

First Presbyterian Church



*Fourth Sunday of Easter
April 21, 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)

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Welcome and Announcements

Lector, Cindy Stants

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

Prelude

Cheer Thee My Soul

J.S. Bach, arr. by Ellen Jane Lorenz

Chiming of the Trinity

Introit

Great Are You, Lord

Michael W. and Deborah D. Smith

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

Call to Worship

We are led

Beside still waters.

We are fed

At a huge banquet table.

We are accompanied

Through valleys of shadow and death.

We are guided

To do justice and righteousness.

We are anointed,

Blessed and filled.

We sing

Of God's goodness and mercy.

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

✦ Hymn No. 35

Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

✦ Call to Confession

Let us confess all that distracts and distorts God's truth, so we can know grace and forgiveness through Christ.

✦ Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Patient God, you know how easy it is for us to stray. We wander off so easily. Forgive us, we pray. Heal our brokenness and our fears. Remind us again that you lead us in gentle paths and by quiet waters—when the paths are stony and the waves tumultuous, help us to remember your protection and care. Help us to extend that same love and care to others, for we ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

Silent Reflection

✦ Assurance of Pardon

Just when we think we can go no further, Jesus the Good Shepherd calls to us, bringing us safely into the fold of Grace and Mercy. Rejoice! You are loved completely and forgiven!

✦ Gloria Patri

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

We Share God's Word

Time with the Children

Debra Owens

Prayer of Illumination

Cindy Stants

First Scripture

Psalm 23

(p. 501)

Second Scripture

John 10:11-18

(p. 103)

The words of scripture, inspired by God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"I'm in Need of Nothing"

Rev. Gary Lyon

Organ Interlude

We Give Thanks to God

✦ Affirmation of Faith

Litany on Psalm 23

The Quilting God is at work, on our behalf, providing us with a covering of security.

We can rest in comfort, blanketed by time-honored love.

From the rigid cold of hatred and the stormy blast of bigotry, we are wrapped in your warmth and revived.

With the scraps of life, the leftovers of equality and the castoffs of human dignity, the Quilting God has provided us with a sure defense of creativity and beauty, which amazes even us!

The needle, thread and patches stitch together a sanctuary that protects and offers comfort in our most fearful circumstances.

The quilt is seen by the world, even by our enemies.

The intricate pattern of goodness and mercy encourages our hearts.

We will remain under the shelter of the Quilting God our whole life long.

-Linda H. Hollies, *Trumpet in Zion* (Cleveland, Ohio: The Pilgrim Press, 2001), 76.

Call for the Offering

Offering and Offertory

The Lord is My Shepherd

Robert G. Newton

✦ Doxology

✦ Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

We Go Forth to Serve

✦ Hymn No. 187

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

✦ Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Grand Choeur

Cesar Auguste Frank, arr. Ellen Jane Lorenz

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1st Hymn: "Praise Ye the Lord, Almighty" from *Glory to God* #35. Text: Joachim Neander, 1680; trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1863, alt. Music: Stralsund *Ernewerten Gesangbuch*, 1665; harm. *The Chorale Book for England*, 1863. Livestreamed and reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-727612, all rights reserved.

2nd Hymn: "Your Only Son (Lamb of God)" from *Glory to God* #518. Text & Music: Twila Paris, 1985. Text and Music © 1985 *Mountain Spring Music and Straightway Music* (admin. *EMICMGPublishing.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: "Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us" from *Glory to God* #187. Text: Thrupp's *Hymns for the Young*, 1836, alt. Music: William Batchelder Bradbury, 1859, alt. Livestreamed with permission under CCLI Streaming Plus License™ A-21963048 and reprinted with permission under Church Copyright License ® A-21963031, Public Domain.

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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.

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

Guest Preacher: Rev. Gary Lyon
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: Joey, Ashley and Gavin Kunselman

The Sanctuary flowers today are given to the glory of God, and in memory of Robert Henry, by Pauline Henry.

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

4/14/2024

Weekly Contributions

Envelope Contributions	\$4,605.00
Miscellaneous Cash Contributions	\$237.75
Per Capita	\$74.80
Total Contributions	\$4,917.55

Weekly Donations

Food Bags	\$125.00
Men's Fellowship	\$20.00
OGHS	\$25.00
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	\$25.00
AA Rental	\$60.00
Total	\$255.00
Total	\$5,172.55

NOTES:

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBY

Tuesday, April 23

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

Wednesday, April 24

7:00 p.m. Session, Chapel

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

Thursday, April 25

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

5:30 p.m. Echoes of Joy Practice—Choir Room

Next Sunday, April 28 Youth Sunday

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

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

A person going through some family issues

Bereaved

Jim Hager Family and

Friends

Travis Raddaker Family and

Friends

Around the World

Everyone serving in the US Military

Gitwe Congregation in

Rwanda, our faith partners

Homebound Member

of the Week

Kay Fye

11981 Rt. 338

Knox, PA 16232

Kay is Tamalyn Goble's mother.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Jesus Christ Superstar Outing: The church outing to see Jesus Christ Superstar on Sunday, May 5th has been finalized. Those who have already signed up need to pay for their tickets as follows: Tickets for Seniors (60 and older) are \$17.00 each; all other tickets are \$18.70. All ticket payments are due Sunday, April 28th. Please include information regarding your name, how many of each ticket type, and the total you are remitting in an envelope and drop it in the black wall safe outside the Treasurer's Office. The tickets are for a group rate, so Brenda must purchase them all simultaneously.

Mission Opportunities:

- 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 as final registration is due May 1st.

Mark your calendar: Weather permitting, we will be having a church workday on Saturday, May 11 from 8:00 a.m. to noon. Let's all join in to help First Presby look its best!

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.



APRIL 21, 2024
 FOURTH SUNDAY
 OF EASTER

taking faith home

The Good Shepherd comes with power to love.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 10:11-18	The Good Shepherd
Monday	Acts 4:5-12	Peter and John before the council
Tuesday	1 John 3:16-24	Love one another
Wednesday	Luke 15:1-7	Parable of the lost sheep
Thursday	Ezekiel 34:11-16	God, the true shepherd
Friday	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	The resurrection of Christ
Saturday	Psalms 23	The Lord is my shepherd
Sunday	John 15:1-8	Jesus the true vine

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me. Psalm 23:4 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Shepherding God, we thank you that your care for us is never ending and filled with your abundant goodness and mercy through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear Jesus, just as you are with us and protect us each day like a good shepherd, we thank you for feeding us with this food, a sign of your abundant love. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the love of God in Jesus, the Good Shepherd, give you comfort and peace.

APRIL 21, 2024
 HYMN OF THE WEEK
Shepherd Me, O God

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:

- Talk or think about a time you experienced fear or anxiety.
- How does Jesus, the Good Shepherd, comfort and protect you during fearful times?

DEVOTIONS

Read: John 10:11-18.

The focus in John 10 on being the good shepherd is directly related to Jesus healing the man born blind in John 9. The man born blind was cast out of the synagogue, out of the religious community, out of a protective sheepfold. Jesus as the good shepherd knows us and loves us enough to lay down his life for us. Jesus does not abandon us or cast us out. Unlike the disinterest of a hired hand who runs away when our needs are the greatest, Jesus cares for us as those who need the protection of a shepherd. This is the saving grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. He has power and he uses that power to care for us and to give us the abundant life, the life overflowing with goodness (John 10:10). All of this power to love, to give us life overflowing with goodness and abundance, comes not from the abusive power of Pharisees, synagogues, or any disinterested individuals or institutions, but from the divine. This is the command that Jesus has received from God and passes on to us, the command to love sacrificially.

Discuss: When has your life been blessed by the sacrificial love of another?

Pray: **Loving God, help us to know that we are not abandoned in our time of need, but blessed with overflowing love through the power and grace of Jesus, the Good Shepherd. 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 give sacrificially to someone in need?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The fourth Sunday of Easter is known as Good Shepherd Sunday. Both readings from John 10 and Psalm 23 follow the theme of shepherd. Draw the shape of a sheep on a sheet of paper. Write Jesus in the center of the shape and then words you would use to describe a good shepherd. Think or talk about what the words you wrote mean to you. Finish with prayer using the words from Psalm 23:6 as a reminder of God's comfort: **You, LORD, are my shepherd. I will never be in need. Your kindness and love will always be with me each day of my life, and I will live forever in your house, LORD. Amen. (CEV)**

