

First Sunday in Lent
February 22, 2026

“There was a wedding in Cana of Galilee. Jesus’ mother was there, and Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the celebration. . . .”—John 2:1–2

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude “Prelude in E Minor” *J. S. Bach*

Choral Introit “Praise the Lord, For He Is Good” *arr. Hugh Davies*

Call to Worship (*responsive*)

The good news of the gospel is:

**mana in the desert, water turned into wine,
love after loss, forgiveness after pain.**

The good news of the gospel is:

**release for the captive, hope for the hopeless,
mourning turned to dancing, and strangers turned to friends.**

So come on in. There’s no time to waste!

This surprising good news is here for you.

Let us worship this good-news God.

***Hymn 505** “The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing”

Call to Confession & Prayer

Loving God, somewhere along the way we picked up the message that in order to be faithful, we have to be serious. We have to pray on our knees without ceasing. We have to be somber in worship and quiet in our studies. We have to check our wiggles and our questions at the door. But then you say the kingdom of God is like a mustard seed—unruly and untamed. You turn water into wine—surprising and extravagant. And all of a sudden, we wonder: Can we be like that mustard seed? Can we be faithful and unruly? Can we be playful and curious? Can we be messy and still be yours? We know the answer already. The Spirit whispers: of course, of course, of course. Forgive our doubt. Pull us closer into your embrace. With faith like a mustard seed, we pray. Amen.

Silent Meditation and Assurance of Pardon

***Response 444**

“Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive”

Passing of the Peace

First Lesson

Matthew 13:31–32

Anthem

“Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God”, *Carl F. Mueller*

Prayer for Children

Second Lesson

John 2:1–11

Sermon

So Good It Catches Us by Surprise, Dwight Christenbury

***Hymn 770**

“I’m Gonna Eat at the Welcome Table” (vv. 1–4)

Affirmation of Faith (*unison*)

I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ. It sounds like welcome and feels like home. It sounds like laughter and feels like mercy. It sounds like love and feels like a seat at the table, so I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ. I have seen it alive in the world. And even when my heart aches, even when wars rage, even when mercy feels out of reach, I remember the one who welcomed the children and led with nonviolence. I remember the one who cared for the vulnerable and inspired those around him. I remember that the good news really is good news, for I have seen it alive in the world. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Invitation to Giving & Five Cents A Meal

Prayers of the People & the Lord’s Prayer

***Hymn** (*see insert*)

“In a Neat and Tidy Garden”, ALL THE WAY 8.7.8.7 D

***Charge and Blessing**

Postlude

Prelude in F Minor”

Léon Boëllmann

**Please stand in body or spirit*

Worship Notes: *The Call to Worship, the Prayer of Confession, and the Affirmation of Faith are by the Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org. Used by permission.*

LITURGIST(S): Jim Kisner, Billie Hicklin
SCREENS: Russ Russell, Bud Weeks,
Catherine Langsdorf

FLOWERS: Given by Janet Sharke in celebration of her mother Margaret Sharke's 100th birthday today!

LIVESTREAM: Duane Johnson, Jim Kisner, Conrad Shannon, Jim Smelker, Paul Soltesz

This congregation welcomes you without regard to race, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical or mental ability, education, economic circumstance, your place of origin or any other issue that divides God's family. We are Christ's people, and this is Christ's place with its doors wide open. If you are passing through, Godspeed. If you are looking for a worship home, stay with us. We invite visitors to join us, but most of all, to return often.



PC(USA)
June 10, 1983 -
our denomination



Presbytery of Western
North Carolina -
our regional leadership



More Light
Presbyterians -
LGBTQ+ affirming



an Earth Care
Congregation -
eco-stewardship



Fuente de Vida
Guatemala - global
partnership



a Matthew 25
Church - social
justice advocacy

SUNDAY - FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT & 5 CENTS A MEAL

8:30 SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:45 Learning Hour
10:30 Choir Rehearsal

11:00 SUNDAY WORSHIP

2:00 CONCERT: Mission for the Planet w/ Jim
Scott (Unitarian Universalist in Hendo)
5:00 ManKind Project Open Men's Circle

THURSDAY

9:00 Musicke Antiqua Rehearsal
10:00 Bible Study for Lent - Hybrid
11:00 Zoom" Between the Lines Book Group
1:30 Trinity Book Group
3:30 Tai chi - private lesson time
4:00 Tai chi
6:30 Cub Scouts

MONDAY

9:00 Finance Team
2:00 Personnel Ministry Meeting
3:00 Death Café
3:30 Tai chi - private lesson time
4:00 Tai chi

FRIDAY

8:00 Toastmasters
9:30 Feed the Kids

SATURDAY

SUNDAY - SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT & COMMUNION

8:30 SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:45 Learning Hour
10:30 Choir Rehearsal

11:00 SUNDAY WORSHIP

12:00 Margaret Sharke's 100th Birthday Party!
5:00 ManKind Project Open Men's Circle

WEDNESDAY

10:00 Friends in Christ - Hybrid
12:00 Zoom: PCUSA's Courage in the Face
of Authoritarianism (must register with link on
Trinity web calendar)
5:30 Wed Night Live Dinner
6:00 PFLAG Board meeting
6:30 Wed Night Live Concert
7:30 Choir Rehearsal

Feb 22 - Mar 1

Contacts (office/pastoral business) during the week

David Garnett: 828-489-1791, david@trinitypresnc.org
Dwight Christenbury: 828-545-2590, dwight@trinitypresnc.org
Lesley Bush: 828-447-1473, music@trinitypresnc.org
Katie Cilluffo: 828-692-6114, office@trinitypresnc.org

PRAYERS, JOYS & CONCERNS: In Sympathy: the family of Ben Moore; the Garnett family upon the loss of Molly's cousin Elizabeth **Hospital:** Frank Burzio; Marc Hirschfield (Zigovsky/Hirschfield family) **Rehab/Nursing:** Don Robinson (Lakepointe Life Care); Alice McCullough, Neena Haskins (Sunnybrook); Nugent Sharp, Jack Caylor (HHR); Don Widmayer (Florida); Ruth Mills (CV Care Center); Art Wayboer (High Point); Nell Payne (Brooks-Howell); Jane Sugawara (Ohio) **Home:** Marina Hirschfield; Kris Grasse; Dave Gilbert; Helen Dearborn; Nancy Twitchen; Leslie Nissen; Marty Roller; Irene Lunsford (Dolly & Nancy's sister), Brenda Nelson; Evelyn Christensen (Mary Louise & Betty's sister); Steve Kuykendoll; Bob Miles; Donnie Thompson (Kuykendoll's nephew); T.K. Owens; Evans Thibodeau; Kim & Jason Ball **Others:** immigrants and those who are fearful or in hiding; our partners in Madagascar, Malawi, and Guatemala, our sister church Fuente de Vida, people in war-torn areas of the world, those harmed by gun violence and anti-LGBTQ+ legislation.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY: THURSDAYS AT 10:00 A.M. BEGINNING FEB. 19. Dwight Christenbury invites you to join him for a study of key Scripture texts for the Season of Lent; we'll meet in room 207, or you may also join online via Zoom.

100TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION: Join us to celebrate the 100th birthday of Margaret Sharke on March 1 at noon in the Fellowship Hall. Margaret was a member of Trinity from 1991 until 2024. She's since moved to be closer to her family, but we're happy to welcome her back to celebrate with her Trinity family!

SOULTENDING WITH MARY MAGDALENE: KANUGA CONFERENCE CENTER, MARCH 4-7. A conference focusing on new scholarship surrounding Mary Magdalene featuring Elizabeth "Libbie" Schrader Polczer, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of New Testament at Villanova University. To learn more, see the "Events" bulletin board or go to www.kanuga.org > Conferences > Programs for Adults.

MOMS DEMAND ACTION FOR GUN SENSE presents their annual Vigil of Remembrance for Victims of Gun Violence. **TODAY - Sunday Feb 22 at 4pm** at St. John in the Wilderness, Flat Rock.

A TRIO OF OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT HEALTH, HYGIENE, AND DIGNITY AT TRINITY!!!

- **DROP YOUR DRAWERS AT TRINITY!** All four Sundays in February. Drop your new, packaged underwear or bras in the Narthex bins. Men's S and M, and all Women' sizes. (Children's less critical). Thanks for helping our neighbors find a little dignity. *Order online or shop in stores -- just bring donations of brand new drawers!*
- **LUOPADS FOR MALAWI:** Our final two Luopad sewing parties for the season will be held on Thursday, March 5th and Thursday, March 12th from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM. All completed kits will be delivered to the Presbytery on March 16th. Please join us to help finish this sewing season strong. We look forward to resuming the project in September.
- **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN** will host their second **Packing Party** for **Project Dignity** on March 18 at 10am in the Fellowship Hall. **PD** will supply the feminine hygiene products and boxes and will oversee the packing process. **TPW** encourages **all TPC members, friends, and family to come help PACK.** Questions? Contact Sarah Thibodeau (sthobod567@aol.com) or call 698-8679

DEATH CAFÉ: Mon, Feb 23 at 3pm. We practice gentle listening, sharing stories of loss, fear, and grief from deep within our hearts. We meet monthly in the lounge. Light refreshments.

WED NIGHT LIVE - Feb 25, dinner at 5:30, program at 6:30. We will have music from husband and wife team, "Geriatric Jukebox". **Sign up cut off is Sunday Feb 22 after church.** We are trying this signup deadline to right-size orders from our caterers. Thank you for making your reservations today (or ASAP)! Note: A call or email to the church can reserve your spot too!