

Anthem

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon “The Neighbor Across the Road”

Pastor Ken

Prayers of the People (Sharing of Joys and Concerns)

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 and ever. Amen

*Closing Hymn #343 “Called as Partners in Christ’s Service”

*Charge and Benediction

Choral Benediction

Postlude

Belinda Vair Accompanist/Choir Director

Thank you to Session for providing us with today’s Coffee Hour

First Presbyterian Church of Johnstown, NY – YouTube link:



Website Address: www.johnstownpresbyterian.org



January 18, 2026 Second Sunday after Epiphany 10:30am

Welcome to worship at the First Presbyterian Church, Johnstown. Whether you are here in the sanctuary or joining us online, we are glad you are with us. Wherever you are on your faith journey, you are welcome here, and we give thanks for the gift of worshiping together today!

PASTOR KEN

Mission of the Month Heifer International

Prelude

Belinda Vair Accompanist/Choir Director

Choral Introit

Call To Worship

Leader: The Lord is near to the stranger, the neighbor, and the wounded by the road.

People: We come to worship the God who makes room and gives mercy.

Leader: When strangers live among you, God says: do not oppress—love them as yourself.

People: Teach us to welcome with dignity, not suspicion.

Leader: Jesus asks, “Who was a neighbor?” and answers with compassion in motion.

People: Make us neighbors who cross the road toward need.

Leader: In a time of fear and fracture, God calls us to courageous love.

People: We will worship—and we will go and do likewise.

All: Let us worship God.

(PLEASE RISE IN BODY OR IN SPIRIT)

***Opening Hymn #438** "Blest Be the Tie That Binds".

Call to Confession

Leader: Friends, the God who says, “Love the stranger as yourself,” also meets us on the road with mercy. Yet we confess that we have crossed to the other side—protecting our comfort, ignoring our neighbor, withholding welcome. Trusting God’s compassion, let us tell the truth about ourselves and turn again toward grace as we pray together.

Corporate Prayer of Confession

All: Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved the stranger as ourselves. We have let fear shape our words and choices, and we have passed by neighbors in need. We have ignored the wounded — those harmed by poverty, violence, racism, and injustice — and we have stayed silent when love required courage.

Forgive us. Turn us around. And forgive us for all our other sins—known and unknown, what we have done and what we have left undone.

By your Spirit, make us neighbors who draw near, welcome the stranger, and seek justice with compassion; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Leader: Let us take a moment for silent confession and personal reflection.

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Hear the good news: the God who commands us to love the stranger and draw near to the wounded does not leave us trapped in our sin. In Jesus Christ—the One who crossed every distance to come to us, to heal, and to restore—we are forgiven. Your sins are forgiven: what you have done and what you have left undone, known and unknown. You are claimed by grace and freed for new life. Go now and do likewise.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

***Gloria Patri**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be.
World without end, amen! Amen.**

Prayer for Illumination

Leader: God of mercy and truth, open our ears to your Word and soften our hearts to receive it. By your Spirit, teach us to love the stranger, notice the wounded, and become neighbors who draw near. Give us wisdom for these days, and courage to go and do likewise. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Leviticus 19:33–34 (Pew Bible Page #107)
Luke 10:25–37 (Pew Bible Page #71)

Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God. And we all say:
People: Thanks be to God.

Walt Lane