



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PERRY

FEBRUARY 2026 CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 11 am	2	3 Beach Bible Study 9:30 am FPC Bible Study 10:00 am Fellowship meeting 5 pm Worship meeting 6	4 Prayer meeting 9:30 Soup for the Soul 11:30 am Fellowship Supper 5:45 pm/ Potluck Choir 7pm	5	6	7
8 Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 11 am	9 Craft & Fellowship 1:00 pm Mission Outreach meeting 3:30 pm	10 Beach Bible Study 9:30 am FPC Bible Study 10:00 am Admin meeting 4 pm	11 Prayer meeting 9:30 Soup for the Soul 11:30 am Fellowship Supper 5:45 pm Choir 7pm	12	13	14
15 Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 11 am	16 Office Closed	17 Beach Bible Study 9:30 am FPC Bible Study 10 am	18 Prayer meeting 9:30 Soup for the Soul 11:30 am Ash Wednesday service 6 pm Fellowship Supper following service	19	20	21
22 Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 11 am	23 Craft & Fellowship 1:00pm	24 Beach Bible Study 9:30 am FPC Bible Study 10:00 am	25 Prayer meeting 9:30 Soup for the Soul 11:30 am Fellowship Supper 5:45 pm Choir 7pm	26	27	28

February Birthdays

Michael McMillan—February 1
Marne Helberg—February 3
Kate Whiddon—February 4
Kristie Lutz—February 5
Brian Faircloth—February 9

Warren Hilgendorf—February 13
Jamie Poppell—February 19
Brenda Wilson—February 22
Rita Benoit—February 23
Warren Gregory—February 27

February Anniversaries

Paul & Cathy Wiggins—February 23

Dear People of God,

As we move from Epiphany to Lent, we travel with a baby growing into adulthood. Along the way, we remember how a newborn often draws “oohs” and “ahs” from onlookers, even though developmentally, it might not be doing much—mainly focusing on objects about 18 inches away and gazing at shiny things. Still, a newborn is a miracle, full of wonder at the world and eager to be fed, held, rocked, nurtured, and loved.

The gifts of the Magi guide us beyond the cozy, sweet image of baby Jesus to reveal who Jesus truly is. They include gold, a symbol of kingship; frankincense, a ritual incense signifying divine presence; and myrrh, an oil associated with death and priestly anointing. Through these offerings, the wise men reveal Jesus’s true identity: a king deserving of universal homage, the anointed high priest of God, and the suffering servant who will die for those he came to save.

The “oohs” and “ahs” we express during the Epiphany of our Lord are not just for a cute baby Jesus but for a God who chooses to reveal divine love and mercy by becoming human. We recognize that God’s mercy extends beyond our imagination, embracing all people and nations, from the cradle to the cross.

As the Book of Common Worship puts it, *“How great is your love, Lord God, how wide is your mercy! Never let us board up the narrow gate that leads to life with rules or doctrines that you dismiss; but give us a Spirit to welcome all people with affection, so that your church may never exclude secret friends of yours, who are included in the love of Jesus Christ, who came to save us all. Amen.”* (BCW, 804)

As we move towards Lent, because we are held in God’s wide, merciful grace, we can loosen the grip we have on our lives and embrace the reality that we are made of dust and will return to dust. As we journey between the cradle and the cross, we find ourselves on a journey of descent—which the mystics say leads to wisdom. Genesis 2:7 reads, “...the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.” We are people of dust, and when we forget from whence we came, that’s when life goes awry.

To be human ... is to practice humility ... to be born of the humus. You see, it is in the dirt ... in the dust or clay ... that God creates. When we have these ashes imposed on our head, my challenge to you is to invite God to take what is right there ... just above your eyes and the very real you underneath those ashes ... to again create ... to create anew!

May this season be a journey of descent ... to the core of who we are ... and to the very real need we have for God to do a new thing in us! A new thing that draws our “oohs” and “ahs.”

“Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return!”

Peace,

JDB+

Notes and Reminders

Congregational Meeting to receive the State of the Church report. Feb. 22nd, immediately after worship service.

Dear People of God,



Thanks so much for your extravagant generosity shared at Christmas. The cards, gifts, cash, tiramisu, nuts, etc., were greatly appreciated. It's been a long time since I've had oranges so good that I ate the peels. And Harriet is deeply appreciative of the extra cash, which enables us to replace shower faucet stems, rather than me continually tightening them with a pair of channel locks. Know that you are appreciated and that we love you.

God bless,

JDB+ and Harriet

FAT TUESDAY

February 17, 2026

The Fellowship Committee invites you to a Fat Tuesday Dinner & Bingo in the fellowship hall on Tuesday, February 17th, at 6:00 pm, as we prepare for the season of Lent.

The dinner will include fresh pancakes, breakfast casseroles, and king cake. Following several rounds of Bingo, the evening will conclude with a brief Dedication and Burning of the Ashes. Come and enjoy an evening of food and fellowship!





Lenten Supper & Devotion

In keeping with the penitential season of Lent, Wednesday suppers will be a simple meal of soup, salad and bread. Pastor John David Bryant will lead a short Lenten Devotional during these evenings. Wednesday night suppers during Lent will be February 18th (after the Ash Wednesday Service @ 6:00 p.m.), February 25th, March 4th, March 11th, and March 25th. Come at 5:45 pm for a time of fellowship and the meal will be served at 6:00 pm.

As we begin Lent, please join us for our Ash Wednesday Service with Imposition of Ashes on Wednesday, February 18th @ 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Lenten supper will be served in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the service.