

I WILL ANSWER THEM  
BEFORE THEY EVEN  
CALL TO ME.

WHILE THEY ARE STILL  
TALKING ABOUT THEIR NEEDS,  
I WILL GO AHEAD AND  
ANSWER THEIR PRAYERS!

*First  
Presbyterian  
Church*



# First Presbyterian Church

August 20, 2023 – 9th Sunday after Pentecost  
19<sup>th</sup> 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

*With open arms You welcome all who call on Your name and look to You in faith. No one stands outside the circle of Your mercy and love. And so, we come to offer you our worship. Through the presence of your Holy Spirit open our eyes to see You here; open our minds to receive Your truth, and our mouths to speak and sing Your praise. For You alone are God—worthy of all praise and worship, now and to the end of time. Amen.*

## CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 133)

Leader: We gather as the people of God,  
united through God’s mercy.

**People: We gather as one people,  
to worship and praise our God.**

Leader: We gather, joyfully celebrating the oneness of our purpose.

**People: We gather, as people blessed by God:  
to worship and honor our God.**

Leader: We gather, renewed and refreshed by the ever-flowing  
stream of God’s mercy.

**People: We gather as people wholly dedicated to the worship  
and glory of God. Amen.**

## OPENING PRAYER

Liturgist

As summer draws to a close, we begin to focus our attention to the activities of autumn. Be with our precious children as they prepare for school; for youth who will be preparing to enter college or the work force or perhaps military service. as they embark on life's journeys. Be with each one of us as we encounter life's challenges. Open our hearts to receive your healing mercy and your transforming love. In Jesus' name we pray. AMEN.

## **HYMN:**

**“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”**

**Blue 281**

## INVITATION TO RECONCILIATION

Pastor

In the presence of almighty God and before one another, let us confess our sin and the things that hinder us in leading faithful lives as God's people.

## **CHORUS**

**“Spirit of the Living God, Fall Afresh”**

## **\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Led by Pastor

**In every opportunity, God, we choose not to follow you. From our hearts to our mouths flow words that hurt others and thoughts that lead us away from you. We are blessed, but think others should be grateful for the crumbs we offer. Our claims to have great faith are disputed by our inability to trust you in all things. We come to you, gracious and forgiving God, for you offer us the fullness of your love, not just a few crumbs. You refuse to let us go, but sweep us up with arms of joy. You send Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, to lead us into your kingdom. Forgive us, we pray.**

## **\*SILENT CONFESSION**

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

## **\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Pastor

God's love is greater than our understanding and our comprehension, continually given to every one of us each day. Rejoice! God's forgiving love is poured out for you now and always. AMEN.

**That love we received from God will never let us go.  
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 of God be with you.

**And also with you.**

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

## **TIME FOR KIDS!**

### **BLESSING OF BACKPACKS**

**Video: Back to School by the Skit Guys**

**Prayers (written by Jessica Miller Kelley):**

**Students Pastor Mary Kay**

**Teachers Jane Bonari**

**Supplies Kay Nelson**

**– PROCLAIM THE WORD OF GOD –**

### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**Led by Liturgist**

**Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on us. Open us to your life-giving Word. Quiet the voices within us that do not align with your will. Focus our minds on the message you intend for us so we may faithfully discern your way. Amen**

**RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 133, 67:4-7 Led by Liturgist**

Leader: How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity! It is like the precious oil on the head,

**People: running down upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes.**

Leader: It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion.

**People: For there the Lord ordained his blessing, life forevermore.**

Leader: Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth.

**People: Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.**

Leader: The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, has blessed us.

**People: May God continue to bless us; let all the ends of the earth revere him.**

OLD TESTAMENT: Isaiah 65:1, 6-8 Liturgist

GOSPEL: Matthew 15:(10-20), 21-28 Pastor

SERMON: "So, I Don't Have to Wash My Hands?" Pastor

**HYMN: "We All Are One in Mission" Blue 435**

**\*APOSTLES' CREED (Ecumenical Version) Blue p. 14**

**CHORUS "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying"**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### INVITATION TO STEWARDSHIP

Liturgist

God's abundance cannot be matched. Still, we are inspired by our generous God to be generous. We are inspired by the greatest of givers to give. In gratitude to God, let us present our tithes and offerings.

### 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

Gracious God, the gifts we offer reflect only a portion of all that you have given us. Take these offerings, we pray, and multiply them for your use. May our offerings be a blessing to those most in need, to those most vulnerable. May our offerings, given in a spirit of generosity, decrease the desire to hoard for ourselves and spread the desire to share. Amen.

**HYMN:** "Help Us Accept Each Other" Words Blue 358  
*Tune of "The Church's One Foundation" (Aurelia)*

### COMMISSION AND SENDING

Leader: Now go, to serve as God's people.

**People: We will work to remove all that divides us from others.**

Leader: Now go, to share the grace of Jesus.

**People: We will love others just as we are loved.**

Leader: Now go, to be the Spirit's community.

**People: We will invite everyone to join us in this  
life of faith and service.**

**BENEDICTION**

**RESPONSE: Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen!**

**– GO OUT TO SHARE THE WORD OF GOD –**

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Nancy Townley, Ministry Matters; Thom Shuman, Lectionary Liturgies; Re: Worship.

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**The chancel flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory  
of Carol Strenske Wickerhams, what would have been her 66<sup>th</sup>  
birthday on August 24th, by her family.**

**Those Serving Among Us Today**

Liturgist today is Kay Nelson.

Greeter today was Patty Gillon.

**THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN:**

**TODAY:** Worship at 10 am; Blessing of the Backpacks and  
School Supply Collection.

**THURSDAY:** Pastor out of the office

**FRIDAY:** Pastor out of the office

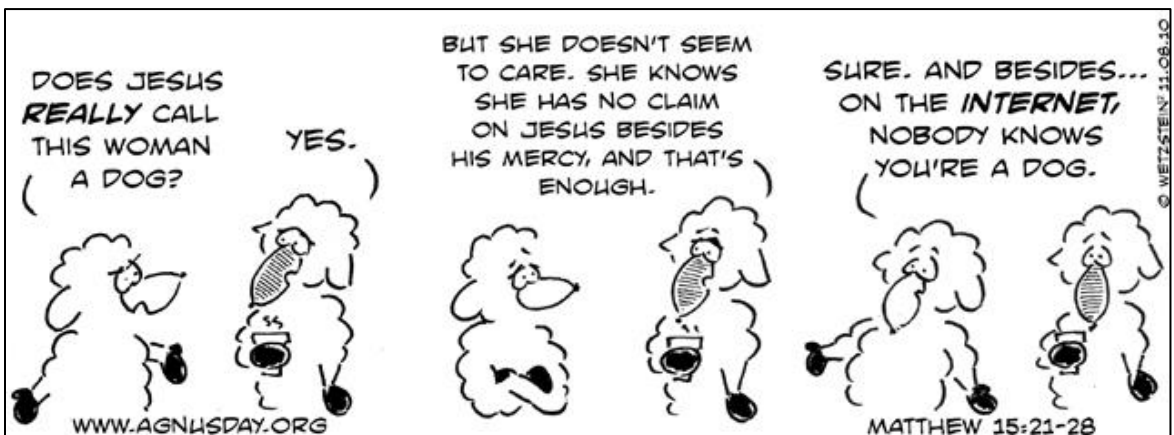
**NEXT SUNDAY:** Worship at 10 am; 2 cents a meal

## Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Aug. 23- Elaine Bair Aug. 26- Stephanie Morgan Aug. 28- Janet Garlits Aubree Rudolph	Aug. 31- Jessica Phillabaum Sept. 1- Kerry McCorkle
Aug. 24- Ken & Rachelle Day Aug. 28- Don & Dana Brick	



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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**OFFERINGS:** Thank you for your faithful support of the church and its ministries. Plates are on the windowsills, as well. You may still drop off your offerings in the mail slot of the Parish House.

**ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE:** The Anniversary Committee will be having a meeting this Wednesday, August 23rd at 6 pm. Anyone interested in working on the anniversary celebration please plan to attend!

**WE HAVE A CELEBRITY!** The announcement was made that our own Brett Berish will be inducted into the BVA Football Hall of Fame on September 8th. He will be joining the late John Zunic in that group of honorees. Brett has served as a defensive coach AND does a lot for our congregation. *If you do not have a season ticket and would like to join us as a group as we attend the game, please call the office. Pastor will be purchasing the tickets the week before the game.*

In addition, Taylor Adomaitis, the daughter of Mike and Becky Moravec, is the cheer coach, and the boys from the team have been helping us with tents and carrying heavy items. Let's support our community and these friends! Brett and Mary Lou are members of FPC, and their daughter Ariana was baptized here.

## 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](mailto: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 †  
Cameron Burnardza † Joe Burnsworth † Colin † Sally Callaway †  
Sally Campbell † Carol Carcella † Milana (Berish) Cerniga † Chloe  
Chachaula † 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 † Irene Leyda † Mike Lemley † Gordon Lucas †  
Ronnie Lynn † J.T. Mateka † Taylor McGee † Bruce Merritt † Dean  
Migliori † Phil Morrow † Lynette Murray † † Betsy Neel † Mary  
Caroline Nicholas † Bob Palfrey † June Palfrey † Scott Palfrey †  
Marge Pawlaski † Nora Pelezar † Mark Podrosky † Helen Pulgino †  
Dennis Raymer † Pat Robon † Dorothy Rogers † Alina Shaw † Linda  
Shuler † Chris Sicora † Rose Smarachek † Toi Smith † Walter Smith  
† Gianna Smoyer † Laura Stopka † Patty Strychalski † Sandy Walters  
† Joseph Waywood † 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,  
those affected by senseless violence and war,  
and those affected by natural disasters,  
especially those on Maui affected by the fires and winds.**

*(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)*

## “SO, I DON’T HAVE TO WASH MY HANDS?”

Matthew 15:10-28

Rick Warren identified five major areas of discrimination: \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_...

The Pharisees’ point wasn’t about hygiene, but about ritual, about legalism,  
about \_\_\_\_\_..

“This people honors me with their \_\_\_\_\_, but their \_\_\_\_\_ are far  
from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching human \_\_\_\_\_ as  
\_\_\_\_\_.”

### WHAT DEFILES?

The Law shows us just how \_\_\_\_\_ we are from God’s \_\_\_\_\_.

. . . for it is written, ‘Cursed is everyone who does not \_\_\_\_\_ and  
\_\_\_\_\_ all the things written in the book of the law.’ . . . for “the one who is  
\_\_\_\_\_ will live by \_\_\_\_\_.” Galatians 3:10-11

. . . that it isn’t what we eat or wear or drink that \_\_\_\_\_ us, but what is  
inside, \_\_\_\_\_ by what comes out of our hearts.

### WHAT BRINGS US IN?

1. She \_\_\_\_\_ down/ \_\_\_\_\_ before him.
2. She calls him “\_\_\_\_\_.”meaning \_\_\_\_\_
3. She \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_. (Luke 11:5-10, Luke 18:1–8).

### HOMEWORK:

1. Read the story over again. Then find yourself in the story.
2. Consider your heart and mind—What comes out when you are alone,  
or with others? When you are challenged? When you are offended?
3. Put yourself in the woman’s position; consider your faith and how it might  
be strengthened to believe as she did



# 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](http://www.fpresbv.org) **e-mail:** [office@fpresbv.org](mailto:office@fpresbv.org)

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