

NONE OF US LIVES
FOR OURSELVES ALONE
NONE OF US DIES
FOR OURSELVES ALONE
IF WE LIVE WE LIVE FOR
THE LORD
IF WE DIE WE DIE FOR
THE LORD
WHETHER WE LIVE OR DIE
WE BELONG TO THE LORD

ROMANS 14:7-8

*First
Presbyterian
Church*



First Presbyterian Church

September 17, 2023 – 11th Sunday after Pentecost
22nd 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 (from Psalm 103:1-4)

Led by Liturgist

Leader: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me.

People: Bless God’s holy name.

Leader: God forgives. God heals. Gods transforms
with steadfast love.

People: Bless God’s holy name.

OPENING PRAYER

Liturgist

HYMN:

“Praise Ye the Lord”
“He Is Lord”

Blue 482
Red 243

– PROCLAIM THE WORD OF GOD –

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Led by Liturgist

Open us, Eternal God, to your Word read and proclaimed. Help us not to turn from your truth or avoid your message. Help us be receptive to the wisdom you offer. Amen.

RESPONSIVE PSALM Psalm 103:8-14

Led by Liturgist

Leader: The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

People: He will not always accuse, nor will he keep his anger forever. He does not deal with us according to our sins nor repay us according to our iniquities.

Leader: For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

People: as far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us.

Leader: As a father has compassion for his children, so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him.

People: For he knows how we were made; he remembers that we are dust.

NEW TESTAMENT: Romans 14:1-12 Liturgist

GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35 Pastor

SPECIAL MUSIC “Mercy” Video
Cover by Jeng Tan; original Elevation Worship

SERMON: “How Can I Do That?” Pastor

HYMN: “My Jesus, I Love Thee” Red 456

INVITATION TO RECONCILIATION

Pastor

Having heard God's truth spoken in love, we must free ourselves from all that obstructs us from honestly acknowledging our separation from God and others. Let us examine our hearts and confess our sins to God.

CHORUS "Spirit of the Living God, Fall Afresh" Red 155

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Led by Pastor

Nurturing God, like a hen gathers her brood under her wings, you desire to gather your children. But division and disagreement plague us. We cling to rigid certainties, approach each other in arrogance, and fail to listen. We walk away from conflict, rather than working through it. Forgive us, Holy God. Help us grow in faith, mature in our relationships, and be transformed through your steadfast love. Amen.

*SILENT CONFESSION

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

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor

The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Anyone who has fallen short of God's glory will be forgiven through God's mercy.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, redeemed, and restored to God's path of righteousness. 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.

***APOSTLES' CREED (Ecumenical Version)**

Blue p. 14

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

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

INVITATION TO STEWARDSHIP

Liturgist

We are inspired to be generous by a generous God. We are inspired to give by the greatest of givers. 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

Holy God, bless these gifts for your good use. May these tokens of our gratitude be of service in blessing the poor, feeding the hungry, and clothing and sheltering those struggling to survive. Use these gifts to further Christ's mission and ministry in a hurting world. Amen.

HYMN:

"Help Us Accept Each Other"

Blue 358

COMMISSION AND SENDING

Leader: God does not abandon us. God's love is steadfast.

People: May this love inspire all our relationships as we leave this house of worship.

Leader: God does not abandon us. God's love is steadfast.

People: May we be knit together in God's love, bound as a community of Christ, guided by the gift of the Holy Spirit.

BENEDICTION

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

– GO OUT TO SHARE THE WORD OF GOD –

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**The chancel flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory
of Ken Strenske's birthday on September 20th
by Sherry, Susan & Dean.**

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

TUESDAY: Food & Fellowship from 11 am – 1 pm

THURSDAY: Food Bank at FMC; Session at 6 pm

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

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Sept. 17- Kathy Bevan Sept. 18- Dee Hepple Sept. 19- Tatum Rodriguez	Sept. 20- Raelyn Weightman Sept. 23- Brett Berish Sam Gumbert Sept. 29- Kody Callaway
Sept. 22- Tom & Elaine Bair Bob & Nora Gibson Dennis & Barb Peters Sept. 24- Nathan & Jennifer Bukovitz Sept. 30- Mike & Nancy Komlos	

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 at the front, as well. You may still drop off your offerings in the mail slot of the Parish House.

BAG BRIGADE: STUFF THE BUS will be on September 22nd at 6 pm at the BVA football game. Bring your food items to fill the bus outside James Weir Stadium before the game. Non-perishable kid-friendly snacks and meals are needed, such as mac & cheese cups, pop tarts, fruit snacks, chips, fruit cups, popcorn, applesauce, juice boxes, etc.

We have also 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.

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.

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 † 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)*

How Can I Do That?

Matthew 18:21-35, Romans 14:1-12

We are _____ to God because of God's _____ and our lack of it.

Seventy times Seven

Cain complained to God that anyone who meets him would kill him, but God declares that "Whoever _____ Cain will suffer a _____ vengeance" (Genesis 4:14-16).

In spite of Cain's sin against his brother and humanity, God _____ protected Cain with a mark and promised to _____ him.

Lamech, his great, great, great grandson took _____ into his own hands, saying "If Cain is avenged sevenfold, truly Lamech _____" or 70 x 7.

Turning the Tables

Rabbis taught that you should forgive a person _____ for a repeated offense, but there was _____ forgiveness for a fourth. Peter thought he was being gracious saying seven times.

Jesus transformed Lamech's _____ into a principle of _____.

What limits my ability or desire to forgive?

1. Holding on to my own “_____ - _____.” We find it hard to forgive another because we are sure we have the right answers.

Forgiven much, the servant, instead of passing on the _____ he received, he did the opposite to his _____.

2. Fearing we will not be (or have) _____.

Cain was afraid of retribution. The wicked servant was afraid his master would _____ his _____.

We hold onto rules, traditions, and ideas because they _____ us _____.

Fear of many things builds _____ between us and God and between God’s people.

“I’m always struck by how quickly outlandish fear gets materialized at the expense of embracing an imagination without vengeance or violence. Vengeance [placing blame, demanding repayment] is intolerant of grace. It denies faith any possibility” (Russell).

Thoughts to carry us through the week: Re-read the Romans passage, then ask:

1. Is there someone who is different that I am holding to my standards?
Make a list and ask God to show you what is important and what is not.
2. Are there people whom I *cannot* forgive?
 - a. Make a list of how you have been forgiven by God and give thanks.
 - b. Make a list and daily (hourly, always) pray a blessing on those whom you need to forgive. Ask God to bless them and give them peace.
3. Make a list of the fears that cause you to be angry or seek revenge or lay blame. Ask God for peace and assurance that God will make the way.
4. Live each moment to Christ because “every knee shall bow ..., and every tongue shall give praise to God” (Romans 14:11).



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)