

First Presbyterian Church



*Third Sunday of Easter
April 14, 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 of Easter

Welcome and Announcements

Lector, Cindy Stants

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

Prelude

Great Is the Lord
(Joyful Bells)

Michael and Deborah Smith

Chiming of the Trinity

Call to Worship

We live in the radiance of your glory.

Our worship comes from the gladness you have put in our hearts.

We give you thanks for the peace of your salvation.

Oh, hear the joy of our praise for your grace and mercy.

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

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

✠ Hymn No. 4

Holy God, We Praise Your Name

✠ Call to Confession

The proof of God's amazing love is this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. And because we have faith in him, we can approach the throne of God's grace with confidence. So, in humility and faith, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

✠ Prayer of Confession (Unison)

What love you have given us, O God, that we should be called your children. What love you have given us, O Christ, that we should share a table with you. Forgive us when we act as if we were your only children: when we do not recognize your image in the faces of strangers, enemies, or friends; when we do not share our own tables, forgetting that we need each other. Forgive us, O Christ, maker of peace, and teach us to follow in your way. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

✠ Declaration of Forgiveness

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life."

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

Cindy Stants

First Scripture

Luke 24:36b-48

(p. 91)

Second Scripture

Isaiah 6:1-9a

(p. 635)

The words of scripture, inspired by God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Isaiah's Vision"

Rev. Rebecca Mihm

Organ Interlude

We Give Thanks to God

✦ Affirmation of Faith

The Larger Catechism 7.117

God is a Spirit, in and of himself infinite in being, glory, blessedness, and perfection; all sufficient, eternal, unchangeable, incomprehensible, everywhere present, almighty, knowing all things, most wise, most holy, most merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth.

Call for the Offering

Offering and Offertory

Canon...Pachelbel
(Joyful Bells)

Arr. by Hal Hopson

✦ Doxology

✦ Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

We Go Forth to Serve

✦ Hymn No. 726

Will You Come and Follow Me

✦ Charge and Benediction

Postlude

To God Be the Glory

W. H. Doane, arr. by Paul Mickelson

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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1st Hymn: "Holy God, We Praise Your Name" from *Glory to God* #4. Text & Music: Attr. Ignaz Franz, c. 1774; trans Clarence Alphonsus Walworth, 1858, alt. Music: *Allgemeines Katholisches Gesangbuch*, c. 1774; harm Johann Gottfrid Schicht, 1819. Livestreamed with permission under CCLI Streaming Plus License™ A-21963048 and reprinted with permission under Church Copyright License ® A-21963031, all rights reserved.

2nd Hymn: "Open the Eyes of My Heart" from *Glory to God* #452. Text & Music: Paul Baloche, 1997. Text and Music © 1997 *Integrity's Hosanna! Music* (admin. *EMICMG Publishing.com*). Livestreamed with permission under CCLI Streaming Plus License™ A-21963048 and reprinted with permission under Church Copyright License ® A-21963031, all rights reserved.

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3rd Hymn: "Will You Come and Follow Me" from *Glory to God* #726. Text: John L. Bell and Graham Maule, 1987. Music: Scottish melody; arr. John L. Bell, 1987. Text and Music Arr. © 1987 *WGRG, Iona Community* (admin. *GLA Publications, Inc.*). Livestreamed and reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-727612, all rights reserved.

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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: Cindy Stants
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: Tamalyn Goble, Stu & Stacy Hoffman

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

9:00 a.m. Bell 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

4/7/2024

Weekly Contributions	
Envelope Contributions	\$2,455.00
Miscellaneous Cash Contributions	\$210.00
Total Contributions	\$2,665.00

Weekly Donations	
Food Bags	\$300.00
Men's Fellowship	\$120.00
Blessing Box	\$300.00
Caring Callers	\$25.00
Total	\$745.00

Total	\$3,410.00
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Online Donations 3/24, Deposited 4/24

Offering Contributions	\$382.24
Food Bag	\$25.00
Total	\$407.24

Grand Total	\$3,817.24
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NOTES:

Tuesday, April 16

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

Wednesday, April 17

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

Thursday, April 18

4:00 p.m. Seed to Supper Class, Social Hall

5:00 p.m. Echoes of Joy Practice—Choir Room

6:00 p.m. Joyful Bells Practice—Choir Room

Saturday, April 20

8:00 a.m. Men's Fellowship Breakfast, Social Hall

Next Sunday, April 21

9:30 a.m. Choir Practice

10:00 a.m. Worship - Rev. Gary Lyon preaching

11:00 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Confirmation Class

11:00 a.m. Choir Practice

Sunday, April 28 Youth Sunday

PRAYER LIST

Ruth Ann Minnich

Randy Cable

Margy Port

Don McCord

Rick Goble

Shirley McKinley

All our homebound
members

Mary Biser

Charlotte Hartman

Kenneth Daugherty, Jr.

Ben McKinley

David Mahle

Laurie Dickey

Anthony Louder

Pat Hargest

Michael McConnell

Alice Davis

Alexandra Sharrar

Dr. Shannon Penland

Mary Kay Arth

Tracey & Jody Hall

Mason Martin and family

Angelo Gehenio

Jeri Reddinger

Joe Amato

Tom Minich

Rob Summerville

Evie Renwick

Richard Moore

Bereaved

Jim Hager Family

Around the WorldEveryone serving in the US
MilitaryGitwe Congregation in
Rwanda, our faith partnersHomebound Member
of the Week

Don McCord

9 Maronee Street

Clarion, PA 16214-1657

Men's Fellowship Breakfast is Saturday, April 20th, at 8:00 a.m. in the Social Hall. Come join us for good food and fellowship. Jarrett Furnish, Associate Pastor of Families & Students at the First Baptist Church Clarion, will be our speaker. He is originally from Marienville, but grew up at First Baptist. He spent 10 years in Zambia teaching at a missionary school. While there he met his wife, Lukundo. Please contact Bill if you plan to attend (814) 764-3886.

Mission Opportunities:

- **The Big Run Presbyterian Church**, near Punxsutawney is closing. **A clean-up day is scheduled for Saturday, April 20 at 8:00 a.m.** They would appreciate any help and support from fellow Presbyterians.
- Our Mission team is planning a **day trip on Friday, May 17th to Hosanna Industries at their Rochester campus for a clean-up and garden prep day.** The day will include weeding, spreading mulch, and other activities to get the property ready for summer. Please contact Cindy Stants, Bert Louder, Robin Cable or the church office for more details and to sign up. There is also a sign-up sheet in the ramp room. If you think you are interested, please let us know by Monday, April 15th. They would like us to give them a number by April 16th, but final registration is due May 1st.

Youth Sunday is on April 28th. Please join us for worship, and support the children and youth of this congregation.

"Jesus Christ Superstar" is being performed at the Barrow Theatre in Franklin later this spring. If we can get 10 or more people to attend, we can get a discount of 15%. The full-price tickets are \$22 for adults and \$16 for children/seniors (60+). We would like to get a group to go on **Sunday, May 5th at 2:00 p.m.** Please contact a Fellowship Committee Member (Kurt, Bert, Jim, Rebecca) if you are interested, or sign up in the Ramp Room by next Sunday. Scholarships are available for children. Please also let us know if you'd like to join the group for dinner!

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. New or gently-used tennis shoes are also needed.

It is with sadness, but in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, that we share news of the death of Jim Hager. Jim was born on July 18, 1929, and joined our church by confirmation on April 18, 1943, and entered the church triumphant on April 6, 2024.

taking faith home

APRIL 14, 2024
THIRD SUNDAY
OF EASTER

Jesus' resurrection brings peace and forgiveness.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 24:36b-48	Jesus appears to the disciples
Monday	Acts 3:12-19	Peter speaks in the temple
Tuesday	1 John 3:1-7	Children of God
Wednesday	1 Peter 1:3-9	A living hope
Thursday	Acts 26:19-23	Paul tells of his preaching
Friday	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	The resurrection of Christ
Saturday	Psalms 4	An evening prayer
Sunday	John 10:11-18	The Good Shepherd

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

I will both lie down and sleep in peace; for you alone, O LORD, make me lie down in safety. Psalm 4:8 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, we thank you for Jesus' resurrection that brings us peace and forgiveness of sins that we may go to bed each night trusting in your care. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for this food. Give food to those who do not have enough to eat and protection for those who do not feel safe, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May Christ our Lord give you peace and gladness.

taking faith home

APRIL 14, 2024

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Alleluia! Jesus is Risen

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:

- In what ways do you show hospitality to others?
- How does hospitality foster peace and forgiveness?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Luke 24:36b-48.

The resurrection does not immediately clear up all our questions about faith and life. What does the resurrected body look like? What does the life of the church look like after Jesus' resurrection? Jesus comes as flesh and blood to speak, eat, and drink with his followers. The physical world matters. This is not a time to speculate about ghosts and life beyond earthly existence. The resurrection values God's creation. At least two important resurrection messages are present in this text. First, hospitality is shown by the sharing of life-giving food. Sustaining one another with food and community life goes on as a holy practice. Second, repentance and forgiveness of sins remains at the heart of the work of Jesus' followers. The resurrection celebrates life, community, peace, and forgiveness as essentials that will not be overcome by death, isolation, fear, or sin. Thanks be to God for the eternal power of God's reign shown to us in Christ Jesus, our Savior and Lord!

Discuss: What questions do you have about the resurrection and what it means for your life today?

Pray: **God of eternal life, give us confidence to breathe peace, joy, forgiveness, and new beginnings into all our relationships through Christ Jesus, our resurrected Lord and Savior. Amen.**

SERVICE

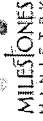
Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you show care for the physical needs of others this week?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

There are times at night when we worry about something and can't sleep. Psalm 4 is a prayer for help. It is a prayer that reaches out with confidence in God's love and care. The end of the day is a good time to slow down, reflect on the day, and focus on God's presence in our lives. Bedtime prayers are daily rituals that can have a powerful influence in our lives. At bedtime this week, take a moment to think or talk about something that may be keeping you awake at night. *Pray: Dear Lord, be gracious to me, and hear my prayer that I will both lie down and sleep in peace; for you alone, O Lord, make me lie down in safety. Amen.* (Psalm 4)



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In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org