

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

April 23, 2023 – 3rd Sunday of Easter

You are invited to stand if able

Items in **bold** are congregational response

Personal Prayer of Preparation:

Dear Lord, you have so much to show us and to tell us—things that you have prepared for those you love. Mighty God, your promises are like shelter in a storm—to us and to our children, to all those far and near, to everyone who hears your call. O, that I might have the mind of Christ, that I may know and understand your truth. I wait as an empty vessel, ready to be filled to overflowing with your living water, as you reveal your love for us through Jesus Christ, in whose name I pray. Amen.

– ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME –

WELCOME	Pastor
ANNOUNCEMENTS	Liturgist
JOYS AND SORROWS	Pastor
CALL TO WORSHIP	Led by Liturgist
Leader: We have been walking, Lord,	
People: on roads of uncertainty and fear, on roads of exhaustion and doubt, on winding roads that have led us here.	
Leader: Join us on our journey, Lord.	
People: By your presence, refresh our spirits, set our hearts ablaze, and give us new direction.	

OPENING PRAYER

Liturgist

Lord, during this Easter season, we celebrate the triumph of life over death, the good news of Jesus, our risen Savior. You have ransomed us from our futility, not with gold or silver or perishable earthly goods, but with the precious blood of Christ himself. In Christ's resurrection, we are born anew with him—born of the immortal, born of the everlasting, born into a living hope. Fill us with all good gifts of your Holy Spirit, that we may share your love with boldness and power, with passion and conviction! In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

HYMN: "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms"

Red 87

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

Pastor

When we say, "we don't sin," we deny who we are. But when we say, "there's no way out," we deny who God is. Trusting that God's grace is more powerful than our sin, let us confess our sins together.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Jesus, Teacher, we confess today our foolishness. We have been foolish to doubt your promises. Foolish to withhold love from our neighbors. Foolish to chase riches, prestige, and power. Foolish to waste your gifts and spoil your creation. Foolish to divide your children from each other. Foolish to think hope is lost. Wise us up again. Open our hearts to your presence in our lives, in our neighbors, and in our world. In your grace, help us grab onto our millionth second chance and to forge a new road from here on. Amen.

*SILENT CONFESSION

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

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Hear the good news! New life is not only possible; it has drawn near to us in Jesus. The promise is for us, and for all the children of God.

**People: By the grace of God, the glory of Christ, and the gift of the Holy Spirit, we are forgiven and we are free!
Alleluia! 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:

May the peace be with you.

And also with you.

Let us greet one another a sign of God's peace.

– PROCLAIM THE WORD OF GOD –

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy Spirit, send your fire to dance across these familiar words, illuminating ancient stories, illuminating weary hearts. Set us ablaze again with the promises of the Holy Word, still proclaimed for us. Amen

RESPONSIVE PSALM: Psalm 116-1-4,12-19 Led by Liturgist

Leader: I love the Lord because he has heard my voice and my supplications.

**People: Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore
I will call on him as long as I live.**

Leader: The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish.

**People: Then I called on the name of the Lord,
“O Lord, I pray, save my life!”**

Leader: What shall I return to the Lord for all his bounty to me? I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord;

People: I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people. Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful ones.

Leader: O Lord, I am your servant; I am your servant, the child of your serving girl. You have loosed my bonds.

People: I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice and call on the name of the Lord.

Leader: I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people, in the courts of the house of the Lord, in your midst, O Jerusalem.

People: Praise the Lord!

SPECIAL MUSIC: “His Eye Is on the Shadow”

GOSPEL: Luke 24:13-35 Pastor

SERMON: “Fuzzy Vision” Pastor

**HYMN: “I Danced in the Morning” Blue 302
(verses 1, 2, 3, 5)**

APOSTLES’ CREED (Ecumenical Version) Blue p. 14

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

INVITATION TO STEWARDSHIP

Liturgist

What shall we return to the Lord? Nothing can equal what God has given us. Let us therefore give our money, our time, and our energy with the generous joy of children, presenting gifts to make God smile.

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:

Joe Balogh

*** 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

God of surprises, take these gifts and astound us by what they do. Through the work of your church, restore a broken world into the beloved community you dream of for us. Show us how to take these offerings and use them “to love each other deeply from the heart.” In your grace we trust. Amen.

HYMN: “Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies”

Blue 462

COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Leader: Are your hearts burning? Have you met the risen Christ?

People: Because we have, we will go out with great joy to share the good news.

Leader: If your heart is still weary and full of doubt, do not despair: because Christ might find you at any time.

People: We will go back to the road, and walk, keeping our hearts open, waiting for God to surprise us.

Leader: And as you go, in joy or in doubt, know that the grace of God will uphold you, the peace of Christ will enfold you, and the Holy Spirit will make you bold, today, tomorrow and forever.

People: We go in the presence of the risen Christ, the God of surprise and assurance. Amen.

BENEDICTION

JOYFUL RESPONSE

Chorus from "In the Garden"

– GO OUT TO SHARE THE WORD OF GOD –

Next Week's Lectionary Readings:

Acts 2:42-47

Psalm 23 or Ezekiel 34:7-15

Psalm 100; 1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10

Liturgy from Presbyterian Outlook and The Abingdon Worship Annual

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

April 25- Patricia Sholtis April 26- Mary Beth Burkley Bill Callaway April 28- Fred Exley	April 30- Barb Moskala Phil Morrow May 1- Steven Conger May 4- John Conger Kim Zunic
April 25- Dennis & Karen Lynn April 28- Fred & Linda Aten	

Those Serving Among Us Today

Liturgist today is Dave Neel.
Greeter today was Rosemary Strenske.

The chancel flowers are given to the Glory of God and in honor of Fred & Linda Aten's 61st wedding anniversary on April 28th given by their families.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN:

TODAY: Worship at 10 am

TUESDAY: Bible Study at 2 pm

WEDNESDAY: Plarn Workgroup from 9 am – 12 pm;

SATURDAY: Deacons Meeting at 11 am

NEXT SUNDAY: Worship at 10 am; 2 cents a meal



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.

H.O.A SPRING BANQUET: Will be May 4th, and dinner will be served at 6:30 pm. Tickets are \$20 per person. All are invited and are asked to reserve your tickets as soon as possible. Please see Bobbi Jo for tickets. Come join us for an evening of fun and fellowship.

ANNUAL PLANT SALE FORMS AVAILABLE: Get your orders in for our annual plant sale, to be held on May 20, 2023.

PAINT AND DIP will be on Sunday, May 7th, at 1 pm in fellowship hall. The cost is \$40 per person which includes the canvas, paint, instruction, and plenty to eat! Please join us for a fun afternoon of fellowship and painting! You do not need to be an artist. Casey Clark, owner of Off the Wall Arts, will take you step by step. Please call the office to pre-register. If you would be able to donate any dips, chips, or crackers for the event, please call the church office or Mary Beth Burkley at 724-433-3071.

PENTECOST FLOWERS: The Music and Worship Committee will again be decorating the sanctuary with red flowers for Pentecost on May 28th. The cost of each 6” pot is \$6. Use the Plant Sale order form to pre-order your red flowers for Pentecost. *Please place your orders in the collection plate or take to church office and mark the envelope and form “PENTECOST FLOWERS”.* Orders are due by May 10th and can be picked up after the Pentecost Sunday service, May 28th. If there are any questions, please call the church office or contact Sharon Zunic 724-929-4463. Don't forget to wear red to church on May 28th.

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.

† John Amoroso † Kaiden Bane † Nuncio Battista † Wesley Beam †
Dolores Beatty † Bill Behrens † Joann Bellora † Mary Lou Berish †
Bob & Carol Berish † Garret Brigs † Frank Britton † Angel
Burnsworth † Joe Burnsworth † Colin † Sally Callaway † Sally
Campbell † Carol Carcella † Jim Caristo † Milana (Berish) Cerniga †
Rev. Ian Chikoti † Michael Colla † Lou Comadina † Nancy Craig †
Glenn Crownover † Sandy Davis † Mary Dembski † Dorothy
Dodroskey † Dale Dominic † Carol Driver † Sandy Elder †
MaryAnn Falk † Norm Floyd † Howard Forsyth † Ed Friedenberger †
Brittany Heckathorn † Patti Huyck † Diane Johnston † Zoey Johnson
† Janet † June Keffer † Donna Kearns † Cameron Kennedy
† Lisa Korff † Robert Korff † Irene Leyda † Mike Lemley † Gordon
Lucas † J.T. Mateka † Taylor McGee † Bruce Merritt † Dean Migliori
† Stephen Minetta † Roland Mori † Phil Morrow † Mrs. Munsen †
Lynette Murray † Tim and Melissa Nagelreiter † Betsy Neel †
Duane Nelson † Mary Caroline Nicholas † Bob Palfrey † June Palfrey
† Nora Pelezar † Helen Pulgino † Dennis Raymer † Pat Robon †
Dorothy Rogers † Ron Santoro † Alina Shaw † Linda Shuler †
Chris Sicora † Toi Smith † Walter Smith † Gianna Smoyer †
Loretta Sterner † Laura Stopka † Patty Strychalski † Sandy Walters †
Joseph Waywood † Yauger Family † 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)*



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 **e-mail:** office@fpresbv.org

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

E L D E R S

Class of 2023	Class of 2024	Class of 2025
Sharon Zunic	BJ Thomas	
Jane Bonari	Lori Lamberski	
Mary Beth Burkley	Carol Tragesser	
Bill Kunca	David Burdis	

D E A C O N S

Class of 2023	Class of 2024	Class of 2025
Marguerite Patterson	Jessica Phillabaum	Susan Aten
Dennis Peters	Dave Neel	Fred Exley
Patty Gillon		June Exley
Eileen Kunca		Barb Moskala

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