



*First
Presbyterian
Church*



First Presbyterian Church

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 10, 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 (Silent Prayer)

Great Triune God, we have gathered here in your name as an act of faith, believing that you are not only among us, but that you love us. It is often hard to recognize your love, see your mercy, and feel your presence. Help us today in our worship, that we might be transparent to your grace, as you reveal yourself to each one of us. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 107:1-3a, 17-21) **Led by Liturgist**

Leader: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever.

People: Let the redeemed of the Lord say so!

Leader: Those he redeemed from trouble and gathered in from the
lands, . . . they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he
saved them from their distress;

People: Let the redeemed of the Lord say so!

Leader: He sent out his word and healed them and
delivered them from destruction.

**People: Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love,
for his wonderful works to humankind.**

OPENING PRAYER

Liturgist

Lord, as we gather here, on this day of sharing, remind us that you have shared with us your most precious gift, our Lord Jesus Christ. Help us to model our lives after his messages of compassion and service to you and to all your world. In Christ's Name, we offer this prayer. AMEN.

***HYMN: "Lift High the Cross" Blue 371**

***INVITATION TO RECONCILIATION Pastor**

***CHORUS: "Spirit of the Living God" Blue 322**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Holy God, giver of all that is good, we rejoice that you are the source of all that is. Everything we have is a gift from you. Why, then, do we complain as though all that you supply is not enough? Why do we worry that your well will someday run dry? Our sin causes us to live as though we do not trust your goodness. Forgive us, we pray. Teach us again to put all our trust in your promises that never fail. Fill us with grace, so that our lives might show forth the fullness of your love for all people.

***SILENT CONFESSION**

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

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON (from Hebrews 10:16-18)**

. . . Believe the promise of the Gospel:

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

Startle us, O God, with your truth and open our hearts and our minds to your wondrous love. Speak your word to us, silence in us any voice but your own, and be with us now as we turn our attention, our minds, and our hearts, to you, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT: Numbers 21:4-9 Liturgist

NEW TESTAMENT: Ephesians 2:4-10 Liturgist

SPECIAL MUSIC "Table of Grace" Video
Original by Phillips, Craig and Dean; cover by SouthSound Worship

GOSPEL: John 3:14-20 Pastor

SERMON: "Heavy Lifting?" Pastor

***HYMN: "Rock of Ages" Red 108**

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

Liturgist

From the providence of God, all that we need has been given to us, in sufficient abundance that we might share. Let us return our offerings as a sign of our commitment to follow the One who has loved us, even unto death.

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY**

***DEDICATION OF OUR GIFTS**

Gracious God, from the overflowing of your love, we have been given abundance upon abundance. Receive, we pray, our offerings and bless them. May we be blessed by their work, as we see your reign among us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***HYMN: "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" Blue 142**

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

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

– GO OUT TO SHARE THE WORD OF GOD –

Liturgy from Baron Mullis, Presbyterian Outlook; Ministry Matters;
CCLI licenses 20664520 and 20664537

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THOSE SERVING AMONG US TODAY

The Liturgist today is Nancy Komlos.

Greeter today was Susan Aten.

Last Sunday's Attendance: 40

Last Sunday's Offering: \$ 1817

Thank you for your faithfulness in service and in giving.



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 is secure and protected.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

TODAY: Worship at 10 am

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

WEDNESDAY: Liturgy & Lunch is here this week at 12 noon

NEXT SUNDAY: Worship at 10 am

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES	
March 10- Karen Strenske	March 21- Joanne Weightman
March 11- Natalie Brewer	March 22- Jeff Bevan
March 13- Jane Bonari	Brad Orr
March 20- Ariana Berish	March 23- Ellis Merklin

Next Week's Readings

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Psalms 51:1-12 or Psalm 119:9-16

Hebrews 5:5-10

John 12:20-33

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

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. 13 First Presbyterian (here) Rosemary Strenske is coordinating the luncheon.

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. We will be studying the Engage Discipleship curriculum.

YOU ARE INVITED TO St. Sebastian's Ladies of Faith presentation of "Mary's Way of the Cross" on March 16th at 1 pm with light refreshments following Lenten reflection in Parish Hall.

APOLOGETICS LECTURE/DISCUSSION GROUP at Harmony Presbyterian Church beginning April 4th at 7 pm. This is a 24-session study and discussion group.

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 † Gillingham twin
preemies † Jim Gross † Glenn Hart † Brittany Heckathorn † Wayne
Helster † Frieda Hilman † Patti Huyck † Diane Johnston † Zoey
Johnson † Janet † Donna Kearns † 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

Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22;
Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21

Benjamin Franklin once said: "Being _____ makes poor men rich; _____ makes rich men poor."

The people, in their discontent, moved from _____ to _____.

A serpent, alluding to Genesis, often represents _____ and _____.

Instead of the serpent being representative of evil, the serpent becomes an _____ of _____; a reminder of their need for God.

They didn't have to _____ the serpents, to find a _____, or to do anything but to _____.

Ephesians 2:1-2 "You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient."

Like the Israelites in the wilderness, we were dead, without any _____ of redemption through our own strength or toil.

vv. 4-5: 4 but God, who is rich in _____, out of the great love with which he loved us 5 even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by _____ you have been saved—

. . . not by my _____ or my _____, but by Christ. . . . not the result of _____ so that no one may _____.

14 “And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be _____, 15 that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.”

God sent Jesus because of God’s love for us, but we need to hear v.

17 “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to _____ the world but in order that the world might be _____ through him.”

Are you trying to do the heavy lifting on your own? Are you trying to save yourself, slaying the “serpents” that cause you trauma? Are you relying on artificial light to guide you, turning to the world’s light and your own understanding to find your way? This will never do. Instead look to Jesus, high and lifted up, and then, as God’s redeemed, lift Jesus up so other might look to Him and be saved.



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	Class of 2025	Class of 2026
Lori Lamberski	Fred Exley	John Conger
Carol Tragesser	Doug Cole	Sharon Zunic
David Burdis	Jack Backo	
Linda Aten		

D E A C O N S

Class of 2024	Class of 2025	Class of 2026
Jessica Phillabaum	Susan Aten	Patty Gillon
Dave Neel	June Exley	Eileen Kunca
Kay Conger	Barb Moskala	
Brenda Kennedy		

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)