

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.

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 16, 2026 Rev. Danielle Kendig, *Minister* • Joyce Gerlach, *Liturgist* 10:00 A.M.

THE PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP We come together to "call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised" (Psalm 18:3, NRSV). All are sincerely welcomed to this service of worship and praise. 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 "O Word of God Incarnate"

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CENTERING HYMN #322 "Spirit of the Living God"

Spirit of the living God, Fall afresh on me; Spirit of the Living God, Fall afresh on me. Melt me, mold me, Fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP** Psalm 133 and John 13

Leader: How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity.

People: We gather as one family, united by the love of Christ.

Leader: Jesus calls us to love one another as He has loved us.

People: Open our hearts to love our neighbors with compassion and grace.

Leader: Come, let us worship the God who binds us together in faith, hope, and love.

ALL: Let us worship God!

***THE OPENING PRAYER** Psalm 133 and Luke 10

Loving and compassionate God, You created us for relationship, with You and with one another. Thank You for the people You have placed in our lives who have encouraged us, challenged us, cared for us, and shown us glimpses of Your love. As we gather in worship today, unite us as one body in Christ. Remove the barriers that divide us and teach us to see every person as our neighbor. Open our ears to hear Your Word, soften our hearts to receive it, and strengthen our hands to live it. May our worship today inspire us to love more deeply, serve more willingly, and reflect the compassion of Christ wherever we go. Through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.

***THE OPENING HYMN #420 "God of Grace and God of Glory"**

***THE CALL TO CONFESSION**

***THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION** Luke 10 and Micah 6

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

Merciful God, You have called us to love You with all our heart, soul, strength, and mind, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Yet we confess that we often choose convenience over compassion. We have overlooked those in need, ignored opportunities to offer help, and allowed busyness, fear, or assumptions to keep us from seeing others as You see them. Forgive us when we fail to love boldly. Open our eyes to recognize our neighbors, soften our hearts to respond with mercy, and give us the courage to become instruments of Your peace. Transform us by Your grace so that our lives reflect the love of Christ each and every day. In His holy name we pray. Amen.

***THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON** Romans 8 and Ephesians 2

Leader: Hear the Good News! God's love reaches us long before we deserve it. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven, restored, and clothed with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Because we have been loved so completely, we are free to love others with joyful hearts. Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

ALL: Thanks be to God. Amen.

***THE RESPONSE #579** “The Gloria Patri”

***PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Leader: Christ offers us a peace that the world cannot give, a peace that quiets anxious hearts and draws us together in love. As people forgiven and sustained by God's grace, let us share signs of Christ's peace with one another. The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

A TIME WITH CHILDREN

SPECIAL MUSIC “One Day!” **Kim Baker & Charnet Koch, vocalists**

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING Psalm 133 Pg. #550

THE NEW TESTAMENT READING Luke 10:25-37 Pg. #68

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

***THE MESSAGE** “The Neighbors We Remember” **Rev. Danielle Kendig, Minister**

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

*THE HYMN OF RESPONSE pg. 79 in *The Hymns We Sing*

“They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love”

*PRESENTATION OF GOD’S TITHES AND OUR OFFERINGS

THE OFFERTORY

“The Spacious Firmament”

Haydn

*THE DOXOLOGY #592 and PRAYER OF DEDICATION

James 1, 2 Corinthians 9 & Luke 10

Generous God, every blessing we enjoy has first come from Your gracious hand. Receive these gifts as an offering of our gratitude and our desire to participate in Your work of love and mercy. Use them to care for those in need, strengthen Your Church, welcome the stranger, encourage the weary, and proclaim the hope of Jesus Christ in our community and throughout the world. May these offerings, and our very lives, become expressions of neighborly love, reflecting the compassion You have first shown to us. Through Christ our Lord 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 #357 “O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee”

*THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*THE POSTLUDE

“Larghetto in F Major”

Engel

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 FAMILIES OF THE WEEK: Braude, Eisenhauer

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.

FOCUS ON PRAYERS Lord, make us mindful of the joy your grace can be to us. Grant us the gift of your presence, we pray.

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.

THE CHANCEL FLOWERS are dedicated to the Glory of God and have been placed by Gary Mapes in loving memory of his wife, Donna Mapes, to commemorate her birthday on August 15th.

THE CHRIST CANDLE lighting is dedicated by Gary Mapes in loving memory of his wife, Donna Mapes, to commemorate her birthday on August 15th.

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.

THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE is seeking nominations for Elders and Deacons for the Class of 2029. Please consider who has the gifts for each of these ministries. Ballots and ballot boxes are located by the Lincoln Street entrance and in the Narthex.

THANK YOU to Joyce Gerlach for serving as liturgist today.

THANK YOU to Charnet Koch and her sister, Kim Baker, for sharing their voices for the special music today.

THANK YOU to Gary McClelland for filling in as organist this morning.

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

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

FALL HOURS RETURN September 13, 2026, with Sunday School at 9:30 and worship at 10:45 AM

"TREAT OTHERS WITH JUSTICE AND MERCY"

"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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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
*member resigned

Class of 2028
Heith Bragg
Wendi Sokira