

Be joyful in hope,  
patient in affliction,  
faithful in prayer.  
Romans 12:12

*First  
Presbyterian  
Church*



# First Presbyterian Church

September 3, 2023 – 10th Sunday after Pentecost  
20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

## – ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME–

VIDEO

Labor Day

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

JOYS AND SORROWS

Pastor

### PRELUDE AND PREPARATION

*O God, your desire has always been that each of your children might be made whole and live abundantly and freely in your presence. Center our hearts and minds that we may be prepared to receive the gifts you so freely give to all, and empower us to share with others from grateful hearts, so that all may know your love and gracious provisions. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Led by Liturgist

Leader: O give thanks to the LORD, call on God’s name,

**People: Make known God’s deeds among the peoples.**

Leader: Sing to God, sing praises to God;

**People: Tell of all God’s wonderful works.**

Leader: Glory in God’s name;

**People: Let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.**

Leader: Seek the LORD and God’s strength;

**People: Seek God’s presence continually.**

Leader: Remember the wonderful works God has done.

**People: Praise the Lord!**

## OPENING PRAYER

Liturgist

From our life's pathways, you have called us to this place, O Lord. Be with us as we listen for your word and seek your ways. Guide our steps and guard our lives that we may serve you more effectively in this broken world. Amen.

**HYMN: "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" Red 466**

## INVITATION TO RECONCILIATION

Pastor

God wants us to be ourselves. But every time we hurt one another, or ourselves, we get further and further away from who we are. It is in our confession, in admitting the truth of our lives, that we can be our genuine selves again. Let us join in our prayer of confession together:

**CHORUS "Spirit of the Living God, Fall Afresh"**

## **\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Led by Pastor

**God of love, you ask us to love one another from the center of who we are; you tell us to bless one another, and you encourage us to do good. But we have not listened to your words. Instead of loving we have practiced hatred; instead of blessing, we have perfected cursing; instead of doing good, we have sought to get even. Forgive us for giving up. Give us grace to try again and encouragement to make your ways, our ways. We pray, we wait, and we hope. Amen.**

## **\*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 for us is genuine. When we need it the most, God's grace washes over us, seeping into the cracks of our brokenness and saturating our thirsty hearts. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. Amen.

**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

**O Holy Creator, who spoke all of creation into being, we ask that you keep speaking to us now. Speak to us as we read Scripture, that we might hear your voice ringing clear and concise through the many voices around us. Speak to us, that we might hear and understand. Amen.**

**NEW TESTAMENT:**

Romans 12:9-21

Liturgist

**GOSPEL:**

Matthew 16:21-28

Pastor

**SERMON:**

“Follow the Leader”

Pastor

**HYMN: "Lord, I Want to Be a Christian" Red 421**

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

**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**

**Gift-giving God, we bring you what we can offer—our time, our talents, our finances, our very selves—in the hope that what we bring, you might magnify, and multiply, for the work of your love in the world. Amen.**

**GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**Pastor:** May our God of goodness be with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

**Pastor:** Offer your hearts to God and rejoice in hope.

**People:** **We offer them to the One who feeds us with love.**

**Pastor:** Join in singing thanksgiving to the One who calls us to this feast.

**People:** **We praise our God who feeds us with peace.**

**SPECIAL MUSIC: "Seed, Scattered and Sown" Bobbi Jo Huebner  
Text and Music, Dan Felten**

**God of wonder, . . . we sing aloud our thanksgiving:**

**Holy, holy, holy are you, God who knows us.  
All creation rejoices in your hope.  
Hosanna in the highest!  
Blessed is the One who walks in the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest!**

In Jesus, you walked faithfully . . . we would proclaim our faith:

**Taking up his cross, Christ died for us;  
overcoming death with life, you raised Christ from the grave;  
Christ will come with the angels, to reveal your glory.**

Sisters and brothers, God our Savior is our refuge! So let us bring our prayers to God saying through the prayer Jesus taught us:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,**

You are the first, . . . you listen still.

**hallowed be thy name,**

Yours is the name . . . across all time and space.

**thy kingdom come,**

May all of creation look . . . feels at home.

**thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

Here in this place . . . peaceably with each other.

**Give us this day our daily bread**

Allow us to taste and see, . . . the gifts you have given.

**and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.**

Give us as many chances . . . the love that comes from you.

**And lead us not into temptation,**

Guide us to stay . . . wisdom, protection and guidance.

**For thine is the kingdom,**

Where we hope to live with you,

**and the power,**

The power that you showed us . . . becoming one of us.

**and the glory,**

The glory that we hope to reflect with our lives out into the world,

**forever**

And ever.

**Amen.**

On the night he was betrayed, . . . in remembrance of me.

♪ **Every time we eat this bread, every time we drink this cup, we proclaim the death of the Lord, until he comes. Until He comes** ♪

Here at this Table, . . . we praise you forever and ever, Amen.

## **FEASTING AT THE LORD'S TABLE**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**Lord of all mercy, at this Table we your faithful people have celebrated the one true sacrifice that takes away our sins and brings pardon and peace: by our communion with you, help us to take the peace of this table to others, to seek restoration with them, and keep us firm on the foundation of the gospel. Amen.**

**HYMN: "Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing" Blue 538**

### **COMMISSION AND SENDING**

**Leader:** Go now and follow Jesus in the way of the cross.

**People:** **we go to rejoice in hope, hold fast to what is good, persevere in prayer.**

**Leader:** Do not be overcome by evil,

**People:** **we go, seeking to overcome evil with good.**

**Leader:** As far as is possible, live peaceably with all.

**People:** **we go to live in harmony with one another.**

## BENEDICTION

And may God hear your cries and deliver you; May Christ Jesus repay you with fullness of life; And may the Holy Spirit be with you always nourishing you in love and hope. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Amen

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

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

Liturgical Pieces with permission from Laughing Bird Liturgical Resources;  
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Life in Liturgy; Rev. Mindi, rev-o-lution.org

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### **Those Serving Among Us Today**

Liturgist today is Bobbi Jo Huebner.  
Greeter today was Maxine Brownlee.

### **THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN:**

**TODAY:** Worship at 10 am; Communion; Coffee Hour

**MONDAY:** Office Closed; Labor Day

**FRIDAY:** Baking of Chicken Pies; Pick up from 3-5 pm

**NEXT SUNDAY:** Worship at 10 am; Church picnic

### **UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES**

Sept. 4- Tessa Rodriguez	Sept. 13- Robert Fox
Sept. 6- Sam Zeli	Sept. 15- Susan Lape
Sept. 7- Bill & Eileen Kunca	
Sept. 13- Duane & Kay Nelson	
Sept. 15- Scott & Janice Jupin	





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:** Today's communion offering goes to STAND student ministry at PennWest California. 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.

**CHICKEN PIES:** We will be making chicken pies on Friday morning! All help would be greatly appreciated!

**BVA HALL OF FAME!** Our own Brett Berish will be inducted into the BVA Football Hall of Fame this Friday, September 8<sup>th</sup>. *If you do not have a season ticket and would like to join us as a group as we attend the game, please let us know TODAY. Pastor will get the tickets.*

**ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC:** Our annual picnic will be next Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup> 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!

**FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING:** On Tuesday, September 5th, the Finance Committee will meet at 6 pm in the Parish House. Anyone interested in participating in this committee is welcome to attend.

## 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 †  
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 †  
Ginger Thorp † 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)*

## FOLLOW THE LEADER

Exodus 3:1-15; Matthew 16:21-28; Romans 12:9-21

### 1. Get Behind Me

Peter, relying on \_\_\_\_\_ of what the Messiah's victory would be, insists that Jesus MUST not die.

“Get thee behind me, Satan. You are a \_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_.”

Peter was thinking without \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_, seeking a \_\_\_\_\_ victory.”

### 2. If you want to . . .

Follow -- be my \_\_\_\_\_, a part of the \_\_\_\_\_.

Deny yourself -- your way of \_\_\_\_\_, your \_\_\_\_\_, and your \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

Take up your cross—Don't just make a \_\_\_\_\_, but be \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

### 3. What picking up and following looks like

Love must be \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_).

Hate \_\_\_\_\_; not the \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ one another \_\_\_\_\_ yourselves.

Keep your \_\_\_\_\_, serving the \_\_\_\_\_.

Do not \_\_\_\_\_ for evil; live at \_\_\_\_\_ with everyone.

**CONTINUING THE SERMON: Reread Romans 12:9-21 with self-awareness and intentionality, examining yourself and seeking God's strength to truly pick up your cross and follow.**



# 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)