



For to me,  
**LIVING IS CHRIST**  
and  
**DYING IS GAIN.**

Philippians 1:21, NRSV

**First Presbyterian Church**  
300 School Street  
Clarks Summit, PA 18411  
[www.fpccs.org](http://www.fpccs.org)

# First Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day  
16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

September 17, 2023

10:00 a.m.

*In preparation for worship, please turn off all cell phones and electronic devices.*

## **ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME**

Gathering Music  
Words of Welcome

Prelude                      “Prelude in F (Homage to JS Bach)”                      Gordon Young

Call to Worship

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.  
This is the day the Lord has made.

***Let us rejoice and be glad in it.***

\* Hymn 234                      “Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain”  
*Ushers will collect prayer request cards from the center aisle.*

\* Call to Confession

\* Prayer of Confession                      on the Letter to the Philippians

***God our Father,***

***we do not focus our lives on whatever is true, honorable, just,  
pure, or pleasing to you.***

***We worship our appetites and glorify what is shameful.***

***We have set our minds on earthly things,  
and deny the citizenship we hold in heaven.***

***Humble us like Christ, and conform us to Christ's glory,  
that we would know your power***

***that has raised him to rule over all things.***

***For it is in his name that we pray, Amen.***

\* Silent Confession

\* Assurance of Pardon and Passing of the Peace

\* Musical Response: “Grace to You and Peace”

***Grace to you and peace, grace to you and peace  
from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.***

## **PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD**

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson: Matthew 18:21-35 (NT, p. 20)

Psalter: Psalm 114 (Hymnal 58)

A Time with Children

Anthem "Take My Life, and Let It Be Consecrated" Francis R. Havergal

*Children are now invited to Bible Time.*

Second Lesson: Philippians 1:21-30 (NT, p. 196)

Sermon: "Either Or"

Rev. Carter *Fall Sermon*

*Series: Dwelling in Philippians*

## **RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

\* Hymn 822 "When We Are Living"

\* Affirmation of Faith Philippians 2:5-11

***Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,  
but emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.  
And being found in human form he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death - even death on a cross.  
Therefore, God also highly exalted him  
and gave him the name that is above every name,  
so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord  
to the glory of God. Amen!***

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Minute for Peace and Global Witness Offering

Offering

Offertory

"A Festive Tune"

Gilbert M Martin

\* Doxology 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

## **GO IN GOD'S NAME**

\* Hymn 8 "Eternal Father, Strong to Save"

\* Charge and Benediction

\* Postlude

"Fanfare for a Festive Occasion"

by Lani Smith

*If you are leaving before the postlude is finished, please do so quietly.*

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\* All who are able shall stand.

**The flowers** are given by Diane and Jack Scheuer in loving memory of Diane's parents, Helen and Joe Carnahan.

## **PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE**

Guest Preacher	Rev. William Carter
Coordinator of Children and Youth	Jana Schillinger
Director of Music	Frank Jones
Organist	Kay Ten Eyck
Liturgist	Laura Moore
Minute for Mission	Phil Muntzel
Ushers	Bill and Leelah Farrell

### **Beginning This Morning: Bible Time**

This is a new program for our children (age 4 to approx. grade 4) to hear Bible stories told in a fun and engaging way. Each Sunday morning following the anthem, children will be invited to depart the sanctuary (with adult leadership) for Bible Time (designed to last about 20 minutes). They will return for the Prayers and the end of the service.

After the service, please join us downstairs for a **pancake brunch** in Fellowship Hall. We'll take some time to catch up with one another, discuss a Bible story, and find out about the year ahead.

**All are welcome!**

# Church Family Announcements

*Our congregation worships God, equips God's people for ministry in the world, and serves God in ways that are faithful to the Gospel.*

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

- **Join us in person at 10:00 a.m.**
- **Tune in online** for our service, which is broadcast live on [our video page on YouTube](#) and archived for later viewing on the same site.

**Large-print bulletins** can be found at the rear of the sanctuary.

**The red attendance pads have returned to the pews!** Please sign your name and pass it to the next person across the pew. We are trying to do a better job keeping track of those who come to worship.

**The Nursery is open** Sunday mornings from 9:40-11:10 a.m. for children ages 3 and younger in room 208. The nursery is staffed by Heather Lyons.

**There will be a memorial service for Jean Brown** on Saturday, September 16 here at the church. Her family will receive guests beginning at 2 p.m., with the service following at 3 p.m.

**Tell us your prayer concerns.** Prayer Request Cards are in the pew racks. Pass them to the center aisle to be collected during the first hymn.

**Please pray for:** Hall, Bob, Bonnie, Leslie, Sara, Susan, Flo, Gretchen, Jim, Lisa, Karis, Janet, Patty, Dean, Sharon, Naylor family, Sonny, Ralph, Linzy, Sue, Dillon, Tony, Lisa Bourcier family, Donna, Andy, Margaret, Aiden, Colleen M., Glynn family, staff of all Times Shamrock newspapers, LeAnne, Wayne.

**We are looking for a sexton** to begin work this fall. A job description is posted on the church bulletin board. A letter of application and resume can be sent to the church office.

## **Immigration Resettlement Volunteer Opportunity**

Catholic Social Services Immigration Resettlement could really use some help coordinating new refugee needs with services and volunteers. There are volunteers and case workers to pick up at the airport, furnish apartments, take food shopping, schedule and take to doctor appointments or social services appointments. But the current coordinator could really use some help lining everything up. If you think you might like to help out with this, or any other part of welcoming our newest neighbors, please email Ginny at [ginny8149@gmail.com](mailto:ginny8149@gmail.com).

**Following worship today, a Bird Walk** is scheduled at Lackawanna State Park with Meg Hatch leading the way.

**Tuesday, September 19** - The Presbyterian Women begin their **monthly Bible study** with Rev. Bill at 10 a.m. This year's topic: "Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts." **All women are invited!**

**Wednesday, September 20 - Adult Education** begins at 6:00 p.m. Dr. Charlie Pinches will offer the first series, titled, "The Apostle Paul and the Called Life."

**September 30 - October 1 - Worship Through Service** weekend, with hands-on service projects around the community.

**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.

## **This Week at a Glance**

Sunday, September 17

- **10 a.m.**, Worship in the sanctuary and online
- **Following the Anthem: Bible Time Begins**
- **11 a.m.**, Pancake Brunch in Fellowship Hall
- **11:15 a.m.**, **A Bird Walk** at Lackawanna State Park with Meg Hatch after worship
- **2 p.m.**, Presbytery Meeting, Church of Christ Uniting, Kingston

Tuesday, September 19

- **10 a.m.**, Women's Bible Study, Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, September 20

- **10:30**, Prayer and Share, room 209
- **6 p.m.**, Adult Education begins, room 206
- **7 p.m.**, Adult Choir, sanctuary
- **8 p.m.**, Adult Bell Choir, Fellowship Hall

Thursday, September 21

- **8:30 a.m.**, Men's Breakfast
- **2 p.m.**, Senior Game Group, Fellowship Hall
- **7 p.m.**, Generosity Team, room 209

Sunday, September 24

- **10 a.m.**, Worship in the sanctuary and online
  - **Bible Time** for young children following anthem

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