

First Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day
23rd Sunday after Pentecost

October 31, 2021

10:00 a.m.

Creator God, you have filled the world with beauty. Open our eyes to behold your gracious hand in all your works; that, rejoicing in your whole creation, we may learn to serve you with gladness; for the sake of him by whom all things were made, your Son 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

"A Mighty Fortress"

arr. John Leavitt

Call to Worship

Our help is in the name of the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.

O magnify the Lord!

Let us exult the Lord together!

* Hymn 624

"I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art"

* Call to Confession

* Prayer of Confession

Holy God, you call us to live abundant and generous lives.

Forgive us for the ways we have allowed our souls to be twisted out of shape.

We trust too much in our own abilities, leaving no room for your grace.

We push ahead of our neighbors, pursuing our needs before theirs.

We exclude those you love whom we deem insignificant.

We spend our affluence to separate, rather than build relationships.

We use our power to dominate, rather than to heal and empower.

Have mercy on us.

Set us free from our worst impulses,

that we might find our lives by following you.

We pray in the name of Jesus

who has given his life for us and for all.

* 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: Ruth 1:1-18 (OT, p. 241)

Psalter: Psalm 146 (Hymn 806)

A Time with Children

Anthem

“Day of Arising”

arr. by David M Cherwien

Second Lesson: Mark 12:28-34 (NT, p. 49)

Sermon: “The Question That Keeps Coming Up”

Rev. Carter

Fall Series: How Shall We Reconstitute the Church?

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

* Hymn 63

"The Lord is God"

* 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.

A Minute for Stewardship

Offering

Offertory

“Built on a Rock”

arr. Gilbert Martin

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 275

"A Mighty Fortress is Our God"

* Charge and Benediction

* Postlude

“Toccata in D Minor”

J.S. Bach

* All who are able shall stand.

The flowers have been given by Colin, Nancy, and Victoria Jeschke in loving memory of grandparents, William and Helen Brojack.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preacher	Rev. William Carter
Coordinator of Children And Youth Ministries	Jana Schillinger
Liturgist	Meg Hatch
Director of Music	Frank Jones
Organist	Kay Ten Eyck
Ushers	Bill Farrell, Barbara Norton

**First Presbyterian Church
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Clarks Summit, PA 18411
570/586-6306
www.fpccs.org**

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Church Family Announcements

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

- Promise to wear a face mask? No covid-related symptoms for the past 14 days? Willing to have your temperature taken at the door? [Make a reservation with our office \(570-586-6306\)](#) and join us in person at 10:00 am.
- **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.

At the last Session meeting, our Elders continued to discuss the best ways to ensure safety for all during the pandemic. They believe very strongly in the effectiveness of the covid-19 vaccines, and draw their inspiration from Jesus, who healed the sick and cared for the most vulnerable.

Masks are necessary for all worship services, meetings, and group events in the church building. Temperature checks will continue at church gatherings, and social distancing will be encouraged. We urge everybody to get vaccinated against covid-19.

If all of us can choose restraint and pursue public health, we have a better chance for stopping the spread of the virus and its variants. In the words of St. Paul, "Do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" (Galatians 5:13-14)

The sanctuary is open for prayer whenever the building is open.

**The W.A.Y. meets each Wednesdays at 6:15 p.m.
Education and Music for All God's People**



The Christian Education committee offers **in person classes** for the WAY this fall. As we continue to find "normal" and with caution regarding continuing COVID concerns, we will hold a simplified program that begins at 6:15. *We hope to see you there!*

Grace & Faith & Music (4 years old - Grade 5): Join us for a **combined music and CE** class! *Make a joyful noise to the Lord as you grow in grace and faith!* **Meets in Room 108.**

We Believe (Grades 6 and up): Our older students are exploring a unit called *Knowing God*. **Meets in Room 209.**

Adults: "Jesus and the End of the World": Rev. Bill Carter leads a five-week Bible study on what Mark's Gospel (and others) teach about the end of the world. This week and next, we will dig into the enigmatic text of Mark 13. **Meets in Room 206.**



Adult Choir - Wednesdays - 7:15-8:15: Our adult choir program has resumed. Students in 9th Grade to adults are welcome. Don't have much of a music reading ability? Don't worry; our singers support one another in and out of the church. **Meets in the sanctuary.**

We are looking for morning volunteers in the office, to answer phones, welcome visitors, and assist with light office tasks (typing, proofreading, etc.). The hours are from 9 a.m. to noon, and occasionally for a few hours in the afternoon. Volunteers can work weekly, monthly, or on call. Want to get out of the house and do something meaningful? We would love to have you on the team. Free coffee and occasional donuts provided. To sign up, [send an email to Nancy](#), phone us (570-586-6306), or drop by when we are open.

Trunk or Treat is Today!



It will take place **today from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.** for the children of our community in the upper parking lot on School Street. We want to offer a safe event for kids during the ongoing pandemic. Here is how you can help: We have the candy! We have the workers! Simply,

Spread the word! We look forward to seeing all kids in their Halloween costumes.

Thank you to the Deacons who are heading up the event.

And from **Pumpkins to Pajamas and Poinsettias!**

Holiday Angel Tree: It's time for our annual **Pajama Drive** for children in local Head Start programs! Look for tags on the Christmas tree that will soon be set up in the Narthex, **OR** visit fpccs.org to find a link to an online sign-up where a limited number of tags will be available. All PJ's must be returned to the church, wrapped and tagged, by Monday, Dec. 6.



Poinsettias for Christmas - Order Your Poinsettias Now

The price is \$10.00 per plant. Checks are payable to "First Presbyterian Church." **Deadline is November 14.**



Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Number of Flowers: _____ @\$10.00 each Total Amount Enclosed: _____

I will pick up my flowers _____ Please give to a shut-in _____

Dedication: In honor/In memory of _____

Meetings this week

Sunday, October 31	10 a.m.	Worship	Sanctuary
	11:15 a.m.	Confirmation Class	Room 206
Monday, November 1	11 a.m.	Friends of Naomi	Fellowship Hall
	6 p.m.	Choral Society	Sanctuary
		Girl Scouts	Lower Level
Tuesday, November 2	7 p.m.	Mission and Justice	Room 206
Wednesday, November 3	10:30 a.m.	Prayer and Share	Room 209

THE WAY EDUCATION AND MUSIC FOR ALL AGES

	6:15 p.m.	Children age 4 to Grade 5	Room 108
		Children grades 6 and up	Room 209
		Adults class	Room 206
	7:15 p.m.	Adult Choir	Sanctuary
Thursday, November 4	8:30 a.m.	Men's Breakfast	Room 206
	5:30 p.m.	Worship, Music, Arts	Room 206
	7 p.m.	Christian Education	Room 206
Sunday, November 7	10 a.m.	Worship	Sanctuary
	11:15 a.m.	Confirmation Class	Room 206

We are grateful for the many ways that people support our church's ministry to the community and world. If you wish to contribute by cell phone, **scan here.**



An Afternoon of Chamber Music

Sunday, November 14 at 4 pm,



The Arts at First Presbyterian concert series will continue with an **Afternoon of Chamber Music** on **Sunday, November 14 at 4 pm**, featuring a trio of Marywood University music faculty members. Pianist Rick Hoffenberg, clarinetist Katie Morell, and cellist Christiane Appenheimer Vaida return to the church to offer two significant pieces for piano, clarinet, and cello including Johannes Brahms' Clarinet Trio in A Minor, Op. 114 and Carl Fruhling's Trio for Clarinet, Cello, and Piano in A Minor, Op. 40.

The concert is open to the public free of charge, but a free-will offering will be taken to help defray the costs of the event. For more information, call the church office at 570-586-6306.

The Arts at First Presbyterian series is supported by county and state grants, but relies heavily on private contributions. Patrons can contribute by dropping a check in the weekly offering, by sending a check to the church office, or making a donation on the church's website. Be sure to specify "Arts Series" in the memo area.

Our Church Officers

Elders

Rev. William Carter, moderator

Beverly Bright, clerk

Class of 2022

Barbara Decker
Dave Naehar
Chris Norton
Craig Smith
Briar Woodley

Class of 2023

Alan Baker
Jay Clymer
Tabbi Miller-Scandle
Jan Thyren
Karen White

Class of 2024

Brad Campbell
JoAnn Hall
Ginny O'Brien
Robin Pinches
Barry Shepherd

Deacons

Class of 2022

Katie Carter
Jeanne DeVirgilis
Grace Farrell
Anne Rich
Andrew Taylor

Class of 2023

Erika Henderson
Jim McLaughlin
Debbie Miller
Barbara Norton
Riley Wescott

Class of 2024

Bill Farrell
Kate Hopkins
Peter Moore
Diana Pope-Albright
Tracy Smith