

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN NEWS

Rev. Alan T. Jeffries, Minister, First Presbyterian Church
P.O. Box 472, 1000 Third Street, Moundsville, WV 26041 Phone (845-7155)
COME AND WORSHIP WITH US EACH SUNDAY
Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. Morning Worship at 10:45 a.m.

FEBRUARY 2026

Sunday School

Sunday school class resumes on Sunday, February 1 at 9:45am.

Session

The Session will meet immediately following worship on Sunday, February 1.

Ground Hog Day

(Monday, February 2, 2026)

Congregational Meeting

The annual congregational meeting will be held after the morning worship service on Sunday, February 8. The purpose of this meeting is to review the budget for 2026.

Deacons

The Deacons will meet on Sunday, Feb. 8 immediately following worship.

Loose Offering

The loose offering that is collected on Sunday morning, Feb. 8, will be given to the Deacons to help with their projects.

Valentine's Day

(Saturday, February 14, 2026)

My Valentine Wish

I'd like to hang a valentine
Upon the world's front door,
With hearts of love and peace entwined
To last forevermore.
With love to guide our daily path,
There'd be no one in need;
God's blessings would be shared by all
Of every race and creed.
Peace would come to all the world
As nations great and small

Would put aside their selfish aims
To work for the good of all.
If I could have my wish today,
I'd wish for nothing more
Than to hang a great big valentine
Upon our world's front door.

Transfiguration of the Lord

(February 15, 2026)

Thoughts about the Transfiguration

In Matthew 17, we read about Jesus' taking James and John up to the top of a high mountain. It was there that Jesus suddenly appeared to have a different countenance. He was transfigured, his body taking on a glow. Matthew writes: "His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white" (Matt. 17:2, NRSV).

Not only did his friends observe that amazing change but they heard a voice saying, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" (17:5).

What happened then? Those fellows did what many of us would have done. They fell to the ground overcome by fear. But they stayed there until Jesus came and touched them. He told them not to be afraid. Then, after they had settled down a bit, he led them down the mountain.

What does that experience say to us? Certainly it shows that Jesus is the unique Son of God. We might call this event the ordination of Jesus.

New Custodian

We welcome Amanda Murphy as our new custodian. Our previous custodian, Dan McCafferty, retired on January 16, 2026.

President's Day
(Tuesday, February 16, 2026)

The Prayer at Valley Forge

When Washington was leading his troops in the struggle for independence, he was greatly discouraged during the harsh winter the army was gathered at Valley Forge. A resident of Valley Forge, Isaac Potts, was walking through the woods when he heard a man praying aloud. He peeked through some trees to see that it was General Washington himself.

Isaac Potts later told his pastor, the Rev. Nathaniel Snowden, that the prayer he heard was “a plaintive sound” coming from a man in need of divine help. Mr. Potts went on to say that he saw Washington on his knees, his sword on one side and his cocked hat on the other. He heard Washington beseeching God for aid and direction. “Such a prayer,” Isaac said, “I never heard from the lips of man. I left him alone praying.”

Ash Wednesday
(Wednesday, February 18, 2026)

Ash Wednesday Service

The Presbyterian Church and the First Christian Church will have a combined Ash Wednesday Service again this year. It will be held here at the First Presbyterian Church at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 18, 2026.

Holy Communion Celebrated

Sunday, February 22, 2026 is the First Sunday in Lent. Holy Communion will be celebrated that morning during worship. The Elders serving that morning will be Bill Groft, Janet Marchlenski, Phil Marchlenski, and Jane Marsh.

Per Capita Apportionment

Every church is apportioned a share of the expenses of the Presbytery, the Synod and the General Assembly for ecclesiastical purposes. The apportionment is based on church membership. The amount this year is \$35.00 per member.

Communion Dates for 2026

February 22 (1st Sunday in Lent)
April 2 (Maundy Thursday)

May 24 (Day of Pentecost)
August 2 (Summer)
October 4 (World Wide Communion)
November 29 (1st Sunday of Advent)

Thinking of Lent

Advent prepares us for Christ's birth; Lent prepares us for the glorious act of Christ's resurrection. Churches have special services during the weeks of Lent, but it's what each of us does regarding our spiritual life that makes Lent most meaningful.

Lent is a good time to read, study and inwardly digest the four gospels. (The word gospel means “good news.”)

A college student decided to work his way through Matthew, Mark, Luke and John for his Lenten devotional time. Soon he was fascinated by the stories, such as the Pharisees and Sadducees trying to trap Jesus in debate. The brilliant Jesus handled every occasion with wisdom, leaving the authorities dumbfounded.

During his devotional time, the student was filled with laughter and amazement at the brilliant son of God, who was only in his 30s. Get to know the good news, and you'll understand the young man's amazement.

What awaits us?

We're at the starting gate of a new year. What will it hold for us? Only God knows. Yet if God knows, why not try to discover his plan for us each day?

We should carry on a daily dialog with God. Following his lead is always interesting and challenging. And much of the time it's filled with wonder and joy.

I remember the story of a small boy who prayed to God at the end of a fun, interesting Monday: “It's been a wonderful day, God. What do you have in mind for Tuesday?”

What does God have in mind for you in 2026? Keep in touch with him, and you'll enjoy the trip around the sun.

Charles Ferrell