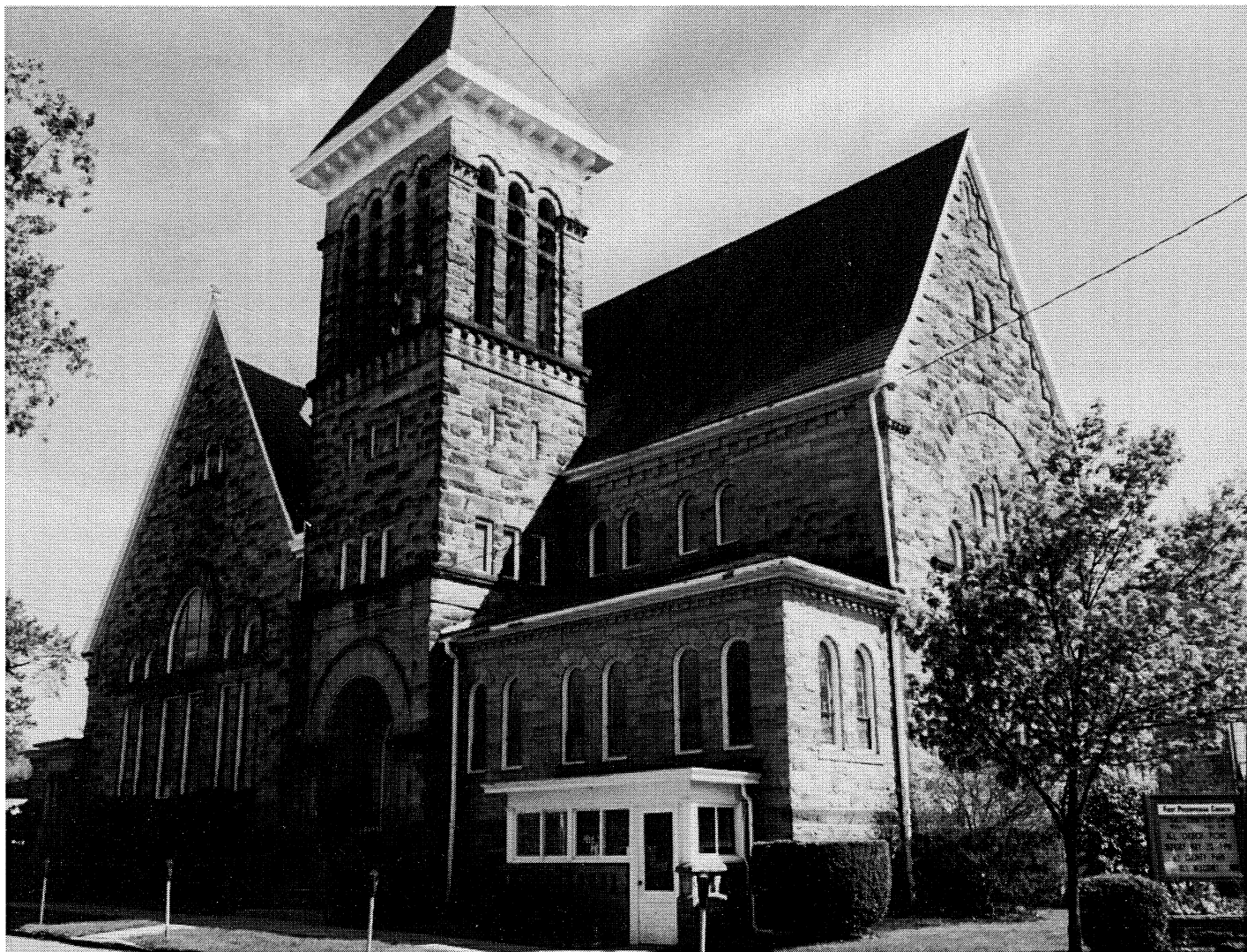


First Presbyterian Church



First Sunday in Lent
March 9, 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)

First Sunday in Lent

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

A Lenten Prelude

Giovanni Pergolesi

Chiming of the Trinity

Introit

Great God of Every Blessing

David Gambrell/Samuel S. Wesley

Call to Worship

Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

**I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress,
my God, in whom I trust."**

Draw near and offer your worship to God.

**May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be pleasing in your sight,
Lord, our Rock and our Redeemer.**

✦Hymn No. 4

Holy God, We Praise Your Name

✦Call to Confession

Let the wicked forsake their ways, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them. And to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

✦Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Merciful God, in baptism you promise forgiveness and new life, making us part of the body of Christ. We confess that we remain preoccupied with ourselves, separated from sisters and brothers in Christ. We cling to destructive habits, hold grudges, and show reluctance to welcome one another; we allow the past to hold us hostage. In your loving kindness, have mercy on us, and free us from sin. Remind us of the promises you make in baptism so that we may rise to new life, and live together in grace. Amen.

✦Declaration of Forgiveness

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. May the God of mercy, who forgives all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

Amen.

✦Gloria Patri

We Share God's Word

Time with the Children

Debra Owens

Prayer of Illumination

Cindy Stants

First Scripture

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

(p. 180)

Second Scripture

Romans 10:8b-13

(p. 160)

The words of scripture, inspired by God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Lips and Hearts”

Rev. Jim Dietrich

Organ Interlude

✦Hymn No. 481

I Believe in God the Father

We Give Thanks to God

Call for the Offering

Offering and Offertory

Where Are the Shepherds Now?

J. Paul Williams, James Stevens

(Flautist: Ryann Crusan)

✦Doxology

✦Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

We Go Forth to Serve

✦Hymn No. 697

Take My Life

✦Charge and Benediction

Postlude

He Leadeth Me

Wm. Bradbury,

arr. Van Denman Thompson

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1st Hymn: “Holy God, We Praise Your Name” from *Glory to God* #4. Text: Attr. Ignaz Franz, c. 1774; trans. Clarence Alphonsus Walworth, 1858, alt. Music: *Allgemeines Katholisches Gesangbuch*, c. 1774; harm Johann Gottfried Schicht, 1819. Livestreamed and reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-727612, all rights reserved.

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3rd Hymn: “Take My Life” from *Glory to God* #697. Text: Frances Ridley Havergal, 1874. Music: H. A. César Malan, 1827. Text & Music: Public Domain. Livestreamed and reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-727612, Public Domain.

Postlude: “He Leadeth Me,” Van Denman Thompson, Wm. Bradbury. © 1949 *Lorenz Publishing Co.*, a division of *The Lorenz Corporation*. 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

Guest Preacher: Rev. Jim Dietrich
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 Kunselman, Bert Louder, Joyce Alberta

The Sanctuary flowers this morning are in memory of Zachary Botzer, by his mother Norma Kooman.

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

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

WEEKLY DEPOSIT SUMMARY

3/2/2025

Weekly Contributions

Envelope Contributions	\$1,539.00
Miscellaneous Cash Contributions	\$152.00
Per Capita	\$39.24
Total Contributions	\$1,730.24

Weekly Donations

Caring Callers	\$25.00
Men's Fellowship	\$170.00
Food Bags	\$325.00
Blessing Box	\$300.00
Wedding Income	\$350.00
Misc. Donation—Gravesite	\$100.00
New Covenant Donation	\$700.00
Total	\$1,970.00

Total	\$3,700.24
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Online Donations Deposited March 2025

Net amount	\$694.36
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Grand Total	\$4,394.60
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NOTES:

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBY

Monday, March 10

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

Tuesday, March 11

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

Wednesday, March 12

12:00 p.m. Advent Study Continues, SS Start Room
4:30 p.m. Food Bag Meeting
8:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous, Step Down Room

Thursday, March 13

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

Saturday, March 15

8:00 a.m. Men's Fellowship, Social Hall

Next Sunday, March 16

9:00 a.m. Adult Choir Practice
10:00 a.m. Worship
11:00 a.m. Just Desserts, Social Hall
11:00 a.m. Sunday School (children only)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Men's Fellowship Breakfast is this coming Saturday, March 15th. We meet at 8:00 am for breakfast, followed by a guest speaker. All men are invited to attend. Scott Apel will be our guest speaker. If you have any questions or plan to attend, call Bill Champion at 814-764-3886 or 814-221-0243.

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.

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@clarionfirstpresby.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.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONTINUED)

for staff and members to effect smooth office operations. Professional Qualifications: Computer experience necessary; Windows operating system; Microsoft Office including Word, Outlook, and Publisher; maintain web-based membership and calendar software; clarity and accuracy in verbal and written communication; all requisite clearances. 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	Clayton Hayden & family
Margy Port	John McConnell
Shirley McKinley	Kay Fye
Pauline Henry	Kate Bowser
Ruth Ann Minich	Mike Hiles
Marcia Rearick	Ryan Kemmer and family
Dave Steward	Dave Schirmer
All our homebound members	A 2-year-old with eye cancer
	A 4-year-old with kidney cancer

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 Neiderriter
Michael Kurtas, Jr.
Tom Minich
Rev. Robin Sharp
Kathy Meley
Shawn Martin
Sammy DiBernardo

Bereaved

Please remember the friends and family of:
Bertie Gibson
Cecelia "Bunny" Rhea

Around the World

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

Homebound Member of the Week

Beverly Wentling
157 S. 5th Avenue
Clarion, PA 16214

MARCH 9, 2025
FIRST SUNDAY
IN LENT



Trust in God to protect us.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 4:1-13	The temptation of Jesus
Monday	Deuteronomy 26:1-11	A confession of faith
Tuesday	Romans 10:8b-13	Salvation is for all
Wednesday	Psalms 62	Song of trust in God alone
Thursday	Isaiah 12:1-6	Thanksgiving and praise
Friday	Proverbs 3:5-6	Trust God
Saturday	Psalms 91:1-2, 9-16	The Lord is my fortress
Sunday	Luke 13:31-35	Jesus' sorrow over Jerusalem

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress; my God in whom I trust." Psalm 91:1-2 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, help us to face the dangers of life with trust in your protection that will be with us always, through Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Almighty God, may the gift of this food remind us of your loving protection that provides for our needs through Christ Jesus our Savior and Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May you trust in the Lord with all your heart.



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MARCH 9, 2025

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Guide My Feet



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:

- Who do you turn to when you are afraid? Why that person?
- How does trust in God help you in times of fear?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16.

Lent helps us honestly face our vulnerability—our fear of being hurt—and our need for God's help. Psalm 91 addresses our fears and God's desire and ability to protect us. The writer understands that we need to face our fears, or they will overwhelm us. This psalm helps us name our fears with hope in God. There is a three-way dialog in this psalm: 1) the poet, who speaks directly to us and for us; 2) ourselves, as the ones praying and "who live in the shelter of the Most High" (v. 1); and, 3) God, who responds to our need for protection. This psalm is a conversation that honestly deals with the fears and challenges of life while affirming the assurance of the protection of God. Reasons for fear will always be present in life. God is our fortress, the one we can trust, and the one who offers shelter during fearful times.

Discuss: What fears and concerns keep you up at night?

Pray: Almighty God, as we face our fears and the dangers around us, we thank you for your love and protection through Jesus Christ, the Son of God. 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 is feeling fearful? How can you help them?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Prayer is an important spiritual practice for Christians. Lent is a season of the church year when we focus on prayer. This Lenten season, take time to focus on the prayer Jesus taught us to pray, the Lord's Prayer (Luke 11:2-4). This first week in Lent we reflect on "Father, hallowed be your name" (v. 2a). Draw an outline of a cross on a sheet of paper. Write verse 2a at the top of the paper around the outside of the cross. Take a moment to think or talk about what this verse means to you. Place the cross in a visible place in your home to use as a devotional focus during Lent. Each week, another verse will be added around the cross.
Pray: The Lord's Prayer.



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