



*So the LAST*  
*will be*  
**FIRST**  
*and the FIRST*  
**LAST.**

*Matthew 20:1-16*

*First  
Presbyterian  
Church*



# First Presbyterian Church

September 24, 2023 – 11th Sunday after Pentecost  
23rd 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

*As we sing our praise to you, O Lord, we remember the multitude of blessings you have given us. We are mindful of the ways in which you have lifted us when we have fallen low. Be with us this day as we gather to hear your word for our lives. Amen.*

### CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 103:1-4)

Led by Liturgist

Leader: O give thanks to the Lord; call on his name;  
make known his deeds among the peoples.

**People: Sing to him, sing praises to him;  
tell of all his wonderful works.**

Leader: Glory in his holy name; let the hearts  
of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

**People: Seek the Lord and his strength;  
seek his presence continually.**

Leader: Remember the wonderful works he has done,  
his miracles and the judgments he has uttered,

**People: O offspring of his servant Abraham,  
children of Jacob, his chosen ones.**

## OPENING PRAYER

Liturgist

Lord, who lifts us up, reside in our hearts today. Help us to listen closely for your word to us. Remind us that you are always with us, throughout all of our lives. Give us confidence in your presence, so that we may go into your world ready to witness to your love through our works and our deeds, for we pray these things in Jesus' name. AMEN.

<b>HYMNS:</b>	<b>“Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken”</b>	<b>Blue 446</b>
	<b>Verses 1 and 2</b>	
	<b>“O Lord, Our Lord, How Majestic” (2x)</b>	<b>Screen</b>
	<b>“Our God Is an Awesome God” (2x)</b>	<b>Screen</b>

## INVITATION TO RECONCILIATION

Pastor

The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. With that assurance and the promise of God's grace through Jesus Christ, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

## \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Led by Pastor

**Gracious God, forgive us when we grumble and complain against your goodness as the workers in the field did to the landowner. We judge and weigh your gifts according to our standards. We often question your fairness instead of receiving your grace with thanksgiving and joy. Help us to see your world through your eyes and with your spirit of generosity and grace, that we may serve in your kingdom with all who join with us. Forgive us, Lord, in your grace and mercy through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

## \*SILENT CONFESSION

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

## **\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Pastor

The Lord is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made. For by grace, you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel!

**In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Alleluia!**

## **\*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.**

FIVE-MINUTE FELLOWSHIP—Greet your neighbor.

## **– PROCLAIM THE WORD OF GOD –**

### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Led by Liturgist

**Holy God, as we hear your Word read and proclaimed today,  
speak to us, and inspire us that we may be proficient and  
equipped for every good work; through Jesus Christ, the Word  
made flesh. Amen.**

### **RESPONSIVE PSALM**

**Psalm 105:1-6**

Led by Liturgist

**Leader:** O give thanks to the Lord; call on his name;  
make known his deeds among the peoples.

**People:** **Sing to him, sing praises to him;  
tell of all his wonderful works.**

**Leader:** Glory in his holy name; let the hearts  
of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

**People: Seek the Lord and his strength;  
seek his presence continually.**

Leader: Remember the wonderful works he has done,  
his miracles and the judgments he has uttered,

**People: O offspring of his servant Abraham,  
children of Jacob, his chosen ones.**

OLD TESTAMENT: Jonah 3:10-4:11 Liturgist

GOSPEL: Matthew 20:1-16 Pastor

SPECIAL MUSIC: "Who Am I?"  
Jessica Gillon and Pastor Mary Kay  
Words and music, John Mark Hall;© Universal Music

SERMON: "Is It Fair?" Pastor

**HYMN: "Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven" Blue 478**

**\*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  
Let us bring our offerings to God, even as we present ourselves as a  
living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God.

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, we know that every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from you. Help us to receive your gifts and grace with thanksgiving and humility and to use them faithfully in and for your kingdom. We ask this in the name of your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

**HYMN:**

**Help Us Accept Each Other  
(tune Aurelia)**

**Insert**

## **COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION**

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

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

Liturgical Pieces with permission from Philip K. Gladden, Presbyterian Outlook;  
Nancy C. Townley, Ministry Matters.

Music on screen and streaming covered under CCLI licenses 20664520 and 20664537  
videos by CVLI license 50439969

## **Those Serving Among Us Today**

Liturgist today is Dave Neel.  
Greeter today was Susan Aten.

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

**TODAY:** Worship at 10 am; 2 cents a meal

**MONDAY:** Pastor will be out of the office through Tuesday

**TUESDAY:** FPC at Bag Brigade

**NEXT SUNDAY:** Worship at 10 am; Communion with coffee hour

## **UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES**

Sept. 29- Kody Callaway Oct. 3- Doug Cole Tyler Koons Savannah Gillon	Oct.6- Sharon Zunic Oct.7- Riley Gillon
Sept. 24- Nathan & Jennifer Bukovitz Sept. 30- Mike & Nancy Komlos Oct. 4- Jack & Charlene Backo	



**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:** We have been invited to **help at the Bag Brigade this 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.

**COMMUNION OFFERING:** Next week is Worldwide Communion. We will be taking an offering for the PCUSA Peace Offering.

**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.

## Our God Is an Awesome God 616

Awesome God

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the song 'Our God Is an Awesome God'. The first staff is in treble clef, 2/2 time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody starts on a whole note C4, followed by a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note G4, a quarter note F#4, a quarter note E4, a quarter note D4, a quarter note C4. Chords are indicated above the staff: C, G, D, Em. The lyrics 'Our God is an awe-some God who reigns from heav-en a-bove' are written below the staff. The second staff continues the melody with a whole note C4, a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note G4, a quarter note F#4, a quarter note E4, a quarter note D4, a quarter note C4. Chords are indicated above the staff: C, G, Am, Em, B7, Em. The lyrics 'with wis - dom, power, and love; our God is an awe-some God!' are written below the staff.

This is a contemporary worship song that first gained recognition on Christian radio and later became a popular congregational song. "Awesome" here is not a trivial expression but carries the meaning of "awe-inspiring" and is based on Scripture (e.g. Daniel 9:4).



613

# O Lord, Our Lord

How Majestic Is Your Name

O Lord, our Lord, how ma-jes-tic is your name in all the

1 2  
earth. O earth. O Lord, we praise your name. O

Lord, we mag-ni-fy your name: Prince of Peace, might-y

God; O Lord God Al - might - y.

# Help Us Accept Each Other

Samuel John Stone, 1866; alt.

AURELIA 7.6.7.6 D

Samuel Sebastian Wesley, 1864



1. Help us ac - cept each oth - er As Christ ac - cept-ed us;  
2. Teach us, O Lord, Your les - sons, As in our dai - ly life  
3. Let Your ac - cep - tance change us, So that we may be moved  
4. Lord, for to - day's en - coun - ters With all who are in need,



Teach us as sis - ter, broth - er, Each per - son to em - brace.  
We strug - gle to be hu - man And search for hope and faith.  
In liv - ing sit - u - a - tions To do the truth in love;  
Who hun - ger for ac - cep - tance, For righ - teous - ness and bread,



Be pres - ent, Lord, a - mong us And bring us to be - lieve  
Teach us to care for peo - ple, For all, not just for some,  
To prac - tice Your ac - cep - tance Un - til we know by heart  
We need new eyes for see - ing, New hands for hold - ing on:



We are our - selves ac - cept - ed And meant to love and live.  
To love them as we find them Or as they may be - come.  
The ta - ble of for - give - ness And laugh - ter's heal - ing art.  
Re - new us with Your Spir - it; Lord, free us, make us one!



## 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 †  
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)*



# 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)