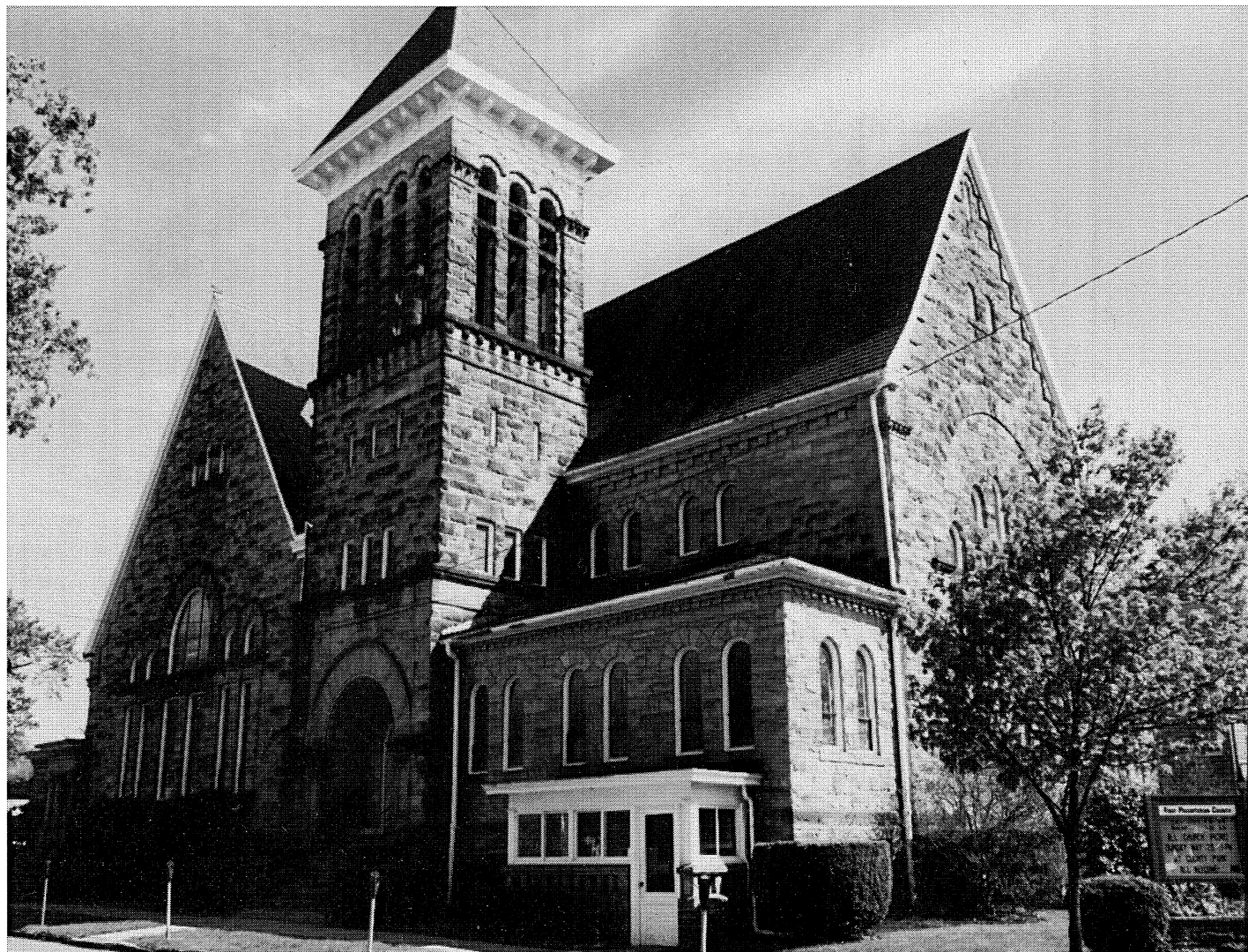


First Presbyterian Church



*Second Sunday of Easter
Communion
April 7, 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)

Resurrection Sunday

Welcome and Announcements

Lector, Cindy Stants

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

Prelude

I Know That My Redeemer Liveth

G. F. Handel

Chiming of the Trinity

Introit

Walk in the Light

Arr. by Andre Thomas

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

Call to Worship

How good it is for us to come together as kindred spirits.

Hallelujah! Our doubts are answered, and we feel the presence of Christ.

The risen Christ speaks to us and gives us peace.

Hallelujah! Let our worship be the sign of our belief.

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

✦ Hymn No. 749

Come! Live in the Light!

✦ Call to Confession

The Spirit of God helps us in our weakness, interceding with sighs too deep for words. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

✦ Prayer of Confession (Unison)

O Christ, you rose from the depths of suffering, from death itself, to breathe peace upon your disciples. Still, O Lord, we do not follow in the way of your love. Forgive us when we fail to be people of the resurrection. Forgive us when we fail to recognize your grace. Show us your hands and your feet once more, and teach us to be your body in the world. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

✦ Declaration of Forgiveness

"The LORD is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love... For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us."

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

Isaiah 65:17-25

(p. 696)

Second Scripture

1 John 1:1—2:2

(p. 238)

The words of scripture, inspired by God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Walk the Walk"

Rev. Rebecca Mihm

Organ Interlude

✦ Hymn No. 703

Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me

We Give Thanks to God

✦ Affirmation of Faith

The Westminster Confession of Faith 6.083

Although repentance is not to be rested in as any satisfaction for sin, or any cause of pardon thereof, which is the act of God's free grace in Christ; yet it is of such necessity to all sinners, that none may expect pardon without it.

Call for the Offering

Offering and Offertory

Walk Worthy

Joseph M. Martin

✦ Doxology

✦ Prayer of Dedication

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

Lift up your hearts.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

And also with you.

We lift them to the Lord.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Words of Institution

Partaking of the Elements

Prayer after Communion

We thank you God for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ, and have received Christ's gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth your praise in our lives. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

We Go Forth to Serve

✦ Hymn No. 853

We Are Marching in the Light of God

✦ Charge and Benediction

Postlude

O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing

Arr. J. Mitrosky

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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

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: Joey, Ashley, & Gavin Kunselman

The Sanctuary flowers today are given to the glory of God, and in honor of my mother Helen Cauvel's birthday, by Debra Owens.

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

3/31/2024

Weekly Contributions

Envelope Contributions	\$2,390.00
Miscellaneous Cash Contributions	<u>\$411.50</u>
Total Contributions	\$2,801.50

Weekly Donations

Food Bags	\$125.00
Men's Fellowship	\$20.00
Blessing Box	\$200.00
Christian Ed—Sunday School	<u>\$25.00</u>
Total	\$370.00

Total **\$3,171.50**

NOTES:

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBY

Monday, April 8

6:00 p.m. Mission Team, Ministry Central
7:00 p.m. Worship Team, Chapel

Tuesday, April 9

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

Wednesday, April 10

7:00 p.m. Evening Circle, Bonnie Champion
8:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous, Step Down Room

Thursday, April 11

2:00 p.m. Food Bag Distribution, CE Lobby
4:00 p.m. Seed to Supper Class, Social Hall
5:00 p.m. Joyful Bells Practice
6:00 p.m. Echoes of Joy Practice

Next Sunday, April 14

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	Jeri Reddinger
Randy Cable	Joe Amato
Margy Port	Tom Minich
Don McCord	Rob Summerville
Rick Goble	Evie Renwick
Shirley McKinley	Richard Moore
All our homebound members	<u>Around the World</u> Everyone serving in the US Military
Mary Biser	
Charlotte Hartman	Gitwe Congregation in Rwanda, our faith partners
Kenneth Daugherty, Jr.	
Ben McKinley	<u>Homebound Member of the Week</u>
David Mahle	
Laurie Dickey	
Rebecca Irwin	Alice Davis
Anthony Louder	29 Enlow Road
Pat Hargest	Imperial, PA 15126
Michael McConnell	She is Marianne Reynolds' mother.
Alice Davis	
Alexandra Sharrar	
Dr. Shannon Penland	
Mary Kay Arth	
Tracey & Jody Hall	
Mason Martin and family	
Angelo Gehenio	

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today is Communion Sunday. All the bread in the trays is gluten free.

The 2024 Per Capita Apportionment for the Clarion First Presbyterian Church is \$37.40 per individual active member. This funds our work as a connectional church at the Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly levels. An envelope has been included in the 2024 envelope packets for the annual cost for each church member. Please make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church and write Per Capita in the memo line.

Bell Choir Practice times are changing to accommodate church functions and the Music Director's availability. Bell practice on April 11 will be as follows: 5:00 p.m. Joyful Bells, 6:00 p.m. Echoes of Joy. Please be sure to mark any changes on your personal calendars.

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 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.

"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 boots are also needed.



taking faith home

APRIL 7, 2024

HYMN OF THE WEEK

This Little Light of Mine

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:

- Do you find it easy or difficult to forgive someone? Explain.
- Why is forgiveness important to Christian fellowship?

DEVOTIONS

Read: 1 John 1:1-2:2.

Linus from the Peanuts comic strip once said, "I love mankind... it's people I can't stand!" Living in community with others can be a challenge. For Christians, living together in community is God's gift for our broken and sinful lives. Sometimes, we deceive ourselves into thinking we are more deserving, better than, or more lovable than others. Confession frees us to welcome Jesus into our lives through God's power of forgiveness that is for all. This simple message of forgiveness is hard to experience, especially when there are people whom we have had a hard time loving or even accepting. God's light takes us out of our own darkness and brings us into a humble yet joyous fellowship with others. Unity and fellowship have always been at the heart of God's creative and redeeming work for all the world (Psalm 133). We are asked to be aware of our darkness and move into the light through the power of God's forgiving grace.

Discuss: How does confession and forgiveness of your own brokenness help you understand fellowship with others in a new light?

Pray: **God of light and truth, we thank you for forgiveness given to us through the suffering of Jesus Christ that we may have eternal fellowship with you and with all people. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, what can you do to restore a broken relationship?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

There is a long history of Christians sharing a sign of peace with one another during worship as an expression of the peace God gives to us through Jesus. This sharing of the peace relates directly to Jesus' appearance to the disciples when he said, "Peace be with you" three times (John 20:19-31). This week, when you are visited by others in your home or when you are visiting friends, take a moment to share the peace. As you shake their hand, hug them, or give a high five, greet them by saying: **Peace be with you.**

taking faith home

APRIL 7, 2024

SECOND SUNDAY

OF EASTER

Walking in the light of Jesus together.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 20:19-31	Come and see and believe
Monday	Acts 4:32-35	The sharing of goods
Tuesday	1 John 1:1-2:2	The word of life
Wednesday	Matthew 5:14-16	Let your light shine
Thursday	Psalms 27	Song of confidence
Friday	2 Corinthians 4:1-6	Light shining in the darkness
Saturday	Psalms 133	The blessing of unity
Sunday	Luke 24:36b-48	Jesus appears to the disciples

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

[I]f we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

1 John 1:7 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of love and mercy, we thank you for the community of faith that helps us to know and experience your light and truth through Jesus, our resurrected Savior and Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Generous God, we thank you for this meal and pray that others may have what they need to live, serve, and trust in you through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God's light bless you with people filled with joy.



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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