

## First Presbyterian Church of Strasburg

News for January 23, 2026

Dear FPC family and friends,

Today I have a similar feeling to what it was like on March 15, 2020, when we just weren't sure what was in our future, but we were pretty sure that things could get pretty difficult. I mentioned that to someone today and they said, yeah, but we didn't miss a beat. During Covid, we did not miss a single Sunday of preaching the Gospel here at First Presbyterian. I am guessing that 99% of you will be watching church on Sunday morning from the warmth of your own homes. I am so glad that we have the opportunity for you to do that!

Stacy and I bought cross country skis last year and I have used them every day this week except for today. I have a new morning routine where I go out and ski for about an hour and a half and then head home after a really intense and difficult work out drenched in sweat. Hopefully this will come in handy for this Sunday.

I'm talking to a number of church leaders who so dread having to cancel things because of the snow. I spoke to the Executive Presbyter in Philly today and they cancelled their meeting for this coming Tuesday, our own leader team is considering doing the same for our meeting on Tuesday, leader team, not Presbytery meeting. It comes down to a word that isn't all that crucial, inconvenience. Cancelling meetings isn't a life or death reality. Cancelling a surgery could be.

Snowmageddon! What a wonderful new word that we have created which strikes fear in the heart of most sensible of people. I know that there is a lot of excitement around what just could be in the next couple of days, but my thoughts are also with those folks within our church who will not be able to leave their houses at all for the next week or so. This could potentially create a real life or death issue.

When we lived in Florida the threat of hurricanes was very real. Before every threat we put our most vulnerable people plan in place, where we had people in the church who were ready to use their chain saw to cut people out of their homes. We had to use them a few times in my time in Florida. We had people who were assigned to our most vulnerable and would stop by after the storm to check in on them. We had one who had a tree through their roof and our folks were to first to stop by and check in on them. These types of situations require that the church be creative and find ways to ensure that those on the margins within our own community, and those outside of our community, know that people are looking out for them.

You would lose count if you tried to draw attention to those with whom Jesus interacted who were on the margins of society. He made sure that the woman who had the issue of blood was healed, that the lepers were made clean, that the woman at the well received words of encouragement, that the woman caught in adultery was freed from her bondage, that the children were allowed to come unto him. But unless you be deceived, this all took planning. Jesus does not strike me as a fly by the seat of your pants kind of person. He thought through things, he prayed through things, he addressed things head on and didn't allow things to linger.

My prayer for us during this time is that we recognize that our community is varied, all sorts of different people are represented, but we must make sure that those who are the most vulnerable are protected. Stay safe over this weekend, and make sure that you tune in, or come in, to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ here at First Presbyterian.

Your servant in Christ,  
Pastor Bob

## **HAPPENING IN THE LIFE OF FPC...**

**So what about the congregational meeting?** We will most likely not have our congregational meeting this Sunday considering that it will be highly unlikely that we meet a quorum. That means that the congregational meeting will take place on February 1, 2026.

**What about the ordination and installation of officers?** In a similar way we are going to postpone that to February 1 as well, so if you are an officer about to come into service, plan on being there on February 1 to be ordained and installed.

**Auction for Youth Mission to Italy 2026:** Join us on February 21 for our auction to help support the youth mission trip to Italy in 2026. You can find a tentative catalogue of items that will be up for auction here: [auction catalogue](#). We have already gathered \$14,000 in cash donations, now we just need you to bring people to the auction to buy the amazing things that are up for grabs.