

# 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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## World Communion Sunday

October 1, 2023      Rev. Hyiwot Teshome, *Pastor* • Charnet Koch, *Liturgist*      10:45 A.M.

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**THE PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP** Welcome! God says: “Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth” (Psalm 78:1). Let us listen for God’s voice as we 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**

“Psalm 19”

*Benedetto Marcello*

**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 25*

L: To you, O LORD, we lift up our souls.

**P: O our God, in you we trust.**

L: Make us to know your ways, O LORD; teach us your paths.

**P: Lead us in your truth, for you are the God of our salvation.**

**ALL: We come to worship the good and upright Lord.**

\***THE PRAYER OF APPROACH**

**Almighty God, our Supreme Authority, to whom all knees bend, all hearts submit, and all minds surrender, we joyfully come together as one family in your name, accepting your open invitation to come into your holy presence, to worship and praise you, as the beloved people of God. Amen.**

\***THE OPENING HYMN #370**      “Just as I am, Without One Plea”

\***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 17:1-7**

**THE GOSPEL LESSON      Matthew 21:23-32**

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

**THE MESSAGE      “A New Heart”      *Rev. Hywiot Teshome***

**RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

**\*THE HYMN OF RESPONSE      “Change My Heart, Oh God”      *see insert***  
**(#695 in *Glory to God Hymnal*)**

**\*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 #428**

**“We Give Thee but Thine Own”**

*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, O 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**

**“In Love for Me” *arr. Jimmy Owens***

*Choir*

**The Deacons Offering**

**The Prayer after Communion**

**FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD**

**\*THE CLOSING HYMN**

**“Rock of Ages”**

*see insert*

**(#438 in *Glory to God Hymnal*)**

**\*THE CHARGE TO THE CONGREGATION**

**\*THE BENEDICTION**

**\*THE POSTLUDE**

**“Rigaudon”**

*Andre Campra*

*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>COFFEE SOCIAL/BPs</b>
<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>6:30 PM</b>	<b>NAR-ANON</b>
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>10:30 AM</b>	<b>BIBLE STUDY</b>
<b>NEXT SUNDAY</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>	<b>SUNDAY SCHOOL</b>
	<b>10:45 AM</b>	<b>WORSHIP</b>
	<b>after worship</b>	<b>MISSION/STEWARDSHIP</b>

**PRAYER FAMILIES OF THE WEEK: Muncert, 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 from 9:00 am to noon. She will **not** be in the office this Thursday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, due to a prior commitment. Please feel free to stop by or give her a call Tuesday.

**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.

**FOCUS ON PRAYERS** Living water, please quench my soul today with your truth, wisdom, comfort, love. Amen.

**PLEASE BE SURE to fill out the Caring Cards**, located in each pew, and place them in the offering plate. Also, "joys and concerns" prayer cards are in the pews for you fill out and give to a deacon during the offering.

**THANK YOU** to Joyce Gerlach for serving as liturgist today.

**THANK YOU** to Matthew Sprinkle for serving as organist this Sunday and last.

**THE CHANCEL FLOWERS** are dedicated to the glory of God and have been placed in honor of Ken Cruse in celebration of his 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday on October 2<sup>nd</sup>, by his wife Isabel.

**THE CHRIST CANDLE** lighting is dedicated by Bill & Lynne Williams in loving memory Lynne’s father, Jack Barnhart, to commemorate his birthday on October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**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). **Cut-off date for nominations is NEXT SUNDAY, October 8<sup>th</sup>.**

## “NOAH’S WIFE WAS JOAN OF THE ARK”

“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

### **Class of 2023**

Joyce Gerlach

Gary Menett

Bill Williams

### **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