

**\*CLOSING HYMN #175** “Seek Ye First”

**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**



**POSTLUDE** “As the Deer with Fairest Lord Jesus” LUCY CARDWELL

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- + Our **Mission of the Month** is the **Pastor’s Care Shelf**.
- + **Stitches & Giggles** is Wednesday evenings, 6:00 – 8:00 PM.
- + **Free Community Lunch** is Saturday, July 25, 11:00 – 1:00 PM.
- + We are hosting the **InterFaith Council Bible Study** on Tuesday, August 11, 6:30 – 8:00 PM.
- + Please stay after the service today and join us for a time of fellowship.
- + Thank you to Worship & Music for providing us with this morning’s coffee hour.

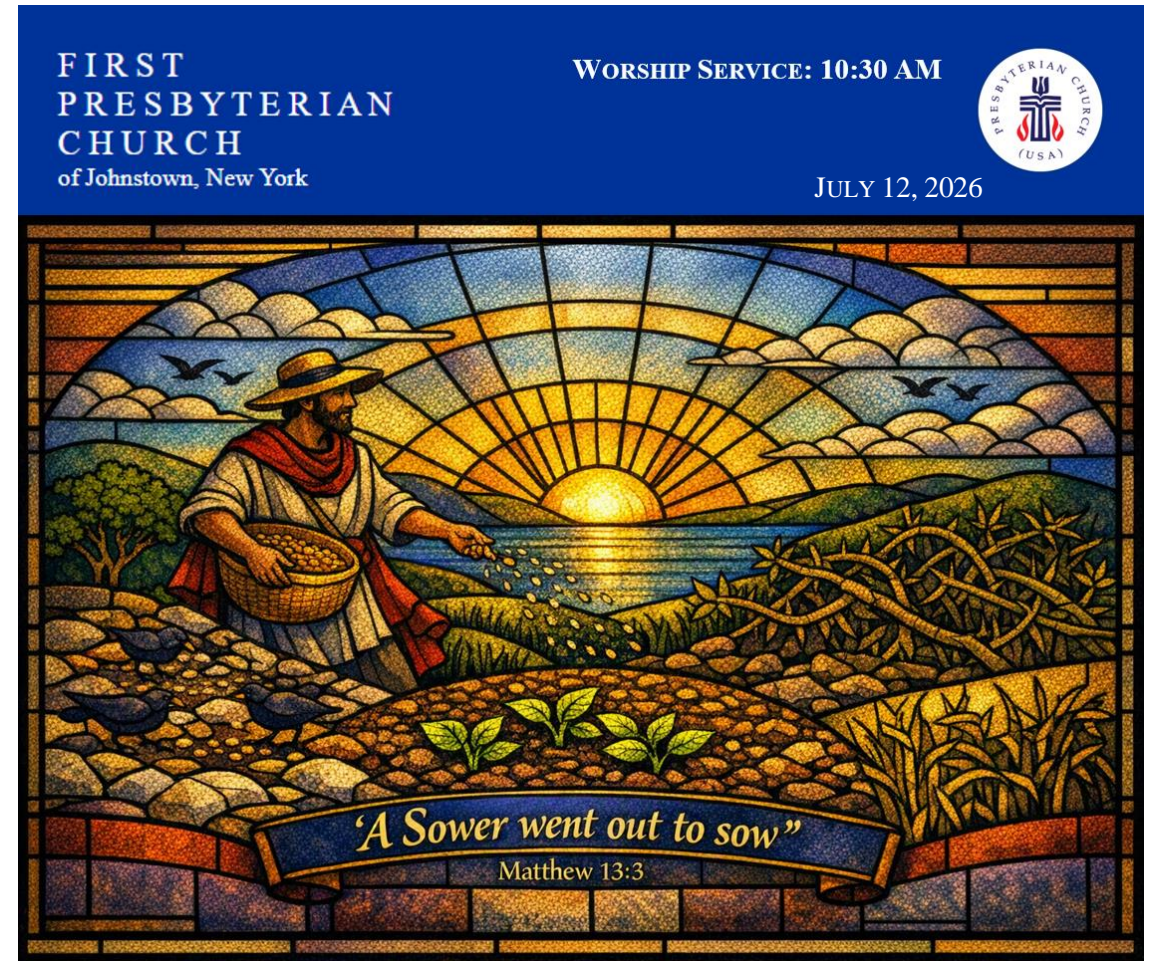
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**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF JOHNSTOWN, NY**  
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Church website: <https://www.johnstownpresbyterian.org>  
 **YouTube** <https://www.youtube.com/@FirstPresbyterianJohnstown>  
 **Find us on: facebook.** [@johnstownfirstpresbyterian](https://www.facebook.com/johnstownfirstpresbyterian)

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

Belinda Vair, Music Director  
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!

**MISSION OF THE MONTH** PASTOR’S CARE SHELF WALTER LANE

**PRELUDE** “Holy Ground” LUCY CARDWELL

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

**Leader:** The word of God is like rain that waters the earth,

**People:** bringing life, growth, and hope.

**Leader:** The grace of God is like seed scattered generously,

**People:** falling into every corner of our lives.

**Leader:** Some days our hearts are hard, rocky, or crowded with thorns,

**People:** but God keeps sowing, God keeps tending, God keeps calling.

**Leader:** Let us come before God with open hearts and ready spirits.

**People:** May the word take root in us and bear fruit for the world.

**Leader:** Let us worship God.

**All:** With grateful hearts, we worship the Lord. Amen.

**\*OPENING HYMN #353** “My Hope is Built”

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**ALL:** Gracious God,  
you scatter your word with grace, but our hearts are not always ready to receive it.

**We are hardened by fear and hurt, shallow in our faith, and crowded by worry, busyness, and the desire for more. Forgive us. Soften our hearts, deepen our roots, and clear away what chokes your life in us. Make us good soil, so your word may take root and bear fruit for the world.**

**In Jesus’ name we pray. 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**

**Leader:** Gracious God, as your Word is read and proclaimed, send your Spirit to soften our hearts and open our minds. May your Word take root in us, grow within us, and bear fruit in how we live. Help us listen with humility, receive with joy, and respond with faithfulness.

Amen.

**SCRIPTURE READING**

WALTER LANE

Isaiah 55:10-13 (Pew Bible Page #686)

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 (Pew Bible Page #13)

**Leader:** This is the word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**SERMON**

“The Gospel According to Dirt”

**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.**