



*First  
Presbyterian  
Church*



# First Presbyterian Church

## Second Sunday in Lent

February 25, 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

*God, you have given us everything. What can we give in return for our lives? Be our guide on our Lenten journey. Help us to deny ourselves, pick up our cross and follow Jesus. We welcome the chastening direction in our lives as we worship you today.*

### CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 22)

Leader: Lord of all, you have rescued me.

**People: I will tell of your name to my brothers and sisters;  
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:**

Leader: You who fear the Lord, praise him!

**People: From you comes my praise in the great congregation;  
my vows I will pay before those who fear him.**

Leader: All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.

**People: Future generations will be told about the Lord and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn. Praise the Lord!**

**OPENING PRAYER**

Liturgist

Lord of presence and power, be with us on this second step of our Lenten journey to the Cross. Help us to make a commitment of our lives, our spirits, our hearts to ministry in your name. AMEN.

**HYMN: “My Faith Looks Up to Thee” Blue 383**

**INVITATION TO RECONCILIATION**

Pastor

When we cry to God in prayer and confession, God hears. Let us approach God’s throne of grace with confidence and faith.

**CHORUS: “Spirit of the Living God” Blue 322**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Savior God, the public spectacle of the cross calls us to account. We hesitate and hedge when opportunities arise to speak of you. We are shy in faith and not bold to proclaim. Your story saves, yet we keep it to ourselves. Forgive our reticence of faith. Forgive the ways we fail to serve as public witnesses. Help us be your candlelight, held high to set the world aglow. Amen.**

**SILENT CONFESSION**

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

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

God does not forsake us. Our God is a gracious God, abounding in steadfast love. Know that in Jesus Christ, you are forgiven and be at peace. Amen.

**In thankfulness and praise we will tell the story of salvation.  
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**

**Merciful, God, help us to seek you and the message you intend  
for us in your Word read and proclaimed today. Amen.**

**NEW TESTAMENT:                      Romans 4:13-25                      Liturgist**

**SPECIAL MUSIC:                      "Blessings"                      Pastor**  
Original by Laura Story; Accompaniment by Kaleb Brasee

**GOSPEL:                      Mark 8:31-38                      Pastor**

**SERMON:                      "I Don't Think So!"                      Pastor**

**HYMN:                      "O Jesus, I Have Promised"                      Blue 388**

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: APOSTLES CREED                      Blue 14**

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

**INVITATION TO GENEROSITY**

**God calls us to lives of grateful generosity. Let us praise the Giver of  
all good gifts through our offering today.**

**OFFERTORY**

## **DOXOLOGY**

### **DEDICATION OF OUR GIFTS**

**God of grace, you provide for us in amazing ways. Accept these offerings as signs of our gratitude and bless them to further Christ's ministry and mission among the poor, the suffering and the destitute. Amen.**

**HYMN: "What Wondrous Love is This?" Blue 85**

### **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

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

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

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### **THOSE SERVING AMONG US TODAY**

The Liturgist today is Dawn Kapolka.  
Greeter today was Carol Tragesser.

**Last Sunday's Attendance: 35**

**Last Sunday's Offering: \$1493**

**Thank you for your faithfulness in service and in giving.**

**Chancel flowers are given to the Glory of God and in honor of Susan Aten's birthday on February 26<sup>th</sup> given by her parents.**

### **THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN**

**TODAY:** Worship at 10 am

**WEDNESDAY:** Liturgy & lunch at Lynnwood Lutheran

from 12-1 pm

**NEXT SUNDAY:** Worship at 10 am; Communion; Coffee hour

<b>UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES</b>	
Feb. 25- Ryan McWreath	Feb. 27- Rosemary Strenske Nancy Komlos Zach Jupin
Feb. 26- Susan Aten	

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**LENTEN BIBLE STUDY, PRAYER, AND PRAISE**—Throughout Lent, you are invited to join the pastor in reading through and meditating on the life of Christ in the Gospel of Luke, an average of 28 verses per day or four chapters per week.

Each Monday in Lent, beginning tomorrow, the living room of the Parish House will be open for a time of reflection/study of what we have read, a time for praise and worship, and a time of guided prayer. Times will be 1 pm and 6:30 pm, and the meetings will last an hour. The sessions will be available on Zoom, as well, for those who cannot attend in person.

Zoom: Call 1 929 205 6099 (phone) or log in on the Zoom app on your computer, phone, or tablet: Meeting ID: 818 3672 6212, Passcode: 123456

If you have questions, please contact the pastor

Verses for this week: 2/20, 4:14-44; 2/21, 5:1-26; 2/22, 5:2-6:16, 2/23, 6:17-42; 2/24, 6:43-7:23; 2/25, 7:24-50; 2/26, 8:1-25

**COMMUNION OFFERING:** Next week's communion offering will go to the Rostraver / West Newton Emergency Services. They provide exceptional pre-hospital emergency medicine to our local residents.

**EASTER FLOWERS:** Make sure to get your Easter flowers. The price for all flowers is \$10. If you would like to order flowers, please complete the order form, put it in an envelope with payment (marked EASTER FLOWERS) and place it in the collection plate or give to Susan Aten. The ABSOLUTE last day to order flowers is this Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>. No late orders can be accepted. Please make all checks payable to First Presbyterian Church.

**LITURGY AND LUNCH SCHEULE:** Join us for a brief service and lunch at local churches at 12 pm on Wednesdays during Lent. The services will be led by pastors of the churches with assistance by other local ministers. Each church will serve a soup and bread lunch (with dessert) after the service.

Feb. 28 Lynwood Lutheran, 900 Washington Road

Mar. 6 Fells United Methodist, 1268 Fells Church Road

Mar. 13 First Presbyterian (here)

Mar. 20 Rehoboth Presbyterian, 442 Rehoboth Road

**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL:** We will be starting Sunday school beginning on Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> from 9 to 9:45 am. Contact pastor with ideas.

## 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).

**Anita † Lisa Aten † Kaiden Bane † Dolores Beatty † Bill Behrens  
† Joann Bellora † Mary Lou Berish † Bob & Carol Berish † Carl  
Boone † 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 † Tena Crutcher † Sue Currie † Rich & Kathy  
Davies † Carol Driver † Sandy Elder † MaryAnn Falk † Norm Floyd †  
Howard Forsyth † Janis Garofalo † Louise Gerber † Glenn Hart †  
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 † Jim Palfrey † Scott Palfrey † Marge Pawlaski † Kim  
Pierce † David Plasman † Helen Pulgino † Kaylee Rabon † Lucille  
Rapchak † Dennis Raymer † Alina Shaw † Linda Shuler † Chris  
Sicora † Rose Smarachek † Toi Smith † Walter Smith † Gianna  
Smoyer † Candy Sokol † Lewis Stiltner † Ginger Thorp † Jerry  
Tregembo † Shirl Walsh † Sandy Walters † Joseph Waywood †  
Edna Weaver**

**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)*



**SERMON NOTES**  
**“I Don’t Think So!”**  
**Mark 8:31-38, Romans 4:13-25**

*Sometimes, when we disagree, we do so without complete \_\_\_\_\_ or with \_\_\_\_\_ in the person guiding us.*

### **1. Stating the Facts**

Jesus asked them, Who do you say that I am? Peter answered, “You are the \_\_\_\_\_.” (v. 29)

Son of Man: Jesus referred to himself with this title because it didn’t have the \_\_\_\_\_, like “Messiah,” that would prove \_\_\_\_\_ to His God-appointed mission; that is, to die and rise again to provide salvation and forgiveness of sins.

### **2. Not on My Watch!**

Isaiah 55: 8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. 9 For as the \_\_\_\_\_ are higher than the \_\_\_\_\_, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

God told Abraham, to just \_\_\_\_\_, to just \_\_\_\_\_.

And Abraham believed, even though he couldn’t see it.

Romans 4:20: No \_\_\_\_\_ made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his \_\_\_\_\_ **as he gave glory to God**, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised.

Peter wanted to \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus, not \_\_\_\_\_ Him. So he rebuked Jesus. Matthew 16:22 reports Peter saying: “ \_\_\_\_\_, Lord! This shall never happen to you!”

He didn't have the \_\_\_\_\_ of God or the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus' mission or plan.

Peter's good intention would, in effect, \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

“Get thee behind me, Satan” *ha satan* in the Hebrew text would make no sense referring to a person. It is not a \_\_\_\_\_ but a title or designation for anyone who seeks to \_\_\_\_\_ the will of God, including humans. Jesus was speaking to all of them...and us!

### **3. Deny Yourself**

Jesus calls out the two requirements of discipleship: If anyone wants to come after me, let them \_\_\_\_\_ themselves and take up their \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ follow me.

Denying our “selves” and taking up the cross meant to \_\_\_\_\_ self—to cease to may my “self” the \_\_\_\_\_ of my life and actions.

## **CONCLUSION**

If we want to truly be believers in Christ, his disciples, we can't \_\_\_\_\_ our lives to Sunday morning and then the rest of our lives.

Thomas Cash gave this illustration: One denial leads to two; two lead to three. Our descent away from God always grows steeper and faster. Have you watched sledding competition during the Winter Olympics? Sledders exceed 65 mph at the end of the course! And it all started by purposely pushing away from level ground.

This week, take some time to identify those thoughts and beliefs, those goals and plans that are causing you to sit on the fence, wavering between trust in God's promises and what the world says is beneficial and true. Write them down here and pray for strength to lay them down and follow.

*36 For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? 37 Indeed, what can they give in return for their life?*



# 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	379-0149
<b>Chairman of Deacons:</b>	Susan Aten	929-6406
<b>Head Usher:</b>		
<b>Custodian:</b>	Patty Gillon	929-7616
<b>H. O. A:</b>	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)