



**MY PRESENCE  
WILL GO WITH  
YOU, AND I WILL  
GIVE YOU REST.**

**EXODUS 33:14**

*First  
Presbyterian  
Church*



# First Presbyterian Church

October 22, 2023 – 20th Sunday after Pentecost  
29th 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

*Most loving God, you are the Joy of loving hearts! Please touch us with your glory, so that our minds may become alert to you and our souls reach up to you with praise and yearning love for you, our delight. Give us confidence, and grant us liberty by the Spirit, to worship you with awe and without reservation or fear. For your love’s sake. Amen.*

### CALL TO WORSHIP (From Psalm 96:1-9)

Led by Liturgist

Leader: O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.

**People: Sing to the Lord; bless his name;  
tell of his salvation from day to day.**

Leader: Declare his glory among the nations,  
his marvelous works among all the peoples.

**People: For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised;  
he is to be revered above all gods.**

Leader: Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts.

**People: Worship the Lord in holy splendor;  
tremble before him, all the earth.**

**OPENING PRAYER**

Liturgist

With thankful hearts for the bounties of our lives, we come, O God, to offer our prayers and praise. As we gather this week, keep us mindful of all the blessings in our lives and those with whom we share our lives. Be with us in worship as we lift our voices in praise of you, through Christ our Lord, Amen.

**HYMN:            “All Praise to God Who Reigns Above”            Red 352**

**INVITATION TO RECONCILIATION**

Pastor

**CHORUS            “Spirit of the Living God” (chorus)            Blue 288**

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Led by Pastor

**Creator God, we are commanded to give to you what is yours. But since we cannot see your face, we confess to a miserable confusion. Where is your image printed? Not on our coinage or our calendars. Not on any of the things we buy in the store or in the ads that stream by us. No, the only place we can see your face is in our neighbor and in the mirror. We’re the ones created in your image. Honestly, we’d rather pay taxes, God, than give up our whole selves. But if we are what you want, heart, mind, soul, and strength — we’ll do our best, God. We’ll give our all to you. Amen.**

**\*SILENT CONFESSION**

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

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Pastor

Hear the good news! Our God, lover of justice, glories not in punishment but in redemption. Be at peace: you are forgiven, and you are free.

**Christ has broken the power of sin and rescued us from our shame. To God be the glory! Alleluia! 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.**

FIVE-MINUTE FELLOWSHIP—Greet your neighbor.

**CHORUS**

**“The Family of God”**

**Screen**

**– PROCLAIM THE WORD OF GOD –**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**Led by Liturgist**

Lord, in the stories of your Scripture, give us truth to cling to; help us hear your still, small voice. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT:

Exodus 33:12-23

Pastor

GOSPEL:

Matthew 22:15-22

Pastor

SPECIAL MUSIC:

“God Is So Good”

Bobbi Jo Huebner

SERMON:

“What Is God’s?”

Pastor

**HYMN:**

**“How Great Thou Art” (Verses 1-3)**

**Red 2**

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from A Brief Statement of Faith)

**People: In life and death we belong to God.**

Pastor: Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

**People: We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father.**

Pastor: In sovereign love God created the world good, acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation, and makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.

**People: We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.**

Pastor: Jesus proclaimed the reign of God, was crucified, and raised from the dead, delivering us from death to life eternal.

**People: We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life.**

Pastor: The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the church.

**People: In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"**

**CHORUS "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying" Screen**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**INVITATION TO STEWARDSHIP** (1 Thessalonians 1:3) Liturgist  
Scripture praises the “work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.” We give now, not for the flash or the fame, but in quiet, steadfast hope that every dollar might serve to build up the body of Christ in this congregation, and the beloved community in the world. Your offerings matter. Make them with confidence.

**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

Lord, we dedicate our all to you; not just the money that we no longer call ours (whether it's sitting in the plate or whizzing along digital paths), but our thoughts, our plans, our time, our dreams, our days. It's all yours, God. It always was. Help us to rejoice in that. Amen.

**HYMN:**

“When Morning Gilds the Skies”

Blue 487

**BENEDICTION**

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

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

Liturgy pieces from Brian Christopher Coulter at Presbyterian Outlook,

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 Donna Sichi.

## THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

**TODAY:** Worship at 10 am

**TUESDAY:** Bag Brigade at 6 pm

**SATURDAY:** Trunk or Treat from 3-5 pm

**NEXT SUNDAY:** Worship at 10 am; All Saints Service

## UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Oct. 23- Ian Metikosh	Oct. 29- Lori Lamberski
Nov. 1- Steven & Lisa Conger	



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: 37**

**Last Sunday's Offering \$664**

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**TRUNK OR TREAT:** Our annual Trunk or Treat will be this Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup> from 3-5 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.

**ALL SAINTS SERVICE:** Next Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, we will have our annual all saints/remembrance service, when we remember those who have passed since last November 1st. If you have someone close to you whom you want to remember, please contact the church office.

**BAG BRIGADE:** This Tuesday we will be going to the Bag Brigade which is the old WCCC building in Fellsburg on Fells Church Road at 6 pm. If you would like a ride with pastor from the church, please contact Pastor Mary Kay and we will meet here at 5:30 pm.

**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 church. If you are willing to help coordinate the coffee bar supplies or provide treats, please contact Pastor Mary Kay.

**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."



## 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 † Nancy Craig †  
Glenn Crownover † Darla † Rich & Kathy Davies † Sandy Davis †  
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 † Vivian Grant Lewis † 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 † Jared  
Tragemba † Jerry Tregembo † 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 IS GOD’S?”

Exodus 33:12-23; Psalm 96:1-9;  
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22

Questions can be good, bad, or just conversation, but these were calculated to \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus and \_\_\_\_\_ him.

### The Participants

“*Pharisee*” literally comes from the Hebrew “to \_\_\_\_\_” They were separated from many things and emphasized the \_\_\_\_\_ law (the explanation of what Moses’ Law meant).

“*Herodians*” were Jews who also supported the Roman government, most likely to \_\_\_\_\_ war and the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jewish life and religious practice, but also to \_\_\_\_\_ the life they had become accustomed to.

### The Manipulation

Someone has said, “Flattery is like \_\_\_\_\_. The idea is to smell it, not \_\_\_\_\_ it.”:

### Jesus’ Response

1. Hypocrites: They weren’t interested in the \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus’ ministry (his answer) but in their own \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Hypocrites” because they know and teach \_\_\_\_\_, but they do not \_\_\_\_\_ what they teach” (see also, 23:2) (David Lose)”
3. They are supposed to know that \_\_\_\_\_ to God does not necessarily lead to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the empire.

## The Denarius

1. the \_\_\_\_\_ reflecting the people's lives, work, and struggle.
2. Inscription of emperor's head and "son of the divine Augustus" on the front and on the back an inscription "'pontifex maximus' "—which Jesus would understand as " \_\_\_\_\_"—on the other), that would offend most Palestinian Jews." (Expositor's Commentary)

## What is God's?

"The \_\_\_\_\_ is the Lord's and the \_\_\_\_\_ thereof, the world and those who dwell therein, for he has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers." – Psalm 24:1–2

"Every \_\_\_\_\_ you have, your power of \_\_\_\_\_ or of \_\_\_\_\_ your limbs from moment to moment, is \_\_\_\_\_ you by God (C. S. Lewis).

"The original sin in Garden of Eden, after all, arose from a \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ knowledge and have autonomy \_\_\_\_\_ from the Creator" (Scott P. Shafer, found on Quora).

## Final Thoughts:

1. First, do we confuse the righteousness we try to attain in society with our spiritual righteousness?
2. Does our confidence in our spiritual righteousness allow us or require us to stay quiet in the civil realm?

## Additional Study:

Psalm 100:3, Isaiah 43:1; 1 John 5:1-21; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; John 15:15; John 13:34-35; Hebrews 4:12



# 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](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)