

***CLOSING HYMN #840** “When Peace Like a River”

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

BELINDA VAIR

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- + Our **Mission of the Month** is **Vet-2-Vet**.
- + Bible Study begins on **Thursday, September 10 at 4:00**. We will study the **Gospel of Luke** chapters 1-2.
- + **Free Community Lunch** will be **Saturday, September 5, 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM**.
- + Thank you to the Deacons for providing us with this morning’s coffee hour and birthday celebration.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF JOHNSTOWN, NY
37 S. Market St. Johnstown, NY 12095 - (518) 762-8263

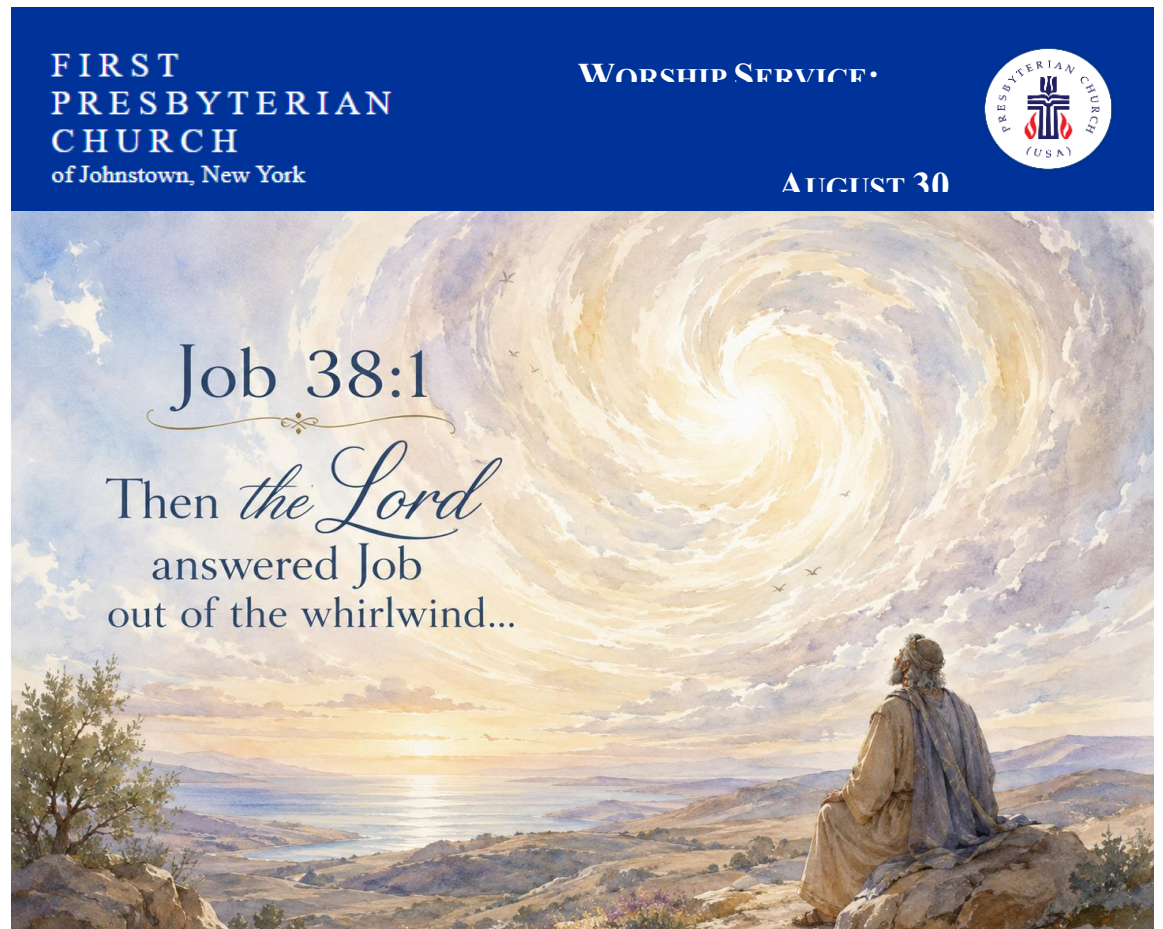
Church website: <https://www.johnstownpresbyterian.org>

 **YouTube** <https://www.youtube.com/@FirstPresbyterianJohnstown>

 **Find us on: facebook®** [@johnstownfirstpresbyterian](https://www.facebook.com/johnstownfirstpresbyterian)

Ken Killian, Pastor
Craig Talarico, Clerk of Session
Director Dawn Austin, Office Administrator

Belinda Vair, Music
Jim Wright, Custodian



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!

PRELUDE “Prelude in C Major”

J.S. BACH
BELINDA VAIR

CHORAL INTROIT

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (PLEASE RISE IN BODY OR SPIRIT)

Leader: We come with questions—about suffering, about faith, about where God is when life doesn’t make sense.

People: God meets us here.

Leader: From the whirlwind, God reminds Job that creation is wider, deeper, and more mysterious than we can understand.

People: We trust the God who holds it all.

Leader: Jesus reminds us that suffering is not punishment.

People: We are met with compassion, not blame.

Leader: Bring your doubts, your grief, and your faith.

People: We bring our whole selves to God.

Leader: Come, let us worship the God who stays with us.

All: Let us worship God together. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN #32** “I Sing the Mighty Power of God”

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ALL: God of grace, we confess that we want easy answers when life is hard.

We are quick to blame ourselves, to judge others, or to assume that suffering must have a reason.

Forgive us when we offer explanations instead of compassion, certainty instead of presence.

Teach us to trust you in the mystery, to sit with those who hurt, and to see others as Jesus did—with mercy, not blame.

Meet us in our questions, and lead us again in the way of love. Amen.

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

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*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

HELEN THOMPSON

Leader: Gracious God, quiet the noise around us and within us. Open our hearts and minds to your Word. Help us hear what you are saying, trust you in what we do not understand, and follow where your Spirit leads. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Job 38:1-7, 16-18 (Pew Bible Page #484)

John 9:1-5 (Pew Bible Page#102)

Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM “A Round of Thanks”

DONALD MOORE

BELINDA VAIR

DEACON’S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

HELEN THOMPSON

PASTORAL PRAYER

SERMON “Questions from the Ash Heap”

SPECIAL MUSIC “How Great Thou Art” BELINDA VAIR/SOLOIST

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.