



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NORMAL

WE ARE GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

NEW? SEE THE WELCOME CENTER FOR YOUR GIFT!



08 FEB
2026



START AT
10AM

2000 E College Ave, in Normal, IL

www.firstpresnormal.org

We affirm that all people are children of God and are created in the image of God. Believing this, we welcome all individuals into the life, community, and ministry of First Pres. This includes people of every age, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, physical or mental ability, economic status, political belief, background, and past experience. No one is excluded, marginalized, or held outside the warm welcome of this congregation. You can find our full statement of affirmation & inclusion on our website.

**FEBRUARY 8, 2026
10AM ORDER OF WORSHIP**

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Karol Schilling

CALL TO WORSHIP (PSALM 23)

Desmond Moran

Leader: Even when we walk through the darkest places, our God is with us.

People: The Lord is our comfort.

Leader: The goodness and love of God will follow us every day of our lives.

People: We will dwell in the house and in the presence of the Lord.

HYMN #280 Amazing Grace - stanzas 1-3

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Desmond Moran

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

SONG Lord I Need You

SCRIPTURE Psalm 22:1-5

Desmond Moran

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Rob Kelley

SCRIPTURE Joel 1:1-12

Pastor Matt Wilcox

MESSAGE When It Hurts: Face It

HYMN O Come To The Altar

COMMUNITY PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor Karol Schilling

OFFERING INVITATION

Melissa Moran

OFFERING REFLECTION TIME

HYMN #210 O God Our Help (St. Anne) - stanzas 1-3

BLESSING

Pastor Matt Wilcox

FACE IT

JOEL 1:1-12

The Main Point

(A quick summary of the sermon.)

In the face of deep pain and disruption, the prophet Joel calls God's people to resist denial and instead honestly name the hurt before God. We are reminded that the first faithful step toward healing is not fixing or numbing our pain, but courageously facing it, just as Jesus did. When we acknowledge what hurts, we open ourselves to truth, help, and hope rather than letting suffering quietly erode our souls.

One Question

(A single question to carry with you this week.)

What pain or grief in your life have you been avoiding or numbing, and what might it look like to honestly face it before God rather than turning away from it?

What Now?

(A clear, simple next step.)

This week, choose one place of hurt in your life and intentionally name it before God, whether in prayer, journaling, or conversation with a trusted person, as a first step toward facing it rather than carrying it alone.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mark you calendars and get plugged in!

TODAY | BIBLE IN A YEAR SURVEY

Did you participate in Bible in a Year in 2025? Please share your experience in this short survey by 02/08: <https://tinyurl.com/3b7jrr8s>.

TODAY | ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING & ALL-CHURCH POTLUCK

Church members are encouraged to attend the Congregational Meeting today after worship. The All-Church Potluck will follow in the Great Hall.

TODAY | CONGREGATIONAL CARE MINISTRY CONVERSATION

Since last summer, we have been praying for and developing a new Congregational Care Ministry to bridge the gap between the care that our pastors and deacons provide. Several members of our congregation began training in October, and we look forward to launching this ministry with their commissioning at the 11am service on February 15. If you'd like to hear about CCM, you are invited to join us in the library during today's potluck for a conversation to learn more. Fill your plate and come join us! Contact Ann Lamkey or Pastor Karol with questions.

TODAY | BIG GAME PARTY

Join us tonight at 5:15pm to watch the Super Bowl. Pizza and drinks will be provided. Please sign up to bring an appetizer to share on our website. We will also have activities for kids up to 5th grade in the lower level up until half-time. Wear your favorite sportswear and come!

FEB. 9 | BLESSINGS ROMANS STUDY

Blessings Women's Ministry is offering a study on the book of Romans. We will meet Monday evenings, 6-7pm, through May 18. A study guide can be purchased for \$10. Other social events during the winter and spring months will also be planned. Sign up on the website under "Resources", click "Sign-Ups". Or text/call Irene DenBesten at 309-824-5611.

FEB. 11 HOPE BAGS FOR CEDAR RIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Join us Wednesday, February 11, at either 11am (to unpack food) or 6pm (to fill bags). We will meet in the Great Hall. Please sign up online if you can help. These snack bags are then delivered to Cedar Ridge Elementary School on Thursday morning.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mark you calendars and get plugged in!

FEB. 22 | A LONG OBEDIENCE LENTEN STUDY

Join us Sunday mornings, 9:45-10:45am during Lent as our pastors lead a conversation on discipleship and what it looks like to follow Jesus in everyday life. We'll explore what it means to grow in faith, patience, and commitment as we walk together through Eugene Peterson's classic on faithful discipleship. Please sign up online by Wednesday, February 18.

FEB. 22 | WIRED WORD: NEW ADULT DISCIPLESHIP CLASS

The Wired Word discussion guide chooses a weekly current event or cultural topic and explores how it relates to Scripture, encouraging thought-provoking discussions on how we can apply God's word to our everyday lives. With each week's lesson being independent of the others, feel free to come any time. No sign up needed.

FEB. 28 | PARENT'S NIGHT OUT

Join us for Parent's Night Out, Saturday, February 28, 5-8pm. This event gives parents an opportunity to drop off their kids for an evening to themselves. Snacks will be provided, but families are welcome to bring dinner for their children. The cost is \$5 per child with a \$10 family maximum (due at drop off). Please have the children enter through the College Avenue entrance (door C) and they will be let in. Please register on the website. Contact Tristan with any questions!

FEB. 28 | BLESSINGS WOMEN'S BUNCO EVENT

Calling all ladies! Our BUNCO event is happening on Saturday, February 28, 1-3:30pm in the Great Hall! Come learn how to play, it's fun and easy! Please sign up on the website, under the "Resources" tab, or contact Irene Denbesten at 309-824-5611.

JOIN THE PRAYER TEAM

Our church prayer chain is an email group that commits to praying for those in our church who share a request. Starting today, we are expanding our prayer team to receive a weekly email with the community prayers shared during worship. To join the prayer team, go to the website signup page or join the group in CCB. To leave the prayer team, unsubscribe from any email received or leave the group in CCB. To send a prayer request to the prayer team, fill out a prayer request form on the website or in the pews (cards coming soon), or contact one of the pastors.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Sun. Feb. 8	9am 9:30am 10am 11am 11:15am 11:30am 5:15pm	Adult Discipleship NICE Video-Book Study Lounge Coffee Fellowship Great Hall Hallway Combined Worship Service Sanctuary Annual Congregational Meeting Sanctuary All-Church Potluck Great Hall Congregational Care Ministry Meeting Library Big Game Party Great Hall
Mon. Feb. 9	6pm 7pm 7:15pm	Women's Blessings Bible Study Lounge Wild Ones Watch Party Library Adult Discipleship Committee Meeting Zoom
Tue. Feb. 10	2:45pm 5:30pm 6pm	PASS After School Program Great Hall Property Committee Meeting Library Missions Super Committee Great Hall
Wed. Feb. 11	11am 4:30pm 5:30pm 6pm 6:30pm	Hope Bags for Cedar Ridge Great Hall Worship Band Rehearsal Sanctuary Our First Rodeo Middle School Room Hope Bags for Cedar Ridge Great Hall Chancel Choir Sanctuary
Thu. Feb. 12	9am 7pm	Book Group Library Deacons Library
Fri. Feb. 13	11:15am	Worship Band Rehearsal Sanctuary

CONTACT OUR CHURCH STAFF

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