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Present
your bodies
as a living
sacrifice,
holy
and pleasing
to God,
this is
our spiritual
worship

Romans 12-1

*First
Presbyterian
Church*



First Presbyterian Church

August 27, 2023 – 10th Sunday after Pentecost
19th 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

We thank you, Lord, that we are not alone. You watch over us, guide us, and lead us in your righteous pathways. When we stumble and fall, you lift us up and gently place us on that pathway again. When we doubt, you surround us with your mercy and peace, reassuring us of your presence through the love of others and of our savior Jesus Christ. Keep our hearts and minds open and ready to serve you, for we pray these things in Jesus’ name. AMEN.

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 138)

Led by Liturgist

Leader: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

People: who made the heavens and the earth.

Leader: If it had not been the Lord who was on our side,

People: then the flood would have swept us away.

Leader: The God who saved Israel is still at work in the world,

People: hearing the cries of the afflicted and setting God’s people free. Thanks be to God!

OPENING PRAYER

Liturgist

Loving God, call us together as your people; transform us with your love. Transform our hearts, that we may love generously. Transform our eyes, that we may see your grace. Transform our hands, that we may serve others. Transform our spirits, that we may be the body of Christ, gathered to worship and sent out to serve. Amen.

HYMN: “Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation”

Blue 417

INVITATION TO RECONCILIATION

Pastor

The Apostle Paul writes, “Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but think of yourself with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.” In sober judgment and humility, let us confess our sin before God and one another:

CHORUS “Spirit of the Living God, Fall Afresh”

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Led by Pastor

Gracious God, you are always present and active amid your people. We confess that sometimes we fail to recognize and respond to your saving work in the world. We defer to power and privilege, expect the tried and true, and succumb to doubt and despair when your ways are not clear. Behold, you are doing a new thing; help us to perceive it. Forgive us when we do not respond to your call. Liberate us from our fears and self-imposed limitations. Guide us into the fullness of life and love that you are at work preparing. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

***SILENT CONFESSION**

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

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Pastor

Friends, hear the good news: Our God makes a way where there is no way, infusing our world with grace and hope when such goodness feels long gone. We are a people redeemed and restored.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

***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.

SEPTEMBER COMMUNION OFFERING PRESENTATION:

Pete Ware of STAND Ministry, at Penn West California University

– PROCLAIM THE WORD OF GOD –

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Led by Liturgist

Mysterious God, we trust that you are at work among us, even when you are hidden from our sight. By the power of your Spirit, open our eyes to see you, our ears to hear you, and our arms to embrace your truth, as it comes to us in your Word. Amen.

RESPONSIVE READING Isaiah 51 (selected) Led by Liturgist

**Leader: “Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness
and who seek the Lord:**

**People: Look to the rock from which you were cut
and to the quarry from which you were hewn;**

Leader: The Lord will surely comfort Zion and will look with compassion on all her ruins; he will make her deserts like Eden, her wastelands like the garden of the Lord.

People: Joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the sound of singing.

Leader: “Listen to me, my people; hear me, my nation: Instruction will go out from me; my justice will become a light to the nations.

People: My righteousness draws near my salvation is on the way, and my arm will bring justice to the nations.

Leader: Lift up your eyes to the heavens, look at the earth beneath;

People: But my salvation will last forever, my righteousness will never fail.

NEW TESTAMENT: Romans 12:1-8 Liturgist

SPECIAL MUSIC: “You Say” Pastor Mary Kay
by Bebo Norman, Jason Ingram, Lauren Daigle, Mike Donehey, Paul Mabury,
Piano Cover by Christian Piano Karaoke
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GOSPEL: Matthew 16:13-20 Pastor

SERMON: “What Will You Say? What Will You Do?” Pastor

HYMN: “Lord, Make Us Servants of Your Peace” Blue 374

***APOSTLES’ CREED (Ecumenical Version) Blue p. 14**

CHORUS “Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying”

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray to the Lord; **Lord, hear our prayer.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO STEWARDSHIP

Liturgist

By the mercy of God, we are called to present our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, for this is our act of worship. Our gifts differ, but all can be used to further God's kingdom. Let us receive the morning offering.

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

Generous God, you are the source of all good gifts, and you are the one who taught us how to give. Receive our offering—an act of faith that even our small gifts have power and purpose in your world. Amen.

HYMN:

“Blest Be the Tie that Binds”

Blue 438

COMMISSION AND SENDING

Leader: Jesus stands and asks: “Who do you say I am?”

People: **We join millions who have gone before and say: “You are the Messiah”**

Leader: Jesus stands in front of us and tells us the realities of discipleship.

People: **We join millions who have gone before in the challenges of living as disciples.**

Leader: Jesus stands before us and offers food and drink for the journey.

People: Fed and nourished, we go out into the world to live and serve.

Leader: Jesus stands before us, shining in glory, and will be with us to the end of the age.

People: Thanks be to God. Amen.

BENEDICTION

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

– GO OUT TO SHARE THE WORD OF GOD –

Liturgical Pieces with permission from Ginna Bairby, Presbyterian Outlook;
Nancy Townley, Ministry Matters; Rev. Gord, Worship Offerings (found on re-worship)

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The chancel flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Leroy Walters from his family.

Flowers on the piano are given to the glory of God and in memory of Albert Lewis' 95th birthday by his daughter Lori Lamberski.

Those Serving Among Us Today

Liturgist today is Nancy Komlos.

Greeter today was Carol Tragesser.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN:

TODAY: Worship at 10 am; 2 cents a meal

NEXT SUNDAY: Worship at 10 am; Communion; Coffee Hour

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Aug. 28- Janet Garlits Aubree Rudolph	Sept. 2- Nathan Bukovitz Sept. 4- Tessa Rodriguez
Aug. 31- Jessica Phillabaum	Sept. 6- Sam Zeli
Sept. 1- Kerry McCorkle	
Aug. 28- Don & Dana Brick Sept. 7- Bill & Eileen Kunca	



To make a onetime gift or to sign up for our online giving program, scan this QR code with your mobile device. All donations are processed through the Presbyterian Foundation and VANCO Giving Services and is secure and protected.

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.

COMMUNION OFFERING: Next week's communion offering goes to STAND student ministry at California University. STAND is an inter-denominational ministry designed to help students explore Christianity and help those who are already followers of Christ grow deeper in their faith. It's director, Pete Ware, will be sharing a little about STAND with us today.

BVA HALL OF FAME! Our own Brett Berish will be inducted into the BVA Football Hall of Fame on September 8th. *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.*

ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC: Our annual picnic will be Sunday, September 10th on our church lawn after worship. Mark your calendars and be sure to bring a covered dish. A sign-up sheet is at the front in the church!

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 †
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 † Maeve Strennen † 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)*

“What Will You Say? What Will You Do?”
Matthew 16:13-20; Romans 12:1-8

The world calls us by many names, but what is important is what God calls us.

1. Who do you say that I am?

It is good to know what others think, but we must _____
our own _____ when it comes to Jesus.

Some people thought he was like the prophets of old, a prophet in his own right, or a teacher, but the disciples _____ that he was the _____.

2. Who does Jesus say we are?

God gives us a _____, a new _____,
and a new _____.

“So, if anyone is in Christ, there is a _____: everything old has passed away; look, new things have _____ into _____!”

2 Corinthians 5:17

3. What will we do about it?

“I appeal to you therefore . . . to present your _____ as a _____
_____, holy and acceptable to God, which is your _____
act of worship. . . . Be transformed by the _____ of your mind.”

Romans 12:1-2

“Do not think of yourself more _____ than you ought to think . . . for in one _____ we have many _____” (12:3).

God calls us all, each one _____, to build the church, the *ekklesia*, the ones _____ to be his.

Work at Home: Read these verses again and think about the names you have been given and have called yourself. Ask God to help you accept your new name and identity, as one called out, as you are built into His Church.



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)