

I press on toward the goal
to win the prize for which God has called me
heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:14

*First
Presbyterian
Church*



First Presbyterian Church

October 8, 2023 – 13th Sunday after Pentecost
25th 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

Gracious and Patient God, as we come to you this day, we are mindful of the many ways in which we have so easily turned our back on you. Turn us around again, O Lord. Open our hearts and our spirits to receive your holy word that we may again walk in the path of true discipleship. AMEN.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Led by Liturgist

Leader: Come, the banquet of hope and praise is ready.

People: We come on God’s invitation, seeking to be fed.

Leader: Feed on the love of God in Jesus Christ.

People: We come on God’s invitation, needing healing.

Leader: Be healed by God’s gracious mercy.

People: We come on your invitation, longing for forgiveness.

Leader: In Jesus’ Name, you are loved, healed, and forgiven.

People: Alleluia, Praise be to God. AMEN.

OPENING PRAYER

Liturgist

Liberating God, you give us commandments not as a burden to bear but as an invitation to live the life you have for us. Grant us open hearts ready to accept your invitation, that we might become a people who bear the fruit of the freedom and new life you give us. Amen.

HYMN: "This Is My Father's World"

Blue 293

INVITATION TO RECONCILIATION

Pastor

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Led by Pastor

Merciful God, we confess that our confidence is often misplaced. We put our confidence in our abilities rather than in your love. We put our confidence in our belongings rather than in your generosity. We put our confidence in ourselves rather than in you. Forgive us for our misgivings. Redirect us according to your Spirit and your will. Help us to follow your ways and find our freedom in your heavenly calling. Open us to new levels of trust and joy as we press on towards your goal.

***SILENT CONFESSION**

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

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Pastor

RESPONSE: We are forgiven in the Beloved and blessed beyond measure. Praise 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.

FIVE-MINUTE FELLOWSHIP—Greet your neighbor.

– PROCLAIM THE WORD OF GOD –

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Led by Liturgist

O Lord, we have worshiped and received your mercy through our confession. Now help us as we hear your word read and interpreted. Help us to open our hearts and minds that we might become more like our Savior. Amen.

RESPONSIVE PSALM

Psalm 19:7-14

Led by Liturgist

Leader: The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple;

People: **the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes;**

Leader: the fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

People: **More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.**

Leader: Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward. But who can detect one's own errors? Clear me from hidden faults.

People: **Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless and innocent of great transgression.**

HYMN:

“He Leadeth Me”

Red 606

BENEDICTION

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

– GO OUT TO SHARE THE WORD OF GOD –

Liturgy pieces from Brian Christopher Coulter at Presbyterian Outlook,
and Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries (Opening Prayer)

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**The chancel flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory
of Patricia Tillman Clark given by sister, Nancy & Mike Komlos.**

Those Serving Among Us Today

Liturgist today is Nancy Komlos.

Greeter today was Linda Aten.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN:

TODAY: Worship at 10 am

WEDNESDAY: PLARN Group in fellowship hall

FRIDAY: Baking of the apple pies

SATURDAY: Apple pie pick up from 9 am- 11 am

NEXT SUNDAY: Worship at 10 am

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Oct.8- Karen Lynn Oct.10- Jean Patterson Bill Weightman Oct.11- Mary Kay Glunt	Oct. 12- Olivia Bukovitz Oct. 14- Joelle McWreath Oct. 15- Patty Gillon John Koons
Oct. 15- Kerry & Ann McCorkle	



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 44

Last Sunday's Offering \$1,543

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

APPLE PIES: We will be making homemade apple pies this 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 18th 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: Remember to join us 9-9:40 am for coffee hour and fellowship. Pastor will be available to discuss the scriptures for the day, current events, and your thoughts and ideas for where we are going as a fellowship. If you are willing to help out by *coordinating* treats for the coffee bar, please contact Pastor Mary Kay.

WORSHIP SURVEY: We did a music survey a while back, and *most* Sundays at least two of the hymns suggested are included in the service. If you did not contribute to the survey, or if you have other ideas or suggestions, the forms are at the front of the church. Drop your form in the offering plate or in the suggestion box (narthex). Also, if you have a concern or suggestion, please place it in the suggestion box OR go to the person involved with your thoughts. Better yet, volunteer to help!

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 † 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 † Janis Garofalo † Louise Gerber † 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 † Mary Caroline Nicholas
† Bob Palfrey † June Palfrey † Scott Palfrey † Marguerite Patterson
† Marge Pawlaski † Nora Pelezar † Helen Pulgino † Dennis Raymer
† Dorothy Rogers † Alina Shaw † Linda Shuler † Chris Sicora
† Rose Smarachek † Toi Smith † Walter Smith † Gianna Smoyer
† 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)*

“ARE WE THERE YET?”

Philippians 3:4-14; Matthew 21:33-46

CULTURAL SETTING

1. The leasing of land to tenant farmers was _____ in the first century
Tenants worked the land and were expected to turn over a _____ of the crop to the owner.
2. The landowner _____ what they needed, but if they did not _____ the owner his portion, new tenants would be found.
3. The term “landowner” may be translated as “_____ _____,” used as a common analogy for _____ in Matthew’s gospel.

THE MESSENGERS

1. Twice he sent his servants to collect his _____ / _____. Both times they were beaten, killed, and stoned.
2. He sent his son, the _____ to the vineyard, expecting they would _____ him, but they killed him, too.
3. They thought that somehow, they would _____ _____ the vineyard.

THE EXPLANATION

What will the landowner do? The leaders agreed, saying, “_____ and _____ them,” unknowingly _____ themselves.

The son is used as an analogy of _____ and represents the religious leaders’ _____ of Him.

“The _____ that the builders rejected has become the _____,” or _____ as in an arch, essential to the stability of the building.

CONFIDENCE AND IMPATIENCE

- Confidence in ourselves, our deeds, our accomplishments, and even in our faithfulness to God, *can* lead us to _____ and _____.
- Impatience *often* takes the _____ of _____ into our own _____.
- Paul had confidence for good reason: his _____, _____, _____, _____, among others.
- _____ is often expressed in _____, not waiting for God's leading but rather _____ ahead with our own ideas.

ARE WE THERE YET? NO!

7 Yet whatever _____ I had, these I have come to regard as _____ because of Christ. Paul's _____ brought about a _____ of his goals. He learned to count his "_____ as loss, or _____ that provided no righteousness.

Putting aside his own accomplishments in the _____, Paul recognized that he had not _____ the _____ knowledge of Christ nor had _____ conformed.

"Forgetting" did not mean _____ the memory of his past (cf. vv.5-7), but was a _____ to let it absorb his attention and impede his progress.

14 I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

ADDITIONAL READING/STUDY: . Isaiah 5:1-7, Psalm 80:6-16

- Questions:
- What are the things that I rely upon to bolster my self-esteem?
 - Have I allowed my "conversion" to truly "convert" me from my mindset to God's?
 - Have I truly made Christ the cornerstone of my life?



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)