

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.

Reformation Sunday

October 25, 2026 Rev. Danielle Kendig, *Minister* • Joyce Gerlach, *Liturgist* 10:45 A.M.

THE PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP Today is Reformation Sunday, a day to remember with gratitude those who called the church back to God's Word and the good news of salvation through faith in Christ. We rejoice in the freedom, grace and hope we have in Jesus and welcome all who have gathered to worship Him. 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

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 90:1–2; Matthew 22:37–39

Leader: Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

People: **Before the mountains were brought forth, from everlasting to everlasting, you are God.**

Leader: Jesus calls us back to the heart of faith:

People: **To love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, and mind.**

Leader: And to love our neighbors as ourselves.

People: **This is the way of Christ and the calling of the Church.**

Leader: Come, people of God, let us worship the One who has guided the Church through every generation.

All: **Let us worship God!**

*THE OPENING PRAYER Psalm 90:1–2, 16–17; Romans 12:2

Everlasting God, you have been the dwelling place of your people from generation to generation. Churches change, traditions grow, and seasons come and go, but you remain faithful. As we worship you on this Reformation Sunday, draw us again to the heart of the gospel. Reform what has become distorted, renew what has grown weary, and restore in us a deep love for you and for our neighbors. Establish the work of our hands so that everything we do may serve the purposes of Christ and bear witness to your grace. Amen.

***THE OPENING HYMN #442 “The Church’s One Foundation”**

***THE CALL TO CONFESSION**

***THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION** Matthew 22:34–40; Romans 3:23–24

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

Gracious God, you call us to love you with all that we are and to love our neighbors as ourselves, yet we confess that our love is often divided. We become attached to our preferences, comfortable with familiar ways, and resistant to the places where you are calling us to change. We sometimes protect traditions more carefully than we practice compassion. We speak about faith while neglecting justice, mercy, and love. Forgive us when we confuse our ways with your ways. Reform our hearts, renew our minds, and return us again to Jesus Christ, the center of our faith. Teach us to love boldly, serve faithfully, and follow humbly wherever you lead. Amen.

***THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON** Romans 5:1–2; Ephesians 2:8–9

Leader: Hear the good news: we are not saved by our perfection, our accomplishments, or our ability to get everything right. By grace, through faith, we are forgiven and made new in Jesus Christ. 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** Ephesians 2:14; John 13:34–35

Leader: Christ is our peace, and Christ calls us to love one another as he has loved us. As members of one body, let us share signs of Christ’s peace. 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 Psalm 90:1–6, 13–17 Pg. #525

THE GOSPEL READING Matthew 22:34–46 Pg. #23

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

“THE MESSAGE “Back to the Heart of Faith”

Rev. Danielle Kendig, Minister

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

***THE HYMN OF RESPONSE #466 “O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”**

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

THE OFFERTORY

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

Psalm 90:17; Matthew 22:37–39

Faithful God, receive these gifts and use them for the work of your kingdom. Establish the work of our hands and shape the work of your Church. May everything we offer reflect our love for you and become an expression of love for our neighbors. Continue to renew and reform us so that, in every generation, we may faithfully proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ. 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 #379 “My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less”**

***THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***THE POSTLUDE**

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	CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
	after meeting	DEACONS
MONDAY	1:00 PM	WOMEN’S ASSOCIATION
	6:30 PM	NAR-ANON
	10 AM - 12 PM	THE OPEN DOOR
TUESDAY	10:30 AM	BIBLE STUDY
WEDNESDAY	10 AM - 12 PM	THE OPEN DOOR
NEXT SUNDAY	9:30 AM	SUNDAY SCHOOL
	10:45 AM	WORSHIP - All Saints' Day & New Member Sunday

PRAYER FAMILIES OF THE WEEK: Hull, Kolesar

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.

FOCUS ON PRAYERS On Reformation Sunday, we pray that our church and our lives may be always open to the movement of the Holy Spirit.

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.

THANK YOU to Gary Mapes for serving as liturgist today.

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.

THE SESSION HAS CALLED A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING immediately after the worship service **today, October 25th**, to elect Elders and Deacons to the Class of 2029. Please plan to attend the congregational meeting.

“FORGIVENESS IS THE KEY TO CONTENTMENT”
“ROTO REVIEW” (Reach Out To Others)

Pastor: Rev. Danielle Kendig, MDiv
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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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