

The First Presbyterian Church
300 South Main Street
Greensburg, Pennsylvania
The Third Sunday After Pentecost – June 9, 2024 – 10 a.m.
Simulcast Service

THE GATHERING

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

Praise the Lord God!

Michael Praetorius

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 619**

Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven

LAUDA ANIMA

✠**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*unison*)

God of mercy, you sent Jesus Christ to seek and save the lost. We confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your way. We are misled by pride, for we see ourselves pure when we are stained, and great when we are small. We have failed in love, neglected justice, and ignored your truth. Have mercy, O God, and forgive our sin. Return us to paths of righteousness 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 138

ANTHEM

As a Chalice Cast of Gold

Thomas H. Troeger; Carol Doran

As a chalice cast of gold, burnished, bright and brimmed with wine, make me, Lord, as fit to hold grace and truth and love divine. Let my praise and worship start with the cleansing of my heart. Save me from the soothing sin of the empty cultic deed and the pious, babbling din of the claimed but un-lived creed. Let my actions, Lord, express what my tongue and lips profess. When I bend upon my knees, clasp my hands, or bow my head, let my spoken, public pleas be directly, simply said, free of tangled words that mask what my soul would plainly ask. When I dance or chant your praise, when I sing a psalm or hymn, when I preach your loving ways, let my heart add its Amen. Let each cherished outward rite thus reflect your inward light.

SECOND READING

1 Timothy 1:12-20

SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Martin R. Ankrum

THE RESPONSE**✠HYMN 435**

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

IN BABILONE

✠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**MINUTE FOR STEWARDSHIP** – Mr. Jeff Hite**OFFERTORY**

Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen

*arr. Mark Hayes***✠RESPONSE**Doxology (*hymnal p. 607*)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below; praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

✠PRAYER OF DEDICATION**✠HYMN 700**

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

I'M GONNA LIVE

✠BENEDICTION

✂POSTLUDE

Lord, I Ain't No Ways Tired

Adolphus Hailstork

✂ *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. Peggy Taylor, Lector; Summer 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.

Music reprinted, podcast, and streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-713544. All rights reserved.

FIRST NEWS: The News of FPC

PRAYER LIST: Nick Behun, Lisa Bulger, Art Caramella, George Chambers, Sandy Cole, Dan & Ginger Collier, Beverly & William Courtney, Edna Mary Cox, Bob Dittman, Karen Dubosky, Michael Felice, Duffy Greba, Edgar and Joanne Highberger, Gretchen Highberger, Lucas James, Weston Johnson, Don Kemerer, Marge Machesney, George Maser, Joanne McIlhattan, John Noel, Dan P., Nancy Pallitta, Kathleen Piekut, Victoria Piekut, Gerry Pricer, Judy Rugh, Nancy Skrot, Mary Smith, Nancy Stahl, Eileen Stefl, Crystal Stone, Brooke Stutzman, Sonny & Jo Thomas, Lynda Turin, Linda & Tom Turin, Doug 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 NEWS – SUMMER HOURS!

On May 26, the nursery's summer hours began. There will only be drop off care available during the 10 a.m. worship hour. Gali looks forward to seeing you and your children for worship this summer. The nursery will open again at 9 a.m. at the start of the new program year in September!

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.

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED SPONSORING A FELLOWSHIP HOUR? Provide 6 dozen baked goods **or** \$35 donation to cover the cost. Use the sign-up sheet on the Dining Room bulletin board. Your contributions and participation are greatly appreciated. Fellowship Hours are held usually 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.



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. Your support of Christ's church in this place is greatly appreciated!

SPLASH IN GOD'S WORD - VBS 2024 - June 10 – 14; 9 a.m. – Noon: Calling All Volunteers! Water you up to this summer? Do you like to stay current? Looking for a refreshing experience? Water you waiting for? Join in the floods of laughter! VBS is sure to make a big splash! If you are not there, you will be mist! Sea you this summer! Contact Wendy McCann to volunteer today. Registration for super so-fish-ticated child participants available from an usher.

YOUTH GROUP MEETING – TODAY, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Join us in the youth room for lunch and games. Lunch will be provided.

GAMES WITH RICK, Sunday, June 16 from 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. in the youth room. The city of Drakkenheim was devastated by a meteor. A mysterious, magical, mutation-causing haze blankets the buildings and alleyways. Five factions vie for control of the ruins. Our heroes must navigate monsters and intrigue to restore the city and save the kingdom.

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL! SUNDAY, JUNE 16 ... Strawberries are coming back to FPC on Fathers' Day! Please join your church family and friends after morning worship on Sunday, June 16 for our fifth annual Strawberry Festival as we hold our Fellowship Hour on the lawn. The event is free and there will be plenty of cake and strawberries for everyone. Come meet and greet old friends and make some new ones as well! In the event of inclement weather, we will gather in the Dining Room.



THE MEMBERSHIP & EVANGELISM COMMITTEE welcomes you to join them on June 29 at 2:00 p.m. to see "The Color Purple" at the Benedum Center. ONLY A FEW TICKETS REMAIN and we will be offering a ride in the church van. After the theater performance, we will dine at The Juniper Grille in Murrysville. Tickets for the performance are \$70 each and include transportation. Dinner is on your own. Contact Sandy Beauregard (724-834-2247 or 724-331-3457) or email her (sandbeau1@verizon.net) to reserve your spot. ***You can mail a check to the office, payable to First Presbyterian Church. Payment is due now.***



FIELD TRIP, AUG. 17 - We have scheduled a trip to the Dutch Valley in Sugar Creek, Ohio on August 17th. We will be seeing the Sight and Sound production of *Ruth* at the Ohio Star Theater at 1:00 p.m. Prior to the play, we will be dining at the Dutch Valley Restaurant at 11:30 a.m. **THERE ARE A FEW TICKETS LEFT!** We will be taking the church van, but only 14 people will be able to ride in it. Some will need to car pool and follow the van. The trip will take

approximately 2 1/2 to 3 hours one way. We will be leaving from the church lot at about 7:45 a.m. and have one comfort stop. After the play ends (3:00 p.m.) there will be time to visit some of the numerous shops on the campus prior to returning. We should be back at the church by 8:00 p.m. Tickets for this event are \$75 per person and the price includes the play, lunch, tax and tip. ***You can mail a check to the office, payable to First Presbyterian Church, by August 1st.*** Persons interested in attending should contact Sandy Beauregard (724-834-2247, 724-331-3457, sandbeau1@verizon.net).

CHURCH PICNIC, AUGUST 25 – Please join your church family and friends on Sunday, August 25 following the morning worship service for our annual church picnic at the Heather Lund Pavilion in Mt. Odin Park, Greensburg, just off Route 30. The church will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, buns, condiments and paper products. Please bring a side dish, salad or dessert to share. If you are not a cook, no worries! We always have plenty of food and your presence will make the event a memorable one! Come meet and socialize with family and friends from the congregation. Events for the kids are being planned. If you can bring along food to share, please call the church office to indicate your contribution. This event is held rain or shine!

AN OLD FAVORITE RETURNS IN SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER & NOVEMBER!

It's fun! It's fellowship! It's food! Here's how it works: someone hosts and provides the main course, others come with accompanying dishes and a good time is had by all! Please consider participating in this great activity. We will be forming the new Dinners for Eight groups during the summer months with an eye to starting in September. The hosts for the first month have been recruited, now we need folks to sign up as participants. The gatherings will be created merely by drawing names out of a hat, then the hosts will be informed of who is coming to their house and the guests will be informed of who their host will be. It will be up to the group to determine a mutually acceptable date and time. If you have any questions, please contact Scott Miller or Dr. Ankrum. Look for our sign ups in Fellowship Hours in the summer or call the church office.

PRE-K TEACHER JOB OPPORTUNITY - FPC Preschool is seeking a competent, organized person with a positive attitude and strong leadership skills to teach in our Pre-K/STEAM classroom.

They should possess a degree or certification in early childhood education, elementary education or a related degree. Interested individuals should contact: fpcgreensburg@comcast.net.

RULING ELDER ROBIN JENNINGS ELECTED AS DELEGATE TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The clock is ticking toward the opening of the 226th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) this month and like the two prior assemblies, this one will be like no other. The Office of the General Assembly is working on this year's new format which will include online committee meetings and in person plenaries. Visit this site often to get the latest planning updates, deadlines, and to sign up for the newsletter On the Road to GA. The theme of GA 226, "Live into Hope", is based on the hymn of the same name by Jane Parker Huber. Daily themes have been chosen based on verses of the hymn. The Stated Clerk of the General Assembly chose the theme as an opportunity to charge the denomination after being in a space of lament and hope. We are now being charged to live into that hope. The Presbytery of Redstone elected our own Robin Jennings to serve as a commissioner or delegate to the General Assembly that will gather beginning June 23 via electronic means and conclude in person in Salt Lake City on July 4. Please keep Robin and the rest of the commissioners from throughout our denomination in your thoughts and prayers.

Graduation Sunday – TODAY!

Join us this morning during worship to give thanks to God and acknowledge the achievements of our graduates! Listed below are the names of the graduates reported to us. Sorry if we missed anyone!

Senior High School Graduates

Michael (Eli) Biondi, Hempfield Area High School
Brock Maloney, Hempfield Area High School
Lloyd McCann, Hempfield Area High School
Alexander Smillie, Hempfield Area High School

College Graduates

Allie Gaetano, PharmD, Case Western Reserve University, MBA

Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven 619

(Psalm 103)



1 Praise, my soul, the God of heav - en; glad of heart your
 2 Praise God for the grace and fa - vor shown our fore - bears
 3 Like a lov - ing par - ent car - ing, God knows well our
 4 An - gels, teach us ad - o - ra - tion; you be - hold God

car - ols raise; ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en,
 in dis - tress; God is still the same for - ev - er,
 fee - ble frame, glad - ly all our bur - dens bear - ing,
 face to face. Sun and moon and all cre - a - tion,

who, like me, should sing God's praise? Al - le - lu - ia!
 slow to chide, and swift to bless. Al - le - lu - ia!
 still to count - less years the same. Al - le - lu - ia!
 dwell - ers all in time and space: Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the Mak - er all your days!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing our Mak - er's faith - ful - ness!
 Al - le - lu - ia! All with - in me, praise God's name!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace!

This adaptation of an older paraphrase of Psalm 103 (see no. 620) is informed by an awareness that much of the received language of religious traditions enshrines social values that obscure the goodness of God, which far transcends all our labels and categories and hierarchies.

435 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

1 There's a wide - ness in God's mer - cy, like the wide - ness
 2 For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sures

of the sea. There's a kind - ness in God's jus - tice,
 of the mind. And the heart of the E - ter - nal

which is more than lib - er - ty. There is no place where earth's
 is most won - der - ful - ly kind. If our love were but more

sor - rows are more felt than up in heaven. There is no place
 faith - ful, we would glad - ly trust God's Word, and our lives re -

where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment given.
 flect thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of our Lord.

These stanzas, excerpted from quite a few more, offer a reminder that the model for our dealings with others should be God's generosity rather than limited human tolerance. The text is effectively set to a broad and sturdy Dutch folk melody, probably from the 17th century.

700 I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

1 I'm gon-na live so (live so)
 2 I'm gon-na work so (work so) God can use me an - y -
 3 I'm gon-na pray so (pray so)
 4 I'm gon-na sing so (sing so)

where, Lord, an - y - time!
 (an - y - time!)
 I'm gon-na
 I'm gon-na
 I'm gon-na
 I'm gon-na

live so (live so)
 work so (work so) God can use me an - y -
 pray so (pray so)
 sing so (sing so)

where, Lord, an - y - time!
 (my Lord,) (an - y - time!)

This African American spiritual has more depth than may at first appear: for people who are bound in slavery to sing about dedicating themselves to God's use shows a profound awareness of God-given self-worth despite circumstances that would deny their human or spiritual value.