

And when they had  
**PRAYED,**  
the place where they  
had **gathered together**  
was **SHAKEN,**  
and they were all  
**FILLED**  
with the Holy Spirit  
and began to speak  
**the WORD of GOD**  
with  
**BOLDNESS.**  
-ACTS 4:31

*First  
Presbyterian  
Church*



# First Presbyterian Church

April 7, 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)

*God who empties tombs, you raised Jesus from the grave to banish our fears; unlock and fling the doors of our hearts wide open to enable us to declare what we have seen and heard. Son of God, as you stood in the middle of your friends on that first Easter night, come among us now, in this time and place, showing us that death and sin no longer stand in the way of our life with you. Breath of Peace, strengthen us so we may stand with all who fear life; take our hands in yours, so we may serve all who are broken with grief; inspire us to share the grace which has been breathed into our very souls. Amen.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP** Led by Liturgist

Leader: Into our fears and through our locked doors.

**People: Come, Almighty God.**

Leader: When we think ‘peace be with you,’  
means no change or disruption,

**People: Come, Lord Jesus.**

Leader: Amidst our lives that confuse religious entertainment  
with Easter fulfillment,

**People: Come, Holy Spirit.**

Leader: For the sake of a community meant to be at its best during crisis,

**People: Come Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**

OPENING PRAYER

Liturgist

It is, indeed, good and pleasant to be drawn together by you, Lord God, as brothers and sisters in Christ on this resurrection day. Pour your empowering Spirit upon us, that the message we here proclaim may become more than words upon a page. Help us this hour to listen for and lean toward your voice and to move past our doubts toward a faith that does not end when we leave this place. This we pray in the name of the One for whom you rolled away the stone. Amen.

**\*HYMN: “Christ the Lord Is Risen Today! Blue 113**

**\*INVITATION TO RECONCILIATION Pastor**

**\*CHORUS: “Spirit of the Living God”**

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**O Lord our God, we think our best should happen when we are in control, but fail to trust when we are not. Forgive us for not expecting the risen Christ to show up when we are anxious, content to lock the doors of your house for fear of all that is outside. Forgive us for thinking that church mainly happens inside these walls, not in the world you so love and into which we are sent. Forgive us for looking for your power in all the conventional places but never in places of brokenness, crisis, and defeat. In your mercy, forgive what we have been, repair what we are, and by the power of Christ’s resurrection, raise us up to serve others for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**\*SILENT CONFESSION**

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

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

You are forgiven, loved and . . . go practice that.

**Forgiven and loved, we go to show that love to others. 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**

**Led by Liturgist**

**Divine Redeemer, bearer of life, open us to the wisdom of your Word today and enlighten us with your truth. Liberate us from all that distracts us and turns us from your path. Guide us and ground us in Christ's everlasting hope. Amen.**

**NEW TESTAMENT: Acts 4:23-37**

**Liturgist**

**GOSPEL: John 20:19-29**

**Pastor**

**SERMON: "Do You Believe? Then Live it!"**

**Pastor**

**\*HYMN: "Breathe on Me, Breath of God"**

**Blue 316**

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (from The Study Catechism, Questions 43, 46)

What do you affirm when you say that he was “crucified, dead, and buried”?

**That when our Lord passed through the door of real human death, he showed us that there is no sorrow that he has not known, no grief he has not borne, and no price he was unwilling to pay in order to reconcile us to God.**

What do you affirm when you say that ‘on the third day he rose again from the dead’?

**That our Lord could not be held by the power of death. Having died on the cross, he appeared to his followers, triumphant from the grave, in a new, exalted kind of life. In showing them his hands and his feet, the one who was crucified revealed himself to them as the Lord and Savior of the world.**

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

Liturgist

We become who we are called to be not through getting, acquiring, and possessing, but in our giving. To that end, let us worship God by giving our good gifts.

OFFERTORY

**\*DOXOLOGY**

**\*DEDICATION OF OUR GIFTS**

**Good and gracious God, help us to say thank you, to live with gratitude, to look for the best in each other, and to live charitably with all. May your resurrection never stop surprising us, disrupting us and transforming us, until Christ’s kingdom comes. Amen.**

## **GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: May the Risen Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Resurrection people, lift your hearts to God.

**People: We lift our glad hearts to the One  
who gives us new life.**

Leader: Children of God, sing with joy on this day of resurrection.

**People: Songs of joy flow from our very being this day.**

SPECIAL "Look Who Gathers at Christ's Table"  
Bobbi Jo Huebner

How good and pleasant it was, Joyous God, . . . your praises forever:

**Holy, holy, holy, God of grace and hope.**

**All creation praises your glorious name.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is the One who comes that our joy may be complete.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

Holy are you, and gracious . . .

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

As we gather to bear witness . . . heard and seen:

**Christ went to the cross, stretching out his hands to embrace  
death; Christ came out of the grave, reaching out his hands to  
embrace you; Christ will come, offering us his hands so we  
might go home with him.**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

♪ Every time . . . ♪

## 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 have life, and life abundant. Alleluia, amen.**

**\*HYMN: “We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight” Blue 399  
(Verses 1-3)**

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION:**

**\*RESPONSE “Go Now in Peace”  
by Don Besig**

**Go now in peace, never be afraid,  
God will go with you every hour of every day.  
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong, and true.  
Know he will guide you in all you do.  
Go now in love, and show you believe.  
Reach out to others so all the world can see.  
God will be there, watching from above.  
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love  
– GO OUT TO SHARE THE WORD OF GOD –**

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Liturgy by Chris Currie, © Presbyterian Outlook, 2024  
Table Liturgy adapted from Thom Shuman, Lectionary Liturgies

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## **THOSE SERVING AMONG US TODAY**

The Liturgist today is Bobbi Jo Huebner.

Greeter today was Maxine Brownlee.

**Last Sunday's Attendance: 56**

**Last Sunday's Offering: \$ 1,191**

**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:** Sunday School at 9 am; Worship at 9:55 am;  
Communion; Coffee hour

**MONDAY:** Pastor Mary Kay on vacation through Sunday

**NEXT SUNDAY:** Guest Pastor, Sue Washburn; Worship at 9:55 am

### **Next Week's Readings**

Acts 3:12-19; Psalm 4;

1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48

(Note: The actual Scriptures for next Sunday are subject to change by Guest Preacher)



## UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

April 14 -June Exley

LaVerne Kennedy

April 16 -Glenn Hart

April 17- Susan Migliori

April 20- Hannah Gumbert

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**COMMUNION OFFERING:** This week's communion offering goes to Pine Springs Camp. Pine Springs provides all campers with a vital encounter with Jesus Christ that leads to growth in Christian faith and discipleship.

**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL:** Join us each Sunday morning at 9 am for a time of study and fellowship in the Fellowship Hall. We will be studying the Engage Discipleship curriculum.

**150TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION:** We are getting closer to our 150<sup>th</sup> celebration. On Saturday, April 27th, we will have a catered meal at 4:30 pm with a concert following by Westward Road. The cost of the meal is \$20. The concert is free. Please plan to join us on the 27th for a wonderful evening of food and fellowship. The deadline to order tickets for Saturday's meal is April 15th. Please see Bobbi Jo for tickets for the dinner. The committee has invited other congregations to join us for the concert. We have also invited former pastors and others who have helped with our church.

**PENTECOST FLOWERS:** The Easter season lasts for 50 days and ends with Pentecost Sunday. This year we will once again take orders for geraniums to decorate our sanctuary for this special day. We will order your geraniums through the church's plant sale. Forms are available on the church windowsill, in the office, or on the website. Orders are due by May 5th. Please be sure to submit your dedications (in honor/memory of) along with your order. The Music and Worship Committee will use the pre-ordered geraniums to beautify the church on Pentecost Sunday, May 19th, and you will be able to take your flowers home after the service. Also, please remember to wear red for Pentecost.

**PLANT SALE:** Our annual Plant and Bake Sale is scheduled for Saturday, May 18th, from 8:30 am to 2 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We will be selling annuals, geraniums, vegetables, hanging baskets, and bagged barnyard manure. A pre-order form is in the office, the church or online. Pre-orders must be placed by May 5th. See Fred Exley with any questions.

**ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING:** Thank you to everyone who brought in their OGHS offering this past week. Your gifts will go a long way in doing the work of God in our community and our world. If you weren't here, or forgot your fish bank or offering, we will receive them until the end of the month.

# 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 † Sue Balogh † 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 †  
Lisa † 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 † Lewis Stiltner † Ginger Thorp † Jerry Tregembo  
† Fred Walker † 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)*



# 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>	Dave Neel	412-337-6365
<b>Custodian:</b>	Patty Gillon	929-7616
<b>H. O. A:</b>	Linda Aten	929-6406

## E L D E R S

<b>Class of 2024</b> Lori Lamberski Carol Tragesser David Burdis Linda Aten	<b>Class of 2025</b> Fred Exley Doug Cole Jack Backo	<b>Class of 2026</b> John Conger Sharon Zunic
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## D E A C O N S

<b>Class of 2024</b> Jessica Phillabaum Dave Neel Kay Conger Brenda Kennedy	<b>Class of 2025</b> Susan Aten June Exley Barb Moskala	<b>Class of 2026</b> 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)