

# 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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## 7th Sunday of Easter – Ascension Sunday

May 17, 2026      Rev. Danielle Kendig, *Minister* • Pat Betts, *Liturgist*      10:45 A.M.

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**THE PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP** - Today is Ascension Sunday. We remember with gratitude that Christ is with us spiritually so that no matter where we are, our Lord is present. Joyfully we welcome all who have come to worship. 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

### 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 47 and Acts 1

Leader: Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with loud songs of joy!

**People: For God is King over all the earth.**

Leader: Christ has ascended in glory, reigning with power and love.

**People: Yet we are not left alone—we are called to be Christ's witnesses.**

Leader: Why do you stand looking up toward heaven?

**People: We go forth to live and serve in Christ's name.**

Leader: Let us worship the risen and reigning Lord.

**All: Let us worship God with joy and purpose!**

### \*THE OPENING PRAYER    Acts 1:8

**Risen and reigning Christ, you call us not to stand still, but to follow where you lead. Lift our eyes in wonder and then send us in purpose. Fill us with joy, courage, and faith to be your witnesses. We come to worship and to be sent. In Christ we pray, Amen.**

### \*THE OPENING HYMN    #478

**“Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven”**

**\*THE CALL TO CONFESSION**

**\*THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION** Acts 1:1-11

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

**Sending God, you call us forward, yet we hold back. We linger when you invite us to go. We doubt when you ask us to trust. Forgive us for our hesitation. Renew our courage and strengthen our faith, that we may follow where you lead. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.**

**\*THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON** Acts 1

**Leader:** Hear the good news: The risen Christ reigns with grace and power. Even when we falter, God does not abandon us, but restores us and calls us again. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and sent forth in love and purpose.

**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** Acts 1:9-11

**Leader:** Share a sign of Christ's peace with one another: as people being shaped together in faith. The peace of Christ 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 47 Pg. #499

**THE NEW TESTAMENT LESSON** Acts 1:1–11 Pg. #112

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

**All:** **Thanks be to God!**

**THE MESSAGE** **“Why Do You Stand Looking Up?”** *Rev. Danielle Kendig*

**RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

**\*THE HYMN OF RESPONSE #473** **“For the Beauty of the Earth”**

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

**THE OFFERTORY** **“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”**

**\*THE DOXOLOGY #592 and PRAYER OF DEDICATION** Psalm 47 and Acts 1:1-11  
Faithful God, you call us to be your witnesses in the world. Receive these gifts and use them to share your love, to serve your people, and to extend your grace. Shape our lives to reflect your purpose in all we do. In Your name 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 #481 "Praise the Lord, God's Glories Show"**

**\*THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**\*THE POSTLUDE "Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise"**

*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**

<b>TODAY</b>	<b>12:00 PM</b>	<b>THIRD SUNDAY PROGRAM &amp; LUNCH – Atty. Lauren Presser</b>
	<b>3:00 PM</b>	<b>JOHNSTOWN CONCERT SERIES - Philly Street Strings</b>
<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>1:00 PM</b>	<b>WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION</b>
	<b>6:30 PM</b>	<b>NAR-ANON</b>
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>10:30 AM</b>	<b>BIBLE STUDY</b>
<b>NEXT SUNDAY</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>	<b>SUNDAY SCHOOL</b>
	<b>10:45 AM</b>	<b>WORSHIP</b>

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

**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** Heavenly Father, help us to remember that we belong to you. Touch us, heal us, bless us. Walk with us daily that we may have the courage and faith to meet all life’s challenges. Amen.

**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.

**REPAIRS TO CHURCH** are now underway in the library, Pastor's office, and equipment room from the frozen pipes/radiator leak upstairs. We are respectfully asking you to avoid those areas and the back hallway from the library to the parlor while these repairs take 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!

**JOHNSTOWN CONCERT SERIES** Philly Street Strings takes the stage at First Presbyterian Church today at 3 PM. No conductor - just 12 master musicians creating bold, collaborative performances that span from Baroque to jazz. Don't miss this fresh take on string music!

**THIRD SUNDAY PROGRAM & LUNCH** – Today our Third Sunday Program will be presented by Attorney Lauren Presser from Ayres Presser Elder Law, who will tell us what to look for when choosing a nursing home. We hope you will join us for her program and lunch!

**THE WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION** will meet tomorrow, Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup> instead of the fourth Monday, so as not to compete with Memorial Day. Be sure to mark your calendars.

**THANK YOU** to Pat Betts for serving as liturgist today.

**PENTECOST SUNDAY** is **next Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup>**. Be sure to wear your red, yellow, or orange – the colors of the flame of the Holy Spirit. We will celebrate the sacrament of communion.

**MEMORIAL DAY** is next Monday, May 25<sup>th</sup>. The office will be closed.

**SUMMER HOURS BEGIN IN TWO SUNDAYS on MAY 31<sup>st</sup>**, with worship at 10:00 am. **There will be no Sunday School** until regular hours return in the fall.

**THE CHANCEL FLOWERS** today are dedicated to the Glory of God and have been placed by Bruce Thiel in memory of Tracy Billetdeaux, who would have celebrated her 59<sup>th</sup> birthday on May 19. Tracy loved her children, her family, the color purple and butterflies.

**OUR SUMMER MISSION PROJECT** this year will be coordinated with Professional Family Care Services located on Menoher Boulevard. They serve pregnant moms, and infants through adolescents up to age 18. They are asking for donations of diapers, wipes, new clothing and hygiene products for these ages of children. Donation baskets will be at the 3 main entrances for that period of time. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

**THE JUNE VISION: PLEASE** turn in your articles for the June Vision by May 20<sup>th</sup>. It is a short month with the Memorial Day weekend. Time is needed for layout, printing, and mailing.

**“GOD IS SPEAKING - ARE YOU LISTENING?”**

**“ROTO REVIEW” (Reach Out To Others)**

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