



*He is
risen!*

MARK 16:6

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.

Easter Sunday

April 5, 2026

Rev. Danielle Kendig, *Pastor* • Wendi Sokira, *Liturgist*

10:45 A.M.

THE PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP CHRIST IS RISEN — HE IS RISEN INDEED! We greet those who are visiting with us today in the name of our risen Savior. We are gathered as a community of Christians. Our center is Jesus Christ. We are here to know again the touch of his forgiving and healing hand. Be sure to introduce yourself to Pastor Kendig and feel free to fill out the yellow caring card. 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 “I Know that My Redeemer Lives”

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: 24, Luke 24:6

Leader: This is the day the Lord has made!

People: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Leader: The stone has been rolled away.

People: Death does not have the final word.

Leader: Christ is risen!

People: He is risen indeed!

Leader: So we come with joy,

People: And with hearts ready for new life

ALL: Let us worship God!

***THE OPENING PRAYER** Psalm 118:14, John 20:16

God, thank you for this morning. For the surprise of hope. For a life where we expected loss. For calling us by name and drawing us close. Fill this space with your joy. Open our hearts to resurrection; not just as a story, but as something real in our lives today. In Christ's name, Amen.

***THE OPENING HYMN #123** “Jesus Christ is Risen Today”

***THE CALL TO CONFESSION**

***THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION** John 20:15, 1 John 1:9

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

God, sometimes we miss what you are doing. We look for you in the wrong places. We hold onto fear instead of trusting new life. We struggle to believe that things can really change. Forgive us. Open our eyes. Help us recognize You in our lives, in others, and in ourselves. Renew us with your grace. In Christ we pray, Amen.

***THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON** Psalm 118:17, John 20:18

Leader: Hear the good news: The tomb is empty. Christ is alive. And nothing, not even death, can separate us from God's love. You are forgiven. You are made new. You are invited into life again. Thanks be to God. Amen.

ALL: Thanks be to God! Amen.

***THE RESPONSE #579** "The Gloria Patri"

***PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST** John 20:19

Leader: Share a sign of Christ's peace with one another because the risen Lord stands among us and says, "Peace be with you."

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, 14-24 Pg. 541

THE GOSPEL LESSON John 20:1-18 Pg. 109

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

THE MESSAGE "Love Stronger Than Death" Rev. Danielle Kendig

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

***THE HYMN OF RESPONSE #594** "This is the Feast of Victory"

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

THE OFFERTORY #118 Day of Resurrection (Tune of #89 Hosanna, Loud Hosanna)

***THE DOXOLOGY #592 and PRAYER OF DEDICATION** James 1:17

God, You are the giver of every good thing, and today, we are especially grateful for the gift of new life. Take what we offer, these gifts and our very lives, and use them to bring hope where there is despair, love where there is hurt, and new life where it feels like nothing can grow. Help us to live generously, as people shaped by resurrection, trusting that you are always at work in and through us. In and 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 #8 "Because He Lives"**

***THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***THE POSTLUDE "Jesus Christ is Risen Today / Crown Him with Many Crowns" "**

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	EASTER SUNDAY COFFEE HOUR in the SOCIAL HALL
MONDAY	6:30 PM	NAR-ANON
TUESDAY	10:30 AM	BIBLE STUDY: BOOK OF ACTS
WEDNESDAY	6:00 PM	SESSION
NEXT SUNDAY	9:30 AM	SUNDAY SCHOOL
	10:45 AM	MISSION SUNDAY WORSHIP
	After worship	CARING COMMITTEE
	12:30 PM	GENEVENS at Boulevard Grill
	3:00 PM	JOHNSTOWN CONCERT SERIES: 20th ANNIVERSARY CONCERT

"IN HIS DEATH, WE WALK IN NEW LIFE"
"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
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THE BOARD OF DEACONS

Class of 2026 --no new members--	Class of 2027 Bonnie Bash	Class of 2028 Heith Bragg Wendi Sokira
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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 On this glorious Easter Day, let us offer God our highest accolades for raising Christ from his grave and making him our eternal Lord. Amen.

THANK YOU to Wendi Sokira 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.

BIBLE STUDY continues this Tuesday at 10:30 AM. Everyone is welcome to join us as we study the book of Acts. Bring your Bible and a notebook. We hope to see you there!

GERBER DAISY REPLACEMENT Unfortunately, the nursery was unable to provide us with Gerber Daisies as part of our Easter flower order. Your daisies are replaced with yellow or orange begonias.

EASTER COFFEE HOUR: We hope you can join us after worship for a special coffee hour. 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.

SESSION MEMBERS: Please turn in your reports to the office this week for the meeting on Wednesday, April 8 at 6:00 PM.

MISSION SUNDAY: Join us next Sunday, April 12 to welcome our Mission Sunday speaker. Bala Khyllap is the associate director of the World Mission Initiative of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Bala leads the mission focus at the Seminary that seeks to engage students in what God is doing in the world through short-term cross-cultural mission experiences and institutional partnerships.

NEXT SUNDAY: Join us for a special anniversary concert as the Johnstown Concert Series marks its 20th season with an inspiring afternoon of music! This celebratory performance will feature talented student choirs from Forest Hills, Richland, and Westmont Hilltop School Districts.

ALSO NEXT SUNDAY: The Genevens will meet at Boulevard Grill at 12:30 PM and the Caring Committee will meet after worship.

LUNCH BUNCH: The Lunch Bunch is back! Join us as we gather on the 2nd Friday of each month for a relaxed time of fellowship. Everyone is welcome! For more information, call Jackie at 814.619.8946. We hope to see you there!

First Presbyterian Church

Easter Floral Display 2026

— In Loving Memory of —

Belz Family

By David L. Belz (1 Hyacinth)

Beverly Benson; Richard & Grace Benson; Robert & Frances Hull; Janis Day

By Charles Benson (4 Lilies)

Husband, Harvey Betts; In-laws, Paul & Esther Betts;

Foster Parents,
Arthur (Chic) & Grayce Gunderson;
Grandparents, Willard & Anna Walker;
Sisters, Shirley Harkcom, Donna Grose,
Judy Biederman, Lois Butler,
and Linda Remsburg;
Friend, Colleen Wilson
By Pat Betts (2 Lilies)

John Cardone, Sr.

By loving wife, Julia Cardone & Family (1 Lily)

John Muha

By the Cardone Family (1 Hyacinth)

Rose & John "Ed" Felton Francis & Mary Lois Shank Helen E. Taylor & Josephine Shank

By Nancy & Dale Cruse (2 Lilies, 1 Hyacinth)

Parents, William & Thelma Davidson Parents, Irvin & Faustine Gindlesperger Daughter, Michelle Kresak Smith Son, Mark Kresak

By Roy & Agnes Gindlesperger (4 Daisies)

Benjamin III & Ellen Hinchman Benjamin Jr. & Adeline Hinchman Albert A. Olson & Emma Olson

By Robert Hinchman (3 Lilies)

Our Parents, Jacob & Elizabeth Koch and Charles & Janet Carney

By Tom & Charneet Koch (2 Daisies)

David and Esther Layton

Dr. Thomas Layton

Linda Grove

By Bob Layton (3 Lilies)

In Loving Memory, continued

Esther C. Davis, Gary's grandmother

Donna Mapes, Gary's wife

Marion Mapes, Gary's mother

Robin Torres, Friend of Cathie & Serena

By Gary Mapes & Cathie Clark

(2 Hyacinths, 3 Daisies)

Parents:

Lois & Bill Robinson

Mary & John Salay, Jr.

By Bill & Barbara Robinson (2 Tulips)

Father, Lester Thiel, who died 10 years ago on Easter Sunday 2016;

Grandparents, George and Marie Hanley;

Cousin, Melissa (Hanley) Pegg;

Church members and friends,

Tracy Billetdeaux, Linda Billetdeaux,

Betty Anderson, Ike Eisenhuth, and

Dusty Restante;

All those who have died of COVID-19

By Bruce Thiel (3 Tulips, 2 Lilies)

— In Honor of —

Carolynn Kolesar

By Charles Benson (1 Lily)

Children, Tom & Mary Betts,

Dave & Christine Betts;

Grandchildren, Danielle Panzer,

Caleb Jones, Tyler Betts, Courtney Betts;

Great-Grandson, Conor Panzer

By Pat Betts (2 Lilies)

Ken & Isabel Cruse

By Dale & Nancy Cruse (1 Tulip)

Children, Grandchildren, & Great-grandchildren

By Roy & Agnes Gindlesperger (2 Daisies)

Our Children, Tom and Tracy;

Our Grandchildren, Kayle, Haidyn,

Amilyah, Rayna, and DJ

By Tom & Charneet Koch (3 Daisies)

Serena Miller, Cathie's daughter

By Gary Mapes & Cathie Clark (1 Hyacinth)

All of the flowers are dedicated to the glory of God.