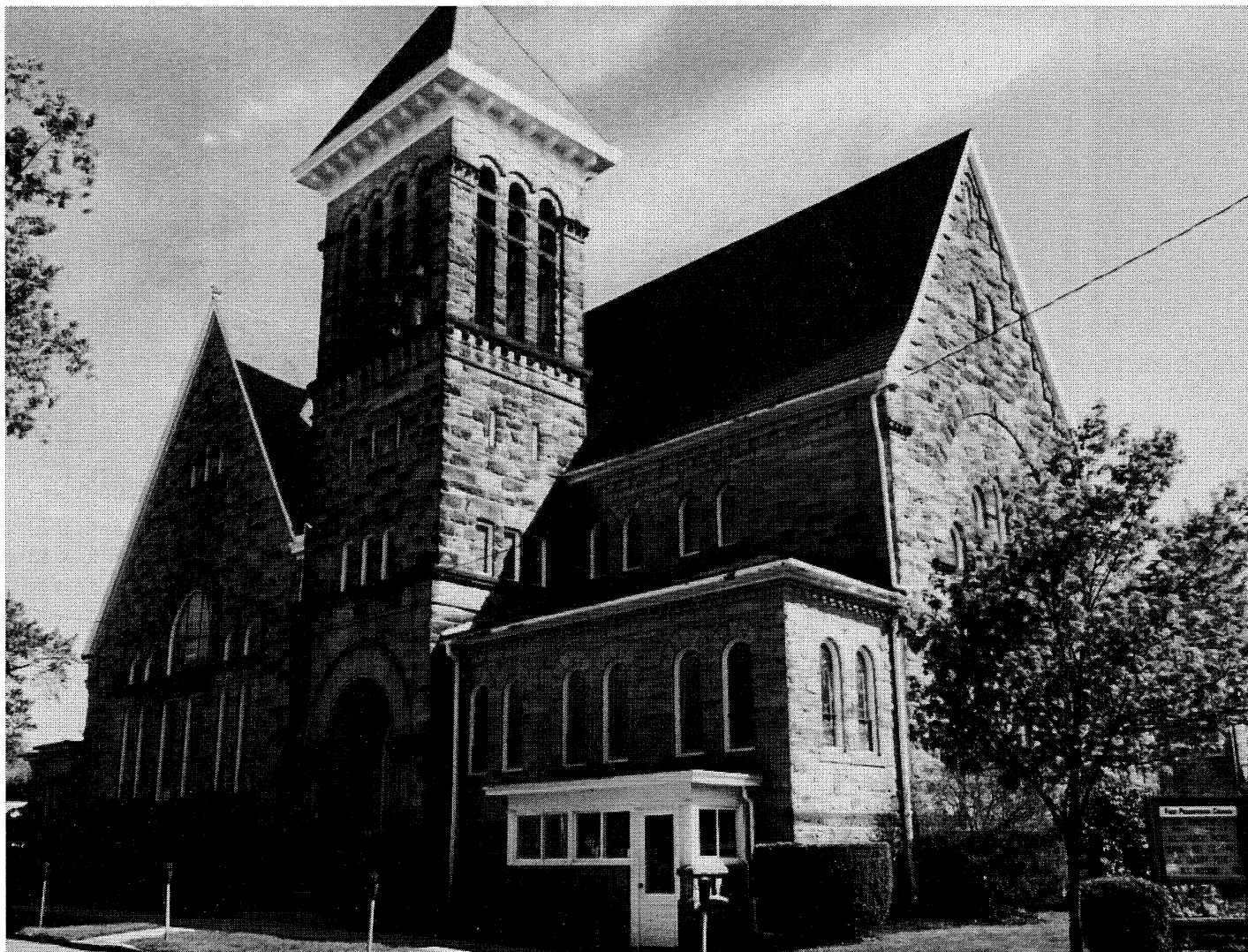


First Presbyterian Church



*10th Sunday After Pentecost
August 17, 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)

10th Sunday After Pentecost

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, Jeff Deitz

Prelude

Largo (from Xerxes)

George F. Handel

Chiming of the Trinity

Call to Worship

In a world where lies surround us,
your word is with us.
In a world full of false prophets and empty promises,
your word is with us.
In a world where words don't have meaning,
your word is with us.
We are here, ready for our faith to be rekindled by your word.
We are here to worship the God who is with us.

✦ Hymn No. 268

Crown him with Many Crowns

✦ Call to Confession

✦ Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Loving Creator, with a gardener's tender touch, you planted your people to bear good fruit, but we bear wild grapes. With a welder's fierce fire, you fashioned your people to glorify you, but we are riddled with impurities. In your generous mercy, O God, regard the vine you planted: save and restore us. Reform the vessel you crafted: cleanse and refine us. Give us life, O God, that with our whole being, we may worship you rightly. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

✦ Declaration of Forgiveness

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

Jeff Deitz

First Scripture

Psalms 80: 1-2, 8-19

(p. 540)

Second Scripture

Hebrews 11:29—12:2

(p. 226)

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

Sermon

"Marathon Faith"

Rev. Rebecca Mihm

Organ Interlude

We Give Thanks to God

✠ Affirmation of Faith

5.120 *The Second Helvetic Confession*

Now the works which we do by faith are pleasing to God and are approved by him. Because of faith in Christ, those who do good works which, moreover, are done from God's grace through the Holy Spirit, are pleasing to God. For St. Peter said: "In every nation any one who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him." And Paul said: "We have not ceased to pray for you...that you may walk worthily of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work."

Call for the Offering

Offering and Offertory

Create in Me
(Soloist: Janie Reynolds)

Kimberly Hill

✠ 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. 829

My Faith Looks Up to thee

✠ Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Allegro
(from Concerto Grosso No.4)

Arcangelo Corelli
arr. Geoffrey Edwards

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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2nd Hymn: "Fight the Good Fight" from *Glory to God* #846. Text: John Samuel Bewley Monsell, 1863, alt. Music: attr. John Hatton, c.1793. Livestreamed with permission under CCLI Streaming Plus License™ A-21963048 and reprinted with permission under Church Copyright License ® A-21963031, Public Domain.

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3rd Hymn: "My Faith Looks up to Thee" from *Glory to God* #829. Text: Ray Palmer, Music: Lowell Mason, 1831. 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.

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: Jeff Deitz
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: Robin Cable, Jeff and Cindy Kapp

The Sanctuary flowers today are given to the glory of God, and in honor of Cindy and Jeff Kapp and congratulations to Cindy for the new Secretary position.

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

10:00 a.m. Worship

WEEKLY DEPOSIT SUMMARY

8/10/2025

Weekly Contributions 8/10/2025

Envelope Contributions	\$2,162.00
Miscellaneous Cash Contributions	<u>\$105.00</u>
Total Contributions	\$2,267.00

Weekly Donations 8/10/2025

Food Bags	\$335.00
Presbytery Donation for Hosting Meeting	\$200.00
Mission	\$111.05
Men's Fellowship	\$40.00
Sunday School	\$25.00
Fellowship	<u>\$25.00</u>
Total	\$736.05
Total	\$3,003.05

Miscellaneous Deposit

Rummage Sale Held August 8 and August 9	\$1044.30
Upfront Cash Box	(200.00)
Net Proceeds	844.30

Grand Total	\$3,647.35
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NOTES:

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBY

Tuesday, August 19

6:00 p.m. NA Meeting

Wednesday, August 20

6:00p.m. CE Team Mtg.

8:00 p.m. AA Meeting

Thursday, August 21

10:00 a.m. Morning Circle @ Marilyn's

Sunday, August 24

10:00 a.m. Worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you have put a name on the prayer list that no longer needs to be on that list, please inform the office.

The Fellowship Team would like to thank all who donated items to our rummage sale. We would like to specifically thank Bill and Bonnie Champion and John Joy. Thanks to John also for his extra effort. We would like to specifically thank all those who spent all last week with us in setting up and pricing the items as well as helping with the sales on Friday and Saturday: Joyce Alberta, Doug Bills, Audrina Champion and Diane Siwiecki. We are truly grateful to God for all. Members of The Fellowship Team: Kurt Nesbitt, Chair-Rebecca Mihm, Norma Kooman, Jeff Kapp and Bert Louder.

The Mission Team is collecting school supplies to distribute to area students. If you'd like to help, there will be a collection basket in the ramp room through August 24th. If you'd like to contribute financially, make your check payable to Clarion First Presbyterian Church with "school supplies" in the memo line. We are grateful to the kind people at Designing Minds in Clarion for their donation of supplies to get the project off the ground.

PRAYER LIST

Randy Cable

Margy Port

Shirley McKinley

Pauline Henry

Ruth Ann Minich

Tam Goble

Jeff Deitz

Mary Ann Lees

Greg Rhoads

Pat McConnell

Jill Siegel

Dave Steward

Sue Widmer

Josh Deitz

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

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

Clayton Hayden & family

John McConnell

A 2-year-old with eye cancer

A 4-year-old with kidney

Cancer

Terry Wensel

Kathy Lahr

Carolyn McFarland's son,

Mike

Nina Faust Joslin

Mike Hiles

Alec Booth

Greg Nesbitt

Barb Funk

Brian Galbraith

Terry

Denny Hickman

Elise Burns Pasles

Darlene

Dan Stitt

Sara Riggins

Bereaved: Please remember the friends and family of:

Bruce McClain

Marsha Spencer

Charles Cauvel

Around the World

Everyone serving in the US Military

Gitwe Congregation in Rwanda, our faith partners

Homebound Member of the Week

Marcella Seitz

Shipperville Health Care &

Rehab Rm. 106

512 S. Paint Blvd.

Shipperville, PA. 16214

(Lee Seitz's Mother-in-law)

AUGUST 17, 2025

TENTH SUNDAY

AFTER PENTECOST

taking

faith

home

Our faith is strengthened by a cloud of witnesses.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 12:49-56	Following Jesus causes division
Monday	Jeremiah 23:23-29	God's word is like fire
Tuesday	Hebrews 11:29—12:2	Faith in God
Wednesday	Joshua 2:1-24	Rahab's story
Thursday	Judges 16:23-31	The death and triumph of Samson
Friday	Luke 10:25-37	Good Samaritan
Saturday	Psalms 82	Justice for the weak
Sunday	Luke 13:10-17	Jesus heals on the Sabbath

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us.

Hebrews 12:1 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Redeeming God, you know our broken lives and suffering; give us faith in Christ so that we may endure the pain and rejoice in the comfort of your eternal care. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, it is your will that we be fed and cared for; thank you for this food as a gift of your steadfast love and faithfulness. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God's eternal comfort give you joy.



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AUGUST 17, 2025

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Lord Jesus, You Shall

Be My Song

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 or someone you know been unfairly treated?
- How does your faith help you to face conflict in daily life?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Hebrews 11:29—12:2.

The Daily Bible Readings for this week have a common thread: God's judgment will prevail. God's ways are not the ways of earthly powers that abuse the poor and weak and that bring pain and suffering to the righteous. The good news is that God's ways will conquer all evil and that we have "a cloud of witnesses" (12:1) to remind us of what is true and just, good and faithful. The cloud of witnesses may be parents, grandparents, or other mentors. It may be voices from the past like Rahab, Samson or a long list of biblical characters. More recent witnesses include Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Corrie Ten Boom, Martin Luther King, Jr., Oscar Romero, Desmond Tutu, and a host of others who witnessed to Christ's love and opposition to hatred. We need the voice of Jesus and all the witnesses of peace, mercy, and justice to stand up to the forces that promote suffering of any kind. In Jesus, we are called to endure suffering with confidence in God and know the joy that is ours for all eternity.

Discuss: Who do you consider as a faith role model and part of your cloud of witnesses?

Pray: **Almighty and merciful God, help us to endure the pain and suffering from all that opposes your reign and to rejoice in the promise of your eternal love through Christ our Lord.**

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 be a witness of Jesus' love for someone who is hurting?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Hebrews 12:1 encourages us to "lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely." Find a small stone and hold it while you think or talk about things that keep us from living and acting the way Jesus wants us to (e.g. being rude or nasty to each other, lying about something we did or did not do, taking something that doesn't belong to us, and not helping others).

Pray: **Dear Jesus, please forgive us for those times when we don't follow you. Help us to fight against sin and to keep our eyes on you. Amen.**

Then throw the rock away to symbolize God's removal of our sins through Christ.



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