

**The First Presbyterian Church**  
300 South Main Street  
Greensburg, Pennsylvania  
The Fifth Sunday of Easter – May 3, 2026 – 10 a.m.  
Simulcast Service

**THE GATHERING**

**HANDBELL PRELUDE**

Hymn of Promise

*Arranged by Dobrinski*

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**INTROIT**

Praise the Lord Every Land and Nation

*G.F. Handel, arr. Hal Hopson*

*Praise the Lord, ev'ry land and nation; praise God's holy name forever. God has shown great might in all the earth. Let the hills sing for joy, for great is the Lord. With one voice, let all rejoice. Praise God's holy name forever.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (*responsive*)

Gaze into heaven and see the glory of God.  
Lift up your eyes to behold the risen Christ.  
**God is our rock of refuge, a strong fortress.**  
**Christ leads us and guides us every day.**

✠**HYMN 645**

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

MIT FREUDEN ZART

✠**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*unison*)

**Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

✠**ASSURANCE OF PARDON AND THE PEACE**

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

✠**CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks (Hymn 240)

**Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord. Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to His name. Come let us praise the living God, joyfully sing to our Savior. Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord. Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to His name.**

**THE WORD**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

FIRST READING

Proverbs 4:10-18

CHILDREN'S SERMON

*Children are invited to the chancel steps for the children's sermon and then be dismissed to Sunday School.*

ANTHEM

I Believe This is Jesus

*Undine Smith Moore*

*I believe this is Jesus; Come and see, oh, come and see. The light of God shines in his face, He offers all his pard'ning grace; Come and see, oh, come and see. Yes, yes, yes Lord!*

SECOND READING

1 Peter 2:2-10

SERMON

Rev. Sylvia Carlson

**THE RESPONSE**

✠HYMN 526

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

LINSTEAD

✠AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: THE APOSTLES' CREED *(unison)*

**In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one true God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us in the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the church. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!" With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

**OUR JOYFUL RESPONSE - TITHES & OFFERINGS**

OFFERTORY

Jericho

*Arranged by Thompson*

✠RESPONSE

This Little Light of Mine

**This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine; This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine;  
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine. Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

✠PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Invitation

The Words of Institution

The Prayer of Blessing

The Distribution of the Elements

The Prayer following Communion *(unison)*

**Gracious God, you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth.**

**You have fed us with the bread of life, and renewed us for your service. Help us who have shared Christ's body and received his cup, to be his faithful disciples so that our daily living may be part of the life of your kingdom, and our love be your love reaching out into the life of the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

✠HYMN 305

Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!

DARWALL'S 148<sup>TH</sup>

✠BENEDICTION

✠POSTLUDE

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

*arr. John Carter*

✠ *Those who are able to stand comfortably may do so*

### **WORSHIP LEADERSHIP THIS MORNING:**

Rev. Sylvia Carlson, HR, Guest Pastor; Ms. Sarah Esslinger, Interim Choir Director; Mrs. Hazel Braun, Interim Organist; Chancel Choir; Kirk Ringers; Ms. Robin Jennings, Lector; Mr. Rick Terrill, Video Technician.

**In memoriam:** Esther Wood, April 23, 2026

*Music for this morning's service has been made possible, in part, by Edgar and Joanne Highberger and by gifts to the Dr. Edgar S. Highberger Music Fund.*

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## **FIRST NEWS: The News of FPC**

**PRAYER LIST:** Dr. Bill Abraham, Dr. Lorraine Allen, Bill & Chris Berkebile, Trudy Brunot, Lisa Bulger, Peg Carpenter, Sandy Cole, Dan & Ginger Collier, William Courtney, Dick Crowe, Mark Cuneo, Michael Felice, Linda Gallick, Duffy Greba, Helen, Ed and Joanne Highberger, Gretchen Highberger, Linda Hughes, Jacobsky Family, Lucas James, Brett Johnson, Weston Johnson, Shannan Kellam, Arlene Kendra, Levi Keys, Emily King, Debbie Loyal, Joanne McIlhattan, Bob Noel, John & Bonny Noel, Nancy Pallitta, Gerry Pricer, Mark Radley, Marnie Abraham Russell, Nico Salvio, Stacey Salvio, Julia Schaming, Jason Schuchman, Jenny Schuchman, Pam Slater, Nancy Stahl, Carolyn Taylor, Alice Ann Templeton, Sonny & Jo Thomas, Lynda Turin, Linda & Tom Turin, Amy Weir, Doug & Lisa Wessling, Sue Woodward, Caroline Woodward & family, Guy Y.

**VISITING IN WORSHIP TODAY?** If you are visiting in worship today or have been for a while, please sign the Visitor Card found in the pew racks and place in the offering plate or hand to an usher. We would love to be able to contact you and answer any questions you may have about FPC. Please take a moment to greet Dr. Ankrum at the end of the service; he would love to get to know you and welcome you to our faith community.

**CHILDREN'S RESOURCE TOTES** - First Presbyterian Church also provides a comfort room and age-appropriate worship resource totes for families with young children to use during the service. They are in the narthex, or by asking an usher for assistance. *Children's bulletins are available at the Third Street entrance.*

**NURSERY HOURS 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.** – Drop off care is available in the FPC nursery each Sunday morning for children Birth through Pre/K. Gali Clark is excited to welcome FPC's youngest members and friends for a time of play, music, fun, or a nap! For safety reasons, caregivers are asked to provide their own drinks and snacks for their child. Summer hours start May 24.

**HAVE YOU CONSIDERED SPONSORING A FELLOWSHIP HOUR?** Provide 4 dozen baked goods **or** a minimum of \$40 donation to cover the cost. Use the sign-up sheet on the Dining Room bulletin board. Hours are held on the first and third Sundays of every month in the Dining Room. Coffee is provided by the Millers of 19 Coffee. *Today's Fellowship Hour is sponsored by Sandy Beauregard.*

**FIRST FRIDAYS: NEWS & UPDATES:** If you haven't been receiving our First Fridays: News & Updates, please call Kim at the church office (724-832-0150) to verify and/or update your correct email address.

**FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS: A DAILY DEVOTIONAL** – By ten o'clock in the morning each day, Monday through Friday, Martin posts a new devotion for the day. Please join in the practice of daily devotion for such a time as this. You can also subscribe to this daily devotional so that it will be sent to your email box by calling the church office or designating such at the church website.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** (as of April 30, 2026)

<b>Year to Date Receipts:</b>	<b>\$290,433</b>
<b>Year to Date Expenses:</b>	<b>\$237,658</b>
<b>Year to Date <i>Surplus</i>:</b>	<b>\$52,775</b>

**DO YOU WISH TO GIVE ONLINE?**



To set up your own recurring donations, either visit the church website or scan the QR code with your smart phone, or contact the church office for help. *The church accrues a monthly fee for those who give by credit or debit card. The church currently also incurs a 2.84% fee plus 45 cents on every credit or debit card donation. These fees are not incurred for the church for donations routed through Vanco from a checking account.* Your support of Christ's church in this place is greatly appreciated!

**RE:START: The Book of Leviticus, Monday, May 18 – 7 P.M.** We've reached an oft-quoted but often mis-used book of scripture for this month: Leviticus. Please join us for lively discussion on the texts under consideration! We will meet on Monday, May 18 at 7 p.m. in the Assembly Room. The class is led by Dr. Ankrum.

**THE LAST TUESDAY BOOK CLUB:** We'll gather on **Tuesday, May 26 at 7 P.M. in the PW Lounge** on the first floor of the CE Wing. We will be reading short stories from 100 Great Short Stories: Dover Thrift Edition, which can be obtained through Amazon. We will discuss the following three stories:

**Mary Ann Hoare – The Knitted Collar**  
**Rudyard Kipling – Wee Willie Winkie**  
**H.M. Tomlinson – A Raid Night**

**CORNERSTONE – Save the Date, May 8 at 5:00 p.m.** Yes, this is a Friday! We have decided to have Cornerstone meet on Friday through the Spring/Summer months to avoid the conflicts with the Symphony and RCBB. Also, we would like to invite people who can't meet on Saturdays to join our group. This month we will be dining at an old favorite we have not dined at for almost 10 years - ***The Road Toad, 2726 US Route 30, Ligonier.*** Seating will be limited so be sure to reserve your spot early! As always, you can find sign-up sheets during Fellowship Hour or you can call Sandy Beauregard (724-331-3457).

**BLANKET SUNDAY ON MOTHER'S DAY MAY 10:** The Presbyterian women ask for your support as we honor our mothers on Church World Service Blanket Sunday, May 10. For many years our congregation has generously contributed to this offering that tells people in crisis around the world, "You are not alone. Someone cares." CWS distributes warm blankets to families around the world (including the United States) recovering from disasters and displacements. For a mere \$10 donation you can provide one of these desperately needed blankets that transforms into a symbol of hope and security as they try to rebuild their lives. Please consider a generous donation to Blanket Sunday. Hebrews 13:16 reminds us, "Don't forget to do good and share with those in need." Thank you for your compassion and support.

**JOIN US FOR THE GATHERING – TUESDAY, MAY 12 – 11:30 AM**

**THE BOULEVARD RESTAURANT**

**THE REV. DR. ART SEAMAN, GUEST SPEAKER**

We gather for a good meal, good fellowship and hopefully, an interesting and engaging speaker! We have heard from many different folks from within our congregation as speakers and enjoyed them all. Join us this month as Dr. Art Seaman, retired Presbyterian clergy returns to regale us with tales of the pastoral ministry: humorous stories of a life lived in the church. Please reserve your place by calling the church office by noon, Monday, May 11.

**ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY** The deacons' community service committee will do the Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup of a two-mile stretch of Route 119 north from Lynch Field, on Saturday, May 16. The group will meet at the Lynch Field parking lot across from the Dairy Queen at 8:30 a.m. Bags and gloves are provided by PennDOT. Comfortable clothes and shoes are suggested. Long sleeve shirts and long pants are recommended. The group typically completes the cleanup area — along the northbound and southbound lanes — within about two hours. For more information, contact Joe Napsha at 724-454-3517 or [jnapsha@triblive.com](mailto:jnapsha@triblive.com).

**RING PITTSBURGH CONCERT** - Mark your calendars for an afternoon of entertaining and uplifting handbell playing as First Presbyterian Church hosts Ring Pittsburgh in concert **2:00 p.m., Sunday, May 31** in our sanctuary. This auditioned community handbell ensemble was established in the summer of 2016, by founding director Jim Rossetti, with the goal of bringing a wider world of handbell music to western Pennsylvania. In addition to what is traditionally heard mainly in church settings, a community handbell ensemble can offer a variety of popular music, including rock, pop, patriotic, movie themes, hymn adaptations, and music written exclusively for handbells. A freewill offering will be received to help continue this outreach. The Kirk Ringers participated in a fall workshop conducted by Jim and his wife, Mary Rita, and are looking forward to sharing this event with our congregation and community.

**CONFIRMATION SUNDAY IS MAY 31!** Join us on Sunday, May 31 to celebrate the confirmation of our 2026 Confirmation Class. The class has been meeting and learning about the faith of the church. They are a wonderful group of young ladies that wish to unite in membership in our congregation through the confirmation process. Join us on Sunday as they assist in worship and have their baptismal promises confirmed.

**VBS 2026:** Join the “Road Trip – On the Go with God” adventure; June 8 – 12; 8:30 AM – Noon. We’re looking for volunteers to help welcome kids, lead games and crafts, serve snacks, and bring the energy that makes VBS unforgettable. Youth and adult helpers are welcome! Come be part of the team that helps kids discover that God is with them wherever they go. Please contact the church office at 724-832-0150 or Jennifer Slater at [jslater.fpc@gmail.com](mailto:jslater.fpc@gmail.com) to sign up and help make this an amazing week!



**YOUTH GROUP MEETINGS - SUNDAY, MAY 3, 31 AND JUNE 7** - We will meet in the youth room at 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. for our meeting. Lunch will be provided.

**REMINDERS:**

**Sunday, May 10** – Music Rehearsal at 9:00 a.m.

**Sunday, May 17** – 9:00 a.m. - End of the year Sunday School breakfast

10:00 a.m. - Graduation Sunday and Sunday School Teacher recognition

11:00 a.m. – Graduate and Teacher recognition reception

# Graduation Sunday: May 17

Join us on Sunday, May 17 at 10 a.m. to recognize the achievements of our graduates. Please complete below & return to church office by Wednesday, May 13!!

Name of Graduate \_\_\_\_\_

School / Degree \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Graduate \_\_\_\_\_

School / Degree \_\_\_\_\_

## CHURCH CALENDAR

### SUNDAY, MAY 3 COMMUNION SUNDAY

- 9:00 a.m. Youth Sunday School
- 10:00 a.m. Worship & Sunday School**
- 11:00 a.m. Children & Youth Choir
- 11:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour – Dining Room
- 11:30 a.m. Youth Group Meeting – Youth Room

### MONDAY, MAY 4

- 9:00 a.m. Sewing – Fletcher Room

### TUESDAY, MAY 5

- 6:30 p.m. Stewardship Committee Meeting - Refectory
- 7:30 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous – Fletcher Room

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 6

- 7:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study – Eat 'n Park, Greensburg
- 12:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous – Fletcher Room
- 2:00 p.m. Staff Meeting – Assembly Room
- 6:30 p.m. Christian Education Committee Meeting – Assembly Room

### THURSDAY, MAY 7

- 5:30 p.m. Wind Ensemble - Sanctuary
- 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice – Choir Room

### FRIDAY, MAY 8

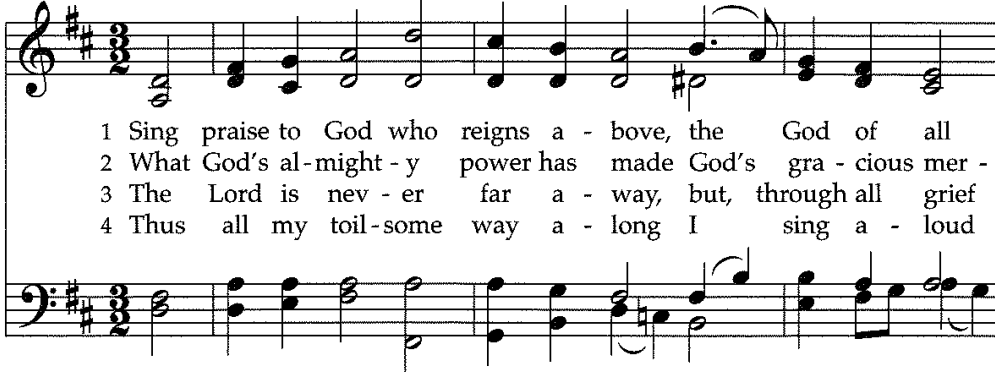
- 5:00 p.m. Cornerstone – Road Toad

### SUNDAY, MAY 10

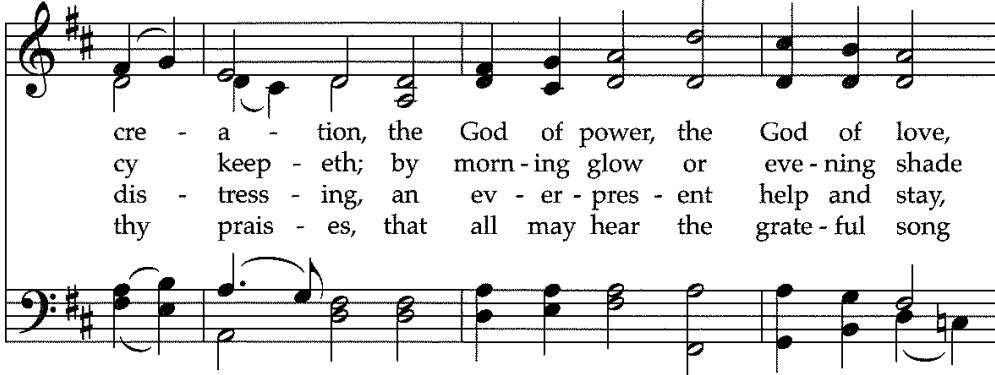
- 9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School
- 9:00 a.m. Children & Youth Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room
- 10:00 a.m. Worship & Sunday School**

THANKSGIVING


# 645 Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above



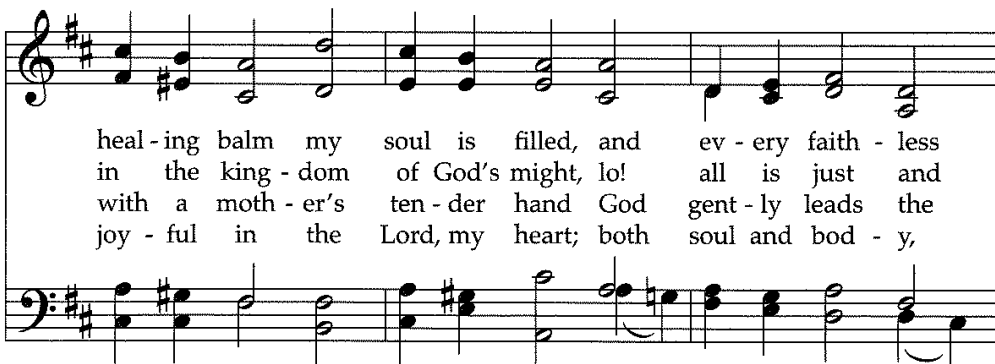
1 Sing praise to God who reigns a - bove, the God of all  
 2 What God's al-might - y power has made God's gra - cious mer -  
 3 The Lord is nev - er far a - way, but, through all grief  
 4 Thus all my toil - some way a - long I sing a - loud



cre - a - tion, the God of power, the God of love,  
 cy keep - eth; by morn - ing glow or eve - ning shade  
 dis - tress - ing, an ev - er - pres - ent help and stay,  
 thy prais - es, that all may hear the grate - ful song



the God of our sal - va - tion. With  
 God's watch - ful eye ne'er sleep - eth. With -  
 our peace and joy and bless - ing, as  
 my voice un - wea - ried rais - es. Be



heal - ing balm my soul is filled, and ev - ery faith - less  
 in the king - dom of God's might, lo! all is just and  
 with a moth - er's ten - der hand God gent - ly leads the  
 joy - ful in the Lord, my heart; both soul and bod - y,

The regal divine imagery here will not be new to most singers, but some may not expect the third stanza's image of God as mother. Yet it is part of God's self-description in Isaiah 66:13. This Bohemian Brethren tune resembles both Genevan psalm tunes and French folk songs.

TEXT: Johann Jacob Schütz, 1675; trans. Frances Elizabeth Cox, 1864, alt.  
 MUSIC: Bohemian Brethren's *Kirchengesang*, 1566; harm. Maurice F. Bell, 1906, alt.

MIT FREUDEN ZART  
 8.7.8.7.8.8.7

THANKSGIVING



mur-mur stilled:  
all is right:  
cho - sen band: take your part:  
to God all praise and glo - ry!

The image shows a musical score for Thanksgiving. It consists of two staves of music. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The bottom staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature. The lyrics are written between the two staves. The lyrics are: "mur-mur stilled: all is right: cho - sen band: take your part: to God all praise and glo - ry!". The music is a simple, homophonic setting of these lyrics.

## 526 Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ



1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a  
 2 Christ is a - ble to make us one; at the ta - ble he  
 3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a



shout of joy: bread is bro - ken; the wine is poured;  
 sets the tone, teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless,  
 world of doubt, gives us love to tell, bread to share:



Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.  
 love in word and in deed ex - press. Je - sus lives a - gain;  
 God (Im - man - u - el) ev - ery - where!



earth can breathe a - gain; pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

*Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.*

*Maracas and other rhythm instruments may be used.* ||: ♩ . ♩ . ♩ :||

This "communion calypso" (as the author called it) affirms the continuing presence of Christ both in the sacramental meal and in the lives of Christians. Because this text was written to fit a pre-existing tune, it has a rather telegraphic style that encourages pondering.

# 305 Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!

1 Come sing, O church, in joy!      Come join, O church, in song!  
 2 Long years have come and gone,      and still God reigns su - preme,  
 3 Let cour - age be our friend;      let wis - dom be our guide,  
 4 Come sing, O church, in joy!      Come join, O church, in song!

For Christ the Lord has led us through the a - ges long!  
 em - power - ing us to catch the vi - sion, dream the dream!  
 as we in mis - sion mag - ni - fy the Cru - ci - fied!  
 For Christ the Lord has tri - umphed o'er the a - ges long!

In bold ac - cord, come cel - e - brate the jour - ney now and praise the Lord!

This text was the winner in a hymn competition sponsored by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Bicentennial Committee for the 1988-1989 observance, which had the theme "Celebrate the Journey." The late 18th-century tune (first used with Psalm 148) is appropriately celebratory.