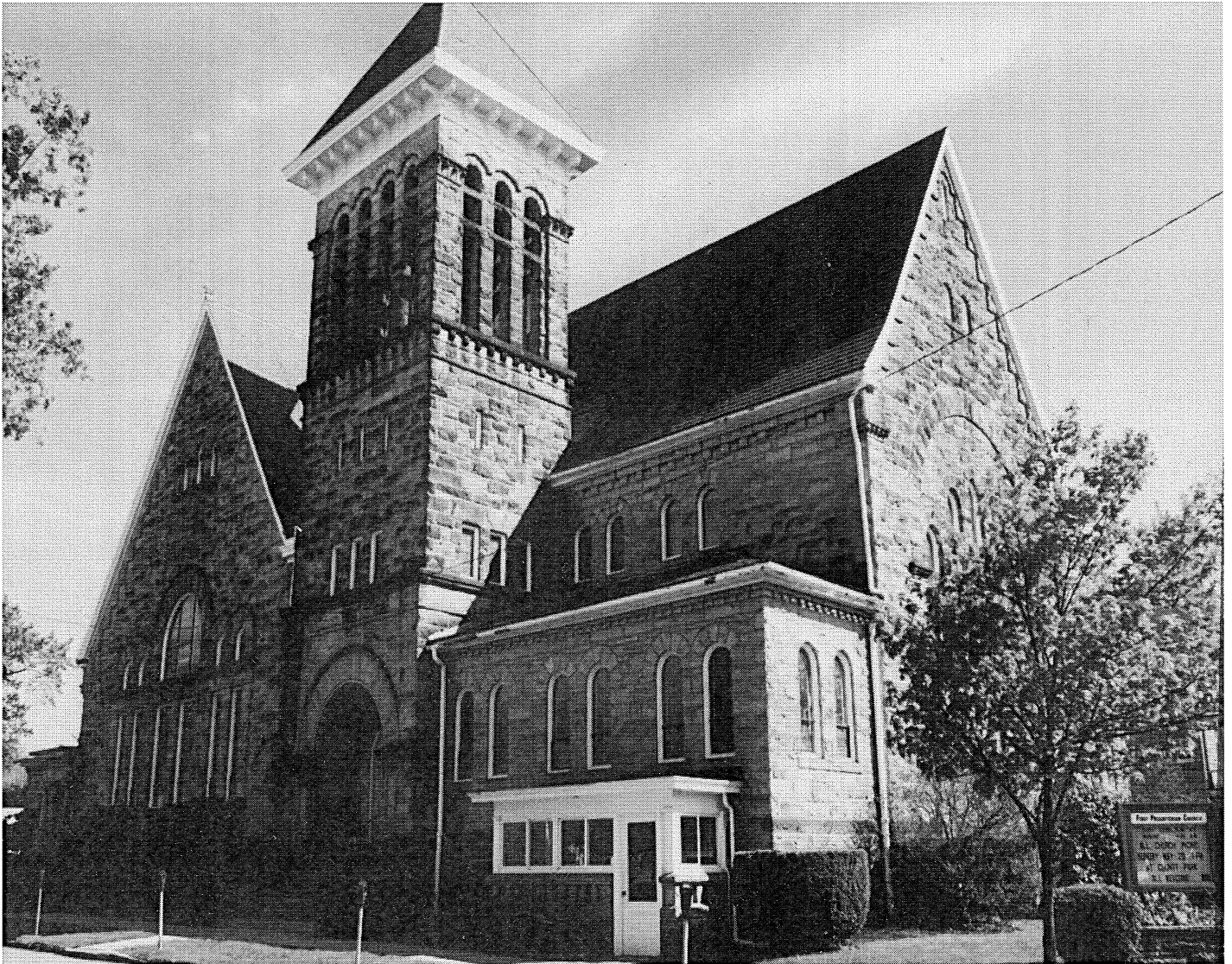


First Presbyterian Church



Third Sunday in Lent
March 3, 2024



700 Wood Street, Clarion, PA 16214

814-226-8145

churchoffice@clarionfirstpresby.org

www.clarionfirstpresby.org

We come together to worship, grow, and serve as disciples of Christ.

We Gather in God's Name

(Tune your car radio to 88.7 FM)

Third Sunday in Lent

Welcome and Announcements

Lector, Kathy Larimer

We silently shift our focus to God and prepare to worship.

Prelude

Largo From: Sonanta in C for Cello Op. 1 No. 5

Benedetto Marcello

Chiming of the Trinity

Introit

Your Law, O Lord, is Perfect

Keith Landis, Melchior Vulpius

Please join in reading or singing those parts of the service printed in **bold**.

Call to Worship

We are here with a vision of what can be as God calls us to worship.

We have journeyed this far, and we pause in gratitude.

Our endurance builds a spirit of understanding and, even in our weariness, joyful praise.

Hear our thanks as our hearts dance and voices sing.

✦ When this symbol precedes an element of the service, please rise in body or spirit.

✦ Hymn No. 24

God Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens

✦ Call to Confession

God does not wait for us to be righteous, or pure, or perfect. Christ died for us while we were still sinners. We do not have to hide our sin from God, but can face it with Jesus, who heals us, teaches us, and leads us to new life.

✦ Prayer of Confession (Unison)

O Christ who chased the money changers from the temple, chase the greed from our lives and our hearts. As you overturned the tables, O Lord, overturn the systems in our world that contribute to cycles of poverty and oppression. Forgive us, O God, of the ways we contribute to the world's brokenness. Forgive us, O God, and wash us in your mercy. Forgive us, O God, and free us to try again. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

✦ Declaration of Forgiveness

We know that God is with us even in our sufferings, for suffering produces endurance, endurance produces character, character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts.

Friends, believe the Good News:

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

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

✦ Gloria Patri

We Share God's Word

Time with the Children

Debra Owens

Prayer of Illumination

Elaine Matticks

First Scripture

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

(p. 166)

Second Scripture

Psalm 19

(p. 498)

The words of scripture, inspired by God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon "The Revelation of God" Rev. Rebecca Mihm

Organ Interlude

✠ Hymn No. 612 *We Praise You, O God*

We Give Thanks to God

✠ Affirmation of Faith *Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.21*

The reconciling work of Jesus was the supreme crisis in the life of humankind. His cross and resurrection become personal crisis and present hope for women and men when the gospel is proclaimed and believed. In this experience, the Spirit brings God's forgiveness to all, moves people to respond in faith, repentance, and obedience, and initiates the new life in Christ.

Call for the Offering

Offering and Offertory *The Heavens Are Telling* Beethoven/Thomson

✠ Doxology

✠ Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

We Go Forth to Serve

✠ Hymn No. 625 *O Lord My God*

✠ Charge and Benediction

Postlude *Postlude on "Hashivenu"*

DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

THE 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.

POSTLUDE

Please remember at the close of the service, the Postlude is a time to silently reflect on God and the mission to which we are called. We ask that you please remain silent and seated until the music has ended.

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WELCOME VISITORS

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church. We are glad to provide hybrid and virtual worship services for this Sunday. Services are currently livestreamed on our Facebook page (First Presbyterian Church of Clarion) in real time, then archived to our website and Facebook page.

At First Presbyterian Church our mission is to worship, grow, and serve as followers of Jesus. From our youngest to our oldest, we seek to worship God in our actions, grow in God's love, and serve God's people in our community and around the world. We hope that you will come join us so we may personally extend a warm welcome. If you have any questions or particular prayer needs, please feel free to contact the church office at 226-8145 between 9 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday.

For more information visit our website at www.clarionfirstpresby.org.

Find us on Facebook! (First Presbyterian Church of Clarion)

Radio Broadcast-WWCH 94.1 FM every third Sunday of the month at 11:00 a.m.

Video recordings of past sermons may be viewed by clicking the "Worship" link on our home page at www.clarionfirstpresby.org or a phone app is available at sermon.net (look for First Presbyterian Church—Clarion.) You can also choose to listen to an audio version. Simply pick the option that works best for you. Videos of Sunday worship are also posted on our Facebook page (see above).

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CHURCH STAFF AND LEADERSHIP

Pastor: Rev. Rebecca Mihm
Organist: Jean Mitrosky
Director of Music: Bonnie Champion
Treasurer: Brenda Nesbitt
Secretary: Debra Owens
Sexton: Mike Hetrick
Sound Engineer: Josh Deitz
Video Engineer: Dan Willy

Ruling Elders:

<u>Class of 2024:</u>	<u>Class of 2025:</u>	<u>Class of 2026:</u>
Kathy Larimer	Jeff Deitz	Norma Kooman
Elaine Matticks	Jeff Kapp	Dave Larimer
Pam Reid	Kurt Nesbitt	Cindy Stants

Deacons:

<u>Class of 2024:</u>	<u>Class of 2025:</u>	<u>Class of 2026:</u>
Bonnie Champion	Kim Lewis	Robin Cable
Marianne Reynolds	Lee Seitz	Tamalyn Goble
Mary Swanger	Lori Smith	Joey Kunselman

WORSHIP NOTES

Pastor: Rev. Rebecca Mihm
Lector: Kathy Larimer
Time with Children: Debra Owens
Director of Music: Bonnie Champion
Organist: Jean Mitrosky
Sound Engineer: Josh Deitz/Jeff Kapp
Video Engineer: Dan Willy/Kurt Nesbitt
Acolytes: Gavin Kunselman, Clara Stants, Jeremy Willy
Ushers in Charge: Lee Seitz, Mary Swanger, Amy Widmer

The Sanctuary flowers today are given to the glory of God, and in memory of my parents: Clem and Besse Seigworth, by Marilyn Fox.

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

9:30 a.m.	Choir Practice
10:00 a.m.	Worship
11:00 a.m.	Sunday School
11:00 a.m.	Confirmation Class
11:00 a.m.	Choir Practice

WEEKLY DEPOSIT SUMMARY

2/26/2024

Weekly Contributions

Envelope Contributions	\$1,205.00
Miscellaneous Cash Contributions	\$208.00
Per Capita	\$40.00
Total Contributions	\$1,453.00

Weekly Donations

Food Bags	\$212.00
Men's Fellowship	\$20.00
Easter Flowers	\$81.00
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	\$25.00
Total	\$1,583.00
Total	\$3,036.00

NOTES:

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBY**Monday, March 4**

5:15 p.m. Community Committee, Sisterhood Room

Tuesday, March 5

6:00 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous, Step Down Room

Wednesday, March 6

1:00 p.m. Caring Callers, Ministry Central

4:30 p.m. Food Bag Meeting, Food Bag Room

6:00 p.m. CE Team Meeting, Ministry Central

7:00 pm Deacon's Meeting, Ministry Central

8:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous, Step Down Room

Thursday, March 7

5:00 p.m. Echoes of Joy Practice

6:00 p.m. Joyful Bells Practice

Saturday, March 9—Time Change Reminder

Set your clock ahead one hour! Don't be late for church!

Next Sunday, March 10 Fourth Sunday of Lent

9:30 a.m. Choir Practice

10:00 a.m. Worship

11:00 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Confirmation Class

11:00 a.m. Choir Practice

PRAYER LIST

Ruth Ann Minnich

Randy Cable

Margy Port

Don McCord

Rick Goble

All our homebound
members

Mary Biser

Charlotte Hartman

Kenneth Daugherty, Jr.

Ben McKinley

David Mahle

Laurie Dickey

Rebecca Irwin

Anthony Louder

Pat Hargest

Michael McConnell

Alice Davis

Alexandra Sharrar

Dr. Shannon Penland

Mary Kay Arth

Kay Fye

Tracey & Jody Hall

Mason Martin and family

Angelo Gehenio

Jeri Reddinger

Joe Amato

Tom Minich

Rob Summerville

Dawn Reed and family

Bereaved

Louise Swarm Family

Around the WorldEveryone serving in the US
MilitaryGitwe Congregation in
Rwanda, our faith partnersHomebound Member
of the WeekCecelia "Bunny" Rhea
Highland Oaks at Water

Run, Rm 110

300 Water Run Road

Clarion, PA 16214

Her birthday is 3/10.

ANNOUNCEMENTS**SPRING FORWARD!** Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour before you go to bed Saturday, March 9th.**Holy Moments: A Program for Hope.** The Lent adult study class begins this Wednesday, March 6th. We will meet at 11:30 a.m. in the Sunday School room. We will focus on the book Holy Moments: A Handbook for the Rest of Your Life, by Matthew Kelly. We are hoping for a good turnout. If you plan to participate, please call Jim or Pat McConnell at 814-229-0168, or Deb Owens at the church office 814-226-8145.**Easter Flowers are on sale for \$9 each until March 10.** If you would like to order flowers for our Sanctuary Easter morning, order forms available in the Ramp Room. They can be returned to the church office or the offering plate with your payment.**The First United Methodist Church of Clarion invites you to join them for a "Lenten Lunch" on Tuesday, March 19.** It starts with devotions at 12:00 p.m., followed by lunch at 12:15 p.m. Salad, sandwiches, and dessert will be provided. Please call (814) 226-6660 to RSVP by March 10 so they can plan appropriately for the lunch.**Want to learn about the meal when Jesus introduced the Lord's Supper?** Want to see how the Jewish people celebrate Passover? Want to spend an evening of fellowship with the Body of Christ? Join us for a Seder dinner on Thursday, 3/28, at 6 p.m. Sign-up in the Ramp Room is required. Bring a dish.**One Great Hour of Sharing turns 75!** For 75 years, One Great Hour of Sharing has connected us in God's healing, tending and growing to create a world where all needs are met. Repairing the breach, providing relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry and support for the poor and oppressed, your gifts are shared with the ministries of the Presbyterian Hunger Program, Self-Development of People and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. You may give from February 14 through Palm Sunday. To learn more about how your gift makes a difference visit pcusa.org/oghs.**Roma Kline & Wayne L. Fulton Scholarship Fund** applications are available in the church office and on the Resources page of our website. The deadline to apply is March 31.**Mission's Coat Project continues.** The coat rack is on the walkway between the Ramp Room and the CE Building. Coats hung on the rack are for anyone who needs a coat. If you need a coat, please take one. If you have a coat or two that are new or still in great shape, hang them on the rack so someone else may be blessed with their warmth this winter. New or gently-used boots are also needed. The Coat Project will run from now until spring.

MARCH 3, 2024
THIRD SUNDAY
IN LENT

taking
faith
home

Worship the Lord wherever you are.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	John 2:13-22	Jesus cleanses the temple
Monday	Exodus 20:1-17	The Ten Commandments
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 1:18-25	Christ crucified
Wednesday	Proverbs 24:3-4	Seek wisdom
Thursday	Joshua 24:14-18	The tribes renew the covenant
Friday	2 Samuel 7:18-29	David's prayer
Saturday	Psalms 19	God is creator and gives the law
Sunday	John 3:14-21	God so loved the world

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and you will raise it up in three days?" But he [Jesus] was speaking of the temple of his body. John 2:20-21 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Creator God, help us to give you our worship and praise wherever we are for the sake of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord who came that we may be set free. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, with the sun, moon, and stars, we give you thanks for your creative work, including this gift of food. Amen. (Psalm 19:1)

A Blessing to Give:

May you worship the risen Lord with gladness.

MARCH 3, 2024

HYMN OF THE WEEK

All Are Welcome

taking
faith
home

WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Where do you like to worship God?
- Jesus said that his body is the real temple. What does that mean for how and where we worship?

DEVOTIONS

Read: John 2:1-22.

Jesus goes from turning water into an abundance of wine at a wedding to arriving in Jerusalem and announcing his uncompromising judgment in the temple. Both images of Jesus are critical to the Gospel of John. Jesus opposes the buying and selling happening in the temple at the expense of honoring "my Father's house" (v. 16). The "sign" or authority he gives for his forceful actions is that his body is the real temple. Jesus, as the word made flesh (John 1:14), embodies the very presence of God and, therefore, Jesus becomes the centerpiece for our worship. To the Samaritan woman Jesus says, "you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem" (John 4:21). During the COVID pandemic Christians could not gather in person. We began to realize we need not worship only in a sanctuary. The phrase used was "the church has left the building," noting that we can still worship God outside of sanctuaries. The same message is in John, and it is not new. We can worship wherever we are. *Discuss:* Besides a church building, where have you worshiped Jesus?

Pray: **God of heaven and earth, help us to see that your glory is everywhere, and wherever we are is an acceptable place to worship you through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, in addition to a sanctuary, where can you join with others to worship God?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The cross is an ancient symbol of the Christian faith. It reminds us Jesus died that we may live with God forever and is a reminder of a way of life for Jesus' followers. Light three candles of the seven votive candles shaped like a cross being used for Lent. Sit in silence for a moment while looking at the cross.

Then pray: **Lord, let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you. You are my Rock and my Redeemer. Amen. (Psalm 19:14)**