

**First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit**  
**Worship for Sunday, January 25, 2026**

Words of Welcome  
Prelude

“I Love to Tell the Story”

arr. Harold DeCou

Call To Worship

Psalm 1:1-3

Leader: Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked,  
or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers.

**People: But their delight is in the law of the Lord,  
and on his law they meditate day and night.**

Leader: They are like trees planted by streams of water,  
which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither.

**People: In all that they do, they prosper.**

Leader: Let us worship God together.

Introduction to the Sermon on the Mount

\*Hymn “Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit” (Tune: Nettleton, “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”)

**Blessed are the poor in spirit; God’s whole realm is surely theirs.  
Those in mourning will find comfort as an answer to their prayers.  
Meek ones whom this world despises will inherit everything.  
God, your kingdom still surprises; may we seek the reign you bring.**

**Blessed, too, are those who hunger and who thirst for what is right.  
They will not be prone to wander, for your will is their delight.  
Those who show God’s care and mercy will receive that mercy too.  
God, in Christ you show us clearly all the joy we have in you.**

**Those who share the peace God gives them will find blessings as God’s own.  
Those oppressed for faithful living will call heaven’s kingdom Home.  
When the world’s ways seem distressing and we feel life’s painful sting,  
God, remind us of the blessings of the wondrous life you bring.**

Responsive Reading of Gospel Lesson: Matthew 5:1-12

**Leader:** When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down,  
his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

Blessed are the poor in spirit,

**People: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

Leader: Blessed are those who mourn,

**People: for they will be comforted.**

Leader: Blessed are the meek,

**People: for they will inherit the earth.**

Leader: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,

**People: for they will be filled.**

Leader: Blessed are the merciful,

**People: for they will receive mercy.**

Leader: Blessed are the pure in heart,

**People: for they will see God.**

Leader: Blessed are the peacemakers,

**People: for they will be called children of God.**

Leader: Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake,

**People: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

Leader: Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

**People: Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.**

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 5:13-20

Hymn "Up on a Mountaintop" (Tune: Slane, "Be Thou My Vision")

**Up on a mountaintop, Jesus sat down,  
Teaching the people who gathered around:  
Look for the blessings that God kindly brings;  
God's loving kingdom is changing all things.**

**You are the salt and you're also the light.  
Flavor God's world, with your faith shining bright.  
Know that I've come here, God's word to fulfill.  
Keep the commandments and follow them well.**

Prayer (Unison)

**O God, we thank you for Jesus' teachings to all who follow him. We thank you for the blessings of the Beatitudes, and for the wonderful surprises they bring us, about what it means for your church to live in your kingdom. Help us by your Spirit to hear your word in scripture, and to follow your way in our lives. Make us salt and light to your world. Amen.**

Time with Children

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 5:21-42

\* Hymn "Up on a Mountaintop" (Tune: Slane, "Be Thou My Vision")

**Let go of anger, for it is a sin.  
It will destroy you, both outside and in.  
Even your thinking can lead you astray;  
Whatever tempts you, just throw it away.**

**Keep strong the bonds between husband and wife;  
Keep your commitments for all of your life.  
Don't swear by heaven or by earth below;  
Let "yes" be "yes" then, and let "no" be "no."**

**If any hurt you, then you may resist,  
But not with hatred or weapon or fist.  
God's way is stronger than any of you face;  
Stand up and love them! And give them God's grace.**

\* Prayer of Confession (Unison)

**O God, we have heard Jesus' teachings many times, but we confess that sometimes we think they are impractical. We let anger take hold of us. We fail to keep our commitments to you and to others. We lack courage to follow Jesus' way of love. Forgive us, we pray. Help us to find joy in obedience to you. Amen.**

\* Silent Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness

Leader: In Jesus Christ, God gives us the gift of forgiveness.

**People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

\* Passing the Peace

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 5:43-48

Hymn "Up on a Mountaintop" (Tune: Slane, "Be Thou My Vision")

**Love those who hate you and pray for them, too. God's mercy reaches out far beyond you.  
Seek, as God's people, God's wholeness each day, so you can witness to God's perfect way.**

Anthem

“O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

Bell Choir

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 6:1-15

Hymn “Don’t Show Off Your Giving” (Ash Grove, “Let All Things Now Living”)

**Don’t show off your giving, the good you are doing, but quietly give without public display.  
Let prayer be in secret, your spirit renewing. Don’t heap empty phrases, but pray then this way:  
“Our Father in heaven, may your name be holy. We pray for your kingdom and our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we, too, pardon freely. Protect us from troubles and evils we dread.”**

Prayer of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Responsive Reading of Gospel Lesson: Matthew 6:16-21

**Leader:** ‘And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites,  
for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting.  
Truly I tell you, they have received their reward.

**People:** **But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face,  
so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father  
who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you...**

**Leader:** ‘Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth,  
where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal;

**People:** **But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor  
rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal.**

**All:** **For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**

Hymn “Don’t Show Off Your Giving” (Ash Grove, “Let All Things Now Living”)

**Whenever you’re fasting, don’t show off to others in hopes that your neighbors will speak well of you.  
Don’t brag of your faith to your sisters and brothers, for it is enough that God sees what you do.  
Don’t hoard earthly treasure or trust your possessions;  
They rust and are stolen; you’ll have them no more!  
Instead seek God’s kingdom—its worth never lessens  
And find your heart’s treasure in things that endure.**

Offering

Offertory

“Tell Me the Old, Old Story”

arr. Harold DeCou

\* Doxology 606 and Prayer of Dedication

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 6:22-34

Hymn “Don’t Show Off Your Giving” (Ash Grove, “Let All Things Now Living”)

**The eye is a lamp and we need it for seeing, so be like that lamp and let God’s light shine through.  
You can’t serve two masters with all of your being, So choose God or money! Which one will rule you?  
And so, too, I tell you to put away worry of what you’ll consume or the clothes that you’ll wear.  
God cares for the birds and gives flowers their glory, so trust God for shelter and safety and care.**

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 7:1-6

Hymn “Don’t Go ‘Round Judging Others” (Angel’s Story, “O Jesus, I Have Promised”)

**Don't go 'round judging others, or they may judge you, too.  
Don't criticize your neighbors for things you also do.  
Don't squander what is holy or waste what you've received.  
Hold fast the faith God gives you; rejoice, give thanks, believe!**

Prayer (Unison)

**God you have given us the wondrous gift of faith, through our Lord Jesus Christ. Help us to find joy in this precious gift—not wasting it or ignoring it—but sharing it with others. Amen.**

\*Affirmation of Faith                      The Apostles' Creed (traditional)

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 7:7-12

Hymn                      "Don't Go 'Round Judging Others" (Angel's Story, "O Jesus, I Have Promised")

**Ask God, and God will give you; search well, and you will find.  
Knock and the door will open for God is just and kind.  
Do everything for others that you want them to do.  
The Law and Prophets matter! This is God's Word for you.**

Time of Silent Prayer

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 7:13-20

Hymn                      "Don't Go 'Round Judging Others" (Angel's Story, "O Jesus, I Have Promised")

**The gate to life is narrow; destruction's way is wide.  
So take the way that's harder and let God be your guide.  
Beware of those who lead you down pathways that destroy.  
And seek the fruit of heaven; God gives us kingdom joy!**

Prayer (Unison)

**Loving God, help us to give ourselves to you anew, each day.  
Help us to listen to your voice and to find joy in following your way. Amen.**

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 7:21-27

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Hymn                      "Don't Go 'Round Judging Others" (Angel's Story, "O Jesus, I Have Promised")

**Not all who call the Lord's name will enter heaven's realm,  
But only those obeying will call God's kingdom Home.  
The wise hear God and follow; on rock, they stand secure.  
The storms of life may shatter, but they will still endure.**

\* Benediction

\* Postlude                      "Tell Me the Stories of Jesus"

Fred Challinor

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## **Church Family Announcements**

Our congregation worships God. equips God's people for ministry in the world. and serves God in ways that are faithful to the Gospel.

### **Thank you for joining us for worship.**

- We gather each Sunday at 10:00 a.m. in person or on our YouTube channel, (or stream the service on YouTube at a later time).
- Please use the red attendance pads to record your presence today.

**Today's Flowers** are given In Loving Memory of Robert Albright

**Adult Education** meets on Wednesdays at 6 p.m., Room 206. The study is currently working through the opening chapters of the Gospel of Matthew.

**Presbyter and Weekly E-Mail – W** Stay up to date on our weekly e-mail and the monthly Presbyter newsletter. Do you have happenings to share? Deadline for weekly newsletter 3 pm Monday. Email Joy at [office@fpccs.org](mailto:office@fpccs.org).

**2026 Offering Envelopes:** there are a few boxes left if you did not get your envelopes check with Joy in the office.

**Our Nominating Team** is beginning its work to seek elders and deacons. Have an idea? Nominating forms are in the Narthex and can be returned to the manila envelope on the hallway bulletin board.

**Tell us your prayer concerns.** Prayer Request Cards are in the pew racks. Pass them to the center aisle to be collected during the first hymn.

**Please pray for:** Debbie, Molly, Ellen S., Jeff, Jean, Nancy, Sarah, Carol, Leslie, Kim, Stuart, Kathy, Timothy, Claire, Craig K., Gary K., Judy S., AJ, Lee, Sally, Terry, Estelle, Nate, Len, Millie, Faith, Erin, Katie, Mary, Sue and family, Renee, Wendy, Margaret, Jim L., Robyn, K.J., Christine, Rachel and family, Theresa, Cindy, Bob, Dick, Kate, Shirley, Peg, Dorina, Jane & Family

**Flowers,** please check the flower poster next to the Pastor's office dates are still available.

**Committees,** please send email to [office@fpccs.org](mailto:office@fpccs.org) with a short description of your committee, chairs and when you meet each month. This will aid in updating the Church calendar.

## **This Week at a Glance**

### **Sunday, January 25**

- 10 a.m., Worship in the sanctuary and online
- 11:00 a.m., Confirmation
- 3 p.m., OA, Room 210

### **Monday, January 26**

### **Tuesday, January 27**

- 9:30 a.m., Yoga, Room 111
- 10:00 a.m., My Brothers' Keeper Quilt
- 6 p.m., OA, Room
- 6:15 p.m., Choir, Rehearsal Sanctuary
- 7 p.m., AA, Room 111
- 7 P.m., Deacons, Session Room

### **Wednesday, January 28**

- **Presbyter Mailing**
- 10:30 a.m., Prayer & Share
- 6 p.m., Adult Education, Room 206
- 7 p.m., Bell Choir Rehearsal, Fellowship Hall
- 7:30 p.m., AlAnon, Room 111

### **Thursday, January 29**

### **Friday, January 30**

- Clarks Summit Ice Festival
- 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., Photography and Art Show, Session Room
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### **Saturday, January 31**

- 9:45 a.m., OA
- 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Photography and Art Show, Session Room
- 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Chili Café, Fellowship Hall
- 1 to 2 p.m., Drum Circle, Sanctuary
- 6 p.m., Music in the Sanctuary

### **Sunday, February 1**

- 10 a.m., Worship
- 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., Photography and Art Show, Session Room
- 11 a.m., Confirmation
- 3 p.m., OA, Room 210
- 5:30 p.m., Girl Scouts, Room 111

## **Clarks Summit Festival of Ice**

**January 30 thru February 1, 2026**

Join us for a winter weekend of art, music, and food.

- Ice Sculpture on display outside the entrance to the sanctuary.
- Photography and Art Show in the Session Room- Friday 4-7 pm, Saturday 10 am - 4 pm, Sunday 9-12 am
- Friday evening 6-7 p.m. - Guitarists Roy and Mike Williams in the sanctuary with violinist Mark Woodyatt.
- Saturday, 11 am - 1 pm - Chili Cafe in Fellowship Hall with entertainment by piano students of Michelle Triaca
- Saturday, 1 pm - Drum Circle led by Cheryl Mozdian in the sanctuary

**Volunteers needed** - We are still looking for a few volunteers in the Chili Cafe sign-up sheet is in the fellowship hall. Volunteers bring a crockpot of chili of your choice. We are also in need of a few volunteers to help in the cafe on Saturday. Drop off is Saturday, January 31, between 9 and 10 a.m. please contact the office at 570-586-6306 with any questions.

## **Arts at First Presbyterian 2026 events**

### ***Save the Dates:***

- Saturday, February 7, 2026, 4:00 pm - Silent Movie with organist Dan Brownell
- Sunday, March 15, 2026, 4:00 pm - Jazz with the Presbybop Blue Note Jazztet
- Sunday, April 26, 2025, 4:00 pm - A Classical Bouquet with Nate Worrell
- Friday, May 15, 2025, 7:00 pm - An Evening of Broadway with Tim Shew

We are grateful for the many ways that people support our church's ministry to the community and world. If you wish to contribute by cell phone, **scan here.**



**PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE**

Pastor	Rev. William Carter
Coordinator of Children and Youth	Jana Schillinger
Director of Music	Frank Jones
Director of Bell Choir	Richard Cochrane
Organist	Kay Ten Eyck
Liturgist	Christine Lee
Ushers	Sue Flynn and Bett

**First Presbyterian Church**

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**[www.fpccs.org](http://www.fpccs.org)**