

# 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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## Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 15, 2026

Rev. Danielle Kendig, *Pastor* • Charnet Koch, *Liturgist* 10:45 A.M.

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**THE PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP** “Come and see the works of the Lord... the Lord Almighty is with us!” (Psalm 46:8a, 10a, NIV). We rejoice that you are here today! Let us join together in praising God and witnessing His goodness through Word and Sacrament. To our visitors, your presence brings us special joy—please come again soon! 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** “Seek Ye First”

**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** 1 Samuel 16:7; John 9:35–38

**Leader: The Lord does not see as mortals see.**

**People:** We look at appearances, but God looks at the heart.

**Leader: Once we were blind, but now we are learning to see.**

**People:** God opens our eyes to truth and grace.

**Leader: Come, all who long for clarity, healing, and light.**

**All: Let us worship God!**

\***THE OPENING PRAYER** 1 Samuel 16:1, 7, 12; John 9:6–7

**God of light and wisdom, you see what we overlook and choose what the world ignores. As you looked upon David with favor and opened the eyes of the one born blind, look upon us with mercy today. Remove what clouds our vision, heal what distorts our sight, and teach us to see as you see. As we worship, shape our hearts and minds to trust your ways and walk in your truth. In Christ we pray, Amen.**

\***THE OPENING HYMN** “Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus” (see insert)

\***THE CALL TO CONFESSION**

**\*THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION** 1 Samuel 16:6–10; John 9:24–34

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

**Merciful God, we confess that we do not always see as you see. We judge by appearances, resist change, and cling to what feels safe instead of trusting your truth. Forgive us, open our eyes to your grace, and lead us into the light of Christ, that we may truly see and follow you. We pray this in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, Amen.**

**\*THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON** 1 Samuel 16:12–13; John 9:35–38

**Leader:** Hear the good news: God’s mercy is not limited by our blindness. The One who brings light into darkness and sight to the blind meets us with grace and healing. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, restored, and invited to walk in the light.

**People:** Thanks be to God! Amen.

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

**\*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST** 1 Samuel 16:13; John 9:38

**Leader:** Having been brought from darkness into light, let us share the peace we have received. The peace of Christ be with you all.

**People:** And also with you.

**A TIME WITH CHILDREN**

## **PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**

**THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON** 1 Samuel 16:1-13 Pg. 253

**THE GOSPEL LESSON** John 9: 1-41 Pg. 97

**Leader:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**All:** Thanks be to God!

**THE MESSAGE** “Learning to See” **Rev. Danielle Kendig**

## **RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

**\*THE HYMN OF RESPONSE #467** “How Great Thou Art”

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

**THE OFFERTORY** “Open My Eyes, Lord”

**\*THE DOXOLOGY #592 and PRAYER OF DEDICATION** 1 Samuel 16:7; John 9:39

**God of insight and grace, you call us not by outward appearance, but by hearts shaped for your purposes. Receive these gifts as signs of our gratitude and trust. Use them to bring light where there is darkness, healing where there is brokenness, and truth where there is fear. As we give, help us to see more clearly how you are at work in the world, and in us. Through Jesus 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 #324 "Open My Eyes, That I May See"

\*THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*THE POSTLUDE "Irish Blessing"

*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	NOON	3 <sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY LUNCH & PROGRAM
MONDAY	1:00 PM	WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION
	6:30 PM	NAR-ANON
TUESDAY	10:30 AM	LENTEN BIBLE STUDY
NEXT SUNDAY	9:30 AM	SUNDAY SCHOOL
	10:45 AM	WORSHIP
	3:00 PM	JOHNSTOWN CONCERT SERIES – Tim Wetmiller & Friends

**PRAYER FAMILY OF THE WEEK: Huber, Robinson**

**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.

**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.

**FOCUS ON PRAYERS** If there is any hardness in our hearts today, Lord, please remove it from us. We desire to have hearts ready to fully receive your grace and mercy. Amen.

**THE CHANCEL FLOWERS** are dedicated to the glory of God and have been placed by Pat Betts in honor of her son, David Betts, in celebration of his birthday on March 19<sup>th</sup>.

**THE CHRIST CANDLE** lighting is dedicated by Pat Betts in loving memory of her sister, Shirley Harkcom, to commemorate her birthday on March 20<sup>th</sup>.

**THANK YOU** to Charnet Koch 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:** Easter Sunday is April 6<sup>th</sup>, and the nursery asks us to turn in our order **by this Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>**. 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 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.

**THE WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION** will meet tomorrow, March 16<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM. They will hold a memorial program for those who have passed the previous year.

**THIRD SUNDAY PROGRAM & LUNCH** Join us at noon 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!

**OGHS OFFERING:** We will receive the **One Great Hour of Sharing offering** in two weeks on **Palm Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>**. Envelopes were included with the March Vision and are available at the church entrances. Be SURE to WRITE YOUR NAME on the ENVELOPE to be properly accounted for. These offerings support the Presbyterian Hunger Program, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and Self-Development of People.

**"TODAY, SERVE GOD WITH JOY!"**  
**"ROTO REVIEW" (Reach Out To Others)**

**Pastor: Rev. Danielle Kendig**  
**Email:** revdaniellekendig@gmail.com  
**CHURCH:**  
**Phone:** (814) 536-8141  
**Email:** 1stpreshjohnstown@gmail.com  
**Website:** www.1stpreshjohnstown.org

**Parish Nurse: Mrs. Patricia Betts**  
**Organist: Jennifer Kist**  
**Ministers: All members of First Presbyterian Church**  
**Administrative Assistant: Caroline Goller**

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### THE SESSION

**Class of 2026**  
Michelle Bragg  
John Foster  
Joyce Gerlach  
Roy Gindlesperger

**Class of 2027**  
-- no new members--

**Class of 2028**  
Patricia Betts  
Charnet Koch

### THE BOARD OF DEACONS

**Class of 2026**  
--no new members--

**Class of 2027**  
Bonnie Bash

**Class of 2028**  
Heith Bragg  
Wendi Sokira

# Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus

HELEN H. LEMMEL

HELEN H. LEMMEL

1. O soul, are you wea - ry and trou - bled? No light in the  
2. Through death in - to life ev - er - last - ing He passed, and we  
3. His word shall not fail you— He prom - ised; Be - lieve Him, and

dark - ness you see? There's light for a look at the Sav - iour, And  
fol - low Him there; O - ver us sin no more hath do - min - ion— For  
all will be well: Then go to a world that is dy - ing, His

life more a - bun - dant and free!  
more than con - quer - ors we are! Turn your eyes up - on Je - sus,  
per - fect sal - va - tion to tell!

Look full in His won - der - ful face, And the things of

earth will grow strange - ly dim In the light of His glo - ry and grace.

## How Great Thou Art

O STORE GUD Irregular with Refrain  
 Swedish Folk Melody  
 Arr. by MANNA MUSIC, INC.

CARL BOBERG, 1859-1940  
 Trans. by STUART K. HINE, 1899-

1. O Lord my God! When I in awe-some won - der Con - sid - er  
 2. When through the woods and for - est glades I wan - der And hear the  
 3. And when I think that God, his Son not spar - ing, Sent him to  
 4. When Christ shall come with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion And take me

\* all the worlds thy hands have made, I see the stars, I hear the roll - ing  
 birds sing sweet - ly in the trees; When I look down from loft - y moun - tain  
 die, I scarce can take it in; That on the cross, my bur - den glad - ly  
 home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum - ble ad - o -

*Refrain*

thun - der, thy pow'r through-out the un - i - verse dis - played,  
 gran - deur And hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze; Then sings my  
 bear - ing, He bled and died to take a - way my sin;  
 ra - tion And there pro - claim, my God, how great thou art!

soul, my Sav - ior God to thee; How great thou art, how great thou art! Then sings my

soul, my Sav - ior God to thee; How great thou art, how great thou art!

Clara H. Scott, 1895

OPEN MY EYES 8.8.9.8 with refrain

Clara H. Scott, 1895



1. O-pen my eyes, that I may see Glimps-es of truth Thou hast for me;
2. O-pen my ears, that I may hear Voic - es of truth Thou send-est clear;
3. O-pen my mouth, and let me bear Glad - ly the warm truth ev - ery-where;



Place in my hands the won-der-ful key That shall un - clasp and set me free.  
 And while the wave notes fall on my ear, Ev - ery-thing false will dis-ap-pear.  
 O - pen my heart, and let me pre-pare Love with Thy chil-dren thus to share.

*Refrain*

Si-lent-ly now I wait for Thee, Read-y, my God, Thy will to see;



eyes,  
 O - pen my ears, il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine!  
 heart,

