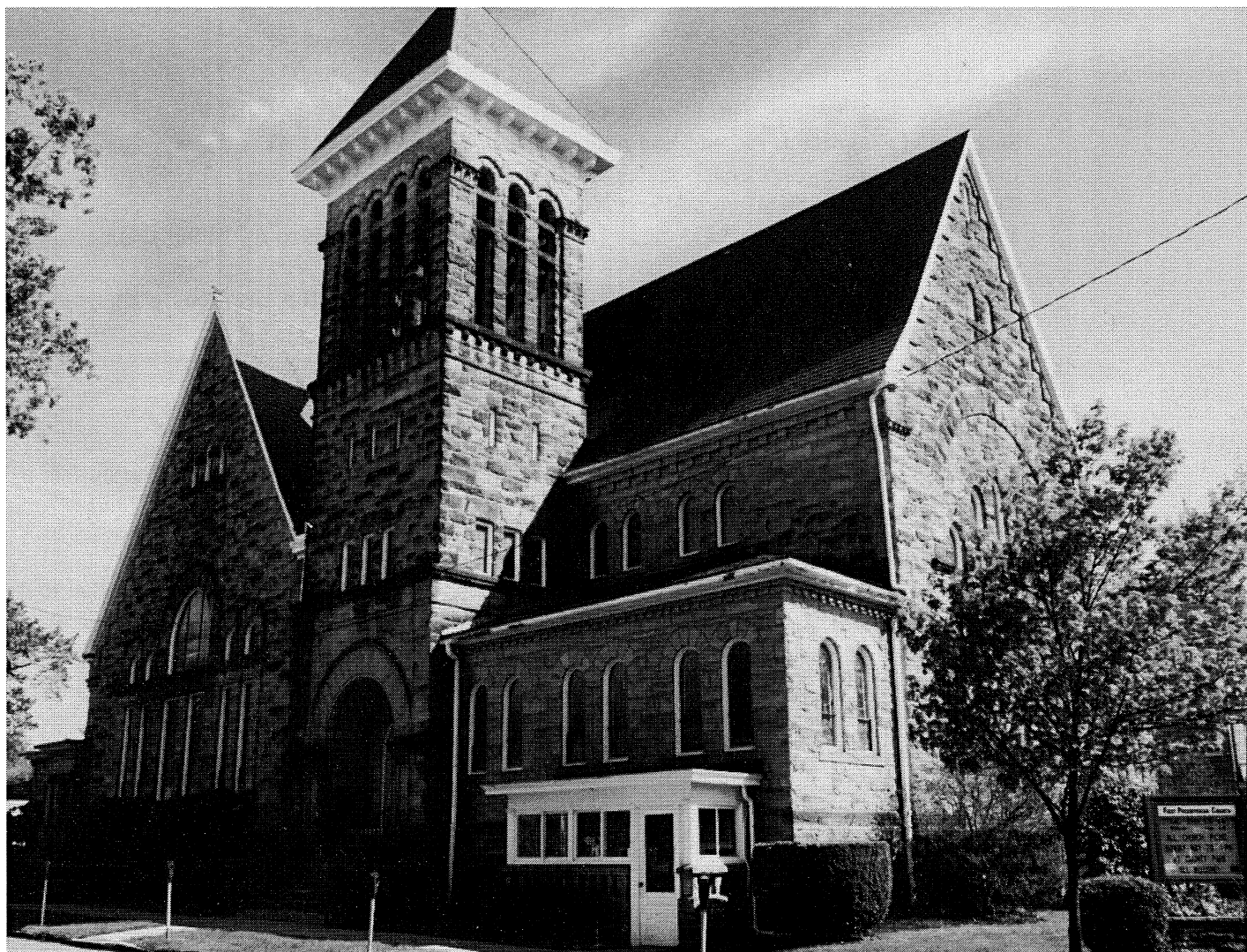


First Presbyterian Church



Transfiguration of the Lord Sunday
March 2, 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)

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

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, Cindy Stants

Prelude

Tranquil Invocation

Franklin Ritter

Chiming of the Trinity

Introit

This Little Light of Mine

Traditional

Call to Worship

God of the mountaintop, you call us to journey with you.

Shine upon us; grant us sacred illumination; dazzle us with your beauty and glory.

In the midst of our weary souls and exhausted bodies,

Transfigure our imaginations and reveal to us what is possible.

Move us from scarcity and cynicism and transfigure our lowly visions to reveal the abundant life of your realm.

Help us to keep watch so that we might leave the mountaintop inspired to do your work of transformation in the valley below. Amen.

✦ Hymn No. 12

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

✦ 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)

Holy Lord, we confess that we do not always seek the light of your way. We are satisfied to dwell in darkness, holding fast to the comforts of material fortune. We ignore the needs of others, and selfishly look the other way when our neighbors are oppressed. In your merciful way, help us to establish your equity in the world. Move us to protect creation and ensure equality, that all of our siblings may have a share of your abundance and the safety of your peace, and that the light of your face may shine upon all creation. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

✦ Declaration of Forgiveness

Jesus endured the cross, disregarding 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

We Share God's Word

Time with the Children

Debra Owens

Prayer of Illumination

Cindy Stants

First Scripture

Luke 9:28-36

(p. 69)

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

Sermon

"Shining"

Rev. Rebecca Mihm

Organ Interlude

✦ Hymn No. 274

You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd

We Give Thanks to God

✦ Affirmation of Faith

Adapted from 5.016 The Second Helvetic Confession

We believe that the one and indivisible God is in person inseparably and without confusion distinguished as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Call for the Offering

Offering and Offertory

Rise, Shine, Little Light!

Arr. Sally K. Albrecht

✦ Doxology

✦ Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

We Go Forth to Serve

✦ Hymn No. 192

Lord, the Light of Your Love is Shining

✦ Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Praise to the Living God

Edward Broughton

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1st Hymn: "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" from *Glory to God* #12. Text: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1867, alt. Music: Welsh folk melody; arr. *Caniadau y Cyssegr*, 1839. Livestreamed and reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-727612, all rights reserved.

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

Offertory: "Rise, Shine, Little Light!," arr. Sally K. Albrecht. Text & Music: © *Alfred Music Publishing*, a division of *Shawnee Press, Inc.* Livestreamed 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.

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: Joey, Ashley, and Gavin Kunselman.

The Sanctuary flowers this morning are in memory of Doris Mintz, by her sister Helen Cauvel.

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

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

WEEKLY DEPOSIT SUMMARY

2/23/2025

Weekly Contributions

Envelope Contributions	\$2,982.00
Miscellaneous Cash Contributions	\$111.00
Per Capita	\$78.48
Total Contributions	\$3,171.48

Weekly Donations

Caring Callers	\$75.00
Men's Fellowship	\$20.00
Food Bags	\$200.00
Music Fund	\$170.00
Total	\$465.00
Total	\$3,636.48

NOTES:

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBY

Tuesday, March 4

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

Wednesday, March 5

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

12:00 p.m. Advent Study Continues, SS Start Room

4:30 p.m. Food Bag Meeting

7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service, Sanctuary

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

Thursday, March 6

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

6:00 p.m. Joyful Bells Rehearsal

Next Sunday, March 9

10:00 a.m. Worship, Rev. Jim Dietrich

11:00 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Adult Choir Practice

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SPRING FORWARD! Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour before you go to bed Saturday, March 8th.

Caring Callers meets Wednesday, March 5th, in Ministry Central.

Newsletter Deadline Do you have news of your family or ministry team plans to share? The deadline for the April-May-June Edition of the First Press is **Tues., March 18**. Submissions can be sent to churchoffice@clarionpresby.org or given to Deb in the church office.

Roma Kline & Wayne L. Fulton Scholarship Fund applications are now 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.

Come join us for Dessert and Fellowship after worship on March 16th. Bring a dessert to share. Sign-up sheets to attend and help out are in the Ramp Room.

Coat Rack Ministry: As the weather gets colder, please check your closet to see if there are any coats or boots that you are willing to donate. The need is great as witnessed by the turnover each week. If you are in need or know someone who is in need, please take a coat!

Scout Sunday Service. Come join the scouts for a service (which will have the International Peace Light) at the Methodist Church on Saturday, March 15th at 3:00 p.m. If you have any questions, ask Tim Myers.

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 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

ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONTINUED)

Word, Outlook, and Publisher; maintain web-based membership and calendar software; clarity and accuracy in verbal and written communication; all requisite clearances. Work Hours: Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., with flexibility to change or add hours or change days for the candidate selected. 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

Mary Biser
Charlotte Hartman
Ben McKinley
Anthony Louder
Pat Hargest
Alexandra Sharrar
Dr. Shannon Penland
Mary Kay Arth
Mason Martin and family
Angelo Gehenio
Joe Amato
Rob Summerville
Evie Renwick
Cori
Chuck Reninger
Grace Carroll
Kay Caller
Dan Clark
Amy Benhoff
Archer Kunselman
Ryan Cornicki
Jerry Deitz
Greg Rhoads
Don Neideritter
Michael Kurtas, Jr.

Tom Minich
Rev. Robin Sharp
Kathy Meley
Shawn Martin
Sammy DiBernardo
Clayton Hayden & family
John McConnell
Kay Fye
Kate Bowser
Mike Hiles
Ryan Kemmer and family
Dave Schirmer

Bereaved

Please remember the friends and family of:
Bertie Gibson

Around the World

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

Homebound Member of the Week

Cecilia "Bunny" Rhea
Highland Oaks at Water Run Rm 110
300 Water Run Road
Clarion, PA 16214
Bunny's birthday is 3/10.

MARCH 2, 2025
TRANSFIGURATION
OF OUR LORD



Jesus' glory shines on the mountaintop.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 9:28-43a	Jesus is transfigured
Monday	Exodus 34:29-35	The shining face of Moses
Tuesday	2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2	God's new agreement
Wednesday	Psalms 51:1-17	A prayer for forgiveness
Thursday	Acts 10:1-33	God speaks to Peter
Friday	Acts 10:34-48	Peter talks with Cornelius
Saturday	Psalms 99	Our Lord is King
Sunday	Luke 4:1-13	The temptation of Jesus

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

And while he [Jesus] was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Luke 9:29 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, give us faith to witness your glory in our lives and to be obedient to your reign through Christ Jesus our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for this food; may it remind us of your glory and power that cares for us each and every day through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Glory of God in Christ be your strength.



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MARCH 2, 2025

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Shine, Jesus, Shine



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:

- Think or tell about a mountaintop experience you have had or someone you know has.
- When have you felt God's presence in your life?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Luke 9:28-43a.

This was a mountain top experience. Threatening clouds, confusion, and the divine voice came together for three disciples to witness the glory of the Lord Jesus. After they descended the mountain, this other-worldly experience of Jesus' transfiguration was followed by an exorcism that frees a little boy of a demon (v. 42). Jesus continued his healing and teaching ministry as he journeyed to Jerusalem. One day this mountain top experience, the story of Jesus' transfiguration, would be retold again and again by the three disciples. We may find ourselves longing for such a powerful mountaintop experience to give us the assurance of God's presence in our lives. Just as Peter, James, and John experienced Jesus' glory, it may leave us in silence with a feeling of fear and bewilderment as we take time to understand our mountaintop experiences.

Discuss: What experience have you had that has given you the assurance of God's presence?

Pray: **Awesome God, thank you for the story of Jesus' glory witnessed by his disciples; may your glorious presence through Jesus Christ strengthen our faith. 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 encourage someone to live with faith and courage?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5. The day before the start of Lent is called Shrove Tuesday. The name 'shrove' comes from the practice of being "shriven": going to church to confess your sins and receive absolution. Shrove Tuesday is also called Pancake Tuesday or Fat Tuesday because households used up their remaining eggs and fats before Lent by making pancakes on this day. Observe Shrove Tuesday with a pancake breakfast or dinner. While you are eating, think or talk about what you might wish to give up or add for Lent.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org