

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.

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 19, 2026 Rev. Danielle Kendig, *Minister* • Wendi Sokira, *Liturgist* 10:00 A.M.

THE PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP “Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob. ... Praise the Lord!” (Psalm 146:5, 10, NRSV). We welcome each of you as we seek God’s help and praise him in worship together! 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 “All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CENTERING HYMN “The Kingdom of God” *(See insert)*
(x2) The kingdom of God is justice and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Come, Lord, and open in us the gates of your kingdom.

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP** Psalm 146:5-10

Leader: Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God.

People: The Lord keeps faith forever. The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down and watches over the stranger.

Leader: We come to worship the God whose love reaches every neighbor and every nation.

ALL: Let us worship God!

***THE OPENING PRAYER** Psalm 146:5-10 and Matthew 25:31-40

God of mercy and welcome, You see those whom the world overlooks and draw near to those who are weary, lonely, and burdened. Open our hearts today to recognize Your presence in our neighbors. Teach us to welcome others with compassion, to listen with humility, and to serve with joy. As we gather in this sanctuary, remind us that Your love extends beyond these walls and into every corner of our community. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***THE OPENING HYMN #253** “I’ll Praise My Maker”

***THE CALL TO CONFESSION**

***THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION** Matthew 25:31-40

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

Compassionate God, You call us to love our neighbors as ourselves, yet we often keep our distance. We become busy with our own concerns and overlook those who are hurting. We welcome those who are familiar but hesitate to embrace those who are different. We speak of Your love, yet sometimes fail to reflect that love in our actions. Forgive us for the ways we have closed our hearts, our minds, and our doors. Teach us to see Christ in every person we encounter. Give us courage to build relationships, humility to listen, and compassion to serve. Renew us by Your grace and send us into the world as faithful witnesses of Your love. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

***THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON** Psalm 146:7-9

Leader: Hear the good news: The Lord sets the prisoners free, lifts up those who are bowed down, and watches over the stranger. God's mercy is wider than our failures, and God's grace is greater than our sins. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and 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** Matthew 25:31-40

Leader: Christ calls us to recognize His presence in one another. As those who have received God's welcome and grace, let us now share that same welcome and peace with our neighbors in this place. 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 READING Psalm 146:5-10 Pg. #556

THE GOSPEL READING Matthew 25:31-40 Pg. #27

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

THE MESSAGE “Opening our Doors: From Street to Sanctuary” Rev. Danielle Kendig

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

***THE HYMN OF RESPONSE #413** “All Who Love and Serve Your City”

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

THE OFFERTORY “O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

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

Psalm 146:5-10

God of compassion, receive these gifts and use them to bring hope where there is discouragement, welcome where there is loneliness, and care where there is need. Bless the ministries of this congregation and all those who partner with us in serving our community. May these offerings become instruments of Your mercy and signs of Your Kingdom at work among us. Through Christ our Lord. 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 #155 "Rejoice the Lord is King"**

***THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***THE POSTLUDE "Sing of the Lord's Goodness"**

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

NEXT SUNDAY 10:00 AM WORSHIP

PRAYER FAMILY OF THE WEEK: Kearns, Thiel

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 Lord, come to us, as individuals and as a group. May each of us be stirred up to love you completely and to serve you with fervor. 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.

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.

THANK YOU to Joyce Gerlach for serving as liturgist today.

SUMMER HOURS we are now following summer hours with worship at 10:00 am.

There will be NO SUNDAY SCHOOL or BIBLE STUDY until regular hours return in the fall.

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 children of these ages. Donation baskets will be at the 3 main entrances from June 7 through August 2. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

There is an immediate need for 2 boys:

- KASON (Boy Age 2): size 4 diapers, 18-24 month clothing, and hygiene products
- ETHAN (Boy Age 9 months): size 3 diapers, Similac Advance, 9-12 month clothing, and hygiene products

PINE SPRINGS CAMP COUNSELOR: As in past summers, we have “adopted” a camp counselor for the season. His name is José Guerrero, an international counselor from Mexico, and he is one of the dedicated young people who will work with campers through August. We have committed to pray for José and the ministry of Pine Springs Camp on a consistent basis, to send notes of encouragement, and to send a shoe box filled with suggested items, including gift cards for area gas station (i.e., Sheetz) and an area restaurant (he likes Chili’s and Ray Azteca), snack items (he likes Doritos and chips, Red Bull drinks, Kinder Bueno chocolate bars), and devotional material. PLEASE remember to include **your name** and the name of **our congregation** in your cards/notes. Members and friends of the congregation can support José by sending correspondence to:

José Guerrero
Pine Springs Camp
c/o Maddy Duffield
PO Box 186
Jennerstown, PA 15547

“GOD IS CALLING US TO BE SALT & LIGHT”

“ROTO REVIEW” (Reach Out To Others)

Pastor: Rev. Danielle Kendig, MDiv
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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