



First Presbyterian Church of Mineral Ridge

**5th Sunday in Lent
March 26, 2023**

Welcome to our church! It is a joy to worship with you on this morning. Please join us after worship in Fellowship Hall for coffee and conversation.

**Please stand in body or in spirit.*

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

We Gather as God's People

OPENING PRAYER – *Our prayer this morning comes from Judy Chicago's Merging Poem. Let us pray.*

And then all that has divided us will merge
And then compassion will be wedded to power
And then softness will come to a world that is harsh
and unkind

And then both men and women will be gentle
And then both women and men will be strong
And then no person will be subject to another's will

And then all will be rich and free and varied
And then the greed of some will give way to the needs
of many
And then all will share equally in the Earth's
abundance
And then all will care for the sick and the weak and
the old
And then all will nourish the young
And then all will cherish life's creatures
And then all will live in harmony with each other and
the Earth
And then everywhere will be called Eden once again

***CALL TO WORSHIP** – *Please stand and join me in the
call to worship.*

We come, for God gathers us here,
with that community called faith:
**where the hungry are served first,
where the thirsty drink life's water.**

We come, for God welcomes us here
into that home called grace:
**where the naked are clothed in robes of hope;
where the stranger is embraced as the long-lost
prodigal.**

We come, for God reunites us here,
sisters and brothers in that family called love:
**where the imprisoned model justice,
where the sick are cradled in God's peace.**

***HYMN #280** *Amazing Grace*

*Amazing grace, How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
Was blind, but now I see.*

*'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed.*

*Through many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.*

*The Lord has promised good to me,
His Word my hope secures;
He will my Shield and Portion be,
As long as life endures.*

*When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.*

CALL TO CONFESSION – *Please be seated.*

In worship, everyone is welcome as they are. We invite each other to set our burdens down and remember that we belong to God. Let us confess our sins, first in silence.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION - *Please join me in the unison prayer of confession.*

Merciful God, we confess that we have wandered from your way of truth and life. You call us to share all that we have and work together for the common good, but we hoard up treasures for ourselves and deny others their daily bread. You call us to set the captives free and seek justice for the oppressed, but we live in fear of our neighbors and hide ourselves from our own kin. You call us to walk in newness of life and to be witnesses to the resurrection, but we dwell in the valley of dry bones and keep silent about your saving love. Forgive us, God of grace. Set us free from sin, death and fear so that we may serve you with gladness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

KYRIE #572

“Lord have mercy upon us, Christ have mercy upon us, Lord have mercy up on us.”

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Hear the good news:

God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the gift of the Holy Spirit.

I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God.**

SUNG RESPONSE #582 (GtG)

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
And to the Son, who grace has pardoned me,

And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be.
Amen.

**ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Suzie McCabe

Kindergarten and younger children may now leave with Olivia Meyers for Story Circle in Fellowship Hall. For children above kindergarten there are worship bags with activities to use in worship.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION— *Let us pray.*

Your eyes miss nothing, O God—you look not only at the things we can see but also inside, where we can only imagine. Open our eyes this day to see as you see. Open our ears to hear as you speak. Open our hearts to receive your wisdom, to know your voice, your truth, your grace. As we come together to your word, lead us in your way. Amen.

FIRST READING

Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

a time to be born, and a time to die;

a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;

a time to kill, and a time to heal;

a time to break down, and a time to build up;

a time to weep, and a time to laugh;

a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;

a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from

embracing;
a time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to throw away;
a time to tear, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace.

*The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.***

SECOND READING

Matthew 25:31-46

When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my

family, you did it to me.” Then he will say to those at his left hand, “You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.” Then they also will answer, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?” Then he will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.” And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.’

*The Word of God for the People of God. **Amen.***

SERMON

Rev. Kori Robbins

We Respond to God’s Love

***HYMN #727 (GtG)** *Will You Let Me Be Your Servant*

*Will you let me be your servant,
Let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace
To let you be my servant too.*

*We are pilgrims on a journey;
We’re together on the road.
We are here to help each other
Walk the mile and bear the load.*

*I will hold the Christ-light for you
In the night time of your fear.
I will hold my hand out to you,
Speak the peace you long to hear.*

*I will weep when you are weeping;
When you laugh I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow
Till we've seen this journey through.*

*When we sing to God in heaven,
We shall find such harmony,
Born of all we've known together
Of Christ's love and agony.*

*Will you let me be your servant,
Let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace
To let you be my servant too.*

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

We trust in Jesus Christ,
fully human, fully God.

**Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:
preaching good news to the poor
and release to the captives.**

We trust in God,
whom Jesus called Abba, Father.

**In sovereign love God created the world good
and makes everyone equally in God's image
to live as one community.**

We trust in God the Holy Spirit,
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.

**The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith
and binds us together with all believers
in the one body of Christ, the Church.**

With believers in every time and place,
**we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God
in Jesus Christ our Lord.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Trusting indeed that you are always there, we pray to
you now as your Son taught us, saying 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.**

CALL FOR OFFERING

*In the kingdom of God, we find that generosity of spirit,
generosity of possessions & the radical sharing of skills
are practiced openly. All gifts are important to God, so
as the offering plate comes around, place your hand
over it, committing to God that you will use your time,
talent and treasures for furthering the work of God's
kingdom.*

OFFERTORY

***RESPONSE OF PRAISE #324**

Open my mouth and let me bear
Gladly the warm truth everywhere;
Open my heart and let me prepare
Love with Thy children thus to share.
Silently now I wait for Thee, ready my God,
Thy will to see;
Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit Divine!

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** – *Please join me in saying the prayer of dedication.*

We give you thanks and praise, O Lord: You have created us in your own image. You have claimed us as your beloved people. You have called us to be a blessing for others. Use the gifts of your good creation and the works of our hands to lift up the oppressed, break down dividing walls, and build up your church; all in the name and for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

EXTINGUISHING THE LENTEN CANDLES

We Go Out to Serve God

***HYMN #369** *I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me*

*I'm gonna live so God can use me
Anywhere, Lord, anytime!*

*I'm gonna live so God can use me
Anywhere, Lord, anytime!*

*I'm gonna work so God can use me
Anywhere, Lord, anytime!*

*I'm gonna work so God can use me
Anywhere, Lord, anytime!*

*I'm gonna pray so God can use me
Anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna pray so God can use me
Anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna sing so God can use me
Anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna sing so God can use me
Anywhere, Lord, anytime!*

***BENEDICTION**

***CLOSING RESPONSE #743**

Step by Step

O God, You are my God and I will ever praise You
O God, You are my God and I will ever praise You
I will seek You in the morning
And I will learn to walk in Your ways
And step by step You'll lead me
And I will follow You all of my days

Prayer List

MEMBERS TO REMEMBER

Mary Alice Seaborn

Marlyne Young

Helen Redmond

Shirley Dull

PRAYERS FOR HEALTH, SUPPORT AND CONCERN

Names will be taken off after 6 weeks, unless otherwise noted.

Betty Garland

Megan Taylor (Carole's cousin)

Amos Rodgers & Cody Tittle (Marlene's friends)

James Tincher (Marlene's son)

Clayton & Eileen (Bev Myers' family friends)

Barb and Alan (friends of Suzie McCabe)

Paul Stevens (Bev Myers' son)

Marty O'Neill

Dennis Copanic (Val Copanic's father)

Graig Colantone (Nicole Pugh's father)

Dareen Craver-Angeloff (Rodney's mother)

Cheryl Fisher (Bev Meyers' Daughter)

Ella McBride (friend of Sherri Craver)

Bill Happney

Shannon Poole (daughter of Sherry and Tim Gleason)

Samara Fabian

Bonnie Jorza (Linda Frayer's Sister-in-Law)

Lora McGlynn (Marty O'Neill's friend)

Dale Jaquin (January Rendes' Uncle)

Pam & Sam Clay (Cousins of Debbie Rendes & Diane Reinhart)

Andreas Reichart (Carole Rummell's cousin)

Lacie Weber (Kathy Graham's Daughter)

Kristen Graham (Kathy Graham's Daughter-in-Law)
Amanda (Jessica Painter's friend)
Family of Logan Morris

PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD

Eastminster Presbytery and staff
Our Mineral Ridge Church Family
Niles Community Services
Warren & Youngstown Rescue Missions
Refugees
Rev. Kade Mastra (Indonesian Partner)
Peace and healing for our country
Casa de Buen Trato
Ukraine
World Leaders
Jed and Jenny Koball (Peru)
Our PC(USA) coworkers
Revs. Scott & Elmarie Parker
Earthquake victims in Turkey & Syria
The Community of East Palestine

40 Days??? If you didn't pick up a bag from the basket on the table at the back of the sanctuary at the beginning of Lent - it is not too late to do so. Yes, we said each day of the 40 days of Lent you might want to put an item of clothing, bath linens, or bed linens in the bag and then at the end of the 40 days you could deliver to Goodwill or Salvation Army or somewhere like it. Well now, there are only two weeks until Lent is over and Easter is here. Why don't you pick up a bag now and see what you can do to help others with your gently used items.

Announcements

Information sent after Thursday at 9 am may not make it into the bulletin.

One Great Hour of Sharing is a special offering of the Presbyterian Church (USA) that is received during the season of Lent. It is a longstanding ecumenical effort (begun in 1948) aimed at raising funds necessary to provide relief and reconstruction for communities in the aftermath of disaster. It will make a difference in the world through three impactful programs. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope. PDA is already at work in East Palestine. Offering envelopes are in the church pews. You can also send a check to the church please mark on your check (OGHS). Thank you.

To help our Deacons fund their projects and ministry, Session has decided that Communion Sundays (the 2nd Sunday of the month) will be an opportunity to give to the Deacons' Fund (as well as our normal offering.) In addition to that, to help our Food Distribution and Backpack Program, Communion Sundays will be an opportunity to bring in specific items that the Distribution needs to provide food to our community.

A Congregational Meeting Will be held immediately following Worship for the purposes of hearing from the Nominating Committee.



Birthdays Wishes

Abbie Postlethwait 3/26

Responsibilities

Pastor- *Rev. Kori Robbins*

Liturgist- *Lisa Sorg*

Elder- *Jane Meyers*

Deacon- *Lori Brendlinger*

Music- *Anita Miller*

Story Circle - *Olivia Meyers*

Media- *Alyssa Strange*

Thank you for your Generosity

March 19th \$1,148

March 12th \$1,950

March 05th \$3,771



THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, March 26	9:15am	Church School
	9:30am	Tiny Tots
	10:30am	Worship/Congregational Meeting/Fellowship
Monday, March 27	6:30pm	Deacon's Meeting
	7:00pm	Al-Anon & Al-Ateen
Tuesday, March 28	10am-12pm	Food Distribution
	6:30pm	Session Meeting
Sunday, April 02 (Palm Sunday)	9:15am	Church School
	9:30am	Tiny Tots
	10:30am	Worship/Fellowship

Staff

Pastor

Reverend Kori Robbins
(406)-560-5548
Pastor@FPCMR.org

Christian Educator

Carole Rummell

Administrative Assistant

April Dahl
330-652-5712

Custodians

April Mohn/
James Boyce

Story Circle Attendant

Olivia Meyers

Media

Alyssa Strange

Hours

Pastor's Office Hours

Monday-Thursday
9am-3pm

General Office Hours

Tuesday/Thursday
9am-1pm

Church Info

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Website

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Clerk of Session: mrfpcclerk@gmail.com.