

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

May 7, 2023 – 5th Sunday of Easter

You are invited to stand if able

Items in **bold** are congregational response

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Majestic Lord of all, I pray this day that I may more clearly understand that you have more interest in my character than in my comfort. Speak to me plainly and grant me the courage to make the changes you would bring. May the love I express for you this morning continue through this week, strengthening me for your purposes, in the name of the risen Christ, amen.

– ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME –

WELCOME

Pastor

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

MINUTE FOR MISSION

JOYS AND SORROWS

Pastor

CALL TO WORSHIP (Based on John 14:1-7)

Led by Liturgist

Leader: Gather us, O God

People: There is room for us all.

Leader: Dwell with us, O God.

People: Show us the way.

Leader: Guide us, O God.

**People: We give thanks and praise for Christ
as our way, truth and life.**

OPENING PRAYER

Liturgist

O God of all creation, become for us once again the solid foundation upon which we build our daily lives. We gather before you, this first day of the week, to align our lives to the strong teaching and life of Jesus Christ, our Cornerstone. Receive our praise and thanksgiving as expressions of faith and love. We come to you, O Lord, as people who desire to learn and serve like Christ. We are ready to receive your blessing and direction today. Amen.

HYMN:

“God Is Here”

Blue 461

CALL TO CONFESSION

Pastor

No one is lost to God. All are welcome to witness and receive God’s saving grace. Let us confess our sins before our Savior.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

You send us, God of the Great Commission, but we hedge and hesitate. Forgive our fear and our excuses. We are witnesses of your grace and glory but allow others to silence our praise. We imprison ourselves with doubt and shame and fail to shine your light for all to see. Forgive our fears. Free our testimony. Amen.

***SILENT CONFESSION**

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

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor

Christ has transformed us. Christ has renewed us. Through Christ’s death and resurrection, we are a new creation, ready to sing God’s glory and testify to God’s grace.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. 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 (unison) Led by Liturgist
Savior God, your Word is a lamp to our feet on this discipleship
road. Walk with us. Guide us with your wisdom and grace. Open
us to discerning your will and your way. Amen.

RESPONSIVE PSALM Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 Led by Liturgist

Leader: In you, O Lord, I seek refuge; do not let me ever
be put to shame; in your righteousness deliver me.

People: **Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily. Be a rock
of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me.**

Leader: You are indeed my rock and my fortress; for your name's
sake lead me and guide me; take me out of the net that is
hidden for me, for you are my refuge.

People: **Into your hand I commit my spirit; you have redeemed
me, O Lord, faithful God.**

Leader: I will exult and rejoice in your steadfast love,
because you have seen my affliction;

People: **But I trust in you, O Lord; I say, "You are my God."**

Leader: My times are in your hand; deliver me from
the hand of my enemies and persecutors.

**People: Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your steadfast love.**

New Testament: Acts 7:55-60, 1 Peter 2:2-10 Liturgist

Special Music: "Morning Has Broken" Bobbi Jo Huebner

Gospel: John 14:1-14 Pastor

Sermon: "How You Use It" Pastor

HYMN: "My Hope Is Built" Blue 379

APOSTLES' CREED (Ecumenical Version) Blue p. 14

INVITATION TO STEWARDSHIP Liturgist

Humbled by God's generosity, let us offer our gifts to God and God's ministries through Christ's 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 (unison) Led by Liturgist

God, you meet our needs and transform us for service. Accept these gifts as signs of our gratitude and our commitment to witness to Christ's ministry in your world. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Leader: May the God of glory be with you!

People: And also with you!

Leader: Lift your hearts to the God who redeems us.

People: We will offer our hearts to the God of the Way.

Leader: Trust in the promises even when you cannot see.

People: We offer glad songs to God who leads us.

It is right, and a good and . . . their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

In you, O Lord, . . . your people.

Open unto us — courage for our fear.

Open unto us — wisdom for our confusion.

Open unto us — peace for our turmoil.

We are fraught . . . peaceable kingdom.

Open unto us — strength for our weakness.

Open unto us — love for our hates.

Open unto us — forgiveness for our sins.

Remind us, Gracious God, . . . heal us.

Open unto us — joy for our sorrow.

Open unto us — hope for our despair.

Open unto us — light for our darkness.

Ground us . . . in the words our Savior taught us:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

In one of . . . 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. ♪**

And so, in remembrance . . . the mystery of faith.

Christ died, trusting in God's promises;

God raised him from the dead, promising the same for us;

Christ will come, fulfilling all the promises of God.

Pour out your Holy Spirit . . . now and forever. Amen.

FEASTING AT THE TABLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Loving God, we thank you that you have fed us in this sacrament, united us with Christ, and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet in your eternal realm. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

HYMN: “When We All Get to Heaven” Red 123

CHARGE AND BLESSING (based on John 14:27)

Pastor: Christ does not give to us as the world gives.

People: **We leave church today with Christ’s peace to have, to hold, to share with others.**

Pastor: Do not let your hearts be troubled, do not be afraid.

People: **Christ is with us in all things.**

Pastor: May the grace, hope, peace and love of God our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer be with us all, now and forever. Amen.

– GO OUT TO SHARE THE WORD OF GOD –

Next Week's Lectionary Readings:

Acts 17:22-31

Psalm 66:8-20 or Ezekiel 34:1-7a & Psalm 115;

1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| May 9- Lexi Jones | May 16- Kay Nelson |
| May 10- Virginia (Jean) Miller | Jennifer Bukovitz |
| May 14- Ray Helster | May 19- Hannah Pallotta |
| Emily Bair | May 20- Janis Garofalo |
| Wendy Boyd | |
| May 8- Joe & Brenda Kennedy | |
| May 13- Ken & Marilyn Amrick | |
| May 15- Jake & Jessica Phillabaum | |
| May 16- Fran & Janet Garlits | |
| May 17- Mike & Becky Moravec | |

The chancel flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory of Henry Ream by Dan, Mary Beth and Emma Burkley.

Those Serving Among Us Today

Liturgist today is Bobbi Jo Huebner.

Greeter today was Maxine Brownlee.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN:

TODAY: Worship at 10 am; Communion; Coffee Hour;
Paint & Dip at 1 pm

TUESDAY: Bible Study at 2 pm

WEDNESDAY: Plarn Workgroup from 9 am – 12 pm

THURSDAY: Session at 6 pm

FRIDAY: Chicken Pie Making

NEXT SUNDAY: Worship at 10 am; Mother's Day

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERINGS: Thank you for your faithful support of the church and its ministries. Beginning today, we will be returning to receiving the offerings in the pews. We will continue to have the plates on window sills, as well. You may still drop off your offerings in the mail slot of the Parish House.

ANNUAL PLANT SALE FORMS AVAILABLE: Get your orders in for our annual plant sale, to be held on May 20, 2023. Preorders are due this Wednesday, May 10th. For those not pre-ordering, we will have a wonderful selection to purchase on the 20th.

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 this **Wednesday, May 10th** and can be picked up after the Pentecost Sunday service, May 28th. If there are any questions, call the church office or contact Sharon Zunic 724-929-4463.

MAY COMMUNION OFFERING: This month we are supporting the Domestic Violence Services of Southwestern PA. They are committed to providing services to individuals and their children who are abused or threatened with abuse.

MUSIC IN THE CHURCH SURVEY: You are the church, and your worship matters. Would you take a few minutes to fill out this worship survey? Your responses will be an asset to our pastor when planning worship services. Please fill out a separate form for each person. Surveys are available on the windowsill.

GRADUATES: If anyone has any immediate family members that are graduating from high school or college, please let us office know as soon as possible with their information so we can prepare for graduate day on June 4th.

SUGGESTION BOX: At the recent session meeting, elders discussed ways of getting the congregation involved with the everyday workings of the church. A suggestion box is now in the Narthex. You can write your suggestions and put them in the box. You may remain anonymous, but if you add your name, we can discuss the suggestion with you. Please keep in mind, these suggestions are not meant to be criticisms, but ways to improve our church. Either Pastor Mary Kay or Sharon Zunic will check the box regularly.

CRAFT SHOW: Applications are now available for our second annual Craft Show.

HELP NEEDED: Help is needed for a postal food drive. We need help sorting food collected by postal carriers on Saturday, May 13th, from 3-6 pm at Fells UMC. For more information, contact Sue Spahr at 412- 580-4991.

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 † Wendy Boyd † 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 Kefover † 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 † 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)*



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH of Belle Vernon

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
Sharon Zunic
Jane Bonari
Mary Beth Burkley
Bill Kunca

Class of 2024
BJ Thomas
Lori Lamberski
Carol Tragesser
David Burdis

Class of 2025

D E A C O N S

Class of 2023
Marguerite Patterson
Dennis Peters
Patty Gillon
Eileen Kunca

Class of 2024
Jessica Phillabaum
Dave Neel

Class of 2025
Susan Aten
Fred Exley
June Exley
Barb Moskala

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)