

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.

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 20, 2026 Rev. Danielle Kendig, *Minister* • Joyce Gerlach, *Liturgist* 10:45 A.M.

THE PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP With warm hearts and hands, we welcome all who have come to worship the Lord. May this be a time of encouragement and inspiration for us all. 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

“Prelude in F Major”

J. S. Bach

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 145:1–8

Leader: We will exalt you, our God and King, and bless your name forever and ever.

People: Every day we will bless you and praise your name.

Leader: Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised!

People: One generation shall tell another of God's mighty acts.

Leader: The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

People: We come to worship the God whose goodness shapes our lives.

Leader: Come, people of God, let us lift our hearts and voices in praise.

ALL: Let us worship God!

***THE OPENING PRAYER** Psalm 145:3–8; Philippians 1:21, 27

Gracious and merciful God, we gather to praise you and remember again the goodness you have shown from generation to generation. You call us not only to speak of your love, but to live in ways that reflect it. As we worship, draw our hearts closer to Christ. Shape our words, our choices, our relationships, and our priorities so that the gospel we proclaim may also be seen in the lives we live. Teach us what it means to say with Paul, “For to me, living is Christ.” May our worship strengthen us to live faithfully, love generously, and walk courageously as your people. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

***THE OPENING HYMN** from *Glory to God* #428 “There’s a Sweet, Sweet Spirit” (*see insert*)

***THE CALL TO CONFESSION**

***THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION** Psalm 145:8; Philippians 1:21, 27–30

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

Merciful God, you have called us to lives worthy of the gospel, yet we confess that we do not always live as people shaped by Christ. We speak of love, yet sometimes withhold compassion. We proclaim grace, yet struggle to extend it. We say that Christ is at the center of our lives, yet allow fear, pride, comfort, and our own desires to take his place. Forgive us, Lord. Shape us again by your grace. Give us courage to live what we believe, strength to stand firm in faith, and hearts that reflect the mercy and steadfast love we have received from you. May others encounter the good news of Jesus Christ not only through the words we speak, but through the lives we live. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

***THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON** Psalm 145:8; Philippians 1:6

Leader: Hear the good news: the Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. The God who began a good work among us is not finished with us yet. Through Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, renewed, and continually being shaped into the people God calls us to be. 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”

*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** Philippians 1:27; Psalm 145:8

Leader: Paul calls the church to stand firm in one spirit, striving side by side for the faith of the gospel. One way we practice that unity is by recognizing one another as brothers and sisters in Christ and sharing the peace we have received from him. 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 OLD TESTAMENT READING

Psalm 145:1–8

Pg. #555

THE NEW TESTAMENT READING

Philippians 1:21–30

Pg. #186

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

“THE MESSAGE

“A Life Worthy of the Gospel”

Rev. Danielle Kendig, Minister

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

***THE HYMN OF RESPONSE #372 “Lord, I Want to Be a Christian”**

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

THE OFFERTORY

“Come Unto Him”

Maunder

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

James 1, Psalm 78 and 2 Corinthians 9

Generous God, generation after generation has proclaimed your goodness and told of your faithfulness. Today, we add our lives to that witness. Receive these gifts and use them to share the good news of Christ, care for those in need, strengthen your church, and reveal your love in our community and beyond. Receive not only what we give, but how we live. May our generosity, compassion, service, and love reflect the gospel we proclaim, so that others may see something of Christ through us. 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 #368 “I’ve Got Peace Like a River”**

***THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***THE POSTLUDE**

“Moderato in G Major”

Walczynski

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	12:00 PM	THIRD SUNDAY PROGRAM & LUNCH
MONDAY	6:30 PM	NAR-ANON
TUESDAY	10:30 AM	BIBLE STUDY
NEXT SUNDAY	9:30 AM	SUNDAY SCHOOL
	10:45 AM	WORSHIP

PRAYER FAMILY OF THE WEEK: Bragg

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.

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

THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE is dedicated by Roy & Agnes Gindlesperger in loving memory of daughter Michelle Kresak Smith, to commemorate her birthday on September 18th.

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 Joyce Gerlach for serving as liturgist today.

THANK YOU to Gary McClelland for serving as organist today.

VISION ARTICLES: Please send any articles to the office ASAP to be included in the October Vision. Thank you!

FOCUS ON PRAYERS Enable us, O Lord, to approach you with pure hearts and proper praise. In Christ's name, amen.

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 OPEN DOOR IS OFFICIALLY OPEN! We are so excited to welcome our neighbors to The Open Door: Johnstown Community Free Store, located inside First Presbyterian Church. The Open Door provides clothing, hygiene products, and everyday essentials completely free of charge, while creating a place where everyone who walks through our doors is treated with dignity, kindness, and hospitality. Shopping and donation hours are Mondays & Wednesdays 10:00 AM–12:00 PM. A tremendous thank-you to the Session and congregation of FPC for supporting this ministry from its beginning; to the Presbytery of Redstone and Synod Trinity for their support from the Fit For Future Grant; to Rita's Closet for their generosity and partnership; and to the many individuals and organizations who have donated clothing, supplies, resources, hours of work, encouragement, prayers, and helping hands.

"TRUST GOD TODAY AND EVERY DAY"
"ROTO REVIEW" (Reach Out To Others)

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CHURCH:

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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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