

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.

14th Sunday After Pentecost

September 3, 2023 Rev. Carole Isley Corey • Charnet Koch, *Liturgist* 10:00 A.M.

THE PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP Teachers, construction workers, parents, clerks, medical staff, community volunteers — on this Labor Day weekend, welcome to worship, where God offers renewal for the work to which you each are called. 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

“High On The Mountain Top”

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 130*

L: Wait for the Lord

P: My soul waits for the Lord.

L: And in his word we hope.

P: My soul waits for the Lord,

L: More than those who watch for the morning!

P: More than those who watch for the morning.

All: Let us worship God together!

*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 #464 “Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

*THE CALL TO CONFESSION

***THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

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

Gracious and wonderful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. We have not loved our neighbor as ourselves. We have not loved you with our whole heart. At times our thoughts are far from you. By words and speech, we proclaim you as Lord in our lives and yet our actions say otherwise. When challenges come, we do not trust you to help solve our problems. When you bless us with healing, we forget to offer our words of gratitude. When asked to serve others we resist. We forget to express your love in tangible ways. Heal us gracious God. Strengthen our faith. Build our trust in your grace. We ask these things for the sake of the one who revealed your love to us, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

***THE ASSURANCE OF GRACE**

Leader: Friends, hear and believe the Good News. By the blood of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and free. Be assured in your hearts.

People: Amen! Amen!

***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 Genesis 20:1-7

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

THE MESSAGE “Integrity of the Heart” *Rev. Carol Isley-Corey*

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

***THE HYMN OF RESPONSE #326 “Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart”**

***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 “Amazing Grace / It Is Well with My Soul” *Jennifer Kist, violin*

***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 #339 “Be Thou My Vision”**

***THE CHARGE TO THE CONGREGATION**

***THE BENEDICTION**

***THE POSTLUDE “God Be with You Till We Meet Again”**

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 | SOCIAL HOUR |
| MONDAY | Labor Day | OFFICE CLOSED |
| SATURDAY | 10:30 AM | RUTH FISHER MEMORIAL SERVICE (Visitation begins 9:30 AM) |
| NEXT SUNDAY | 10:45 AM | MORNING WORSHIP (regular worship hours return) |
| | after worship | MISSION/STEWARDSHIP MEETING |

PRAYER FAMILIES OF THE WEEK: Feller, Moehler

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. 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 are in honor of Isabel Cruse by her husband Ken for their seventy-second wedding anniversary, September 8th.

THE CHRIST CANDLE has been lit in honor of Ken & Isabel Cruse for their 72nd wedding anniversary on September 8th.

THANK YOU to Charnet Koch for serving as liturgist today.

THANK YOU to Jennifer Kist for lending her talent on the violin to provide the special music today.

THANK YOU to Rev. Carole Isley Corey for serving as guest minister today.

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. 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.

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 13th 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).

UPPER ROOM the latest issue is available in the office for those who subscribe.

RUTH FISHER MEMORIAL LUNCHEON Please sign up in the office if you are planning to attend, so we have an idea of the count for the caterer.

"TRIUMPH IS 'UMPH' ADDED TO TRY"

"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

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