

*Why do you stand
looking to heaven?
Go and be . . .*

*First
Presbyterian
Church*



First Presbyterian Church

May 21, 2023 –7th Sunday of Easter

You are invited to stand if able

Items in **bold** are congregational response

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Lord of all, Jesus told the disciples to go back to Jerusalem and wait for the Spirit. I am here today to seek your presence and to, once again, wait on your gift of the Spirit. Give me patience and persistence to wait on your healing mercy and comfort and to share it with others. Give me courage to accept your love and strength and to witness to your love in all that I do. Amen.

– ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME –

WELCOME	Pastor
ANNOUNCEMENTS	Liturgist
MINUTE FOR MISSION	Sharon Zunic
JOYS AND SORROWS	Pastor
CALL TO WORSHIP	Liturgist

Leader: Praise God, who reigns over all.

**People: Praise the One who made heaven and earth,
the whole universe.**

Leader: Praise God, whose reign is not of this world.

**People: Praise the One who commanded us to love one another
and laid down his life for us.**

Leader: Praise God, who will never fail us as those in power do.

**People: Praise the One who became the last of all
and servant of all.**

Leader: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

People: Praise the One who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

OPENING PRAYER

Liturgist

Lord of amazing visions, prepare our hearts and our spirits this day to receive your glad tidings of an Advocate. Help make us ready to be your disciples in all that we do, say, and think. For we ask this in the name of our beloved Savior Jesus Christ. AMEN.

HYMN:

“Come, Christians, Join to Sing”

Blue 150

INVITATION TO RECONCILIATION

Pastor

We know what we should do, yet we often don't. We know the words people need to hear, but utter the ones that hurt instead. Yet, we also know that if we confess our failings to God, we will receive forgiveness and hope. Please join me as we pray together, saying,

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of glory: we are so busy watching the skies for signs of your presence that we forget to look around to see those whom we can serve in your name. We are so intent on showing others the right way that we forget the words of reconciliation you have taught to us. We are so convinced we can figure out your timing that we forget to open ourselves to the presence of your Spirit within us. Mighty source of our lives, forgive us for all that we have done. Fill us with the wisdom to resist evil in our lives and strengthen us in that faith which is given to us through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

***SILENT CONFESSION**

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

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor

Beloved, do not be surprised. Our God is gracious to all, restoring us to new life. This is the good news which is for us, and for everyone we will meet in the days to come.

People: Thanks be to God. We are forgiven.

***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

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.

RESPONSIVE PSALM: Psalm 47 (paraphrased)

Led by Liturgist

Leader: Everyone, clap your hands,
shout loud, joyful praise to God;

People: **holy, mysterious, endlessly loving,
*sovereign of all that is.***

Leader: The trumpet sounds, *song and psalm rise,*
praising the holy one, *sovereign of all that is.*

People: Earth and air and cosmos, nations, powerful rulers and the least all belong to God,

Leader: the LORD, the holy one,

People: sovereign of all that is.

NEW TESTAMENT: Acts 1:1-11 Liturgist

GOSPEL: Luke 24:44-53 Pastor

SPECIAL MUSIC: "The Commission"

written by Blake Neesmith, Carter Frodge, Logan Cain, Madison Cain, and Taylor Cain

Accompaniment by DanCastroWorship (YouTube)

Jessica Phillabaum and Mary Kay Glunt

SERMON: "What Are You Waiting For?" Pastor

HYMN: "Lord, You Give the Great Commission" Blue 429

APOSTLES' CREED (Ecumenical Version) Blue p. 14

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND **LORD'S PRAYER** Pastor

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING Liturgist

Today we commemorate our Lord Jesus Christ's ascension into heaven; let our hearts ascend with him. Listen to the words of the Apostle: "If you have risen with Christ, set your hearts on the things that are above where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God; seek the things that are above, not the things that are on earth." As we consider the gifts God has given us, let us determine how we can use those gifts to accomplish our calling.

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

Liturgist

Living God, your Son Jesus Christ at his ascension gave gifts to his church. Lead us, as members of his body on earth, to use the gifts we have received to use these gifts and do your will. Amen.

HYMN:

“Crown Him with Many Crowns”

Blue 151

COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

Leader: Go out into the world; and in your words and in your lives bear witness to the Christ who has ascended to be everywhere present.

People: **We have seen Jesus and have heard the call. May we seek God’s power and strength to spread the message.**

Leader: As you come to greater knowledge of your God, may God give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation, may Christ Jesus lift up his hands and bless you, and may the Spirit open to you all the riches of Christ’s inheritance.

People: **We go in peace to love and serve the Lord.**

Response: Chorus to

“Here I am Lord”

Blue 525

– GO OUT TO SHARE THE WORD OF GOD –

Next Week's Lectionary Readings:

Acts 2:1-21 or Numbers 11:24-30

Psalm 104:24-34,35b, 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

Acts 2:1-21; John 20:19-23; John 7:37-39

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

May 22- Fred Aten May 29- Beverly Belczyk	May 30- Aiden McWreath May 31- Mary Lou Berish Walter Nogoy
May 24- Dave & Judy Burdis May 28- Jim & Nicole Barak June 2- Don & Mary Kay Glunt Susan & Dean Migliori	

The chancel flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory of Harold Strenske's 95th birthday on May 27th by his family.

Those Serving Among Us Today

Liturgist today is Kay Nelson.

Greeter today was Sharon Zunic.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN:

TODAY: Worship at 10 am; Brief meeting after worship

TUESDAY: Bible Study at 2 pm

WEDNESDAY: Plarn Workgroup from 9 am – 12 pm

NEXT SUNDAY: Worship at 10 am; Pentecost Sunday;
Salad Luncheon

PENTECOST SALAD LUNCHEON: Plan to join us after church next Sunday for our annual salad luncheon hosted by our elders and deacons. **ELDERS** and **DEACONS:** Please contact Susan Aten to coordinate what you are bringing.

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.

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 this 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. Please invite your friends!

CRAFT SHOW: Applications are available for our second annual Craft Show on July 29th. Indoor 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. We will meet briefly after worship to make plans.

PLASTIC BAGS: Currently, we do not need any more plastic bags for plarn. We have quite a few! Thank you to everyone who has contributed. We'll update you shortly.

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 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 † 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)