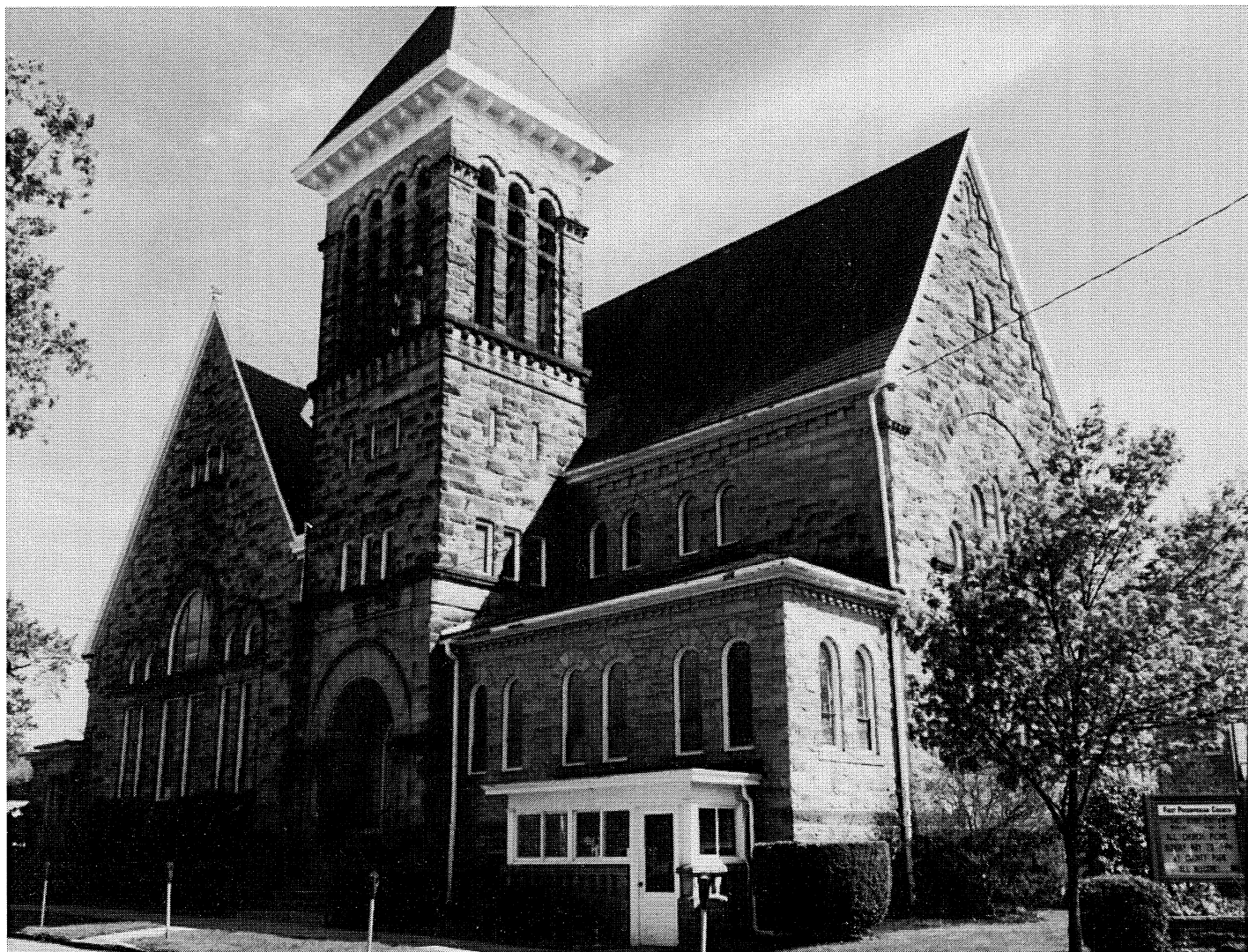


First Presbyterian Church



Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
November 17, 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)

Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

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

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.

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

Welcome and Announcements

Lector, Norma Kooman

Prelude

Morning

Edvard Grieg, arr. Carol Kumler

Chiming of the Trinity

Introit

Rain Down

Call to Worship

Whether we are sure of God's work in the world or still waiting for a sign,

let us worship the Lord, encouraging one another in hope.

Whether we are confident in what the future will bring or carry more questions than answers,

let us worship the Lord, strengthening one another in faith.

✦ Hymn No. 840

When Peace Like a River

✦ Call to Confession

Gathered before the throne of God's infinite mercy, let us lay aside the weight and the sin that clings so closely, and confess our need for grace.

✦ Prayer of Confession (Unison)

You are the God of all people, O Lord, the creator of all things good. Forgive us when we fail to see the good. Forgive us when we refuse to recognize your love and grace in our lives. Forgive us for any unbelief we have of your love. Forgive us, God of mercy, and through Christ our redeemer, free us to try again. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

✦ Declaration of Forgiveness

Jesus endured the cross and disregarded its shame for the sake of the joy that was set before him. That joy is our salvation. His joy is our freedom.

Friends, believe the Good News:

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

✦ Gloria Patri

We Share God's Word

Time with the Children

Debra Owens

Prayer of Illumination

Norma Kooman

First Scripture

Psalm 16

(p. 495)

Second Scripture

Hebrews 10:11-14, 19-24

(p. 224)

The words of scripture, inspired by God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Because and Therefore"

Rev. Rebecca Mihm

Organ Interlude

✦ Hymn No. 846

Fight the Good Fight

We Give Thanks to God

✦ Affirmation of Faith

5.077 *The Second Helvetic Confession*

We quite openly profess and preach that Jesus Christ is the sole Redeemer and Savior of the world, the King and High Priest, the true and awaited Messiah, that holy and blessed one whom all the types of the law and predictions of the prophets prefigured and promised; and that God appointed him beforehand and sent him to us, so that we are not now to look for any other. Now there only remains for all of us to give all glory to Christ, believe in him, rest in him alone, despising and rejecting all other aids in life.

Call for the Offering

Offering and Offertory

Stand Up!

Arr. by Joel Raney

✦ Doxology

✦ Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

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.

We Go Forth to Serve

✦ Hymn No. 838

Standing on the Promises

✦ Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Psalm XX

Gordon Young

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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Offertory: "Stand Up!" Arr. Joel Raney. © 2009 *Hope Publishing Company*. Livestreamed 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 YouTube channel.

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)

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: Ann Brooks
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: Norma Kooman
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: Clara Stants, Jeremy Willy, Andrew Scovel, Nathan Scovel, Sawyer Kunselman
Ushers in Charge: Tamalyn Goble, Rick and Barbara Beggs

The Sanctuary flowers today are given to the glory of God, and in memory of Marcy Simpson, by Cindy and Jeff Kapp.

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

| | |
|------------|------------------------------------|
| 10:00 a.m. | Worship |
| 11:00 a.m. | Adult Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room |
| 11:00 a.m. | Sunday School, Children and Adults |
| 11:45 a.m. | Cantata Rehearsal |

WEEKLY DEPOSIT SUMMARY

11/10/2024

Weekly Contributions

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Envelope Contributions | \$3,623.00 |
| Miscellaneous Cash Contributions | \$127.00 |
| Total Contributions | \$3,750.00 |

Weekly Donations

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| Food Bags | \$250.00 |
| Men's Fellowship | \$20.00 |
| Pastor's Discretionary Fund | \$25.00 |
| Xmas Flowers | \$37.00 |
| PDA Buckets | \$300.00 |
| Total | \$632.00 |
| Total | \$4,382.00 |

NOTES:

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBY

Tuesday, November 19

6:00 p.m. NA Meeting, Step Down Room

Wednesday, November 20

6:00 p.m. CE Meeting

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

Thursday, November 21

10:00 a.m. Morning Circle, Marilyn's home

12:00 p.m. Afternoon Circle, Chapel

5:00 p.m. Echoes Bell Rehearsal

6:00 p.m. Joyful Bells Rehearsal

7:00 p.m. Session, Chapel

7:00 p.m. Deacon Dinner Set-Up, Social Hall

Friday, November 22

6:00 p.m. Old-Fashioned Thanksgiving Dinner, Social Hall

Next Sunday, November 24

10:00 a.m. Worship

11:00 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal

11:45 a.m. Cantata Rehearsal

5:00 p.m. Hanging of the Greens

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Annual Old-Fashioned Thanksgiving Dinner: The dinner is Friday, November 22nd, at 6:00 p.m. in the Social Hall. Deacons will provide Turkey, Mashed Potatoes, and Stuffing. Everyone is encouraged to bring a side dish to share. This is not open to the general public, but if you decide to bring a guest, please note that so the Deacons have enough food. Sign up sheets are in the Ramp Room and the Narthex. They are asking that you bring a non-perishable food item for donation to the Blessing Box. Anyone who wants to help the Deacons with prep and cooking that day, please contact any Deacon or the church office. Your assistance will be appreciated.

Christmas Flowers for the Sanctuary in honor of or in memory of a loved one may be ordered for \$9.00 each. Order forms are in the newsletter and the Ramp Room. The deadline for orders is **Sunday, November 24**. Please make checks payable to "First Presbyterian Church" and enclose payment with your order.

We will Prepare for Christmas (Hanging of the Greens) on Sunday, November 24 at 5:00 p.m. Come join the Worship Team in making our sanctuary ready for this special season. We will have pizza, drinks, and cookies at the conclusion of our decorating.

Disaster Clean-Up Buckets: The Mission Team is putting together clean-up buckets and hygiene kits to help those affected by the recent hurricanes. We are coordinating with

ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONTINUED)

Church World Service. The need is great and any help is much appreciated. If you choose to donate, please make your check payable to First Presbyterian Church with "clean-up buckets" on the memo line.

Red Kettle Ringers Needed: First Presbyterian's day for the local Salvation Army bell ringing is Friday, Dec. 6th at the Walmart in Clarion. The sign-up sheet is available in the Ramp Room.

Coat Rack Ministry: As the weather gets colder, please check your closet to see if there are any coats or boots that you are willing to donate. The need is great as witnessed by the turnover each week.

PRAYER LIST

Randy Cable
Margy Port
Shirley McKinley
Pauline Henry
Ruth Ann Minich
All our homebound members

Mary Biser
Charlotte Hartman
Ben McKinley
Laurie Dickey
Anthony Louder
Pat Hargest
Alice Davis
Alexandra Sharrar
Dr. Shannon Penland
Mary Kay Arth
Mason Martin and family
Angelo Gehenio
Joe Amato
Rob Summerville
Evie Renwick
Cori
Chuck Reninger
Sara Bennefield
Grace Carroll
Mike Hiles
Kay Caller
Dan Clark
Amy Benhoff
Archer Kunselman

Lori Beth
Ryan Cornicki
Peggy Seigworth
Jerry Deitz
Greg Rhoads
Elizabeth
Don Neideritter
Michael Kurtas, Jr.
Tom Minich

Bereaved

Please remember the friends and family of:
Don McCord
Kenneth Daugherty, Jr.

Around the World

Everyone serving in the US Military

Gitwe Congregation in Rwanda, our faith partners

Homebound Member of the Week

Ellen Fulton
Clarion Health Care & Rehab
999 Heidrick St., Rm 205
Clarion, PA 16214

NOVEMBER 17, 2024
TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

taking
faith
home

Our hope is in the steadfast love of God.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

| | | |
|-----------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Sunday | Mark 13:1-8 | The signs of the end of the age |
| Monday | Daniel 12:1-3 | The resurrection of the dead |
| Tuesday | Hebrews 10:11-25 | A call to perseverance |
| Wednesday | Romans 12:9-13 | Marks of a true Christian |
| Thursday | Ephesians 1:15-23 | Paul's prayer |
| Friday | 2 Corinthians 4:13-18 | Living by faith |
| Saturday | Psalms 16 | A life centered on the Lord |
| Sunday | John 18:33-37 | Jesus, the king of truth |

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"For nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs." Mark 13:8 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Everlasting God, in the midst of troubles and uncertainties, give us faith to rely on your goodness and mercy through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, for daily bread that gives us strength and for your promise to always be with us that gives us courage, we give you thanks through Jesus Christ. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God give you steadfast love and hope through Jesus Christ.

NOVEMBER 17, 2024
HYMN OF THE WEEK
*My Hope Is Built on
Nothing Less*

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:

- What events in our world do you see that give you concern about the future?
- Do you turn to God during difficult times? Explain.

DEVOTIONS

Read: Mark 13:1-8.

Throughout history, we have tried to grasp the intensity of Jesus' words found in this passage. The Gospel of Mark was likely written around 70 AD. It was a time of deep uncertainty and violence for Jews. Roman occupation forces were using their power to decimate Jewish resistance. The Jerusalem temple would be destroyed and hundreds of thousands of Jews would die. In our own lifetime, we have experienced wars, a pandemic, racial and political unrest, climate change, and more. Life is full of uncertainties. We look for security in the future. Jesus makes it clear that a building (a temple or other place of worship) is not the answer. Institutions, whether social, political, or religious, are not the answer. We are not to be deceived. Jesus also makes it clear that our only solid rock and hope is in the steadfast love of God. God is the one who takes chaos and makes it into a good and beautiful creation. God is the one who takes the cross and makes of it the birth of new life that will never be conquered by sin, death, or the evil one.

Discuss: When you look at the future, where do you place your hope?

Pray: Almighty God, help us to rely on you above all things that our lives may find hope and peace through Christ Jesus, the one who rules over all with grace and mercy. 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 help someone who is anxious about the future?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Psalms 16:7 says, "I bless the LORD who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me." When we read or listen to God's Word at the end of the day, our hearts and minds are filled with good things that carry us through the night. Even as we sleep God's Spirit is at work, ministering to us and leading us. Spend a few moments reading or listening to God's Word before you go to sleep. Use a storybook Bible for bedtime stories with children. Before turning off the lights, pray the Lord's Prayer.



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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