



*As a mother
comforts her
child, so I will
comfort you.*

Isaiah 66:15

First Presbyterian Church

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May 14, 2023 –6th Sunday of Easter

You are invited to stand if able

Items in **bold** are congregational response

Guest Musician: Dennis Johnson

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Lord of wondrous light and power, I come to you this day to learn of your will for my life. Heal my wounds; lift my spirit; give me courage and confidence to boldly serve you in all that I do. AMEN.

– ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME –

WELCOME Pastor

ANNOUNCEMENTS Liturgist

MINUTE FOR MISSION

JOYS AND SORROWS Pastor

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 66:16, 19-20) Liturgist

Leader: Come and hear, all you in awe of God,

People: and I will tell what God has done for me.

Leader: Truly God has listened;

People: God has given heed to the words of my prayer.

Leader: Blessed be God, because God has not rejected my prayer;

People: God has not removed God’s steadfast love from me.

Leader: Come and worship, all you in awe of God,

People: Let us tell the story of God’s love together.

OPENING PRAYER (Acts 17, Psalm 66, John 14) Liturgist
Source of all creation, maker of the world and everything in it, you are never far from each one of us. We come into your house seeking you, O giver of life and breath. Reveal yourself to us; dwell with us; and abide in us. We live because of you. We hope because of you. In the name of Jesus Christ in whom we live, and the Spirit of Truth who abides in us, Amen.

HYMN: "I Love to Tell the Story" Red 619

INVITATION TO RECONCILIATION Pastor
As God's beloved children, we are invited to come to our God with the fullness of our lives, to admit our love and our hate, to admit our faith and our fear. Trusting in God's mercy, let us make our confession, first in silent prayer.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION
Lord of mercy, there are so many times in our lives when we feel alone. We wonder where you are. We cry out to you in our confusion, pain, and hurt. And when you do not immediately grant answers to our prayers, we doubt that you even care or exist. Forgive us when we are so quick to doubt and arrogant in our demands of. Give us a spirit of patience and willingness to be ready to hear your voice. Strengthen us for the ministries of love and hope that you have placed before us; for we ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

*SILENT CONFESSION

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

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor

Even in the midst of doubt and darkness, the light of God is shining in you, on you, and through you. Out of God's great love, you have been redeemed and made whole. Rejoice, beloved of God! AMEN.

Hallelujah! We are forgiven and made new.

***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.

LITANY FOR MOTHER'S DAY

Response: We give you thanks and pray your blessing.

– PROCLAIM THE WORD OF GOD –

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison) Led by Liturgist
Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the Scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.

NEW TESTAMENT: Acts 17:22-31 Liturgist

GOSPEL: John 14:15-21 Pastor

SPECIAL MUSIC: "Like a Mother Who Has Borne Us"

SERMON: "Never Alone" Pastor
HYMN: "Because He Lives" Red 292
APOSTLES' CREED (Ecumenical Version) Blue p. 14

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING (Acts 17, 1 Peter 3)

We are invited to give an accounting of the hope that sustains us, the love and presence of God that upholds all. Out of this sustaining hope, let us give our gifts today for those who also need this hope.

OFFERTORY Dennis Johnson

* 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 (Acts 17, 1 Peter 3, John 14) Liturgist
Giver of all gifts, we are grateful for your every blessing and for your presence through all of life—in our joys and fears, and in our hopes and dread. We pray for those who do not know the consolation of your presence in their lives, asking that you reveal yourself to them through the gifts we have given and through the lives we live. Reveal yourself, O God, that all your children may find their true home in you. Amen.

HYMN: "Now Thank We All Our God" Blue 555

Benediction (Acts 17, 1 Peter 3, John 14)

Pastor: Wherever we are, we are in God.

People: **Wherever we are, we are in Christ, and Christ is in us.**

Pastor: Wherever we are, the Spirit abides with us and in us.

People: **We go forth in peace and hope, upheld by God in every way.**

Pastor: Let us go forth in faithfulness and trust.

People: **May all see the Divine in and through us.**

– GO OUT TO SHARE THE WORD OF GOD –

Liturgy pieces from Rev. Mindi at Rev-o-lution.org; Rebecca Gaudino at Ministry Matters; Prayer of Confession adapted from prayer by Beth Merrill Neel



**Next Week's Lectionary Readings:
Ascension Sunday**

Acts 1:1-11

Psalm 47 or Psalm 93, or Daniel 7:9-14 and Psalm 113;

Ephesians 1:15-23

Luke 24:44-53

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

May 14- Ray Helster

Emily Bair

Wendy Boyd

May 16- Kay Nelson

Jennifer Bukovitz

May 19- Hannah Pallotta

May 20- Janis Garofalo

May 22- Fred Aten

May 29- Beverly Belczyk

May 30- Aiden McWreath

May 31- Mary Lou Berish

Walter Nogoy

May 15- Jake & Jessica Phillabaum

May 16- Fran & Janet Garlits

May 17- Mike & Becky Moravec

May 24- Dave & Judy Burdis

May 28- Jim & Nicole Barak

The chancel flowers are given to the Glory of God and in honor of Jake & Jessica Phillabaum's second wedding anniversary, from Patty Gillon.

Those Serving Among Us Today

Liturgist today is Nancy Komlos.

Greeter today was Susan Aten.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN:

TODAY: Worship at 10 am; Mother's Day

TUESDAY: Food & Fellowship from 11 – 1pm; Bible Study at 2 pm

WEDNESDAY: Plarn Workgroup from 9 am – 12 pm

THURSDAY: Food Bank at FMC

SATURDAY: Plant Sale from 8:30 am- 5 pm

NEXT SUNDAY: Worship at 10 am



ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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 who 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.

BVA BACCALAUREATE: The Belle Vernon Area Ministerium invites you to participate in baccalaureate, a special service honoring 2023 graduates. The service will be held at Fells UMC at 7 pm on Tuesday, May 23rd. Each church is asked to provide five dozen cookies. Any help setting up and cleaning up is also appreciated. See pastor for more details.

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.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS: Our annual blessing of the animals will be on Saturday, June 3rd, on 10 am on the church lawn. All people and pets are welcome! We are also collecting donations of any kind of dog or cat food, pet products, or monetary donations for a local rescue. You may bring them to the church office or bring them to the blessing.

CRAFT SHOW: Applications are available for our second annual Craft Show on July 29th. Tables are filling up, so get your application in soon if you want a table. If you are willing to help with the basket auction or any aspect of the day, please see the pastor. An organizational meeting will be scheduled soon.

ALL CHURCH FLEA MARKET – is scheduled for June 8, 9, and 10th. If you are willing to serve on the planning committee, please see Pastor. We need to get the advertising out soon but need input. HOA will be taking care of the kitchen and bake-sale items. Donations of items that can be stored in the Parish House are welcome beginning today during office hours (9 am – 1 pm) or by appointment. We are looking for a team to sort and price the donated items, so setting up will be easier this year.

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)