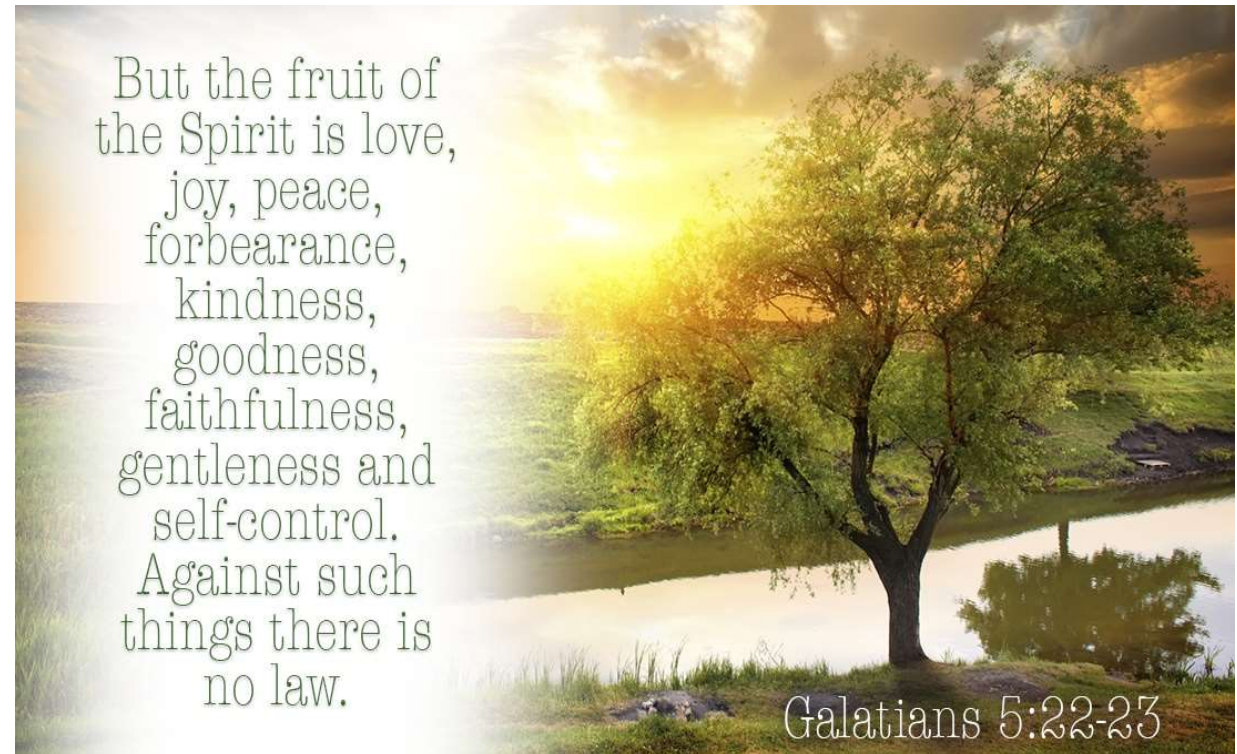
During Lent, our postludes will be introspective pieces intended to offer opportunities for reflection.
 We encourage you to remain quiet so others may appreciate the music.



First Presbyterian Church

The First Sunday in Lent

Sunday, March 9, 2025 • 8:30 & 11:00 AM



The First Presbyterian Church of Meadville, Pennsylvania • *founded 1800*
 www.meadvillefpc.org • 814-333-2161

The Rev. Benjamin Black • *Senior Pastor*

Mary Zahora • *Administrative Assistant*

Kevin Dill • *Director of Music*

Kris Lubomski • *Financial Secretary*

Vickie Fischer • *Children's Ministry Coordinator*

Elijah Boyd • *Custodian*

Chris Wade • *Evening Custodian*