

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.

Third Sunday of Lent

March 12, 2023

Rev. Hyiwot Teshome, *Pastor* • Joyce Gerlach, *Liturgist*

10:45 A.M.

THE PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP We gather at the well of worship, where Jesus, our Living Water, quenches our thirst for love, life, hope, peace. 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 PRELUDE

“Prelude: Beyond the Days”

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

MINUTE FOR MISSION

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Just as the Samaritan woman was thirsty for water,

People: We thirst for your love and mercy.

Leader: We ask for your quenching Grace,

People: So we may not dwell in debilitating sin,

ALL: Let us worship that God of quenching love and mercy.

***THE PRAYER OF APPROACH**

God of love and mercy, we are gathered here in your name. Expectant and eager for your quenching and satisfying love, mercy, and water of life. Although we struggle to depend solely on you, we continue to be grateful for your constant support and grace. Please be with us today and strengthen us so we can revel in you and your abundant love. Amen!

***THE OPENING HYMN** pg. 85 in *The Hymns We Sing* “Wade in the Water”

***THE CALL TO CONFESSION**

***THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION (John Calvin 1542)**

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

O Lord, with heartfelt sorrow we repent and deplore our offenses. We condemn ourselves and our evil ways, with true penitence, entreating that your grace may relieve our distress. Have compassion and mercy on us, Lord. And as you remove our guilt and our pollution, grant us the daily increase of the grace of your Holy Spirit, that, acknowledging our own unrighteousness, we may be touched with sorrow that will translate into true repentance, and that, removing all sins within us, your Spirit may produce the fruits of holiness and righteousness well-pleasing in your sight, through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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 **Exodus 17:1-7**

THE GOSPEL LESSON **John 4:5-42**

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

THE MESSAGE **“Drinks Are On Jesus”** *Pastor Hyiwot*

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

***THE HYMN OF RESPONSE #368 “I Have Peace Like A River”**

***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 #172 “My Shepherd Will Supply My Need”

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

God of grace, you provide for all our needs. Accept these offerings as signs of our gratitude and bless them to further Christ’s ministry and mission among the poor, the despairing and the destitute. 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 “I Heard the Voice of Jesus”**

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	12:00 PM	MISSION/STEWARDSHIP MEETING
	1:00 PM	GENEVENS MEETING at Our Sons Restaurant
MONDAY	6:30 PM	NAR-ANON
TUESDAY	10:30 AM	LENTEN BIBLE STUDY
WEDNESDAY	5:00 PM	VEGETABLE SOUP SALE
	7:00 PM	FREE CONCERT – PennWest Clarion University Concert Choir
THURSDAY	7:00 PM	CHOIR
SATURDAY	7:30 PM	JOHNSTOWN CONCERT SERIES – Sterling & Strings
NEXT SUNDAY	9:30 AM	SUNDAY SCHOOL
	10:45 AM	WORSHIP
	12:00 PM	3rd SUNDAY PROGRAM

PRAYER FAMILIES OF THE WEEK: Noon, Reitz

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.

FOCUS ON PRAYERS My soul is parched, Lord, like Israel in the wilderness and the woman at the well. Pour into me your forgiveness and love.

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.

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 Joyce Gerlach for serving as liturgist today.

THANK YOU to Jennifer Kist for serving as organist today.

THE FLOWERS THIS MORNING are dedicated to the glory of God and placed by Pat Betts in honor of her granddaughter, Courtney, whose birthday was March 2nd, and in honor of her son Dave, whose birthday is March 19th.

THE CHRIST CANDLE has been lit in loving memory of Paul Gerlach, by his wife, Joyce, to commemorate his birthday on March 11th.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY: Pastor Hyiwot is teaching 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.

THE CAMBRIA CO. BACKPACK PROJECT provides weekend meals throughout the year for students in eight local school districts and Mom's House. Volunteers meet at the lower back parking lot at the Learning Lamp building on Bedford St. to pack meals on Monday afternoons. Please consider helping the Deacons to pack on **tomorrow at 4:00 pm**. The site is very well organized, and it will only take an hour of your time.

EASTER TREE PROJECT You are invited to put a smile on a child's face through our Deacons' Easter Egg Project, coordinated with Children and Youth Services. The Easter Egg Tree will be placed in the sanctuary next Sunday, March 12th. The paper eggs will list a gift category, an age group or size and a gender. Take the top egg, sign your name to the bottom egg & return the signed egg to the tree. Gifts are to be unwrapped and should be returned to the church by Sunday, March 26th. They will be delivered that week to CYS. The Deacons thank you in advance for your generosity!

COMING THIS WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15th

CHORAL CONCERT & SOUP SALE: The Board of Deacons will be having a vegetarian vegetable Soup Sale this Wednesday from 5:00 till 6:30. The cost is \$8.00 for a quart. Place your orders early so we have an idea of the count and to reserve yours! **PennWest Clarion University Concert Choir** will present a free concert here at First Church at 7:00 PM. Come for the soup and stay for the concert! Please spread the word. Thanks!

JOHNSTOWN CONCERT SERIES Sterling and Strings will perform here on Saturday, March 18th at 7:30 PM. The trio is composed of cellist Susanna Reilly, flutist Melissa Lessure, and violinist Becky Rothermel.

RUTH FISHER'S 100th BIRTHDAY is March 22nd. Her family has asked us to join in the celebration by participating in a birthday card blitz. Let's honor this special lady! Her address is: 1670 Legacy Pkwy East #241
Maplewood, MN 55109

THIRD SUNDAY PROGRAM Join us next Sunday at noon as we welcome Atty. Lauren Presser for a discussion on legacy planning. Hope to see you there.

EASTER FLOWERS: It's not too early to think about Easter flowers! Easter Sunday is April 9th, and the nursery asks us to turn in our order **by Friday, March 24th**. Please make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church, with "Easter Flowers" in the memo. You may also order your flowers by calling the church office and mail the check later. Order forms are available at the church entrances and were printed in the March issue of *The Vision*.

"COMPASSION IS LOVE IN ACTION"
"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: Jennifer Kist

Ministers: All members of First Presbyterian Church
Administrative Assistant: Caroline Goller