



The Vision

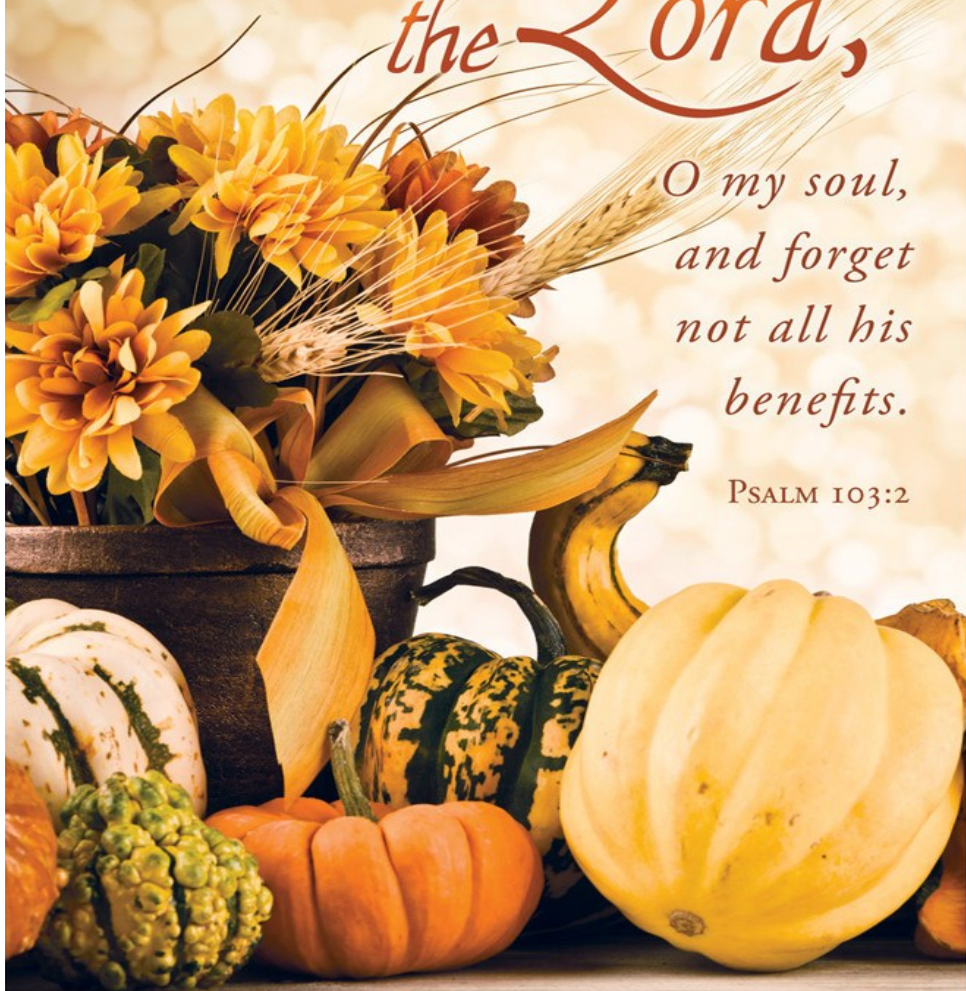
OCTOBER
2026

First Presbyterian Church • 309 Lincoln St. • Johnstown, PA 15901

Bless the Lord,

*O my soul,
and forget
not all his
benefits.*

PSALM 103:2



From Pastor Danielle's Desk

Dear Church Family,

There are moments in the life of a church when we get to look around and realize that something we have prayed about, talked about, planned for, and hoped for is actually happening right in front of us. I feel like October is one of those moments. Over these past months, we have spent a great deal of time talking about what it means to be the Church, not simply a building or a place we gather on Sunday mornings, but a people called by God to love our neighbors, open our doors, listen to one another's stories, and follow where the Holy Spirit is leading. Lately, we have been blessed to see that calling come to life in some wonderful ways. One verse that continues to come to mind is from Ephesians:

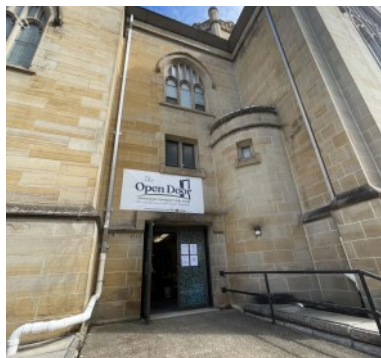
"Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine..." Ephesians 3:20

The Open Door Is Officially Open!



In just our first week and a half of operation—only about six hours total, we served nearly 60 people. But even that number does not tell the whole story. Those hours were filled with conversations. We met people who came through the doors looking for clothing, hygiene products, and other necessities. We heard pieces of their stories. We learned names. We laughed together. We listened. We began building connections. And that is what this ministry has always been about. The clothing matters. The hygiene products matter.

Meeting practical needs matters. But behind every item that leaves our shelves is a person, a neighbor with a story worth hearing and a life worth knowing. Jesus reminds us in Matthew 25:40: *"Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these...you did it to me."*



We have already had volunteers from the wider community stop in and ask how they can become consistently involved. We were even blessed with a visit from one of our county commissioners, who came to see the ministry and learn more about what is happening here. It has been such a blessing to watch God's plan come to life.

Thank You, Church!

I want to offer a heartfelt thank you to this congregation for the incredible support you have shown for The Open Door. Thank you for donating, sorting, folding, volunteering, carrying boxes, rearranging spaces, telling others about the ministry, sharing our posts, praying, encouraging, and being willing to open our church to something new. Most of all, thank you for being open to where God may be calling First Presbyterian Church in our community. None of this happens without a congregation willing to say, "Yes, God. Show us how we can serve." What began as a conversation and a dream is now becoming a place where neighbors are welcomed, relationships are formed, stories are heard, and dignity is honored.

Worship in October

Our October preaching plan will continue to invite us deeper into what faithful Christian living looks like. On October 4, World Communion Sunday, we will consider God's call to justice, kindness, humility, mercy, and faithfulness as we gather around Christ's Table with Christians throughout the world. Throughout the rest of October we will explore God's generous invitation asking what it means not only to receive God's invitation, but to allow that invitation to transform us. We will hear Moses' powerful words in Exodus paired with Jesus' promise of God's continuing presence. We will reflect on why God's presence must remain at the center of everything we do. Finally, we will close the month reflecting on how Jesus brings us back to what matters most: loving God with our whole selves and loving our neighbors as ourselves. Throughout the month, we will keep returning to one central truth: faith is not only something we believe. It shapes how we live, love, serve, and respond when God calls.

Around the Presbytery

I recently attended a meeting of Redstone Presbytery, and one of the highlights of the gathering was hearing about the many different mission projects happening throughout our presbytery. Churches are finding creative and faithful ways to meet the needs of their individual communities. While the ministries may look different from congregation to congregation, together they tell a beautiful story: God is still at work

(continued on page 4)

(continued from page 3)

through the Church. It was encouraging to hear how congregations of different sizes and in different communities are asking many of the same questions that we are: *Who are our neighbors? What are the needs around us? What has God placed in our hands? And how might God be calling us to serve?*

It reminded me that what we are doing here in Johnstown is part of a much larger movement of churches seeking to faithfully follow Christ beyond their walls.



A Time for Renewal

This month I will also be attending Wee Kirk, a retreat for pastors and church leaders. I am looking forward to the opportunity for worship, learning, conversation, spiritual renewal, and fellowship with others who are serving congregations in their own communities. These opportunities for continuing education and renewal are important not only for pastors and church leaders, but for the health of the congregations we serve. I am grateful to be part of a church that values learning, growth, and taking time to listen for where God may be leading us next.

Looking Ahead

As I look at everything happening around us, I keep thinking about how much God can do when we remain willing to listen and respond. Something that began as a conversation has become an open door. Something that began as a hope has become a room filled with neighbors. Something that began with the question, "God, how can we serve this community?" is becoming an answer that we are discovering together, one person, one conversation, and one story at a time. And I do not believe God is finished with us yet.

May we continue to listen. May we continue to make room. May we continue to follow where God leads. And may First Presbyterian Church continue Serving Johnstown with Hope & Hospitality, trusting that when we open our hearts and our doors, God has a wonderful way of meeting us there.

With gratitude and hope,
Rev. Danielle Kendig



October 2026 Preaching Plan

At the Heart of Faith

Throughout October, we will return to some of the central questions of our faith: What does God desire from us? How does grace change us? What does it mean to trust God's presence? And what does it look like to truly love God and our neighbors? From World Communion Sunday to Jesus' call to love and serve with humility, these passages invite us beyond simply believing the right things and toward a faith that shapes the way we live. Together, we will explore justice, mercy, grace, God's abiding presence, and the everyday work of following Christ with faithful and servant hearts.

— Sunday, October 4th —

World Communion Sunday

Sermon Title: *What God Really Wants*

Scripture: Micah 6:1–8; Matthew 23:23–28

— Sunday, October 11th —

Sermon Title: *Invited, but Changed?*

Scripture: Psalm 106:1–6, 19–23; Matthew 22:1–14

— Sunday, October 18th —

Sermon Title: *If You Don't Go With Us*

Scripture: Exodus 33:12–23; John 14:15–23

— Sunday, October 25th —

Reformation Sunday

Sermon Title: *Back to the Heart of Faith*

Scripture: Psalm 90:1–6, 13–17; Matthew 22:34–46





Wellness Page

MAKE WALKING MUCH EASIER

Walking is fabulous exercise. But if you have balance problems or a chronic health condition, or you were injured recently or had surgery, it can also be daunting. Depending on your physical abilities and the activities you want to do, there are plenty of ways to make walking easier and safer.

- 1) **WEAR THE RIGHT SHOES.** Instead of flip-flops or other footwear that lacks support, opt for shoes with a sturdy base, a closed back, and nonslip soles with deep treads.
- 2) **SEE AND BE SEEN.** Take walks during full daylight whenever possible so that you can see any obstacles or trip hazards and drivers can see you. Wear bright, light-colored, or reflective clothing to maximize your visibility. Avoid looking at your cell phone while you walk, especially when you're crossing the street.
- 3) **BUILD UP YOUR BALANCE.** You can improve your walking ability by doing exercises that increase strength, endurance, and flexibility. Walking itself can help—practice makes perfect, after all - but other types of physical activity have benefits, too, such as yoga, dancing, and strength training. Consider finding a tai chi class. Studies have shown that regularly practicing it can help to reduce your likelihood of falling.
- 4) **TRY WALKING POLES.** For more vigorous walking or hiking, walking poles can increase stability and balance.
- 5) **CONSIDER YOUR POSTURE.** Keep your spine upright and neutral, with your shoulders back and relaxed. Look ahead most of the time (rather than at your feet), which reduces neck strain and improves balance. Step so that your heel strikes the ground first and you roll through your foot to push off with your toes.
- 6) **GET SOME EXTRA SUPPORT.** For additional help with stability, consider a cane, rollator, or walker.

NAR-ANON CORNER

From Despair to Hope

In Nar-Anon, we learn how to deal with the addicts and their behaviors in our lives. We came to Nar-Anon because our lives had become unmanageable. Despite how hard we tried, we could not control the effects of addiction on our loved ones. By focusing so much of our lives on dealing with the addict, we lost control of our own lives as well.

Through our meetings and the sharing of our experiences, we have learned that there is always hope, even when we are facing what may seem like hopeless situations caused by addiction. By practicing the Twelve Steps of the Nar-Anon program and learning from one another's experiences, we began to move from despair toward hope.

We learned that we could change ourselves and the way we think. By sharing our experiences and life situations in our meetings, we have continued to grow in positive ways and find ways to move beyond feelings of despair. Over time, we have learned to replace feelings of despair and frustration with greater feelings of peace and serenity.

“Pain nourishes courage. You can't be motivated if you've only had wonderful things happen to you.” — *Mary Tyler Moore*



THIRD SUNDAY PROGRAM

Dave Machelby
from
Cambria City Mission

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19th
at NOON



Coming Soon to First Presbyterian Church

43rd ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF THE NATIVITY

Fri., Sat., and Sun.

December 4, 5, & 6, 2026



If you, a family member, or friend from 1st Church has been admitted to the hospital and would like a visit, be sure to contact Rev. Danielle, Pat Betts or Caroline in the church office. The lines of communication are not always open between the hospital and spiritual care visitors, and we don't want to miss anyone.



CELEBRATING OUR MEMBERS

Membership Anniversaries

We would like to recognize the following active members who are celebrating membership anniversaries in the month of October:

75 years	-	Ken Cruse
63 years	-	Agnes Gindlesperger
62 years	-	David Belz
56 years	-	Audrey Carbaugh
56 years	-	Georgia Cherry
50 years	-	Elaine Mostoller
50 years	-	George Mostoller
49 years	-	Faye Huber
38 years	-	Stacey Cruse
29 years	-	Marlene Eisenhauer

Happy Anniversary! We are blessed to have each of you in our church family.





A Family of Prayer

Acts tells us about a man named Cornelius. He was a Roman soldier who worshiped God and prayed with his family. God used Cornelius to help Peter learn an important truth: God welcomes everyone who loves Him and does what is right.

Solve the math problems using the grid.
Then use the key to find the letter for each
answer. Write each letter on the blank to
discover what Cornelius and his family did.

GRID

A	B
2	4
C	D
6	5

KEY

a = 7 e = 8
i = 10 o = 9
u = 11 y = 6

"He nd ll h s f m l
A+C A+D A+D B+C A+D B+C A+B

w r d v t nd
A+C A+C A+C B+D C+D A+D

G d-f r ng; h g v
B+D A+C A+D B+C A+C A+D A+C

g n r sl t th s n
A+C A+C B+D C+D A+B B+D B+D A+C B+C

n d nd pr y d t G d
A+C A+C A+D A+D A+B A+C B+D

r g l rl ." cts 10:2, NIV
A+C C+D A+D A+B A+D

Bread Painting



When you eat this fun snack,
be thankful for Jesus,
who is our Bread of Life.

What you need:

- Small cups
- Milk
- Food coloring
- Clean, food-safe brush
- Slice of bread
- Toaster or toaster oven
- Butter, optional



What you do:

1. Set out one small cup for each color you want to use.
2. Pour 1 to 2 tablespoons of milk into each cup.
3. Add a few drops of food coloring to each cup and stir until the color is bright.
4. Using a clean, food-safe brush, gently paint a picture or design on the bread. Be careful not to soak the bread.
5. When you're finished painting, toast the bread. Add a little butter, if desired, and enjoy!



Reminder:

Ask an adult for help
when using a toaster
or toaster oven.

"I am the
bread of life."
John 6:35, NIV

Share some
laughs - or
boooos
- with these
Halloween
jokes:



1. Why did the monster's mother knit him three socks for Halloween?
— She heard he grew another foot!
2. What does a ghost panda eat? — Bam-BOO
3. Why didn't the zombie go to school? — He felt rotten!
4. What do you say when you meet a two-headed monster? —Hello, hello.
5. What is a vampire's favorite ice cream flavor? —Vein-illa
6. Which monster plays tricks on Halloween?
—Prank-enstein
7. How do you know when a ghost is sad? — He starts boo-hooing.
8. What does a turkey dress up as for Halloween? —A goblin'!
9. What do you call a pumpkin that's good at sports?
—A jock-o'-lantern.



OCTOBER

12

2026

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

13

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 Sunday Sch. 9:30 Worship 10:45 World Communion Sunday Deacon's Meeting 	5 Open Door 10 am — Noon 6:30 pm Nar-Anon	6 Bible Study 10:30	7 Open Door 10 am — Noon Session 6:00 PM	8	9	10
11 Sunday Sch. 9:30 Worship 10:45 Caring Committee after worship 1:00 PM Genevens TBD Johnstown Concert Series 3pm	12 Open Door 10 am — Noon 6:30 pm Nar-Anon	13 Bible Study 10:30	14 Open Door 10 am — Noon	15	16	17
18 Sunday Sch. 9:30 Worship 10:45 3rd Sunday Program & Lunch 12pm	19 Open Door 10 am — Noon 6:30 pm Nar-Anon	20 Bible Study 10:30	21 Open Door 10 am — Noon	22	23	24
25 Sunday Sch. 9:30 Worship 10:45 CONGREGATIONAL MEETING Reformation Sunday	26 Open Door 10 am — Noon Women's Assoc. 1:00 PM	27 Bible Study 10:30	28 Open Door 10 am — Noon	29	30	31 Reformation Day 



- 1 Brittany Fockler
- 2 Ken Cruse
- 5 Anna Marie Hanley
- 5 Zora Kresak
- 11 Roni Wilson Burley
- 12 Naomi Wilson
- 13 Jonah Cramer
- 14 Luther Flores
- 16 Gary Mapes
- 18 Darlene Geist
- 18 Marlene James
- 20 Gabriel Haughie
- 22 George Kresak
- 23 Alonzo Favor
- 24 Troy Carbaugh
- 25 Jennifer Haughie
- 26 Jim Farrer
- 27 Josiah Hanley

Celebrating
-WITH-
you



**Tom & Charnet
Koch**

49 years on
October 22nd

**Leslie & Randy
Freenock**

35 years on
October 26th



*There is no more lovely,
friendly and charming
relationship, communion
or company than a good
marriage.*

-Martin Luther

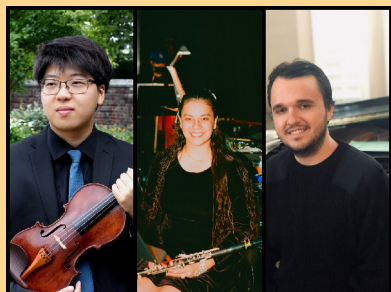


Festival of the Nativity

Luminary Sponsorships



It's time to start thinking about our annual Festival of the Nativity! This year's Festival will be held December 4, 5, & 6. We will again be offering luminary sponsorships honoring or remembering loved ones. We do this each year. Labels are placed on the top of each luminary showing those being honored/remembered. Each year is a fresh start. All funds raised go toward expenses incurred by the Festival Committee. The cost to sponsor a luminary is \$7 each or 3 for \$20. All sponsorships are due in the office no later than November 22, 2025. Please make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church and mark "Luminary" on the memo line. There are 144 Luminaries available for sponsorship. Please see the order form on the inside back cover (page 23). Thank you!



JOHNSTOWN CONCERT SERIES

— TRILLIUM TRIO —

Sunday, October 11th at 3:00PM

October brings an exciting new chamber ensemble to Johnstown as the **Trillium Trio** makes its Concert Series debut. Named after the beautiful three-petaled wildflower native to western Pennsylvania, the trio was formed at Carnegie Mellon University in the fall of 2025 and has already established itself as one of Pittsburgh's most promising young chamber ensembles.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING



The Session has called a Congregational Meeting for **Sunday, October 25th**, immediately following worship, for the purpose of electing officers. The last day to submit names for Elders & Deacons positions will be Sunday, October 4th.

**We will receive the
Sacrament of the Lord's
Supper on World
Communion Sunday,
October 4th. All who trust in
Jesus Christ as Lord and
Savior are invited to
partake.**



The Deacons are planning a take-out spaghetti sale for mid- to late- October. Look for updates in the ENews and bulletin announcements. Thanks!

The Genvens have resumed meetings the second Sunday of each month. Please watch the bulletin and ENews for info on our next get-together.

Pastor Appreciation Month



**FOOD PANTRY
 ITEMS ARE
 COLLECTED
 EVERY SUNDAY!
 THANK YOU!!**



OUR STEWARDSHIP

GIVING IN AUGUST

		YTD
Member Giving	5503	34408
Major Repair Fund	60	601
Organ Fund	15	115
Loose Offering	290	3844
Special Offerings	0	400
First Fruits	0	1131
Total Giving	5868	40499



Stewardship REPORT

ATTENDANCE

Aug 02	-	40
Aug 09	-	26
Aug 16	-	22
Aug 23	-	30
Aug 30	-	23

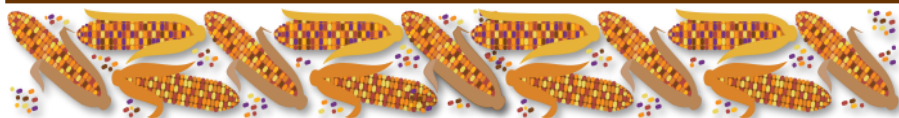


**Happy 95th
Birthday
KEN CRUSE
October 2**



+Christian Symbol+ **LAMP**

In Bible times, lamps were small but essential sources of light, especially during the dark hours of night. Scripture often uses the image of a lamp to represent God's guidance, truth and wisdom. Psalm 119:105 says, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path," reminding believers that God's Word directs each step of life. Jesus' parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids also connects the lamp with wisdom and spiritual readiness (Matthew 25:1-13). In addition, the lamp is sometimes used to symbolize the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and the gift of life itself. Because of these meanings, the lamp has become a lasting symbol of God's guidance, faithful living and the light of Christ shining in the darkness.



?? ? Bible Quiz ? ?

**BLESS
THE LORD,
O MY
SOUL**
P S A L M 103

Psalm 103 (ESV) begins:

"Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name!
Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all his _____."

What should we "not forget"?

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| A. goodness | C. gifts |
| B. kindness | D. benefits |



Session Highlights – September 2026

- Membership at 76
- New dehumidifier was purchased for basement to help alleviate dampness.
- Member giving continues to be below budget with operating expenses above budget projections, due to utilities.
- Due to the age and condition of the roof, the property committee is considering bids for roof replacement. The cost will be considerable.
- The Open Door Free Store will be open on Mondays and Wednesdays, from 10-noon.
- Volunteers, with clearances, are being sought to lead a children's Sunday School class to be held following the Time with Children, during the worship service.
- Approved participation with Westmont Presbyterian's confirmation class for any youth from First that are interested.

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

-Romans 8:28



Special Dates

- **Pastor Appreciation Month**
- **World Communion Sunday, October 4, 2026**
- **Pastor/Clergy Appreciation Sunday, October 11, 2026**
- **Columbus Day, October 12, 2026**
- **Indigenous Peoples Day, October 12, 2026**
- **Canadian Thanksgiving, October 12, 2026**
- **Reformation Sunday, October 25, 2026**
- **Reformation Day, October 31, 2026**



Excerpts from Ayres Presser Law, Congratulating Attorney Timothy M. Ayres on his Retirement

Please join us in congratulating Attorney Timothy M. Ayres on his retirement and thanking him for more than 40 years of extraordinary service.

Since 1982, Tim has dedicated his career to serving individuals and families throughout Johnstown and the surrounding communities. Over the years, he has guided generations of clients through some of life's most important—and often most difficult—decisions.

.... His compassion for older adults, his commitment to families, and his belief in treating every person with dignity have created a legacy that will continue for many years to come.

.... We are deeply grateful for everything Tim has given to his clients, the firm, and our community. We wish him many wonderful days ahead filled with family, grandchildren, golf, good books on the porch, historical conversations, and all the things he enjoys most.

Congratulations, Tim. Your influence will always be part of this firm, and you will always be part of our family.

With our deepest gratitude and warmest wishes,
Ayres Presser Elder Law.

Prayer Concerns

Rene Bacon (Gindlesperger)
David Barrett (B. Thiel)
Joshua Barczak (Betts)
The Don Bash Family
Bonnie Bash
Judy Bash
Dave & Dorothy Belz
Sherri Bennett (Mapes)
Chuck Benson
Robin Bergeron (Cruse)
Deb Bickel
Michelle & Heith Bragg
Friends of Janet Clark
Roy & Delores Collins (Benson)
Family of Mary Cruse
Family of John Davis
George Demchak & Family
 (Koch)
Marlene Eisenhauer
Family of "Ike" Eisenhuth
A. Scott Eisenhuth
Ashlee Fecko (Koch)
Family of Richard Feller
Diane Flemming (Gerlach)
Robert Flemming (Gerlach)
Nina Foster (Foster)
Randy & Leslie Freenock
Tim G.
Dave & Marilyn Gehlman
Joyce Gerlach
Roy & Agnes Gindlesperger
Jacob Gram (Gerlach)
Rod & Sonya Horner
Faye Huber
Marlene James
Bobbie Jean Klimek Family
Donna Kay
Tom Koch & Family
Tim & Ceara Kranz (Williams)
Ava & Dylan Kresak

Family of Mark Kresak
Family of Peg Lambert
Walt Leitenberger
 (Gindlesperger)
John Markley (Markley)
Bill & Bobbi Markley (Bragg)
John McClure (Kendig)
Family of Connie Meyers
Nancy Miller (Benson)
Serena Miller (Clark)
Family of George Moehler
Ron & Brenda Noon
Tom Osterbloom (Gindlesperger)
Annie Pearce
Sue Porsch
Pat Ripple
Tina Risbon
Kent Roach
Sheila Rogerson (B. Thiel)
Debbie Rummel
John & Judy Sierocky (Foster)
Family of Michelle Smith
J. Andrew Smith (Gindlesperger)
Josh Sokira (Sokira)
Robby Sokira, Jr. (Sokira)
Rev. Doug Stevens
Owen Szanto (Gindlesperger)
Zowalla Thiel
Trista Wagner
Susan Weaver (B. Thiel)
Cynthia Weimer (Weaver)
Lynne & Bill Williams
Sharon Yoder (Bash)
Yost Family

Serving in the Military

Luther Flores
Richard Kovach





Luminaries

We are actively planning and preparing for our 43rd Annual Festival of the Nativity and invite you to sponsor a luminary in memory or honor of a loved one. Sponsorship is \$7 per luminary or 3 for \$20. All funds

raised go toward Festival expenses. Each luminary will be labeled with your name and the name of your loved one. Please complete the form and submit it to the church office with your check payable to First Presbyterian Church. Thank you for your generous support!

Name of Sponsor(s)

1) In Memory/Honor of:

(circle one)

2) In Memory/Honor of:

(circle one)

3) In Memory/Honor of:

(circle one)

Quantity ordered _____

Total Enclosed _____

Please return to the office no later than Nov. 25, 2026

**First Presbyterian Church
309 Lincoln Street
Johnstown, PA 15901**



GOD'S BLESSINGS TO: