

Owe no one anything
except to
love one another,
for the one
who loves another
has fulfilled the law.

Romans 13:8

*First
Presbyterian
Church*



First Presbyterian Church

September 10, 2023 – 11th Sunday after Pentecost
21st 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

Lord of mercy and light, you have called us out of the darkness of our lives into the light of your love. Your love encourages and sustains us always. We praise you for the blessings we have received throughout our lives, and we come today to worship you in thankfulness. You have called us, so now fill us, and build us together, in Jesus’ name, AMEN.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Led by Liturgist

Leader: Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes,

People: And I will observe it to the end.

Leader: Give me understanding, that I may keep your law

People: And observe it with my whole heart.

Leader: Lead me in the path of your commandments,
for I delight in it.

People: Turn my heart to your decrees, and not to selfish gain.

Leader: Turn my eyes from looking at vanities;

People: Give me life in your ways.

Leader: In this time of worship,

People: Call us into Your way, Your truth, and Your life. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

Liturgist

Gracious God, we come this day seeking courage and hope for the future. Help us to be those who bring peace to our families and communities. Banish the darkness of doubt and fear; anoint us with your light and love that we may spread the good news of your mercy to everyone. In Jesus' name we pray. AMEN.

HYMN: “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” Blue 376

INVITATION TO RECONCILIATION

Pastor

Jesus calls us to enter the joy of discipleship, the joy of following in his way. But sin clings closely, and we struggle to respond fully to Christ's invitation. Let us seek God's forgiveness so that we may know more deeply the joy God intends.

CHORUS “Spirit of the Living God, Fall Afresh”

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Led by Pastor

Merciful God, in Jesus, our risen Lord, we have seen your glory. Yet our sinfulness often blocks out the light of Christ. We have squandered your gifts. We have turned from your ways. We have ignored your Word. Have mercy on us, compassionate God. Pour out your Holy Spirit on our sinful lives. Wash us with your love and cleanse us with your grace, so that day by day we might move closer to the people you would us be. Amen.

*SILENT CONFESSION

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

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Pastor

Relentlessly God seeks us out. With abundant grace and boundless mercy, God seeks us out. This is the good news, that God seeks and gathers us just as we are!

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.

– PROCLAIM THE WORD OF GOD –

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Led by Liturgist

Gracious God, illumine these words by your Spirit that we might hear what you would have us hear, and be who you would have us be, for the sake of Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.

RESPONSIVE PSALM Psalm 119:33-40

Led by Liturgist

Leader: Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes,
and I will observe it to the end.

People: **Give me understanding, that I may keep your law
and observe it with my whole heart.**

Leader: Lead me in the path of your commandments,
for I delight in it.

People: **Turn my heart to your decrees and not to selfish gain.**

Leader: Turn my eyes from looking at vanities;
be gracious to me according to your word.

**People: Confirm to your servant your promise,
which is for those who fear you.**

Leader: Turn away the disgrace that I dread,
for your ordinances are good.

**People: See, I have longed for your precepts;
in your righteousness, be gracious to me.**

NEW TESTAMENT: Romans 12:8-14 Liturgist

GOSPEL: Matthew 18:15-20 Pastor

SPECIAL MUSIC “He Looked Beyond My Fault” Pastor Mary Kay

SERMON: “Bound by Love, Loosed by Grace” Pastor

HYMN: “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” Blue 101

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of mercy and grace, **Hear our prayer.**

INVITATION TO STEWARDSHIP

With gratitude for God’s faithfulness and with thanksgiving for all that
we have received, let us bring our gifts to God. Liturgist

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

O God, with faith and hope, we offer these gifts. Use them, even as you use us, to accomplish your purposes in Jesus Christ, the Head of the church and the Lord of our lives. Amen.

HYMN: “Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness” (vv 1, 3, 4) **Blue 319**

COMMISSION AND SENDING

Leader: Go now to people who are overwhelmed.

People: **We will take the hope which has been given to us and share it with all.**

Leader: Go now to those who are at odds with neighbors.

People: **We will offer the peace and reconciliation which God has poured into our lives.**

Leader: Go now to those who are the most vulnerable in our world.

People: **We will bring the healing, the grace, and the love of our God.**

BENEDICTION

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

– GO OUT TO SHARE THE WORD OF GOD –

Liturgical Pieces with permission from John Wurster, Presbyterian Outlook;
Rev Mindi, Rev-o-lution (call to worship); Nancy C. Townley, Ministry Matters;

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The chancel flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Margaret Walters' birthday from the Walters family.

Those Serving Among Us Today

Liturgist today is Fred Exley.
Greeter today was Carol Tragesser.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN:

TODAY: Worship at 10 am; Church Picnic

MONDAY: Dartball at FPC

NEXT SUNDAY: Worship at 10 am

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Sept. 13- Robert Fox	Sept. 19- Tatum Rodriguez
Sept. 15- Susan Lape	Sept. 20- Raelyn Weightman
Sept. 17- Kathy Bevan	Sept. 23- Brett Berish
Sept. 18- Dee Hepple	Sam Gumbert
Sept. 13- Duane & Kay Nelson	
Sept. 15- Scott & Janice Jupin	
Sept. 22- Tom & Elaine Bair	
Bob & Nora Gibson	
Dennis & Bob Peters	



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.

APPLE PIES: We will be making homemade apple pies on Friday, October 13th. The price of pies will be \$13. Please fill out an order form and place it in the offering plate, or call the office to order. Pick up for the pies will be, **Saturday, October 14th** between 9–11 am.

FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP: Returns on Tuesday, September 19th, from 11 am – 1 pm. Invite your family and friends; join us as we feed our community and raise money for local food pantries and the Presbyterian Hunger Fund.

BAG BRIGADE: We have been invited to help at the Bag Brigade on Tuesday, September 26th, packing bags of food for underprivileged children. We need 8-9 people to help this ministry that helps the children of our community. Please sign up at the front of the church. There are jobs for everyone. Please join us.

SEPTEMBER COMMUNION OFFERING: This month's communion offering will go to the S.T.A.N.D. student ministry at PennWest California (formerly California University of PA), and for support of its campus minister.

HEALING PRAYER SERVICE: Cochran Memorial UMC, 209 Griscom St., Dawson, PA, is sponsoring a healing prayer service with Pastor Sherry Evans from Jefferson Covenant Church, Thursday, September 14, 2023, at 7 pm.

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 †
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 †
Lillian Mort † Mary Caroline Nicholas † Bob Palfrey † June Palfrey †
Scott Palfrey † Marge Pawlaski † Nora Pelezar † Mark Podrosky †
Helen Pulgino † Dennis Raymer † Pat Rabon † 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)*

BOUND BY LOVE, LOOSED BY GRACE

Matthew 18:(10-14) 15-2; Romans 12:8-14

v. 14 “So it is not the _____ of your Father in heaven that
_____ of these little ones should be lost.

1. We Are Connected

- a. We are the _____ of His _____ (Psalm 100:3).
- b. We were created for _____.
- c. The purpose is not to _____ of or _____ the
offender in place, but to bolster _____ and
_____.

2. Connection Must Be Restored

This pattern is given not to teach us how to let others go, but to
_____ on us just how important _____ and
_____ are to God..

3. Bind it or Loose it?

- a. In Judaism, “binding” and “loosing” was _____ applied
to people, but to things, rules, and regulations not
_____ covered by the Law.

b. Saying that _____ church leaders decide is _____ by God is an _____ interpretation and not the way God works. “Rather, God’s ministers must become _____ of what God _____ and then follow His lead.”

God’s true _____, through the blood of Jesus Christ, is that God looks _____ our sin and sees our _____, according to the law of love.

God’s purposes are always, as much as is possible, to _____ the errant one.

Continuing the Sermon:

(1) Re-read Romans 12:8-14. Ask yourself—Am I holding fast to rules and procedures or living toward them in love?

(2) Are my words and actions redemptive or prohibitive? Am I hiding behind rules and requirements or shining brightly with the armor of God’s light?

(3) Are my thoughts, words, and actions in line with God’s purposes?



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)