

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.

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 13, 2026 Rev. Danielle Kendig, *Minister* • Gary Mapes, *Liturgist* 10:45 A.M.

THE PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP It is a genuine joy to welcome all who have come to praise our Lord. Let us begin this service as we should begin every day: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. 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 “There’s a Balm in Gilead”

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CENTERING HYMN “Worthy and Wonderful”

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

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP** Psalm 103:1–5, 8–13

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 103:1–5, 8–13; Genesis 50:20

Merciful and gracious God, we gather today grateful for your steadfast love and for the gift of beginning again. You know the stories we carry: the joys we celebrate, the mistakes we regret, the wounds we remember, and the burdens we have not yet learned to release. Yet you meet us with compassion. You redeem what has been broken and bring life even from places of pain. As we begin a new season together, renew our hearts and our life as your people. Teach us to receive your forgiveness and give us courage to extend grace to one another. May our worship draw us closer to you and shape us into a community where mercy is practiced, healing is possible, and your love has the final word. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, we pray. Amen.

***THE OPENING HYMN #280 “Amazing Grace”**

***THE CALL TO CONFESSION**

***THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION** Psalm 103:8–12; Genesis 50:15–21

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

Merciful God, you offer us grace freely, yet we sometimes struggle to receive it and even more to extend it. We hold tightly to old wounds. We replay the wrongs others have done and the mistakes we have made. We allow resentment, guilt, and fear to shape our relationships and keep us from the freedom you desire for us. Forgive us, Lord. Teach us that forgiveness does not erase what has happened, but entrusts our wounds to you. Give us wisdom to seek healing, courage to release what we can no longer carry, and grace to see ourselves and others through your merciful eyes. Free us from what keeps us bound to the past, and lead us forward in the grace of Jesus Christ. In his name we pray.

***THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON** Psalm 103:8–13

Leader: Hear the good news: the Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. As high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is God's steadfast love toward us; and as far as the east is from the west, so far has God removed our transgressions from us. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Our past does not have the final word. God's grace does.

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** Genesis 50:19–21; Psalm 103:8

Leader: When Joseph faced the brothers who had hurt him, he chose mercy over revenge and opened the way to a new future. The peace of Christ calls us to seek reconciliation and extend grace to one another. Let us greet one another as brothers and sisters in Christ. The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us share Christ's peace with one another.

A TIME WITH CHILDREN

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 103:1–13 Pg. #531

THE SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Genesis 50:15–21 Pg. #46

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

“THE MESSAGE “The Freedom of Forgiveness” Rev. Danielle Kendig, Minister

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

***THE HYMN OF RESPONSE #347 “Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive”**

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

THE OFFERTORY “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

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

Psalm 103:1–5; Genesis 50:20–21

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 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 pg. #66 in *The Hymns We Sing* “Softly and Tenderly”**

***THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***THE POSTLUDE “Faith of Our Fathers”**

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	after worship	CARING COMMITTEE
	1:00 PM	GENEVENS at the Blvd Grill, side room
	3:00 PM	JOHNSTOWN CONCERT SERIES – “Wanderlost”
MONDAY	6:30 PM	NAR-ANON
TUESDAY	10:30 AM	BIBLE STUDY
NEXT SUNDAY	9:30 AM	SUNDAY SCHOOL
	10:45 AM	WORSHIP
	12:00 PM	THIRD SUNDAY PROGRAM & LUNCH

PRAYER FAMILIES OF THE WEEK: Kalmbach, Risbon

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.

THE CARING COMMITTEE will meet briefly today after worship.

THE GENEVENS will meet this afternoon at 1:00 PM in the side room at the Boulevard Grill. Donation to the group is still at \$2.00 per person. Please join us, all are welcome!

JOHNSTOWN CONCERT SERIES returns to First Presbyterian this afternoon at 3:00 pm, featuring the Wanderlost quartet.

THIRD SUNDAY PROGRAM and LUNCH: will be held next Sunday, September 20th at noon, with guest speaker Vern Henry. We hope you'll plan to attend!

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. The last day for nominations will be Sunday, October 4.

THANK YOU to Gary Mapes for serving as liturgist today.

FOCUS ON PRAYERS With eagerness we approach you, O God. We join with all who love and serve you. We offer ourselves to be your people, ready to let your light shine upon us and through us. In Jesus' name. Amen.

THE CHANCEL FLOWERS are dedicated to the glory of God and have been placed by Bonnie Bash in loving memory of her husband Don, for his birthday and to commemorate their wedding anniversary, and also as a birthday remembrance of their son, Zack.

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.

"GIVE THANKS FOR HOW GOD HAS MADE YOU UNIQUE"
"ROTO REVIEW" (Reach Out To Others)

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Parish Nurse: Mrs. Patricia Betts
Organist: Jennifer Kist
Ministers: All members of First Presbyterian Church
Administrative Assistant: Caroline Goller

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