

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.

12th Sunday After Pentecost

August 20, 2023 Rev. Hyiwot Teshome, *Pastor* • Wendi Sokira, *Liturgist* 10:00 A.M.

THE PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP Paul writes: “The gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable” (Romans 11:29, NRSV). God has called you, so receive his gifts for you today: his love, his forgiveness, his life! 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

“Song of Mary”

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** *Based on Psalm 67*

L: Our God is gracious to us

P: He blesses us and makes his face shine upon us

L: God’s way is known upon the earth

P: His saving power reigns amongst all nations

ALL: We sing for joy and we praise and worship this God.

***THE PRAYER OF APPROACH**

Dear God, we seek your reassuring presence in our lives. We seek to see your presence in the faces of your people amongst us. Be with each one of us as we encounter life’s challenges. Open our hearts to receive your healing mercy and your transforming love. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

***THE OPENING HYMN #469** “Morning Has Broken”

***THE CALL TO CONFESSION**

***THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

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

God of mercy and love, we come before you this morning accepting that we have failed to be faithful to you and what you expect of us. When you shine upon our faces, we turn them away from those in need. Forgive us, merciful God, and accept us back as we seek to redeem ourselves and get back on the path of peace and passion. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

***THE ASSURANCE OF GRACE**

Leader: Friends, hear and believe the Good News of the Gospel

People: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

***THE RESPONSE #579 "The Gloria Patri"**

***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 **Isaiah 56: 1, 6-8**

THE GOSPEL LESSON **Matthew 15:21-28**

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

THE MESSAGE **"Dog Lover"**

Pastor Hyiwot

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

***THE HYMN OF RESPONSE #403 "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"**

***THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

The Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, 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**

SPECIAL MUSIC **"Wonderful, Merciful Savior"**

Charnet Koch & Kim Baker

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

Holy God, your love overflows in the gift of your Spirit. Bless these gifts that we offer that they may spread your blessing in a world of hurt and need; in your son’s, Jesus Christ’s name. 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 #413 “All Who Love and Serve Your City”**

***THE CHARGE TO THE CONGREGATION**

***THE BENEDICTION #432 “Song of Hope” (2x)**

***THE POSTLUDE**

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

TODAY	After Worship	CONGREGATIONAL CARE
MONDAY	6:30 PM	NAR-ANON
WEDNESDAY	6:00 PM	SESSION
NEXT SUNDAY	10:00 AM	MORNING WORSHIP

PRAYER FAMILIES OF THE WEEK: Risbon, Younkin

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 The Lord will give what is good. And our land will give its fruit” (Psalm 85:12, NLV). As gardens and fields bear produce, God, harvest goodness also in my life.

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 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. 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 \$45. 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. There is no cost.

THE FLOWERS THIS MORNING are dedicated to the glory of God and have been placed by Pat Betts in honor of her granddaughter Danielle, whose birthday is August 23rd; and her son Tom, whose birthday is August 16th.

THANK YOU to Wendi Sokira for serving as liturgist today.

THANK YOU to Charnet Koch & Kim Baker for providing the special music today.

THERE ARE NOW SEVEN NARCAN NASAL SPRAYS available for opiate overdose emergencies located in 1) the office on the right side of the fireplace mantle; 2) on top of the first aid station in the hallway near the parlor entrance; 3) at the Deacon's station in the back of the sanctuary; 4) in the kitchen in the drawer under the phone; 5) Pat's office; 6) Pastor Hyiwot's office; and 7) In the library under the calendar. They are easy to use, and simple instructions are printed on the box flap.

PASTOR HYIWOT is working with local clergy and lay people to minister to prisoners at SCI Somerset. Pastor Hyiwot usually visits on Tuesday evenings and has enjoyed the opportunity to fellowship with and minister to residents there. If you are interested in participating in this ministry, please reach out to Pastor Hyiwot.

OUR FRIENDS at ST. VINCENT DE PAUL FAMILY KITCHEN need volunteers to help prepare and serve meals to their guests. If you are willing and able to help, please reach out to Pastor Hyiwot so we can help together as a church in serving lunch on Thursdays.

OUR CHOIR is now on its summer hiatus. We would love to have our members' gifts and talents edify our worship services. If you have any musical gifts and would like to share them with us during the service, please reach out to Pastor Hyiwot. Bill Williams and Jen Kist will be happy to accommodate all your musical needs.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE COMMITTEE will meet today after worship in the parlor.

THIRD SUNDAY PROGRAM - On Sunday, September 17th, for our first Third Sunday Luncheon after the summer hiatus, we will have a special guest. Dr. William Hale, Professor of Psychiatry, Behavioral Sciences, and Medicine at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, and, most importantly, co-director of the Congregational Depression Awareness Program or CDAP, will share his personal and professional experience with us. The presentation will be here in the sanctuary after a short break for lunch and will be live-streamed on Facebook. We will also be inviting members of the community to join us that Sunday, including members of local and Redstone presbytery churches. Please make note of the date and RSVP to the office so we can prepare appropriately. Please share this very important presentation with your loved ones and anyone that you think may benefit from it. We will be giving away Dr. Hale's book, "Depression – Out of Darkness and Into the Light" to the first 20 people that RSVP AND attend the presentation.

MICHAEL FACCIANI CONCERT will be held here Sunday, September 17th at 6:00 PM. Born and raised here in Johnstown, Michael will be singing the old hymns as he presents his program, "Remembering the Big Hymns Under the Big Dome". Please join us that evening and please share the event with your friends and loved ones. You can pick up a flier at the office if you'd like to help publicize the event. Thank you.

"IF WE THINK WE CAN OR CAN'T, WE'RE RIGHT EITHER WAY"

"ROTO REVIEW" (Reach Out To Others)

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CHURCH:

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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