

# *First Presbyterian Church*



## **OUR MISSION STATEMENT**

We live and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ through worship, service, and witness. As a Christ-centered church empowered by the Holy Spirit, we seek God's plan for each of us and all of us. We welcome everyone to journey with us as we strive to grow in love, faith, trust, and discipleship.

(Adopted October 10, 1998; revised February 2, 2013)

# First Presbyterian Church

September 4, 2022 – 13th Sunday after Pentecost

\*You are invited to stand if able\*

Items in **bold** are congregational response

Personal Prayer of Preparation:

*We find it easy to say we will follow you. But sometimes discipleship makes uncomfortable demands on us. In all of this, Christ calls us continually to follow. Help us to hear your call once again. Help us to open our hearts to your will and ways. AMEN.*

## – ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME –

PRELUDE

“In the Garden”

WELCOME

Pastor

THE WORK OF THE CHURCH, ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Pastor

INTROIT

“I Will Serve Thee”

CALL TO WORSHIP (Jeremiah 18, Psalm 139)

Led by Liturgist

Leader: We come with praise for the wonderful works of God.

**People: Even before we speak, God knows us completely.**

Leader: The Holy One knows us and sustains us,  
even in our moments of confusion and doubt.

**People: Who can count the thoughts of God?  
They are more than all the sands of the desert.**

Leader: Like clay in the hand of the potter,  
we are shaped into vessels of divine will.

**People: We come with praise for the wonderful works of God.**

**OPENING PRAYER** (Jeremiah 18, Psalm 139)

Liturgist

Boundless Shaper of people and nations, you are beyond our knowing, yet closer to us than our every breath. You are before us and behind us, surrounding us with your love, and fashioning all of creation in the secret depths of your heart. With every thought, with every song, and with every prayer, turn these fragile, earthen vessels of our lives into the Spirit-filled body of Christ. Amen.

**\*HYMN:**

**“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”**

**Blue 464**

**\*CALL TO CONFESSION**

Pastor

The Creator seeks to shape and form us into the image of God, yet we balk and resist God’s call and work within. Let us turn again to God and submit to God’s loving and transforming hands.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (Psalm 139, Philemon, Luke 14)

**God of our lives, you search us and know us. We often refuse to take up your cross, to bear the burdens that are ours to carry. We have not given up our attachments to possessions or to self. We have not counted the cost of walking into an unknown future with you. Help us turn away from evil, that we may walk with you once more.**

*Silence is kept*

**\* SILENT CONFESSION**

**\*KYRIE:    *Lord have mercy upon us;  
              Christ have mercy upon us;  
              Lord have mercy upon us***

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Pastor

The Holy One rejoices in our repentance, reshaping us into vessels of love and service. In the grace-filled love of Christ, we are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**\*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. Amen.***

**\* SHARING THE PEACE:** (Social Distancing)

May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

Let us show one another a sign of God’s peace.

– PROCLAIM THE WORD OF GOD –

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**(Jeremiah 18, Psalm 139) Led by Liturgist  
Holy Shaper of life and grace, we give you thanks for the crosses that  
are ours to bear and for the strength to carry them. Lead us into a  
deeper understanding of your ways, that we may know and do your will.  
Help us follow the path of Jesus, who shows us the way. Amen.

Responsive Psalm: Psalm 139:1-6,17-18

Leader: O Lord, you have searched me and known me.

**People: You know when I sit down and when I rise up;  
you discern my thoughts from far away.**

Leader: You search out my path and my lying down  
and are acquainted with all my ways.

**People: Even before a word is on my tongue,  
O Lord, you know it completely.**

Leader: You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

**People: Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;  
it is so high that I cannot attain it.**

Leader: How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!  
How vast is the sum of them!

**People: I try to count them—they are more than the sand;  
I come to the end—I am still with you.**

OLD TESTAMENT: Jeremiah 18:1-11 Liturgist  
This is the Word of Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL: Luke 14:25-33 Pastor  
This is the Word of Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON: “Look Before You Leap” Pastor

**\*HYMN “Lift High the Cross” Blue 371**

## **Affirmation of Faith: Apostles Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and 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.**

## **INVITATION TO STEWARDSHIP**

Liturgist

What we give today is a symbol of our fuller devotion of all we have and all we are toward the realization of God's reign among us. Let us offer ourselves to God.

*The offering plates are located at the front of the Chancel, or you can drop your offerings and tithes in the mail slot of the Parish House door. Thank you for your support of the mission of First Presbyterian Church.*

OFFERTORY:                "Give of Your Best to the Master"

## **\* DOXOLOGY:**

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.***

***Praise God, all creatures here below.***

***Praise God, above ye heavenly host.***

***Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen***

## **PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Luke 14) Led by Liturgist**

**With these gifts, we lay down all that we have and all that we are and take up the cross with Jesus. Lead us in this costly venture of spreading love through your word into this world. Amen.**

## **ANTHEM**

**"Jesus Spreads His Banner O'er Us"  
Bobbi Jo Huebner**

## GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

May the God who is present be with you!

**And also with you.**

People of God, lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the One who reshapes them by grace.**

People of God, give thanks to the Lord our God.

**We praise the One who has shaped us for love and service.**

With joy we praise you, Creating God. . . . singing to your glory:

**Holy, holy, holy are you, God who watches over us.**

**All creation trusts in your grace and hope.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is the One who comes to save us.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

Holy are you, Redeeming God, . . .

## PRAYERS 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 debts,  
as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory, now and forever. Amen**

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

**Day by Day, dear Lord, of Thee three things we pray:  
to see Thee more clearly, love Thee more dearly,  
follow Thee more nearly, day by day.**

So, as we come to the Table of grace and hope,  
we remember that mystery we call faith:

**Christ died, having counted the cost.**

**Christ was raised, setting the foundation of resurrection in place.**

**Christ will come, refreshing our hearts for all eternity.**

Lord Jesus, . . . do this in remembrance of me.

Every time we eat this bread, every time we drink this cup,  
we proclaim the death of the Lord, until he comes.  
Until He comes.

Spirit of the Living God, . . . Holy in One. Amen.

## SHARING THE MEAL

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

As your people, O God, through the grace given us at this table, help us to be bring light into the shadows, to invite strangers and those estranged into our hearts, to set the table for everyone. As those gifted by the Spirit, help us be ready to choose love and to share that love with all whom you bring near. Amen.

**\*HYMN:**                    **“Give of Your Best to the Master”**                    **Red 516**

### COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Pastor

**Leader:**     God welcomes your partnership in the gospel;  
                  accept the cross of Christ and carry it.

**People:**     **We have considered the cost of discipleship.**  
                  **We are willing and eager to pay the price.**

**Leader:**     God expects to hold first place in our lives and  
                  to put everything we own on the line of faithfulness.

**People:**     **We want to be obedient to the law of love.**  
                  **We want to show God’s love in all we do.**

### \*BENEDICTION

### \*THREEFOLD AMEN

### \*POSTLUDE

– GO OUT TO SHARE THE WORD OF GOD –

The chancel flowers are given to the Glory of God and in honor of Bill & Eileen Kunca's 54<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on September 7<sup>th</sup>.

The flowers on the piano are given to the glory of God and in memory of Don and Betty Waugaman's anniversary given by BJ Thomas.

### **Those Serving Among Us Today**

Liturgist today is Bobbi Jo Huebner.

Greeter today was Carol Tragesser.

### **Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Sept. 4- Tessa Rodriguez<br>Sept. 6- Sam Zeli  | Sept. 13- Robert Fox<br>Sept. 15- Susan Lape<br>Sept. 17- Kathy Bevan |
| Sept. 7- Bill & Eileen Kunca<br>Sept. 13- Duane & Kay Nelson<br>Sept. 15- Scott & Janice Jupin<br>Sept. 17- Bob & Sharon Roskovich |   |

### **THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN:**

**TODAY:** Worship at 10 am; Communion

**MONDAY:** Labor Day; Office Closed

**TUESDAY:** Bible Study at 2 pm; Dart ball practice at 6 pm

**WEDNESDAY:** Homeless Bag Project 9 am to 1 pm

**FRIDAY:** Chicken Pie Making; Pie Pick up is between 4-6 pm

**NEXT SUNDAY:** Worship at 10 am; Church Picnic following worship

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**OFFERINGS:** Thank you for your faithful support of the church and its ministries. The offering plates are located on the windowsills at the front.

**CHURCH PICNIC:** Our annual church picnic will be here next Sunday on church lawn following worship. Mark your calendars and plan to bring a covered dish to share.

**COMMUNION OFFERING:** Today's communion offering will go to the North Belle Vernon Police Department. The mission of the NBV Police Department is to provide quality police services and proactive safety leadership to the citizens and visitors of North Belle Vernon. Please mark your offering clearly or use the provided envelope.

**ONLINE GIVING:** Want to support FPC? Scan this QR code with your mobile device to access the system.

To make a onetime gift or to sign up for our online giving program, scan this QR code with your mobile device. All donations are processed through the Presbyterian Foundation and VANCO giving services and is secure and protected.



**HOAGIES:** Emma Burkley is taking orders for fresh hoagies and pizza for the high school band. The order form is at the front of the church.

**STUFF THE BUS:** The Bag Brigade will have a kickoff event / food drive on September 11<sup>th</sup> from 3-6 pm at Fells Church. Things needed for the kids throughout the year are cereal, cookies, chips, pop tarts, juice boxes, pudding cups, soup, crackers, etc. as well as personal care items such as soap, shampoo and toothpaste. You may bring your items to the church picnic.

**CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING:** All members and those interested in membership are urged to attend worship on Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup>. The worship service will be abbreviated to allow time for a called congregational meeting to discuss and answer questions regarding church finances and recent purchases. Session will meet afterward.

**BLANKETS FOR UKRAINE:** Lori Lamberski is coordinating a blanket drive to help the Ukrainians survive the winter. They need: Blankets that are new or used, sleeping bags, hats, gloves, bed mats, and warm socks. If you prefer and would like to make a monetary donation to help with the shipping cost, you can email Rebecca at [Rebecca.c.barry@gmail.com](mailto:Rebecca.c.barry@gmail.com). All donations need to be received by September 15<sup>th</sup>. Rebecca is the daughter of Mary Minderline and of the vendors at our recent show. Rebecca's husband is stationed in Ukraine.

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Communion Liturgy courtesy of Thom Shuman, Lectionary Liturgies

## PRAYER LIST

Please remember the following people in your thoughts and prayers.  
Please call the office with prayer needs, updates, and questions or e-mail  
the church at [office@fpresbv.org](mailto:office@fpresbv.org).

† John & Marlene Amoroso † Kaiden Bane † Brian Barkby †  
Nuncio Battista † Bill Behrens † Mary Lou Berish † Nadine Brewer †  
Garret Brigs † Frank Britton † Kathy Buckalew † Angel Burnsworth †  
Joe Burnsworth † Colin † Sally Callaway † Sally Campbell † Frank  
Caristo † Jim Caristo † Milana (Berish) Cerniga † Michael Colla †  
Lou Comadina † Glenn Crownover † Dorothy Dodroskey † Carol  
Driver † Sandy Elder † MaryAnn Falk † Norm Floyd † Howard  
Forsyth † Ed Friedenberger † Carol Gillon † Patti Huyck † Diane  
Johnston † Zoey Johnson † Earlene Kalakewich † Janet † June  
Kefover † Donna Kearns † Cameron Kennedy † Robert Korff †  
Irene Leyda † Mike Lemley † J.T. Mateka † Taylor McGee †  
Bruce Merritt † Dean Migliori † Mrs. Munsen † Lynette Murray † Tim  
and Melissa Nagelreiter † Mary Caroline Nicholas † Bob Palfrey †  
Dick Palfrey † June Palfrey † Nora Pelezar † Darlene Perrotta †  
Helen Pulgina † Dennis Raymer † Dorothy Rogers † Gordon  
Rutherford † Clare Sartori † Sandy Seeley † Alina Shaw † Linda  
Shuler † Chris Sicora † Toi Smith † Walter Smith † Gianna Smoyer  
† Ruth Ann Spark † Loretta Sterner † Laura Stopka † Patty  
Strychalski † Neville Vasko † Leroy Walters † Sandy Walters †  
Joseph Waywood † Yauger Family † Barb Zucconi † Kim Zunic †

**Pray for the safety and protection of  
First Responders (police, fire, EMTS),  
Military Personnel, Medical Personnel, and those affected by  
senseless violence and war.**

*( If you have a prayer concern or to update the list,  
please call the office at 724-929-7616 or fill out a prayer card and place in  
the offering plate)*



# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

501 Fayette Avenue, Rostraver Twp., PA 15012

**Church Offices:** 511 Fayette Avenue

**Office Hours:** M - F: 9:00 to 1:00

**Church Phone:** 724- 929-7616

**Fax and Fellowship Hall Phone:** 724-929-0209

**Pastor's Cell Phone:** 724-243-2871

**Web:** [www.fpresbv.org](http://www.fpresbv.org) **e-mail:** [office@fpresbv.org](mailto:office@fpresbv.org)

|                             |                |          |
|-----------------------------|----------------|----------|
| <b>Pastor:</b>              | Mary Kay Glunt | 243-2871 |
| <b>Clerk of Session:</b>    | Sharon Zunic   | 929-4463 |
| <b>Church Secretary:</b>    | Natalie Brewer | 929-7616 |
| <b>Chairman of Deacons:</b> | Susan Aten     | 929-6406 |
| <b>Head Usher:</b>          | Bill Callaway  | 929-5176 |
| <b>Custodian:</b>           | Patty Gillon   | 929-7616 |
| <b>H. O. A:</b>             | Linda Aten     | 929-6406 |

## ELDER S

### **Class of 2022**

Natalie Brewer  
Dee Hepple  
Mike Moravec  
Judy Latchem

### **Class of 2023**

Sharon Zunic  
Jane Bonari  
Mary Beth Burkley

### **Class of 2024**

BJ Thomas  
Lori Lamberski  
Carol Tragesser  
David Burdis

## DEACONS

### **Class of 2022**

Susan Aten  
Anne McCorkle  
Kerry McCorkle  
Barb Peters

### **Class of 2023**

Marguerite Patterson  
Dennis Peters  
Patty Gillon  
Eileen Kunca

### **Class of 2024**

Jessica Phillabaum  
Dave Neel