



PALM SUNDAY

HOSANNA TO THE KING

March 29, 2026

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

309 Lincoln Street
Johnstown PA 15901

Rev. Danielle Kendig, *Pastor*

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.

Palm Sunday

March 29, 2025 Rev. Danielle Kendig, *Pastor* • Joyce Gerlach, *Liturgist* 10:45 A.M.

THE PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP Welcome! It was the children on Palm Sunday who cheered the loudest. They loved him simply because they knew how much he loved them. If by chance your faith has lost its childlike simplicity, we hope that this hour of worship will restore it to you. And we offer our friendship to help in the restoration. 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 “Hosanna to the Son of David”

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** Psalm 118:19–24, 26; Matthew 21:9

Leader: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

People: Hosanna! We rejoice in God's saving love.

Leader: Open to us the gates of righteousness, that we may enter with praise.

People: This is the day the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.

Leader: Come, welcome the King who comes in humility and peace.

All: Let us worship God!

***THE OPENING PRAYER** Psalm 118:26–29; Matthew 21:4–7

Faithful God, on this day of celebration and contradiction, we gather with palms in our hands and questions in our hearts. You send us a Savior not of force, but of humility; not riding in triumph but walking the road of obedience. As we worship, open our hearts to receive the King who comes in peace, and give us courage to follow Christ wherever this road may lead. In Christ we pray, Amen.

***THE OPENING HYMN #88** “All Glory, Laud and Honor”

***THE CALL TO CONFESSION**

***THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION** Psalm 118:22; Matthew 21:8–11

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

Merciful God, we confess that our praise is often louder than our obedience. We welcome Christ with joy, yet hesitate to follow when the way leads to sacrifice. We want a Savior who meets our expectations, not one who challenges our hearts and calls us to humility. Forgive us for the times we turn away when trust becomes costly. Renew our faith, deepen our trust, and lead us in the way of Christ, even when that road leads to the cross. In Christ we pray, Amen.

***THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON** Psalm 118:1–2; Matthew 21:9

Leader: Hear the good news: God’s love is steadfast and endures forever. The One who comes in the name of the Lord comes not to condemn, but to save. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, restored, and invited to follow again.

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

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

***PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST** Psalm 118:26; Matthew 21:5

Leader: Christ enters our lives in peace, humility, and love. 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 Psalm 118:1–2,19-29 Pg. 541

THE GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 21:1–11 Pg. 21

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

THE MESSAGE “Trusting the Way of the Cross” **Rev. Danielle Kendig**

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

***THE HYMN OF RESPONSE #102** “Were You There”

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

THE OFFERTORY “At the Name of Jesus”

***THE DOXOLOGY #592 and PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Psalm 118:27–29; Matthew 21:10–11

Generous God, all that we have comes from your hand. As we offer these gifts, we do so with gratitude and trust, knowing that you use humble offerings to bring about your saving work. Bless these gifts and those who give them, that they may bear witness to Christ’s love in the world and help us follow faithfully on the road ahead. 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 #89 “Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”**

***THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***THE POSTLUDE “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”**

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

MONDAY	6:30 PM	NAR-ANON
TUESDAY	10:30 AM	LENTEN BIBLE STUDY
WEDNESDAY	10:00 AM	ADMIN MEETING
THURSDAY	7:00 PM	MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE at FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
FRIDAY	7:00 PM	GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE at WESTMONT PRESBYTERIAN
NEXT SUNDAY	-- --- --	NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
	10:45 AM	EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP
	after worship	EASTER SUNDAY COFFEE HOUR

TODAY IS A GIFT FROM GOD, AND I WILL BE THANKFUL

“ROTO REVIEW” (Reach Out To Others)

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

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 Hosanna in the highest! Lord Jesus, as we remember your triumphal entry, prepare our hearts to welcome you with joy and humility. Clear away our distractions so we may follow you in both triumph and trial. May our worship today honor you, our gracious King. Amen.

THANK YOU to Joyce Gerlach 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.

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 this morning are dedicated to the glory of God, and have been placed by Zowalla Thiel, Bruce Thiel, and Randy and Leslie Freenock in memory of Lester Thiel, who died 10 years ago on Easter Sunday, March 27, 2016.

OGHS OFFERING: We will receive the **One Great Hour of Sharing offering** today **March 29th**. Envelopes are available at the church entrances. Be sure to WRITE YOUR NAME on the ENVELOPE so your giving can be properly accounted for. These offerings support the Presbyterian Hunger Program, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and Self-Development of People. Thank you for your generosity!

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

- 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.

EASTER COFFEE HOUR: We hope you can join us for a special coffee hour after the 10:45 a.m. service on Easter Sunday, April 5. Come down to the Social Hall to share in fellowship, coffee, punch, sandwiches, and especially cookies, doughnuts, jellybeans and chocolate! There will be plenty of Easter treats for our young worshippers and those young at heart, as we continue to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ.



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

In Isaiah 58, the prophet exclaims, “Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in” (Isaiah 58:12). As the people of Israel returned from the cloud of exile and struggled to rebuild their lives, Isaiah questioned their efforts: [Are you not called] “to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them?” (Isaiah 58:7).

When we give to One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS), we are combining our efforts with thousands of churches across the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to repair peoples’ lives — people who are hurting, oppressed, lost or on the margins of society. The exact people about whom Isaiah is speaking of. The people we are called to connect with every day, but especially in the light of the Good News of the resurrection.

We invite you to visit the OGHS website (pcusa.org/oqhsmap). Find a partner on the map and see how your gifts are used by the ministries these offerings support all over the world and offer prayers for those who will receive support through this offering. Small changes which, when added together here and around the globe, make huge differences in the lives of our siblings in need.

This is an opportunity for our congregation to recommit to our participation to do our part to participate in God’s ongoing repair of the world God so loves.

This year, we challenge each of you to increase your gift to One Great Hour of Sharing to benefit Presbyterian ministries to end hunger and poverty, provide assistance after disaster strikes, work with sustainable community development, and come alongside immigrants, migrants, and refugees. You will see how giving opens your heart to God’s work in your own life. We hope that you’ll join us today as we collect this offering and tangibly witness to the repairing love of God in Jesus Christ through One Great Hour of Sharing.

