

# World Communion Sunday



*First  
Presbyterian  
Church*



# First Presbyterian Church

October 1, 2023 – 12th Sunday after Pentecost  
24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

## WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

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

### – ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME–

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

JOYS AND SORROWS

Pastor

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Bag Brigade

Sharon Zunic

Kathy Kelly

### PRELUDE AND PREPARATION

*Loving God, we come this day to worship with so many things on our hearts and minds. We are drawn away by problems and cares. Heal our spirits. Open our hearts. Help us be your disciples. AMEN.*

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Led by Liturgist

Leader: Today we gather around God's table from near and far

**People: We are the People of God!**

Leader: Though we differ in language, custom, and tradition

**People: We are brothers and sisters in Christ!**

Leader: For there is one Lord, one faith, and one baptism

**People: We are One in God's Spirit!**

Leader: We are one and together we remember our Lord Jesus

**People: For we are the people of Redemption!**

Leader: He gave himself up for us,  
so we could be reconciled to God.

**People: Come, let us worship the God of our Salvation!**

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.

**HYMNS:**

**“He’s Got the Whole World”  
“The Church’s One Foundation (vv 1-2)**

**Screen  
Blue 442**

INVITATION TO RECONCILIATION

Pastor

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Led by Pastor**

**How quick we are to say yes to you, O Lord, and then we turn around and forget our bold words of commitment. We really want to serve, but we are very weak and are easily drawn away by cares and fears. We pledge ourselves to working for your kingdom but find ourselves pulled this way and that by other demands on our time and energy. Forgive us, O Lord, when we so quickly drop our commitments to serving you. Heal our spirits and give us the bold courage to truly be your disciples. For we ask these things in Jesus' Name. AMEN.**

**\*SILENT CONFESSION**

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

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Pastor

**RESPONSE:** 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

**Bless us, O God, with ears to hear your truth, vision to discern  
your path, and feet ready to move into action, responding to your  
call. Inspire us as we hear your Word read and proclaimed.**

**Amen.**

**RESPONSIVE READING**    Philippians 2: 1-13

Liturgist

**Leader:** If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from  
love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and  
sympathy,

**People:** **make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the  
same love, being in full accord and of one mind.**

**Leader:** Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in  
humility regard others as better than yourselves.

**People:** **Let each of you look not to your own interests but to  
the interests of others.**

Leader: Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness.

**People: And being found in appearance as a human, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.**

Leader: Therefore, God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above every other name, so that at the name given to Jesus

**People: every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

GOSPEL: Matthew 21:23-32 Pastor

SERMON: “Which One?” Pastor

**HYMN: “I’ll Go Where You Want Me to Go” Red 502**

**\*NICENE CREED (Ecumenical Version) Blue p. 15**

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.**

## **GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

May the God who comes in humility be with you!

**And also with you!**

Beloved, lift your hearts to God.

**We offer them to the One who will open them to allow God's grace to flow into the world.**

Children of God, sing to the One who turned the world upside down.

**We open our mouths, praising God who shows us the way.**

**ANTHEM:**

**"He Is Here"**

**Bobbi Jo Huebner**

God of Wonder . . . we lift our voices in wonder to you:

**Holy, holy, holy are you, Transforming God.**

**All creation flows toward your heart.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is the One who stands with those who have nothing.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

Holy are you . . . mystery we call faith:

**Christ emptied himself on the cross,**

**that we might be filled with life;**

**Christ was called forth from the tomb,**

**that we might confess him the Risen One;**

**Christ will come again, calling us by name,**

**that God's joy be made complete.**



## THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN:

**TODAY:** Worship at 10 am; Communion with Annual Salad Luncheon

**TUESDAY:** Bible Study Group 2 pm

**WEDNESDAY:** PLARN Group in fellowship hall.

**NEXT SUNDAY:** Worship at 10 am

## UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Oct. 3- Doug Cole Tyler Koons Savannah Gillon Oct.6- Sharon Zunic Oct.7- Riley Gillon	Oct.8- Karen Lynn Oct.10- Jean Patterson Bill Weightman Oct.11- Mary Kay Glunt
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.**

**Last Sunday's Attendance    33**

**Last Sunday's Offering    \$442**

When you are away, the expenses of the church continue. Thank you for your faithful support of the church and its ministries.



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**COMMUNION OFFERING:** This week's Worldwide Communion offering is the PCUSA Peace and Global Witness Offering. This encourages the church to embrace God's mission of reconciliation to those around the corner and around the world. Our portion of this special offering (25%) will be used to feed and clothe infants and children in our community.

**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.

**COVERED DISH DINNER:** Please plan to attend the Covered Dish Dinner on October 18<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm for our Fellowship and Remembrance gathering. Everyone's input and memories of the past are very important. We will be putting together a booklet and will need input from all our members. If you are able to bring a covered dish, please sign the sheet at the church's side entrance or call Judy Latchem at 724-366-4244 or the church office at 724-929-7616. Thank you.

**CHURCH BUDGET/GIVING:** In a few weeks the session will be trying to put together the 2024 church budget. It will be a "loaves and fishes" kind of process, as our giving this year, and the income from fundraisers, have not fully funded our budget. Please pray about what part of the blessings God has given you can be used to support what we are called to do here at FPC. Thank you.

**COFFEE HOUR:** Beginning next Sunday, join us 9-9:40 am for coffee hour and fellowship. Pastor will be available to discuss the scriptures for the day and to discuss current events and other subjects. If you are willing to help out by *coordinating* treats for the coffee bar, please contact Pastor Mary Kay.

## 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 † 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 †  
Carol Driver † Sandy Elder † MaryAnn Falk † Norm Floyd † Howard  
Forsyth † Glenn Hart † 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)*

## “WHICH ONE”

Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32

It's no good singing God's \_\_\_\_\_ if you're \_\_\_\_\_  
(Elizabeth Elliot).

We know that he had cast the money-changers out because they were \_\_\_\_\_  
“sacrifices” in the Temple all the while \_\_\_\_\_ the worshipers.

The religious leaders were upset because Jesus was \_\_\_\_\_ their  
status quo, the way things have always been done.

Jesus asked where John's baptism came from, which put the leaders in a place of  
\_\_\_\_\_. They didn't want the \_\_\_\_\_ to turn against them.

### The Two Sons

One said “yes” but didn't, and the other said “no” but did. The truth is that our  
\_\_\_\_\_ often mean much less than our \_\_\_\_\_.

Jesus told the religious leaders, “The \_\_\_\_\_ and  
\_\_\_\_\_ are entering the \_\_\_\_\_ ahead of you.

### What This Means to Us

1. What we \_\_\_\_\_ we will do, or what we \_\_\_\_\_, means very  
little if we don't \_\_\_\_\_.
2. It is never \_\_\_\_\_ to choose to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
3. God doesn't judge on the \_\_\_\_\_, but on the of the \_\_\_\_\_ today.

Phil. 2:12-13: “\_\_\_\_\_ on your own \_\_\_\_\_ with fear and  
trembling, for it is God is at work in you

### Taking it Home

1. Reread and pray through Philippians 2:1-13. Ask, Have I said “yes” but not followed  
through, allowing God's plan to be formed in my life?
2. Am I living in the “no” of my past, but now wanting to act out the “yes” as a disciple?  
Pray and ask God to help you move beyond the past.
3. Consider the fruit. Those who truly do the will of God are those whose actions reflect  
the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5: 22-23). Do a personal fruit check this week instead of  
checking other's fruit.



# 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)