

# 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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## Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 22, 2026

Rev. Danielle Kendig, *Pastor* • Gary Mapes, *Liturgist* 10:45 A.M.

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**THE PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP** Jesus promised Martha and us: “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live” (John 11:25, NIV). Let us worship our Savior. 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** “There is a Balm in Gilead”

**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** Ezekiel 37:3–6 ; John 11:25–26

Leader: When we stand among dry bones and broken dreams,

**People: God asks, “Can these bones live?”**

Leader: When grief weighs heavily, and hope feels delayed,

**People: Jesus calls life out of the tomb.**

Leader: Come, trusting the God who breathes life into death.

**All: Let us worship God!**

\***THE OPENING PRAYER** Ezekiel 37:1–14; John 11:33–35

**Living God, you meet us in valleys of loss and places of despair. You speak hope where we see none and breathe life where we expect only death. As we gather in worship, open our hearts to your Spirit. Restore what feels beyond repair and teach us to trust you even when the way forward is unclear. In Christ we pray, Amen.**

\***THE OPENING HYMN** #485 “To God be the Glory”

\***THE CALL TO CONFESSION**

**\*THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION** Ezekiel 37:11–14; John 11:37–40

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

**Merciful God, we confess that we do not always trust you with what feels broken. When hope is delayed, we grow weary. When prayers go unanswered, we lose heart. We carry grief, fear, and doubt, and we struggle to believe that new life is still possible. Forgive us for the ways we limit your power and forget your promises. Breathe your Spirit into us again. Restore what feels lifeless and teach us to trust you even here. In Christ we pray, Amen.**

**\*THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON** Ezekiel 37:12–14; John 11:43–44

**Leader:** Hear the good news: God does not abandon us in the valley or at the tomb. The One who calls life out of dry bones and resurrection out of death meets us with mercy and grace. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, restored, and given new life.

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

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

**\*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST** Ezekiel 37:14; John 11:44

**Leader:** Having been met by the God who brings life from death, let us share that peace with one another. 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** Ezekiel 37:1–14 Pg. 764

**THE GOSPEL LESSON** John 11:1–45 Pg. 99

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

**All:** Thanks be to God!

**THE MESSAGE** “When Hope Seems Gone” **Rev. Danielle Kendig**

**RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

**\*THE HYMN OF RESPONSE #276** “Great is Thy Faithfulness”

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

**THE OFFERTORY** “Lord of the Dance”

**\*THE DOXOLOGY #592 and PRAYER OF DEDICATION** Ezekiel 37:14; John 11:41–42

**God of resurrection hope, you give life where we expect none and possibility where we see endings. Receive these gifts as signs of our trust in you. Use them to bring hope to the hopeless, comfort to the grieving, and new life to your world. As we give, remind us that nothing is beyond your redeeming love. In 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 #467 "How Great Thou Art"

\*THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*THE POSTLUDE "Out of the Depths"

*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	3:00 PM	JOHNSTOWN CONCERT SERIES – Tim Wetmiller & Friends
MONDAY	6:30 PM	NAR-ANON
TUESDAY	10:30 AM	LENTEN BIBLE STUDY
NEXT SUNDAY	9:30 AM	SUNDAY SCHOOL
	10:45 AM	PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP

### PRAYER FAMILY OF THE WEEK: Ayres, Reitz

**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** Sometimes I feel drained of energy. What comfort then to hear God say to me, as to that ancient valley of dry bones: "I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live" (Ezekiel 37:5, ESV).

**THANK YOU** to Gary Mapes 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** 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!

**THE CHANCEL FLOWERS** are dedicated to the glory of God and have been placed by the Fisher family as a birthday commemoration in honor and loving memory of Ruth Fisher, whose birthday was March 22<sup>nd</sup>, and Rev. Dr. Carl S. Fisher, whose birthday was April 1<sup>st</sup>.

**OGHS OFFERING:** We will receive the **One Great Hour of Sharing offering** next week on **Palm Sunday, March 29th**. 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. Please see the flyer enclosed in today's bulletin for more information.

### **HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE**

- Palm Sunday 3/29/26: worship at 10:45 AM
- Maundy Thursday 4/2/26: worship with communion at 7:00 PM
- Good Friday Service 4/3/26: (at Westmont Presbyterian) 7:00 PM
- Easter Sunday 4/5/26: worship at 10:45 AM (sandwiches/donuts/coffee after) NO Sunday school.

**“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:** 1stpreshohnstown@gmail.com  
**Website:** www.1stpreshohnstown.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