

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.

16th Sunday After Pentecost

September 17, 2023 Rev. Hyiwot Teshome, *Pastor* • Pat Betts, *Liturgist* 10:45 A.M.

THE PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP In the words of the Israelites: “The Lord is ... the reason for [our] song, because he has saved [us]” (Exodus 15:2, CEV). Welcome to worship! 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

“Blessed Assurance”

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 55*

L: When we are distraught and troubled

P: Our God attends to us and answers us

L: When fear and trembling come upon us

P: Our God provides shelter from the raging wind and tempest

ALL: We come to worship the Lord that sustains and redeems us

***THE PRAYER OF APPROACH**

Give ear to our prayer, O God. We cast our burden on you, Lord. We trust in you to protect us from hurt and anguish. Save us from the storms that are arrayed against us. We pray all this in the name of your powerful son, Jesus Christ, Amen.

***THE OPENING HYMN #317** “Holy Ghost Dispel Our Sadness”

***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 Isaiah 25:4-9

THE GOSPEL LESSON James 2:14-17

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

THE MESSAGE “Shelter From The Storm” *Rev. Hywiot Teshome*

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

***THE HYMN OF RESPONSE #379 “My Hope is Built on Nothing Less”**

***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 #404

“Precious Lord, Take My Hand”

Choir

***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.

FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

***THE CLOSING HYMN #325 “Open My Eyes That I May See”**

***THE CHARGE TO THE CONGREGATION**

***THE BENEDICTION**

***THE POSTLUDE #280 “Amazing Grace”**

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	THIRD SUNDAY PROGRAM & LUNCH
	6:00 PM	MICHAEL FACCIANI CONCERT
MONDAY	6:30 PM	NAR-ANON
TUESDAY	10:30 AM	BIBLE STUDY
	4:00 PM	FINANCE COMMITTEE
NEXT SUNDAY	9:30 AM	SUNDAY SCHOOL
	10:45 AM	WORSHIP

PRAYER FAMILIES OF THE WEEK: Hunt, Murphy

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 sign-up chart for 2023 is in the hallway by the flower charts. There is no cost.

FOCUS ON PRAYERS We tend to think of clouds as gloomy, Lord, but your pillar of cloud protected the newly escaped Hebrews from their Egyptian enslavers. May we sense your protection in the clouds of life. Amen.

THE FLOWERS THIS MORNING are dedicated to the glory of God and have been placed by John and Carla Davis, in loving memory of Carla's parents, Rex & Eileen Hutzell, on their wedding anniversary.

THE CHRIST CANDLE this morning has been lit by Roy & Agnes Gindlesperger as a birthday remembrance for beloved daughter, Michelle Kresak Smith.

THANK YOU to Pat Betts for serving as liturgist today.

THE 5-CENTS-A-MEAL OFFERING will be received next Sunday, September 24th.

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE will meet on Tuesday, September 19th at 4:00 PM.

THIRD SUNDAY PROGRAM – Today we 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 **tonight 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. 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 mornings.

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).

“CHARACTER IS DOING WHAT'S RIGHT WHEN NO ONE'S LOOKING”

“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