

# 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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## 4th Sunday of Easter

April 26, 2026 Rev. Carole Isley Corey, *Guest Minister* • Gary Mapes, *Liturgist* 10:45 A.M.

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**THE PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP** The welcome mat is out for you! We are happy to have you here today as a partner in prayer, in song and in the hearing of God's word. 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**

“We Thank Thee”

*Peterson*

**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: Revelation 21:5

Leader: This is the day the Lord has made.

**People: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

Leader: God is making all things new,

**People: Even in us.**

Leader: We come with hope,

**People: Ready to worship and be renewed.**

Leader: With joy and open hearts,

**ALL: Let us worship God!**

**\*THE OPENING PRAYER** Isaiah 43:19

**God, we come to you today just as we are. Some of us are full of joy, others are carrying burdens, and many of us are somewhere in between. Meet us here. Remind us that new life is always possible with you. Renew our hearts, and draw us closer to you. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray, Amen.**

**\*THE OPENING HYMN #404**

“Precious Lord Take My Hand”

**\*THE CALL TO CONFESSION**

**\*THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION** Romans 12:2, 1 John 1:9

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

**God, we confess that we fall short. We hold onto things we need to release. We miss opportunities to love and serve. We lose sight of the new life you offer us. Forgive us. Renew our hearts. Help us to turn back to you and walk in your ways. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.**

**\*THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON** Romans 8:1, 2 Corinthians 5:17

Leader: Hear this good news: In Christ, we are forgiven. We are not defined by our past, but by God's grace. We are being made new.

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

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

*Glory Be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;*

*As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.*

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

Leader: Share a sign of Christ's peace with one another: a peace that meets us where we are and carries us forward. 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** Genesis 15:1-6 Pg. #11

**THE GOSPEL LESSON** John 5:25-29 Pg. #92

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

**THE MESSAGE** "More Than a Wish" Rev. Carole Isley Corey, *Guest Minister*

## **RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

**\*THE HYMN OF RESPONSE #379** "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"

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

**THE OFFERTORY** "The Great Physician" *Stockton*

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

**God, take what we give and use it to bring hope and care to others. Let these gifts reach those who need encouragement, support, and a reminder that they are not alone. And continue shaping us; that our lives would reflect your love in real ways, not just in what we give, but in how we live each day. In the Name of Jesus Christ, 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 #172 "My Shepherd Will Supply My Need"

\*THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*THE POSTLUDE "Andante in E Minor" *Walczyński*

*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	MISSION/STEWARDSHIP
	3:00 PM	JOHNSTOWN CONCERT SERIES: HENRY WONG DOE
MONDAY	1:00 PM	WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION
	6:30 PM	NAR-ANON
TUESDAY	10:30 AM	BIBLE STUDY
	4-6 PM	DEACON'S VEGETABLE SOUP SALE
NEXT SUNDAY	9:30 AM	SUNDAY SCHOOL
	10:45 AM	WORSHIP
	after worship	DEACONS' MEETING

**PRAYER FAMILIES OF THE WEEK:** Belz, Moehler

**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.

**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** As we approach the throne of grace, O Lord, help us to receive and reflect on all the words you have for us.

**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!

**LUNCH BUNCH:** The Lunch Bunch is back! Join us as we gather on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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!

**VEGETABLE SOUP SALE:** The Deacons will hold a vegan Vegetable Soup Sale this Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup> from 4 to 6 PM. Orders are take-out only. \$10 a quart with bread, crackers, and a dessert. Be sure to reserve yours by speaking to a Deacon, using the sign-up sheet in the office, or calling the office to reserve. Thank you for your support!

**MISSION/STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE:** The Mission/Stewardship Committee will meet TODAY after worship. We are looking for new members and hope you will consider joining this vital committee.

**THE WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION** will meet tomorrow at 1:00 PM in the parlor.

**GREATER JOHNSTOWN COMMUNITY CHORUS** will present a concert "Homeward Bound" on Saturday, May 2, at 6:00 PM at Zion Lutheran Church, 613 Locust St. (directly behind St. John Gualbert Cathedral). Our own Charnet Koch is a member of the chorus.

**THE JOHNSTOWN CONCERT SERIES** will present an extra concert here at FPC on Monday, May 11, at 7:00 p.m. featuring the Slippery Rock University Jazz Ensemble (Dr. Jason Kush, director) and the Slippery Rock Chamber Singers (Dr. Timothy Little Tràn, director). Admission is free, but a goodwill offering will be taken if you wish to donate.

**THANK YOU** to Gary Mapes for serving as liturgist today.

**THANK YOU** to Gary McClelland for serving as organist today.

**THANK YOU** to Rev. Carole Isely Corey for bringing the message today.

## "GOD IS GREATER THAN MY CIRCUMSTANCE"

"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