

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.

22nd Sunday After Pentecost

October 29, 2023 Rev. Hyiwot Teshome, *Pastor* • Joyce Gerlach, *Liturgist* 10:45 A.M.

THE PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP Welcome to worship. God has been, and is, our dwelling place “from everlasting to everlasting” (Psalm 90:1-2). Let us praise God, our eternal home, together. 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 “Where Charity and Love are Found”

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 1*

L: We delight in the Law of the Lord

P: We meditate on His Law day and night.

L: Thus we are like trees planted by streams of water.

P: We do not take the paths that sinners take.

ALL: Let us now worship and praise the Lord of the Law.

***THE PRAYER OF APPROACH**

Loving God, you are the illumination for our souls and bodies, so we humbly ask that you make that pure light of your divine knowledge shine in our hearts, opening the eyes of our mind to understand the message of your Wisdom. Amen.

***THE OPENING HYMN** #372 “Lord, I Want To Be A Christian”

***THE CALL TO CONFESSION**

***THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

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

God of the Law, even when we know that you command us to love our neighbor as ourselves, we find ourselves going after own interests while dismissing others'. We trample over others while getting to what we want. We admit this is contrary to your greatest commandments. Soften our hearts, focus our minds, and strengthen our will so we can love abundantly. We come to you honestly acknowledging our sins and failures. Forgive us and return us to your way of love. 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 Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18

THE GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 22:34-46

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

THE MESSAGE “Holy and Enduring Love” *Rev. Hyiwot Teshome*

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

***THE HYMN OF RESPONSE #367 “Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love”**

***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

“Kumbaya”

arr. Douglas E. Wagner

Kum ba yah, my lord, Kum ba yah! Kum ba yah, my lord, Kum ba yah! Kum ba yah, my lord, Kum ba yah. O Lord, Kum ba yah. Someone's crying, Lord, Kum ba yah! Someone's crying, Lord, Kum ba yah! Someone's crying, Lord, Kum ba yah! O Lord, Kum ba yah. Someone's singing, Lord, Kum ba yah! Someone's singing, Lord, Kum ba yah! Someone's singing, Lord, Kum ba yah! O Lord, Kum ba yah. Someone's praying, Lord, Kum ba yah! Someone's praying, Lord, Kum ba yah! Someone's praying, Lord, Kum ba yah! O Lord, Kum ba yah!”

***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 pg. 79 in *The Hymns We Sing* “We are One in Spirit”**

***THE CHARGE TO THE CONGREGATION**

***THE BENEDICTION**

***THE POSTLUDE “God Be with You Till We Meet Again”**

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	CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
MONDAY	6:30 PM	NAR-ANON
TUESDAY	10:30 AM	BIBLE STUDY
	7:00 PM	CHOIR
NEXT SUNDAY		DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS- TIME TO FALL BACK!
	9:30 AM	SUNDAY SCHOOL
	10:45 AM	WORSHIP with Communion
	After worship	SOCIAL HOUR/BPs

PRAYER FAMILIES OF THE WEEK: Bickel, Risbon

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 on Tuesday from 9:00 am to noon. She will be out of the office Thursday, November 2nd. 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!

The Board of Deacons will be holding a T-shirt, Sweatshirt, hat sale. This is **NOT a fundraiser**. There will be short and long-sleeved t-shirts, hoodies, sweatshirts and baseball caps. Colors: light grey, navy blue and burgundy. All orders can be placed online. If you are unable to do an online order, Caroline has graciously offered to do the online ordering in the church office. Give her your order and information and she will take care of you. The orders begin now and will finish the Sunday after Thanksgiving. (November 26). Delivery will be before Christmas so you may want to do some Christmas shopping by buying church apparel. The website to place your order is <https://firstpresbyterianchurch2023.itemorder.com/> See the order forms at the church entrances.

THANK YOU to Joyce Gerlach for serving as liturgist today.

THE CHRIST CANDLE LIGHTING is dedicated by Pat Betts to honor her grandson Caleb on his birthday today.

PASTOR HYIWOT has now been cleared to assist with visitations at Cambria County Prison in Ebsburg. If you know anyone who needs a pastoral visit there, please let Pastor Hyiwot know.

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 a month away, beginning December 1st! It is not too soon to consider how you can help with this year’s Festival. We are looking for volunteers! We are starting to set up this week.

NEW LUMINARIES we will have new luminaries this year that are available for you to sponsor. You may sponsor a luminary in memory of or in honor of a loved one. The cost of sponsorship is \$7 per luminary or 3 for \$20. We will label each luminary with your name and the name of your loved one. The forms will be available in the November Vision, or contact Caroline in the office.

YOUR DONATIONS of snack breads will be needed for the Festival of the Nativity. You can place your breads in the freezer or bring them in and we can throw them in the freezer for you. We will also be accepting crackers and cheeseballs, all for the refreshment table. Thank you!

AS THE WEATHER GETS COLDER, please try to remember to keep all the hallway doors closed to conserve energy and keep the heat in!

THE SESSION HAS CALLED A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING for today, **October 29th**, immediately after worship, for the purpose of electing Ruling Elders and Deacons for the Class of 2026 and acting on the pastor’s Terms of Call for 2024.

VETERANS DINNER INVITATION: Westmont Presbyterian Church is serving dinner to veterans of the U.S. military and their spouse or guest. The invitation is extended to veterans of First Church. The dinner will be held on Sat., November 11th, at 6:00 PM in their Fellowship Hall. Social hour will begin at 5:30 PM. To make a reservation, please call Westmont’s church office at 814-536-0796 by Monday, November 6th. Also, if you have a military friend you would like to invite, they would be happy to have them along with their spouse/guest.

“A HEART IN TUNE WITH GOD CAN’T HELP BUT SING HIS PRAISE”

“ROTO REVIEW” (Reach Out To Others)

Pastor: Rev. Hyiwot Teshome

Email: PastorHyiwot@gmail.com

CHURCH:

Phone: (814) 536-8141

Email: 1stpresjohnstown@gmail.com

Website: www.1stpresjohnstown.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