

# The First Presbyterian Church

300 South Main Street

Greensburg, Pennsylvania

The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost – September 1, 2024 – 10 a.m.

Simulcast Service

**GATHERING MUSIC**

Just As I Am

*arr. Joel Raney*

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE**

In Christ Alone

*Lloyd Larson*

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

What shall we return to the Lord  
for all the good things God has done for us?  
**We will lift up the cup of salvation  
and call on the name of the Lord.**

✠**HYMN 14**

For the Beauty of the Earth

DIX

✠**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 Be to the Father – Hymn 581

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**FIRST READING**

Psalm 15

**SOLO**

The One Who Does Justice (Psalm 15)

*Francesca LaRosa*

*The one who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord, of the Lord. Whoever walks blamelessly and does justice; who thinks the truth in his heart and slanders not with his tongue. Who harms not his fellow man nor takes up a reproach against his neighbor. By whom the reprobate is despised, while he honors those who fear the Lord. Who lends not his money at usury and accepts no bribe against the innocent. Whoever does these things shall never be disturbed. The one who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord, of the Lord.*

**SECOND READING**

James 1:17-27

**SERMON**

The Rev. Dr. Martin R. Ankrum

**✠HYMN 729**

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN

**✠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.**

**OUR JOYFUL RESPONSE - TITHES & OFFERINGS**

**OFFERTORY**

Be Thou My Vision

*Joel Raney*

**✠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**

**SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

The Invitation

The Words of Institution

The Prayer of Blessing

The Distribution of the Elements

The Prayer following Communion (*unison*)

**Loving God, we thank you that you have fed us in this Sacrament, united us with Christ, and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet in your eternal kingdom. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**✠HYMN 295**

Go to the World!

SINE NOMINE

**✠BENEDICTION**

**✠POSTLUDE**

I'm Gonna Sing/Ain't-a That Good News

*Larry Shackley*

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

**WORSHIP LEADERSHIP THIS MORNING:**

The Rev. Dr. Martin R. Ankrum, Pastor / Head of Staff; Mrs. Hazel Braun, Guest Pianist; Mrs. Linda Dickson, Lector; Ms. Gloria Christofano, Soloist; Mr. Mike Pascarella, 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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**The rosebud in the chancel** is in honor and thanksgiving for the birth of Jonah Charles Miller, born May 26, 2024, son of Scott and Samantha Miller and brother to Jude.

**Sunflowers in loving memory** of Marjorie and David Pershing.

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

**PRAYER LIST:** Nick Behun, Lisa Bulger, family of Art Caramella, Wayne Clemens, 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, Lee Jamison, Weston Johnson, Heather Jones, Don Kemerer, Jim L., Marge Machesney, George Maser, Joanne McIlhattan, John Noel, Dan P., Nancy Pallitta, Kathleen Piekut, Victoria Piekut, Gerry Pricer, Judy Rugh, Marnie Abraham Russell, Nancy Skrot, Mary Smith, Jerry Sohick, 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.

**NEW NURSERY HOURS! – Starting September 8 - 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. Registration forms can be found in the nursery. 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.

**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 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 Cal Pollins.*

**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. *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!

**PHOTO DIRECTORY** - It has been a while since we, as a church, have done an updated photo directory. The deacons have considered a few options and *Instantchurchdirectory.com* will be our new resource for the directory. As technology has made membership from a distance a reality over the past few years, this will allow everyone to participate in the new directory. Families will have the option to upload and change their own photos and the deacons can help those who need assistance with the platform. The church's website will provide a link to the app and is *only available to our members and is password protected*. There will be an option to have a printed directory for those who prefer one in hand. We are working to get the directory set up and ready and will keep everybody updated when it becomes available.

**RALLY DAY BREAKFAST: September 8 – 9 a.m. – Fletcher Room** -- You are invited to this Christian Education Committee sponsored Fellowship Event! Mark your calendar with updated Sunday School times and changes. See the curriculum. Meet the teachers. Learn about musical opportunities for children and youth. Enjoy a continental breakfast. See you there!

**NEW SCHEDULE FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL STARTING SEPTEMBER 15** - The Christian Education Committee is excited to announce a change in time for Sunday School classes this fall. All Sunday School classes from kindergarten to fifth grade will take place during the church service. (Classes for grades 6-12 will remain at 9:00 a.m.) Children will be taken to the Sunday School room following the children's sermon. We will conclude at the end of the service. Parents will collect their children following the service and before going to Fellowship Hour. The committee hopes that this change will increase opportunities to share and discuss God's word with our children. The new schedule is as follows:

9:00 a.m. – Adult Forum

9:00 a.m. – Youth Sunday School

10:15 a.m. Kindergarten – Fifth Grade Sunday School\*

11:15 a.m. – Music for Children and Youth – 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Music Room

\*The children will start in worship in the sanctuary and then be dismissed to their class following a Children's Sermon.

**ADULT FORUM ON SUNDAY MORNING** will resume on September 15! 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.

**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.

**THE LAST TUESDAY BOOK CLUB will meet September 24 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. In September, we will be discussing: Daniel Defoe's 'The Apparition of Mrs. Veal'; Washington Irving's 'The Devil and Tom Walker' and Charlotte Bronte, 'Napolean and the Spectre.'

**THRU THE BIBLE CLASS will meet Monday, September 30 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 Letter to the Hebrews. The class lasts just an hour and is led by Dr. Ankrum. Please join us for a lively discussion!



**OLD-FASHIONED POTLUCK: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29 - AFTER WORSHIP-** Help our Stewardship Committee bring back a bit of nostalgia with our first all-church after worship potluck in some time! Like all good potlucks, we need your help. Please consider signing up in advance and giving us a 'heads up' as to what you will be contributing ... the categories include: Casserole, Salad, Side-dish, or Dessert. The drinks will be provided as well as the table service. We'll gather immediately following worship on Sunday, Sept. 29 in the Fletcher Room. Potlucks are a lot like congregations in general. We are all called to contribute something from our gifts and talents so that all may be filled. Please let us know by either signing up during upcoming Fellowship Hours, calling the church office or send us an email at [fpcgreensburg@comcast.net](mailto:fpcgreensburg@comcast.net). **SIGN UP TODAY!!!!**

**THE GATHERING – TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10: 11:30 A.M. – 1 P.M. THE BOULEVARD RESTAURANT –** 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. **Karen Cole, co-author of A History of Pittsburgh Jazz, will be our speaker. Please call the church office by Monday, September 9 at 12 noon to reserve your spot!!**

**THE CORNERSTONE GROUP INVITES YOU TO JOIN THEM ... Saturday, September 14 at 5 p.m. We will be dining at Juniper Grill on Route 22 in Murrysville.** This restaurant is a favorite of our group and we hope to see you there. Please sign-up by September 11 by calling Sandy Beauregard (724-834-2247 or 724-331-3457), emailing her at [sandbeau1@verizon.net](mailto:sandbeau1@verizon.net) or during Fellowship Hour, to reserve your spot.


**HOMECOMING 2024 – SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15 -** During the 10 a.m. worship service we will honor the members of our church who have been a part of the congregation for fifty or more years! Please join us that Sunday morning for the celebration!! Afterwards, please join us in the Dining Room for fellowship hour.

## **Circle Meetings for Presbyterian Women**


**ABIGAIL CIRCLE MEETS WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 @ 10:00 A.M. ...** in the Refectory off the church dining room., The 2024-25 Horizons Bible Study is: **Let Justice Roll Down: God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation** by Patricia K. Tull. Anyone wanting to order the study guide, please call Gretchen Lowry, 724-838-9726. For more information about this study visit the PW website: <https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/product/sacred-encounters-english-edition>. All women are welcome.

**AN OPEN INVITATION** to members and friends of First Presbyterian Church to join the Monday Morning Sewing Circle that meets at 9:00 a.m. Monday mornings in the Fletcher Room. We will start meeting again on September 9. You don't have to be an expert tailor to hem the cotton flannelette baby receiving blankets or to sew the "little dresses for Africa". If you are interested, please contact Sylvia Carlson at 724-755-2288 for information. Membership at this church is not a requirement. Anyone is welcome.


## For the Beauty of the Earth 14



1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the glo - ry of the skies,  
 2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,  
 3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,  
 4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,  
 5 For thy - self, best gift di - vine to the world so free - ly given;



for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:  
 hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light:  
 for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:  
 friends on earth, and friends a - bove, for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:  
 for that great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven:

*Refrain*


Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.

In the course of many revisions, the original eucharistic emphasis of this text has shifted to a hymn of thanksgiving for a wide range of human experience, with a Christological summation. It is set here to the tune that is customary in North America, though not elsewhere.

# 729 Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

1 Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart, in my heart;  
 2 Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart, in my heart;  
 3 Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart, in my heart;  
 4 Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart, in my heart;

Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart.  
 Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart.  
 Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart.  
 Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart.

In my heart, in my heart,  
 In my heart, in my heart,

Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart.  
 Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart.  
 Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart.  
 Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart.

Through its recurring phrase, "in my heart," this poignant African American spiritual expresses the desire that our professed faith will not be superficial or hypocritical but will permeate the very center of our being, so that we may truly be the people God calls us to be.

## Go to the World!

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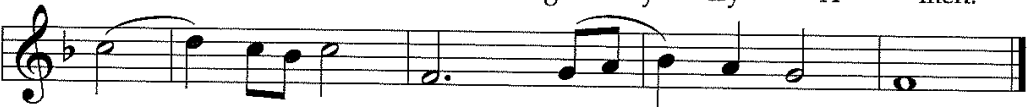
1 Go to the world! Go in - to all the earth.  
 2 Go to the world! Go in - to ev - ery place.  
 3 Go to the world! Go strug - gle, bless, and pray;  
 4 Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,



Go preach the cross where Christ re - news life's worth,  
 Go live the word of God's re - deem - ing grace.  
 the nights of tears give way to joy - ous day.  
 for I am with you till the age shall end,



bap - tiz - ing as the sign of our re - birth.  
 Go seek God's pres - ence in each time and space.  
 As ser - vant church, you fol - low Christ's own way.  
 when all the hosts of glo - ry cry "A - men!"



Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Based on Christ's great commission (Matthew 28:19-20), this text was written for a Convocation of Emmanuel College in Toronto, the largest theological school of the United Church of Canada, a denomination formed by the union of Methodists, Congregationalists, and Presbyterians.