

# *First Presbyterian Church*

---



*Fifth Sunday of Easter  
Youth Sunday  
May 18, 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)

## Youth Sunday

### Welcome and Announcements

Lectors - Emma Willy, Gavin Kunselman,  
Nathan Myers, Rebecca Mihm

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

### Prelude

*Variations on the Emperor Hymn*  
(from the String Quartet in C)

Franz J. Haydn,  
Arr. Ellen Jane Lorenz

### Chiming of the Trinity

#### Introit (see lyrics below)

*God is So Good*

God is so good; God is so good; God is so good; God's so good to me.  
God cares for me; God cares for me; God cares for me; God's so good to me.  
God loves me so; God loves me so; God loves me so; God's so good to me.  
God is so good; God is so good; God is so good; God's so good to me.

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

### Call to Worship

Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise God on high!  
**Praise God, sun and moon. Praise God, all you shining stars!**  
Praise God from the earth, you sea monsters and ocean depths!  
**Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars, praise the Lord!**  
Kings and all peoples of the earth, princes and all rulers of the earth, praise the Lord!  
**Old and young together; all people praise the Lord!**  
Let us worship God!

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

#### ✠ Hymn No. 816

*If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee*

#### ✠ Call to Confession

#### ✠ Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Holy God, you command us to love one another, yet we hold grudges and refuse to work for peace.  
You command us to care for all of creation, yet we neglect the earth and abuse nature through  
carelessness. You command us to walk in the ways of Jesus, yet we too often walk our own way.  
Forgive us, O God. Guide us as we work toward a new heaven here on earth. Lead us to  
reconciliation and a vision for your beloved community, as we share your love with your people  
everywhere. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

#### ✠ Declaration of Forgiveness

Friends, believe the Good News:  
**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**

#### ✠ Gloria Patri

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 Adults

Nathan Myers

### Prayer of Illumination

#### First Scripture

John 13:31-35

(p. 108)

#### Second Scripture

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

(p. 186)

The words of scripture, inspired by God.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Sermon

George the duck: Austin Myers  
Sam the boy: Gavin Kunselman  
Matt the monkey: Nathan Myers

“Life”

Singers of the first song: Emma Willy, Rebecca Mihm  
Singer of the second song: Nathan Myers

## ✦Hymn No. 258

*A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing*

## We Give Thanks to God

### ✦Affirmation of Faith

*9.50 The Confession of 1967*

The arts, especially music and architecture, contribute to the praise and prayer of a Christian congregation when they help people look beyond themselves to God and to the world which is the object of God's love.

### Call for the Offering

### Offering and Offertory

*The Perfect 10*

Kathy Hill and Janet McMahan-Wilson

### ✦Doxology

### ✦Prayer of Dedication

### Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

## We Go Forth to Serve

### ✦Hymn No. 39

*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

### ✦Charge and Benediction

### Postlude

*Grand Choeur*

Cesar Franck, Arr. and abridged  
by Ellen Jane Lorenz

### COPYRIGHTS:

**Prelude:** “Variations On The Emperor Hymn,” Franz J. Haydn, Arr. Ellen Jane Lorenz. © 1949 *The Lorenz Corporation* (admin. by *Music Services, Inc.*). Livestreamed with permission under CCLI Streaming Plus License™ A-21963048, all rights reserved.

**Introit:** “God is So Good” Text & Music: Anon. Public Domain. Livestreamed and reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-727612, Public Domain.

**1<sup>st</sup> Hymn:** “If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee” from *Glory to God* #816. Text: George Neumark, 1641; trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1855, 1863, alt. Music: George Neumark, 1641. Livestreamed with permission under CCLI Streaming Plus License™ A-21963048 and reprinted with permission under Church Copyright License ® A-21963031, Public Domain.

**Sermon Music: Song #1** “God's Love” Parody Music Copyright: *One Way Squared*. Purchased from [www.onewayyuk.com](http://www.onewayyuk.com). **Song #2** “Choose Life” by Big Tree Revival. Bill Batstone, Steve Wiggins. © 1999 *Photon Music* (admin. by *Ardent Music LLC*), *Batroc Music* (admin. by *Capitol CMG Publishing*), *Meadowgreen Music Company* (admin. by *Capitol CMG Publishing*), *Bravo And Encore Music* (admin. by *Concord Music*). Livestreamed with permission under CCLI Streaming Plus License™ A-21963048, all rights reserved.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Hymn:** “A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing” from *Glory to God* #258. Text: The Venerable Bede, 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> cent.; trans. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, 1978., alt. Music: “The Agincourt Song,” c. 1415. Text: © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship* (admin. *Augsburg Fortress*). Livestreamed and reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-727612, all rights reserved.

**Offertory:** “The Perfect 10,” Kathie Hill and Janet McMahan-Wilson. © 1984 *Ariose Music* (admin. by *Capitol CMG Publishing*). Livestreamed with permission under CCLI Streaming Plus License™ A-21963048, all rights reserved.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Hymn:** “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” from *Glory to God* #39. Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923. Music: William Marion Runyan, 1923. Text & Music: © 1923, ren. 1951 *Hope Publishing Company*. Livestreamed and reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-727612, all rights reserved.

**Postlude:** “Grand Choeur” Cesar Franck, arr. Ellen Jane Lorenz. © 1954 *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 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).

All rights reserved. All sheet music uploaded to our website ([clarionfirstpresby.org](http://clarionfirstpresby.org)) for use with this worship service has been reprinted with permission under OneLicense.net #A-727612 or reprinted with permission under Church Copyright License @ A-21963031, all rights reserved. Livestreamed music is with permission under CCLI Streaming Plus License™ A-21963048 and/or OneLicense.net #A-727612.

## 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

**Pastor:** Rev. Rebecca Mihm  
**Lectors:** Emma Willy, Gavin Kunselman, Nathan Myers, Rebecca Mihm  
**Time with Adults:** Nathan Myers  
**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:** Bert Louder, Rick Beggs, Bill Champion

**The Sanctuary flowers this morning are given to the glory of God and in memory of Richard and Vesta Moore, by their daughter Carolyn McFarland.**

## TODAY'S SCHEDULE

10:00 a.m. Worship  
 11:00 a.m. Sunday School  
 11:00 a.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal

## WEEKLY DEPOSIT SUMMARY

5/11/2025

### Weekly Contributions

Envelope Contributions	\$2,175.00
Miscellaneous Cash Contributions	<u>\$170.00</u>
<b>Total Contributions</b>	<b>\$2,345.00</b>

### Weekly Donations

Food Bags	\$500.00
Blessing Box	\$300.00
Men's Fellowship	<u>\$200.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,000.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,345.00</b>

## NOTES:

## THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBY

### Tuesday, May 20

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

### Wednesday, May 21

6:00 p.m. CE Team, Ministry Central

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

### Next Sunday, May 25 Memorial Day Weekend

10:00 a.m. Worship

11:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

**Save the Date!! Vacation Bible School will be held on Tuesday, July 15 through Friday, July 18 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.** This year's theme is **Road Trip**. The time will be filled with Bible lessons, crafts, and games aimed at learning: "The Lord your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9. The program will culminate with participants singing during worship on Sunday, July 20. The First Presby Christian Education team is busy planning and creating and cannot wait to work with the children this summer!

**The New Wilmington Mission Conference** is among the longest-standing mission conferences in the USA, and it's right in our backyard along I-80. This year's conference will be held from **July 18 - 23 at Westminster College**, and will feature national and international speakers of faith. Our mission committee would love for members of the congregation to attend and grow in faith: to make it easier for you or your whole family to attend, the committee will hear requests for scholarships to reimburse mileage, lodging, or meals. You may attend for a day trip, or the whole conference, depending on your needs. Conference details are online : <https://www.nwmcmission.org/>. To discuss reimbursement/scholarship opportunities (all ages), please reach out to the church secretary: churchoffice@clarionfirstpresby.org to meet with a representative from the Mission Committee.

**Camp Lambec** began as a joint venture among six Presbyteries, including our own, and offers amazing faith-based summer camp opportunities from June through August. Recent updates to facilities at the Camp have revitalized the camp experience. Our mission committee is hearing scholarship/reimbursement requests for local children or grandchildren of our congregation to attend any of the following 2025 camps: "Wet and Wild, grades 3-6"; "Wetter-N-Wilder, grades 7-12"; "Family Camps, all ages"; and "Music Camp, grades 4-college". Information is available at <https://camlambec.com/>. To discuss reimbursement/scholarship opportunities (all ages), please reach out to the church secretary, Deb Owens, via

## ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONTINUED)

email: churchoffice@clarionfirstpresby.org to meet with a representative from the Mission Committee.

**A gift to the Pentecost Offering** helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people, and also address the needs of at-risk children. Please prayerfully consider a gift to this fund either by mail or during worship today. Make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church. You may designate your gift by marking "Pentecost Offering" on the check notation line or by using the special envelope in this week's bulletin.

## PRAYER LIST

Randy Cable  
Margy Port  
Shirley McKinley  
Pauline Henry  
Ruth Ann Minich  
Tam Goble  
Jeff Deitz  
Kathy Larimer  
All our homebound members

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  
Kay Caller  
Dan Clark  
Amy Benhoff  
Archer Kunselman  
Ryan Cornicki  
Jerry Deitz  
Don Neideritter  
Tom Minich  
Rev. Robin Sharp  
Kathy Meley  
Shawn Martin  
Sammy DiBernardo  
Clayton Hayden & family  
John McConnell

Ryan Kemmer and family  
Dave Schirmer  
A 2-year-old with eye cancer  
A 4-year-old with kidney  
Cancer  
Terry Wensel  
Kaleb Pheiff  
Cathy Laird  
Gigi  
Scott and Sherry Keefer  
Ken Louder  
Carolyn McFarland's son,  
Mike

### Bereaved

Please remember the friends  
and family of:  
Fr. Monty  
Pope Francis  
Mary McCamant

### Around the World

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

### Homebound Member of the Week

Dorothy Jean Foreman  
Clarion Health Care & Rehab  
Rm 197  
999 Heidrick Street  
Clarion, PA 16214



MAY 18, 2025  
FIFTH SUNDAY  
OF EASTER

*Jesus commands us to love one another.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 13:31-35	Love one another
Monday	Acts 11:1-18	Peter reports to the church
Tuesday	Revelation 21:1-6	New heaven and earth
Wednesday	Romans 12:1-8	New life in Christ
Thursday	Ephesians 4:7-16	Unity in the body of Christ
Friday	1 Corinthians 8:1-3	Love builds up
Saturday	Psalms 148	Praise for God's universal glory
Sunday	John 14:23-29	The sending of the Counselor

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*"I [Jesus] give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."*

John 13:34-35 (NRSV)

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty and merciful God, help us to love as you have loved us so that others may see your glory in the world through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

#### Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we give you our thanks and praise for this gift of food, a sign of your constant love for us through Jesus Christ. Amen.

#### A Blessing to Give:

May Jesus' love guide you to love others.



MAY 18, 2025

### HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with  
Your Love*

### 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 that someone showed you kindness?
- What does it mean to you to love someone as much as Jesus loves you?

### DEVOTIONS

*Read:* John 13:31-35.

To understand these five verses, we need to know the context of its original setting. Jesus' last meal with his disciples before his death. Jesus already knew Judas would betray him (13:2) and that Peter would deny him three times (13:38). He had just washed the disciples' feet, a very humble act of service. Now he gives his disciples a new commandment, to love one another. Jesus' glorification involves his faithful love that will not be stopped, not even by his death on a cross. Jesus' crucifixion is his glorification. To love includes acts of humble service that put the community of Jesus' followers above one's own safety. Jesus knows our human weaknesses and that we will fail again and again at this essential commandment, but to love is the only way forward. At the heart of the church's faithful witness to Jesus—even more than moral purity or teaching correct doctrines—is displaying love and forgiveness.

*Discuss:* In what ways have you or someone you know shown love and forgiveness?

*Pray:* **Loving God, you know our weaknesses and failures, yet you love us still; give us faith to love one another as you have loved us through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

### SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, what humble act of kindness can you do for someone?

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

God gave the apostle John a vision of a new heaven and a new earth (Revelation 21:1-6). Verse 5 tells us that the one on the throne will make all things new. What do you imagine the new heaven and earth will look like? Take a moment to answer this question. Then draw a picture of what you imagine or write about it on a piece of paper.

*Pray:* **Dear God, you who are the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end, we ask that you dwell within us and make all things new. Amen.**

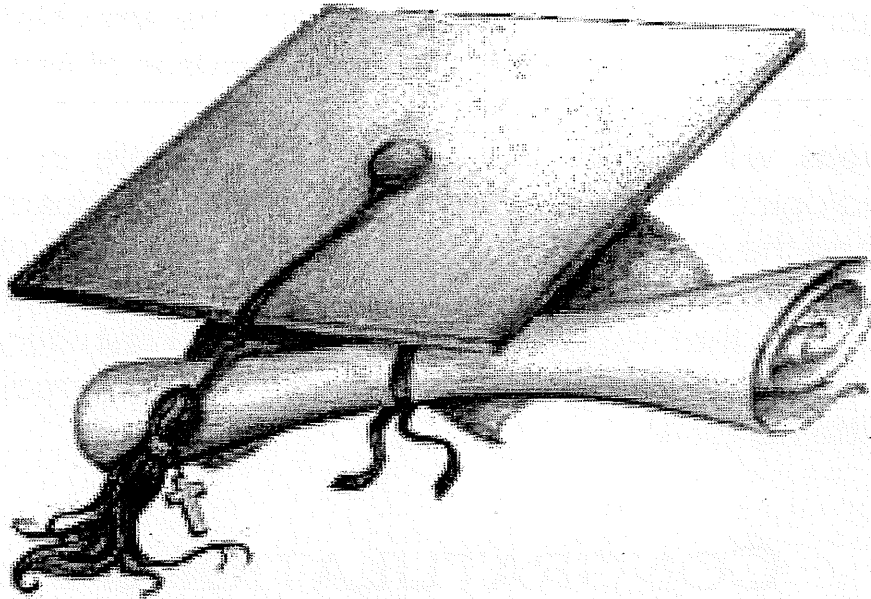


© 2024 Milestones Ministry, LLC. All rights reserved.



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)

**GRADUATE RECOGNITION SUNDAY**  
**MAY 18, 2025**  
**10:00 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE**



*But the wisdom from above is first pure,  
then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield,  
full of mercy and good fruits,  
without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy.*

*James 3:17*

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
700 WOOD STREET  
CLARION, PA 16214  
814.226.8145**

**CHURCHOFFICE@CLARIONFIRSTPRESBY.ORG  
WWW.CLARIONFIRSTPRESBY.ORG**



## UNIVERSITY GRADUATES

**Isaac A. Solida** received his Bachelor of Science degree in Safety Management (with a minor in Leadership) from Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania. He is currently a member of the Army National Guard. Isaac will attend the Basic Officer Leadership Course this summer and receive his commission as Second Lieutenant in August. He will pursue a career in safety management while remaining an officer in the Army National Guard. Isaac is the son of Dana and Joel Solida and grandson of Bert Louder.

**Debra L. Owens** will receive a Graduate Certificate in Ministry from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Deb will be retiring as church secretary in August to attend the seminary full-time in pursuit of a Master of Divinity. She has received scholarships and a part-time graduate assistantship as part of her admission. With the Session's support and Kiski Presbytery's approval, Deb became an Inquirer last fall. That is the first step in formal preparation for ministry in the PC (USA).



### ROMA AND WAYNE FULTON SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Roma Kline & Wayne L. Fulton Scholarship Fund was created by the Fulton Family for church members and children of church members. Full time students pursuing higher education at an accredited college or university may receive the scholarship up to two times during their school career. Contributions to the fund are always appreciated. Checks may be made payable to The Presbyterian Foundation with "Fulton Scholarship" designated on the memo line.

Unfortunately, there were no applicants for the Roma and Wayne Fulton Scholarship this year.