

**First Presbyterian Church**

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

September 8, 2024

10:00 a.m.

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

**ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME**

Gathering Hymn  
Words of Welcome  
Prelude

“His Eye is on the Sparrow”

arr. Joe Utterback

## Call to Worship

We are here because we have heard the call of Jesus in our lives.

***We are here to challenge and support one another  
to rise up and follow.***

We are here because we want to be God's people.

***We want to learn more about what it means to  
be the people of God.***

We come, seeking to be changed, moved, and made whole by  
the Spirit of the Living God.

***Let us open our hearts to the moving of the Spirit,  
and prepare to leave this place as true disciples of Christ.***

\* Hymn 661            "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"  
*Ushers will collect prayer request cards from the center aisle.*

\* Call to Confession

\* Prayer of Confession

***Holy Lord, you call us to follow you,  
to bear witness in speech and deed to the good news of the gospel. But we often  
resist your call,  
persistently pursuing our own desires,  
fearful of your claims upon us.  
Forgive us for seeking to justify our refusal to heed your call.  
Stir us up by your Spirit to embrace the mission of Jesus Christ –  
healing the broken, feeding the hungry, and proclaiming the  
good news that God is indeed within us.***

\* Silent Confession

\* Assurance of Pardon

\* Passing of the Peace

\* Response 447            "We Are Forgiven"  
*We are forgiven! We are forgiven! Thanks be to God.*

## **PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD**

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson: Isaiah 9:1-4 (OT, p. 638)

A Time with Children

Second Lesson: Matthew 4:12-23 (NT, p. 3)

Sermon: "Called to Follow"

Rev. Samford

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

\* Hymn 721            "Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore"

\* Affirmation of Faith: Apostles' Creed (Hymnal, p. 35)

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Minute for Peacemaking  
Offering

Phil Muntzel

- Offertory "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" arr. Joe Utterback  
\* Doxology  
\* Prayer of Dedication

**GO IN GOD'S NAME**

- \* Hymn 761 "Called as Partners in Christ's Service"  
\* Charge and Benediction  
\* Postlude "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms" arr. Jon Spong  
*If you are leaving before the postlude is finished, please do so quietly.*

- \* All who are able shall stand.

**PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE**

Guest Preacher	Rev. Bill Samford
Coordinator of Children and Youth	Jana Schillinger
Director of Music	Frank Jones
Organist	Kay Ten Eyck
Liturgist	Chris Sekol
Ushers	Diane Cosner, Chris Jeske

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

## 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.**

- **Join us at 10:00 a.m. in person or on our YouTube channel,** (or stream the service on YouTube at a later time).
- Please use the **red attendance pads** to record your presence today.
- **Large-print bulletins** are located 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,** our program for children (age 4 to approx. grade 4), resumes today! Children are introduced to Bible stories in a fun and engaging way. They will leave the sanctuary after the anthem (for about 20 minutes) and return for the prayers and conclusion of the service.

**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, Janet, Travis, Darlene, Edward, Irena, Maureen, Bentley, Nate, Kay, Kelly, Judy, Renee and family, Clyde, Emily, Denise, Sawyer, June, Marion, Nancy J., Debbie S., Brenden, Sue, Rebecca, Anne, Brenda, Jerry, Denise, Dawn, Chris, JoAnne, Sue, Jeanette, Rob, Franklin G., Dennis V., Ray, Theresa, Jeneane, Lucy.

**Our deacons are sponsoring a Grief Support group** for the community. It will meet at the Gathering Place, 304 S. State Street, Clarks Summit on the third Thursday of each month, beginning September 19 at 6 :00 p.m. It is open to all. More information will be coming.

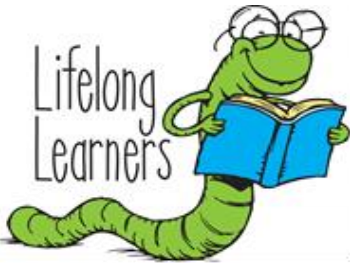
**On Tuesday, October 1, there will be a luncheon** for guests from Clarks Summit State Hospital. During that event, they receive gifts of warm socks. A box will be placed in the Narthex to receive donations of new socks for men and women. Please refer questions to Janet Dobson, coordinator.

### **Generosity Team Planned Giving Event—September 22, 2024**

The Generosity Team is sponsoring a seminar on planned giving and stewardship. It will be held on Sunday, September 22 in the Fellowship Hall following worship. A light lunch will precede the presentation. Speakers David Brown, Esq. and Kim Barrows will discuss legal, tax, and financial aspects of estate planning, including opportunities for supporting the ministry of First Presbyterian Church through current gifts and bequests. The Generosity Team will distribute information packets containing helpful estate planning guides and workbooks published by the Presbyterian Foundation. If you plan to attend please let Dave Naehner know so that sufficient materials are on hand.

## Wednesday Evenings at First Presbyterian

Adult Education and Adult Choir meet each Wednesday from September to early June, with a few exceptions.



Throughout the fall, our focus will be Discipleship.  
The topic for September 11<sup>th</sup> is  
The Call to Discipleship.

Adult Education meets in room 206 at 5:45 p.m.  
All are invited!

The choir is “getting in the swing” and ready to sing at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary (come a few minutes early to get your music and find your seat). Invite your friends to join the fun.

Please join us on Wednesday evening!



**We have scheduled a CPR and defibrillator training class** on Saturday morning, September 21 at 10 a.m. The class is filled, however JoAnn Hall will put your name on a waitlist in the event there is a cancellation. She can be contacted at [jodihall@nep.net](mailto:jodihall@nep.net) or 570-806-1591.

Rev. Bill will lead a **blessing of the animals** in the back parking lot on **Saturday, October 5, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.** Dogs, cats, lizards, goldfish, and all others are welcome to drop by for a blessing.

**The Deacons thank you for your recent food pantry donations** to the Dalton Food Pantry and The Gathering Place.

**Looking ahead: Check your September newsletter for more information.**

- Mobile Food Pantry distribution, Thursday, September 12, 4 p.m.
- CPR/defibrillator training class, 10 a.m., Fellowship Hall
- Planned Giving Event, September 22 following worship, Fellowship Hall
- Organ recital by Chris Johnson, September 27, 4 p.m. sanctuary
- State Hospital Luncheon, October 1
- Highway Cleanup, October 5
- Worship Through Service weekend will be October 5-6. There will be a lot of opportunities for us to serve our community. Mark the dates - and watch for details.
- Hickory Street Community Meal and Food Distribution, October 27.

**This Week at a Glance**

Sunday, September 8

- **10 a.m.**, Worship in the sanctuary and online
  - **Presentation of Bibles** to Kindergarten and 3rd-grade Students.
  - **Bible time**

Monday, September 9

Tuesday, September 10

Wednesday, September 11

- **10:30 a.m.**, Prayer and Share, Room 209
- **5:45 p.m.**, Adult Education, Room 206
- **7 p.m.**, Adult Choir, sanctuary

Thursday, September 12

- **4 p.m.**, Mobile Food Pantry, Fellowship Hall

Friday, September 13

- **Presbyter Deadline**, [amandaaer10@yahoo.com](mailto:amandaaer10@yahoo.com)

Saturday, September 14

Sunday, September 15

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

**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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