

for I will
forgive their iniquity,
and I will
remember their sin
no more

*First
Presbyterian
Church*



First Presbyterian Church

November 5, 2023

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

VA Fisher House

PRELUDE AND PREPARATION

Now, in the silence of this moment, may we, once again, empty ourselves of our pride and fears, to be filled with your hope. Now, in these moments of worship and praise, may we, once again, open our hands to hold your faith. Now, on this day that is only and always your gift to us, may we lift our hearts to you. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 46)

Led by Liturgist

Leader: Be still!

People: We come to quiet ourselves in this haven of holiness.

Leader: Be still and know . . .

People: we come to discern the Word that can set us free.

Leader: Be still and know that God is . . .

People: our Hope, our Help, our Refuge, and our Redeemer.

OPENING PRAYER

Liturgist

Ever-calling God, we give thanks that you have gathered us into your church and graced us with your faithful presence. We ponder our history, ancient and still developing, and marvel at the many expressions of your church. Grant us the vision to be a part of a new reformation for the Church that will bring ever more joy and justice to

the world. Continue to gather us, the diverse lot of us, into Jesus' vision and dream that your faithful people may be one in you. Amen

HYMN: "I Come with Joy" (verses 1, 2, 4) Blue 507

INVITATION TO RECONCILIATION Pastor

Let us come to God, recognizing our sins and even our good intentions that often have unintended consequences. Let us seek for the healing and reformation of God's Spirit together.

CHORUS "Spirit of the Living God" Blue 322

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION** Led by Pastor

Reforming God, we give you thanks for your forgiveness and your blessing. We pray for ourselves and your Church throughout the world. Fill us with a spirit of openness to your Spirit that we might hear and receive your promises and keep our covenant with you. Where we are corrupt, purify us. Where we are in error, direct us. Where we are in need, provide for us. Where we are divided, reunite us. And where we are close-minded, reform us and make us new. We pray 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

God does show us God's own righteousness, and divine forbearance. Through the work of the Holy Spirit given to us, we may come to know the truth and be made free. Jesus Christ the Son of God sets us free from our slavery to sin.

Our sins are forgiven. Through his death and resurrection, a place is made for us in the household, that we may be known as children of God. 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.

GATHERING CHORUS “The Family of God” Screen

I'm so glad I'm a part of the family of God.
I've been washed in the fountain, cleansed by His blood.
Joint heirs with Jesus as we travel this sod,
I'm a part of the family, the family of God.

– PROCLAIM THE WORD OF GOD –

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Led by Liturgist

**You call us through your Word read and proclaimed, Holy God.
May our eyes be opened and our hearts willing to follow
wherever your Spirit leads. Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT: Jeremiah 31:31-34 Liturgist

GOSPEL: John 8:31-36 Pastor

SERMON: “We’ve Always Been Free!” Pastor

HYMN: “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” Blue 276

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

We give in grateful thanksgiving for all that God has given us. In the upside-down world of the gospel, we measure our wealth not by what

we have, but what we can give away. Let us give away generously, in this offering, to bless God's church, God's people, God's creation.

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

As we dedicate this offering, we offer ourselves, as well, for these gifts of money are but tokens of ourselves. Take and use us, that our hands may reach out in service, our feet may walk the difficult path of reconciliation, and that our words may be words of peace. For this we pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: May the God of promises be with you!

People: **And also with you!**

Pastor: People of God, rejoice in the One who redeems us.

People: **We lift our hearts to God who brings us salvation.**

Pastor: Children of God, join in glad song to the Giver of mercy.

People: **Our voices join in praise to the God of love and hope.**

ANTHEM:

"We Remember"

Jessica Phillabaum and Pastor Mary Kay

Creator God, you cried out . . . forever sing your praises:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of steadfast love.

All creation overflows with your grace and mercy.

Hosanna in the highest!

**Blessed is the One who demonstrates humble service.
Hosanna in the highest!**

You are holy, God of Creation, . . . great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ was sent to be God's Witness.
Christ is our Teacher of the Way.
Christ will come to welcome us home.**

Holy Spirit, Holy Breath, . . . the words Jesus taught us, saying.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

HYMN: "Make Me a Blessing" Red 473

BENEDICTION

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

– GO OUT TO SHARE THE WORD OF GOD –

Prayer of Invocation written by the Rev. Bonnie Tarwater, and posted on the United Church of Christ's
Worship Ways website. <http://www.ucc.org/worship/worship-ways/>
Communion Liturgy adapted from Thom Shuman, Lectionary Liturgies
Confession from in "Seasons of the Spirit – Reformation Day (Years A,B,C). Posted on Seasons Online.
https://www.seasonsonline.ca/files/reformation-day_cong-life
Assurance of Pardon: Bill Wessner, and posted on his Confession RCL website.
Prayers of the People — Rev Abi, on her Long and Winding Road blog.

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 Bobbi Jo Hueber.
Greeter today was Maxine Brownlee.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

TODAY: Worship at 10 am; Communion; Coffee Hour

FRIDAY: Chicken Pie Making; Pick up from 3-5 pm

NEXT SUNDAY: Worship at 10 am

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Nov. 6- Marilyn Scanlon Nov. 10- Reid Exley Brennan Morgan	Nov. 12- Taylor Rodriguez Katie Zeli Nov. 13- Kathy Buckalew Nov. 14- Baileigh Horan
Nov. 7- Sam & Hannah Gumbert	



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.

COMMUNION OFFERING: This week's communion offering will go to the Fisher House. The Fisher House is a housing program for family members of veterans receiving treatment at the VA Hospital in Pittsburgh.

DECORATING FOR ADVENT: Mark your calendars to help out after worship on Sunday, November 19th as we will be decorating for Christmas after worship! All help is needed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: Please plan to attend worship on Sunday, November 12th, and to stay afterward for our congregational meeting. The purpose of this meeting is to elect elders and deacons for the class of 2026 and to fill unfinished terms for the class of 2025.

150th ANNIVERSARY PREPARATIONS: During our coffee hour, we hope you will take some time to look over the memorabilia on display in the fellowship hall.

PASTOR VACATION DATES: Pastor Mary Kay will be away on Thursday, November 9-11, and on Friday, November 17-22. Rev. Don Glunt will be available for prayer and emergencies.

VALDISERRI FUNDRAISER: Remember to get your orders in for pies and dinner rolls for our anniversary fundraiser baked from Valdiserri's bakery. Orders are due today. Pickup will be November 21st from 12:30 to 2 pm.

MINISTERIUM THANKSGIVING DINNER: We will once again host the free Thanksgiving dinner here at FPC. Please consider volunteering to help with preparations on Wednesday (or to roast a turkey) and on Thursday at some point either to set up, help serve, or help clean up.

A BIG THANK YOU: I want to thank all of you for your thoughts, prayers, and expressions of concern for me and my family in the past few months, and especially on the passing of my brother-in-law Bob. Having a church family makes a tremendous difference, and I am thankful for this one. 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.

† John Amoroso † Lisa Aten † 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 † 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
† Jim 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 †
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)*

“We’ve Always Been Free!”

Jeremiah 31:31-34; John 8:31-36

Jeremiah was called the _____.

v 33: “I will put my law _____ them, and I will write it on their _____, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.”

Two Covenants:

The _____ Covenant was made with _____

when God brought them out of the bondage and slavery of

_____. (Exodus 19:5; 2 Corinthians 3:14; Hebrews 8:7, 9:15)

Exodus 19:5: Now, therefore, _____ you obey my voice and

_____ my covenant, you _____ my treasured possession out of all the peoples.

The _____ Covenant: in the covenant to come they would

_____ be bound by their ancestors’ sins. *“The parents’ have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”*

_____ would answer for their _____ actions and the thoughts of their hearts.

This covenant was _____ in Jesus Christ. Through Jesus’

_____ we were set free and the Spirit of God placed in our hearts.

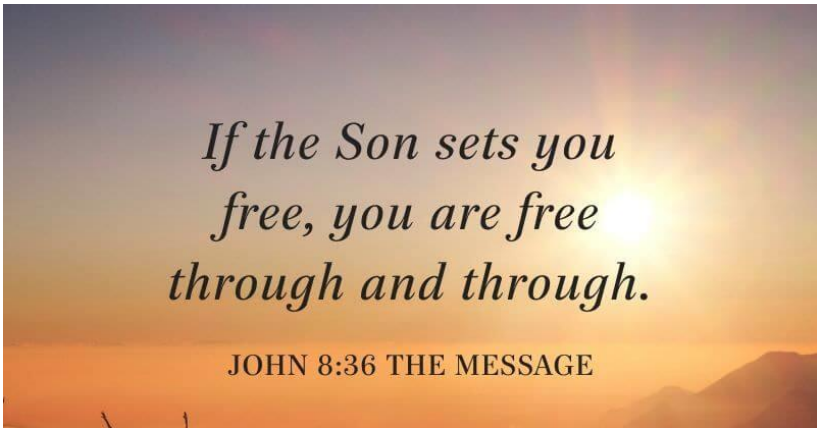
“No man in this world attains to freedom from any slavery except by _____ into some _____. There is no such thing as an entirely free man conceivable.” Phillips Brooks (1835- 1893), Perennials.

What is this Freedom?

1. It sets us free to _____ and _____ with God without fear.
2. It sets us free to be _____, not of Abraham, but of God.
3. This covenant gives us a _____ in the household of God.

President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation on September 22, 1862, but even though every slave was legally free as of January 1, 1863, the legal fact had no impact on their lives until they knew of their freedom.

Hear the Word of God: Christ has set us free from the power of sin. Let us recognize that fact, and in thankfulness, live it!



*If the Son sets you
free, you are free
through and through.*

JOHN 8:36 THE MESSAGE



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)