

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.

20th Sunday After Pentecost

October 15, 2023 Rev. Hyiwot Teshome, *Pastor* • Richard Feller, *Liturgist* 10:45 A.M.

THE PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP Friends, the King's banquet of life and love is ready! In baptism you have been clothed for the occasion. 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

“My Shepherd Will Supply My Need”

Alice Jordan

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 106*

L: Praise the Lord!

P: O give thanks to the Lord.

L: For he is good.

P: For his steadfast love endures forever.

ALL: Let us now worship this loving God.

***THE PRAYER OF APPROACH**

We praise and thank You, Lord. Hear us, Your beloved children, as we come before You this morning in worship. You call us to follow You, You teach us the truth, and in our troubles, You offer us peace. Meet us in this sanctuary, Your broken followers, as we come to hear Your word, Amen.

***THE OPENING HYMN #382** “Somebody’s Knocking at The Door”

***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 25:1-9

THE GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 22:1-14

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

THE MESSAGE “Proper Attire” *Rev. Hywiot Teshome*

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

***THE HYMN OF RESPONSE #397 “O For a Closer Walk with God”**

***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 **“When, in Our Music, God is Glorified”** *Hall Hopson*
“When, in our music, God is glorified, and adoration leaves no place for pride, it is as though the whole creation cried Alleluia !---. How oft in making music we have found a new dimension in the world of sound, as worship moves us to a more profound ---. So has the church, in liturgy and song, in faith and love, through centuries of wrong, borne witness to the truth in every tongue ---. And did not Jesus sing a psalm that night when utmost evil strove against the Light? Then, let us sing, for whom he won the fight, ---. Let every instrument be tuned for praise, let all rejoice who have a voice to raise, and may God give us faith to sing always, ---.”

***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.

FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

***THE CLOSING HYMN #377** **“Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore”**

***THE CHARGE TO THE CONGREGATION**

***THE BENEDICTION**

***THE POSTLUDE** **“Toccata in E Minor”** *Johann Pachelbel*
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	12:00 PM	THIRD SUNDAY PROGRAM & LUNCH
MONDAY	6:30 PM	NAR-ANON
TUESDAY	10:30 AM	BIBLE STUDY
WEDNESDAY	4:00 PM	FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
NEXT SUNDAY	9:30 AM	SUNDAY SCHOOL
	10:45 AM	WORSHIP

PRAYER FAMILIES OF THE WEEK: Carbaugh, Huber

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.

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.

FOCUS ON PRAYERS Lord, you are the only true God, but I make and trust so many golden calves (Exodus 32:1-6). Help me place them at your feet and worship only you. Amen.

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 Richard Feller for serving as liturgist today.

THE CHANCEL FLOWERS are dedicated to the glory of God and have been placed by Pat Betts in honor of her daughter-in-law, Christine, whose birthday was on October 10th, and her grandson, Caleb, whose birthday is on October 29th.

THE CHRIST CANDLE are dedicated to the glory of God and have been placed by John & Carla Davis in loving memory of Carla’s mother, Eileen Hutzell, to commemorate her birthday on October 17th.

THANKSGIVING DINNER: We will once again host a family-style dinner at noon on Thanksgiving, Nov. 23rd. We would like reservations so we can plan accordingly, but they are not a must. Please call the church office by November 16th at 814-536-8141. Takeouts are available but must be picked up at 11:00 AM. Please invite anyone you think may be spending Thanksgiving alone.

THE FESTIVAL OF THE NATIVITY is fast approaching – a little over 6 weeks away! It is not too soon to consider how you can help with this year’s Festival. We are looking for volunteers and will meet in early November to plan.

THE SESSION HAS CALLED A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING immediately after the worship service on October 29th for the Nominating Committee to present its nominees of Elders & Deacons to the congregation. Please plan to attend the service and the congregational meeting in person.

“PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT SO BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU PRACTICE”

“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 2024

Carla Davis

Sheila Farrer

Agnes Gindlesperger

Class of 2025

Wendi Sokira

Class of 2023

Joyce Gerlach

Gary Menett

Bill Williams

Class of 2023

Michelle Bragg

Barry Compton

Brenda Noon

Lynne Williams