



*First
Presbyterian
Church*



First Presbyterian Church

October 15, 2023 – 20th Sunday after Pentecost
28th 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 diversity and unity, we call upon you this day to open our hearts to your love, our ears to your words, our eyes to see the needs of those both near and far, and our spirits to do your will. Be with us and give us courage and inspiration for the future of your world, O Lord. AMEN.

CALL TO WORSHIP (From Psalm 106)

Led by Liturgist

Leader: Praise the Lord! Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good!

People: His faithful love endures forever.

Leader: Who can list the glorious miracles of the Lord?

People: Who can ever praise him enough?

Leader: Remember me, Lord, when you show favor to your people; come near and rescue me.

People: Let me share in the prosperity of your chosen ones.

Leader: Let me rejoice in the joy of your people;

People: let me praise you with those who are your heritage.

OPENING PRAYER

Liturgist

Most Gracious God, open us up to a sense of Your presence with us now, for we believe that You are always here, always present, that there is no place where You are not. We come to meet with You, trusting that knowing You will bring us all that we need to face what life has in store for us. Help us to realize that by our attention to You, we make this a sacred space. Have your way in this place and in us. Amen.

HYMN:

“Fairest Lord Jesus”

Blue 306

INVITATION TO RECONCILIATION

Pastor

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Led by Pastor

God of perfect love, you continually bring forth life, transforming sadness to joy, and despair to hope. We are weak, but you are strong. Our ways are flawed, but your ways are true. We are seldom right, but you are never wrong. Forgive us, redeem us, transform us. Take away the sin that burdens us and restore us to the people you would have us be, for the sake of 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

Relentlessly God seeks us out. With abundant grace and boundless mercy, God seeks us out. This is good news!
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

***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

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.

NEW TESTAMENT: Philippians 4:1-13 Pastor

GOSPEL: Matthew 22:1-14 Pastor

SPECIAL MUSIC: “Put on Christ” Video
Dot Reiser, used with permission

SERMON: “What Are You Wearing?” Pastor

HYMN: “**Savior, Like a Shepherd**” **Blue 387**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from A Brief Statement of Faith)

Pastor: We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.

People: **Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives,**

Pastor: teaching by word and deed and blessing the children,
healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating
with outcasts, forgiving sinners,

People: and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

Pastor: Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,

**People: Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human
pain and giving his life for the sins of the world.**

Pastor: God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless
life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from
death to life eternal. With believers in every time and place,

**People: we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate
us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO STEWARDSHIP

Liturgist

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

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:

"Rejoice, the Lord Is King"

Blue 155

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)

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

**The chancel flowers are given to the Glory of God and in honor
of Patty Gillon's 54th birthday given by
Jessica & Jacob Phillabaum.**

Those Serving Among Us Today

Liturgist today is Kay Nelson.
Greeter today was Barb Moskala.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

TODAY: Worship at 10 am

TUESDAY: Food & Fellowship from 11 am – 1 pm

WEDNESDAY: PLARN Group in fellowship hall;

Covered dish dinner at 6 pm

THURSDAY: Food Bank at FMC

Session at 6 pm

SATURDAY: Church Leadership Program from 9:30 am – 12:30 pm

NEXT SUNDAY: Worship at 10 am

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Oct. 15- Patty Gillon John Koons	Oct. 20- Mike Moravec Oct. 23- Ian Metikosh
Oct. 16- Francis Garlits	Oct. 29- Lori Lamberski
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: 35

Last Sunday's Offering \$627

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COVERED DISH DINNER: Our Covered Dish Dinner is this Wednesday, at 6 pm for our Fellowship and Remembrance gathering. 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.

TRUNK OR TREAT: Our annual Trunk or Treat will be on Saturday, October 28th from 3-6 pm. Please plan to be here at 2 pm to set up. If the weather is bad, we will set up in the FH. Please join us or donations of candy and treats to our neighborhood children would be appreciated.

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 by coordinating the coffee bar supplies or providing treats, 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 suggestions, the forms are on the windowsill at the front of the church. Fill out and 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!

LITTLE THINGS FOR LITTLE PEOPLE: Little Things for Little People is in desperate need of diapers sizes 3-4-5-6, baby wash, shampoo, baby lotion and baby wipes. The program is held twice a month, and these items are much needed by the people served. If you are able to donate supplies, please leave items in the cry room at church, or donations in the offering marked “LTLP.”

CHURCH WORKSHOP: Elders and deacons are encouraged to join us on October 21, 2023, from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm for a small church workshop sponsored by session. We encourage all those interested, ministers and congregants, to attend. Jim Farrer of Vital Church will share with us ideas for making friends with the future and help our church be “The Little Engine that Could.” A continental breakfast will be provided starting at 9 am. Please sign up at the front so we can have enough handouts, and whether you will be able to help with the refreshments that morning.

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 † Jim 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)*

“WHAT ARE YOU WEARING?”

Philippians 4:1-13; Matthew 22:1-14

“Parables are _____ that make a _____
_____” (Adolf Jülicher).

Are we, as _____ at God’s banquet, availing ourselves of wedding clothes,
that is to be clothed in _____ and _____?

John Calvin said, “the Lord calls us on the express condition of our being
_____ by the Spirit ... we must _____ the old man ... and
lead a _____ life.”

1. Be of the Same Mind in the Lord

We tend to _____ ourselves, our blessings, our achievements.

Euodia and Syntyche were _____ of God, but in conflict.

Paul doesn’t say who was right or wrong, but insists that if the _____ of
each would be _____ “in the Lord,” the _____ would dissolve.

- a. Not just _____, but to focus on the _____ of the
Gospel—God’s mercy and grace expressed in Jesus Christ.
- b. Don’t determine sides, but _____ God’s grace and mercy and
help them _____ on Christ, instead of their differences.

2. How Can I Do This?

- a. Rejoice—not to “happy up” or _____ circumstances, but to
_____ our position in Christ as our highest joy.
- b. Show Gentleness to ALL—The “_____” to yield one’s personal
_____ and show gentleness and consideration to all.” (Exp.)

The Lord is near, when all our _____ will be
exposed as _____ in the light of God.

c. Pray, Pray, Pray

Prayer—A _____.

Petition—Prayers as expression of _____.

Thanksgiving—Acknowledging that whatever God sends is _____
and to remember previous _____ or _____.

Not ignoring problems, but _____ on God, which gives us a peace
beyond _____.

d. **Focus on Excellence** (your own, not others!) Whatever is ...

True—valid, reliable, honest; God's _____ which should
become ours. (See Romans 3:4)

Noble—worthy of _____ (1 Timothy 1:3-8)

Right—Upright or just, worthy of God's _____.

Pure—Morally pure in all our _____, _____,
and _____

Lovely—_____, _____, _____

Admirable—true to the _____.

Whatever is _____ or _____.

3. Follow My Example.

a. Paul learned to be _____ by finding his _____ in
Christ. This brings peace and joy because God _____ for us.

b. Not just “grin and bear it,” but by _____ on Christ working in us,
we receive the _____ to do all these things.

Continuing Study

The Lamb's Book of Life—Luke 10:20; Heb. 12:23; Rev. 21:27, 22:19

Living Together—1 Thessalonians 5:12-24

Peace in and Focusing on Christ—Matthew 6:25-34; Romans 5:1, 13:14;

Ephesians 6:10-18

Sufficiency in Christ—2 Corinthians 12:7-10; 1 Timothy 1:12



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)