



Love above Knowledge

- 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 -

*First
Presbyterian
Church*



First Presbyterian Church

January 28, 2024

You are invited to stand if able
Items in **bold** are congregational responses

– ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME–

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

JOYS AND SORROWS

PRAYER OF PREPARATION AND PRELUDE

We come here today to hear your message, God of all, but sometimes we do not like what we hear. You call us out of our comfort zones to do new things and try better ways. Speak your truth to us in this time of worship so that we can, having believed and received your call, carry it to the places where you call us to go and to the people you are eager to reach. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart.

**People: Great are your works, O Lord,
pondered by all who delight in them.**

Leader: Majesty and splendor mark your deeds,
and your righteousness endures forever.

**People: You cause your wonders to be remembered;
you are gracious and full of compassion.**

Leader: He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever. Holy and awesome is his name.

**People: The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all
those who practice it have a good understanding. His
praise endures forever.**

OPENING PRAYER

O God, you are our light and our salvation. Living in your presence, we have nothing to fear. Open our hearts to your word this day. As we hear the story of the call to the Ninevites and call of the first disciples, make us ready to follow you on whatever path you lead us. Cast aside our fears and doubts, and teach us to trust wholly in you. For we ask this in Jesus' Name, AMEN.

HYMN: "Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty" Blue 482

INVITATION TO RECONCILIATION Pastor

CHORUS: "Spirit of the Living God" Blue 322

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, in Jesus, we have seen your glory. Yet our sinfulness often blocks out the light of Christ. We are quick to accuse and slow to confess. We find faults easily in others while ignoring our own shortcomings. We have squandered your gifts. We have turned from your ways. We have ignored your Word. Have mercy on us, compassionate God. Pour out your Holy Spirit on our sinful lives. Wash us with your love and cleanse us with your grace, that day by day we might move closer to the people you would us be. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

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

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Relentlessly God seeks us out with abundant grace and boundless mercy. This is good news!

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Amen.

***GLORIA PATRI (Glory Be to the Father . . .)**

***SHARING CHRIST'S PEACE**

GREETING OUR NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS

RE-GATHERING CHORUS "The Family of God" Screen

– PROCLAIM THE WORD OF GOD –

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, illumine these words by your Spirit that we might hear what you would have us hear, and be who you would us be, for the sake of Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT: Corinthians 8:1-13 Liturgist

GOSPEL: Mark 1:21-28 Pastor

SPECIAL MUSIC: "Amazing Grace/My Chains are Gone"
By John Newton, John P. Rees and Edwin Othello Excell
Arranged by Chris Tomlin and Louie Giglio
CCLI licenses 20664520 and 20664537 (streaming)

SERMON: "Knowledge or Wisdom?" Pastor

HYMN: "He Leadeth Me" Red 606

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from Colossians 1:15-20)

**Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn of all creation;
in him all things in heaven and on earth were created,
things visible and invisible.
All things have been created through him and for him.
He himself is before all things,
and in him all things hold together.
Jesus Christ is head of the body, the church;
he is the beginning, the firstborn of the dead,**

**so that he might come to have first place in everything.
For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,
and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things,
whether on earth or in heaven,
by making peace through the blood of his cross. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

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

OFFERTORY

DOXOLOGY

DEDICATION OF OUR GIFTS

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: "To God Be the Glory" Blue 485

BENEDICTION

RESPONSE "Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen!"

– GO OUT TO SHARE THE WORD OF GOD –

THOSE SERVING AMONG US TODAY

The Liturgist today is Nancy Komlos.

Greeter today was Patty Gillon.

Last Sunday's Attendance: 26

Last Sunday's Offering: \$857

Thank you for your faithfulness in service and in giving.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

TODAY: Worship at 10 am; "Getting to Know You" class

THURSDAY: Pastor Mary Kay out of the office

NEXT SUNDAY: Worship at 10 am; Communion, Coffee Hour

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Jan. 29- Brenton Weightman

Jan. 31- Chad Day

Feb. 2- Jennifer Metikosh

Feb. 3- June Kefover

Feb. 6- Tara Callaway

Feb. 9- Don Brick

Feb. 15- Kara Gibson

Feb. 10- Ray & Dorothy Helster

ANNOUNCEMENTS

"GETTING TO KNOW YOU" CLASS: Those interested in learning more about FPC and/or church membership are invited to join Pastor Mary Kay and session members today, following worship. We will have a light lunch, discussion, and answer your questions.

COMMUNION OFFERING: Next week's communion offering goes to North Belle Vernon's Fire Department. The department helps our community operate by protecting life and property.

SEMI-ANNUAL CONGREGATION/CORPORATE MEETING will be held Sunday, February 11th following worship. All members and those interested are asked to attend worship and stay for this brief meeting. The agenda for our meeting will include reports from 2023, plans for 2024, presentation of the 2024 budget, and a financial report of the corporation.

Committee Chairs are asked to submit their reports to the church office by Monday, February 5th for the packet to be distributed at the meeting. Thank you. For more information contact Pastor Mary Kay.

PANCAKE DINNER: The 60th annual Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner will be held February 13th at St Sebastian's fellowship hall from 11:30 am -7:00 pm featuring regular and buckwheat pancakes. \$8 for adults and \$4 for children. Proceeds benefit community service projects. Please contact Fred Exley for tickets at 724-929-8842.

CHICKEN AND BISCUIT DINNER: Mark your calendars for our chicken and biscuit dinner on Saturday, February 24th from 12-4 pm that benefits our 150th anniversary. Tickets will be \$12 for adults and \$6 for children. The dinner includes mashed potatoes, green beans, and cake. All help would be appreciated. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Bobbi Jo Huebner.



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	379-0149
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 2024

Lori Lamberski
Carol Tragesser
David Burdis
Linda Aten

Class of 2025

Fred Exley
Doug Cole
Jack Backo

Class of 2026

John Conger
Sharon Zunic

D E A C O N S

Class of 2024

Jessica Phillabaum
Dave Neel
Kay Conger
Brenda Kennedy

Class of 2025

Susan Aten
June Exley
Barb Moskala

Class of 2026

Patty Gillon
Eileen Kunca

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)

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.

† 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 † Bill & Sally
Callaway † Sally Campbell † Carol Carcella † Milana (Berish) Cerniga
† Chloe Chachaula † Rev. Ian Chikoti † Nancy Craig †
Glenn Crossover † Tena Crutcher † Rich & Kathy Davies † Sandy
Davis † Carol Driver † Sandy Elder † MaryAnn Falk † Norm Floyd †
Howard Forsyth † Janis Garofalo † Louise Gerber † Glenn Hart †
Sarah Hepple & Baby † Brittany Heckathorn † Wayne Helster †
Frieda Hilman † Patti Huyck † Diane Johnston † Zoey Johnson †
Janet † June Kefover † Donna Kearns † Cameron Kennedy
† Irene Leyda † Mike Lemley † 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 † Kim Pierce † Helen
Pulgino † Kaylee Rabon † Lucille Rapchak † Dennis Raymer †
Dorothy Rogers † Alina Shaw † Linda Shuler † Chris Sicora † Rose
Smarachek † Toi Smith † Walter Smith † Gianna Smoyer † Candy
Sokol † Ginger Thorp † Jerry Tregembo † Sandy Walters † Joseph
Waywood †

**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.**

*(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)*

Knowledge vs. Wisdom

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

“To put it another way, there is this simple fruit salad philosophy:

‘ _____ is knowing a tomato is a fruit. _____ is knowing not to put it in the fruit salad.’” (Dictionary.com)

1 Corinthians 13:2: 2 And if I have . . . all knowledge . . . but do not have _____, I am _____.

“We know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge _____ up, but love _____ up.” (verse 1)

“The mere knowledge that there is nothing wrong with [food offered to idols] inflates one to a level of _____ and _____” . . . “Love takes one _____ himself to _____; it builds up.” (Expositor’s)

Verse 12 “But when you thus sin against brothers and sisters and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ.

13 Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never again eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

Applying it to our lives

1. _____ knowledge.
2. _____ for wisdom.
3. Apply it by _____ the way of love.