



THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CLEVELAND

MARCH 1, 2026
SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT WITH COMMUNION
10 AM Sanctuary Worship

WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE

Reflection on St. Flavian
Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days David Schelat

WELCOME

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

INTROIT

Create In Me John Purifoy

Create in me a clean heart, O God
And renew a right spirit within me

Cast me not away from Thy presence, O Lord
And take not thy Holy Spirit from me
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation
And renew a right spirit within me

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, people of God, to know again who you are,
return to the One who gives you life.

**We come as children of God,
longing for a closer walk with our Creator.**

We are called to lay aside previous assumptions,
to give up our advantages and security.

**It is frightening to venture into the unknown,
to live by faith rather than by sight.**

The God who has given us life
offers us a new birth, a new way.

**We are both attracted and repelled by newness,
by the promises and challenges of a life of faith.**

Let us venture together,
daring to feel the winds of God's Spirit.

**We will join in exploring God's purposes
and open ourselves to God's leading.**

* INVOCATION PRAYER

**Let the winds of the Spirit blow in our midst today, loving God.
Let us hear the sound and feel the power.
Open our hearts in new ways to the promise of your healing grace
so we may be a blessing to one another and to your world.
We need courage to face the challenges and struggles of life.
We seek reassurance that you will be with us
in our going out and our coming in.
Strengthen our faith to withstand the trials and temptations
that lead us away from a faithful journey with Christ.
Amen.**

* HYMN #301

Let Us Build a House

TWO OAKS

Capo 3: (A7) (D) (A) (D) (G) (A) (Bm)
C7 F C F B^b C Dm

1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can
2 Let us build a house where proph - ets speak, and words are
3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter,

(D) (A) (D) (Bm7) (Em) (A)
F C F Dm7 Gm C

safe - ly live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell
strong and true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek
wine, and wheat; a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground

(Em) (A7) (G) (D) (F#m) (Bm)
 Gm C7 Bb F Am Dm

how hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
 to dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
 where peace and ius - tice meet. Here the love of God, through

(Em) (A) (D) (G)
 Gm C F Bb

vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the
 wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as
 Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we

Refrain

(D) (G) (F#7) (Bm) (Em) (Bm)
 F Bb A7 Dm Gm Dm

love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
 one we claim the faith of Je - sus:
 share in Christ the feast that frees us: all are wel - come;

(F#m) (Em) (D) (Em) (A7) (D) (G) (D)
 Am Gm F Gm C7 F Bb F

all are wel - come; all are wel - come in this place.

* CALL TO CONFESSION

Bob Reid

Some of us break the rules for right living and know we are sinners.
 Others keep all the rules but realize that our relationships with God
 and others are not really as they should be.
 Some of us think of ourselves more highly than we ought to think.
 Others do not appreciate our own worth as God's children,
 nor live in the confidence of God's love.
 Most of us, when faced with a choice
 between security and venturing in dangerous,
 unknown paths where God may be calling us,
 are reluctant to take the risks of faith.
 All of us are invited to name our sins and seek God's forgiveness.
 Let us come to God as we are,
 believing that we are known and welcomed in this Awesome Presence.
 Let us confess our sin.
 Let us join our voices in the corporate prayer of confession,
 followed by time for silent personal confession.
 Thus, we pray:

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Gracious and Loving God,
you have blessed us abundantly with material and spiritual resources,
but we have wasted them, complained of our lot,
and asked for more benefits and protection.
We have considered the things we have as our due;
they are ours, to be used for our own benefit.
It is hard to hear the message that all we have,
even life itself, belongs to you and is to be invested in your service.
When you call us to depart from our safe places to serve you
or to give up our wealth for the sake of others, we are frightened.
We turn away from the cost of discipleship,
seeking to enjoy the benefits of faith
without opening ourselves to its risks and challenges.
Forgive us, O God, and give us the courage of our convictions.
We pray in Jesus' name.**

(moment of silent confession)

* KYRIE

Return to God

(Cantor)

Return to God with all your heart, the source of grace and mercy;
come seek the tender faithfulness of God.

(Congregation)

**Return to God with all your heart, the source of grace and mercy;
come seek the tender faithfulness of God.**

* ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Hear the promises that come to us from God
through ancient words of faith:

"Blessed are those whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered;
blessed are those against whom the Sovereign One will not reckon their sin."

Again, it is written, "God so loved the world that God gave God's only Child,
that whoever believes in that Child should not perish but have eternal life.

For God sent that Child into the world, not to condemn the world,
but that through that Child the world might be saved."

We can step into the unknown in the faith that God goes with us
and provides for us. Praise be to God!

Thanks be to God.

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Let us offer a sign of peace to one another.

* GLORIA #204

Stay with Me
(Cantor)

STAY WITH ME

Stay with me; remain here with me; watch and pray. Watch and pray.

(Congregation)

Stay with me; remain here with me; watch and pray. Watch and pray.

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Please be seated.

The faith that sustains us is not a commodity to be hoarded and protected.

Rather, faith is an active, dynamic relationship

which God calls us to share with one another,

not just in the church, but with everyone.

Our offerings make possible faithful ministries within the church

and our outreach in the world.

The offering will now be received.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Jesus So Lowly

Harold Friedell

Jesus, so lowly, Child of the earth, Christen me wholly, bring me new birth.

Jesus, so lonely, weary and sad; Teach me that only love maketh glad.

Jesus, so broken, silent and pale; Be this the token love will not fail.

Jesus, victorious, mighty and free; Teach me how glorious death is to be.

* DOXOLOGY #215

What Wondrous Love Is This

WONDROUS LOVE

To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing, to God and to the Lamb, I will sing.

To God and to the Lamb who is the great I am, while millions join the theme,

I will sing, I will sing; while millions join the theme, I will sing!

* OFFERTORY PRAYER

Bob Reid

Let us join our voices in prayer:

God of all humankind,

send our generous gifts where we are unable to go.

Send us to places where we would not venture to witness to your love,

except by the assurance of your presence with us.

We rededicate all we have and all we are to your service.

Amen.

* OFFERTORY RESPONSE

We Give Thee But Thine Own

J.S Bach

We give Thee but Thine own, whate'er the gift may be.

All that we have is Thine alone, a trust, O Lord from Thee. Amen.

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Let us pray together:

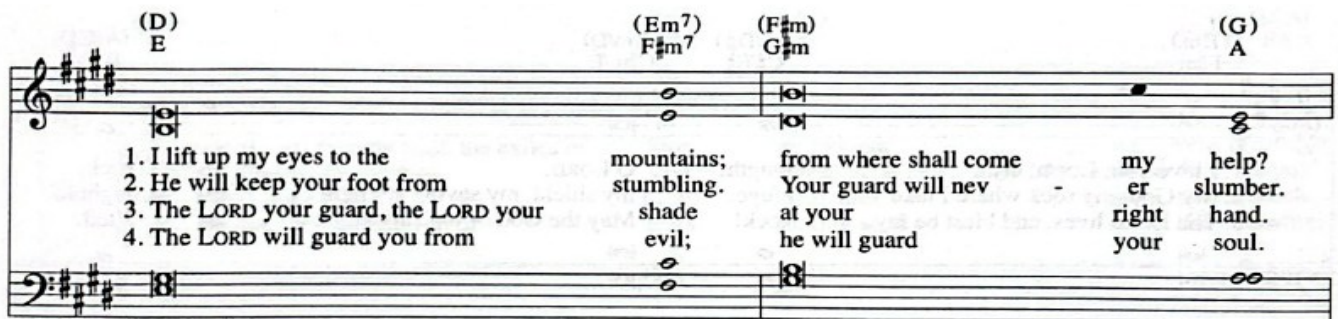
**God of signs and wonders,
we come to your word again and again,
seeking understanding
and the new life it offers.
By the power of your Holy Spirit,
illumine our hearts and minds
so that we may believe this testimony
and have life eternal.
In the name of Jesus Christ,
our teacher and Savior, we pray. Amen.**

THE READINGS

Psalm 121 (*Congregation sings the refrain*)

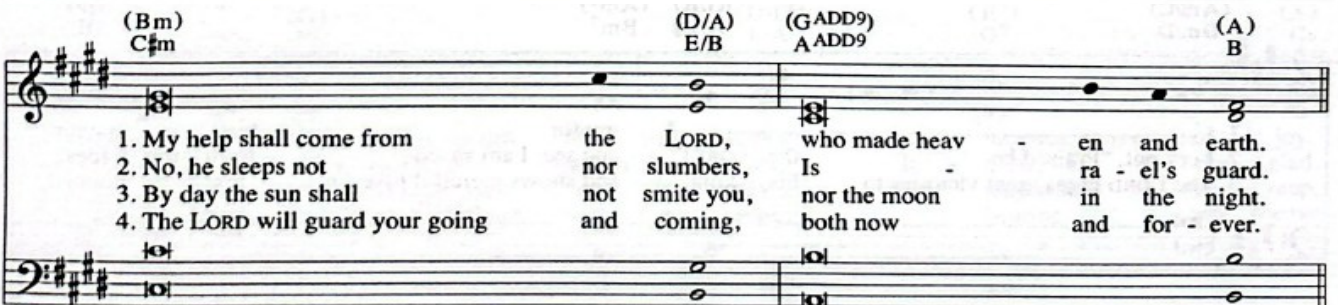


Our help is from the Lord, who made heav - en and earth.



(D) E (Em⁷) F#m⁷ (F#m) G#m (G) A

1. I lift up my eyes to the mountains; from where shall come my help?
2. He will keep your foot from stumbling. Your guard will nev - er slumber.
3. The LORD your guard, the LORD your shade at your right hand.
4. The LORD will guard you from evil; he will guard your soul.



(Bm) C#m (D/A) E/B (GADD9) AADD9 (A) B

1. My help shall come from the LORD, who made heav - en and earth.
2. No, he sleeps not nor slumbers, Is - ra - el's guard.
3. By day the sun shall not smite you, nor the moon in the night.
4. The LORD will guard your going and coming, both now and for - ever.

What will we say about Sarah and Abraham, our ancestors according to the flesh? Certainly if they were justified by their deeds they had grounds for boasting—but not in God’s view. For what does scripture say? “Sarah and Abraham believed God, and it was credited to them as righteousness.”

Now, when a person works, the wages are regarded not as a favor, but as what is due. But when people do nothing except believe in the One who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as righteousness.

The promise made to Sarah and Abraham and their descendants—that they would inherit the world—did not depend on the Law; it was made in view of the righteousness that comes from faith. For if those who live by the Law are hears, then faith is pointless and the promise is worthless. The Law forever holds the potential for punishment. Only when there is no Law can there be no violation. Hence everything depends on faith; everything is grace. Thus the promise holds true for all of Sarah’s and Abraham’s descendants, not only for those who have the Law, but for all who have their faith. They are the mother and the father of us all, which is why scripture says, “I will make you the parents of many nations.”—all of which is done in the sight of the God in whom they believed, the God who restores the dead to life and calls into being things that don’t exist.

The Holy Spirit has a word for each of us today.

With God’s help we are listening.



A certain Pharisee named Nicodemus, a member of the Sanhedrin, came to Jesus at night. “Rabbi,” he said, “we know you’re a teacher come from God, for no one can perform the signs and wonders you do, unless by the power of God.”

Jesus gave Nicodemus this answer: “The truth of the matter is, unless one is born from above, one cannot see the kingdom of God.”

Nicodemus said, “How can an adult be born a second time? I can’t go back into my mother’s womb to be born again!”

Jesus replied: “The truth of the matter is, no one can enter God’s kingdom without being born of water and the Spirit. What is born of flesh is flesh; what is born of the Spirit is Spirit. So don’t be surprised when I tell you that you must be born from above. The wind blows where it will. You hear the sound it makes, but you don’t know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

“How can this be possible?” asked Nicodemus.

Jesus replied, “You’re a teacher of Israel, and you still don’t understand these matters? The truth of the matter is, we’re talking about what we know; we’re testifying about what we’ve seen—yet you don’t accept our testimony. If you don’t believe when I tell you about earthly things, how will you believe when I tell you about heavenly things? No one has gone up to heaven except the One who came down from heaven—the Chosen One. As Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so the Chosen One must be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in the Chosen One might have eternal life. Yes, God so loved the world as to give the Only Begotten One, that whoever believes may not die, but have eternal life. God sent the Only Begotten into the world not to condemn the world, but that through the Only Begotten the world might be saved.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PASTOR’S MESSAGE

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

“Whoever Believes”

WE RESPOND IN LOVE AND FAITH

* HYMN #507

Come to the Table of Grace

TABLE OF GRACE

Capo 3: (D) (A) (Bm) (D7/A) (G)
 F C Dm F7/C B^b

1 Come to the ta - ble of grace. Come to the

(A) (D) (A) (D) (Em)
 C F C F Gm

ta - ble of grace. This is God's ta - ble; it's

(D/A) (G) (D/A) (A7) (D) (G) (D)
 F/A B^b F/C C7 F B^b F

not yours or mine. Come to the ta - ble of grace.

- 2 Come to the table of peace...
- 3 Come to the table of love...
- 4 Come to the table of hope...
- 5 Come to the table of joy...

The simple, formulaic nature of this song makes it especially suitable for use during the communion portion of the Lord's Supper. Because it can be learned readily and does not require reference to a printed source, it frees people to sing before and after receiving the elements.

TEXT and MUSIC: Barbara Hamm, 2008
 Text and Music © 2008 Hope Publishing Company

TABLE OF GRACE
 7.7.10.7

* INVITATION TO THE MEAL

This table is for all who wish to know
The presence of Christ
And to share in the community of God's people.
It is not my table,
It is not the Old Stone Church's table,
It is the table of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,
And all are welcome.

God is with you!

And God is with us all.

Open wide your hearts.

We open them completely to the Spirit of God.

May God's love nurture your wandering spirits each day.
May God's light sustain your souls each night.

This is a season of wilderness-
The season we grasp to understand
the Divine just a little more.

This is the time for us to reach inwards
to find the self that God sees.
This is the chance for us to gaze outwards,
caring for the Christ in our midst.
The Lenten roads are long
yet full of gifts.

We pray for all in need of healing, whether it be in body, mind, or spirit...

Bruce Arnoff, Todd St. Clair, George, Tralaina, Patricia Gerard, Dorland,
Barbara Maloney, John Davis, Gail Harris, Fletcher Hattis, Addie Singleton,
Jayne Zborowsky, Charles Rabb, Tony and Annie Carlos, Courtney Knapp,
Bruce Baunach, JoAnn Hood, Judy and Frank Macuga

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,
let us pray as our Savior has taught us:

**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.**

(Please be seated).

The Lenten paths often seem chilly
yet warm with the winds of the Spirit.
The Spirit of God is the light
that leads us in the hushed nights.
The Christ is our companion on the journey
in the intense sunlight of day.

We remember his time in the wilderness.
The struggles. The hunger. The peace.
And as we seek the Divine in our midst,
on this journey, we crave the bread of life.
On our desert roads, we thirst for the fruit of the vine,
the cup of blessings.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Through Jesus the Christ's story,
we remember the night before his arrest,
the night of serenity, solemnity, and love.
Jesus took in his hands bread from the table.
He broke it and blessed it.

**Barukh ata Adonai Eloheinu melek ha'olam
hamotzi lekhem min ha'aretz.**

Blessed are You, Lord our God, Ruler of the universe,
who brings forth bread from the earth.
Eat in remembrance of me, he said.

And after supper, As the night grew long,
Jesus took a cup, and filled it with the fruit of the vine.

As he blessed it, he spoke aloud to them

**Barukh ata Adonai Eloheinu melek ha'olam
borei p'ri hagafen.**

Blessed are You, Lord our God, Ruler of the universe,
who creates the fruit of the vine.
Take and drink and always remember me.

PRAYER FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT

May the Spirit who traveled with Christ in the wilderness
And fills us with the hope of God
Surround these elements.
May the Spirit speak to us in this season of wilderness
Becoming our strength on this journey
And filling our lives with love. Amen.

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

This is the feast prepared for you.
Come and share for all is ready.
Please partake of the elements as you receive them,
and then place the cup back into the tray.
You may then light a candle in petition of prayer
or in remembrance.

Starting from the back of the sanctuary
you are invited to come forward at this time.

COMMUNION ANTHEM

Lamb of God

F. Melius Christiansen

* PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:

**Divine Light of Our Journey,
in a spirit of gratitude
we give thanks for this time at your Holy Meal.
This time at the Table filled us with strength,
Knowing that as we continue on this Lenten journey,
We will find your peace surrounding us.
Amen.**

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
 3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small.
 4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light.

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might:
 In all life thou liv - est, the true life of all.
 Thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight.

most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 thy jus - tice, like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove;
 We blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,
 All praise we would ren - der; O help us to see

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise.
 thy clouds, which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 then with - er and per - ish; but naught chang - eth thee.
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

The opening line of this hymn was inspired by the three divine attributes listed in 1 Timothy 1:17 (King James Version), and it continues by considering how God's life exceeds our own finite existence. The text is well set to a Welsh melody shaped by many three-note units.

* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

“Truly, truly, I say to you:
Unless you are born anew,
you cannot see the realm of God.”

**We have received new life this day
and want to embrace all it may hold for us.**

The winds of God have swept through our midst
and we are caught up in the movement.

**We want to follow where Jesus would lead us,
to minister in Christ's name in our world.**

Begin where you are, remembering and applying
all you have seen and heard.

**We will relate to family, friends, and co-workers
as persons valued and loved by God.**

Dare to change your living and giving habits,
to decide and act today in newness of life.

**We have received power to grow and change:
we accept this new venture of faith
as God's gift to us. Thanks be to God!**

* CHORAL RESPONSE

Polyphonic Amen

Russell Wichman

POSTLUDE

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah
in the setting J.S Bach's Fugue in C minor

arr. Cindy Berry

*“My flesh and my heart may fail,
but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.”*

Psalms 73:26



We continue to keep in our prayers:

Bruce Arnoff, Todd St. Clair, George, Tralaina, Patricia Gerard, Dorland,
Barbara Maloney, John Davis, Gail Harris, Fletcher Hattis, Addie Singleton,
Jayne Zborowsky, Charles Rabb, Tony and Annie Carlos, Courtney Knapp,
Bruce Baunach, JoAnn Hood, Judy and Frank Macuga

We pray for those struggling with illness, convalescing, homebound or in need.

Names are generally removed after four weeks unless there is a continuing need.



Next Sunday, March 8, 2026 Daylight Savings Time begins. Please set your clocks and phones ahead one hour on Saturday evening.



@The First Presbyterian Church in Cleveland

Sunday March 1 Lent II

10:00AM Worship with Communion/Sanctuary

12:00PM Hand Bell Practice/Gallery

Tuesday March 3

12:15PM Old Stone Tuesday AA Meeting/Cuyahoga Room

7:00PM Commentary on the Gospel of John/ZOOM

Wednesday March 4

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

6:00PM Welcome & Fellowship Committee Meeting/ZOOM

Sunday March 8 Lent III/Daylight Savings Time Begins

10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary

11:30AM Communion/Chapel

4:00PM Celebrity Cheff/April Thompson/Memorial Hall

Tuesday March 10

12:15PM Old Stone Tuesday AA Meeting/Cuyahoga Room

7:00PM Commentary on the Gospel of John/ZOOM

Wednesday March 11

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

Thursday March 12

2:00PM Worship Committee Meeting/ZOOM

Sunday March 15 Lent IV

10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary

11:30AM Communion/Chapel

Tuesday March 17

12:15PM Old Stone Tuesday AA Meeting/Cuyahoga Room

7:00PM Commentary on the Gospel of John/ZOOM

Wednesday March 18

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

Thursday March 19

7:00PM FPS Directors Meeting/Conference Room

Sunday March 22 Lent V

10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary

11:30AM Communion/Chapel

11:30AM Lenten Cross Decorating/Memorial Hall

12:00PM Stated Session Meeting/Cuyahoga Room

Monday March 23

6:30PM Stated Meeting of the PWR/Hybrid-Korean Central Pres.

Tuesday March 24

12:15PM Old Stone Tuesday AA Meeting/Cuyahoga Room

7:00PM Commentary on the Gospel of John/ZOOM

Wednesday March 25

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

Last Sunday Attendance In-Person:62 Online:289

There are many ways to support The First Presbyterian Church in Cleveland

Online Giving:

oldstonechurch.org/giving/

Mobile Giving:

Text the keyword "oldstonecle" to 73256



Mail to:

The First Presbyterian Church in Cleveland
Attn: Financial Office
1380 Ontario Street
Cleveland, OH 44113

Scan the QR Code with your phone.

Checks should be made payable to "The First Presbyterian Church in Cleveland."

All contributions are tax-deductible and will be appropriately acknowledged at year-end.

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CLEVELAND

LOVING CHRIST, SERVING CITY—SPIRITUALLY, SOCIALLY, CULTURALLY—SINCE 1820

91 Public Square, Cleveland, Ohio 44113-2058

Phone: 216-241-6145 Fax: 216-241-6149

Website: www.OldStoneChurch.org E-Mail: info@OldStoneChurch.org

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Senior Pastor: Rev. Stephen C. Blonder Adams

Parish Associate: Rev. Denise Clark-Jones

Minister of Music: Evan M. Collins

Choir

Leah Jennings Brown, *soprano*

Kaya Sparks, *soprano*

Val Sibila, *soprano*

Samuel Jungman, *tenor*

Christian Bush, *tenor*

Noah Whitaker, *tenor*

Rayna Brooks, *alto*

Reese Henrick, *alto*

Morgan Potts, *alto*

R. Dominic Aragon, *bass*

Christopher Clark, *bass*

Albert Donze, *bass*

Church Elders:

Clerk of Session: Beth Buchanan

Class of 2026

Beth Buchanan

Judy Macuga

Melissa Maffia

Harriet Niles

Marty Vassel

Class of 2027

Michelle Baron

Bernard Medie

Bob Reid

Class of 2028

Dave Finley

Don Urban

Church Deacons:

Class of 2026

Mark Corey

Forrest Diehl

Pam Daly

Ruth Finley

Alyssa Niepokny

Charlene Thornton

Class of 2027

Anand Bandari

Eric Grattan

Sunny Kunche

Amy Wheeler

John Wheeler

Class of 2028

Valorie Hempstead

JoAnn Hood

Elie Medie

Brad Oglesby

Mark Pichler

Lori Montero

Church Trustees:

Class of 2027

Dave Eifert

Class of 2027

Bruce Kranicz

Class of 2027

Mike Musson

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