

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MARCH 1, 2026

11:00 a.m.

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

WE ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

*Let us prepare our hearts and minds to worship God.
Please silence your cell phone as worship begins.*

VOLUNTARY: Invocation Rachel Laurin (1961-2023)
Rebecca Pugh, organ

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS..... Jill Duffield

* CALL TO WORSHIP Newton Cowan

Leader: Beloved of God, we are invited to journey
through this season of Lent

People: towards the One who calls us each by name.

Leader: Disciples, we walk with Jesus wherever he leads us,

People: pulling our fears, our doubts, our longings behind us.

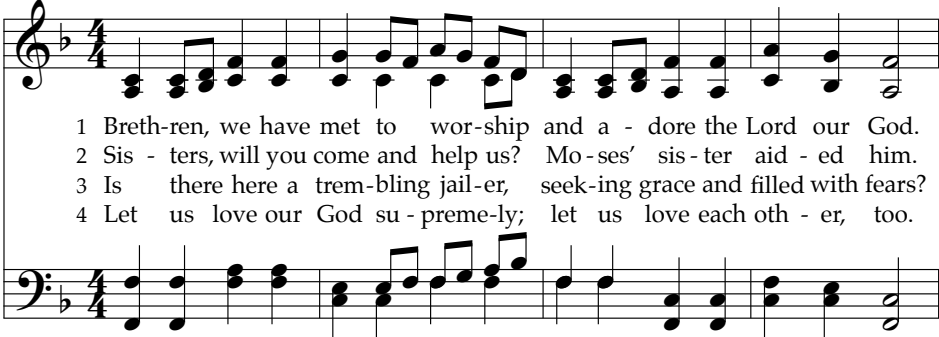
Leader: Believers, we seek to trust the God who always surprises us,

**People: whose promises take on flesh and blood
in the good news called Jesus.**

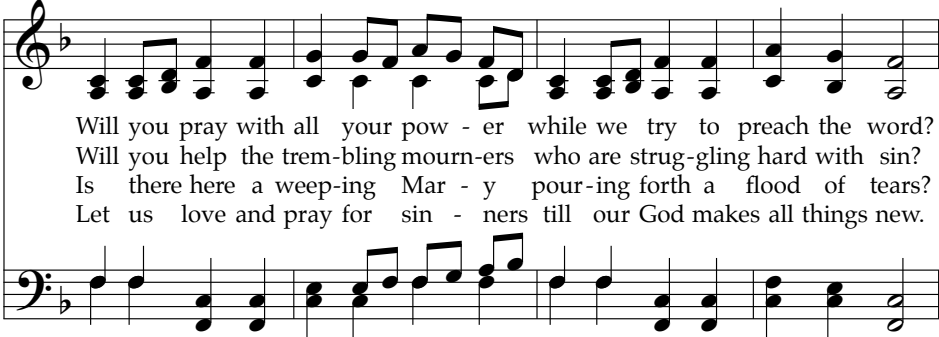
* PROCESSIONAL HYMN: No. 396 – Brethren, We Have Met to Worship SEE PAGE 2

HOLY MANNA

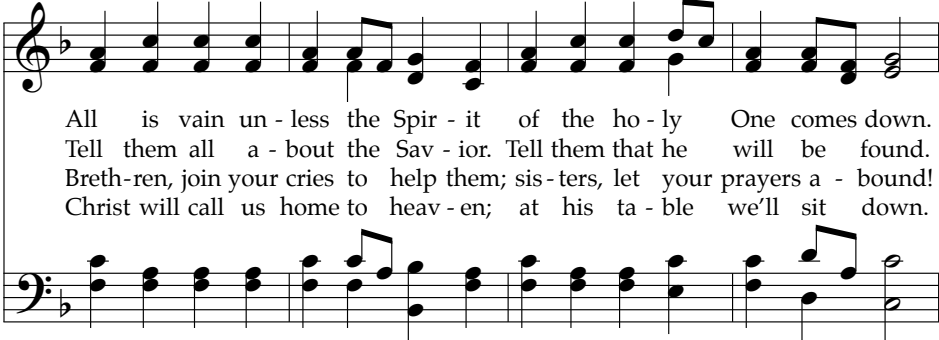
Brethren, We Have Met to Worship 396




1 Breth-ren, we have met to wor-ship and a - dore the Lord our God.
2 Sis - ters, will you come and help us? Mo-ses' sis-ter aid - ed him.
3 Is there here a trem-bling jail-er, seek-ing grace and filled with fears?
4 Let us love our God su - preme-ly; let us love each oth - er, too.



Will you pray with all your pow - er while we try to preach the word?
Will you help the trem-bling mourn-ers who are strug-gling hard with sin?
Is there here a weep-ing Mar - y pour-ing forth a flood of tears?
Let us love and pray for sin - ners till our God makes all things new.



All is vain un - less the Spir - it of the ho - ly One comes down.
Tell them all a - bout the Sav - ior. Tell them that he will be found.
Breth-ren, join your cries to help them; sis - ters, let your prayers a - bound!
Christ will call us home to heav - en; at his ta - ble we'll sit down.



Breth - ren, pray, and ho - ly man - na will be show-ered all a-round.
Sis - ters, pray, and ho - ly man - na will be show-ered all a-round.
Pray, O pray, that ho - ly man - na will be scat-tered all a-round.
Christ will gird him-self and serve us with sweet man-na all a-round.

This hymn comes out of the early 19th-century southern camp meeting experience, where believers were invited to pray for new converts, often likened to biblical characters such as Paul's jailer (Philippians 1:12-13). As its name shows, the five-note tune was created for this text.

* CALL TO CONFESSION *and* PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

O God of mercy, you sent your only Son to save us from the pain of guilt and sting of death. We carry the burden of our wrongs; the things we should not have done, and the things we have failed to do. Take this burden from us, O Lord. Cleanse our hearts from sin and restore to us the joy of salvation; through Jesus who suffered for us. Amen.

* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

* THE PEACE

Leader: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.

The peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

* RESPONSE TO THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days ST. FLAVIAN



A - bide with us, till when this life of suf-fering o - ver - past,



An Eas-ter of un - end-ing joy we may at - tain at last!



WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

THE WORD READ: *Genesis 46:1-7, 28-30*..... Monica Thomas

When Israel set out on his journey with all that he had and came to Beer-sheba, he offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac. God spoke to Israel in visions of the night and said, "Jacob, Jacob." And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "I am God, the God of your father; do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for I will make of you a great nation there. I myself will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also bring you up again, and Joseph's own hand shall close your eyes."

Then Jacob set out from Beer-sheba, and the sons of Israel carried their father Jacob, their little ones, and their wives in the wagons that Pharaoh had sent to carry him. They also took their livestock and the goods that they had acquired in the land of Canaan, and they came into Egypt, Jacob and all his offspring with him, his sons, and his sons' sons with him, his daughters, and his sons' daughters; all his offspring he brought with him into Egypt.

Israel sent Judah ahead to Joseph to lead the way before him into Goshen. When they came to the land of Goshen, Joseph made ready his chariot and went up to meet his father Israel in Goshen. He presented himself to him, fell on his neck, and wept on his neck a good while. Israel said to Joseph, "I can die now, having seen for myself that you are still alive."

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

A MOMENT OF GODLY PLAY FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES Lisa Witherspoon

THE WORD READ: *Luke 15:11-32*

Then Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the wealth that will belong to me.' So he divided his assets between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant region, and there he squandered his wealth in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that region, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that region, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, and no one gave

THE WORD READ continues, over

him anything. But when he came to his senses he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate, for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

“Now his elder son was in the field, and as he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf because he has got him back safe and sound.’ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command, yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your assets with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’ ”

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

HYMN OF PREPARATION: No. 771 – What Is the World Like..... NEW WORLD



What is the world like when God's will is done?



Wit - ness the wan - der - ing child com - ing home;

watch as the par - ent breaks in - to a run.

This is how God longs for us when we roam.

THE WORD PROCLAIMEDJill Duffield



WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

* HYMN OF RESPONSE: No. 418 – Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling SEE PAGE 7
SOFTLY AND TENDERLY

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Matt Bussell

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,
 Maker of heaven and earth,
 And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
 who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
 born of the Virgin Mary,
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, dead, and buried;
 he descended into hell;
 the third day he rose again from the dead;
 he ascended into heaven,
 and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
 from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost;
 the holy catholic church;
 the communion of saints;
 the forgiveness of sins;
 the resurrection of the body;
 and the life everlasting. Amen.**

– Traditional Apostles' Creed

418 Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling

1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for
 2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for
 3 O for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for

you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,
 you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,
 you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

Refrain
 watch - ing for you and for me.
 mer - cies for you and for me? "Come home, come home!
 par - don for you and for me. "Come home, come home!"

You who are wea - ry, come home." Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,

Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

This 19th-century gospel hymn has often been used as a hymn of invitation at evangelistic services. Its imagery is primarily based on Jesus' parable in Luke 15:11-32, commonly called "The Prodigal Son." Each singer thus becomes a wandering child who is urged to return home.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

concluding with 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.**

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

You may also participate in the offering using the QR code on the back page of this bulletin. Information for giving by other options, including text, app, and regular mail, can be found there as well.

OFFERTORY: Amazing Grace Will Todd (b. 1970)
Chancel Choir

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.

Through many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace that 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.

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,
The sun forbear to shine;
But God, who call'd me here below,
Will be forever mine.

- John Newton

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise
 God all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye
 heaven-ly host; Praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost. A-men.

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION..... Matt Bussell

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTIONJill Duffield

* RECESSIONAL HYMN: No. 475 – Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing..... SEE PAGE 10

NETTLETON

VOLUNTARY: Prelude and fugue in e minorJohann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

John Alexander, organ

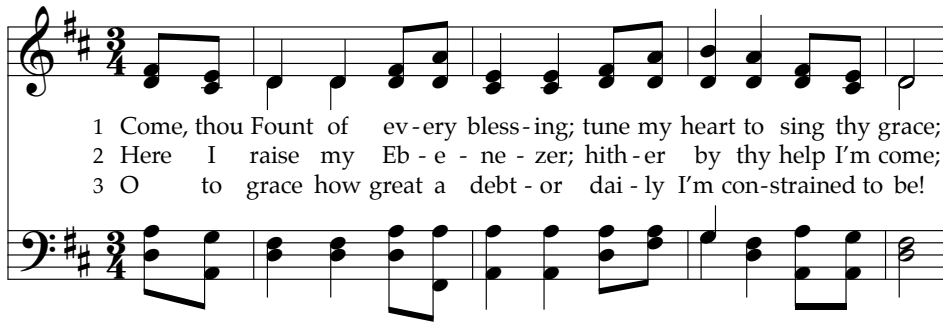
TODAY’S WORSHIP LEADERS

- Jill Duffield, Senior Pastor*
- Newton Cowan, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care*
- Matt Bussell, Associate Pastor for Outreach and Mission*
- Lisa Witherspoon, Director of Children & Youth Ministry*
- Monica Thomas, Lay Reader*
- Charlotte Freeze, Acolyte*
- John Alexander, Director of Music and Principal Organist*
- Rebecca Pugh, Assistant Organist*
- Chancel Choir*

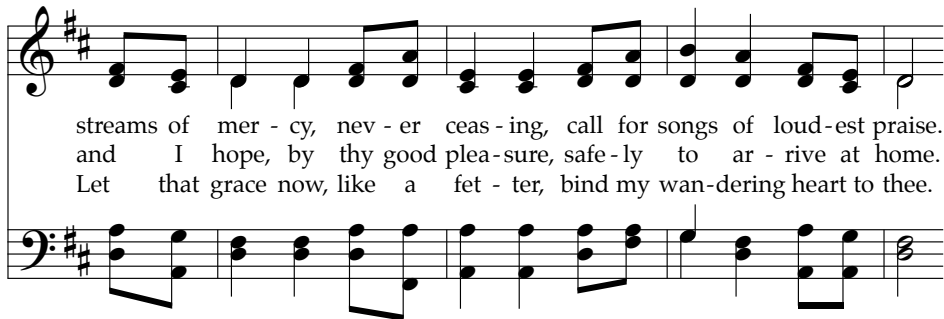
* Let us rise in body or spirit.

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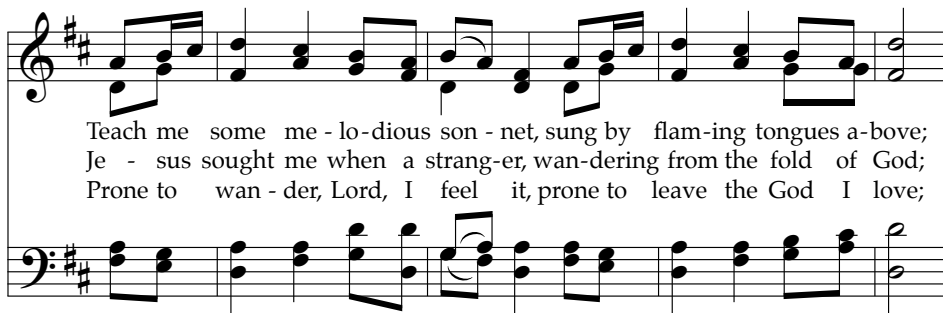
Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing 475



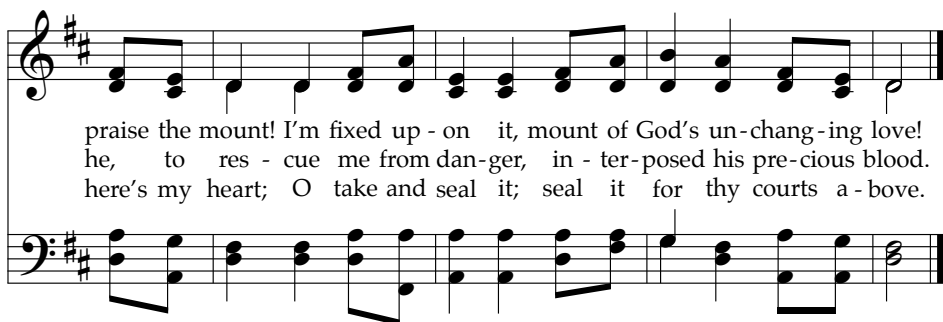
1 Come, thou Fount of ev-ery bless-ing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;
2 Here I raise my Eb - e - ne - zer; hith-er by thy help I'm come;
3 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be!



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud-est praise.
and I hope, by thy good plea-sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.
Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan-dering heart to thee.



Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, sung by flam-ing tongues a - bove;
Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-dering from the fold of God;
Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;



praise the mount! I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un - chang - ing love!
he, to res - cue me from dan-ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.
here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

Written for Pentecost by a British Baptist pastor, this text is full of biblical terms like "Ebenezer" (1 Samuel 7:12), Hebrew for "a stone of help" set up to give thanks for God's assistance. The tune name honors hymnal compiler Asahel Nettleton, who probably did not compose it.

WE WELCOME YOU to the worship of God and to our community of faith.

Rooted and reaching in Christ's love, we seek to serve God as Spirit-led changemakers for good. Our vision is to be a caring, compassionate, and inclusive faith community welcoming those who seek an abundant relationship with Jesus Christ, meaningful worship, authentic connections, lifelong learning, and transformative service. We are continually growing and evolving, even as we remain strongly rooted in the Greensboro community and the Presbyterian tradition.

Come as you are and prepare to be transformed by God's love.



TAKING ATTENDANCE: The QR code, left, directs you to an online form; just open your smartphone camera, hold it over the code, and follow the prompts. If you do not have a smartphone, you can pick up a physical copy of an attendance card as you enter the Life Center or Sanctuary. If using the paper form, place it in the offering at the end of the service. On the back of the card is a prayer request form. Your submitted prayers will be prayed for by staff members and kept in strict confidence.




NURSERY CARE IS PROVIDED for infants through age 4 on the first floor of Mullin Life Center. Our Child Protection Policy helps ensure our care is safe, loving and appropriate.

WHAT TO DO – UNWELLNESS AND MEDICAL

EMERGENCIES: If during the service you or someone near you begins to feel unwell, or is having a medical emergency please contact the closest usher.

THE LITURGICAL COLOR *PURPLE* seen through the parament on the lectern and the pastors' stoles signifies the season of Lent.

FIND FIRST PRESBYTERIAN ON SOCIAL MEDIA –

Members are sharing great photos, comments and more! Follow and Like us on **Facebook**  (search "First Presbyterian Church of Greensboro"), **YouTube**  ("fpcgreensboro") and **Instagram**  ("1stpresgso") to get more of our posts in your newsfeed.

FOR MORE INFO ON CHURCH SCHOOL, UPCOMING SERVICES, AND OTHER EVENTS • Check out the "Coming Up" insert in your bulletin • Subscribe to our e-news and Sunday preview emails at fpcgreensboro.org/ways-to-connect • Visit fpcgreensboro.org/event-highlights.

WAYS TO GIVE: In addition to the in-person offering, you may give by web, mail, or text. Scan the QR code (*right*) to give online. Mail your gift to the church at 617 N. Elm St., Greensboro, NC 27401. Go to fpcgreensboro.org/give/web-app-text for instructions for giving via text.



ABOUT TODAY'S FLOWERS: The chancel flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor of the birthday of our daughter, Ada Adele Arbuckle Furst, by her parents, Margaret and Howard Arbuckle.

FLOWER DATES AVAILABLE – Honor or remember a friend or family member by donating flowers for our Sunday morning Sanctuary worship service. The flowers are accompanied by a note in the bulletin explaining their significance. Dates available for 2026: *May 3, 24 and 31; August 30; September 6; and December 13.* Contact Carolyn Yow, cyow@fpcgreensboro.org or 336-478-4768.

USHERS AND ACOLYTES NEEDED: Contact Anne Albert, aalbert@fpcgreensboro.org or 336.478.4711

PASTOR ON CALL: When church offices are closed and you have an emergency, call 336.908.8615. Leave a message with your phone number and the pastor on call will be in touch with you.

IN MEMORIAM

**Robert F. Simpson
February 25 2026**

**Neal J. Sheffield Jr.
February 20, 2026**



COMING UP

A T F I R S T P R E S B Y T E R I A N

MARCH 1-8, 2026 | *Full calendar at FPCGREENSBORO.ORG*

LATER TODAY

- **KIDS DISCIPLE CLUB** will learn a spiritual practice for Lent. Grades 3-5, meets 3-4:30 pm, Life Center.
- **YOUTH GROUP:** Games, bible study, food, & fun! Middle School, 5-6 pm | dinner for MS & HS, 6-6:30 pm | High School, 6:30-7:30 pm.



Register now for VBS! July 20-23.
Go to FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/SIGN-UPS

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4

BREAKFAST CLUB – Middle School & High School youth meet at Chick-fil-A on Pisgah Church Road. Come at 7:15 am or 8 am.

RSVP DEADLINE FOR THE WOMEN OF FAITH LUNCHEON being held Monday, March 9. Speaker will be Matt Hicks, Botanical Gardens superintendent with the City of Greensboro. \$10. RSVP at FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/SIGN-UPS, in the Welcome Center, or 336-478-4799.

THURSDAY, MARCH 5

JOURNEY THROUGH THE GOSPEL OF MARK: Gather weekly at noon in the Garden Room for meaningful reflections on Jesus' life and ministry. Led by Rev. Erin Bowers through March 26.

FRIDAY, MARCH 6

FIRST FAMILIES – Families with children ages infant-early elementary school will get together at the Derus home. 6-8 pm. Contact Lorie Jones, LORIEJONES88@GMAIL.COM.

NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 8

WORSHIP: THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT
9 am Rejoice! and 11 am sanctuary services.
Our Lenten series continues with Erin Kesterson Bowers on the Good Samaritan.

CHURCH SCHOOL, 10 AM

- **JOURNEYS FOR OUR LENTEN JOURNEY:** A special guest will speak about their faith journey and life-shaping experiences. Come as You Are class, Garden Room.
- **WHAT IS THE WORLD LIKE:** A Lenten class of readings, videos, activities, and discussion. Led by Erin Kesterson Bowers, through March 22. Hosted by Faithful Families, Memorial 304.
- **CHRISTIANS WHO INFLUENCED AMERICA'S HISTORY,** led by Sandie Gravett, continues in YMBC and Agape, Redhead Hall.
- **CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY,** led by Gerard Davidson, continues in Seekers class, Main 125.
- **YOUTH** connect and engage Scripture together, Memorial 303 | **CONFIRMANDS** visit New Garden Friends Meeting | **CHILDREN** in Corl Building classrooms.

LATER IN THE DAY

- **YOUTH GROUP:** Games, bible study, food, & fun! Middle School, 5-6 pm | dinner for MS & HS, 6-6:30 pm | High School, 6:30-7:30 pm.

LOOKING AHEAD

For complete info on Lent, Holy Week, and Easter: FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/LENT

TUESDAY, MARCH 10,

1:30 pm in the Garden Room: The **Monday-Tuesday Book Clubs** will meet together to welcome author Diane Flynt, author of *Wild, Tamed, Lost, Revived: The Surprising Story of Apples in the South*. She is an orchardist and founder of Foggy Ridge Cider in the Blue Ridge Mountains.



RSVP BY MARCH 13 for the **Fork & Faith luncheon** for women being held March 18. Contact Dolly Jennings, DJ6871202@GMAIL.COM or 336-854-2663.



parents night out

March 14, 5-8 pm, \$25/child. Kids play, have pizza and watch *Inside Out 2*. For infant through fifth grade. Register by March 9.

MONDAY, MARCH 23:

Monday Mahjong, 10 am to noon, Solarium. Players of all skill levels are invited to participate (no lessons today). Bring your NJML card. Games start promptly at 10 am so come early. RSVP by March 19. Questions? Contact Sheri Evans, SMEVANSNC@GMAIL.COM.



To RSVP for programs and events use the QR Code or go to FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/SIGN-UPS.



OUR
SPRING
BLOOD
DRIVE:
The Red
Cross



will be here Wednesday, March 11 from 1:30 to 6 pm. Walk-ins welcome; reservations encouraged. Use the "sign-ups" QR code or call 1-800-733-2767.

If you donate at our spring Red Cross blood drive: YOUR RED CELLS, which carry oxygen to all parts of the body, can help patients who require surgery, have anemia, or lose blood in accidents or trauma; and premature or newborn infants who need transfusions. YOUR PLATELETS, tiny particles in blood that aid clotting, help control bleeding in patients with leukemia or undergoing chemotherapy. YOUR PLASMA, the liquid yellow portion of your blood that carries nutrients, removes waste and fights infection, can help victims of burns, accident or shock.

L. RICHARDSON TRUST GRANTS: Each year, the trustees elected by the congregation award grants from the L. Richardson Trust. Last year, 17 applicants requested over \$180,000 and we awarded 8 grants totaling \$59,500. If you know of great organizations working to make a difference in our community and world, please share the application with them and encourage them to submit it by March 15. More info at FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/OUTREACH.