

First Presbyterian Church



309 Lincoln Street, Johnstown, Pennsylvania 15901

Vision Statement ~ We seek to become a Christian people of Spiritual Vitality and Faithfulness embraced by the love of God in Jesus Christ, through the Holy Spirit, as we love God and our neighbors, near and far.

6th Sunday after Epiphany

February 12, 2023 Rev. Hyiwot Teshome, *Pastor* • Wendi Sokira, *Liturgist* 10:45 A.M.

THE PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP Paul tells us, “We are co-workers in God's service” (1 Corinthians 3:9, NIV). So we gather to be fed for a new week of ministry. Welcome! As you listen to the prelude, please read over the service in the bulletin and meditate on the words, so that they may be an inspiration to you as you worship.

**Signifies to please stand if you are able.*

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

THE ORGAN PRELUDE “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

THE INTROIT “Surely the Presence of the Lord is in This Place”

(Refrain x1) Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place. I can feel God's mighty power and God's grace. I can hear the brush of angel's wings; I see glory on each face. Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

THE WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: You have commanded us to be diligent.

People: May our ways be steadfast in keeping your statutes.

Leader: There is only glory in following your commands.

People: We are a people of the commandment

ALL: Let us worship our God, our commanding Lord

***THE PRAYER OF APPROACH**

Commanding God, help us follow your precepts, strengthen our hearts and minds so we may resolutely follow you. Help us in joyously following not only the letters of your Word, but also the spirit of it. Protect us from being legalistic in choosing what to do or not do. We pray in your son's holy name. Amen!

***THE OPENING HYMN #347 “Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive”**

***THE CALL TO CONFESSION**

***THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Begin in silence, reading over the Prayer of Confession and preparing to pray it together.

Generous God, we are baptized as your people, called to live and serve together as your church. We confess that we have sought to live for ourselves, not reaching out to others and honoring the divine image in all your children. Forgive us, we pray. In your abundant mercy give us the grace to be your church, confessing our faults, offering forgiveness and working for reconciliation. Turn our hearts to your intentions that we may hold fast to one another and draw near to your presence. In Jesus, we ask it. Amen.

***THE ASSURANCE OF GRACE**

Leader: Friends, hear the Good News of the Gospel

People : **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!**

***THE RESPONSE HYMN #579 “The Gloria Patri”**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

***THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON **Psalm 119:1-8**

THE NEW TESTAMENT LESSON **Matthew 5:21-37**

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

THE MESSAGE **“Raise The Bar”**

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

***THE HYMN OF RESPONSE #354 “Guide My Feet”**

***THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** **The Apostles Creed**

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

***THE OFFERING of our Tithes, Time and Talents**

THE OFFERTORY #553 **“For The Fruit of All Creation”**

Choir

***THE DOXOLOGY #592 AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Giving God, we are thankful for the wondrous gift of life. Your generous outpouring of grace reminds us of the fruitful life we are called to bear. May these gifts of time and labor, therefore, embody our desire to share and contribute to your coming reign among us. AMEN.

THE PRAYERS AND PRAISES OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

***THE CLOSING HYMN #339 “Be Thou My Vision”**

***THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***THE POSTLUDE “Praise to the Lord”**

During the Postlude, you are welcome to stay and pray, simply enjoy the music, or head out into the world to meet the rest of your day, whichever is preferable to you.

+++++

THIS WEEK’S EVENTS

| | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|---|
| TODAY | After worship | 190th ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING |
| | 12:00 NOON | MISSION/STEWARDSHIP MEETING |
| | 1:00 PM | GENEVEN’S MEETING at HOSS’S |
| TUESDAY | 10:30 AM | BIBLE STUDY |
| WEDNESDAY | 10:00 AM | ADMINISTRATION MEETING |
| NEXT SUNDAY | 9:30 AM | SUNDAY SCHOOL |
| | 10:45 AM | WORSHIP |
| | 12:00 PM | THIRD SUNDAY PROGRAM & LUNCH |

PRAYER FAMILIES OF THE WEEK: Oyler, Vickroy

WE EXTEND a friendly welcome to all who are visiting with us today. If you would like to learn more about First Presbyterian Church, please let the pastor know after the service.

PARISH NURSE Pat Betts will be in the office Tuesday & Thursday from 9:00 am to noon. Please feel free to stop by or give her a call!

VISION & HEARING ASSISTANCE Large print hymnals and wireless hearing devices are available from the Deacons.

IF YOU ARE AWARE of anyone who has any health concerns and would appreciate a phone call or visit and prayer, please let Pastor Hyiwot, Pat Betts or the office know. Also, if you are admitted to the hospital and would like a visit, be sure to let the hospital staff know or contact Pat or the office.

FOCUS ON PRAYERS Dear Jesus, help me live out your kingdom values: mercy, meekness, hunger and thirst for righteousness, peacemaking - and above all, love.

PLEASE BE SURE to fill out the Caring Cards, located in each pew, and place them in the offering plate. Also, "joys and concerns" prayer cards are in the pews for you fill out and give to a deacon during the offering.

PINE SPRINGS CAMP is collecting empty printer ink cartridges, which are recycled for funds which help enhance the camping programs. Place your “empties” in the box under the bulletin board at the top of the Lincoln Street steps. Please note that there has been a change to the program: they do not accept laser/toner cartridges, they’ll accept INKJET cartridges only.

NON-PERISHABLE food items are collected each week and taken to the Food Pantry at Franklin Street U. M. Church. It's easy to pick up an extra box of macaroni and cheese, jar of peanut butter, or can of vegetables while you're doing your grocery shopping. The donation basket is by the Lincoln Street entrance.

THE FLOWER CHARTS are up in the hallway to the Parlor and are ready to fill in for 2023. Please fill in your name and the dedication for the person or persons the flowers are for, as you wish it to appear in the bulletin. Silk flowers are \$15 (which goes to Saturday's Kitchen) and the cost for real flowers is \$35. Thanks!

FROM THE DEACONS: If you would like to dedicate the lighting of the Christ Candle in memory or in honor of a loved one, the signup chart for 2023 is in the hallway by the flower charts. Please fill in your name and name the person/s to whom the lighting is dedicated as you wish it to appear in the bulletin. There is no cost.

THANK YOU to Wendi Sokira for serving as liturgist today.

THANK YOU to Jennifer Kist for sharing her musical talent as organist today.

UPPER ROOM/THESE DAYS subscriptions will expire after the next issue (Mar./Apr.) Yearly cost is \$8.00 for Upper Room and \$9.00 for These Days. Please let the office know if you'd like to continue your subscription.

OUR SOUPER BOWL of Caring Offering will be received TODAY, February 12th. This mission/outreach was organized in 1990 by the Rev. Dr. Brad Smith, then the pastor of Spring Valley Presbyterian Church in Columbia, South Carolina. Thank you for your generosity!

SESSION has CALLED THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING for TODAY, February 12, 2023 after worship for the purpose of receiving the 2022 reports and electing the 2023 nominating committee.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS – the Ash Wednesday Luncheon will be held at noon next Wednesday, February 22nd. The guest speaker will be our pastor, Rev. Hyiwot Teshome. All are invited to attend. There is no cost for the luncheon, but please make a reservation by February 15th by calling the church office.

ALPHA: Our neighbors at Our Mother of Sorrows and Mt Calvary Lutheran in Richland are offering courses on Alpha and have graciously invited us to join them. The sessions are held on Tuesday evenings 6:00-8:30

Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the Christian faith, typically run over eleven weeks. Each talk looks at a different question around faith and is designed to create conversation. Alpha is run all around the globe, and everyone is welcome. No two Alphas look the same, but they generally have three key things in common: food, a talk and good conversation, and, in that sense, very Presbyterian.

In-person Alpha at Our Mother of Sorrows begins on February 21st with dinner at OMOS Hall at 6:00 PM. Registration is required, and we encourage you to do so at your earliest convenience.

If you have any questions or need help with registering, please reach out to Pastor Hyiwot, who will be participating in the sessions.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY: At the request of Richard Feller, Pastor Hyiwot will be taking over the Tuesday Bible study sessions for the Lenten season. We will study Jesus' parables over seven sessions starting on Tuesday, February 21st. We will end our studies the Tuesday before Easter. Sessions run 10:30-11:30. All are invited and strongly encouraged to join these sessions. Please let Caroline know at the office if you're joining us so Roy knows how many donuts to bring 😊

THIRD SUNDAY PROGRAM: Join us next Sunday, February 19th, for our program and lunch. Guest speaker will be Stacy Novak, Executive Director of Bible2School Laurel Highlands. Bible2School is a program that provides free elective Bible classes to elementary school children attending public school.

“LITTLE SINS ADD UP TO BIG TROUBLE”
“ROTO REVIEW” (Reach Out To Others)

Pastor: Rev. Hyiwot Teshome
Email: PastorHyiwot@gmail.com

CHURCH:

Phone: (814) 536-8141

Email: 1stpreshjohnstown@gmail.com

Website: www.1stpreshjohnstown.org

Parish Nurse: Mrs. Patricia Betts

Choir Director: Mr. William A. Williams

Organist: TBA

Ministers: All members of First Presbyterian Church

Administrative Assistant: Caroline Goller