

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.

Third Sunday in Lent

March 8, 2026

Rev. Danielle Kendig, *Pastor* • Pat Betts, *Liturgist*

10:45 A.M.

THE PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP Welcome! As we spring forward into a new season, may we also step into the fresh grace God provides each day. Though we may have lost an hour of sleep, we gain time together in His presence — a reminder that His mercies are new every morning. 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 “Save Your People, O Lord”

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP** Exodus 17:1–7; John 4:10–14

Leader: When we thirst in the wilderness, we cry out to God.

People: The Lord hears us and does not turn away.

Leader: When our wells run dry and our spirits grow weary,

People: Christ meets us with living water.

Leader: Come, all who long for refreshment and renewal.

All: Let us worship God!

***THE OPENING PRAYER** Exodus 17:6; John 4:13–15

Faithful God, you meet your people in dry places and weary moments. When we thirst in body, mind, or spirit, you provide what we need. As you brought water from the rock and living water from the well, meet us in our worship today. Refresh our souls, open our hearts, and draw us deeper into trust and faithfulness as we continue this Lenten journey with you. In Christ we pray, Amen.

***THE OPENING HYMN #260** “A Mighty Fortress is Our God”

***THE CALL TO CONFESSION**

***THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION** Exodus 17:2–4; John 4:7–26

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

Gracious God, we confess that when life feels dry and difficult, we grumble instead of trusting. We question your presence when relief does not come quickly and doubt your care when the journey is hard. Like the woman at the well, we carry wounds, regrets, and unspoken thirsts. We seek satisfaction in places that cannot sustain us and avoid the truth that leads to healing. Forgive us, O God. Meet us again with your mercy, quench our deepest thirst with your grace, and lead us into the life you promise. We pray this in the name of our Savior and Redeemer, Amen.

***THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON** Exodus 17:6; John 4:10, 14

Leader: Hear the good news: The God who brings water from the rock and living water from the well does not abandon the thirsty. In Jesus Christ, grace is offered freely, forgiveness flows abundantly, and new life is given without measure. We are forgiven and renewed.

People: Thanks be to God! Amen.

***THE RESPONSE #579** “The Gloria Patri”

***PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST** John 4:28–30, 39–42

Leader: As God has met us with mercy and living water, let us share that grace with one another. The Peace of Christ be with each of you.

People: And also with you.

A TIME WITH CHILDREN

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Exodus 17:1-7 Pg. 62

THE GOSPEL LESSON John 4:5-42 Pg. 90

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

THE MESSAGE “Water in the Wilderness” **Rev. Danielle Kendig**

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

***THE HYMN OF RESPONSE #280** “Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sound”

***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.

***PRESENTATION OF GOD’S TITHES AND OUR OFFERINGS**

THE OFFERTORY “Be Not Afraid”

***THE DOXOLOGY #592 and PRAYER OF DEDICATION Exodus 17:6; John 4:35–38**

Generous God, you give water in the wilderness and grace that overflows our deepest need. Receive these gifts as signs of our gratitude and trust. Use them to bring refreshment where there is weariness, hope where there is despair, and living water to a thirsty world. As we give, remind us that all we have flows first from your abundant love. Through Christ we pray, 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 #341 “Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine!”**

***THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***THE POSTLUDE “There is a Wideness in God’s Mercy”**

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	CARING COMMITTEE
	12:30 PM	GENEVENS @ Hoss’s Richland
MONDAY	6:30 PM	NAR-ANON
TUESDAY	10:30 AM	LENTEN BIBLE STUDY
NEXT SUNDAY	9:30 AM	SUNDAY SCHOOL
	10:45 AM	WORSHIP
	NOON	3rd SUNDAY LUNCH & PROGRAM

PRAYER FAMILY OF THE WEEK: Gallagher, Kearns

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 Rev. Danielle, 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.

FOCUS ON PRAYERS Gracious God, as we spring forward into a new season, awaken our hearts to your presence. Even when our bodies feel weary, renew our spirits with your joy. Help us to use every moment you give us for your glory, trusting that your light shines brighter than any lost hour of sleep. Prepare us now to worship you in spirit and in truth. Amen.

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. **There are now 3 donation baskets, one at each of the church entrances.**

THE FLOWER CHARTS are up in the hallway to the parlor for your dedications in 2026. Silk flowers are \$15 (which goes to Saturday's Kitchen) and the cost for real flowers is \$40.

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 is in the hallway by the flower charts. There is no cost.

PLEASE SAVE YOUR PLASTIC SHOPPING BAGS from the grocery store or Walmart for the Deacons. They are donated to the Backpack Project to pack lunches for area children.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE Due to being in the midst of cold and flu season, we would like folks to limit their greetings to vocal only and avoid the hugging and handshakes, for the safety of the congregation.

IF YOU HAVE A PRAYER REQUEST: Please fill out the blue "Joys and Concerns" prayer cards. You may place them in the NEW prayer request boxes that are available at each of the church entrances.

THE FLOWERS this morning are dedicated to the glory of God and have been placed in honor of Isabel Cruse in celebration of her 90th birthday on March 5th.

THANK YOU to Pat Betts for serving as liturgist today.

2026 PER CAPITA / PRESBYTERY APPORTIONMENT Our Per Capita offering, which supports the work of the Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly, has been set at \$55.00 for 2026.

LIBRARY CALENDAR - a new calendar for 2026 is posted in the library. Please be sure to add your group meeting dates and times. Thank you.

THE CHURCH building received water damage in the library, Pastor's office, and equipment room from frozen pipes and radiator leak upstairs. We are respectfully asking you to avoid those areas and the back hallway from the library to the parlor while the cleanup effort takes place. Thank you.

OFFICE PHONE ISSUES: We are having an ongoing issue with our phone line. If you call, stay on the line for longer than you would think is necessary and even if you don't hear ringing on your end. It will eventually ring through to the office. Our supplier is scheduled to repair the lines this week.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY continues this TUESDAY at 10:30 AM. Everyone is welcome to join us as we walk this season together!

EASTER FLOWERS: It's not too early to think about Easter flowers! Easter Sunday is April 6th, and the nursery asks us to turn in our order **by March 18th**. Please make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church, with "Easter Flowers" in the memo. You may also order your flowers by calling the church office and mail the check later. Order forms are available at the church entrances and are available in the March issue of *The Vision*.

THE MARCH ISSUE OF "THE VISION" is available at the church entrances for those individuals who have opted not to receive their copy by mail. It is also available to read on the church website.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME Did you remember to spring forward?

THIRD SUNDAY PROGRAM & LUNCH Join us next Sunday for lunch and a presentation. Ken Cruse will be sharing the video he made on the history of First Presbyterian Church. Hope to see you there!

"GOD IS MY PROTECTOR AND HELPER"
"ROTO REVIEW" (Reach Out To Others)

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CHURCH:
Phone: (814) 536-8141
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Parish Nurse: Mrs. Patricia Betts
Organist: Jennifer Kist
Ministers: All members of First Presbyterian Church
Administrative Assistant: Caroline Goller

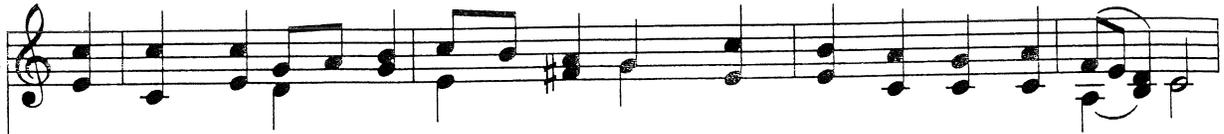
A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

EIN' FESTE BURG (isometric) 8.7.8.7.6.6.6.7

Martin Luther, 1529

Trans. Frederick Henry Hedge, 1852

Martin Luther, 1529



1. A might - y for - tress is our God, A bul - wark nev - er fail - ing;
 2. Did we in our own strength con - fide, Our striv - ing would be los - ing;
 3. And though this world, with dev - ils filled, Should threat - en to un - do us,
 4. That word a - bove all earth - ly powers, No thanks to them, a - bid - eth;



Our help - er He a - mid the flood Of mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing.
 Were not the right Man on our side, The Man of God's own choos - ing.
 We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to tri - umph through us.
 The Spir - it and the gifts are ours Through Him who with us sid - eth;



For still our an - cient foe Doth seek to work us woe; His craft and
 Dost ask who that may be? Christ Je - sus, it is He, Lord Sab - a -
 The prince of dark - ness grim, We trem - ble not for him; His rage we
 Let goods and kin - dred go, This mor - tal life al - so; The bod - y



power are great, And, armed with cru - el hate, On earth is not his e - qual.
 oth His name, From age to age the same, And He must win the bat - tle.
 can en - dure, For lo! his doom is sure, One lit - tle word shall fell him.
 they may kill, God's truth a - bid - eth still, His king - dom is for - ev - er.



Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound 280

AMAZING GRACE CM

Stanzas 1-4, John Newton, 1779
Stanza 5, *A Collection of Sacred Ballads*, 1790

Virginia Harmony, 1831
Arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1900



1. A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, That saved a wretch like me!
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, And grace my fears re - lieved;
3. Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I have al - read - y come;
4. The Lord has prom - ised good to me, His word my hope se - cures;



I once was lost, but now am found, Was blind, but now I see.
How pre - cious did that grace ap - pear The hour I first be - lieved!
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, And grace will lead me home.
He will my shield and por - tion be As long as life en - dures.



5. When we've been there ten thousand
years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.

Choctaw
Shilombish holitopa ma!
Ishmminti pulla cha
Hatak ilbusha pia ha
Is pi yukpalashke

Kiowa
Daw k'ee da ha dawtsahy he tsohw'haw
Daw k'ee da ha dawtsahy hee.
Bay dawtsahy taw, gaw aym ow thah t'aw,
Daw k'ee da ha dawtsahy h'ee.

Cherokee
Ooh nay thla nah, hee oo way gee'.
E gah gwoo yah hay ee.
Naw gwoo joe sah, we you low say,
E gah gwoo yah ho nah.

Creek
Po ya fek cha he thlat ah tet
Ah non ah cha pa kas
Cha fee kee o funnan la kus
Um e ha ta la yus.

Navaho
Nizhóníigo jooba' diits' a'
Yisdáshítinigí,
Lah yóóiiyá, k'ad shénáhoosdzin,
Doo eesh'íí da rít'ée.

Text: Phonetic transcription Cherokee, Kiowa, Creek, and Choctaw: Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference;
Navaho: phonetic transcription by Albert Tsosie.

1 Bles-sed as - su - rance, Je - sus is mine! O what a fore - taste of
 2 Per - fect sub - mis - sion, per - fect de - light, vi - sions of rap - ture now
 3 Per - fect sub - mis - sion, all is at rest, I in my Sa - vior am

glo - ry di - vine! Heir of sal - va - tion, pur - chase of God,
 burst on my sight; an - gels des - cen - ding, bring from a - bove
 hap - py and blest, watch - ing and wait - ing, look - ing a - bove,

Refrain

born of his Spi - rit, washed in his blood.
 e - choes of mer - cy, whis - pers of love. This is my sto - ry,
 filled with his good - ness, lost in his love.

this is my song, prais - ing my Sa - vior all the day long; this is my

sto - ry, this is my song, prais - ing my Sa - vior all the day long.