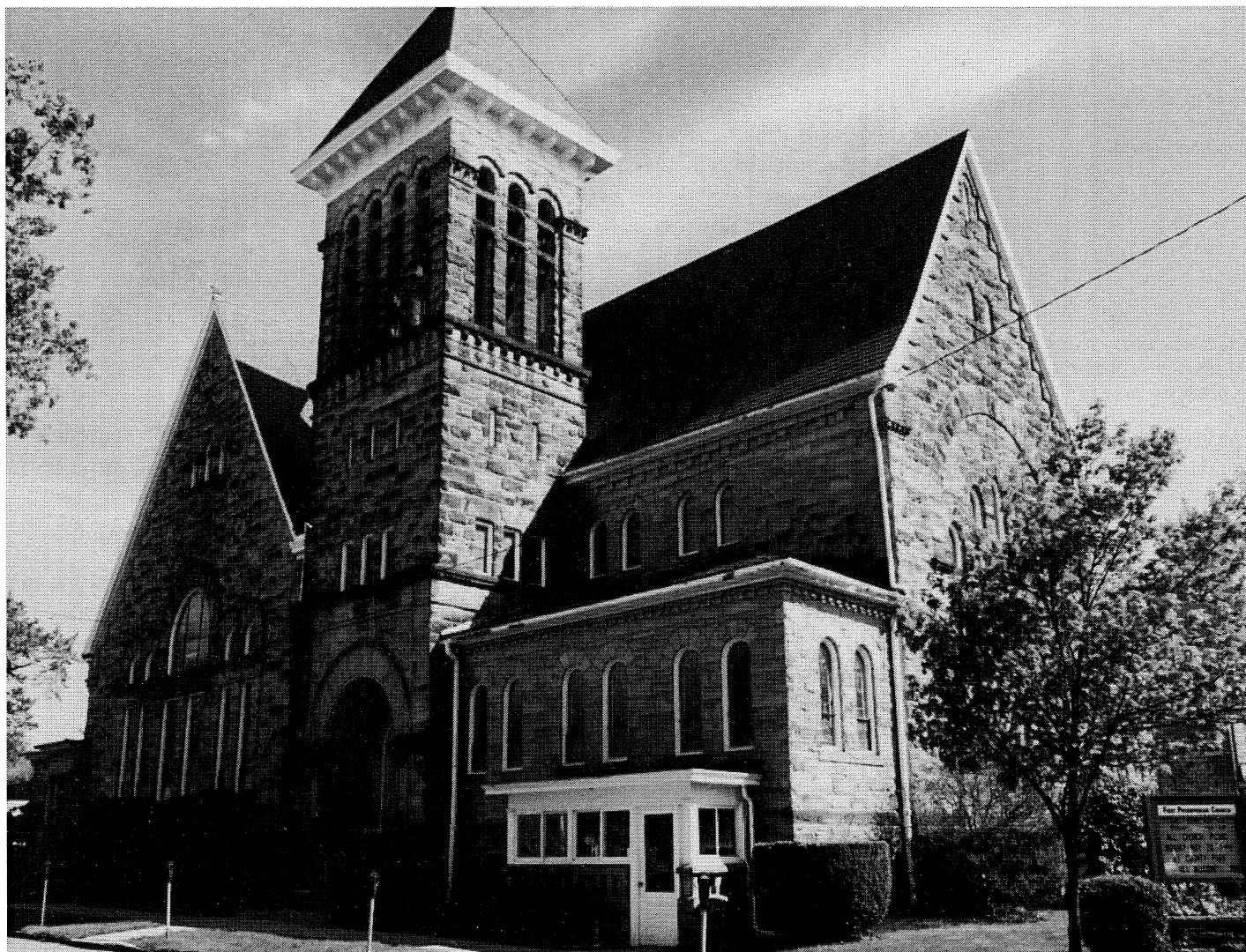


First Presbyterian Church



Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 30, 2025



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)

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Welcome and Announcements

Lector, Cindy Stants

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

Prelude

Ah, Holy Jesus

Thomas Bliss, Johann Cruger

Chiming of the Trinity

Introit

Forgive Our Sins, As We Forgive

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

Call to Worship

Happy are those who are honest with God.

Happy are those whose sin is forgiven.

Therefore, let all who are faithful offer prayer to the Lord in times of distress.

For God is our refuge and protects us in times of trouble.

Be glad in the Lord and rejoice!

Let us shout for joy! Let us worship God!

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

✠ Hymn No. 336

We Gather Together

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

✠ Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Holy God, we confess that we keep silent when we should speak. We see iniquity and the injustices of the world, yet are content not to call them out. We withhold kind words, yet are quick to speak in judgment. Forgive us, O God. Direct the way we should go and help us to use our voices to spread your grace and truth. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

✠ Declaration of Forgiveness

Hear the Good News! This saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Jesus bore our sins in his body on the cross, that we might be dead to sin, and alive to all that's good.

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

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

(p. 181)

Second Scripture

Psalms 32

(p. 506)

The words of scripture, inspired by God.

Thanks be to God.

Organ Interlude

✦Hymn No. 440

Jesus, Lover of My Soul

We Give Thanks to God

✦Affirmation of Faith

8.14 The Barmen Declaration

As Jesus Christ is God’s assurance of the forgiveness of all our sins, so in the same way and with the same seriousness is he also God’s mighty claim upon our whole life. Through him befalls us a joyful deliverance from the godless fetters of this world for a free, grateful service to his creatures.

Call for the Offering

Offering and Offertory

Prayer for Guidance

Allen Pote

✦Doxology

✦Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

We Go Forth to Serve

✦Hymn No. 804

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!

✦Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Jesus Calls Us

William H. Jude

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Introit: “Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive” from *Glory to God* #444. Text: Rosamond E. Herklots, 1969, 1983, alt.. Music: *Supplement to Kentucky Harmony*, 1820; harm. Margaret W. Mealy, 1985. Text: © 1969, 1983 *Rosamond E. Herklots* (admin. *Oxford University Press*) Music Harm.: © 1985 *GIA Publications, Inc.* Livestreamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-727612, all rights reserved.

1st Hymn: “We Gather Together” from *Glory to God* #336. Text: Attr. Adrianus Valerius, c. 1626; trans. Theodore Baker, 1894. Music: *Neder-landsch Gedenck-Clank*, 1626; harm. Eduard Kremser, 1877. Livestreamed and reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-727612, all rights reserved.

2nd Hymn: “Jesus, Lover of My Soul” from *Glory to God* # 440. Text: Charles Wesley, 1740. Music: Joseph Parry, 1876. Public Domain. Livestreamed and reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-727612, Public Domain.

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3rd Hymn: “Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!” from *Glory to God* #804. Text: Edward Hayes Plumptre, 1865. Music: Arthur Henry Messiter, 1883. Public Domain. Livestreamed with permission under CCLI Streaming Plus License™ A-21963048 and reprinted with permission under Church Copyright License ® A-21963031, Public Domain.

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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 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 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
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: Clara Stants, Jeremy Willy, Andrew Scovel, Nathan Scovel, Sawyer Kunselman, Audrina Champion
Ushers in Charge: Bill Champion, Lori Smith, Suellen Gourley

The Sanctuary flowers this morning are in memory of her father Jesse L. "Red" Tryon, by his daughter Kathy Larimer.

Special thanks to flautist Jordonna Bowser for accompanying our bell choir last Sunday.

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

10:00 a.m. Worship
11:00 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Choir Practice

WEEKLY DEPOSIT SUMMARY

3/23/2025

Weekly Contributions

Envelope Contributions	\$3,630.00
Miscellaneous	\$452.00
Total Contributions	\$4,082.00

Weekly Donations

Food Bag Ministry	\$2,235.00
Men's Fellowship	\$60.00
Caring Callers	\$25.00
Head Start Rent	\$1,245.00
Easter Flowers	\$74.00
Total	\$3,639.00
Total	\$7,721.00

NOTES:

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBY

Tuesday, April 1

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

Wednesday, April 2

10:30 a.m. Caring Callers, Ministry Central

4:30 p.m. Food Bag Meeting

7:00 p.m. Deacons, Ministry Central

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

Thursday, April 3

5:00 p.m. Echoes of Joy Bell Rehearsal

6:00 p.m. Joyful Bells Rehearsal

Next Sunday, April 6

10:00 a.m. Worship

—Communion

11:00 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Adult Choir Practice

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Easter Flowers are on sale for \$9 each until April 6. If you would like to order flowers for our Sanctuary Easter morning, order forms are in your bulletin today. They can be returned to the church office or the offering plate with your payment.

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.

One Great Hour of Sharing has connected us in God's healing, tending and growing to create a world where all needs are met. Repairing the breach, providing relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry and support for the poor and oppressed, your gifts are shared with the ministries of the Presbyterian Hunger Program, Self-Development of People and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. You may give from now through Palm Sunday. To learn more about how your gift makes a difference visit pcusa.org/oghs.

Roma Kline & Wayne L. Fulton Scholarship Fund applications are available in the church office and on the Resources page of our website. The deadline to apply is March 31. Full details are also available on the website.

Help Wanted: We need a Church Secretary to staff the church office. Personal Qualifications: Holds and demonstrates Christian values; ability to maintain utmost confidentiality regarding members and/or staff; detail

ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONTINUED)

oriented, with ability to handle multiple tasks simultaneously; and ability to serve daily as a troubleshooter for staff and members to effect smooth office operations. Professional Qualifications: Computer experience necessary; Windows operating system; Microsoft Office including Word, Outlook, and Publisher; maintain web-based membership and calendar software; clarity and accuracy in verbal and written communication; all requisite clearances. Mail resumes to: First Presbyterian Church, 700 Wood St., Clarion, PA 16214 or email to churchoffice@clarionfirstpresby.org. Deadline for resumes is March 31, 2025. Start date for this job is August 25, 2025, but there will be training prior to the start date.

PRAYER LIST

Randy Cable
Margy Port
Shirley McKinley
Pauline Henry
Ruth Ann Minich
Marcia Rearick
Dave Steward
All our homebound members

Sammy DiBernardo
Clayton Hayden & family
John McConnell
Kay Fye
Ryan Kemmer and family
Dave Schirmer
A 2-year-old with eye cancer
A 4-year-old with kidney

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 Neiderriter
Michael Kurtas, Jr.
Tom Minich
Rev. Robin Sharp
Kathy Meley
Shawn Martin

Terry Wensel
Kaleb Pheiff
Cathy Laird

Bereaved

Please remember the friends and family of:
Cecelia "Bunny" Rhea
Darlene Eaker
Caryl Space

Around the World

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

Homebound Member of the Week

Gail Baptist
42 E. 8th Avenue
Clarion, PA 16214
Gail's Birthday is on April 7.

God's generosity and forgiveness is for all.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32	Parable of the forgiving father
Monday	Joshua 5:9-12	The passover at Gilgal
Tuesday	2 Corinthians 5:9-12	The ministry of reconciliation
Wednesday	Proverbs 11:24-25	Be generous
Thursday	Luke 15:1-7	Parable of the lost sheep
Friday	Colossians 1:15-23	The work of Christ
Saturday	Psalms 32	The joy of forgiveness
Sunday	John 12:1-8	Mary anoints Jesus at Bethany

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found."

Luke 15:32 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Merciful God, thank you for restoring us to a loving relationship with you and for sending us out to extend your love to others. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, your goodness is beyond belief; may we receive this food and your love for others with thankful hearts through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you with a generous heart.

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:

- Have you ever felt judged for a choice you made? Explain.
- How would you describe God's generosity?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32.

People can easily identify with this reading. It is one of Jesus' best-known parables. In Jesus' day there was a culture of shame and honor. The shaming in this parable is clear. The father is shamed by the request of the younger son to take his inheritance early, and the younger son is shamed by his returning home as a failure. He has done so many things wrong. The older son might be shamed because the father is spending the older son's inheritance on an unworthy brother. He is angry. In our own context, shaming is still a reality but so is anger and family divisions. This parable challenges us to examine the generosity of God, let go of our shaming, anger, and judgmentalism. We are to welcome those who in our eyes are not seen as worthy and celebrate with them that God's generosity is for them as well as for us.

Discuss: How does God's generosity and forgiveness challenge your judgment of a friend? a family member? a neighbor?

Pray: Gracious God, you lavish your love on us in ways we cannot see and do not earn; help us to celebrate your goodness to us and to all through Christ 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 you help someone who has been judged unfairly?

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). This fourth week in Lent we reflect on "And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us" (v. 4a). Add this verse to verses 2a, 2b, and 3 from the first, second, and third weeks in Lent by writing it around the outside of the cross drawn on the paper the first week. Take a moment to think or talk about what this verse means to you.

Pray: The Lord's Prayer.