

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.

World Communion Sunday

October 4, 2026 Rev. Danielle Kendig, *Minister* • Pat Betts, *Liturgist* 10:45 A.M.

THE PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP On this World Communion Sunday, we join with Christians around the world in sharing the Lord's Supper. We warmly welcome all who have gathered for worship and encourage everyone to greet one another with the love of Christ. 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 "One Bread, One Body"

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 86:9–12 and Micah 6:8

Leader: People of God, from every nation and language, we are gathered by grace.

People: We come as one body, belonging to Christ.

Leader: God has shown us what is good:

People: To do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God.

Leader: Christ calls us to lives shaped by mercy, faithfulness, and love.

People: At one Table, through one Savior, we are made one.

Leader: Let us worship the God who gathers us, feeds us, and sends us into the world.

***THE OPENING PRAYER** Micah 6:8 and Ephesians 4:4–6

God of every nation and every people, you gather your children from every corner of the earth and make us one in Christ. As we worship you today, remind us that our unity is not built upon sameness, but upon your grace. Open our hearts to your Word, shape us by your mercy, and teach us again to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you. As we gather around Christ's Table with sisters and brothers throughout the world, make us one in love, one in purpose, and one in hope. In Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

***THE OPENING HYMN #220** "All People That on Earth Do Dwell"

***THE CALL TO CONFESSION**

***THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION** Micah 6:6–8 and Matthew 23:23–288

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

Merciful God, you have shown us what is good, yet we confess that we often choose what is easier. We speak of justice while ignoring suffering. We receive your mercy while struggling to extend mercy to others. We say that we belong to one body in Christ, yet we allow differences, divisions, and fear to separate us. Forgive us when our worship remains only words and does not shape the way we live. Forgive us when appearances matter more to us than faithfulness, and when we neglect justice, mercy, humility, and love. By your grace, turn our hearts again toward you. Teach us to walk humbly, love generously, serve faithfully, and become the people you call us to be. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

***THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON** Romans 8:1 and Colossians 1:13–14

Leader: Hear the good news: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, restored, and welcomed again into the family of God. Christ's grace is greater than our failures, and God's mercy makes all things new. 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** Ephesians 2:13–18

Leader: Christ is our peace. In him, the walls that divide us are broken down, and we are made members of one household of God. As sisters and brothers in Christ, let us share signs of the peace that binds God's people together throughout the world. The peace of Christ be with each one of you.

People: And also with you.

A TIME WITH CHILDREN

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING Micah 6:1–8 Pg. #820

THE NEW TESTAMENT READING Matthew 23:23–28 Pg. #24

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

"THE MESSAGE "What God Really Wants" **Rev. Danielle Kendig, Minister**

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

***THE HYMN OF RESPONSE #427** "Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service"

***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 “Lift Every Voice and Sing”

THE DEACONS OFFERING

***THE DOXOLOGY #592 & PRAYER OF DEDICATION** Micah 6:8 and 1 Corinthians 10:31

Gracious God, receive these gifts and receive our lives. Use what we offer to bring hope where there is despair, justice where there is inequality, mercy where there is suffering, and love where there is division. As you have blessed us, make us a blessing to your world. Teach us to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you in all that we say and do. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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 (see insert) “Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”**

***THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***THE POSTLUDE “Come, Christians, Join to Sing”**

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.

+++++

THIS WEEK’S EVENTS

TODAY	after worship	DEACONS MEETING
MONDAY	10 AM-12 PM	THE OPEN DOOR
	6:30 PM	NAR-ANON
TUESDAY	10:30 AM	BIBLE STUDY
WEDNESDAY	10 AM-12 PM	THE OPEN DOOR
	6:00 PM	SESSION

NEXT SUNDAY

9:30 AM	SUNDAY SCHOOL
10:45 AM	WORSHIP
after worship	CARING COMMITTEE
1:00 PM	GENEVENS location TBD
3:00 PM	Johnstown Concert Series
	- Trillium Trio

PRAYER FAMILIES OF THE WEEK: Kay, Markley

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.**

FOCUS ON PRAYERS Prepare our hearts, O Lord, as we come to your table. Help us remember the sacrifice of Christ, receive your grace with gratitude and live as one body in your love. Amen

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.

TODAY IS THE LAST DAY for nominations to the Class of 2029 Elders and Deacons. Ballots and ballot boxes are located by the Lincoln Street entrance and in the Narthex.

THANK YOU to Pat Betts for serving as liturgist today.

THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE this morning is dedicated by Pam Kimmel in loving memory of her mom, Nellie Grasser.

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 FPC. 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.

SESSION MEMBERS: The next Session Meeting is this Wednesday, October 7th at 6:00 PM. If you haven't done so already, please turn in your reports to the office.

"GOD WILL PROVIDE, BUT NOT ALWAYS WHAT WE EXPECT"

"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

CCLI licensing: Church Copyright License® 11062366 / Streaming License™ CSPL198021
CCS PERFORMmusic License 22698288