

First Presbyterian Church of Strasburg

News for February 20, 2026

Dear FPC family and friends,

Auction anyone? We have pretty much inundated you with so much information about the auction that you can't wait until it is finally over and we get to the serious things of church. I am right there with you, but with a caveat. How often do you see high school students in the life of worship at a church? Do you know that over these past few weeks we have had 20 high schools students stand in front of the church during worship and say a few words? That's hard enough to find anywhere, much less in a church, and even much less in a PC(USA) church. Now, granted they *had* to do it, but still they did it.

We send this enews out to about 500 people. Some of whom are tangentially related to the church, others of us are members and deeply passionate about the life and the people of this church. Here is one ask that I have: come to the auction! If you aren't able to come then find something on the auction catalog (find it here [auction catalog](#)) and give me a call and tell me that you want to bid on it. You can text me as well at 717-799-0777. But my preference is that you actually come to the auction. The buzz and the activity are so much fun and you will see all of the participants who are going on the mission trip there at the auction.

About that mission trip. Most of you know that I grew up in Rome, Italy and then Stacy and I were pastors in Italy and served at an orphanage in Naples. We made life long friends in that region and every 4 years I try to take a group of high school students over there. When we go we teach a Vacation Bible School at a public school in the region of Naples for five days. This year it will be in Barra and we will be staying in Portici. Both of which are very large urban centers around Naples.

The elementary aged children who attend these five days of VBS are impacted for life. I can tell you that because every year that we go back we see some of the kids from the previous years and they tell us about how our trip made them realize that they were not alone in this world. The fact that someone came from across the globe to be with them, to be in relationship with them, to choose to spend time with them as opposed to going to some beach in Florida, well, that makes an impact. The fact that our youth represent the presence of Christ bears an even stronger message.

But this trip also will impact forever the life of our youth who attend. The preparations in which we have begun started with a group meeting in September and every month there is another gathering where we go over certain aspects of the trip and certain understandings of what it means to represent Jesus Christ on this trip and to represent First Presbyterian Church. I have taken close to 150 people on this trip in the past, and this year will be the largest group that I have ever taken with 20 youth and 11 adults. I am so excited to see God work through the lives of our youth and adults while they are there and once they come back.

Jesus' presence in our lives tends to seem a little more intense when we go outside of our walls of comfort and inside the world that he created and loved. The auction was advertised in our local newspaper, you can find the article here: [article](#). Reach out to your family and friends and bring them with you. See you tomorrow! Doors open at 5:30 and the auction begins at 6:15.

Your servant in Christ,

Pastor Bob

HAPPENING IN THE LIFE OF FPC...

The auction is Saturday, February 21, at 5:30pm. Food and drink can be purchased by donation. Auction items can be bid upon on site and the list of auction items can be found here: [auction catalog](#)

Bathrooms in Fellowship Hall: Did you know that construction will begin on February 23rd in the bathrooms in Fellowship Hall? We will be making both the men and the women's bathrooms ADA accessible and we will be fixing a current plumbing problem in that area as well. This will cause a bit of change in preschool entry and usage of that area as well as any other activities that might be used to coming in from those doors. They will be locked and you will be unable to enter from there.

Bridge of Hope coming to FPC Strasburg: As we mentioned in a previous enews our house on 119 S. Decatur Street will be used in partnership with Bridge of Hope as they will become the property managers and have residents that have come through their program on a long term lease at that property. As soon as we know the family who might be moving in we will let you know.

Easter Egg Stuffing!: We will be Stuffing Eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 28th, starting at 9am in Fellowship Hall. Please look for sign ups under the TV by the welcome area in the near future. We will need lots of hands to help! Also, be on the lookout for a sign-up sheet for items needed to fill the eggs. Donations will need to be back by Friday, March 27th. All items should be individually wrapped and NUT FREE!

The CHURCH NURSERY needs you: We are looking for donations of the following items: nursery glider, play doh, and magnetic tiles. We are also in need of a large foldable play mat for Toddler Gym. Please contact Alyssa Gregory with any questions at 717-495-3939 or agregory@straspres.org.

COFFEE HOUR: Join us each Sunday at 9:30am for coffee and fellowship with old and new friends. Hosts for this Sunday: The Szczesniak Family. There are currently no hosts for next Sunday, March 1st. Volunteers are needed! All volunteers will be reimbursed for their purchases. If you would like to help with Coffee Hour, please contact Theresa Rineer at 717-682-9954 or email rineertheresa@yahoo.com. There is a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall. Please choose the date(s) that work best for you!

LENTEN SERVICES & LUNCHEONS: Lent is upon us! Join us for weekly services here at First Presbyterian Church offered by the Strasburg Ministerium. 12 pm Wednesday Lenten Service Schedule with lunch

February 25 Strasburg Mennonite

March 4 St. Michael's Lutheran Church

March 11 ACTS Covenant Fellowship

March 18 First Presbyterian

March 25 Strasburg Ministerium

*All services will be held in the sanctuary here at First Presbyterian Church. Noon services will be followed by a luncheon. Join us!