

## OFFERING OUR TENTH AND GIFTS BEYOND

1. Place your envelopes in the plates at the back of the sanctuary.
2. Send in your financial support via the USPS.
3. Contact the church office (814-725-8641) to set up direct deposit.
4. Give through PayPal at [paypal.me/fpcne](https://paypal.me/fpcne). Or scan the QR code with your phone camera to go right to the church's Paypal account.



PLEASE SUBMIT ALL BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS by  
Wednesdays. Please email Pastor Gregg or Jane.

**SQUARE CIRCLE WILL MEET ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20**  
at 6:30 PM at The Harvest Restaurant for dinner and fellowship. Contact  
Wanda Cochrane (814-725-5972) if you will attend. All women are invited.

**OCTOBER IS FPCNE'S MONTH TO HELP ON SATURDAY  
MORNINGS** at the North East Community Food Pantry. There are sign-up  
sheets in the Assembly Room. Remember Matthew 25: "For I was hungry,  
and you gave me food..."

**PLEASE SIGN UP TO HOST COFFEE HOUR.** All you need to do is  
make the coffee and drinks, set out the necessary supplies and "host."

**IF YOU'D LIKE TO PROVIDE FLOWERS FOR OUR CHANCEL IN  
HONOR OR MEMORY OF A LOVED ONE OR OCCASION,** the sign-  
up sheet is located outside the church office. Please email Jane  
([jlivingston@neo.rr.com](mailto:jlivingston@neo.rr.com)) with bulletin details.

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# IN CHRIST



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## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

25 West Main Street | North East, PA 16428  
(814) 725-8641 | [FPCNE.ORG](http://FPCNE.ORG) | Follow us on Facebook

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## WELCOME



**WELCOME TO ALL.** You enter this church not as a stranger, but as a child of God, joining in worship with our Christian family. Please take a moment to complete a Visitor/Guest Card, located in the pew racks, and place it in the collection plate during the time of Offering. We are glad you joined us today.

**TO PREPARE FOR WORSHIP,** please turn off or silence cell phones, tablets, and all other wireless electronic devices upon entering the sanctuary.

**FOR FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN:** Nursery care is available for infants and young children through pre-K. An usher will be happy to direct you to the Nursery-Crib Room. Sunday School is available for grade school ages following the Children's Blessing.

**ASSISTANCE FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED** is available. Please contact a member of the media team to use the assisted listening devices.

**RESTROOMS** are located across from the office area and down the hallway in the Christian Education wing.

**PARKING IS AVAILABLE** in the designated church parking spaces on the south and east side of the church, as well as street parking. The municipal building parking lot west of the church is also available on nights and Sunday mornings.

**TODAY'S LITURGICAL COLOR IS GREEN,** which symbolizes spiritual growth and is used during Ordinary time—all time periods during the church calendar not marked by a specific season.

**WEDNESDAY EVENING PRAYER AND DEVOTIONAL** is held on Facebook LIVE on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 PM (ET). Please contact Pastor Gregg directly to share any prayer requests.

### CONTACT INFO YOU MIGHT NEED

- Contact Pastor Gregg anytime at (814) 460-3123 (call or text) and [pastortownsend@yahoo.com](mailto:pastortownsend@yahoo.com).
- Contact music director Jane Livingston at (814) 504-1135 (call or text) and [jlivingston@neo.rr.com](mailto:jlivingston@neo.rr.com).

## SENDING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

\* **CLOSING SONG** "Blessed Assurance"

Blessed assurance! Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine.  
Heir of salvation. Purchase of God.  
Born of His Spirit. Washed in His blood.

**This is my story! This is my song!**  
**Praising my Savior all the day long.**  
**This is my story! This is my song!**  
**Praising my Savior all the day long**

Perfect submission, perfect delight,  
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight.  
Angels descending, bring from above,  
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love. **(Chorus)**

Perfect submission, all is at rest, I in my Savior, am happy and blest.  
Watching and waiting, looking above,  
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love. **(Chorus)**

\* **OFFERING OUR TENTH AND GIFTS BEYOND**

\* **BENEDICTION AND POSTLUDE**

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## CHURCH NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**STAY FOR COFFEE HOUR** after the worship service.

**SERVE THE CHURCH BY JOINING ONE OF OUR CHOIRS.**

We've started Chancel and Bell Choir rehearsals on Thursday evenings, and we're looking for both men and women, and both singers and ringers! Singing or ringing in choir is really a lot of fun and doesn't require a big time commitment. Bell Choir practice is held on Thursdays at 6:00 PM, followed by Chancel Choir at 7:00 PM. Speak with Jane Livingston if you have questions or for more info.

To this I hold my Shepherd will defend me  
Through the deepest valley, he will lead.  
Oh the night has been won and I shall overcome.  
Yet not I but through Christ in me.

No fate I dread I know I am forgiven.  
The future sure, the price it has been paid.  
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon  
And he was raised to overthrow the grave.

To this I hold my sin has been defeated.  
Jesus now and ever is my plea.  
Oh the chains are released. I can sing: I am free.  
Yet not I but through Christ in me.

With every breath, I long to follow Jesus.  
For he has said that he will bring me home.  
And day by day I know he will renew me  
Until I stand with joy before the throne.

To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus. All the glory evermore to him.  
When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat.  
Yet not I but through Christ in me.

When the race is complete still my lips shall repeat.  
Yet not I but through Christ in me.  
Yet not I but through Christ in me.

#### **PASTORAL PRAYER 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.**

## **First Presbyterian Church**

North East, PA

September 17, 2023, 10:30 A.M.

Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Jane M. Livingston, Director of Music

Gregg D. Townsend, Pastor

*\*Indicates to stand if you are able*

*SHARING OUR JOYS AND PRAYER REQUESTS. Please fill out one of the Prayer Cards located in the pew racks to share your joys, concerns, and prayer requests with your church family. The ushers will collect them during the first hymn.*

### **GATHERING AROUND THE WORD**

#### **GATHERING MUSIC**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** Pastor Gregg Townsend

**\* GREETING**

**\* CALL TO WORSHIP**

Wanda Cochrane

Leader: Come, let us bow down in worship,

**Congregation: Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker;**

For he is our God

**And we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care.**

—Psalm 95:6-7, NIV

**\* OPENING HYMN**

“Blessed Be Your Name”

Blessed be Your name in the land that is plentiful,  
Where Your streams of abundance flow—blessed be Your name.  
And blessed be Your name when I'm found in the desert place,  
Though I walk through the wilderness—blessed be Your name.

Every blessing You pour out, I'll turn back to praise.

And when the darkness closes in, Lord, still I will say:

Blessed be the name of the Lord! Blessed be Your name!

Blessed be the name of the Lord! Blessed be Your glorious name!

Blessed be Your name when the sun's shining down on me,  
When the world's all as it should be—blessed be Your name.  
And blessed be Your name on the road marked with suffering,  
Though there's pain in the offering—blessed be Your name.

Every blessing You pour out, I'll turn back to praise.  
And when the darkness closes in, Lord, still I will say:

Blessed be the name of the Lord! Blessed be Your name!  
Blessed be the name of the Lord! Blessed be Your glorious name!

You give and take away. You give and take away.  
My heart will choose to say: Lord blessed be Your name! **(REPEAT)**

Blessed be the name of the Lord! Blessed be Your name!  
Blessed be the name of the Lord! Blessed be Your glorious name!

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, you showed us true humility by becoming one of us,  
**yet too often we practice pride.**  
You cried alongside your friends and for the city of Jerusalem,  
**yet too often we rush past the pain of others and are careless about our cities.**  
You loved those who were weak, despised, or cast out,  
**yet too often we love those who are strong, respected, or popular.**  
You freely forgave and healed,  
**yet too often we hold grudges and cause pain.**  
You lived a perfectly holy life,  
**yet too often we do not yearn for righteousness.**  
You prayed that we who believe in you should be united with each  
**other and you,**  
**yet too often we focus on the differences that separate us from other believers.**  
You were mocked, whipped, and even killed for us,  
**yet too often we deny you.**  
You call us to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world,  
**yet too often we blend into or hide from our culture.**  
**Forgive us, Lord, so that we will shine with your glory. Amen.**

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

You did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ.

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

—Romans 8:15-17, NRSV

## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

### CHILDREN'S BLESSING

### SPECIAL MUSIC

### SCRIPTURE READING

Ephesians 1:1-3

### MESSAGE

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

### \* RESPONDING IN SONG “Yet Not I But Through Christ In Me”

What gift of grace is Jesus, my Redeemer.  
There is no more for heaven now to give.  
He is my joy, my righteousness and freedom.  
My steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace.

To this I hold my hope is only Jesus.  
For my life is wholly bound to his.  
Oh how strange and divine, I can sing all is mine.  
Yet not I but through Christ in me.

The night is dark but I am not forsaken.  
For by my side the Savior, he will stay.  
I labor on in weakness and rejoicing  
For in my need his power is displayed.