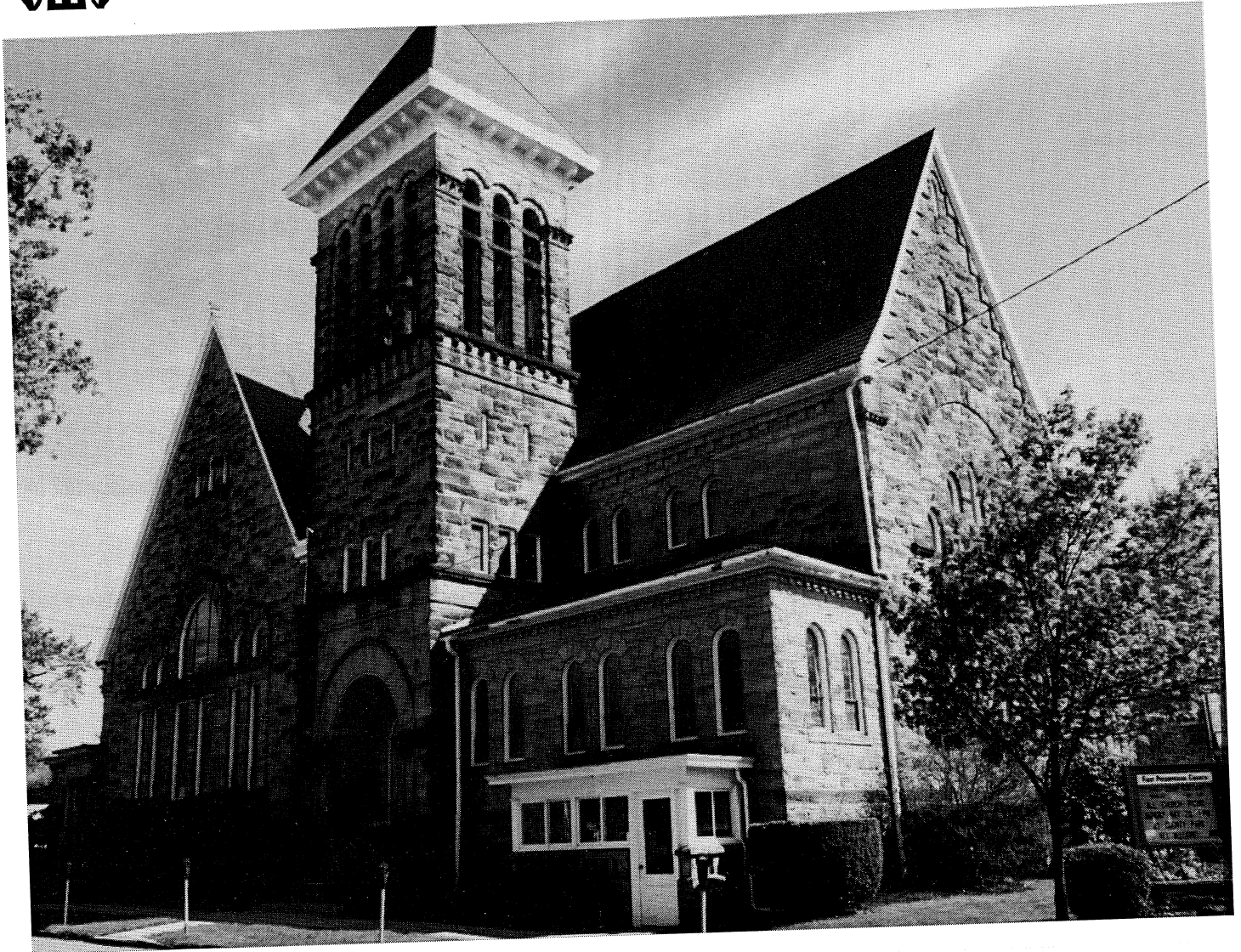


First Presbyterian Church



*Fifth Sunday in Lent
Communion Sunday
April 6, 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)

Fifth Sunday in Lent
Communion Sunday

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

Welcome and Announcements

Lector, Kathy Larimer

Prelude

God So Loved the World

John Stainer

Chiming of the Trinity

Introit

We Cannot Measure How You Heal

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

Call to Worship

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, it was like a dream.

Then our mouths were filled with laughter and shouts of joy.

Then it was said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them."

The Lord had done great things for us, and we rejoiced.

Let those who plant with tears reap the harvest with joy.

Let those who go out weeping come home with shouts of joy.

Let us worship God!

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

✠ Hymn No. 667

When Morning Gilds the Skies

✠ 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)

Why are you so extravagant, O God? We work hard, use our intelligence, keep our ledgers balanced, accomplish feats daily, care for our families, and honor our inherited legacies. Is this not enough to earn our place among the favored? Yet you throw open windows and doors, revealing a vision we do not possess, where accomplishments don't count, where tears reap joy, where peace is found in suffering, where confidence is gained by giving away what is ours to treasure. Show us again what matters. Forgive our misplaced values, and draw us into your extravagance, that we, too, might be generous with our love. 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

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

First Scripture

Isaiah 43:16-21

(p. 672)

Second Scripture

James 5:13-16

(p. 231)

The words of scripture, inspired by God.

Thanks be to God.

Organ Interlude

✦Hymn No. 796

We Come to You for Healing, Lord

We Give Thanks to God

✦Affirmation of Faith

6.1114 *The Westminster Confession of Faith*

Prayer with thanksgiving, being one special part of religious worship, is by God required of all; and that it may be accepted, it is to be made in the name of the Son, by help of his Spirit, according to his will, with the understanding, reverence, humility, fervency, faith, love, and perseverance.

Call for the Offering

Offering and Offertory

Somebody's Prayin'
(Soloist: Dana Solida)

Arr. by Mark Hayes

✦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. 465

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

✦Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Postlude on "Hashivenu"

Christina Harmon

Prayers of Healing and Wholeness

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.

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: 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: Lori Smith, Matt Kurtas, Alexis Burns, and Lucy Kurtas

The Sanctuary flowers this morning are given to the glory of God and in memory of Bertie Gibson, who would have celebrated her 94th birthday on April 4, by Bonnie and Bill Champion.

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

10:00 a.m. Worship – Communion
—Time of Prayer for Healing and Wholeness
11:00 a.m. Sunday School (after the time of prayer)
11:00 a.m. Choir Practice

WEEKLY DEPOSIT SUMMARY

3/30/2025

Weekly Contributions

Envelope Contributions	\$1,785.00
Miscellaneous	\$160.00
Total Contributions	\$1,945.00

Weekly Donations

Food Bag Ministry	\$400.00
Blessing Box	\$400.00
Men's Fellowship	\$120.00
Caring Callers	\$25.00
Music Fund Donation/Memorial	\$100.00
Women's Circle Books	\$42.00
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$55.00
Easter Flowers	\$227.00
Total	\$1,369.00
Total	\$3,314.00

NOTES:

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBY

Tuesday, April 8

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

Wednesday, April 9

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

Thursday, April 10

2:00 p.m. Food Bag Distribution, CE Lobby

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

6:00 p.m. Joyful Bells Rehearsal

Friday, April 11

6:00 p.m. Norcross-Getch Wedding Rehearsal

Saturday, April 12

8:00 p.m. Men's Breakfast, Social Hall

4:00 p.m. Norcross Getch Wedding

Next Sunday, April 13 Palm Sunday

10:00 a.m. Worship—Rev. Gary Lyon

11:00 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Adult Choir Practice

Thursday, April 17 Maundy Thursday

6:00 p.m. Seder Dinner, Social Hall

Friday, April 18 Good Friday

12:00 p.m. Cross Walk, Courthouse

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today, after worship, will be a time of prayer for healing and wholeness. The elders will anoint you with oil, lay hands on you, and pray. Feel free to stay if you need healing and wholeness in your life. Sunday school will still take place after prayer.

Today is the last day to order Easter Flowers. Forms are in Ramp Room. They can be returned to the church office or the offering plate today 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. 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.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONTINUED)

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.

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
Marcia Rearick	Dave Schirmer
Dave Steward	A 2-year-old with eye cancer
Austin Myers	A 4-year-old with kidney
All our homebound members	Cancer
	Terry Wensel
Mary Biser	Kaleb Pheiff
Charlotte Hartman	Cathy Laird

Bereaved

Please remember the friends and family of:
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

Randy Cable
450 Greenville Pike
Clarion, PA 16214

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

APRIL 6, 2025
FIFTH SUNDAY
IN LENT



Mary shows extravagant love for Jesus.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 12:1-8	Mary anoints Jesus at Bethany
Monday	Isaiah 43:16-21	The Lord will prepare the way
Tuesday	Philippians 3:4b-14	Running toward the goal
Wednesday	Deuteronomy 15:7-11	How to treat the poor
Thursday	2 Corinthians 2:14-17	We are the aroma of Christ
Friday	Isaiah 43:1-7	God promises restoration
Saturday	Psalms 126	A harvest of joy
Sunday	Luke 19:28-40	Blessed is the king who comes

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. John 12:3 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, through Christ you touch us with lavish love and care. Help us to respond with reverence and joy for all that you do for us. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

God of the harvest, we thank you for filling our bodies with food and our hearts with joy. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you to be rich in love.

APRIL 6, 2025

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Restore in Us, O God



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:

- How do you show your care and affection for someone else?
- How do you experience God's extravagant love?

DEVOTIONS

Read: John 12:1-8.

All four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) mention the anointing of Jesus' feet by a woman. Only John names the woman as Mary, the sister of Lazarus and Martha. It is another way John emphasizes the love relationship between Jesus and his disciples. Just as Mary wiped Jesus' feet with her hair, Jesus would wipe the disciples' feet with a towel (John 13:5). Both acts are meant as a sign of extravagant love. Even though Jesus' disciples will soon betray, deny, or abandon him before his crucifixion, his final entry into Jerusalem is preceded by this act of love. All real and intimate relationships experience difficulties. Following Jesus will be no different. What we see and remember with Mary's anointing, is that at the heart of our relationship to Jesus is a love that will not end.

Discuss: How do you express your love for Jesus?

Pray: Lord Jesus, you gave everything you had to love us and save us from our sins; free us to show our love for you and our care for the world you love. 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 show love and support for someone?

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 fifth week in Lent we reflect on "*And do not bring us to the time of trial*" (v. 4b). Add this verse to verses 2a, 2b, 3, and 4a from the first, second, third, and fourth 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.



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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