

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.

First Sunday of Lent

February 26, 2023

Rev. Hyiwot Teshome, *Pastor* • Pat Betts, *Liturgist*

10:45 A.M.

THE PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP Greetings, in the name of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit on this first Sunday in Lent. Let us walk with Jesus and one another these sacred 40 days. 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

"The Old Rugged Cross"

arr. Lani Smith

WELCOME

CENTERING HYMN "Surely the Presence of the Lord is in This Place"

(Refrain x2) 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Right after Jesus was baptized by John, he went to the wilderness alone where he was tempted.

People: He was there for forty days and nights, but did not succumb. He triumphed over evil to become spectacularly successful.

Leader: As we start the Lenten journey, the walk to the cross with Jesus, let us bring our weaknesses and temptations to him.

ALL: Let us worship God and walk the journey together, seeking the spirit as our guiding light along the way

***THE PRAYER OF APPROACH**

Knowing God, you know our deepest thoughts and feelings. You know our deepest desires, fears and worries. During this Lenten journey, be with us as we seek to have a new awareness of your presence in our lives. Help us overcome our own temptations, so that we are unburdened and free to follow you. Amen!

***THE OPENING HYMN #77** **“Forty Days and Forty Nights”**

***THE CALL TO CONFESSION**

***THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

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

Merciful God, even when we see evidence of your justice brightly before us, we hesitate to follow you completely in your way in our world. We contemplate what it might cost us to walk in the way of Jesus. Help us to listen. Lift us up so we are formed by the life of Jesus Christ. Fill us with the confidence to be fully committed disciples of Christ. 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 #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 **Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7**

THE GOSPEL LESSON **Matthew 4:1-11**

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

THE MESSAGE **“Testing 1, 2, 3...”**

Pastor Hyiwot

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

***THE HYMN OF RESPONSE #85** **“What Wondrous Love Is This”**

***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 #80 **“Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley”** *Choir*

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

Giving God, we give you our thanks for the plenty that you have endowed us with. We now humbly ask you to bless these gifts we share as a token of our love and devotion. May you see them as a sure sign of our commitment to serve you in all that we are and do. 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 #280** **“Amazing Grace”**

***THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***THE POSTLUDE** **“All Glory, Laud, and Honor”** *arr. Lani Smith*

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.

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THIS WEEK’S EVENTS

MONDAY	6:30 PM	NAR-ANON
TUESDAY	10:30 AM	LENTEN BIBLE STUDY
SATURDAY	9:00 AM	MEN’S BREAKFAST
NEXT SUNDAY	9:30 AM	SUNDAY SCHOOL
	10:45 AM	WORSHIP
	After worship	SOCIAL HOUR

PRAYER FAMILIES OF THE WEEK: Carbaugh, Williams

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.

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.

FOCUS ON PRAYERS Holy Spirit, when you lead us into the wilderness, assure us of your constant presence.

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 sign-up 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 Pat Betts for serving as liturgist today.

THANK YOU to Larry and Susan Pearce for sharing their musical talents with us today.

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, ending our studies the Tuesday before Easter. Sessions run 10:30-11:30 AM. 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 ☺

VEGETARIAN VEGETABLE SOUP SALE: The Board of Deacons will be having a Soup Sale Weds., March 15th from 5:00 till 6:30. The cost is \$8.00 for a quart and it will be pick up only. Place your orders early so we have an idea of the count and to reserve yours! We will begin our chicken and biscuit dinners again in April. Please spread the word. Thank you.

MEN'S BREAKFAST will be held **this Saturday, March 4th** at 9:00 AM in the social hall. Call the office to RSVP.

UPPER ROOM MAGAZINE: The March/April Issue is available in the office. This is the last issue of the current subscription. Remember to submit your \$8 payment to keep your subscription active.

"FOCUS ON A GOOD LIFE, NOT ON A GOOD LIVING"
"ROTO REVIEW" (Reach Out To Others)

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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

THE SESSION

Class of 2024
Pat Betts
Chuck Benson

Class of 2025
Gary Mapes
Roy Gindlesperger
Richard Feller
Charnet Koch

THE BOARD OF DEACONS

Class of 2023
Michelle Bragg
Barry Compton
Brenda Noon
Lynne Williams

Class of 2024
Carla Davis
Sheila Farrer
Agnes Gindlesperger

Class of 2025
Wendi Sokira