

First Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day
10th Sunday after Pentecost

August 1, 2021

10:00 a.m.

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ fed the hungry with the bread of his life and the Word of his kingdom. Renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your true and living bread, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Words of Welcome

Prelude

“Be Thou My Vision”

arr. Dale Wood

Call to Worship

See what love has been given to us,
that we should be called Children of God.

**By this we know love, that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh, and died,
and was raised, that God’s love might be made plain among us.**

Therefore, beloved, let us not love in word or in speech only,
but in deed and in truth.

**Because we love one another, we know that we have passed
from death into life.**

*(All) This is the victory that overcomes the world,
through Jesus the risen Christ. Thanks be to God!*

* Hymn 267

“Come Christians, Join to Sing”

1 Come, Christians, join to sing; Alleluia! Amen!
Loud praise to Christ our King. Alleluia! Amen!
Let all, with heart and voice, before his throne rejoice;
Praise is his gracious choice: Alleluia! Amen!

2 Come, lift your hearts on high: Alleluia! Amen!
Let praises fill the sky: Alleluia! Amen!
He is our guide and friend; to us he'll condescend;
his love shall never end: Alleluia! Amen!

3 Praise yet our Christ again: Alleluia! Amen!
Life shall not end the strain: Alleluia! Amen!
On heaven's blissful shore his goodness we'll adore,
singing forevermore: Alleluia! Amen!

* Call to Confession

* Prayer of Confession

God of truth, how difficult it is for us to be truthful before you.

**We want to hide our anxieties and fears, our resentments and self-centeredness.
Cut through our evasions by the truth of your word, and help us to be honest.**

**God of mercy, your hopes for us are often greater than our own,
yet our failures do not surprise you. Forgive us, we pray,
even for the wrong we cannot see or find it painful to confess.**

**God of love, accept us as we are, so that we may accept ourselves.
Teach us to affirm what is good in our lives, and to put behind us what is
unworthy, that by your grace we may live in confidence and joy,
in the manner of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

* Silent Confession

* Assurance of Pardon and Passing of the Peace

* Response 581 “Gloria Patri”

***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.***

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson: Micah 6:6-8

“With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Gospel Lesson: John 15:9-17

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

A Time with Children

Ms. Schillinger

Third Lesson: I Corinthians 13:1-13

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end

to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Sermon: "The Struggle to Love"

Rev. Samford

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

* Hymn 703

“Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me”

1 Jesus, thy boundless love to me no thought can reach, no tongue declare;
O knit my thankful heart to thee, and reign without a rival there!
Thine wholly, thine alone, I'd live; myself to thee entirely give.

2 O grant that nothing in my soul may dwell, but thy pure love alone;
O may thy love possess me whole, my joy, my treasure, and my crown!
All coldness from my heart remove; may every act, word, thought be love.

3 O Love, how gracious is thy way! All fear before thy presence flies;
care, anguish, sorrow melt away where'er thy healing beams arise.
O Jesus, nothing may I see, nothing desire, or seek, but thee.

* Affirmation of Faith: Apostles' Creed

**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.

Offering

Offertory

“O Jesus, I Have Promised”

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

**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.

GO IN GOD'S NAME

* Hymn 366

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

1 Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown.

Jesus, thou art all compassion; pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.

2 Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast; let us all in thee inherit;
let us find the promised rest. Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

3 Come, Almighty, to deliver; let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

4 Finish then thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee:
changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

“Will You Come and Go with Me”

arr. Matthew H. Corl

* Those who are able shall stand.

The flowers have been given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Johanna Conklin by her husband, John.

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PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preacher	Rev. William Samford
Coordinator of Children And Youth Ministries	Jana Schillinger
Liturgist	John Conklin
Director of Music	Frank Jones
Organist	Kay Ten Eyck

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Church Family Announcements

Thank you for joining us for Worship. We worship every Sunday in two ways!

- **Have you had your vaccines?** [Make a reservation with our office](#) (570-586-6306) and join us in person at 10:00 a.m.
- **Tune in online** for our weekly service, which is broadcast live on [our video page on YouTube](#) and archived for later viewing on the same site.

Worship is Getting "Closer to Normal"

At the last session meeting, Session revised our "In-Person" Welcome to include all who have been fully vaccinated, **all children who attend school and all children whose parents have been fully vaccinated.**

Mask-wearing and temperature checks will continue to take place until further notice.

- You may sit wherever you wish.
- You are welcome, and invited, to sing . . . *while wearing your mask.*
- Reservations continue to be requested. However, we do have more flexibility now. If you forget to reserve a spot, you may still attend.

As we are returning to more regular services and attendance at church, please consider honoring loved ones, celebrations and family events with a special floral arrangement to mark the occasion. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the hallway.

Summer Office Hours: From now until the end of August, church office hours will be Monday through Friday, 9AM to 4PM, with lunch break at noon. Every effort will be made to have the office staffed each day, but if you need to speak face-to-face with a member of the staff, please call ahead (570-586-6306).

2020 Pastoral Sabbatical – in 2021! Rev. Bill is now on sabbatical, which was deferred a year by the pandemic. He will return at the end of August. Some of our best local preachers and caregivers will be covering for him, as he researches and writes a book titled *Thriving on a Riff: Jazz and the Spiritual Life*.

For any pastoral needs during the sabbatical, contact the church office (570-586-6306).

The Mission and Justice Committee offers 2 opportunities to serve.

On the Saturday mornings of **August 28th and September 25th**, our church will be preparing and serving a large community meal and filling/distributing bags of food at Hickory Street Presbyterian Church in Scranton. Since Hickory Street began this ministry to combat hunger in the local community, they have seen demand for the meals increase seven-fold and requests for food bags increase almost four-fold.

For August 28, we will prepare and serve around 130 meals and distribute around 40 bags of food. Volunteers are needed to:

- prepare in their own homes, in advance, the main entrée (10 people);
- prepare, as above, an easy-to-serve dessert (10 people);
- shop, collect food, financial support;
- (on August 28) additional on-site food prep, cooking, plating meals, filling food bags, delivering to both dine-in and drive-up guests, and clean-up (12 people);

To volunteer, or for more information, contact Alan Baker at abaker2@verizon.net or speak with Jack and Diane Scheuer, Melba Fialko, or Ginny O'Brien. Look for sign-up and information sheets to be posted in the church foyer.

The work on September 25th will be part of our larger annual "Worship through Service" weekend.

We're looking forward to August!

Sunday Morning Coffee hour is resuming **today!** Light refreshments will be served each Sunday morning in August. All who feel comfortable are invited downstairs for a treat and a chat with friends.

Are there hymns that you've been missing? Or favorite ones you'd just love to sing! Then Sunday, August 29 is YOUR DAY! We will have a HYMN SING in the sanctuary which will play a large part of our morning worship. Please contact the church office (office@fpccs.org or 570-586-6306) by August 15 to suggest the name of your favorite hymn! And afterwards . . .

It's Parking Lot Picnic Time!

That's right. I've heard *rumors* of burgers and 'dogs, and other picnic fare. Please come to enjoy the food and, more importantly, the friends. (Care will be taken regarding food handling.) So clear your calendar for August 29 and plan to join your church family for a long-overdue reunion!

Meetings this week:

Monday, August 2, 10:30 a.m., Friends of Naomi group gathers in Fellowship Hall

Thursday, August 5, 7:00 p.m., Christian Education Committee in Room 206

General Assembly Commissioners for 2022

Lackawanna Presbytery is seeking applicants for one Teaching Elder Commissioner, one Ruling Elder Commissioner, and one Young Adult Advisory Delegate to the 225th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) in 2022. We seek faithful Presbyterians who wish to contribute to the building of God's kingdom by participating in our denomination's highest council.

The General Assembly meets biennially in even-numbered years and consists of commissioners and advisory delegates elected by each of its presbyteries. The GA acts on hundreds of items of business received through reports and recommendations of various assembly entities, and through overtures from synods and presbyteries. Because of the global pandemic, the 2020 Assembly was accomplished virtually via Zoom. In 2022, the Assembly will be a blend of in-person committee meetings held in Louisville and online plenary meetings convened via Zoom. Specific time commitments are described here:

https://mcusercontent.com/753e5e0043f7e36925f912f39/files/8f09da9d-fd17-e668-79d7-3fd821d43d80/Expectations_for_GA_2022.pdf

You may nominate yourself or recommend application to an individual whom you believe to be a qualified candidate. That person may only need a word of encouragement to apply. As Presbyterians, we believe that any one person might be the instrument through whom God will work at a particular time. In any case, please be prayerfully open to how the Spirit might be guiding you. **Applications are due in the Presbytery office by August 15, 2021.**

Enjoy the Convenience of Electronic Giving



First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit offers electronic Giving as a way to support the church on a regular or one-time basis. You can go to fpccs.org or scan the QR code (at left) anytime to set up an automatic donation plan, change your donation plan, make a one-time donation or view your online donation history. Why not give it a try today?