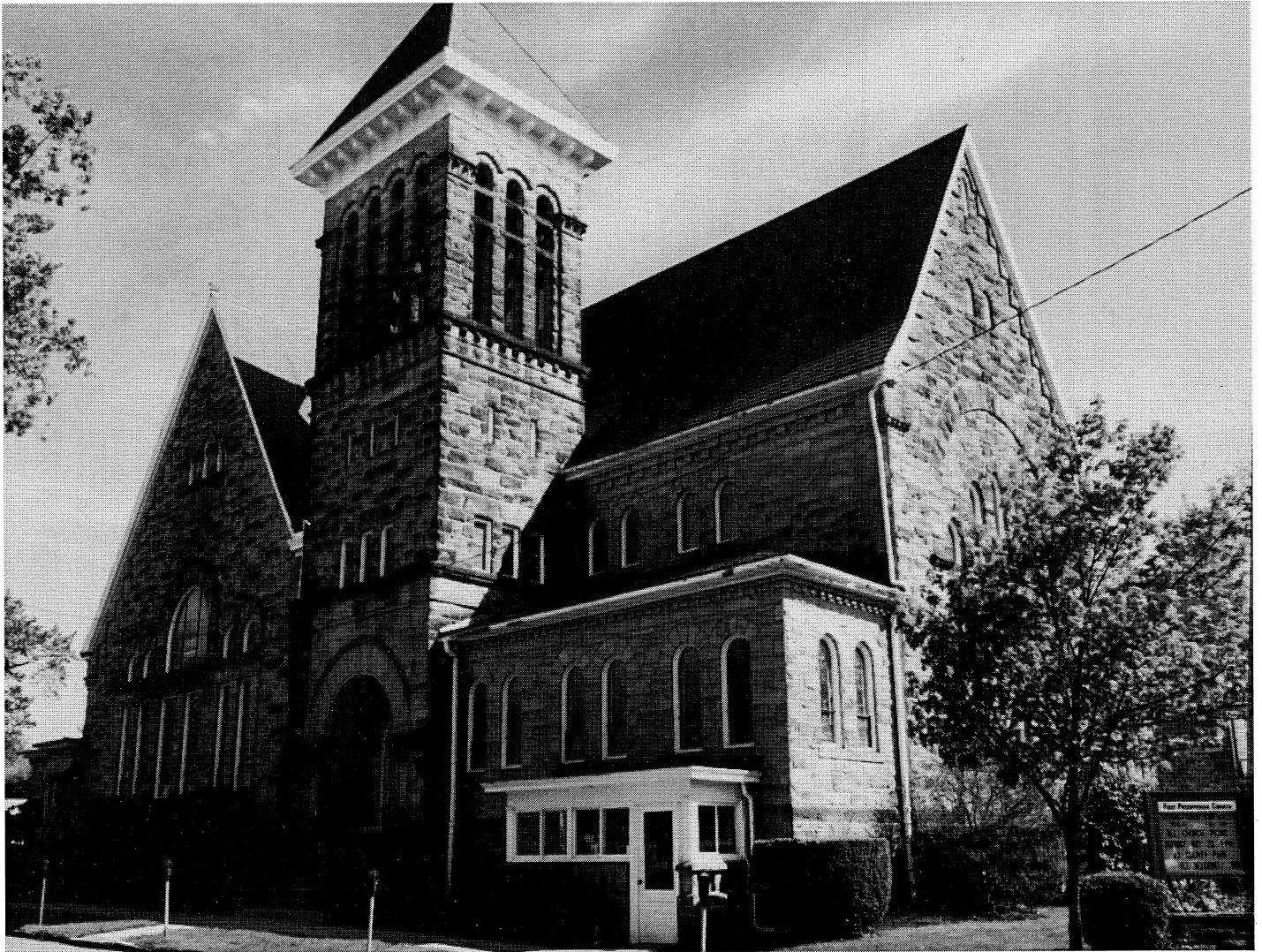


# *First Presbyterian Church*

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*Palm Sunday  
and Passion Week  
April 13, 2025*



700 Wood Street, Clarion, PA 16214

814-226-8145

[churchoffice@clarionfirstpresby.org](mailto:churchoffice@clarionfirstpresby.org)

[www.clarionfirstpresby.org](http://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)

Palm Sunday and Passion Week

## Welcome and Announcements

Lector, Kathy Larimer

## Prelude

*Open the Gates of the Temple*

Mrs. Joseph F. Knapp

## Chiming of the Trinity

## Introit

*Prepare Ye*

Stephen Schwartz

(Soloist: Jeff Kapp; Adult Choir, Children's Choir, Stu Hoffman and Gracie)

## Call to Worship

(Adapted from Psalm 118)

This is the day that the Lord has made.

**We will rejoice and be glad in it!**

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

**This house of worship blesses you, holy God.**

God has sent the Light of the World to us.

**Let us celebrate God's gift with a procession of palms  
and shouts of "Hosanna!"**

O give thanks to the Lord. God is good to us!

**God's steadfast love endures forever!**

## ✦ Hymn No. 196

*All Glory, Laud, and Honor*

## ✦ Call to Confession

It is in our confession where we realize our desire for God and our hope for God's mercy. It is in admitting the truth of our lives that we take the first step toward wholeness and healing. Let us join together in confession.

## ✦ Prayer of Confession (Unison)

For this day's sins, O God, grant us mercy:

**for the sloth that wasted the hours**

**or for haste which outran its benedictions;**

**For fear that frustrated bold hopes**

**or dullness that took everything for granted;**

**for anger that burst forth destructively**

**or indifference that smothered the soul;**

**for suspicion wrongly held**

**or for trust cheaply betrayed;**

**for indecision which avoided the evil**

**or for compromise which disguised it. Amen.**

## Silent Reflection

## ✦ Assurance of Pardon

Listen! Here is good news: "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners."

† to forgive you in your follies and foibles

† to accept you as you are

† to set you free from evil's power and make you what you were meant to be.

**Thanks be to God.**

## ✦ Gloria Patri

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

# We Share God's Word

Time with the Children

Debra Owens

Prayer of Illumination

Kathy Larimer

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 32:22-32

(p. 30)

Gospel Reading

Luke 19:28-40

(p. 83)

The words of scripture, inspired by God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Live the Blessing"

Rev. Gary Lyon

Organ Interlude

## We Give Thanks to God

✠ Holy Week Affirmation of Faith

We believe the prophet, where it is written, *"He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth."*

We believe the statement of John the Baptist, who saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, *"Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"*

We believe that we need to clean out the old yeast so that we may be a new batch, as we really are unleavened. Christ has been sacrificed.

We believe that we were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from our ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish.

And so we lift up our voice, and join with the heavenly host as they sing with full voice, *Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing! To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!"*

✠ Hymn No. 216

*Beneath the Cross of Jesus*

Call for the Offering

Offering and Offertory

*Palm Sunday Processional*

John Carter

✠ 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.

### 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.

## We Go Forth to Serve

✠ Hymn No. 197

*Hosanna, Loud Hosanna*

✠ Charge and Benediction

Postlude

*The Palms*

Jean B. Faure

## 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](http://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](http://www.clarionfirstpresby.org) or a phone app is available at [sermon.net](http://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 2025:</u>	<u>Class of 2026:</u>	<u>Class of 2027:</u>
Jeff Deitz	Norma Kooman	Bill Champion
Jeff Kapp	Dave Larimer	Matt Kurtas
Kurt Nesbitt	Cindy Stants	Kathy Larimer

### Deacons:

<u>Class of 2025:</u>	<u>Class of 2026:</u>	<u>Class of 2027:</u>
Kim Lewis	Robin Cable	Barb Beggs
Lee Seitz	Tamalyn Goble	Stacy Hoffman
Lori Smith	Joey Kunselman	Bert Louder

## WORSHIP NOTES

**Guest Preacher:** Rev. Gary Lyon  
**Lector:** Kathy Larimer  
**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, Audrina Champion  
**Ushers in Charge:** Robin Cable, Lori Smith, Beth and Madison Gore

**We welcome Rev. Gary Lyon to our pulpit this morning. Although he is retired, he is graciously bringing us a Word from the Lord this morning while Pastor Rebecca is away.**

**The Sanctuary flowers this morning are given to the glory of God and in memory of Bob Henry, by his wife Pauline Henry.**

## TODAY'S SCHEDULE

10:00 a.m.	Worship – Rev. Gary Lyon
11:00 a.m.	Sunday School
11:00 a.m.	Choir Practice

## WEEKLY DEPOSIT SUMMARY

**4/6/2025**

### Weekly Contributions

Envelope Contributions	\$3,217.00
Miscellaneous Cash Contributions	\$271.00
Per Capita	\$78.48
<b>Total Contributions</b>	<b>\$3,566.48</b>

### Weekly Donations

Food Bag Ministry	\$250.00
AA Donation	\$60.00
Men's Fellowship	\$70.00
Caring Callers	\$25.00
Tee Shirts	\$90.00
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$145.00
Easter Flowers	\$226.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$866.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,432.48</b>

## NOTES:

# 2025 CLARION FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH APPAREL ORDER FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

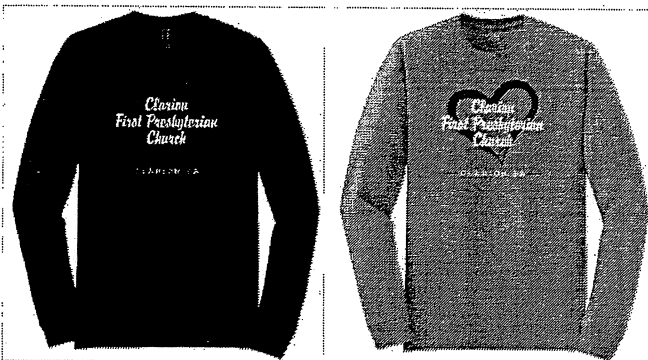
## Gildan® - DryBlend® 50 Cotton/50 Poly T-Shirt (8000)



	S	M	L	XL	2X	3X	4X	5X	TOTAL
Black									
Carolina Blue									

**S-5XL @ \$10.00 EACH**  
 5.5-ounce, 50 US cotton/50 poly  
 full front

## Gildan® - DryBlend® 50 Cotton/50 Poly Long Sleeve T-Shirt (8400)



	S	M	L	XL	2X	3X	TOTAL
Black							
Carolina Blue							

**S-3XL @ \$10.00 EACH**  
 5.5-ounce, 50/50 cotton/poly  
 full front

## Gildan® - Youth DryBlend® 50 Cotton/50 Poly T-Shirt (8000B)



	YXS	YS	YM	YL	YXL	TOTAL
Black						
Carolina Blue						

**YXS-YXL @ \$10.00 EACH**  
 5.5-ounce, 50 cotton/50 poly  
 full front

**ORDER FORM CUTOFF DATE IS APRIL 27th, 2025**



**814-782-6264**  
[www.AllAmericanHQ.com](http://www.AllAmericanHQ.com)  
 511 Main Street, Shippensburg, PA

**PAYMENT DUE  
 UPON ORDER**

**Total Order Amount**  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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## THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBY

### Monday, April 14

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

### Tuesday, April 15

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

### Wednesday, April 16

6:00 p.m. CE Team., Ministry Central  
8:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous, Step Down Room

### Thursday, April 17 Maundy Thursday

10:00 a.m. Morning Circle, Marilyn's  
12:00 p.m. Afternoon Circle, Chapel  
6:00 p.m. Seder Dinner, Social Hall

### Friday, April 18 Good Friday

12:00 p.m. Cross Walk, Courthouse

### Next Sunday, April 20 Easter Sunday

10:00 a.m. Worship  
No Sunday School

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you do not want to keep your palms after worship today, please return them to the ushers in the Ramp Room or the Narthex.

**Today is the last day for One Great Hour of Sharing.** Your gifts are shared with the ministries of the Presbyterian Hunger Program, Self-Development of People and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

**Have you ever celebrated the Passover feast?** Wanna know what the Last Supper was like? Join us for a Seder dinner on Maundy Thursday, April 17th at 6 p.m. It'll be a potluck dinner. Sign-up is required (in the Ramp Room). Maximum of 51 attendees.

**Come join local churches for a Cross Walk** (carrying of the cross) at noon on **Good Friday, April 18.** We will start at the Courthouse in town and walk to First Presbyterian Church. If the walk is not your thing, feel free to meet us at the church for the reenactment.

**Dinner and Bowling:** Wanna join us for Dinner and Bowling on Saturday, April 26? Sign-up in the Ramp Room! Think about a name for the team you'll be on (Strikers, Oh Spare Me, First Team, Galations, etc.). Here is the schedule: 4:45 PM—carpooling from First Pres, 5:00 PM—dinner at Perkins, 7:00 PM—bowling at Mt. Joy Lanes in Knox.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONTINUED)

**First Presby T-Shirts!** Mission has designed a t-shirt to represent First Presbyterian of Clarion. The design is a red, heart superimposed with white lettering saying "Clarion First Presbyterian Church" and "Clarion, PA" below it. They will be available in black and Caroline blue. There are three styles: short sleeve adult, long sleeve adult, and youth short sleeve. They are made of a "dry blend" material for comfort. Shirts are \$10 each. Order forms are in today's bulletin and on the Ramp Room table. You may put your order in the collection plate or turn it in at the church office. Checks should be made payable to "First Presbyterian Church" with "t-shirt" on the memo line.

## PRAYER LIST

Randy Cable	Shawn Martin
Margy Port	Sammy DiBernardo
Shirley McKinley	Clayton Hayden & family
Pauline Henry	John McConnell
Ruth Ann Minich	Ryan Kemmer and family
Dave Steward	Dave Schirmer
Austin Myers	A 2-year-old with eye cancer
Tam Goble	A 4-year-old with kidney
All our homebound members	Cancer

Mary Biser  
Charlotte Hartman  
Ben McKinley  
Anthony Louder  
Pat Hargest  
Alexandra Sharrar  
Dr. Shannon Penland  
Mary Kay Arth  
Mason Martin and family  
Angelo Gehenio  
Rob Summerville  
Evie Renwick  
Cori  
Chuck Reninger  
Grace Carroll  
Kay Caller  
Dan Clark  
Amy Benhoff  
Archer Kunselman  
Ryan Cornicki  
Jerry Deitz  
Don Neideritter  
Michael Kurtas, Jr.  
Tom Minich  
Rev. Robin Sharp  
Kathy Meley

Terry Wensel  
Kaleb Pheiff  
Cathy Laird  
Gigi

### Bereaved

Please remember the friends and family of:  
Caryl Space  
Silvestri Family

### Around the World

Everyone serving in the US  
Military  
Gitwe Congregation in  
Rwanda, our faith partners

### Homebound Member of the Week

Ellen Fulton  
Clarion Healthcare & Rehab  
999 Heidrick Street  
Clarion, PA 16214





# APRIL 13, 2025 PALM/PASSION SUNDAY

*The amazing depth of God's love!*

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 19:28-40	Blessed is the king who comes
Monday	Luke 22:14-23:56	The Last Supper and crucifixion
Tuesday	Isaiah 50:4-9a	God's servant must suffer
Wednesday	Philippians 2:5-11	Christ shows us true humility
Thursday	John 13:1-17, 31b-35	Jesus washes the disciples' feet
Friday	John 18:1-19:42	The suffering and death of Jesus
Saturday	Psalms 31:9-16	A prayer for protection
Sunday	Luke 24:1-12	The resurrection of Jesus

## SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." Luke 23:34a (NRSV)*

## PRAYERS AND BLESSING

### A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God of mercy, thank you for entering our experience of weakness and sin and for sending us out into the world with courage and grace through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

### Mealtime Prayer:

We thank you for this food, a sign of your steadfast love that protects us through Jesus Christ, your Son, and our Lord. Amen.

### A Blessing to Give:

May God shine on you with steadfast love. (Psalm 31:16)



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APRIL 13, 2025

## HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Bless Now, O God, the Journey*

## 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:

- Is it easy or hard for you to forgive someone? Explain.
- If you were alive during Jesus' time, what would you have asked him?

## DEVOTIONS

Read: Luke 23:1-49.

The crucifixion of Jesus tells us a lot about ourselves and about our God who defeats human frailty with forgiveness and new beginnings. The crowds praise Jesus' entry into Jerusalem and then within a week say, "Crucify, crucify him" (v. 21). Peter promises to be faithful to Jesus but at a crucial moment denies him three times. The people give false witness about Jesus to make him look bad in front of Pilate. The leaders, the crowd, and the soldiers mock Jesus, but their words bear the truth of who he really is. Two criminals are killed along with Jesus. One ridicules Jesus while the other seeks his tender care. Through Jesus, God is willing to enter our world and participate in vulnerability, injustices, betrayal, suffering, and death. It shows the way of Jesus' cross as the way of true peace, true life, and true hope. It is the very example of God's amazing love.

Discuss: Who do you most identify with in the story of Jesus' crucifixion?

Pray: Merciful God, through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, you endure our lies, our fears, and our sin; we praise you for enduring it all from the cross to bring salvation to us. 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 suffering?

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Prayer is an important spiritual practice for Christians. During this Lenten season, take time to focus on the prayer Jesus taught us to pray, the Lord's Prayer (Luke 11:2-4). The conclusion to the Lord's Prayer is an added doxology, an expression of praise to God, not found in Luke 11. This Palm Sunday we shout Hosanna as Jesus enters Jerusalem. Take time to reflect on the words of the conclusion of the Lord's Prayer: *For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen*. Add these words to verses 2a, 2b, 3, 4a and 4b from the first, second, third, fourth, and fifth weeks in Lent by writing them around the outside of the cross drawn on the paper the first week. Take a moment to think or talk about what these words mean to you.

Pray: The Lord's Prayer.



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