

“As for me and my  
house, we will serve  
the LORD”

Joshua 24:15

*First  
Presbyterian  
Church*



# First Presbyterian Church

November 12, 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

RECOGNITION OF VETERANS

Video

**Litany Response: We give you thanks, O God.**

## PRELUDE AND PREPARATION

*We come to hear the stories of other people in another world long ago. We come to hear the stories that are also about us today in this place. God, give us ears to listen. eyes to see, hearts to accept. Amen.*

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Led by Liturgist

Leader: God has gathered us to this place,

**People: where we hear those stories that show us what the kingdom of God is like.**

Leader: God summons us to this place,

**People: where we can learn how to serve our God without reservation or hesitation.**

Leader: God will send us from this place,

**People: to tell others of God's hopes and dreams, so they, too, can choose to follow God.**

## OPENING PRAYER

Liturgist

God of holiness, you speak to us in parables, so we might pay careful attention to your words; you tell us stories about our grandparents in the faith, so we might become mentors to our grandchildren and theirs. Fill us with the holy oil of generosity and grace that we may be ready to welcome Jesus Christ into our lives and open our hearts to those who are in need. On this day, we choose to serve you, God in Community, Holy in One. Amen.

## HYMN:

**“We Are God’s People”**

**Red 546**

## 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

**It is never easy to admit how foolish we are, our God. You have chosen us for yourself, but we continue to shelter false gods in our hearts. You promise to be with us every moment, but we find little time for you. You send your Word to us, but we are too busy listening to the noise of our culture to pay attention. Have mercy, Eternal One, and forgive us. Speak to us, so we might listen and i be transformed into your people. Fill us with holiness and enable us to serve you faithfully and completely.**

## \*SILENT CONFESSION

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

## **\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Pastor

This is our assurance: God forgives us.

This is our hope: God's love is everlasting.

This is our truth: God is with us always.

**We will speak the truth; we will live the hope;  
we will share God's mercy. Thanks be to God. 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.

## **– PROCLAIM THE WORD OF GOD –**

### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Led by Liturgist

**God of grace, help us to open our minds to your teaching and  
tune our ears to your word. We want to listen to the stories of the  
faith of our ancestors and share their and our stories with our  
children. We put our trust in you, O God, and worship the one  
who gives us life. Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT: Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25 Liturgist

GOSPEL: Matthew 25:1-13 Pastor

SERMON: “Ready or Not?” Pastor

HYMN: “We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight” Blue 399

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH The Apostles Creed

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

**Response: Hear our prayer, O Lord**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**INVITATION TO GENEROSITY**

God calls us to faith and to discipleship. God blesses us with all we need to do all that we are called to do. Let us take a moment to consider God's mercy and determine what we will give 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

On our own what we have to give doesn't amount to much in the light of all you have given to us and in the face of so much need. Put together as a congregation, what we offer you here in love becomes more, not simply added together, but somehow multiplied in its usefulness. We ask you to bless our gifts, and with the addition of your blessing, there is enough for all. Amen

**HYMN:**

**"Lord of All Good"**

**Blue 375**

**BENEDICTION**

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

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

**Last Sunday's Attendance: 35**

**Last Sunday's Offering \$1,568**

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

Chancel flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory of Ed Latchem given by Judy Latchem.

**THOSE SERVING AMONG US TODAY**

Liturgist today is Kay Nelson.

Greeter today was Susan Aten.

**THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN**

**TODAY:** Worship at 10 am

**THURSDAY:** Food Bank at FMC; Session at 6 pm

**NEXT SUNDAY:** Worship at 10 am; Decorating for Advent

**UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES**

Nov. 12- Taylor Rodriguez Katie Zeli	Nov. 20- Bob Roskovich
Nov. 13- Kathy Buckalew	Nov. 21- Erin Exley
Nov. 14- Baileigh Horan	Nov. 22- Barb Peters
Nov. 17- Donna Mueller	Nov. 24- Joe Kosko Nancy Koons
Nov. 21- John & Nancy Koons	
Nov. 23- Mike & Jennifer Metikosh	
Nov. 23- Jeff & Kathy Bevan	



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.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING:** The congregational meeting has been postponed due to several circumstances. The new date for our meeting will be Sunday, December 10th, following worship. Please plan to be there.

**PASTOR VACATION DATES:** Pastor Mary Kay will be away from November 17-22. Rev. Don Glunt will be available for prayer and emergencies. Bobbi Jo Huebner will be bringing the word during a special service.

**LITTLE THINGS FOR LITTLE PEOPLE:** The numbers of children we serve is continually increasing. Thank you for your continuing support for this ministry to infants and toddlers.

**ROSTRAVER FOOD PANTRY:** We received word from Westmoreland Food Bank (where we get our food) that donations have been down recently. Anything you can donate to help your neighbors would be greatly appreciated, especially during this holiday season. Also, because we have high students helping from time to time, all volunteers will need to have their clearances brought to Sue

Spahr or to get them updated/done. On Wednesday, Nov. 15th, at 4 pm, Sue will be at Fells to help anyone who needs to have their clearances processed. Call her for more information at 724-469-1286.

**MINISTERIUM THANKSGIVING DINNER:** The ministerium still needs a few people to cook turkeys for the dinner on Thanksgiving. They will need to be cooked and brought to the church between 2-4 pm on Wednesday the 22nd. It would be helpful if you could clean the turkey (i.e., debone and cut), but anything will help. If you will be able to cook a turkey, contact Vann Walchock at 724-326-8722. Help is needed as follows: Wednesday, November 22nd, 2-4 pm—need help with cutting turkeys that come in whole, setting up tables and such, packaging rolls and other items for to-go orders, etc. Thursday, November 23rd, Beginning at 7:30 – 8 am, we will be making sides, etc., packaging sides, setting up, etc. Dinner will be served 11:30 am-1 pm, and we need help with cleanup after 1:30 so we can all get home to our families.

If you cannot join us, financial donations to defray the cost would be welcomed. Thank you for your help and support.



## 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 † Frieda Hilman  
† 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 † Laura Martin † 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)*

## **“Ready or Not?”**

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25; Matthew 25:1-13

The longer it takes for the answer to come, we lose our \_\_\_\_\_;

We drop our \_\_\_\_\_ and get \_\_\_\_\_ with other things.

### **WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?**

The first part of the marriage was the \_\_\_\_\_, when the fathers would sign a contract.

The second part was the \_\_\_\_\_, or the actual wedding ceremony, when the couple would take their vows before friends and family.

At that point the groom would \_\_\_\_\_ and build a life for his bride. He would get a job, build a house, etc. before living with her, preparing for the \_\_\_\_\_, when he would return to take her to him.

### **PREPARING FOR THE FEAST**

The bride’s friends, young unmarried women, would help her prepare, then go to the \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ the bride and groom.

Soldiers are \_\_\_\_\_ to prepare, to wait \_\_\_\_\_.

Falling asleep wasn't the problem, but not being \_\_\_\_\_ or paying \_\_\_\_\_ .

## HOW DO WE WAIT?

1. Recognize that each of us must \_\_\_\_\_ for ourselves, not relying on others to do it for us.

2. Admit that waiting is \_\_\_\_\_ and recognize the \_\_\_\_\_ to put off preparations, especially when we aren't sure it will come.

*In Scripture the "food" is the person who casts off the fear of God and thinks and acts as if they could safely disregard the eternal principles of God's righteousness (S. Custer)*

3. Admit that waiting feels like \_\_\_\_\_, or being lazy.

*Waiting for God is not laziness. Waiting for God is not going to sleep. Waiting for God is not the abandonment of effort. Waiting for God means, first, activity under command; second, readiness for any new command that may come; third, the ability to do nothing until the command is given. G. Campbell Morgan*

4. Recognize that we are not \_\_\_\_\_ and that we are responsible to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ one another in the process.

*"14 Now fear the Lord and serve him with all \_\_\_\_\_. Throw away the [things that draw you away]..., and \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord." (Joshua 24)*



# 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

**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)