

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.

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 6, 2026 Rev. Danielle Kendig, *Minister* • Charnet Koch, *Liturgist* 10:00 A.M.

THE PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP Welcome, friends! On this marvelous Sunday, let us open our spirits to the loving presence of God that we may be spiritually fed and renewed by his grace. 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 “The Summons”

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CENTERING HYMN “Worthy and Wonderful”

*(x2) You are worthy, my Father, Creator. You are worthy, Saviour, Sustainer.
You are worthy, worthy and wonderful, worthy of worship and praise.*

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP** Psalm 119:33–40 and Romans 13:8–10

Leader: Teach us your way, O Lord, and turn our hearts toward you.

People: Give us understanding, that we may follow your ways with faithfulness.

Leader: Lead us in the path of your commandments, for there we find life.

People: Call us away from ourselves and toward our neighbors.

Leader: For we owe one another nothing except this:

People: To love one another as Christ has loved us.

Leader: Come, people of God, let us worship the One who teaches us to love and sends us to serve.

ALL: Let us worship God!

***THE OPENING PRAYER** Psalm 119:33–40

Gracious God, you call us into your presence and invite us to walk in your ways. Teach us your paths this morning. Turn our hearts toward what brings life and our eyes away from distractions. Shape within us hearts ready to listen, hands ready to serve, and lives that reflect your love. Quiet the voices that compete for our attention and help us hear you clearly. Draw us closer to you so that we may carry Christ’s love into the lives of those we meet. We offer you our worship and ourselves, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***THE OPENING HYMN #683** in *Glory to God* “Lord of All Hopefulness” (see insert)

***THE CALL TO CONFESSION**

***THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION** Psalm 119:36–37 and Romans 13:8–14

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

Merciful God, you have shown us the way of love, yet too often we choose our own way. You call us to serve, but we become concerned with ourselves. You call us to notice our neighbors, but we turn our eyes away. You call us to love without keeping score, yet we hold tightly to old hurts, judgments, and expectations. Forgive us, Lord. Turn our hearts toward you. Turn our eyes toward what gives life. Awaken us from the habits that keep us from loving fully, and clothe us again with the compassion and grace of Jesus Christ. Give us servant hearts, willing hands, and eyes that recognize the needs of those around us, so that our lives might reveal the love we have first received from you. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

***THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON** Romans 13:10, 12–14 and Psalm 119:40

Leader: Hear the good news: the night is far gone; the day is near. In Jesus Christ, God meets us with mercy, clothes us with grace, and leads us into new life. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and set free, not simply to return to the lives we lived before, but to put on Christ and walk in the way of love.

ALL: Thanks be to God. Amen.

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

***PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST** Romans 13:8–10

Leader: Paul tells us, “Owe no one anything, except to love one another.” The peace we share is one small way that we practice that love, recognizing one another as brothers and sisters in Christ and remembering that we belong to one another. So let us turn to those around us and share the peace Christ has first given to us. 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 119:33–40 Pg. #543

THE NEW TESTAMENT READING Romans 13:8–14 Pg. #153

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

“THE MESSAGE “A Servant’s Heart” **Rev. Danielle Kendig, Minister**

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

***THE HYMN OF RESPONSE #727** in *Glory to God* “The Servant Song” (see insert)

***THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

The Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

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

THE OFFERTORY “One Bread, One Body”

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

Romans 13:8–10 and Psalm 119:35–36

Generous God, everything we have first comes from you. Receive these gifts and use them as signs of your love in the world. But do not receive only what we place in the offering. Receive our time, our compassion, our hands, our voices, and our lives. Lead us in your ways and give us servant hearts, so that through what we give and through how we live, our neighbors may encounter the love of Christ. May all that we offer help bring hope, healing, and grace wherever they are needed. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

THE DEACONS’ OFFERING

THE PRAYERS AND PRAISES OF THE PEOPLE

THE SEALING OF THE WORD

***THE HYMN OF PREPARATION #521 “You Satisfy the Hungry Heart”**

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

Rev. Danielle Kendig, M.Div.

The Invitation to the Lord’s Table

The Words of Institution

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Distribution of the Elements

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

You are invited to eat the bread when it comes to you.

Please hold the cup, and we will partake together.

The Prayer After Communion

FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

***THE CLOSING HYMN #420 “God of Grace and God of Glory”**

***THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***THE POSTLUDE “Take My Life”**

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

TODAY

MONDAY

after worship

Labor Day

6:30 PM

DEACONS MEETING

OFFICE CLOSED

NAR-ANON

NEXT SUNDAY

Regular hours return

9:30 AM

10:45 AM

after worship

1:00 PM

3:00 PM

SUNDAY SCHOOL

WORSHIP

CARING COMMITTEE

GENEVENS, location TBD

JOHNSTOWN CONCERT SERIES – “Wanderlost”

PRAYER FAMILIES OF THE WEEK: Kay, Vickroy

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 signup 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.

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 Charnet Koch for serving as liturgist today.

THE OFFICE will be closed tomorrow in observance of Labor Day.

REGULAR HOURS RETURN next Sunday, September 13th, with Sunday School at 9:30 AM and Worship at 10:45 AM.

FOCUS ON PRAYERS O Lord, may my heart not be hardened, my ears not deaf, my mind not wandering as I strive to worship you in spirit and in truth. Amen.

THE CHANCEL FLOWERS are dedicated to the glory of God and have been placed by Ken to Isabel Cruse and by Isabel to Ken Cruse, in celebration and honor of their 75th Wedding Anniversary on September 8th.

BACKPACK PROJECT: We are looking for volunteers to pack lunches at the Garfield School location. Dates will be published soon; they just sent out the fall list. Call or text Wendi Sokira at 814.254.9469 to volunteer.

THE SEPTEMBER "VISION" is available at the church entrances for those who chose to forgo mailing. It is also available online.

"GOD WALKS BESIDE US EVERY MOMENT OF THE DAY"

"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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