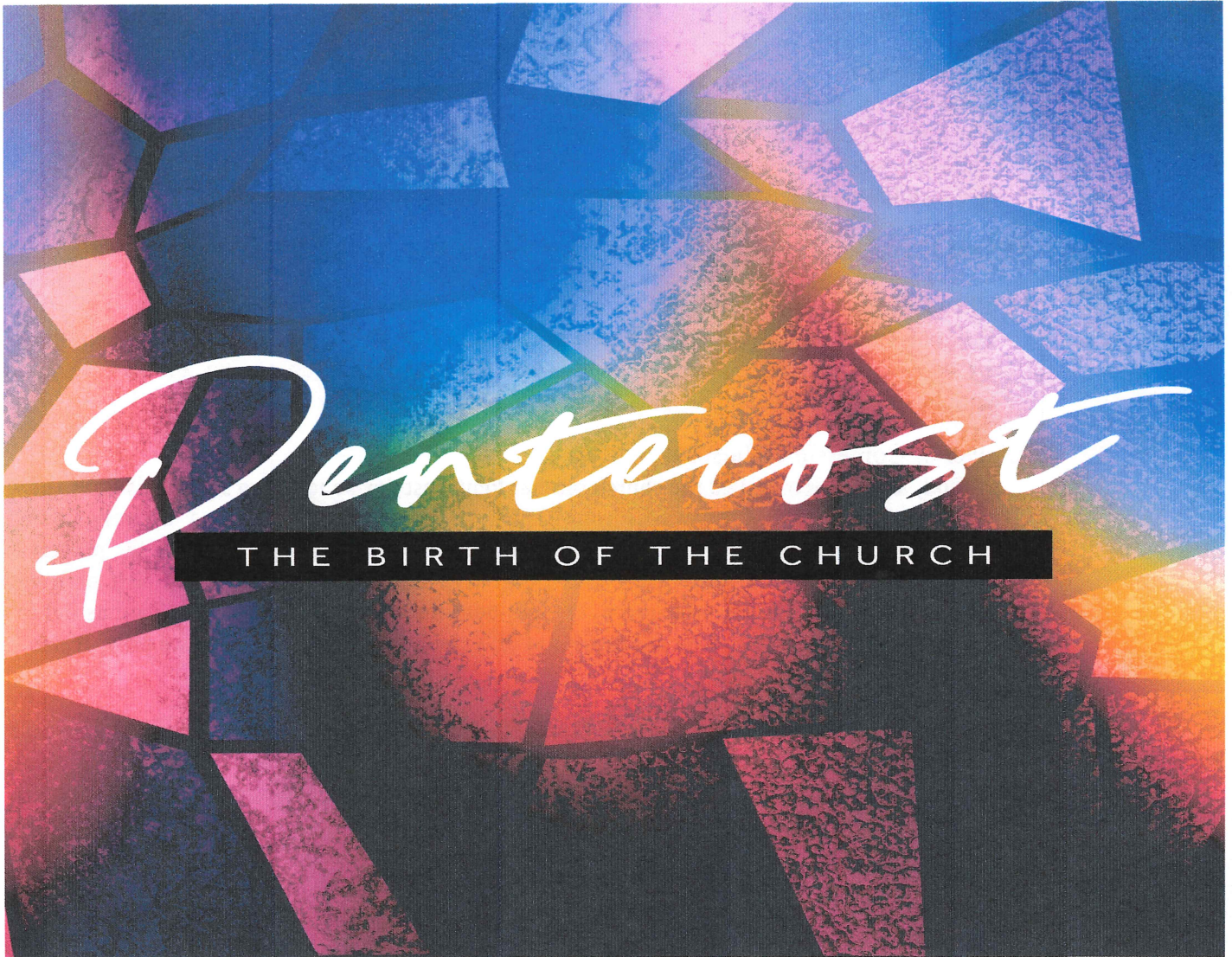


First Presbyterian Church



Day of Pentecost
May 19, 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)

Day of Pentecost

Welcome and Announcements

Lector, Jeff Deitz

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

Prelude

Prayer

Arnold B. Sherman

Chiming of the Trinity

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

Call to Worship

Come! Let us speak plainly and boldly of our faith.

The Spirit of God descends upon us, and Christ's promise to us is fulfilled.

The expression of the Spirit's power in our community is a wonder to behold.

We each have a different voice, yet we witness God's joy together! Amen.

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

✦ Hymn No. 289

On Pentecost They Gathered

✦ Call to Confession

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 sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. So, in humility and faith, let us confess our sins to God.

✦ Prayer of Confession (Unison)

O God, as your Spirit filled the church on that Pentecost day so long ago so fill this house of worship with your presence, and fill us with your passion. You are doing a new thing, actively moving in the world. Forgive us when we act as if your stories have all been written. You hear the prayers of every language and call us to hear each other. Forgive us when we act as if your Spirit only spoke our native tongue. Wash us in your grace, O God, and illumine us with your fire. Send us out to follow your Spirit and teach us to hear the prayers of all your people. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

✦ Declaration of Forgiveness

Hear the good news of God's promise: "I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh. Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

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

Jeff Deitz

First Scripture

Genesis 11:1-9

(p. 9)

Second Scripture

Acts 2:1-21

(p. 119)

The words of scripture, inspired by God.

Thanks be to God.

Organ Interlude

✦ Hymn No. 291 Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

We Give Thanks to God

✦ Affirmation of Faith The Brief Statement of Faith 11.4

In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

Call for the Offering

Offering and Offertory Gaudio Exsultans Valerie W. Stephenson

✦ Doxology

✦ Prayer of Dedication

Confirmands Join the Church

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

We Go Forth to Serve

✦ Hymn No. 610 O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

✦ Charge and Benediction

Postlude The God of Abraham Praise arr. Walker Baylor
Tune: "Leoni" a Hebrew Melody

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: Jeff Deitz
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: Kim Lewis, Matt Kurtas, Alexis Burns

We warmly welcome our two confirmands into church membership this morning: Emma Willy, daughter of Dan & Kara Willy; and Nathan Myers, son of Tim & January Myers.

Special thanks to the Echoes of Joy Bell Choir for their participation.

The Sanctuary flowers today are given to the glory of God, and in memory of David Louder on our anniversary, by Bert Louder.

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

9:15 a.m. Bell Practice
10:00 a.m. Worship
11:00 a.m. Pentecost Reception

WEEKLY DEPOSIT SUMMARY

5/12/2024

Weekly Contributions

Envelope Contributions	\$1,810.00
Miscellaneous Cash Contributions	\$199.00
Total Contributions	\$2,009.00

Weekly Donations

Food Bags	\$345.00
Christian Education	\$25.00
Total	\$370.00

Total	\$2,379.00
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NOTES:

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBY

Tuesday, May 21

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

Wednesday, May 22

7:00 p.m. Session Meeting, Chapel

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

Thursday, May 23

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

Next Sunday, May 26 Memorial Day Weekend

10:00 a.m. Worship

Monday, May 27 Memorial Day

The Church Office and Building will be closed

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today is Pentecost, the birthday of the church! Gather in the Chapel after worship to celebrate and also welcome our confirmands to the church!

The **Heritage Sunday**, celebrating members with 50 or more years in this church family, will be held on Sunday, June 9th. Invitations will be sent out for those celebrating this milestone of faithfulness. RSVPs must be returned by May 28th so the Deacons can plan appropriately.

Graduate Recognition Sunday, June 16. Graduates from high school and college (December 2023 and May/June 2024) will be recognized for their accomplishments during the 10:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, June 16. Be sure to complete the form in today's bulletin or contact the church office no later than June 9.

Looking Ahead:

- **Vacation Bible School is scheduled for July 30th through August 2nd.** This year's theme is rumored to be pretty exciting! More details will be revealed as the time draws closer. Do not miss it!!!

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED

Our deepest sympathies to the family and friends of John Pezek, who recently passed away. Jodi Burns is his daughter.

Our deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Liz Williams, who passed away May 13, 2024. Debra Owens is her niece.

PRAYER LIST

Randy Cable

Margy Port

Don McCord

Rick Goble

Shirley McKinley

Sue Burns

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

Bridget Mattson

Cori

Ellen DiBernardo

Chuck Reninger

Bereaved

Jim Hager Family and
Friends

Travis Raddaker Family and
Friends

Ella Henry Family and
Friends

John Pezek Family and
Friends

Liz Williams Family and
Friends

Around the World

Everyone serving in the US
Military

Gitwe Congregation in
Rwanda, our faith partners

Homebound Member of the Week

Marsha Spencer
Shipperville Health Care
& Rehab Rm. 205
512 S. Paint Blvd.
Shipperville, PA 16254

MAY 19, 2024
PENTECOST SUNDAY

taking faith home

The Holy Spirit comforts and guides us.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15	Work of the Holy Spirit
Monday	Acts 2:1-21	The Holy Spirit is given
Tuesday	Romans 8:22-27	The Spirit intercedes
Wednesday	Galatians 5:22-26	Fruit of the Spirit
Thursday	Psalms 139:7-12	The inescapable God
Friday	Acts 4:23-31	The believers pray for boldness
Saturday	Psalms 104:24-34, 35b	All living things depend on God
Sunday	John 3:1-17	Born of the Spirit

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

“Nevertheless I [Jesus] tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.” John 16:7 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:
 Almighty and living God, we thank you for the work of the Holy Spirit that comforts and guides us for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:
 Dear God, you who fill us with good things, we thank you for this food that strengthens us to be your witnesses in the world. Amen. (Psalm 104:28)

A Blessing to Give:
 May the comfort and power of God give you peace in Christ’s name.



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MAY 19, 2024
HYMN OF THE WEEK
Gracious Spirit; Heed Our Pleading

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 have you felt you needed guidance from someone else?
- How do you experience the work of the Holy Spirit through prayer, scripture, and the community of faith as a guide for your life in Christ?

DEVOTIONS

Read: John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15.

Jesus says that because he is leaving, he knows his followers are very sad. Because of his departure and because of the disciples’ sorrow, Jesus sends the Advocate, that is, the Holy Spirit. The Greek word for advocate means someone who walks alongside us and can also be translated as helper, comforter, teacher, guide, or companion. It is a word rich in meaning and a powerful term for Jesus’ followers who are grieving and needing direction. When we experience loss and transitions, feel alone, and are not sure of the future or how to understand the present, the Advocate, the “*Spirit of truth*”, speaks the same message Jesus taught his followers and is here for us. Pentecost is a time to remember that Jesus remains with us as Savior through the work of the Holy Spirit. We are lifted up and sent on our way to do the work of Jesus in the world. We are not alone; we never have been and we never will be. Our loving God does not want to leave us feeling grief. We are empowered as the hands, feet, and voice of Jesus in the world.

Discuss: How does being empowered by the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, make a difference to you?

Pray: Everlasting God, we thank you for the Holy Spirit that comforts and strengthens us; help us to faithfully be your presence in the world through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can the work of the Holy Spirit help you comfort someone?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Pentecost has been described as the giving of the Holy Spirit. It is the beginning of the ministry of the preaching of Peter (Acts 2:14-21) and all future preachers. It is also the birth of hearing the gospel in our own language. Light a candle, preferably a red one, to celebrate Pentecost. Take a moment to look at the flame as a reminder of the “*fiery tongues that settled on each person*” (Acts 2:3, CEV).

Then Pray: Dear God, we thank you for the Holy Spirit that helps us in our weakness and prays for us with sighs too deep for words. Amen. (Romans 8:26)



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