

# First Presbyterian Church



309 Lincoln Street, Johnstown, Pennsylvania 15901

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*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.*

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## 13<sup>h</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

August 27, 2023      Rev. Hyiwot Teshome, *Pastor* • Gary Mapes, *Liturgist*      10:00 A.M.

**THE PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP** The psalmist said to God, “On the day I called, you answered me, you increased my strength of soul” (Psalm 138:3, NRSV). Let us seek the Lord today in order to have the strength of our souls increased. With joy and gratitude, we greet all who have come to worship. May each of us find our spirits refreshed and strengthened. 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**

“Abide with Me”

**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 138*

L: We give you thanks, O Lord

**P: With all our hearts, before the gods we sing your praise**

L: We give thanks to your name for your steadfast love

**P: For you have exalted your name and your word above all**

**ALL: We rejoice in your faithfulness and praise and worship you!**

\***THE PRAYER OF APPROACH**

**Dear Lord, you are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God. You are our Comforter, and Advocate, and Sustainer. When we are asked who you are, may we affirm these wonderful qualities of you. In Jesus' name we pray. AAmen.**

\***THE OPENING HYMN #454** “Blessed Jesus, At Your Word”

\***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.

## **BLESSING OF THE TEAM AND ACADEMIC YEAR**

*Pastor Hyiwot*

**Most Loving, Giving, and Protecting, yours are the praise, the glory, the honor, and all blessings! To you alone do all things belong. We praise you for entrusting us with these young men, to be stewards of their lives, to protect them, pray for them, and be a blessing to them.**

**May we to love and care for these young men just as you love us. Help us always to take care of them so that they will be happy, healthy, safe, and always flourishing.**

**Gracious God, your world is wonderful for the presence of these young men. May we all come into your even greater world of the kingdom of heaven here on earth where we shall see them grow to be upstanding citizens of your kingdom.**

**This we ask to your eternal praise, and to our blessing. Amen.**

## **PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**

### **THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

### **SCRIPTURE READING**

**THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON**      **Isaiah 51:1-6**

**THE GOSPEL LESSON**              **Matthew 16:13-20**

**Leader:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**All:** Thanks be to God!

**THE MESSAGE**                      **"Who Do They Say We Are"**

*Pastor Hyiwot*

## **RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

**\*THE HYMN OF RESPONSE #356 "Come, Thou Font of Every Blessing"**

**\*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**

**“Speak Jesus”**

*Diane Myers*

**\*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 #427 “Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service”**

**\*THE CHARGE TO THE CONGREGATION**

**\*THE BENEDICTION**

**\*THE POSTLUDE “Now Let Us Rejoice”**

*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**

<b>TODAY</b>	<b>After Worship</b>	<b>NOMINATING COMMITTEE</b>
<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>6:30 PM</b>	<b>NAR-ANON</b>
<b>NEXT SUNDAY</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>MORNING WORSHIP</b>

**PRAYER FAMILIES OF THE WEEK: Blair, Hunt**

**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.

**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 Gary Mapes and Cathie Clark in honor of Serena Miller on her birthday.

**THANK YOU** to Gary Mapes for serving as liturgist today.

**THANK YOU** to Diane Myers for sharing her voice to provide the special music today.

**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.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE** will meet today after worship.

**THIRD SUNDAY PROGRAM** - On Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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.

**THE CAMBRIA CITY MISSION** is sending out a Special Appeal for volunteers to help with the upcoming Yard Sale, scheduled for September 22-23. The real work starts on Sept 13<sup>th</sup> when the volunteers will start clearing off the tables and re-stocking them with yard sale items. More volunteers make easier and faster preparation. Please think about becoming a volunteer and joining a group of people who enjoy giving back to the community. If you are interested or want more information, please call: (814) 535-1035 Mon., Tues., or Thurs.

**THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE** is seeking names for Deacons and Elders for the Class of 2026. Forms and boxes are located be at the Narthex and Lincoln Street entrances for your prayerful suggestions. Briefly, according to the Book of Order (G-2.02) the ministry of Deacon is one of compassion and service. Together, the Teaching Elder (the minister) and the Ruling Elders have responsibility for the leadership of the congregation (G-2.03).

## “HOME IMPROVEMENT: TAKE YOUR FAMILY TO CHURCH”

“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