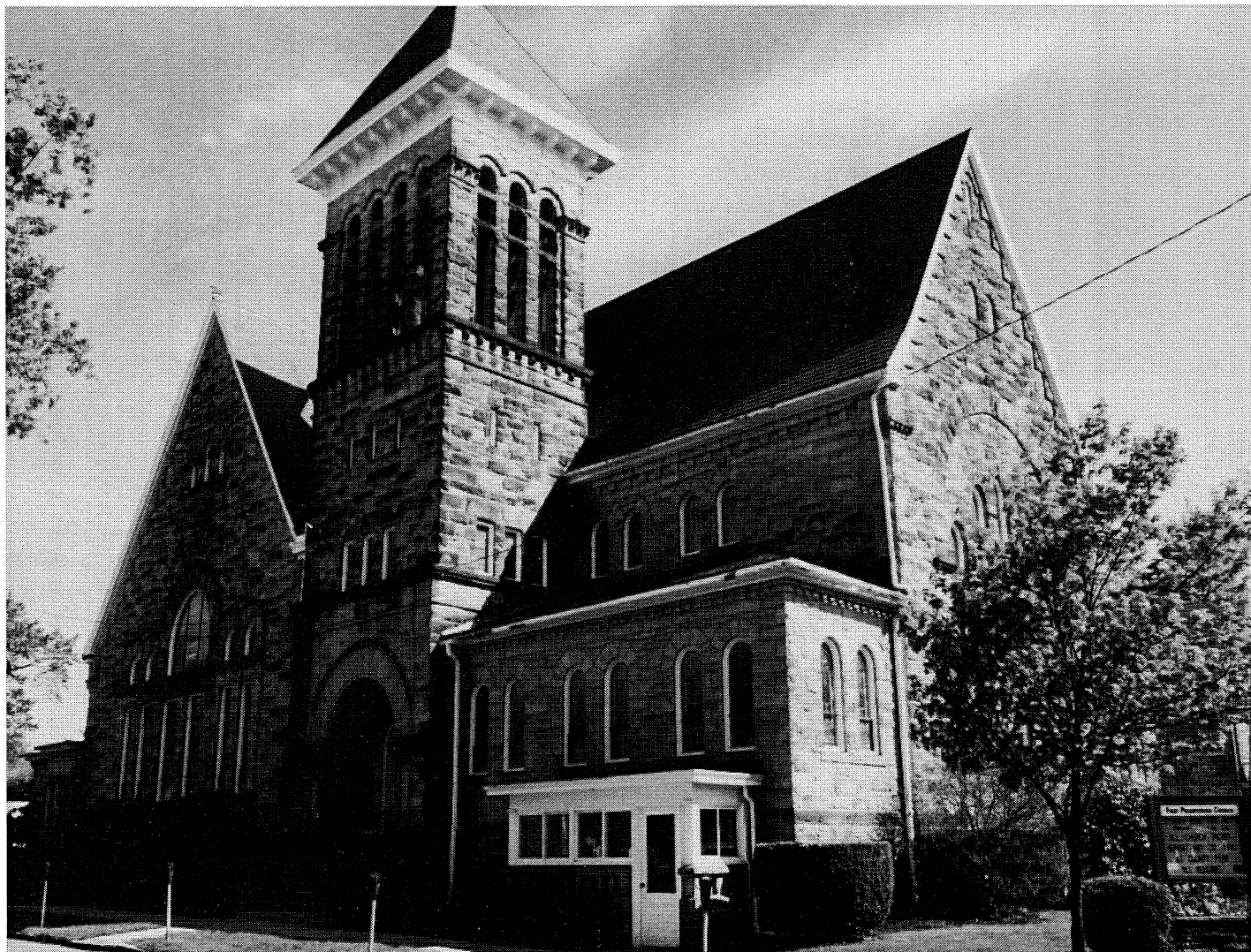


# *First Presbyterian Church*

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*8th Sunday After Pentecost  
Communion Sunday  
August 3, 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)

8th Sunday After Pentecost  
Communion Sunday

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, Jeff Deitz

### Prelude

*Brethren, We Have Met to Worship*

Wm. Moore,  
arr. Franklin Ritter

### Chiming of the Trinity

### Call to Worship

Gathered in from many lands,  
**we come from east and west, from north and south.**  
Some of us have wandered through deserts.  
**Some of us are hungry and thirsty.**  
But the Holy One heard our pleas  
**And has delivered us from our distress.**  
So we come with prayers of thanksgiving,  
**for God's steadfast love endures forever.**

### ✠ Hymn No. 318

*In Christ There Is No East or West*

### ✠ Call to Confession

### ✠ Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Faithful God, we confess our faithlessness. Our hearts are fickle, our eyes wander, and we trick ourselves into serving other gods. We speak lies, accept lies, live lies, destroying others and ourselves along the way. Forgive our waywardness and lead us back to you. Embolden our trust in your faithfulness and settle your truth in our hearts. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

### ✠ Declaration of Forgiveness

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

Jeff Deitz

### First Scripture

Hosea 11:1-11

(p. 842)

### Second Scripture

Colossians 3:1-11

(p. 201)

The words of scripture, inspired by God.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### Sermon

"Two Worlds"

Rev. Rebecca Mihm

### Organ Interlude

### ✠ Hymn No. 274

*You Are Both Lamb and Shepherd*

# We Give Thanks to God

## ✦ Affirmation of Faith

4.088 *The Heidelberg Catechism*

What is involved in genuine repentance or conversion?

**Two things: the dying-away of the old self, and the rising-to-life of the new.**

## Call for the Offering

## Offering and Offertory

*You Say*  
(Soloist: Debra Owens)

Norman/Ingram/Daigle  
Donehey/Maybury

## ✦ Doxology

## ✦ Prayer of Dedication

## The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

### Invitation to the Table

### Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

Lift up your hearts.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**And also with you.**

**We lift them to the Lord.**

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### Words of Institution

### Partaking of the Elements

### Prayer after Communion

**We thank you God for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ, and have received Christ's gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth your praise in our lives. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.**

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

# We Go Forth to Serve

## ✦ Hymn No. 438

*Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me*

## ✦ Charge and Benediction

## Postlude

*Jubilate Deo*

Roy E. Nolte, arr. Rob Roy Peery

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**2<sup>nd</sup> Hymn:** "You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd" from *Glory to God* #274. Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1984. Music: French melody, 17<sup>th</sup> cent. Text: © 1991 *GLA Publications, Inc.* Livestreamed and reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-727612, all rights reserved.

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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.

It is our tradition in this church family to hold each element until everyone has received, and then partake together

### 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).

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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:** 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:** Clara Stants, Jeremy Willy, Andrew Scovel, Nathan Scovel, Sawyer Kunselman, Audrina Champion  
**Ushers in Charge:** Lori Smith, Jeff and Cindy Kapp

**The Sanctuary flowers today are given to the glory of God, and in loving memory of my husband David Louder, by Bert Louder.**

## TODAY'S SCHEDULE

10:00 a.m.    Worship  
                  — Communion

## WEEKLY DEPOSIT SUMMARY

**The Treasurer is on vacation so the deposit summary is not currently available for this week. When Ann returns, the information will be included in the next edition of the bulletin.**

## NOTES:

## THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBY

### Wednesday, August 6

10:30 a.m. Caring Callers, Ministry Central  
4:30 p.m. Food Bag Meeting  
7:00 p.m. Deacons, Ministry Central

### Thursday, August 7

8:00 a.m. Head Start Make-Up Registration & Dental  
Clinic, Ministry Central/Sunday School Rms

### Friday, August 8

8:00 a.m. Rummage Sale, Social Hall

### Saturday, August 9

8:00 a.m. Rummage Sale, Social Hall

### Next Sunday, August 10

10:00 a.m. Worship

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Rummage Sale—August 8th and 9th:** The Fellowship Committee is having a rummage sale on August 8th (8:00 am.—4:00 p.m.) and 9th (8:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.). Please look for any clean, used clothes, treasures, and items that you can donate. Anything that is too large to transport yourself, please call Jeff Kapp or Bill Champion. Please do not bring items before July 27th. They can be left in the nursery in the church basement. If you have questions, please call Norma Kooman (814-226-8808) or Bert Louder (814-758-0455).

It is with sadness, but in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, that we share the news of the death of Marsha Spencer. She was born November 10, 1950, was a member of this church, and entered the church triumphant on July 17, 2025. She and her husband, Sam Spencer were wed in 2002. Marsha requested no services. Condolences may be sent to Sam at Edgewood Heights. Sam's address is: Edgewood Heights, 612 Keck Avenue, New Bethlehem, PA 16242.

## PRAYER LIST

Randy Cable  
Margy Port  
Shirley McKinley  
Pauline Henry  
Ruth Ann Minich  
Tam Goble  
Jeff Deitz  
Kathy Larimer  
Mary Ann Lees  
Greg Rhoads  
Pat McConnell  
Jill Siegel  
Dave Steward  
Sue Widmer  
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  
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  
Clayton Hayden & family  
John McConnell  
Ryan Kemmer and family  
A 2-year-old with eye cancer  
A 4-year-old with kidney  
Cancer  
Terry Wensel  
Kathy Lahr  
Scott and Sherry Keefer  
Carolyn McFarland's son,  
Mike

Nina Faust Joslin  
Mike Hiles  
Alec Booth  
Greg Nesbitt  
Barb Funk  
Brian Galbraith  
Terry  
Denny Hickman  
Elise Burns Pasles

Bereaved: Please remember  
the friends and family of:

Lynn Hepfl  
Rick Finotti  
Dennis McLaughlin  
Ginny Mohney  
Bruce McClain  
Marsha Spencer

### 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

AUGUST 3, 2025  
EIGHTH SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST

**taking<sup>†</sup>  
faith  
home**

*Being rich towards God.*

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

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

Sunday	Luke 12:13-21	Parable of the rich fool
Monday	Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23	Wisdom makes sense
Tuesday	Colossians 3:1-11	New life in Christ
Wednesday	1 Peter 1:3-12	A reason for hope
Thursday	Hebrews 13:1-6	Service well-pleasing to God
Friday	Philippians 4:10-20	Paul gives thanks
Saturday	Psalms 49:1-12	Don't depend on wealth
Sunday	Luke 12:32-40	Seek treasures in heaven

**SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK**

*And he [Jesus] said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." Luke 12:15 (NRSV)*

**PRAYERS AND BLESSING**

**A Prayer for the Week:**

God of truth, free us from false gods that claim to make us happy but leave us unsatisfied; give us peace and joy in your presence through Christ. Amen.

**Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear God, we thank you for this food; give us joy and laughter in the simple pleasures of this meal and the friends and family we have through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**A Blessing to Give:**

May you treasure God's goodness and mercy.



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AUGUST 3, 2025  
HYMN OF THE WEEK  
*God, Whose Giving  
Knows No Ending*

**taking<sup>†</sup>  
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:

- What is one of your treasured possessions? Explain.
- How is faith in Jesus a treasure for you?

**DEVOTIONS**

*Read:* Luke 12:13-21 and Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23.

In these readings, we are reminded that the real treasure of life begins and ends with the abundant joy that comes from the goodness and mercy of God. What a gift from Jesus! It is the richest treasure in life to learn that the joy of life is not found in storing up wealth or in momentary fame. True delight in life can look like an unsolved riddle to those who chase after the stuff of life that decays and disappears. Those who appear to be wise and rich are mere fools because of their vanity. No one has fully learned the meaning of a life that is fleeting and will sooner rather than later be gone. Unlike the man in Jesus' parable who builds bigger barns, the wise soul has Jesus as their teacher and remembers and celebrates the beauty of life in the simple joy of faith and hope in God.

*Discuss:* How has God's goodness and mercy been a treasure for you?

*Pray:* **Awesome God, you alone hold the key to true wisdom and joy, a life that trusts in you alone; help us to be thoughtful, enjoy the many treasures you bless us with, and serve others in love through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**SERVICE**

Service: Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you share something you treasure with someone else?

**RITUALS AND TRADITIONS**

Psalms 49:1-2 is about the foolishness of trusting in riches. Caring for and the sharing of our time, talents, and treasures with others is a Christian tradition. Learning to give to others begins in the home. Place grapes or cookies in a bowl. Think or talk about how many you would need to be satisfied. The foolish rich man would want them all! How about you? Take a moment to think about all that you have and how you might share with others.

*Pray:* **Lord God, help us to be thankful for your goodness and mercy and to be willing to share our time, talents, and treasures with others. Amen.**



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)