

“Your love, Lord,  
reaches to the heavens,  
your faithfulness  
to the skies.”

PSALM 36:5

*First  
Presbyterian  
Church  
1874-2024*



# First Presbyterian Church

April 28, 2024

\* = You are invited to stand, if able

Items in **bold** are congregational responses

## – ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME–

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

JOYS AND SORROWS

Pastor Mary Kay

PRAYER OF PREPARATION AND PRELUDE

(Silent Prayer)

## WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

GREETING

Rev. Skip Noftzger

Grace, mercy, and peace to you in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **AMEN.**

**PROFESSING GOD’S FAITHFULNESS**

**Rev. Skip Noftzger**

Leader: Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all the generations (Psalm 90:1)

**People: You, Lord, have been a dwelling place for us and our children.**

Leader: Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God (Psalm 90:2)

**People: You, O Lord, have been with us for these 150 years!**

Leader: God is our refuge and strength, and ever-present help in trouble (Psalm 46:1).

**People: You, O Lord, have been our refuge and strength!**

Leader: The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress (Psalm 46:7, 11).

**People: You, O Lord, are the eternal One and we have trusted you.**

Leader: Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness (Lamentations 3:22,23).

**People: You, O Lord, have been our faithful One!**

Leader: Jesus said, "I will build my church and the gates of Hades will not overcome it" (Matthew 16:18).

**People: You, O Lord, have built your church in this place and we have been blessed.**

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

**HISTORY Rev. Skip Noftzger**

## **WE ARE RENEWED IN GOD'S GRACE**

**\*INVITATION TO RECONCILIATION Rev. Chuck McPherson**

In the midst of our thanksgiving, let us pause in silence to recall how we so often lose sight of the gifts of each day and of their Giver.

(A moment of silent, personal prayer)

### **\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**O God, we know that we forget about you, we forget to love you, we forget to help our neighbors, we forget to thank you. Forgive us. Grant us clear minds to know you, new hearts to love you strong hands to serve you Help us live this day, this week, and always so that our whole life is a thanksgiving to you. Amen.**

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

God did not send Christ into the world to condemn the world, but to be its Savior. We can trust God's word. We are a forgiven people.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

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

**\*SHARING CHRIST'S PEACE**

**\*GREETING OUR NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS**

GATHERING CHORUS "Family of God"

CONTINUING THE JOURNEY

Rev. Chuck McPherson

**\*HYMN: "How Firm a Foundation" (verses 1-2) Blue 361**

**WE BRING OUR PRAISES, PRAYERS, AND GIFTS**

**A LITANY OF THANKS**

Rev. Chuck LaPlaca

**Response: We give you thanks, O Lord.**

**\*HYMN: "Now Thank We All Our God" (verses 1-2) Blue 555**

AND GOD CONTINUES TO PROVIDE

Rev. Chuck LaPlaca

**INVITATION TO GENEROSITY**

Liturgist

We are a chosen people, not because of our goodness, or because of our talents and skills, neither because of our status, but because of God's great love for us. Let us return to God our thanks through our gifts of time, talent, and treasure. If you desire to give online, you will find a QR code in your pew and in the bulletin.

OFFERTORY

**\*DOXOLOGY**

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**Led by Liturgist**

**God, whose giving knows no ending, we offer up the treasure that you have entrusted to us; we offer up the skills and time that you have graciously given to us; we offer up ourselves in service and praise. Receive these gifts by your grace. Multiply and use them through the power of the Holy Spirit to accomplish Christ's work of love in the world. Amen.**

**– PROCLAIM THE WORD OF GOD –**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**Led by Liturgist**

**God of extravagant grace, may your Spirit refresh our hearts through the reading of the scriptures that we may perceive all the good we can do for Christ and so grow in our faith toward our Lord Jesus. Amen.**

**SCRIPTURES:**

**Deuteronomy 7:6-11;  
Psalm 36:5-12**

**Liturgist**

**SPECIAL MUSIC:**

**"He Is Here"**

**SERMON:**

**"Continuing the Journey"**

**Pastor**

**\*HYMN:**

**"O Jesus, I Have Promised"**

**Blue 388**

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**Rev Skip Noftzger**

**\*RESPONSE**

**“Go Now in Peace”**

**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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CCLI licenses 20664520 and 20664537, CVLI 50439969

**The Chancel flowers are given to the Glory of God  
and in honor of the church’s 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
given by the anniversary committee.**

**THOSE SERVING AMONG US TODAY**

The Liturgist today is Dave Neel.  
Greeter today was Carol Tragesser.

**Last Sunday’s Attendance: 28**

**Last Sunday’s Offering: \$726**

**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.**

**Thanks to the Anniversary Committee for their hard work,  
imagination, and leadership leading up to this weekend.  
You are appreciated.**

Linda & Susan Aten, Kay Conger, Fred & June Exley,  
Mary Kay Glunt, Bobbi Jo Huebner, Judy Latchem,  
Barb Moskala, Sherry Strenske, & Sharon Zunic.

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

**TODAY:** Worship at 9:55 am; Join us for lunch after worship in  
celebration of our anniversary.

**NEXT SUNDAY:** Worship at 9:55 am; Communion

### **UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES**

April 28- Fred Exley  
April 30- Barb Moskala  
Phil Morrow  
May 1- Steven Conger

May 4- John Conger  
Kim Zunic  
May 6- Jeff Orr  
May 9- Lexi Jones  
May 10- Jean Miller

April 28- Fred & Linda Aten  
May 8- Joe & Brenda Kennedy

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

**CHICKEN PIES:** Our next chicken pie day is coming up on May 10th. Be sure to get your orders in. And as always, all help is needed helping make pies!

**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 or Charlene Backo with any questions.

**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 that day.

**FLEA MARKET/GARAGE SALE:** The date for this year's sale is June 7-8, and we are putting together a team to **coordinate** preparations, setup, and cleanup. If you are willing to be a part of the team, call the church office to sign up.



## 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 † 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 †  
Nancy Craig † Glenn Crownover † Tena Crutcher † Sue Currie †  
Rich & Kathy Davies † Carol Driver † Sandy Elder † MaryAnn Falk †  
Norm Floyd † Howard Forsyth † Janet Garlits † Janis Garofalo †  
Louise Gerber † Gillingham twin preemies † Jim Gross † Brittany  
Heckathorn † Wayne Helster † Frieda Hilman † Patti Huyck † Diane  
Johnston † Zoey Johnson † Janet † Donna Kearns † Lisa Korff †  
Eileen Kunca † 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 † Cory Sigler † 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

### **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)