

Three crosses of varying heights, constructed from small mosaic tiles, stand on a dark, rounded hill. The background is a deep purple with a fine, repeating geometric pattern. A white, winding path leads up the hill towards the crosses.

The Third
Sunday in Lent

*First
Presbyterian
Church*



First Presbyterian Church

Third Sunday in Lent

March 3, 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

Creative Spirit, help us to think outside of the box the world has put us in. Erase the lines that we have drawn. Draw the circle wider. Color outside the lines. Pull back the veil that has us divided. Open our hearts, our minds, our souls, to the inescapable love You have for us, and may we be full of that love for one another. Help us remember that hate and fear keep us small, but love is always expanding us. Amen

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 19)

Led by Liturgist

Leader: The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple;

People: The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;

Leader: the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes;

People: the fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

Leader: More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.

People: Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

Leader: Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you,

People: O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

OPENING PRAYER

Liturgist

God of the Covenant, we give You praise and honor and glory, for You have always remained true. Your steadfast love endures forever. We gather our hearts and minds in worship, knowing that You are faithful and just. Guide us away from distracting thoughts, worries and cares, and instead, help us to focus on You so we can know Your great love in our lives, Your mercy and forgiveness and compassion, and be filled with hope to live out Your gospel into the world. Amen.

HYMN: "All Creatures of Our God and King" Blue 455

INVITATION TO RECONCILIATION Pastor

CHORUS: "Spirit of the Living God" Blue 322

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of righteousness, we confess that have not kept your commandments. We take your name in vain, using it to justify our own prejudices and opinions. We do not make adequate time to rest and remember your goodness, nor to revel in the delight of family and friends. Yet you gave us commandments not for condemnation, but so that we might live in justice and joy. Purify us by your righteousness and enfold us in your

grace. Sanctify our intentions and actions, that our lives may begin to reflect your Beloved Community. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

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

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

. . . The grace of Christ is sufficient for us.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

***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

Led by Liturgist

May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable to you, O Lord, our rock and our redeemer. Amen.

NEW TESTAMENT: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Liturgist

GOSPEL: John 2:13-22

Pastor

SERMON: "That's Not the Way!"

Pastor

HYMN: "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

Blue 101

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: APOSTLES CREED

Blue 14

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

Liturgist

God's house does not operate according to the logic of the market, but according to the abundance of God's grace. Let us each give what we have, trusting that by God's generosity, it will be enough. Let us receive the morning offering.

OFFERTORY

DOXOLOGY

DEDICATION OF OUR GIFTS (sung)

"We Give Thee but Thine Own" (v. 1) Blue 428

We give thee but thine own, Whate'er the gift may be;

All that we have is thine alone, A trust, O Lord from thee. Amen.

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: May the God of Truth be with you.

People: **May the God who fills our hearts be with you.**

Leader: People of God, open yourselves to the One who redeems you.

People: **Though we are foolish, in Christ we are made to be wise.**

Leader: Children of God, sing songs of thanksgiving with all creation.

People: **We lift our voices to the One who makes all things.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Table of Grace"

Video

Original: Phillips, Craig and Dean; cover by SouthSound Worship

God of faithfulness, . . . we sing our thanksgivings to you:

Holy, holy, holy are you, God of mountaintops.

The heavens join all creation to tell of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest!

**Blessed is the One who is foolish for our sake.
Hosanna in the highest!**

Day to day, you are holy, our God, . . . this day and always. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As we remember his zeal for your heart, as we remember his passion for us, we would speak of that mystery we know as faith:

**Christ died, the rock that broke sin's power;
Christ was raised, death conquered by our redeemer;
Christ will return, desiring us more than anything in all creation.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

♪ Every time . . . ♪

Here at this Table, . . . God in Community, Holy in One. Amen.

FEASTING AT THE TABLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We thank you once again for this meal, this day, this gift of resurrection. Send us out into your world to be the presence of love and hope to all who despair and fear, that all may life, and life abundant. Alleluia, amen.

HYMN: “I Come with Joy” (verses 1, 3, 5) Blue 507

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

RESPONSE “Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen!”

– GO OUT TO SHARE THE WORD OF GOD –

Opening prayer from rev-o-lution.org; Liturgy from Presbyterian Outlook, Lectionary Liturgies, and Rick Morley.com

THOSE SERVING AMONG US TODAY

The Liturgist today is Dawn Kapolka
Greeter today was Maxine Brownlee.

Last Sunday's Attendance: 41

Last Sunday's Offering: \$ 601

Thank you for your faithfulness in service and in giving.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

TODAY: Worship at 10 am; Communion; Coffee hour

MONDAY: Prayer, Praise, and Study, Parish House, 1 and 6:30 pm

WEDNESDAY: Liturgy & Lunch at Fells Methodist Church
from 12-1 pm

FRIDAY: Chicken Pie Making

NEXT SUNDAY: Worship at 10 am

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

March 3- Marilyn Amrick

March 6- Nicole Barak

March 7- Nan Jones

March 10- Karen Strenske

March 11- Natalie Brewer

March 13- Jane Bonari

March 5- Joe & Sue Balogh

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY, PRAYER, AND PRAISE—

Each Monday in Lent, 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 at 1 pm and 6:30 pm. 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

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

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.

Mar. 6 Fells United Methodist, 1268 Fells Church Road

Mar. 13 First Presbyterian (here)

Mar. 20 Rehoboth Presbyterian, 442 Rehoboth Road

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL: Join us each Sunday morning at 9 am for a time of study and fellowship.

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.

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

John 2:41-52; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

As a child Jesus _____ with the Temple. He told his parents, “Why were you searching for me?” he asked. “Didn’t you know I had to be in _____ house?” (Luke 2:49).

Temple Courts were (from the outside): 1) _____,
2) _____, 3) _____, 4) _____.

Why was Jesus angry? Because they were _____ worship of the most _____.

Jesus was not angry at the actual _____, but at what their _____ did to the _____ of God.

Questions for contemplation and prayer:

Is it possible that we are like the money changers—Getting things “done” but in the process actually disrupting God’s purposes of faith, unity, and worship?

Have we in our homes, in our communities, in our places of worship, in our lives together, cheapened the precious gifts of God? Have we allowed necessity to limit discipleship in our lives and the lives of those around us?

If He were here, physically, today, would Jesus grieve over us, over our dependence on our power and strength, on our knowledge and the wisdom of this world rather than God’s strength and wisdom?



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:		
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
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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
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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)