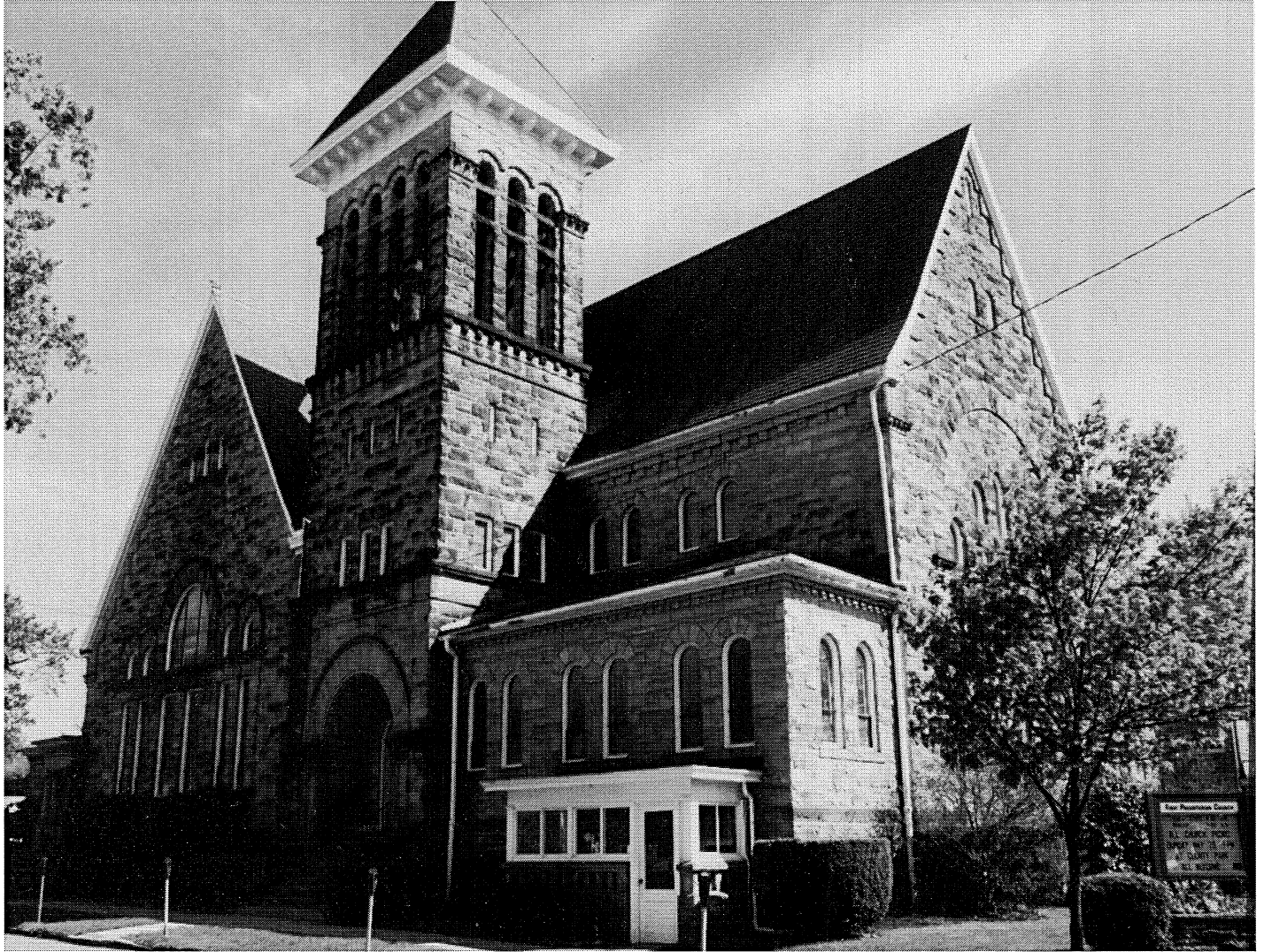


First Presbyterian Church



Fifth Sunday of Easter
April 28, 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)

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Welcome and Announcements

Nathan Myers

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

Prelude

Voluntary on "Slane"

arr. Eugene Butler

Chiming of the Trinity

Introit

His Banner Over Me Is Love

Wee Sing Bible Songs

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

Call to Worship

We come to worship with joy, trusting God's holy word will inspire us.

We lean into God for understanding, anticipating the Spirit's blessing.

May God hear our praise! May we be counted among the great congregation.

May all we say, do, and think be pleasing to you, O God!

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

† Hymn No. 624

I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art

† Call to Confession

Emma Willy

Scripture says that if we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. But, if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. So, in humility and faith, let us confess our sins to God.

† Prayer of Confession (Unison)

O God, you are the true vine, and you have made us your branches. In your grace, we find strength, and in your love, we are set free. Forgive us, O God, when we do not live as people who have been freed, when we act as if the Easter story did not turn the world upside down. Forgive us, O God, when we do not live as people who are your branches, when we forget that we are rooted in you and bound to one another by your spirit. Forgive us, O Christ, our one true vine, and teach us to abide in you. In your name we pray, Amen.

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

† Declaration of Forgiveness

Hear the good news! This saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Jesus bore our sins in his body on the cross, that we might be dead to sin and alive to all that's good.

Friends, believe the Good News!

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

† Gloria Patri

We Share God's Word

Time with the Children

Aubrie Scovel, Emma Willy, Nathan Myers

Prayer of Illumination

Nathan Myers

First Scripture

Exodus 19:1-6

(p. 65)

Second Scripture

1 John 4:7-21

(p. 241)

The words of scripture, inspired by God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon
Scovel

“Faithfulness and Love”

Aubrie

Organ Interlude

✠ Hymn No. 658

God Is So Good

We Give Thanks to God

✠ Affirmation of Faith

Emma Willy

The Confession of 1967 9.14

God's love never changes. Against all who oppose him, God expresses his love in wrath. In the same love, God took on himself judgment and shameful death in Jesus Christ, to bring men to repentance and new life.

Call for the Offering

Offering and Offertory

Faith That's Sure

Suzanne Lord

(Soloist: Kennedy Schmader)

✠ Doxology

✠ Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Nathan Myers

We Go Forth to Serve

✠ Hymn No. 366

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

✠ Charge and Benediction

Aubrie Scovel

Postlude

Fantasy on "Mit Freuden Zart"

Richard A. Williamson

(From Bohemian Brethren's *Kirchengesange*, 1566)

COPYRIGHTS:

Prelude: "Voluntary on 'Slane'." Arr. by Eugene Butler. © 2016 *The Sacred Music Press*, a division of *The Lorenz Corporation* (Admin. by *Music Services, Inc.*) Livestreamed with permission under CCLI Streaming Plus License™ A-21963048, all rights reserved.

Introit: "His Banner Over Me Is Love" from *Wee Bible Songs*. Pamela Conn Beall and Susan Hagen Nipp © 1986. Livestreamed with permission from Pamela Conn Beall and Susan Hagen Nipp, all rights reserved.

1st Hymn: "I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art" from *Glory to God* #624. Text: *Psalms*, Strasbourg, 1545; trans. Elizabeth Lee Smith, 1868. Music: Genevan Psalter, 1551. Livestreamed with permission under CCLI Streaming Plus License™ A-21963048, Public Domain.

2nd Hymn: "God Is So Good" from *Glory to God* #658. Stuart Townend, Unknown. Words: Public Domain; Music: © *Thankyou Music* (admin. *Capitol CMG Publishing.com*). Livestreamed with permission under CCLI Streaming Plus License™ A-21963048 and reprinted with permission under Church Copyright License © A-21963031, Public Domain.

Offertory: "Faith That's Sure." Suzanne Lord. © 1995 *Choristers Guild*. Livestreamed with permission under CCLI Streaming Plus License™ A-21963048, all rights reserved.

3rd Hymn: "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" from *Glory to God* #366. Text: Charles Wesley, 1747, alt. Music: Rowland Hugh Prichard, 1831, alt. Livestreamed and reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-727612, all rights reserved.

Postlude: "Fantasy on 'Mit Freuden Zart' from Bohemian Brethren's *Kirchengesange*, 1566." Richard A. Williamson. © 2017 *Lorenz Publishing Co.*, a division of *The Lorenz Corporation* (Admin. by *Music Services, Inc.*). Livestreamed with permission under CCLI Streaming Plus License™ A-21963048, all rights reserved.

Scripture quotations are from the "New Revised Standard Version Bible (NSRV)," copyright © 1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

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).

All rights reserved. All sheet music uploaded to our website (clarionfirstpresby.org) for use with this worship service has been reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-727612.

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE License #A-727612. All rights reserved.

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

Youth Preacher: Aubrie Scovel
Lectors: Emma Willy, Nathan Myers
Time with Children: Aubrie Scovel, Emma Willy, Nathan Myers
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 and Madison, Ella & Lydie Aaron

The Sanctuary flowers today are given to the glory of God, and in honor of Tom & Elaine Matticks' 35th Wedding Anniversary, by Elaine Matticks.

A great thanks to our Confirmation Class for ministering to us during today's worship. Thank you Aubrie Scovel, Emma Willy, and Nathan Myers!

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

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

4/21/2024

Weekly Contributions

Envelope Contributions	\$1,715.00
Per Capita	\$347.00
Total Contributions	\$2,062.00

Weekly Donations

Food Bags	\$200.00
Men's Fellowship	\$50.00
Jesus Christ Superstar Ticks	\$90.10
Total	\$340.10

Total	\$2,402.10
--------------	-------------------

NOTES:

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBY

Tuesday, April 30

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

Wednesday, May 1

1:00 p.m. Caring Callers, Ministry Central
 4:30 p.m. Food Bag Meeting
 6:00 p.m. CE Team, Sunday School Room
 7:00 p.m. Deacons Meeting, Ministry Central
 8:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous, Step Down Room

Thursday, May 2

4:00 p.m. Seed to Supper Class, Social Hall
 5:30 p.m. Echoes of Joy Practice

Next Sunday, May 5

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	Evie Renwick
Randy Cable	Richard Moore
Margy Port	A person going through some family issues
Don McCord	Bridget Mattson
Rick Goble	Cori
Shirley McKinley	<u>Bereaved</u>
All our homebound members	Jim Hager Family and Friends
Mary Biser	Travis Raddaker Family and Friends
Charlotte Hartman	<u>Around the World</u>
Kenneth Daugherty, Jr.	Everyone serving in the US Military
Ben McKinley	Gitwe Congregation in Rwanda, our faith partners
David Mahle	<u>Homebound Member of the Week</u>
Laurie Dickey	Sam Spencer
Anthony Louder	Edgewood Heights
Pat Hargest	612 Keck Avenue
Michael McConnell	New Bethlehem, PA 16242
Alice Davis	Sam's Birthday is May 11th.
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	

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today is Youth Sunday! The children and youth of this congregation are conducting this morning's worship service.

Jesus Christ Superstar Outing: All ticket payments are due TODAY! Those who 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. 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 28, 2024
FIFTH SUNDAY
OF EASTER

taking faith home

Jesus abides with us like a vine to its branches.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 15:1-8	Jesus the true vine
Monday	Acts 8:26-40	Phillip and the eunuch
Tuesday	1 John 4:7-21	God is love
Wednesday	Ephesians 3:14-19	Christ's love for us
Thursday	Psalms 91	Assurance of God's protection
Friday	Exodus 34:6-7	God of steadfast love and faithfulness
Saturday	Psalms 22:25-31	A vow of thanksgiving
Sunday	John 15:9-17	Love one another

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.

John 15:5 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Loving God, we thank you for your steadfast love that remains with us forever and guides us into the future through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for feeding us with this food and for nurturing our lives with your presence through the true vine, Christ our Lord, who gives us life. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God's love lead you to love others. (1 John 4:19)



© 2023 Milestones Ministry, LLC. All rights reserved.

APRIL 28, 2024
HYMN OF THE WEEK
Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song

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:

- When is a time you have felt lost or alone?
- How does knowing of God's love through Jesus help you when you feel anxious or lost?

DEVOTIONS

Read: John 15:1-8.

This is the last of Jesus' "I am" statements. Earlier in the Gospel of John he said "I am the bread of life," "I am the light of the world," "I am the gate," "I am the good shepherd," "I am the resurrection and the life," and "I am the way, the truth, and the life." These self-descriptive statements are all introduced with the words, "I am," that is reminiscent of the name for God in the Old Testament. "Yahweh," is translated as "I am who I am." In John, Jesus is presented as one with God without any uncertainty. The final "I am" statement is important because it comes during Jesus' lengthy message to his eleven disciples before his crucifixion (John 14 through 17). Jesus makes it clear that he will not abandon them. He will abide with them. The identity and ministry of the disciples will endure and be full of life because they are intimately part of Jesus, like branches given life by the vine.

Discuss: When the future is uncertain and you feel anxious, lost, or alone, what do you do and how can you be reminded that Jesus abides with you always?

Pray: Almighty God, give us confidence in your presence and abide with us in our life's journey through Jesus Christ, the true vine who feeds us with your love and strength. 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 encourage and help those who feel lost or alone?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

God sent his only Son, Jesus Christ into the world to teach us about love. 1 John 4:12 tells us that "No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us." It is this love that we are to show to others. Draw the outline of a body with a heart inside. Write God inside the heart. Then write words inside the body that describe how we can show God's love to one another.

Pray: Loving God, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Amen. (1 John 4:7)



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