

# The Vision



May 2026

Let every living thing

*praise the*

**LORD!**

Psalm 150:6 (CEB)



**First Presbyterian Church**

309 Lincoln Street, Johnstown, PA 15901



## From Pastor Danielle's Desk

Dear Friends in Christ,

Grace and peace to you in this beautiful season of transition. As May unfolds, we find ourselves standing at the threshold of endings and beginnings: school years drawing to a close, summer schedules beginning to take shape, and the rhythms of life gently shifting around us. There is something sacred about these in-between moments. They invite us to pause, to reflect, and to notice how God has been present with us all along. As the psalmist reminds us,

*“You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy”*

Psalm 16:11

Even as routines and seasons change, God's presence remains constant — guiding, sustaining, and renewing us.

### *God Among Us: From Presence to Power*

Throughout the month of May, our worship will carry us through the Easter season into the celebrations of Ascension Sunday, Pentecost, and Trinity Sunday. Our theme, *“God Among Us: From Presence to Power,”* invites us to reflect deeply on how God is not only with us, but actively at work within us and through us.

We begin with Jesus' words of comfort, reminding us to trust even in uncertain times (John 14:1–14). We then turn to Paul's witness, where we are challenged to recognize that God is already moving in places we might not expect (Acts 17:22–31). On Ascension Sunday, we hear the call to shift from simply watching to actively witnessing (Acts 1:1–11). Pentecost brings us to the Table, where the Holy Spirit breathes new life, unity, and courage into the church (Acts 2:1–21). And on Trinity Sunday, we reflect on the relational nature of God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and what it means to be a people shaped by divine community (Genesis 1:1–2:4; Psalm 8). This is a month that calls us to trust, to seek, to go, and to live as people transformed by the presence of God among us.

### *Learning from the Past, Living in the Present*

Recently, my son and I continued one of our favorite traditions: our annual mother-and-son trip. Every year we travel to Gettysburg, a place where history feels alive in every step. Each time we visit, we come away having learned something new, and this year was no exception.

We found ourselves drawn into the story of Thaddeus Stevens, a man whose legacy extended far beyond the



battlefield. After the Civil War, Stevens became a leading voice for justice, equality, and reconstruction. He was advocating for a nation that would truly live into the promise of freedom for all people.

One quote often attributed to him captures the spirit of his work: *“The whole fabric of Southern society must be changed... Never until this is done can the Republic be safe.”* His words remind us that real transformation requires courage. There must be a willingness to move beyond what is comfortable and into what is just and life-giving. In many ways, Stevens’ conviction echoes the movement we see in Scripture this month. The disciples could not remain where they were. The Spirit would not allow it. God’s presence always leads to action. Faith always calls us forward.



### *Looking Ahead: From Streets to Sanctuary*

I am excited to share some wonderful news with you! We have been awarded the Fit for the Future Grant through our Synod with the help of our Presbytery. This is more than just financial support; it is an affirmation that God is opening a door for us to step into something new, something bold, and something deeply aligned with who we are called to be as a downtown church.



This grant is designed to help congregations move beyond maintenance and into mission. It is to help us to reimagine how we live out the Gospel in our current context. For us, that has taken shape in a vision we are calling **‘Streets to Sanctuary Ministries’**. At its heart, this ministry is about relationship. It is about meeting people where they are, literally on the streets of our beloved Johnstown, and building genuine connections that reflect the love of Christ. It is about creating a bridge between the everyday realities people are facing and the sacred space of belonging, care, and community that we seek to cultivate within our church. This is not simply about inviting people into our building; it is about bringing the presence of Christ out into the world and walking alongside our neighbors in meaningful ways.

As we take our first steps, our focus is on careful listening, thoughtful planning, and building a strong foundation for what is to come. One of the early initiatives we are exploring is the creation of a “free store.” This would be a welcoming, dignified space where individuals and families can come and receive essential items, such as: clothing, hygiene products, and blankets, etc. at no cost. Unlike traditional models, a free store emphasizes choice, respect, and relationship. It is not simply about meeting physical needs, but about restoring dignity and fostering connection.

*Continued from page 3*

At this stage, we are in the beginning phases of dreaming, planning, gathering, and discerning what this could look like in our space, identifying community partners, and listening closely to the real needs of our neighbors. We are asking questions like: How can this ministry reflect Christ's love in tangible ways? How can it be sustainable? And how can it become a place not just of provision, but of belonging?

Alongside this, we are forming a dedicated ministry team made up largely of community members outside of our congregation. These are individuals who are passionate, God led and driven, in addition to already being engaged in the life of our city. We believe this approach allows our congregation to participate in the vision without feeling overwhelmed, while also strengthening partnerships across our community. You may be wondering—what is my role in all of this?

First and foremost, we ask for your prayers. Pray for wisdom, for the right people to step forward, and for open hearts: both within our church and throughout our community. Second, remain open. While much of the hands-on leadership and planning will be carried by this external team, there will be moments where your presence, your gifts, and your willingness to connect will matter deeply. This is not about adding more to your plate, it is about inviting all of us to be attentive to how God may be calling us, in both small and significant ways. Isaiah reminds us that this vision is not ours alone, it is God's invitation. And together, in faith, we are taking our first steps into it.

*"You shall be called the repairer of the breach,  
the restorer of streets to live in"*  
Isaiah 58:12

## *In Closing*

As we move into the summer months, I invite you to remain attentive to the ways God is stirring among us. Just as the disciples were called to step out in faith, we too are being invited to live more fully into who God is calling us to be; both as individuals and as a community of faith. We will mark several meaningful moments together this month: Ascension Sunday, Pentecost, and Trinity Sunday. Each of these Sundays offers not just something to remember, but something to live. As we step into these longer days and lighter evenings, may we carry with us the assurance of Christ's words:

*"And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age"*  
Matthew 28:20

May we trust that presence. May we be open to the Spirit's power. And may we go; faithfully, courageously, and joyfully into the life God is calling us to live. With gratitude for each of you and the ways we continue to grow together...

Grace and peace,  
Rev. Danielle Kendig



## May 2026 Preaching Plan

**God Among Us: From Presence to Power-** Throughout May, we journey through Easter into Pentecost and Trinity Sunday, exploring how God is present and at work in our lives and world. We begin with Jesus' words of comfort and follow Paul's witness to see that God is already moving in unexpected places. As we celebrate the Ascension, we are invited to move from watching to witnessing. On Pentecost, we encounter the Spirit bringing new life and unity as we gather at the Table. On Trinity Sunday, we reflect on the relational nature of God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This month invites us to trust, seek, go, and live as people shaped by God's presence among us.

### Sunday, May 3- Fifth Sunday of Easter

**Sermon Title:** *Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled*

**Scripture:** Psalm 31:1–5, 15–16; John 14:1–14

### Sunday, May 10– Sixth Sunday of Easter (Mother's Day)

**Sermon Title:** *The God We Didn't Know We Knew*

**Scripture:** Psalm 66:8–20; Acts 17:22–31

### Sunday, May 17– Ascension Sunday

**Sermon Title:** *Why Do You Stand Looking Up?*

**Scripture:** Psalm 47; Acts 1:1–11

### Sunday, May 24– Pentecost Sunday (Communion)

**Sermon Title:** *When the Spirit Breathes*

**Scripture:** Psalm 104:24–34; Acts 2:1–21

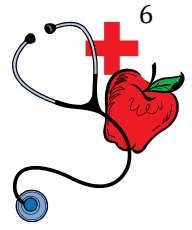
### Sunday, May 31– Trinity Sunday

**Sermon Title:** *"Let Us..."*

**Scripture:** Psalm 8; Genesis 1:1–2:4



# Wellness Page



## Positivity and Optimism May Protect Your Memory and Thinking Skills

Positive hopes for the future may do wonders for how well you remember the past.

Though it's not entirely understood why well-being seems to support better cognition, research suggests that greeting the world with enthusiasm, a smile, and an optimistic outlook may help preserve your memory and improve problem-solving skills, boost creativity, and much more.

Study findings have shown that multiple components of well-being are associated with healthy cognitive abilities, such as memory, perceptual speed, and executive function (planning, problem-solving, decision-making, etc.). Additionally, well-being, particularly a sense of purpose in life and life satisfaction, seems to be related to a reduced risk of cognitive decline or dementia diagnosis.

### Positivity and Brainpower

The relationship between positivity and cognition is a complicated one, still filled with questions for researchers to explore. For example, does robust physical, emotional, and mental health fuel better cognitive health or are people with a sharp memory and other solid thinking skills simply more likely to have a positive outlook? Certainly, both ideas may be true.

Research also shows that when you're in a good mood and thinking happy or optimistic thoughts, the brain produces serotonin, a neurotransmitter that helps regulate mood, while also supporting attention, learning, and memory. Positive emotions also can activate the prefrontal cortex, reduce levels of the stress hormone cortisol, and ease your ability to reflect and concentrate. Negative emotions, however, interfere with memory, problem-solving, and other thinking skills.

Well-being is also associated with many behaviors that are associated with improved cognition and health in general. These include regular physical activity, a healthy diet, not smoking, taking medications and engaging in medical treatment, and limiting alcohol intake.

It's not that optimism is a guaranteed shield against cognitive

decline. Rather, it appears that positivity may help delay or minimize age-related cognitive decline.

## **Well-Being's Other Benefits**

A positive outlook and other well-being constructs also have been linked to cardiovascular health. Optimism, for example, is associated with a reduced risk of developing heart disease, and among individuals with heart disease, a reduced risk of its progression and recurring cardiovascular events.

Researchers have also linked positivity and well-being to benefits such as a longer life, a healthier immune system, reduced cancer risk, and greater coping skills in the face of hardships and various challenges in life.

## **Changing Your Outlook**

You may think that people are naturally optimistic, pessimistic, or somewhere in between, and that these traits are fixed. But the truth is that positivity can be developed and nurtured. It's often possible, as they say, to turn that frown upside down.

There is a field of psychology, called positive psychology, that focuses on cultivating well-being. This is done by engaging in activities that are enjoyable or meaningful, that encourage you to use your strengths in different ways, or that ask you to focus on gratitude.

Some of these activities might include writing a letter of gratitude to someone, performing an act of kindness, or recalling a time you were successful at something and the qualities that made you successful. While these are brief activities, if you do them regularly, they can become a habit that shifts your perspective to being more positive overall. These simple exercises can be done on your own, without the guidance of a mental health professional or doctor.

It's also worth noting that adopting a more optimistic outlook doesn't mean you can't allow yourself to feel sad or angry or have periods where it's harder to find joy and happiness. Experiencing the full range of feelings is important for emotional health and personal growth. But if you can get in the habit of finding reasons to be grateful and hopeful and feel connected to others, your thinking skills and overall health may reap many long-term benefits.

## LET GO, LET GOD in NAR-ANON

### The Courage to Remove the Mask

It takes an incredible amount of courage to voice the reality behind the “mask” of normalcy. Many of us have become exhausted from struggling to maintain an appearance of normalcy, even as our internal foundations are crumbling. This feeling is all too familiar to those in Nar-Anon, where the pressures of keeping up appearances can weigh heavily while, inside, we are barely holding on.

### Transitioning from Control to Release

The shift from managing every situation to releasing control is perhaps the most difficult transition a person can make—especially when it involves someone we love. Letting go is a challenge because it means facing the reality that our efforts to control or fix the situation have not worked, and that we must change our approach for our own well-being.

### The Power of Letting Go

In the context of addiction and Nar-Anon, letting go is not about abandonment. Instead, it’s about relinquishing the illusion of control. This process involves several key steps:

- **Accepting Powerlessness:** Recognizing that trying to “fix” or “save” the addict has not worked—and that these efforts have often come at a great personal cost, affecting our financial, mental, and physical health.
- **Breaking the Cycle of Enmeshment:** By turning the problem over to a Higher Power, we create necessary space between our own well-being and the choices of the addict.
- **Redirection of Energy:** We stop spending our “emotional currency” on things we cannot change—such as the addict’s behavior—and instead invest it in things we can change, including our own recovery and serenity.

### The Serenity Prayer

The Serenity Prayer serves as the cornerstone of the process of letting go. It provides a mental filter for every situation we encounter, helping us to discern where to direct our energy and attention:

God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change,  
Courage to change the things I can, and  
The wisdom to know the difference.

Understanding and embracing the Serenity Prayer is essential as we navigate the difficult journey of letting go, placing our trust in a Higher Power, and focusing on our own healing and growth.

# 2026 National Day of Prayer

May 7, 2026

**Glorify God Among the Nations,  
Seeking Him in All Generations**

GLORIFY GOD  
AMONG THE NATIONS

SEEKING HIM  
IN ALL GENERATIONS

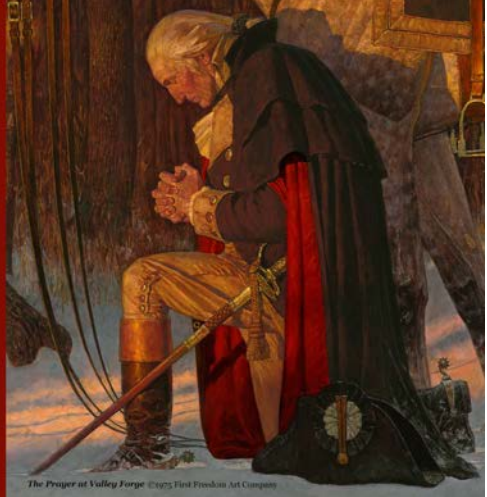
1 CHRONICLES 16:24 NASB

THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2026

75<sup>TH</sup>

NATIONAL  
DAY OF  
PRAYER

NATIONALDAYOFPRAYER.ORG



*The Prayer at Valley Forge* ©1975 Third Freedom Art Company

*Tell of His glory among the nations, His wonderful deeds among all the peoples.*  
1 Chronicles 16:24 NAS

Based on 1 Chronicles 16:24, the 75th annual observance will take place on Thursday, May 7, 2026, featuring artwork from Arnold Friberg's painting "The Prayer at Valley Forge" to mark America's 250th year.



## LUNCH BUNCH

The Lunch Bunch enjoyed a meal and fellowship on April 13. Our group gathers the second Friday of each month. All are welcome to join us.

## Women's Association

The Women's Association will hold their monthly meeting on **Monday, May 18th** at 1:00 pm, the third Monday of the month, so as not to conflict with Memorial Day.



I try to watch the words I say,  
And keep them soft and sweet;  
For I don't know from day to day,  
Which ones I'll have to eat.

If you, a family member, or friend from 1<sup>st</sup> Church has been admitted to the hospital and would like a visit, be sure to contact Pastor Danielle, Pat, or Caroline in the church office. The lines of communication are not always open between the hospital and spiritual care visitors, and we don't want to miss anyone.



R each  
O ut  
T o  
O thers

**FOOD PANTRY  
ITEMS ARE  
COLLECTED  
EVERY SUNDAY!  
THANK YOU!!**

**YOU CAN HELP**






- 4 Bruce Thiel
- 8 Joyce Foster
- 8 Travis Cramer
- 8 Peg Lambert
- 9 Marlene Eisenhower
- 13 McKenzie Johnson
- 14 Juliette Titcomb
- 15 Jessica Titcomb
- 18 Cheryl Gallagher
- 19 Josh Bacon
- 20 Juanita Morales
- 23 Scott Gleason
- 23 Rella Price
- 26 Victor Flores

HAPPY  
*Birthday*  
 FROM YOUR  
 CHURCH FAMILY

# PENTECOST

THEY SAW WHAT  
 SEEMED TO BE  
 TONGUES  
 OF FIRE  
 THAT SEPARATED  
 AND CAME TO REST  
 ON EACH OF THEM.



ACTS 2:3, NIV

## From the Deacons

In April the Deacons met briefly at the beginning of the month to discuss our soup sale on April 28th. Thank you to Bonnie, Michelle, & Heith for your hard work getting the kitchen ready to go!

We would like to report that we made 31 quarts of soup and sold out. THANK YOU TO EVERYONE who helped make our soup sale a success!

*Acts 2:42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of the bread and the prayers*

Happy Mother's Day to all the moms! We hope you have a blessed day.

*Wendi Sokira and the Deacons*



## GENEVENS

The Genevens met on April 12th at the Boulevard Grill. We enjoyed our extra time of fellowship, after Sunday's service, listening to a reading out of a devotional book, had a prayer of thanksgiving over our lunch, and enjoyed some really great food!! Please join us!! We meet the second Sunday of each month minus July and August usually at 12:30 pm. Each month's meeting place varies.

We wish all moms a happy Mother's Day!

Wendi Sokira, President  
Board of Genevens

## FOR MOTHERS EVERYWHERE

God bless you, Mother, on your special day.  
 For always being lovable and dear,  
 For the thoughtful things you find to do or say  
 That mean so much to others all through the year.  
 For patience and willingness to share  
 Whatever comes, in joy or sorrow, too  
 For thoughtfulness and tender, loving care.  
 God bless you, Mother dear, all your lifetime through.  
 ~Roger Miller



**PENTECOST IS COMING!**

**Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup>**

Wear your red, yellow, and orange – the colors of the fire of the Holy Spirit!

**SESSION MEETING**

**Wednesday, May 6th @ 6:00pm**



**The office will be closed on  
 May 25th observance of  
 Memorial Day**



# MAY

# 2026 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 SS 9:30am Worship 10:45 Deacons after worship Caring Committee	4 6:30 pm Nar-Anon	5 Bible Study 10:30am	6 Session Meeting 6:00 pm	7 National Day of PRAYER 	8	9
10 SS 9:30am Worship 10:45 Happy Mother's Day Genevens	11 Johnstown Concert Series 7:00 PM	12 Bible Study 10:30am	13	14 Ascension Day 	15	16 Armed Forces Day 
17 SS 9:30am Worship 10:45 3rd Sunday Lunch Johnstown Concert Series 3:00 PM	18 Women's Assoc. 1pm 6:30 pm Nar-Anon	19 Bible Study 10:30am	20	21	22	23
24 SS 9:30am Worship 10:45 Communion PENTECOST 	25 MEMORIAL DAY  Office Closed	26 Bible Study 10:30am	27	28	29	30
31 SS 9:30am Worship 10:45 Trinity Sunday 						 <p>We lift up all mothers in our prayers to God.</p>

# PUZZLE



## A LEGACY OF FAITH

You're blessed when you have a mother, a grandmother or any relative or friend who passes down a strong faith to you. In the Bible, Timothy learned about faith from his mother and grandmother.

Complete the verse below by filling in the blanks with the correct vowels.

VOWELS: 1 = a 2 = e 3 = i 4 = o 5 = u

"  $\frac{\quad}{3}$   $\frac{\quad}{1}$  m r  $\frac{\quad}{2}$  m  $\frac{\quad}{3}$  nd  $\frac{\quad}{2}$  d  $\frac{\quad}{4}$  f

y  $\frac{\quad}{4}$   $\frac{\quad}{5}$  r s  $\frac{\quad}{3}$  nc  $\frac{\quad}{2}$  r  $\frac{\quad}{2}$  f  $\frac{\quad}{1}$   $\frac{\quad}{3}$  th, wh  $\frac{\quad}{3}$  ch

f  $\frac{\quad}{3}$  rst l  $\frac{\quad}{3}$  v  $\frac{\quad}{2}$  d  $\frac{\quad}{3}$  n y  $\frac{\quad}{4}$   $\frac{\quad}{5}$  r gr  $\frac{\quad}{1}$  ndm  $\frac{\quad}{4}$  th  $\frac{\quad}{2}$  r

L  $\frac{\quad}{4}$   $\frac{\quad}{3}$  s  $\frac{\quad}{1}$  nd  $\frac{\quad}{3}$  n y  $\frac{\quad}{4}$   $\frac{\quad}{5}$  r m  $\frac{\quad}{4}$  th  $\frac{\quad}{2}$  r

$\frac{\quad}{2}$   $\frac{\quad}{5}$  n  $\frac{\quad}{3}$  c  $\frac{\quad}{2}$   $\frac{\quad}{1}$  nd,  $\frac{\quad}{3}$   $\frac{\quad}{1}$  m p  $\frac{\quad}{2}$  rs  $\frac{\quad}{5}$   $\frac{\quad}{1}$  d  $\frac{\quad}{2}$  d,

n  $\frac{\quad}{4}$  w l  $\frac{\quad}{3}$  v  $\frac{\quad}{2}$  s  $\frac{\quad}{3}$  n y  $\frac{\quad}{4}$   $\frac{\quad}{5}$   $\frac{\quad}{1}$  ls  $\frac{\quad}{4}$ ."

2 Timothy 1:5, NIV

## Mother's Day Jokes

Make your mom laugh  
(or groan) with a joke!

**Q:** What do you call a mom who can't draw?

**A:** Tracy.

**Q:** Why did the cookie cry?

**A:** Because his mother was a wafer so long!

**Q:** What do you call a small mom?

**A:** Minimum.

**Q:** What did the mama tomato say to the baby tomato?

**A:** Catch up!

**Q:** What did the momma horse say to the foal?

**A:** It's pasture your bedtime!

**Q:** What did mommy spider say to baby spider?

**A:** You spend too much time on the web.

**Q:** Why did the baby strawberry cry?

**A:** Because his mom was in a jam!

**Q:** What did the baby corn say to mama corn?

**A:** "Where's Popcorn?"



## GROWING IN GOD'S word



Try this craft as a reminder that we need to continue to grow in God's Word.

### What you need:

- Small terra cotta pot and plate
- Acrylic paints (various colors)
- Paper plate
- Potting soil (enough to fill the pot)
- Small inside plant or packet of seeds
- Newspaper or paper
- Paintbrush
- Cup of water
- Permanent black marker



### What you do:

1. Spread some newspaper out on a table for your working area.
2. Squeeze the paint colors that you wish to use onto your paper plate.
3. Paint designs on the pot and plate.
4. When the pot is dry, take the black marker and on the top part of the pot write: Growing in God's Word.
5. Pour a small amount of potting soil into the bottom of the pot. With adults help, place your plant into the pot and surround your plant with the rest of the soil. If planting seeds, follow the packet instructions.
6. Water your plant so the soil is moist. Check your plant everyday and keep the soil moist.
7. Enjoy watching your plant grow, and remember that you too, need care as you grow in God's Word.

2 Peter 3:18 NIV

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.

# TWO MAY EVENTS! JOHNSTOWN CONCERT SERIES

## SLIPPERY ROCK UNIVERSITY MONDAY, MAY 11 @ 7:00 PM



The Johnstown Concert Series is proud to present two groups from Slippery Rock University. The Jazz Ensemble, directed by Dr. Jason Kush and the Chamber Singers, directed by Dr. Timothy Little Tran. Admission is free, but there will be a goodwill offering taken.



## PHILLY STREET STRINGS SUNDAY, MAY 17 @ 3:00 PM

Experience something truly different! Philly Street Strings takes the stage on Sunday, May 17 at 3 PM at FPC. No conductor. Just 12 master musicians creating bold, collaborative performances that span from Baroque to jazz.



# CELEBRATING OUR MEMBERS

## Membership Anniversaries

We would like to recognize the following active members who are celebrating membership anniversaries in the month of May:

- 40 Years - Richard Feller**
- 40 Years - Charnet Koch**
- 40 Years - Tom Koch**
- 40 Years - Wendy Vickroy**

Happy Anniversary! We are blessed to have each of you in our church family.

## Focusing on the Trinity

Christians are monotheists, meaning we believe in only one God. Yet we talk about the doctrine of the Trinity. In the church year, the Sunday after Pentecost is known as Trinity Sunday. It's a day for focusing on what theologians call the Triune God — the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Someone said about the concept of the Trinity, "You will lose your soul if you don't believe it, and you will lose your mind if you try to explain it."

The bottom line is this: God (one Person) has been revealed to mankind in three ways. He is our Creator, who then came to Earth as our Savior (in the person of Jesus) and is eternally present with us as the Holy Spirit.

On Trinity Sunday, we praise our Triune God for meeting all our needs.



## OUR STEWARDSHIP

GIVING IN MARCH		YTD
Member Giving	3873	13674
Major Repair Fund	86	230
Organ Fund	15	40
Loose Offering	627	1274
Special Offerings	270	375
First Fruits	<u>110</u>	<u>1021</u>
<b>Total Giving</b>	<b>4981</b>	<b>16614</b>



### ATTENDANCE in MARCH

March 01 -	28
March 08 -	31
March 15 -	30
March 22 -	31
March 26 -	43 Palm Sunday

## SPECIAL DATES

- **National Day of Prayer, May 7, 2026**
- **Mother's Day, May 10, 2026**
- **Ascension of the Lord, May 14, 2026**
- **Armed Forces Day, May 16, 2026**
- **Day of Pentecost, May 24, 2026**
- **Memorial Day, May 25, 2026**
- **Trinity Sunday, May 31, 2026**



## Ever-evolving, ever-loved hymn

“Eternal Father, Strong to Save,” often known simply as “The Navy Hymn,” dates back to 1860, when William Whiting wrote it for a student of his about to travel by ship from England to America.

Original verses testified to the protection of God the Father, Christ, the Holy Spirit and the Trinity.

In 1940, the U.S. Episcopal Church rewrote the hymn to include travel on land and in the air. Many verses have been written since: for Navy SEALs, submariners, astronauts, military families, ship dedications, and more.

The following verse, intended for Memorial Day, may be used with the credit line below:

We thank you, God, for loved ones dear  
Who clung to faith beyond their fear,  
Who served and paid the highest price  
For freedom bought with sacrifice.  
May they remind us of your Son  
Whose death our final freedom won.

—Heidi L. Mann, 2012



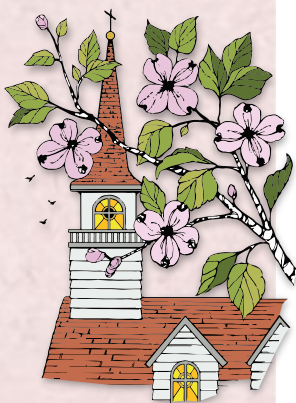
# Session Highlights

## April 2026

- Membership at 79
- Bible Study, led by Rev. Kendig, will continue with the book of Acts.
- Receipts, YTD, are close to budget.
- Operating expenses are equal to or less than budget, with the exception of utilities, which continue to be higher than budget.
- Rev. Kendig will be robing on the Special Sundays of the liturgical year.
- Repairs to the heating system on the second floor, from the recent pipe break, have been completed.
- New signs have been placed in the parking lots that indicate that unauthorized parking can result in the vehicle being towed.
- Reconstruction in the pastor's office and adjoining rooms from the water damage should begin soon.
- We have received a Fit for Future Grant. The Street-to-Sanctuary Outreach Ministry: Initial 90-Day Game Plan was approved.

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

-Jeremiah 29:11





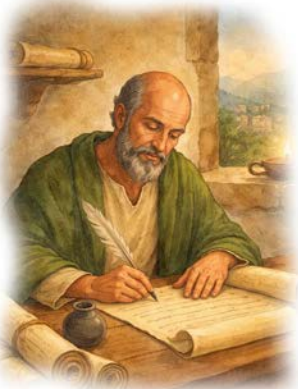
## +Christian Symbol+

### CEDAR TREE

A species of evergreen used to decorate for Christmas, the tall cedar tree symbolizes Christ's majesty year-round. Cedars of Lebanon, which have grown to 130 feet, were known to Old Testament people. "The trees of the LORD are well watered, the cedars of Lebanon that he planted" (Psalm 104:16, NIV). David's palace and both Solomon's palace and temple were built of cedar wood. The word cedar is found 75 times in the Bible. Due to its evergreen nature and longevity, this tree is associated with eternal life and thus sometimes used in cemetery landscaping.



## Bible Quiz



Although the apostle Paul is credited with writing the letter to the Romans, he dictated the message while another believer served as the scribe. Near the end of the letter, that writer briefly identifies himself. Who was it?

- A. Tertius
- B. Timothy
- C. Lucius
- D. Aquila

# THIRD SUNDAY PROGRAM



**SUNDAY, MAY 17**  
**at NOON**

*Guest Speaker:*

**ATTY LAUREN PRESSER**

*Of Ayres Presser Elder Law*

*We hope to see you there!*



**PRESENTS**

## "Homeward Bound"

*A program of sacred and secular choral works that highlight the home, homecoming, and other home-related comforts.*

Directed by Zing Allsopp • Accompanied by Becky Schrock

**SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2026 • 6:00 PM**

Zion Lutheran Church

613 Locust St. • Johnstown, PA 15901

Suggested donation of \$10

## The Wine of the Spirit

“No one puts new wine into old wineskins,” said Jesus (Luke 5:37). Drawing on this statement, a preacher in sixth-century Africa proclaimed in a Pentecost homily:

“It was with good reason, then, that some people, when they heard the apostles speaking in every tongue, said, ‘They are filled with the new wine.’ For they had become fresh wineskins, they had been renewed by the grace of holiness, so that when they were filled with the new wine, that is, with the Holy Spirit, they spoke with fervor in every tongue. ...

“Celebrate, then, this day as members of the one body of Christ. Your celebration will not be in vain if you are what you celebrate, if you hold fast to the church which the Lord filled with his Holy Spirit.”

Fifteen centuries later, may that call still resonate with us. May we be so renewed by God’s grace as to be worthy vessels of the new wine of the Holy Spirit – and to share it with the world.



**WHEN THE DAY OF PENTECOST HAD COME...**

# Prayer Concerns



**Rene Bacon** (Gindlesperger)  
**Sarah Bantly** (Muncert)  
**David Barrett** (B. Thiel)  
**Family of Bill Barkhimer**  
**The Don Bash Family**  
**Bonnie Bash**  
**Judy Bash**  
**Dave & Dorothy Belz**  
**Sherri Bennett** (Mapes)  
**Chuck Benson**  
**Robin Bergeron** (Cruse)  
**Deb Bickel**  
**Michelle & Heith Bragg**  
**Janet Braude**  
**Roy & Delores Collins**  
 (Benson)  
**Family of Mary Cruse**  
**Family of John Davis**  
**George Demchak & Family**  
 (Koch)  
**Marlene Eisenhauer**  
**Family of "Ike" Eisenhuth**  
**A. Scott Eisenhuth**  
**Ashlee Fecko** (Koch)  
**Richard Feller**  
**Adrienne Figura**  
**Robert Fleming** (Gerlach)  
**Randy & Leslie Freenock**  
**Dave & Marilyn Gehlman**  
**Joyce Gerlach**  
**Roy & Agnes Gindlesperger**  
**Jacob Gram** (Gerlach)  
**Faye Huber**  
**Rex Hutzell** (Davis)  
**Marlene James**  
**Tom Koch & Family**  
**Tim & Ceara Kranz**  
 (Williams)  
**Ava & Dylan Kresak**  
**Family of Mark Kresak**  
**Peg Lambert**  
**Walt Leitenberger**  
 (Gindlesperger)

**John Markley** (Markley)  
**Bill & Bobbi Markley** (Bragg)  
**John McClure** (Kendig)  
**Family of Connie Meyers**  
**Nancy Miller** (Benson)  
**Serena Miller** (Clark)  
**Family of George Moehler**  
**Stephanie Neill** (B. Thiel)  
**Ron & Brenda Noon**  
**Mark O'Ship** (Benson)  
**Tom Osterbloom** (Gindlesperger)  
**Annie Pearce**  
**Susan Pearce**  
**Sue Porsch**  
**Pat Ripple**  
**Tina Risbon**  
**Kent Roach**  
**Sheila Rogerson** (B. Thiel)  
**Debbie Rummel**  
**John & Judy Sierocky** (Foster)  
**Family of Michelle Smith**  
**J. Andrew Smith** (Gindlesperger)  
**Josh Sokira** (Sokira)  
**Robby Sokira, Jr.** (Sokira)  
**Owen Szanto** (Gindlesperger)  
**Zowalla Thiel**  
**Trista Wagner**  
**Susan Weaver** (B. Thiel)  
**Cynthia Weimer** (Weaver)  
**Russell White** (Benson)  
**Lynne & Bill Williams**  
**Sharon Yoder** (Bash)  
**Yost Family**

Serving in the Military  
**Luther Flores**  
**Richard Kovach**

## PENTECOST GERANIUM DISPLAY

**RED GERANIUMS** will again adorn our sanctuary on Pentecost Sunday, June 8th. This is your opportunity to order yours. If you would like to order one or more geraniums and place it in memory of or in honor of someone special, please fill out the form provided below and give the form with your remittance **by May 11th** to the church office. Please make your check out to First Presbyterian Church. You may also order your geraniums by calling the church office. The cost is \$7.95 per flower (6 inch pot). On Pentecost, you may either take your flowers or let them at the church for us to plant outside.



### PENTECOST GERANIUMS

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(as you wish it to appear in the bulletin)

In Memory/Honor of:  
(circle one)

\_\_\_\_\_

In Memory/Honor of:  
(circle one)

\_\_\_\_\_

In Memory/Honor of:  
(circle one)

\_\_\_\_\_

Quantity ordered \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I will let my flower(s) to be planted at the church.

**ALL ORDERS MUST BE PLACED  
BY MAY 11th**

First Presbyterian Church  
309 Lincoln Street  
Johnstown, PA 15901

**GOD'S BLESSINGS TO:**

