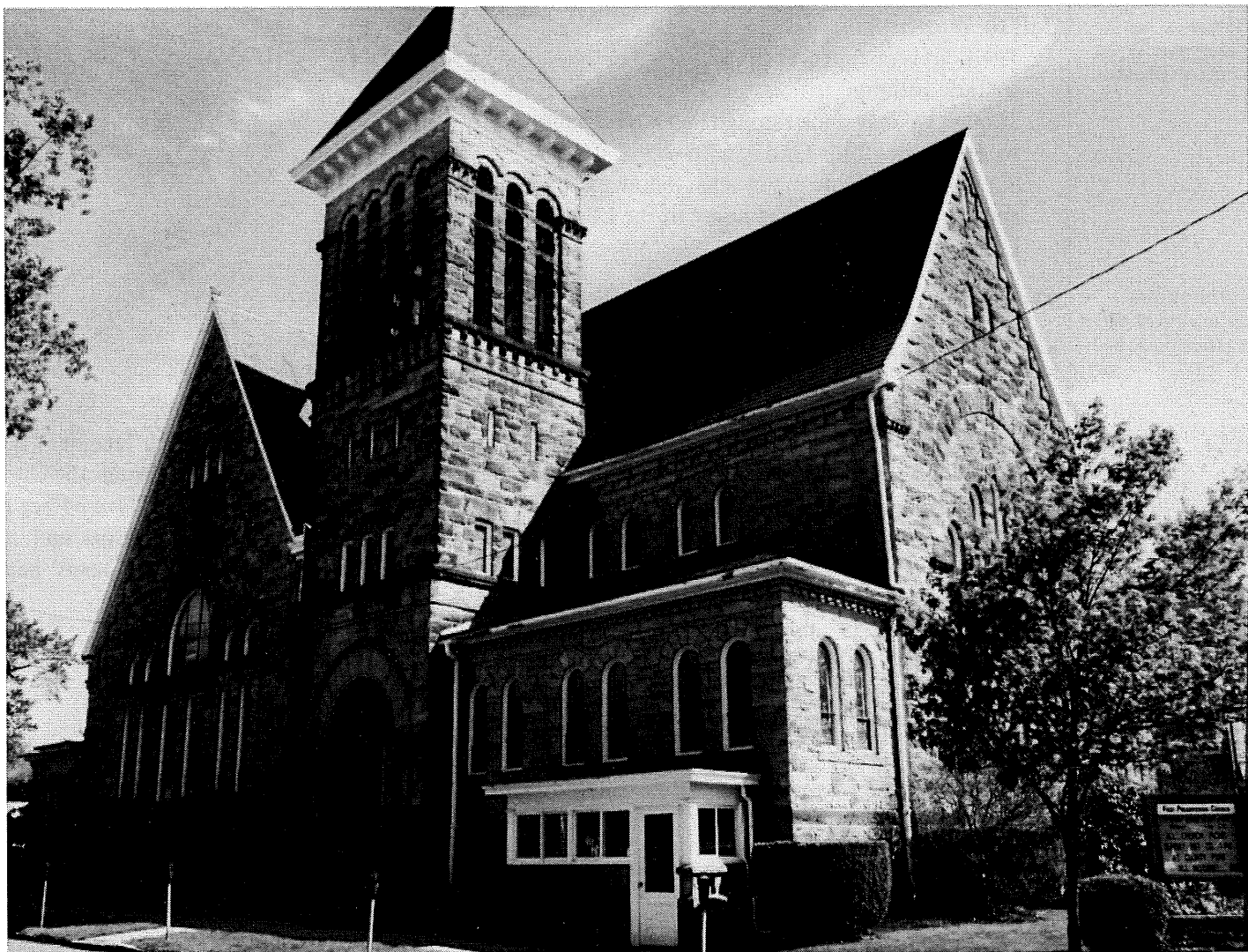


# *First Presbyterian Church*

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*Fourth Sunday of Easter*  
*May 11, 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)

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

## Welcome and Announcements

Lector, Kurt Nesbitt

## Prelude

*He Has Made Me Glad*

Arr. by Peggy Bettcher

## Chiming of the Trinity

## Call to Worship

The Lord is our shepherd;  
**we lack nothing.**

Though we may walk through the darkest valley.

**we fear no evil; for God is with us.**

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow us all the days of our lives.

**and we shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

Let us worship God!

## ✠ Hymn No. 65

*Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

## ✠ Call to Confession

## ✠ Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Eternal God, in the presence of our enemies, we divide and demonize. When you face our enemies, you choose neither contempt nor punishment, but set a table and make provision for us all. Our ways are not your ways, O Creator, and they are an affront to the work of your hands. Have Mercy on us, O God, and heal us. Send our risen Lord among us again to repair relationships and restore humanity. Set us free to share the love of Christ Jesus just as he does at his table. 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 Children

Debra Owens

## Prayer of Illumination

Kurt Nesbitt

## First Scripture

Psalm 23

(p. 501)

## Anthem

*Simple Gifts*

Arr. By Carl Wiltse

## Second Scripture

Revelation 7:9-17

(p. 249)

The words of scripture, inspired by God.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Sermon

"The Destination"

Rev. Rebecca Mihm

## Organ Interlude

## We Give Thanks to God

✦Affirmation of Faith

7.163 Adapted from the Larger Catechism

After Christ’s resurrection, he appeared unto, and conversed with his apostles, speaking to them of the things pertaining to the Kingdom of God, and giving them commission to preach the gospel to all nations.

Call for the Offering

Offering and Offertory

Jubilant Procession

Jane McFadden

✦Doxology

✦Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

## We Go Forth to Serve

✦Hymn No. (insert)

God of the Women

✦Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Siyahamba

Arr. By Robert J. Ward

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.

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## 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:** Kurt Nesbitt  
**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:** Rick Beggs, Doug Bills, Bill Champion

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

## TODAY'S SCHEDULE

10:00 a.m.	Worship
11:00 a.m.	Sunday School
11:00 a.m.	Children's Choir Rehearsal (no Adult Choir)

## WEEKLY DEPOSIT SUMMARY

5/4/2025

### Weekly Contributions

Envelope Contributions	\$2,097.00
Miscellaneous Cash Contributions	\$150.00
Per Capita	\$117.72
<b>Total Contributions</b>	<b>\$2,364.72</b>

### Weekly Donations

Food Bags	\$135.00
Men's Fellowship	\$20.00
Tee Shirts	\$50.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$205.00</b>

**Total** \$2,569.72

### Online Donations April 2025, Deposited May 2025

Net amount	\$718.61
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**Grand Total** \$3,288.33

## NOTES:

# God of the Women

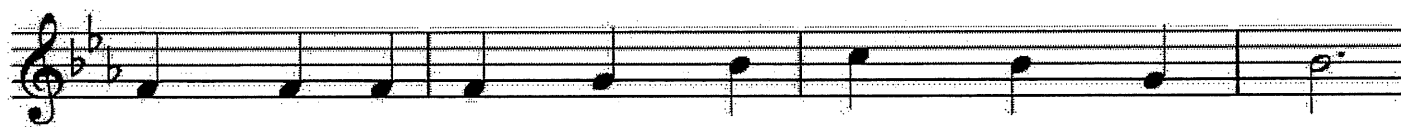
Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 1998

*Slane*

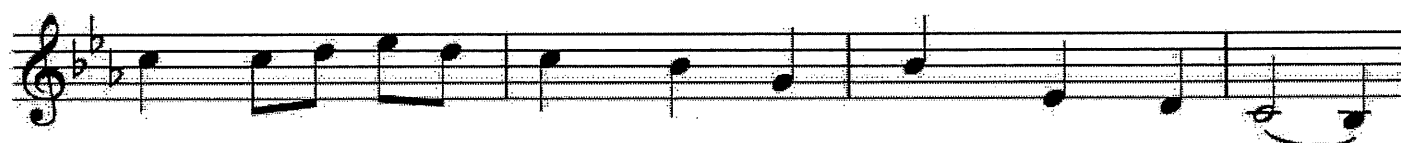
ancient Irish ballad



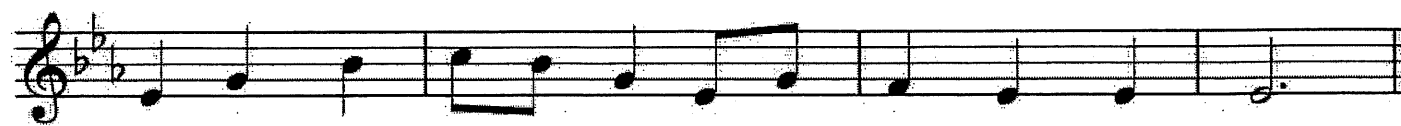
1. God of the wo - men who ans - wered your call,
2. God of the wo - men who walked Je - sus' Way,
3. God of the wo - men long put to the test,
4. God of the wo - men who ran from the tomb,
5. O God of Phoe - be and mi - ni - sters all,



Trust - ing your pro - mi - ses, giv - ing their all,  
Giv - ing their re - sour - ces, learn - ing to pray,  
Left out of sto - ries, for - got - ten, op - pressed,  
Prayed with the oth - ers in that up - per room,  
May we be joy - ful in an - swering your call.



Wo - men like Sa - rah and Han - nah and Ruth—  
Ma - ry, Jo - an - na, Su - san - nah, and more—  
Qui - et - ly ask - ing: "Who smiled at my birth?"—  
Then felt your Spi - rit on Pen - te - cost Day—  
Give us the strength of your Spi - rit so near



Give us their cour - age to live in your truth.  
May we give free - ly as they did be - fore.  
In Je - sus' dy - ing you show us our worth.  
May we so glad - ly pro - claim you to - day.  
That we may share in your mi - ni - stry here.



## THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBY

### Monday, May 12

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

### Tuesday, May 13

6:00 p.m. NA Meeting, Step Down Room  
7:00 p.m. Kiski Presbytery Meeting, Dayton Glade Run

### Wednesday, May 14

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

### Thursday, May 15

10:00 a.m. Morning Circle, Marilyn's  
12:00 p.m. Afternoon Circle, Chapel  
5:00 p.m. Echoes of Joy Rehearsal  
6:00 p.m. Joyful Bells Rehearsal

### Saturday, May 17

8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast, Eat 'n Park

### Next Sunday, May 18 Children's Sunday

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Men's Fellowship** will meet Saturday, May 17, at 8:00 a.m. at Eat 'n Park. Come join us for breakfast and fellowship!

Today is the final Sunday for Echoes of Joy and Joyful Bells to participate in Worship until Fall. I'd like to thank all members for their participation this past year. You will notice some names appear in both choirs. Those folks have helped to fill positions so we have two full choirs. A BIG thank you goes to:

**Echoes of Joy** (in order of their playing position): Brenda Mazzocchi, Barbara Beggs, Kathy Larimer, Debi Ruffner, Marissa Widmer, Jordonna Bowser, Michelle Deitz, Cindy Kapp, Mary Brooks, Lee Seitz, and Jeff Kapp.

**Joyful Bells:** Barbara Beggs, Lynn Giering, Lee Seitz, Pam Reid, Beth Gore, Kara Willy, Cindy Kapp, Brenda Mazzocchi, Jeff Deitz, Anthony Mazzocchi, and Jeff Kapp.

**Ringers who played half a year or substitute:** Bert Louder, Rebecca Mihm, and Debra Owens.

**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://camplambec.com/>. To discuss reimbursement/scholarship opportunities (all ages), please reach out to the church secretary, Deb Owens, via

## ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONTINUED)

email: [churchoffice@clarionfirstpresby.org](mailto:churchoffice@clarionfirstpresby.org) to meet with a representative from the Mission Committee.



## PRAYER LIST

Randy Cable	John McConnell
Margy Port	Ryan Kemmer and family
Shirley McKinley	Dave Schirmer
Pauline Henry	A 2-year-old with eye cancer
Ruth Ann Minich	A 4-year-old with kidney Cancer
Tam Goble	Terry Wensel
Jeff Deitz	Kaleb Pheiff
Kathy Larimer	Cathy Laird
All our homebound members	Gigi
Mary Biser	Scott and Sherry Keefer
Charlotte Hartman	Ken Louder
Ben McKinley	
Anthony Louder	<u>Bereaved</u>
Pat Hargest	Please remember the friends and family of:
Alexandra Sharrar	Silvestri Family
Dr. Shannon Penland	Fr. Monty
Mary Kay Arth	Pope Francis
Mason Martin and family	Mary McCamant
Angelo Gehenio	
Rob Summerville	<u>Around the World</u>
Evie Renwick	Everyone serving in the US Military
Cori	Gitwe Congregation in Rwanda, our faith partners
Chuck Reninger	
Kay Caller	<u>Homebound Member of the Week</u>
Dan Clark	Marsha Spencer
Amy Benhoff	Shipperville Health Care & Rehab, Rm 113B
Archer Kunselman	512 S. Paint Boulevard
Ryan Cornicki	Shipperville, PA 16254
Jerry Deitz	
Don Neiderriter	
Tom Minich	
Rev. Robin Sharp	
Kathy Meley	
Shawn Martin	
Sammy DiBernardo	
Clayton Hayden & family	

MAY 11, 2025  
FOURTH SUNDAY  
OF EASTER



*Jesus shepherds us so we can shepherd others.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 10:22-30	Jesus promises life to his sheep
Monday	Acts 9:36-43	Peter brings Dorcas back to life
Tuesday	Revelation 7:9-17	The multitude from every nation
Wednesday	Ezekiel 34:11-31	God, the true shepherd
Thursday	Luke 12:22-34	Do not worry
Friday	Isaiah 40:1-11	God's people are comforted
Saturday	Psalms 23	The Lord is my shepherd
Sunday	John 13:31-35	Love one another

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity.*

Acts 9:36 (NRSV)

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### **A Prayer for the Week:**

God of goodness and mercy, thank you for your shepherding love that leads us to care for one another through Jesus Christ our Good Shepherd. Amen.

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Shepherding God, we thank you that our cup overflows with your never-failing love that pursues us with goodness, mercy, and this gift of food. Amen. (Psalm 23:5-6)

#### **A Blessing to Give:**

May the Good Shepherd lead you to shepherd others.



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MAY 11, 2025

HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Shepherd Me, 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:

- If you were a shepherd, what do you think your work would include?
- How is Jesus a shepherd for us and how are we shepherds to one another?



### DEVOTIONS

*Read:* Acts 9:36-43.

The Fourth Sunday of Easter is the Good Shepherd Sunday. The theme for this week's scripture readings is shepherding. In John 10:11 Jesus says, "I am the good shepherd." And in John 10:22-30 Jesus speaks of his protection of the sheep in his care. Psalm 23 begins by announcing God as "my shepherd." In Acts 9 we see a woman named Tabitha who has cared for other women, specifically widows. These women are moved to tears by the care and service of Tabitha, also known as Dorcas. She shepherded women through her service without the acknowledgment of being an official servant. The story of Peter bringing Tabitha back to life lifts up the role of Tabitha as a servant to others. This is an honor given by a disciple to a woman in a male dominated culture. This act expands the ministry of the church to other leaders. On this Good Shepherd Sunday, it is a reminder of how we all are called to shepherd one another in faith and love.

*Discuss:* Who can you shepherd in faith and love?

*Pray:* Living God, we thank you for Jesus, the Good Shepherd, and for all those you place in our lives to nurture faith in you and love for all that you have created. Amen.

### SERVICE

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



### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

As Tabitha shepherded other women long ago, we have women in our lives who have shepherded us. Today is Mother's Day. It is a time to be thankful for the women in our lives who have guided and shepherded us. Write a list of words that describe a woman in your life who has devoted time to showing care for you. Take a moment to sit quietly and be thankful. *Pray:* Lord God, thank you for [name] and for how she has been a gift to my life. 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)