



“He told them,
‘You also
go and
work
in my
vineyard,
and I will pay you
whatever is right.’”

MATTHEW 20:4, NIV

First Presbyterian Church
300 School Street
Clarks Summit, PA 18411
www.fpccs.org

First Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day
17th Sunday After Pentecost

September 24, 2023

10:00 a.m.

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

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Prelude "Me'lodie" P. Tschaikowsky
Words of Welcome

Call to Worship

Whether we embrace God's call in our lives or try to avoid it,
**God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger
and abounding in steadfast love.**

Whether we are long-timers or latecomers in the life of faith,
**God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger
and abounding in steadfast love.**

Whether our lives in Christ are comfortable or bring hardship,
**God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger
and abounding in steadfast love.
And so, we praise God's name forever and ever!**

* Hymn 664 "Morning Has Broken"
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: Jonah 3.10–4.10 (OT, p. 860)

Psalter: Psalm 105.1-6, 37-45 (OT, p. 556)

A Time with Children

Ms. Schillinger

Anthem

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

John Rutter

Children are now invited to Bible Time.

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 20.1-16 (NT, p. 21)

Sermon: “When God is Too Good!”

Rev. Thyren

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

* Hymn 719 “Come, Labor On”

* Affirmation of Faith:

Psalm 103.8-13

***The Lord is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
He will not always accuse,
nor will he keep his anger forever.
He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.
For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;
as far as the east is from the west,
so far he removes our transgressions from us.
As a father has compassion for his children,
so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him.***

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.***

Minute for Peace and Global Witness Offering

Offering

Offertory

“Victory Through Christ”

Lani Smith

* 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 724 “O Jesus, I Have Promised”

* Charge and Benediction

* Postlude "Trumpet Voluntary" Gordon Young
If you are leaving before the postlude is finished, please do so quietly.

* All who are able shall stand.

The flowers are given in celebration of the Reverend Helen Cochrane on her 94th birthday by Richard and Marie Cochrane.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Guest Preacher	Rev. James Thyren
Coordinator of Children and Youth	Jana Schillinger
Director of Music	Frank Jones
Organist	Jan Thyren
Liturgist	Nancy Zink
Minute for Mission	Nancy Zink
Ushers	Bill and Leelah Farrell

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 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.

Bible Time 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 following the anthem, children are invited to go (with adult leadership) for Bible Time (lasting about 20 minutes) and return for the Prayers and the end of service.

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.

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.

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, 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.

Immigration Resettlement Volunteer Opportunity

Catholic Social Services Immigration Resettlement needs 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 or social services appointments. The current coordinator needs 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.

Wednesday, September 27 - Adult Education begins at 6:00 p.m.

Dr. Charlie Pinches will offer the first series, titled, "The Apostle Paul and the Called Life."

Please join us for the 2023 Worship Through Service Weekend Saturday, September 30 & Sunday, October 1

Our annual Worship Through Service event is a reminder that praise begins inside the church and moves outside to love our neighbors and serve our community. Our service activities will take place on Saturday, September 30, and Sunday, October 1, 2023.

Sign-up sheets can be found on the Bulletin Board and in the church narthex.

- Weinberg Food Bank – Saturday, September 30 (Diane Scheuer)
- Hymn Sing at the Pines – Sunday, October 1 at 1:00pm (Jan Thyren)
- Collection of Personal Items for SafetyNet – items will be collected until Sunday, October 1 (Tabbi Miller-Scandle)
- Collection of socks, scarves, gloves, hats for Clarks Summit State Hospital (Janet Dobson)
- Church and Attic Cleanup – Sunday, October 1 (Jay Clymer)
- Card Writing and Assembly of "Thinking of You" Packages for Homebound Members – Sunday, October 1 (Patti McGonagle)
- Sandwich Making for the Youth Shelter – Sunday, October 1 (Patti McGonagle)
- Assembling My Brother's Keeper Quilts for the Homeless – Sunday, October 1, following worship (Marie Cochrane)

Check the bulletin board for more opportunities to serve! If you have any questions or need a ride to an event, please contact Tabbi Miller-Scandle at (570) 470-9762.

**Arts at First Presbyterian Presents
An Autumn Serenade with The Bill Mays Trio
Sunday, October 15 at 4 p.m.**

The pianist Bill Mays brings bassist Dean Johnson and drummer Ron Vincent for an afternoon of jazz, featuring music from their latest CD. With a top-shelf career spanning sixty years Mays has performed with the likes of Frank Sinatra, Phil Woods, and Gerry Mulligan. A prolific composer, and heard on countless movie scores, Bill's trio will dazzle us with its artistry.

This Week at a Glance

Sunday, September 24

- **10 a.m.**, Worship in the sanctuary and online
 - **Bible Time**

Tuesday, September 26

- 10 a.m., MBK Quilts, Fellowship Hall
- 6 p.m., AMPOA, Fellowship Hall
- 7 p.m., Deacons, Room 206

Wednesday, September 27

- **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

Saturday, September 30

Worship through Service Weekend

Sunday, October 1, World Communion Sunday

Worship through Service Weekend

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

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.



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