

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.

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 23, 2026 Rev. Danielle Kendig, *Minister* • Wendi Sokira, *Liturgist* 10:00 A.M.

THE PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP With gratitude we come to give thanks to the Lord for God's boundless grace. As brothers and sisters in Christ, we extend the hand of friendship and love to all who have come. Welcome! 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

Landon Heptner, *saxophone*

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 27 and Matthew 5**

Leader: The Lord is our light and our salvation; whom shall we fear?

People: **We will trust in the Lord, whose love never fails.**

Leader: Christ calls us to be the light of the world.

People: **May our lives reflect His hope, His grace, and His love.**

Leader: Come, let us worship the One whose light shines in every darkness.

ALL: **Let us worship God!**

***THE OPENING PRAYER Psalm 27 and Matthew 5**

Light of the World, we thank You for the countless ways You have guided us throughout our lives. In moments of uncertainty, You have surrounded us with people whose kindness, wisdom, encouragement, and faith reflected Your love. As we gather in worship today, fill us with Your light once again. Strengthen our faith when we are afraid, renew our hope when we grow weary, and remind us that Your presence is always with us. As a new school year begins, we lift before You our students, teachers, administrators, school staff, bus drivers, and all who serve our communities through education. Bless them with wisdom, courage, patience, and joy. May they find people who encourage them, and may they become lights for others each day. Help all of us, regardless of our age or stage of life, to reflect the light of Christ wherever You send us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

***THE OPENING HYMN #376 “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”**

***THE CALL TO CONFESSION**

***THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION** Matthew 5 and Psalm 27

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

Gracious God, You have called us to be people of light, yet we confess that we do not always live as You have called us. Sometimes we allow fear to silence us. Sometimes we overlook opportunities to offer kindness or encouragement. Sometimes we become so focused on ourselves that we fail to notice those who are struggling around us. Forgive us for the times we have hidden the light You placed within us. Renew our hearts through Your Spirit. Fill us with courage to share hope, compassion to serve our neighbors, and faith to trust You even when the path ahead seems uncertain. May our lives point others toward Your unfailing love. Through Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.

***THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON** John 8, Romans 8 and 2 Corinthians 5

Leader: Hear the Good News! Jesus says, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." In Christ, our sins are forgiven, our hearts are renewed, and we are sent into the world as bearers of His light. 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: As God has poured out the grace of forgiveness, love, and peace through Christ, let us also share that grace among ourselves. Peace be with you.

People: And also with you.

A TIME WITH CHILDREN

SPECIAL MUSIC “It is Well with my Soul” Landon Heptner & Jen Kist

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING Psalm 27:1-6 Pg. #486

THE NEW TESTAMENT READING Matthew 5:14-16 Pg. #4

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

“THE MESSAGE “The Porch Light” Rev. Danielle Kendig, Minister

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

***THE HYMN OF RESPONSE #525 “Here I Am, Lord”**

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

THE OFFERTORY

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

James 1, Matthew 5 and 2 Corinthians 9

Generous God, every good and perfect gift comes from You. We offer these gifts with thankful hearts, trusting that You will use them to shine the light of Christ into places of need. Bless these offerings so they may bring hope to the discouraged, comfort to the hurting, encouragement to those who feel alone, and opportunities for Your Church to share Your love. As You have blessed us, send us into the world to be lights in our homes, our schools, our workplaces, our neighborhoods, and our community. May everything we offer: our resources, our time, our compassion, and our lives bring glory to You. Through Jesus 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 #361 “How Firm a Foundation”**

***THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

THE POSTLUDE

Landon Heptner, saxophone

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: Koch

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 If we are not in line with your will, graceful God, may this be the day we make our lives fully dedicated to you.

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 Pat Betts in honor of in honor of her son Tom, who celebrated a birthday on August 16th, and her granddaughter Danielle, whose birthday is today, August 23rd.

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 Wendi Sokira for serving as liturgist today.

THANK YOU to Landon Heptner for sharing his musical talent with us today.

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 on September 13, 2026, with Sunday School at 9:30 and worship at 10:45 AM.

SESSION MEMBERS: The session returns next Tuesday, September 2nd at 6:00 PM. Welcome back and don't forget to send your reports into the office!

"WHEN WE FALL, GOD WILL HELP US GET UP AGAIN"

"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