

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.

19th Sunday After Pentecost

October 8, 2023 Rev. Hyiwot Teshome, *Pastor* • Wendi Sokira, *Liturgist* 10:45 A.M.

THE PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP Welcome to worship in the name of God, the maker of all; Jesus, the Savior; and the Holy Spirit, divine guide of our lives. Amen. 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

“Come, Ye Children of the Lord”

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 80*

L: Restore us, O God of hosts.

P: Let your face shine, that we may be saved.

L: Turn again, O God of hosts.

P: Look down from heaven and have regard for us.

ALL: We look up to you and praise and worship you!

***THE PRAYER OF APPROACH** *Based on Psalm 19*

Dear Lord, the heavens tell your glory and the wild blue yonder proclaims your work on this earth. As we come together to hear your Word, may this day bring forth knowledge and bold declarations of your love. You are perfect in your love of us, so we ask to help us love your children just as wholeheartedly as you do, Amen.

***THE OPENING HYMN #322** “Spirit of the Living God” (2x)

***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 5:1-7

THE GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 21:33-46

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

THE MESSAGE “Heir or Beneficiary?” *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

“Come Bless The Lord”

Robert Lau

Come bless the Lord, all you his servants. Lift up your hearts in prayer, come bless the Lord. Come bless the Lord, all you his servants. Lift up your hearts in prayer, come bless the Lord. We gather in this sacred place, Holy, holy, holy is your name. We know the power of your grace, holy is your name. O God, the Father, God, the Son, holy, holy, holy is your name. And God, the spirit, Three In One, holy is your name. Holy is your name. Come bless the Lord, all you his servants. Lift up your hearts in prayer, come bless the Lord. Lift up your hearts in prayer, come bless the Lord.

***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 #369**

“I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me”

***THE CHARGE TO THE CONGREGATION**

***THE BENEDICTION**

***THE POSTLUDE**

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

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	MISSION / STEWARDSHIP
MONDAY	6:30 PM	NAR-ANON
TUESDAY	10:30 AM	BIBLE STUDY
WEDNESDAY	10:00 AM	ADMINISTRATION MEETING
	6:00 PM	DEACONS MEETING
SATURDAY	7:30 PM	JOHNSTOWN CONCERT SERIES - IUP FACULTY QUINTET
NEXT SUNDAY	9:30 AM	SUNDAY SCHOOL
	10:45 AM	WORSHIP
	12:00 PM	THIRD SUNDAY PROGRAM

PRAYER FAMILIES OF THE WEEK: Robinson, Bragg

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 and 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.

FOCUS ON PRAYERS We are tenants, not owners, of this “vineyard” — this earth, this life. God, as we live and work in your vineyard, teach us to cultivate love.

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.

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 Wendi Sokira for serving as liturgist today.

THE CHANCEL FLOWERS are dedicated to the glory of God and have been placed by Bill & Lynne Williams in loving memory Lynne’s father, Jack Barnhart, to commemorate his birthday on October 3rd.

THE CHRIST CANDLE lighting is dedicated by Nancy Andrews in loving memory of her husband, James Andrews.

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 TODAY.**

THIRD SUNDAY PROGRAM: Please plan to join us next week for our Third Sunday program and lunch. Our guest speaker will be Kathy Stuver, director of the Cambria City Mission.

UPPER ROOM MAGAZINE: The November/December issue is available in the office for those who subscribe.

“AUTUMN LEAVES – JESUS DOESN’T”

“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