

THE
STEADFAST
Love
OF THE
LORD
NEVER
CEASES

*First
Presbyterian
Church*



First Presbyterian Church

July 16, 2023 – 7th Sunday after Pentecost
15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

You are invited to stand if able
Items in **bold** are congregational responses

– ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME –

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

JOYS AND SORROWS

Pastor

PRELUDE AND PREPARATION

God of grace, you have given us minds to know you, hearts to love you, and voices to sing your praise. Fill us with your Spirit that we may celebrate your glory and truly worship you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist

Leader: We gather to worship on this, the Lord’s Day.

People: What will God accomplish among us in this time?

Leader: We have come together for Sabbath rest and renewal.

People: What will God accomplish among us in this place?

Leader: We are here to offer our praise and thanksgiving.

People: What will God accomplish among us in our hearts?

Leader: Confident of God’s work among us at all times and in all places, let us worship God.

OPENING PRAYER

Liturgist

Lord, you know us so well. We thank you for your presence in our lives, even when we don't recognize it. This day we have gathered, coming from a week of experiences that have sought to overtake us. Make us ready to become stronger witnesses for your love as we receive your word and find our spirits and lives healed. AMEN.

*HYMN:

"Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!"

Blue 430

INVITATION TO RECONCILIATION

Although some of this week's events have caused celebration, we routinely allow the negative things to crowd out God's Word and promises, rendering us unable to receive from God and grow. Let us come to God with our confession.

CHORUS

"Spirit of the Living God"

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Led by Pastor

Most merciful God we confess that we have sinned against you and our neighbor. We have taken great benefits with little thanks and have been more ready to insist upon our rights than to see the needs of others. Have mercy and forgive us, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*SILENT CONFESSION

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

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Pastor

The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. (1 Timothy 1:15) Hear then Christ's word of grace to us: Your sins 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:**

May the peace of God be with you.

And also with you.

Let us greet one another in the name and love of Christ.

– PROCLAIM THE WORD OF GOD –

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Led by Liturgist

In the reading of your Word, may we be given light to see.

**May your word rest in our hearts and minds and in so doing,
transform us into your faithful people. Amen.**

RESPONSIVE READING Isaiah 65 (selected) Led by Liturgist

Leader: Hear, everyone who thirsts; come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy, and eat!

**People: Come, buy wine and milk without money
and without price.**

Leader: Seek the Lord while he may be found;
call upon him while he is near;

**People: let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on
them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.**

Leader: For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.

**People: For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways and
my thoughts than your thoughts.**

Leader: For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and
do not return there until they have watered the earth,

**People: making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the
sower and bread to the eater,**

Leader: so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not
return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I
purpose and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

**People: For you shall go out in joy and be led back in peace; the
mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.**

Leader: Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of
the brier shall come up the myrtle,

**People: and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial, for an
everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.**

NEW TESTAMENT: Romans 8:1-11 Liturgist

GOSPEL: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 Pastor

SPECIAL MUSIC:

SERMON: “How NOT to Grow a Garden” Pastor

HYMN: “Have Thine Own Way, Lord” Red 400

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE THE LORD'S PRAYER

CHORUS "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying"

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

INVITATION TO STEWARDSHIP

Liturgist

This is how the earth praises God: giving thanks for God's abundance! The meadows clothe themselves with flocks, and the valleys deck themselves with shimmering fields of grain, sharing their bounty with the rest of creation. We, too, are to worship God by being abundant and fruitful with our lives, offering up our yields as if they were songs of joyful praise. Let us worship God with our gifts.

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

Led by Liturgist

Thank you, Lord, for all your gifts, especially for your word, which comforts us and sets us free. May we take your message of love and forgiveness to heart, and live fruitful and productive lives, serving others for you. Amen.

HYMN:

"Lead On, O King Eternal"

Blue 447

COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

Leader: Now go out with joy, knowing that
God will lead you back in peace.

**People: We go rejoicing with all of creation,
celebrating God's presence with us.**

Leader: Now, go into the shadows of our world, where the forgotten
dwell, where the hurting are gathered.

**People: We go to bring the light of God's love, the hope of
Jesus, and the Spirit of healing.**

Leader: Go in peace and bear much fruit in your lives
as the Spirit of God works in and through you,
in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen!

RESPONSE: Amen

– GO OUT TO SHARE THE WORD OF GOD –

Liturgy: Nancy Townley, Ministry Matters;
Tara W. Bulger, Presbyterian Outlook;
David Beswick

**The chancel flowers are given to the Glory of God
and in memory of LaVerne Lehew by Judy Latchem.**

Those Serving Among Us Today

Liturgist today is Kay Nelson.
Greeter today was Nancy Komlos.

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

July 16- Lucille Rapchak July 17- Charles Harvey July 20- Sherry Strenske	July 21- Terri Rodriguez July 22- Charlene Backo July 27- Amelia McWreath July 28- Dorothy Helster
July 20- John & Lucille Rapchak July 23- Ray & Carin Rudolph	

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN:

TODAY: Worship at 10 am

THURSDAY: Food Bank at FMC; Session at 6 pm

NEXT SUNDAY: Worship at 10 am

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERINGS: Thank you for your faithful support of the church and its ministries. We have returned 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.

CRAFT SHOW: We have about 30 vendors signed up for the show and the excitement is building. Please share the news with your friends and family and invite them to come. We can use help with setup on Friday and for help with greeting and helping guests.

HOA will be selling food and could use your help, as well.

Men, we need a crew to set up the tents for the craft show. Pastor Mary Kay will be creating a map for the setup, and the tents will need to go up on or before Friday, July 28th. Please let her know if you will be available.

PASTOR OUT OF OFFICE: Pastor Mary Kay will have minor hand surgery on Thursday, July 20th, and will return to the office on Thursday, July 27th. Thank you for your prayers. (She will be in church on July 23rd)

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 † Carl Boone † Garret Brigs † Frank Britton
† Angel Burnsworth † Joe Burnsworth † Colin † Sally Callaway
† Sally Campbell † Carol Carcella † Milana (Berish) Cerniga † Rev.
Ian Chikoti † Michael Colla † Lou Comadina † Nancy Craig †
Glenn Crownover † Darla † Rich & Kathy Davies † Sandy Davis †
Carol Driver † Sandy Elder † MaryAnn Falk † Norm Floyd †
Howard Forsyth † Sarah Hepple † Brittany Heckathorn † Wayne
Helster † Patti Huyck † Diane Johnston † Zoey Johnson † Janet †
June Kefover † Donna Kearns † Cameron Kennedy † Lisa Korff †
Robert Korff † Gordon & Teresa Lucas Family † Irene Leyda † Mike
Lemley † Gordon Lucas † Ronnie Lynn † J.T. Mateka † Taylor McGee
† Bruce Merritt † Dean Migliori † Phil Morrow † Lynette Murray † Tim
and Melissa Nagelreiter † Betsy Neel † Duane Nelson † Mary Caroline
Nicholas † Bob Palfrey † June Palfrey † Scott Palfrey † Marge
Pawlaski † Nora Pelezar † Helen Pulgino † Dennis Raymer † Pat
Robon † Dorothy Rogers † 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,
Caregivers who deplete themselves caring for others, 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)*



Draw near
to God
and He
will draw
near to you.

James 4:8



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
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)