



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NORMAL

WE ARE GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

NEW? SEE THE WELCOME CENTER FOR YOUR GIFT!



01 FEB
2026



START AT
11 AM

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 1, 2026
11AM ORDER OF WORSHIP**

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Karol Schilling

SONG Hosanna (Praise Is Rising)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE

Julia White

SONG Word Of God Speak

SCRIPTURE Matthew 13:1-9

Nancy Annegers

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Ann Lamkey

SCRIPTURE Matthew 13:18-23

Pastor Matt Wilcox

MESSAGE Object Lessons: Soil Matters

SONG He Will Hold Me Fast

COMMUNITY PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor Karol Schilling

COMMUNION

Pastor Matt Wilcox

OFFERING INVITATION

Nancy Annegers

OFFERING

SONG Build Your Kingdom Here

BLESSING

Pastor Matt Wilcox

THE FLOWERS ARE GIVEN BY:

*E'Lane Tufts, in honor of Gary and E'Lane's 10th anniversary.
Curtis Trout, in loving memory of his sister, Cathryn V. Truitt.*

SOIL MATTERS

MATTHEW 13:18-23

The Main Point

(A quick summary of the sermon.)

Jesus teaches us that while God generously scatters the seed of the Gospel everywhere, the difference between fruitfulness and barrenness lies in the condition of the soil, our hearts, and lives. We are invited to honestly examine what hardens, distracts, or crowds our hearts, and to trust that, with care and intention, even depleted soil can be restored. When we allow God to tend and reshape us, the Gospel can take root and produce lasting growth and life.

One Question

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

What kind of soil best describes your life right now, and what might God be inviting you to tend, remove, or open up so the seed of the Gospel can take deeper root and bear fruit?

What Now?

(A clear, simple next step.)

This week, take one concrete step to tend the soil of your life by removing a distraction or habit that crowds out your attention to God and replace it with a simple, life-giving practice like prayer, reading Scripture, or intentional silence.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mark your calendars and get plugged in!

TODAY | FEBRUARY CARE & SHARE MINISTRY

February donations will again go to Home Sweet Home Ministries. Thank you for supporting this ongoing donation drive with our local mission partners. For a full list of items you can donate, please look online at firstpresnormal.org. Please contact Ann Beck with any questions, and thank you to the Deacons for taking the food to their designated locations each month. We appreciate you!

TODAY | BIBLE IN A YEAR SURVEY

Did you participate in Bible in a Year during 2025? We'd like to hear about your experience! Complete this survey by Sunday, February 8: <https://tinyurl.com/3b7jrr8s>.

FEB. 2 | BLESSINGS ROMANS STUDY

Blessings Women's Ministry is offering a study on the book of Romans. We will meet every Monday evening, 6-7pm, February 2 - May 18. A study guide can be purchased for \$10. Other social events during the winter and spring months will also be planned. All women are welcome to attend. Sign up on the website under "Resources", click "Sign-Ups". Or text/call Irene DenBesten at 309-824-5611.

FEB. 5 | NEW WOMEN SMALL GROUP BOOK STUDY

We will be studying John 1-10. We will read the book, "John for Everyone" by N.T. Wright. Wright offers clear verse-by-verse insights and practical reflections to help readers apply John's message to everyday faith. Our meetings are: 2/5 (Confirmation Room), 2/19 (Library), 3/5 (Library), 3/19 (Lounge), and 4/16 (Library) at 6pm. Contact Barb Lemmon if you have any questions at barblemmon7755@gmail.com.

FEB. 8 | NICE BOOK & VIDEO STUDY

God never called us to be nice. In this series, we're exploring a seemingly innocent idol that has crept into our faith and quietly corrupted it, producing bad fruits of cowardice, inauthenticity, shallowness, and more. We are challenged to cultivate a better "tree," using practical steps to reclaim our credibility as followers of Christ to bear better, richer, more life-giving fruits. Join us in the Lounge on Feb. 8 at 9am, and on Feb 15 at 9:45am.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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FEB. 8 | ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING & ALL-CHURCH POTLUCK

Church members are encouraged to attend the Congregational Meeting. We will have one service at 10am, followed by the Congregational Meeting. Copies of the Annual Report will be available on that Sunday at the Welcome Center. After the meeting, join us for an all-church potluck in the Great Hall. Please bring a dish to share based on the **FIRST** letter of your **LAST** name. Drinks will be provided:

- **A-D:** Dessert | **E-L:** Main Course | **M-Z:** Side Dish

FEB. 8 | BIG GAME PARTY

Everyone is invited to watch the Super Bowl on Sunday, February 8. We will be in the Great Hall with both big screens playing the game. The party will start at 5:15pm with kick-off scheduled for 5:30pm. The church will provide pizza and drinks and we are asking everyone to bring their favorite appetizer to share. You are encouraged to wear your favorite sports team gear! We will also have activities for kids up to 5th grade in the lower level up until half-time. Please RSVP on the website so we can have an accurate count for food!

FEB. 11 HOPE BAGS FOR CEDAR RIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Join us Wednesday, Feb. 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.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Sun. Feb. 1	9:30am 9:45am 9:45am 11am 12pm 12:15pm 5:30pm 5:45pm	Coffee Fellowship Great Hall Hallway Sunday School/Adult Discipleship Hour Elder & Deacon Orientation Library Contemporary Worship Service Sanctuary Confirmation Class Lounge Family Ministry Committee Library Alpha Small Group Zoom Youth Group High School
M o n . Feb. 2	6pm	Blessings Bible Study Lounge
Tue. Feb. 3	2:45pm 6:30pm	PASS After School Program Great Hall Handbells Rehearsal Lounge
Wed. Feb. 4	4:30pm 6:30pm	Worship Band Rehearsal Sanctuary Chancel Choir Sanctuary
Thu. Feb. 5	9am 1:30pm 2:45pm 5pm 5:15pm 6pm	Book Group Library Yadahs Small Group Lounge PASS After School Program Great Hall Personnel Committee Library Serving Meals Safe Harbor New Women Confirmation Room
Fri. Feb. 6	11:15am	Worship Band Rehearsal Sanctuary

CONTACT OUR CHURCH STAFF

Senior Pastor - Matt Wilcox mwilcox@firstpresnormal.org
 Associate Pastor - Karol Schilling kschilling@firstpresnormal.org
 Director of Music - Phil Eng penge@firstpresnormal.org
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