

September 17, 2023

First Presbyterian Church

As you settle into your seat please take a moment to reflect and feel God's presence.

Take a moment to consider these words of contemplation:

Quiet Meditation:

In most liturgies, after the confession of sin, the presiding clergy stands up and solemnly pronounces the absolution.

It usually begins: Almighty God, who forgives all those who truly repent, etc.

I find it hard to say, for although I believe that God loves us to be repentant,

God's absolution and forgiveness do not depend on our ability to repent.

--- Michael Ball, The Foolish Risks of God



Forgive us our **debts**

as we forgive our debtors

Take a seat...make a friend! You are our honored guest! Whether you are seeking a church home, invited by a friend, or just passing through, we pray that worship today is a blessing that inspires you and strengthens your faith. You will find Pastor Lorrie's contact information on the back of the bulletin, should you want more information about FPC and our ministries.

FYI: The women's restroom is diagonally across from Fellowship Hall's main entrance. To find the men's room turn left when exiting fellowship hall and turn right at the bulletin board. The restroom is on the right.

As a kindness, please silence all technology at the start of today's worship.

Child care is available in the Nursery located down the inner stairs and to the right near the end of the hall.

- * Please stand in body or in spirit when indicated by this symbol.
Please remain seated and read (sing) together when the print is bold.

Today's flowers are given to the Glory of God and in Memory of Paul Shannon
by Calvin & Les Shannon

Thank you to the Popcorn Team for providing today's Fellowship Snack.

Deacon of the Week: Les Shannon

Celebrate His Love

Welcome



Prayer of Blessing

* **Song of Praise-Come Thou Almighty King**-(Verses as printed in insert) **Bulletin Insert**
from PCUSA Glory to God Hymnal

Sign of Peace

Prayer of Humility (based on a prayer by Bill Wessen)
(please read audibly together)

O God, we seek Your mercy...yet we ourselves look for payback when we are wronged. We often think it “only fair” and “what is right” when we retaliate, use harsh words, and withdraw from a relationship. And yet Holy God, the grace of forgiveness You offer on our account, is larger than we can comprehend. But still, we often withhold forgiveness and carry the grudge over petty items. Forgive us for the sin we know is in our hearts. Heal us O God from the sin we hide. Hear us now as we silently confess our sin to You. In Christ Jesus we ask these things, Amen and Amen

(Please take a few moments for your own personal confession.)

Assurance of God’s Love

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger. This gift of forgiveness makes us able, with the power of Holy Spirit, to choose to forgive, renew and live again in right relationship with each other and with our God.

(Please join in reading together)

Through the waters of baptism
we have died with Christ and are raised with Him.
With gratitude and with faith,
we will walk the way of Christ. And this is the Good News of the Gospel-
that in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!!

* **Responding to God in Praise-We Are Forgiven**-(Sing 2 times) **Bulletin Insert**
from PCUSA Glory to God Hymnal

New Member and Commissioning Service
Kathleen Krepski & Karen Safara

Going Deeper

Scripture Reading

Read by Madelin Ubry

These readings are from New Revised Standard Version

The Hebrew Bible: Psalm 114
Paul’s Letters to the Romans 14: 1-12

Responding to God in Praise-We Are Standing on Holy Ground-Bulletin Insert
(please remain seated) *from PCUSA Glory to God Hymnal*

Prayer of Light

Gospel of Matthew 18: 21-35 - *The Message*

At that point Peter got up the nerve to ask, “Master, how many times do I forgive a brother or sister who hurts me? Seven?”

Jesus replied, “Seven! Hardly. Try seventy times seven.

“The kingdom of God is like a king who decided to square accounts with his servants. As he got under way, one servant was brought before him who had run up a debt of a hundred thousand dollars. He couldn’t pay up, so the king ordered the man, along with his wife, children, and goods, to be auctioned off at the slave market.

“The poor wretch threw himself at the king’s feet and begged, ‘Give me a chance and I’ll pay it all back.’ Touched by his plea, the king let him off, erasing the debt.

“The servant was no sooner out of the room when he came upon one of his fellow servants who owed him ten dollars. He seized him by the throat and demanded, ‘Pay up. Now!’

“The poor wretch threw himself down and begged, ‘Give me a chance and I’ll pay it all back.’ But he wouldn’t do it. He had him arrested and put in jail until the debt was paid. When the other servants saw this going on, they were outraged and brought a detailed report to the king.

“The king summoned the man and said, ‘You evil servant! I forgave your entire debt when you begged me for mercy. Shouldn’t you be compelled to be merciful to your fellow servant who asked for mercy?’ The king was furious and put the screws to the man until he paid back his entire debt. And that’s exactly what my Father in heaven is going to do to each one of you who doesn’t forgive unconditionally anyone who asks for mercy.”

Meditation on the Word

Special Music-*The Master Came to Bring Good News*

Dedication of Gifts and *Pastoral Prayer*

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom and the Power and the Glory forever and ever! Amen.

Carry His Light to the World

*** Song of Hope-*Amazing Grace-Celebration Hymnal #343***

Charge and Benediction

Next week’s Lectionary scripture reference:

Semicontinuous: Exodus 14: 91-31 and Psalm 114 or Exodus 15: 1b-11, 20-21

Complementary: Genesis 50: 15-21 and Psalm 103: (1-7) 8-13; Romans 14: 1-12; Matthew 18: 21-35

Please Offer a Prayer for: (Prayer requests will remain on this list for two weeks unless otherwise requested.)

...Health/Rehab etc: Denise E., Julie H., John W., Lisa K., Emily J., Harriet S., Ruth W., Annie H., Chuck, Josephine & Ed, Nancy B., Alex S.

...Remember our Homebound members: Mike Ramsey, Jim Rugh, Tom Rohan, Lois Greene Sellers, Bill & Joan Richards, Dorothy Black, Carolyn Moody, Darlene Cubellis, (*temporarily homebound members: Octavia P. and Lisa J.*)

...All victims & families of the mass shootings to date in 2023 in the US

...Our glorious planet earth and the need to address climate change

...Students, families, school staff and college students as they all begin a new school year

...Those affected by the fires on the island of Maui and Canada as well as the floods in Alaska & Asia

...This month's Mission of the Month: Serge/Emily Shrader

Staff

Rev. Lorrie Ghering-Burick, Pastor

724-272-9233

lgheringburick@gmail.com

Recreation Center Director &

Director of Communications

Adele Marcotuli

Rec Center phone: 724-652-8690

724-510-4181

Doug McIltrout

Worship Leader

724-944-1246

Marty Barletto

A/V Technician

Janice Hanna

Office Administrator

Office phone: 724-652-7706

office@firstpresby-newcastle.org

Garry Cunningham

Sexton

Stephen Leitera

Sexton

Gerry Smith-Nursery Director

VOLUNTEER STAFF:

Chad Ubry

Treasurer

cclm1029@gmail.com

Wendy Hutchison

Financial Administrator

724-263-2171

We Know What You Did and Thank you

Behind the scenes there are always folks lending a hand to make things happen..

-to Karen Sfara & Adele Marcotuli for providing a scone making class in the Recreation Center

-to Stephen Leitera for providing security for the United Way Homeowner Workshop

-to our dedicated Backpack Team who set-up and lead the community groups who come lend a hand

-to Christian Ed. for planning and preparing for the great Continental Breakfast last Sunday

-to Deacons for their dedication to Glory Grille and our neighbors



This Week's Church Calendar

Sunday, September 17: 9 AM-Christian Ed. Classes,

10 AM-Worship (New Members)

followed by Fellowship

Monday, September 18: 9-3 -Recreation Center Open

Tuesday, September 19: 9-4 Office Open,

9-3 Recreation Center Open,

6 PM- United Way Home Buyers,

Wednesday, September 20: 9-3 Office Open,

1 PM-Community Bible Study in Rec Center,

7 PM- Boy Scout Meeting in Fellowship Hall

Thursday, September 21: 9-4 Office Open,

9-3 Recreation Center Open, 11AM-Aerobics in the Recreation Center

Sunday, September 24: 9 AM-Christian Ed. Classes,

10 AM-Worship followed by Fellowship

11:15-Mission Meeting, 11:30-Christian Ed.

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125 N. Jefferson Street, New Castle, PA 16101
724-652-7706

office@firstpresby-newcastle.org www.firstpresby-newcastle.org