

# 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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## 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

September 10, 2023 Rev. Hyiwot Teshome, *Pastor* • Wendi Sokira, *Liturgist* 10:45 A.M.

**THE PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP** Welcome to worship, Christian education, and fellowship — a chance to be fed and nourished by God’s Word before being sent again to serve the world in the week ahead. 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

“Be Thou Humble”

### 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 26*

L: For your steadfast love is before our eyes,

**P: We walk in faithfulness to you.**

L: Singing aloud a song of thanksgiving.

**P: We joyfully share all your wondrous deeds.**

**ALL: We now come together to worship this merciful Lord!**

#### \*THE PRAYER OF APPROACH

**Lord of all power and might, the giver of all good things: place in our hearts the love of your powerful Name; increase in us true faith, the strength to believe we can do anything in your strong name; and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.**

#### \*THE OPENING HYMN #334 “When Israel Was in Egypt’s Land”

#### \*THE CALL TO CONFESSION

**\*THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

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

**Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being, whose face is hidden from us by our sins, and whose mercy we forget in the blindness of our hearts: cleanse us from all our offenses, and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires, that with reverent and humble hearts we may draw near to you, confessing our faults, confiding in your grace, and finding in you our refuge and strength; through Jesus Christ your Son. 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      Exodus 3:1-15**

**THE GOSPEL LESSON      Matthew 16:21-28**

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

**THE MESSAGE      “Steppingstones”**

*Rev. Hywiot Teshome*

**RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

**\*THE HYMN OF RESPONSE #525      “Here I Am, Lord”**

**\*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**

**THE OFFERTORY**

**“We Gather at Your Table Lord”**

*Walter Ehret*

*We gather at your table, Lord, grant peace and unity; in keeping with your will and word, may we one body be. Now let us take the sacred bread, our souls and bodies feed; in heart and soul we shall be fed, your holy will to heed. Now let us take the wine of heaven, for Christ, whose blood was shed; that here we meet with sins forgiven, and by his grace are led. To you, O Lord, we sing our song, may we be one in love for we by faith to you belong, one with your church above!*

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

**Giving Lord, grateful for your abundant and steadfast love, we present these small gifts to you. Use them, oh God, to bring peace and fulfilment for our sisters and brothers as we work to bring forth your kingdom here on earth. 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.*

**THE SEALING OF THE WORD**

**THE SACRAMENT OF THE BREAD AND CUP**

**The Invitation**

**The Words of Institution and Prayer**

**The Distribution of the Elements**

**Communion Song #521**

**“You Satisfy The Hungry Heart”**

*(Choir)*

**The Deacons Offering**

**The Prayer after Communion**

**FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD**

**\*THE CLOSING HYMN pg. 71 in *The Hymns We Sing* “The Summons”**

**\*THE CHARGE TO THE CONGREGATION**

**\*THE BENEDICTION**

**\*THE POSTLUDE “Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee”**

*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>MISSION/STEWARDSHIP MEETING</b>
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>10:30 AM</b>	<b>BIBLE STUDY</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>ADMIN MEETING</b>
	<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>DEACONS MEETING</b>
<b>NEXT SUNDAY</b>	<b>10:45 AM</b>	<b>WORSHIP</b>
	<b>NOON</b>	<b>THIRD SUNDAY LUNCH &amp; PROGRAM – Dr. W. Daniel Hale</b>
	<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>MICHAEL FACCIANI CONCERT</b>

**PRAYER FAMILIES OF THE WEEK: Davis, Wagner**

**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.

**TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY** resumes this week on September 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 AM.

**THE FLOWER CHARTS AND CHRIST CANDLE** sign-up sheets are up in the hallway to the Parlor. Please fill in your name and the person/s name for whom the dedication is for. Silk flowers are \$15 (which goes to Saturday’s Kitchen) and the cost for real flowers is \$45. There is no cost for the Christ Candle lighting. Thanks!

**THE FLOWERS THIS MORNING** are dedicated to the glory of God and have been placed in loving memory of Ruth Fisher by her family.

**THE CHRIST CANDLE** has been lit this morning in honor of Isabella Davis on her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, by her grandparents, John & Carla Davis.

**FOCUS ON PRAYERS** “Give me understanding, that I may keep your law” (Psalm 119:34); “The one who loves another has fulfilled the law” (Romans 13:8). God, help me love my neighbor and so keep your law.

**THANK YOU** to Wendi Sokira for serving as liturgist today.

**THIRD SUNDAY PROGRAM** – Next Sunday, September 17, we will have a special guest for our Third Sunday Luncheon. 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 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).

**“FAITH IS A JOURNEY, NOT A DESTINATION”**

“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