



Ephesians 6:13. So
put on all the
armour that God
gives. Then when
that evil day comes,
you will be able to
defend yourself.
And when the
battle is over, you
will still be standing
firm.

First Presbyterian Church

**149 Broad Street
Tonawanda, New York 14150 ~ 2111**

Church: (716) 692-1319

E-mail: church@firstprestona.org

Pastor Leslie E-mail: leslie@firstprestona.org

Pastor Leslie Cell: (716) 490-0420

Web address: www.firstprestona.org

“CCLI” License # 2839486

Pastor: The Rev. Leslie Latham

Ministers:

All Members of the Church

Clerk of Session: Nancy Burns

Church Treasurer: Tom Dugan

Finance Secretary: Nancy Burns

Administrative Assistant:

Judy Winters

Sexton: Michael Donovan

Office Director of Christian

Education: Shirley Hagle

Youth Director: William Welch IV

Come, Worship the Lord, Our God

August 26, 2018

10:00am

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
We Welcome Kurt Ebsary as our musician

DRAWN INTO GOD'S PRESENCE

Welcome and Greeting

(Please complete Prayer Concerns)

Gathering Prayer:

Jesus Christ lives here on earth in the form of his body, the church-community.... While we are used to thinking of the church as an institution, we ought instead to think of it as a *person* with a body, although of course a person in a unique sense ... The body of Christ takes up physical space here on earth. By becoming human Christ claims a place among us human beings. ... The incarnation does entail the claim to space granted on earth, and anything that takes up space is visible. -Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Discipleship*

Prelude:

Call to Worship:

Come into my house and worship, says our God.

Happy are those who feel at home in God's house.

Come into my presence and be at peace, says our God.

Happy are those who enjoy God's gift of serenity.

Come and let your life be joined to mine, says our God.

Happy are those who abide in God's love.

Come and be God's honored guest, for God welcomes everyone into his house!

Happy are we, our faithful God's beloveds.

Come, let us worship God!

***Opening Song of Praise:** "Love Devine, All Loves Excelling"

#376

(Prayer Concerns collected)

AWARE OF GOD'S PRESENCE

***Call to Confession:**

Let us confess our sins to the One whose eyes are open day and night to heed our cry and our prayer.

***Prayer of Confession:** **Unison**
Gracious God, we open our hearts and confess our sins—against you, against neighbors, and even against ourselves. For the wrongs of our minds, hearts, hands and spirits—forgive us. For our silence and lack of compassion—forgive us. For our anger and fear—forgive us. For the waste of your gifts—forgive us. For our part in the suffering of any of your children—forgive us. For all the times we do not walk the way of love—forgive us in the name of Jesus Christ who goes before us, so that we can know love. Amen.

**Time of Silent Prayer*

***Declaration of Forgiveness:** **Unison**
The Living God hears our cry and forgives our sin! The Lord God is a sun and shield, bestowing favor and honor on us through Christ, the bread from heaven, who brings us back to God and feeds us with his strength.

***Gloria Patri:** "Glory Be To The Father" #579

***Our Faithful Response:** "Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation" #417

LISTENING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lessons:

Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. ²And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods.

14 "Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. **15** Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the

gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

16 Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; **17** for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; **18** and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God."

Ephesians 6:10-20

¹⁰Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹²For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. ¹⁴Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. ¹⁵As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. ¹⁶With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. ¹⁹Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel,²⁰for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

Sermon: "What Will Your Choice Be?"

The Rev. Leslie Latham

RESPONDING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

***Affirmation of Faith Apostles' Creed**

Unison

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into

heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer and 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.

Invitation to the Offering

Our God has bestowed us with favor and honor through Christ, who has given us the words of eternal life. From this fullness, let us now offer our gifts of thanksgiving in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Offertory:

***Praising God's Goodness:** Doxology #592

***Prayer of Dedication:** Unison
Living God, we give you thanks for Christ, the bread from heaven, through whom we offer these gifts. Endow these gifts with your power, that they may express your steadfast love and impart your sustaining strength to all those in need. Amen.

ABIDING IN GOD'S PRESENCE IN THE WORLD

***Hymn of Sending:** "Once to Every Man and Nation" (RED) #670

***Benediction**

***Postlude:**

* Those who are able, please stand

WORSHIP AIDS:

Large Print Bulletins, Hymnals & Hearing Devices – available from ushers.

Children's Sanctuary - at the rear of the church

Baby Changing Tables - in both rest rooms of Church School Building.

Deacon's Prayer Chain - To activate Prayer Chain call Judy in the church office @ 692-1319.

New Prayer Concerns or Joys

1. Ed Donovan – home from hospital
- 2.
- 3.

Prayer Concerns or Joys Last Week:

Continuing Prayers: Alvin Marohn; Rick C.; Gail Schurr; Kathy Evans; Gerry Tyrrell; Father Michael Ubeler; Scott Greenawalt; Irving & Alice Hils; Joan Cantonese; Holly Mazurek; Marge Klinger; Ruth Gebera; Wilma Bender; Wally Frech; Rosemary Taber; Jack Greenawalt; Willie Day; Mike Crowell; Larry Rayner; Jackie Rexford; Michael Grant; Paul Rayner; Anthony Dragone; Adehlia Kowsky; Peggy Hess; Russ McClure; Mike Klinger; Bob Erisman; Kris Yettra ; Judy Geerkin; Anna Dobrowski; David Haines; and Lauren Mauer.

Prayers and caring for our homebound: Lillian Manning; Marge Klinger; Georgia Anson; Fay Tag; Doris Carlson; J. Robert Weber; Ruth Weber; Richard Weber; Alice Weber; Bob Palfi; Wilma Bender; Lillian Simon; Joy Welch; Margaret McBride; and Sue Strasser

Because God's love is for all - everyone is always welcome.

We pray that God may bless you with peace, inspiration, and strength. We are a community, seeking to learn what it means to follow Jesus. No matter what you may be going through, no matter where you may be on your faith journey – you are most welcome here! If you would like more information, please call Judy in the church office @ 692-1319

LITURGIST: Nathan Harrington

GREETERS: John Faux

USHERS: Team 4

STEPHEN MINISTERS: are always available to provide confidential support in times of need. Simply call Janet Haacker @ 694-4290.

REMINDER: Please call Pastor Leslie @ 490-0420 or Judy in the office @ 692-1319 if you or a loved one are ill, hospitalized or in need of a visit.

We would like to thank Kurt Ebsary for sharing his gifts with us today.

Memory Lane Respite Program: Our first respite program was held on August 21. Thank you to all the volunteers and people who donated items and helped in making this program a success. The next Memory Lane will take place on September 18. There are many opportunities to help in volunteering or donating items, with no monthly commitment. There is a tote in the Narthex with a list of items that are being requested. Monetary donations are also much appreciated – check can be made payable to the church and write "Memory Lane" in the memo line. If you know of anyone

suffering from dementia and would like more information about this program, please contact the respite committee: Kathy Greenawalt, Janet Haacker, Marilee Mathias, Pastor Leslie Latham or Judy Winters.

Display Case: If you are interested in displaying something that you collect or you have some treasures that you would like to share with our church family, please contact the church office.

Worship on September 2: Pastor Leslie, along with Elder Joanne Tunison, will be leading worship together and focusing on what is happening in Puerto Rico. Following worship at noon, we will host an informational meeting for those prospective persons who would like to participate in the February-March mission trips, or those who would like to support our missionaries. Please ask Pastor Leslie if you have questions.

Early Autumn Sale – Wednesday, September 5: Circle II Women's Group will hold their "Early Autumn Sale" and luncheon from 10am-1:30pm. Lunch will be served from 11am-1pm featuring Chicken Salad Plate, fresh baked pie, and a beverage for a cost of \$6.00. Come and shop the Mini-Boutique, Thrift Shop, and Plant Place and relax and have a delicious lunch. Proceeds to benefit local charities.

Sunday School Rally Day – Sunday, September 9: Come to the dining room next to the parlor at 9:30am and meet your teachers. We have lots of fun activities planned for this year.

Letter from the Property Team: Some of you may have heard that our custodian, Mike Donovan has sent in a letter of resignation effective August 31st. He liked working here but needed more time for his family. As such, we are starting a search for a replacement. On September 1st, we need to re-institute the process we have utilized in the past to keep up with our routine cleaning chores on a volunteer group effort basis. To aid in this, we've created a Task List that lists the routine and semi-routine cleaning chores that need to be accomplished so everyone knows what needs to be done and what has already been done, so there is no duplication of effort. The list will be located on a clip board hanging in the Janitor's closet, next to the church office. When you complete a task, please log it on the task list so the next person who comes in to help can see what has already been done and can pick from a chore that still needs attention. We don't have a cleaning frequency down for the various tasks; we'll just have to take a look and use our best judgment to determine when a task needs to be done. I know from the past that it's gratifying to see so many people ready to pitch in and help in our time of need.

August 2018						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 Worship 10a	27 AA 9a TOPS 6:30p	28	29 Circle II 9a	30 AA 9a Yoga 6:30p Hardcore 30 Fitness Class 6:30p	31 UFO 7P	1
September 2018						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 Worship 10a	3 Labor Day AA 9a Girl Scouts 6p TOPS 6:30p	4 Deacons 1p	5 Circle II "Early Autumn Sale" 10a-1:30p	6 AA 9a Yoga 6:30p Hardcore 30 Fitness Class 6:30p Worship Mtg 3p	7 UFO 7P	8
9 Rally Day 9:30am Sunday School 9:30a Worship/Communion 11a	10 AA 9a Girl Scouts 6p TOPS 6:30p Mission/ Outreach Team 6p	11	12 Circle II 9a	13 AA 9a Yoga 6:30p Hardcore 30 Fitness Class 6:30p	14 Church Women United Annual Mtg & Luncheon 12p UFO 7P	15
16 Sunday School 9:30a Worship 11a	17 AA 9a Girl Scouts 6p TOPS 6:30p CE Mtg Session 7p	18 Memory Lane 10:30a-2:30p	19 Circle II 9a	20 AA 9a Yoga 6:30p Hardcore 30 Fitness Class 6:30p	21 UFO 7P	22
23 Sunday School 9:30a Worship 11a	24 AA 9a Girl Scouts 6p TOPS 6:30p	25	26 Circle II 9a	27 AA 9a Yoga 6:30p Hardcore 30 Fitness Class 6:30p	28 UFO 7P	29