

The First Presbyterian Church
300 South Main Street
Greensburg, Pennsylvania
The Fourth Sunday of Easter – May 11, 2025 – 10 a.m.
Simulcast Service

THE GATHERING

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINUTE FOR MISSION – BLANKET SUNDAY

INTROIT

This Is the Day

Mark Burrows

This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it. This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice. Let us rejoice. Let us rejoice, and be glad in it. This is a day for worship, this is a day for song, a day to praise our gracious Lord who loves us all life long. This is a day for sharing, this is a day for prayer, a day to talk with one who listens, the one who's always there.

CALL TO WORSHIP (*responsive*)

Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth.

Worship the Lord with gladness.

Come into God's presence with singing!

**For the Lord is a gracious God, whose mercy is everlasting;
and whose faithfulness endures to all generations.**

✠**HYMN 268**

Crown Him with Many Crowns

DIADEMATA

✠**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*unison*)

Eternal God, our judge and redeemer, we confess that we have tried to hide from you, for we have done wrong. We have lived for ourselves, and apart from you. We have turned from our neighbors, and refused to bear the burdens of others. We have ignored the pain of the world, and passed by the hungry, the poor, and the oppressed. In your great mercy forgive our sins and free us from selfishness, that we may choose your will and obey your commandments; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

✠**ASSURANCE OF PARDON AND THE PEACE**

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

And also with you.

✠**CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me (Hymn 582)

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me, and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be Amen. World without end, without end. Amen. World without end, without end. Amen. World without end, without end. Amen. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be Amen.

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

Psalm 23

CHILDREN'S SERMON

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

ANTHEM

The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want

John Ferguson

The Lord's my shepherd; I'll not want. He makes me down to lie in pastures green; he leadeth me the quiet waters by. My soul he doth restore again; and me to walk doth make with-in the paths of righteousness, e'en for his own name's sake. Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, yet I fear no ill; for thou art, with me; and thy rod and staff me comfort still. My table thou hast richly spread in presence of my foes; my head thou dost with oil anoint and my cup overflows. Goodness and mercy all my life shall surely follow me, and in God's house forevermore my dwelling place shall be, my dwelling place shall be, my dwelling place shall be!

SECOND READING

Acts 9:36-43

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Martin R. Ankrum

THE RESPONSE

☩HYMN 187

Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us

BRADBURY

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

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE - THE LORD'S PRAYER *(unison)*

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

OUR JOYFUL RESPONSE - TITHES & OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

Prelude on St. Columba

Healey Willan

☩RESPONSE

Doxology *(hymn 609)*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures high and low. Alleluia, alleluia! Praise God, in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit one. Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

✂PRAYER OF DEDICATION

✂HYMN 307

God of Grace and God of Glory

CWM RHONDDA

✂BENEDICTION

✂POSTLUDE

Festival Finale

Malcolm Archer

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

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP THIS MORNING:

Rev. Dr. Martin R. Ankrum, Pastor / Head of Staff; Dr. Jeffrey Jones, Minister of Music / Organist; Mrs. Shannan Kellam, Lector; Chancel Choir; Children & Youth Choir; Mr. Mark Golden, Video Technician.

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, Bob Bark, Tonna Bogac, Trudy Brunot, Lisa Bulger, Bob Burdette, Sandy Cole, Bob Colflesh, Dan & Ginger Collier, Beverly & William Courtney, Edna Mary Cox, Mark Cuneo, Bob Dittman, Michael Felice, Duffy Greba, Edgar and Joanne Highberger, Gretchen Highberger, Lucas James, Lee Jamison, Weston Johnson, Joanne McIlhattan, Jim & Gail Miller, Melanie Murphy, Gary Nicewonger, Bob Noel, John Noel, Nancy Pallitta, Gerry Pricer, Marnie Abraham Russell, Jenny Schuchman, Nancy Stahl, Dorothy Steele, Sonny & Jo Thomas, Gale Pearson Truman, Lynda Turin, Linda & Tom Turin, Matt Washil, Ron Watkoski and family, Doug & Lisa Wessling, Don Whipkey.

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.

NURSERY HOURS 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. through May 18 – 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 begin May 25.* Drop off care will only be available during the worship hour from 10-11 a.m. See you there!

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 3rd Street entrance.*

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.

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 May 8)

Year to Date Expenses	\$ 282,936
Year to Date Receipts:	\$ 232,448
Year to Date Deficit:	(\$ 50,488)

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. *Starting August 31, 2024, the church will accrue 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!

MEN'S BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY - EVERY WEDNESDAY MORNING AT 7:30 A.M.: This Bible study has many wonderful ingredients: warm fellowship, good friendships, open discussions, great breakfasts AND the opportunity to grow in faith together. We gather every Wednesday morning at 7:30 a.m. at Eat n' Park across from Westmoreland Mall. We are currently studying the Gospel of Mark.

ADULT FORUM ON SUNDAY MORNING. We meet **Sundays at 9 a.m.** in the PW Lounge on the first floor of the CE Wing. We are reading and discussing a wonderful book written by the late Rev. Peter Gomes: ***The Good Book: Reading the Bible with Mind and Heart.*** Gomes unpacks the scriptures for his reader, covering how the Bible is often misunderstood by Christians and others alike. The book helps to open up our hearts and minds to the profound words of scripture that give us comfort and challenges our faith as well.

THE LAST TUESDAY BOOK CLUB: We'll gather on Tuesday, May 27 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: Benjamin Franklin – Alice Addertongue; Bill Nye – John Adams' Diary; Oscar Wilde – The Selfish Giant.

THRU THE BIBLE CLASS: We'll gather on Monday, May 19 at 7 p.m. in the Assembly Room of the church building. We have been working our way through the Bible from cover to cover and will be discussing the final third of the Book of Revelation (Rev. 15-22). The class lasts just an hour and is led by Dr. Ankrum. Please join us for a lively discussion! This session will be the end of our walk through the entire 66 books of the Bible over the last few years! A feat well worth celebrating!

VBS 2025 – June 9 – 13; 9 a.m. – Noon

Registration is now open for a nature focused VBS! June 9 – 13, 2025; 9 a.m. – Noon. Good soil doesn't make itself good; it is lovingly prepared by its gardener. One of God's favorite gardening techniques is telling parables – simple stories with a twist. Explore in depth the Parable of the Sower and see how God is at work in us, our communities, and the world.

ORGAN RECITAL WITH JACOB GRUSS - FRIDAY, MAY 30, 7 P.M. – FPC SANCTUARY

Heralded by The Diapason magazine as a “Top 20 under 30,” Jacob is a rising star in the world of organ performance and church music. Based in New York City, Jacob currently serves as Organ Scholar at the iconic Cathedral of St. John the Divine, regularly performing with world-class orchestras and choirs. A senior at Juilliard, studying in the studio of Paul Jacobs, our award-winning guest artist boasts an impressive performance schedule on many of New York’s renowned instruments. In the Fall of 2025, he will begin studying Organ at the Yale Institute of Sacred Music and Yale School of Music. But it all began in Greensburg! Admission is free, but donations accepted toward the AGO’s Grant Scholarship Fund.

YOUTH GROUP MEETINGS – Join us for our monthly meeting on Sunday, May 18 in the youth room at 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided.

SIGNIFICANT ANNIVERSARY ON THE CHURCH STAFF!!! Congratulations are due to Keith Huey, our Church Sexton, for completing 25 years of service to our congregation on May 15. Feel free to stop by the office and congratulate Keith on a job well done! Thanks Keith for all you do!

WENDY MCCANN RETIREMENT: Wendy McCann, who has served our congregation as our Sunday School Coordinator for the last five years, will end her service with the church at the end of June this year. The Session is collecting a ‘Love Gift’ for Wendy in honor of her work. If you would like to donate, please designate ‘Wendy McCann Love Gift’ with your check or contribution. The CE committee will host a Fellowship Hour at the end of June in honor of Wendy.

CHURCH WORLD SERVICE BLANKET OFFERING: Mother’s Day, TODAY - PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN ask for your support as we honor our mothers on Church World Service Blanket Sunday. 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.

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY CLEAN UP Volunteers are wanted to join the spring highway clean-up to collect roadside litter on **Saturday, May 31**, along a two-mile section of Route 119, beginning at Lynch Field in Greensburg. We will gather at the parking lot across from the Dairy Queen around 8:30 a.m. Gloves, vests and bags will be provided. For more information, contact Joe Napsha at 724-454-3517 or jnapsha@triblive.com.

THE GATHERING – TUESDAY, MAY 13, 2025 - 11:30 A.M. – 1 P.M. - THE BOULEVARD RESTAURANT, DAVID MCMUNN, SPEAKER On the second Tuesday of each month, we reserve space at The Boulevard, a local restaurant and invite those who are available to join us for lunch, conversation and a bit of education. We’ll hear from folks that you already know and folks that you haven’t yet met. The topics will be informative and helpful to our faith and some will be just fun and allow us to learn a bit more about each other. This month’s topic is: **“We Believe.”** This year marks the 1,700th anniversary meeting of the Council of Nicaea and the creation of the Nicene Creed which we continue to recite in worship. In celebration of this anniversary, we will explore the history and theology of the creed. Please place your reservation by **Monday, May 12 at noon with the church office.** See you there!

WE’RE HAVING A PARTY!! On May 18, the Membership & Evangelism Committee is inviting the congregation to celebrate their birthdays! We are repeating a popular event from the past. Tables will be set-up for each month of the year and participants will sit at the table corresponding to their birthday month. This is a chance to share conversation and memories of past birthdays with others who share your special month. We will be asking members to sign-up during fellowship hour to donate a favorite cake for this fun-filled event.



Graduation Sunday: June 8

Join us on Sunday, June 8 at 10 a.m.
to recognize the achievements of our graduates.
Please complete below & return to church
office by Wednesday, June 4!!

Name of Graduate _____

School / Degree _____

Name of Graduate _____

School / Degree _____

CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY, MAY 11

9:00 a.m. Adult and Youth Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Worship and Children's Sunday School

12 noon Second Sunday Supper

MONDAY, MAY 12

9:00 a.m. Sewing – Fletcher Room

6:00 p.m. Membership & Evangelism Committee – Assembly Room

TUESDAY, MAY 13

11:30 a.m. The Gathering – The Boulevard

6:30 p.m. Deacons Meeting – Dining Room

7:30 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous – Fletcher Room

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14

7:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast Bible Study – Eat n' Park

12:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous – Fletcher Room

1:30 p.m. Staff Meeting – Assembly Room

5:00 p.m. Property & Finance Committee – Refectory

6:30 p.m. Christian Education Committee – PW Lounge

6:30 p.m. Mission Committee – Assembly Room

THURSDAY, MAY 15

11:00 a.m. Interfaith - Refectory

6:30 p.m. Kirk Ringers Practice – Bell Room

7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice – Choir Room

SUNDAY, MAY 18

9:00 a.m. Adult and Youth Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Worship and Children's Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour – Dining Room

11:00 a.m. Youth Group Meeting – Youth Room

1:00 p.m. Confirmation Class – Assembly Room

Crown Him with Many Crowns 268

1 Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne;
 2 Crown him the Lord of love; be - hold his hands and side,
 3 Crown him the Lord of peace, whose power a scep - ter sways
 4 Crown him the Lord of years, the po - ten - tate of time;

hark, how the heaven-ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own!
 rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glo - ri - fied:
 from pole to pole, that wars may cease, ab - sorbed in prayer and praise.
 cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, in - ef - fa - bly sub - lime.

A - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
 no an - gel in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight,
 His reign shall know no end; and round his pierc - ed feet
 All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For thou hast died for me;

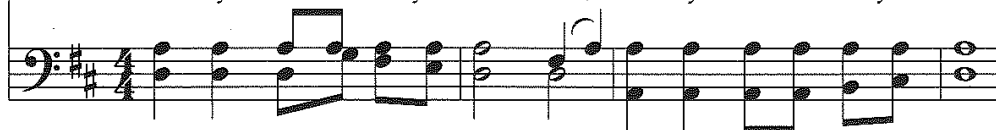
and hail him as thy match-less King through all e - ter - ni - ty.
 but down-ward bends his burn-ing eye at mys - ter - ies so bright.
 fair flowers of par - a - dise ex - tend their fra-grance ev - er sweet.
 thy praise shall nev - er, nev - er fail through-out e - ter - ni - ty.

This text is so familiar that it is easy to miss all its paradox, mystery, suffering, and beauty; it rewards careful reading and meditation outside corporate worship. The tune's composer, chapel organist at Windsor Castle, had much experience in creating a royal sound.

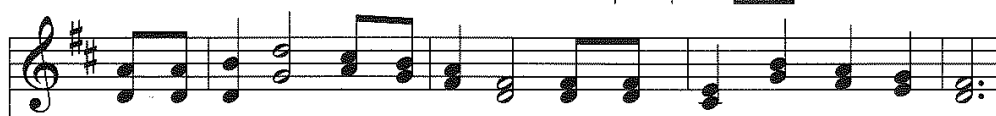
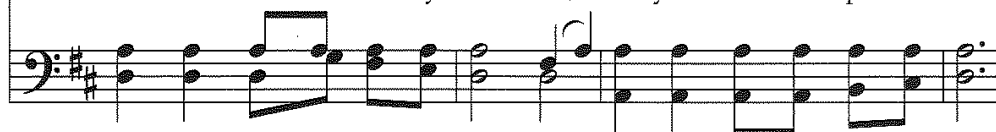
Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us 187



1 Sav - ior, like a shep-herd lead us; much we need your ten-der care.
 2 We are yours: in love be - friend us; be the guard-ian of our way.
 3 You have prom-ised to re - ceive us, poor and sin-ful though we be;
 4 Ear - ly let us seek your fa - vor; ear - ly let us do your will.



In your pleas-ant pas-tures feed us; for our use your fold pre-pare.
 Keep your flock: from sin de - fend us; seek us when we go a-stray.
 you have mer - cy to re - lieve us, grace to cleanse, and power to free.
 Bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, with your love our spir - its fill.



Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us: we are yours.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear your chil - dren when we pray.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us; love us still.



Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us: we are yours.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear your chil - dren when we pray.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us; love us still.



This unattributed hymn, like many that are now meaningful to adults, was written for children and develops shepherd imagery from Psalm 23 and John 10:1-18. The tune, composed for these words, was originally named for the text but has come to be known by the composer's name.

307 God of Grace and God of Glory

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on thy peo - ple
 2 Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn thy Christ, as -
 3 Cure thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour thy power; crown thine an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry; bring its
 sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us free our
 thy con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness, rich in
 we de - plore. Let the gift of thy sal - va - tion be our

bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 lest we miss thy king - dom's goal, lest we miss thy king - dom's goal.
 serv - ing thee whom we a - dore, serv - ing thee whom we a - dore.

This stirring hymn used at the opening of Riverside Church in New York in 1930 was penned by its widely-known and influential pastor, and it has gained a firm place in English-language hymnals around the world. The Welsh tune name honors the Rhondda Valley in Glamorganshire.