



**Join us every Sunday:**

Worship 11:00am

Sunday School 9:30am

**All are Welcome!**

**Please wear a mask if not fully vaccinated!**

Join our live-streamed service on Youtube,  
or listen on the radio at AM1440/97.3FM.

First Presbyterian Church  
208 Tazewell Avenue  
Bluefield, WV 24701

Phone: (304) 327-9727

Website: [firstpresblfd.org](http://firstpresblfd.org)

Pastor: Rev. Maggie Rust

Find us on Facebook & Youtube:



August 2021

*God's Children, historically and intentionally diverse, daily sent on Christ's mission of love and grace*

### A Note from the Pastor:

“Listen to the Word that God has spoken; listen to the One who is close at hand. Listen to the voice who began creation; listen even when you don’t understand.” These are the lyrics to a sung prayer from an Inuit Christian community in northern Canada. I first heard them during a conference where John Bell was talking about scriptures that we wrestle with. Focused on several Old Testament passages especially from the book of Judges, “listen even when you don’t understand” became something of a refrain as we wondered aloud together what ‘good news’ some of these difficult passages had for the modern believer.

We all have (or *should* have) stories in the Book that We Love that we struggle with. Taking the Bible seriously means grappling with the implications of the narrative. From parables that make us uncomfortable to prophets that give us pause, wrestling with God’s Word is a practice as old as the word itself (just read Genesis 32). The rabbis tell us that continuing to turn a passage over, to ask questions of it, to converse with friends and fellow believers about it—through that process God is showing you a path to wisdom, because the Word is always a gift of life. May we be so blessed in all our wrestling! As we listen carefully, I pray we hear the voice of God close at hand in the coming days.

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Maggie Rust



#### Want to go deeper?

Reflection questions on the previous day’s sermon text are available each Monday on our Church Website. Checkout FPC News at [firstpresblfd.org](http://firstpresblfd.org)!

### Tuesday Morning Devotional Group

Join us for a brief time of devotion & prayer, every Tuesday at 9:00am on Zoom! Contact Sharon Perkinson to be added to the list.



### Upcoming Meetings:

Aug. 10 —Stewardship & Finance on Zoom 6:30

Aug. 12—Property & Personnel on Zoom at 6:30

Aug. 15—Session Retreat at Hopta Cabin at 3:00

### PRAYER CONCERNS

**Our Members:** Greg Testerman, Eleanor Kensinger, Betty Bailey, Randy Snider, Zella Denham, Betty Kincaid, Jimbo Godwin, Carolyn Neale, Lois Mustard, Carole Dodson, Terry Dodson, Kathy Kennedy, Suzanne Compton, Linnie Hammonds, Robert Perry, Liz Ann Boykin, Eddie & Billie Boyd, Sarah Murphy and Tokita Webb

**Others for whom prayer is requested:** Darrell Zimmerman, Louise Carr, Caroline Gillespie, Terry Brown, Family of Timmy Lockhart, Warren Butt, Bill Brown, Brenda Payne, Delma Jones, Reagan Perkinson, Alice Gray & Family, Joseph Gryder, Tony Papa, Betty Shaw, Asher Graham Denham & Parents Matthew & Faith Denham, The Family & Friends of Tom Shaffer, The Landreth Family, Mick Chambers, Paul & Teresa Dodson, Kevin Roberts, The Legg Family, The Harry Family, The Robinson/Jose Families, Harry & Betty White, Margarette Joplin, Debbie Blaskowski, Johnny Snelling, Mark Pafford, Jack Sarver, Don Kennedy, David Hammond, Paul Anderson, Cooper Jewell, Pat Smith, Jonathan Murphy, Dean Farmer, Kellie Cox, Janet Slager, The Family of Stacy Harris, Pam Murphy, Maggie Jo Murphy, David Nentarz, The Nentarz Family, Jason Blevins, Holly Matney, Zac Carter, Marlene Smith, Andrew Brewer, Rosemarie Dixon

**REMINDER:** If you have an addition for the September Newsletter, please have it to the church office by **August 24**. Announcements or changes to the prayer list for Sunday’s bulletin are due to the church office by Wednesday at 11am.

First Presbyterian Church, Bluefield WV

Pastor: Rev. Maggie Rust

Editor: Stephanie Smith

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