

# *First Presbyterian Church*

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*Third Sunday of Easter*  
*May 4, 2025*



700 Wood Street, Clarion, PA 16214

814-226-8145

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[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 Third Sunday of Easter

### Welcome and Announcements

Lector, Jeff Kapp

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

### Prelude

*He Leadeth Me*

Van Denman Thompson, Wm. Bradbury

### Chiming of the Trinity

### Introit

*Kum ba Yah*

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

### Call to Worship

We glorify you, O Lord, for you have lifted us up.

**O Lord, our God, we cried out to you, and you healed us.**

Sing praises to the Lord, O faithful ones, and praise God's holy name.

**For God's anger is but for a moment, but God's favor is for a lifetime.**

Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

**O God, you have turned our mourning into dancing!**

Let us worship God!

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

### ✦ Hymn No. 720

*Jesus Calls Us*

### ✦ Call to Confession

### ✦ Prayer of Confession (Unison)

**Generous God, in Jesus you have shown us love—love that seeks, love that suffers, love that survives all things. You call us, even command us, to show that love in our lives. Yet we turn away from what you would have us do. We confess that the ways of love are not our ways. We deny and ignore, hurt and hate, despise and reject. Have mercy on us. Help us to receive your love so that we can love others. Help us to receive your love so that we can love ourselves. 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

Jeff Kapp

### First Scripture

Isaiah 61:1-3

(p. 691)

### Second Scripture

John 21:1-19

(p. 115)

The words of scripture, inspired by God.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Sermon

"Business As Usual"

Rev. Rebecca Mihm

### Organ Interlude

## We Give Thanks to God

### ✠ Affirmation of Faith

*9.26 Adapted from the Confession of 1967*

Life in Christ is life eternal. The resurrection of Jesus is the sign that God will consummate the work of creation and reconciliation beyond death and bring to fulfillment the new life begun in Christ.

### Call for the Offering

### Offering and Offertory

*Stay With Us*

Brokerin/Pelz

### ✠ Doxology

### ✠ Prayer of Dedication

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

#### 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.

## We Go Forth to Serve

### ✠ Hymn No. 753

*Make Me a Channel of Your Peace*

### ✠ Charge and Benediction

### Postlude

*Festal March from "Rinaldo"* G.F. Handel, arr. Harold K. Marks

#### 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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**3<sup>rd</sup> Hymn:** "Make Me a Channel of Your Peace" from *Glory to God* #753. Text: Anon., c. 1912; adapt. Sebastian Temple, 1967. Music: Sebastian Temple, 1963; arr. Alfred V. Fedak, 2011. Text & Music: © 1967 *OCP*. Livestreamed and reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-727612, all rights reserved.

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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:** Jeff Kapp  
**Time with Children:** Deb 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:** Barb and Rick Beggs, Bill Champion

The Sanctuary flowers this morning are given to the glory of God and in honor Helen Cauvel, by Deb Owens.

## TODAY'S SCHEDULE

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

## WEEKLY DEPOSIT SUMMARY

4/27/2025

### Weekly Contributions

|                                  |                   |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Envelope Contributions           | \$1,100.00        |
| Miscellaneous Cash Contributions | \$85.00           |
| <b>Total Contributions</b>       | <b>\$1,185.00</b> |

### Weekly Donations

|                          |                   |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Blessing Box             | \$200.00          |
| Men's Fellowship         | \$20.00           |
| Caring Callers           | \$25.00           |
| Tee Shirts               | \$190.00          |
| Rental Income—Head Start | \$1,245.00        |
| <b>Total</b>             | <b>\$1,680.00</b> |
| <b>Total</b>             | <b>\$2,865.00</b> |

## NOTES:

## THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBY

### Tuesday, May 6

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

### Wednesday, May 7

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, May 8

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

5:00 p.m. Echoes of Joy Rehearsal

6:00 p.m. Joyful Bells Rehearsal

### Next Sunday, May 11

10:00 a.m. Worship

11:00 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**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](mailto: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://camplambec.com/>. To discuss reimbursement/scholarship opportunities (all ages), please reach out to the church secretary, Deb Owens, via email: [churchoffice@clarionfirstpresby.org](mailto:churchoffice@clarionfirstpresby.org) to meet with a representative from the Mission Committee.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONTINUED)



## 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

### Bereaved

Please remember the friends  
and family of:  
Silvestri Family  
Fr. Monty  
Pope Francis

### Around the World

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

### Homebound Member of the Week

Sam Spencer  
Edgewood Heights  
612 Keck Ave.  
New Bethlehem, PA 16242  
Sam's Birthday is May 11th.

MAY 4, 2025  
THIRD SUNDAY  
OF EASTER

taking+  
faith  
home

*Caring for others with God's abundant joy.*

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

|           |                      |                                  |
|-----------|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Sunday    | John 21:1-19         | Jesus appears to the disciples   |
| Monday    | Acts 9:1-20          | Conversion of Saul               |
| Tuesday   | Revelation 5:11-14   | Heavenly vision                  |
| Wednesday | Genesis 18:1-15      | Abraham and Sarah promised a son |
| Thursday  | 2 Corinthians 8:1-15 | Encouragement to be generous     |
| Friday    | James 1:2-8          | Faith and wisdom                 |
| Saturday  | Psalms 30            | God turns mourning into dancing  |
| Sunday    | John 10:22-30        | Jesus promises life to his sheep |

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs."*

John 21:15 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

**A Prayer for the Week:**

Almighty God, like the disciples by the Sea of Galilee, give us courage, faith, and joy to be sent out to follow you and care for others as you care for us through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Mealtime Prayer:**

Lord Jesus, you gave disciples fish and bread, we thank you for this food that we are fed. Amen.

**A Blessing to Give:**

May God's care for you bring you joy.



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MAY 4, 2025  
HYMN OF THE WEEK  
*Let Us Talents and  
Tongues Employ*

taking+  
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:

- When have you done something that disappointed you or someone else? Explain.
- What is it like to be accepted and loved by God when you have disappointed yourself or someone else?

DEVOTIONS

Read: John 21:1-19.

At Jesus' trial, Peter denied his Lord and his life as a disciple three times. Jesus announces that he is the good shepherd (John 10) and, in this reading, Jesus, as the Good Shepherd, leads Peter in the direction of reclaiming his discipleship. Jesus did not give up on Peter; nor had God given up on the world that God loves. Even though Jesus was betrayed, tortured, and killed for speaking and living faithfully, he shows up at the seaside. He blesses his disciples with a catch of fish, feeds them, and gives Peter—and all of us—the marching orders of a disciple of Jesus: to feed and care for God's sheep. Now, after his death and resurrection, that identity, that calling, is given to Peter, Thomas, Nathanael, the sons of Zebedee, and to all. It is a calling filled with God's abundant joy seen in Jesus' first sign of turning water into wine at a wedding in Cana. Now it is seen in the large number of fish caught and turned into a simple, yet joyous feast.

Discuss: In what ways can you feed and care for God's sheep?

Pray: **Shepherding God, you care for us even when we fail; we thank you for Jesus, the Good Shepherd, who now calls us to care for others with your love that knows no end. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, who do you know that would appreciate having a meal delivered to them?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Early Christians were persecuted, even put to death, for practicing their faith. They worshipped secretly in homes. A fish painted on the outside door of a house let other Christians know that they would be safe and welcome inside. The fish has been used as a Christian symbol from the earliest times of the church. The Greek word for fish is *ichthys*. The Greek letters form an acrostic for Jesus Christ, God's Son, Savior. Draw this symbol on a sheet of paper and display it near the entrance of your home as a sign of your faith in Jesus.



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)