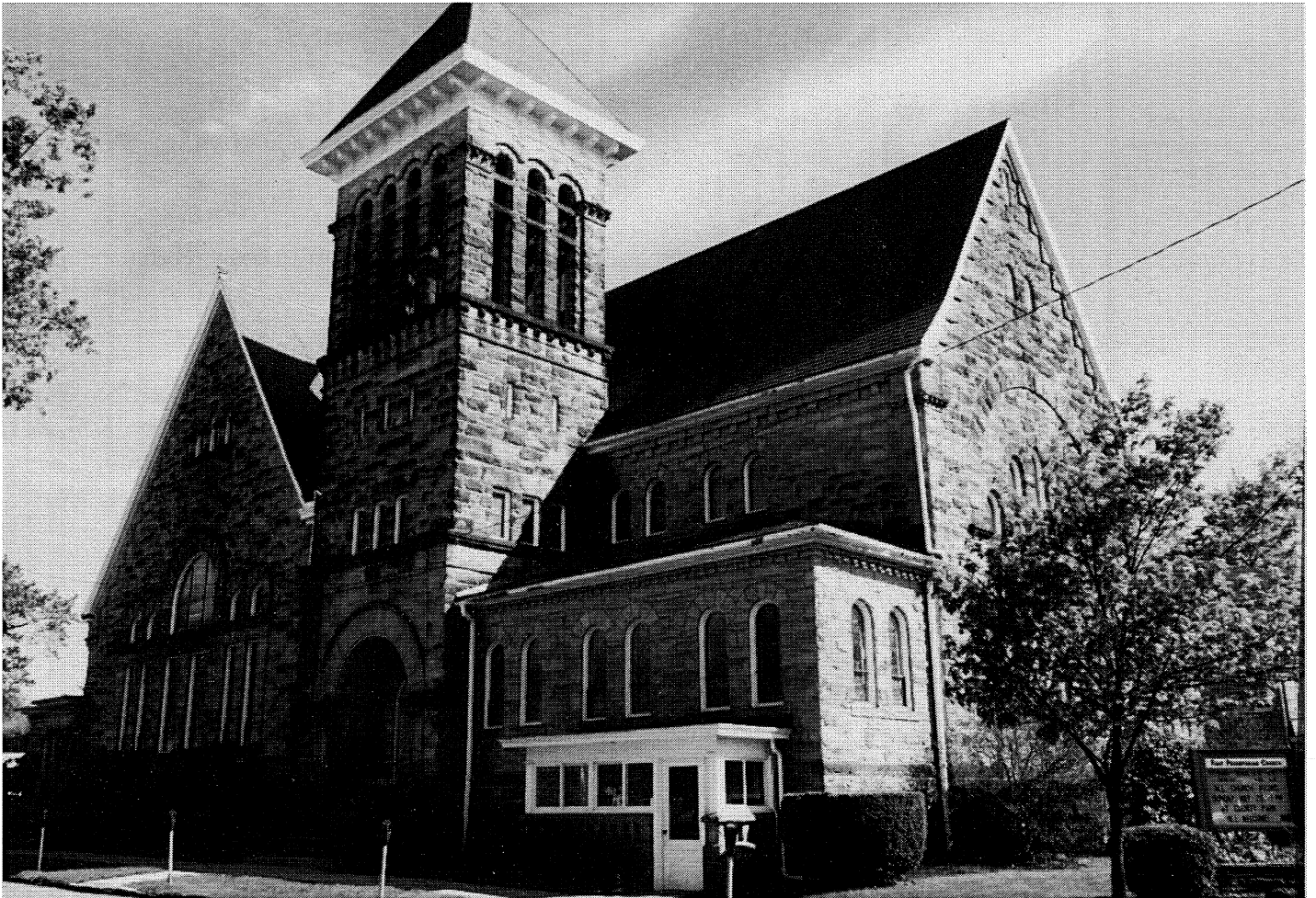


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Fourth Sunday of Easter
April 25, 2021



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)

Welcome and Announcements

Lector, Bert Louder

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.

Prelude

In the Glow of Early Morning

Wm. Macomber, arr. Jos. Prentiss

Call to Worship

We gather to worship the Good Shepherd,

who lays down his life for his sheep.

We gather to worship Jesus Christ,

who calls us to lay down our lives for others.

Easter people, Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

✦ Hymn No. 187

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

Text: Thrupp's *Hymns for the Young*, 1836, alt.

Music: Bradbury, 1859, alt.

Call to Confession

If we are honest with ourselves, our hearts condemn us. But God, who knows everything, is greater than our hearts; and God's deep desire for us is mercy, love, and peace. Therefore let us confess our sin.

Prayer of Confession

O God, you have called us to love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. You have laid down your life for us and commanded us to lay down our lives for one another. Still, O Lord, we offer empty thoughts and prayers when the world needs our hands and our feet. Still, O Lord, we fail to share our lives with the world, hiding behind a myth of independence. Forgive us, we pray, and by your forgiveness, raise us to new life in you. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

We seek God's grace with boldness because we trust in Jesus Christ, the One who loved us and laid down his life for us. This is the good news of the gospel: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

✦ 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

Kara Willy

Scripture Reading

Psalm 23; John 10:11-18

(NRSV)

¹ The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. ² He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; ³ he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. ⁴ Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me. ⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. ⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

¹¹ "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³ The hired hand runs away because a hired hand

does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

Prayer for Illumination

Lord God, good shepherd, by the leading of your Spirit, help us to listen for your voice and follow in your paths all the days of our lives; in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Message

Rev. Paul W. Abell, Jr.

“There’s Nothing I Shall Want”

Prayer for Courage

✠Hymn No. 740 (2 times)

Lead Me, Guide Me

Text: Akers, 1953

Music: Akers, 1953; arr. Smallwood

We Give Thanks to God

✠Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Call for the Offering

Offertory

A Grave Mistake
(Soloist: Glenn Beichner)

Logan Peck

✠Doxology

Prayer of Dedication

Prayers for the People and The Lord’s Prayer

We Go Forth to Serve

✠Hymn No. 188

Jesus Loves Me

Text: Stanza 1, Warner, 1859; stanza 2, McGuire, 1971

Music: Bradbury, 1862, alt.

✠Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Spring from the Four Seasons

Vivaldi

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.

Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us 187



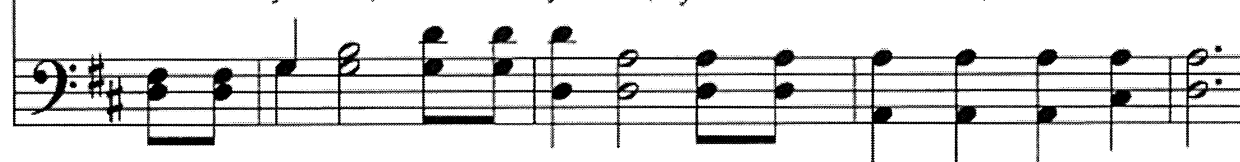
1 Sav - ior, like a shep-herd lead us; much we need your ten-der care.
2 We are yours: in love be - friend us; be the guard-ian of our way.
3 You have prom-ised to re - ceive us, poor and sin-ful though we be;
4 Ear - ly let us seek your fa - vor; ear - ly let us do your will.



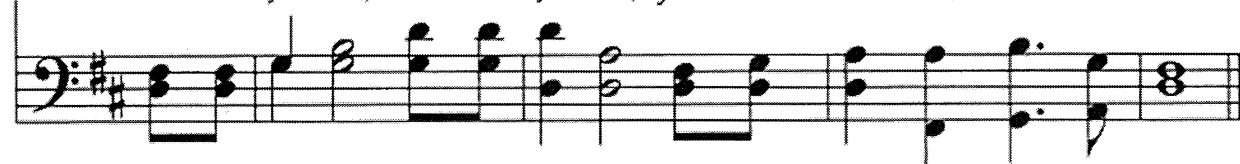
In your pleas-ant pas-tures feed us; for our use your fold pre-pare.
Keep your flock: from sin de - fend us; seek us when we go a-stray.
you have mer - cy to re - lieve us, grace to cleanse, and power to free.
Bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, with your love our spir - its fill.



Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us: we are yours.
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear your chil - dren when we pray.
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us; love us still.



Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us: we are yours.
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear your chil - dren when we pray.
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us; love us still.



Lead Me, Guide Me

Capo 1: (D)
Refrain E^b (A7) B^b7 (Em) Fm 3

Lead me, guide me, a - long the way, for if you

(A) B^b (D) E^b (A7) B^b7 3 (D) E^b 3

lead me, I can - not stray. Lord, let me walk each

(A7) B^b7 (B7) C7 (Em) Fm (D) E^b (A7) B^b7 (D) E^b *Fine*

day with thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

(D) E^b 3 (B7) C7 (Em) Fm (A7) B^b7 (Em) Fm

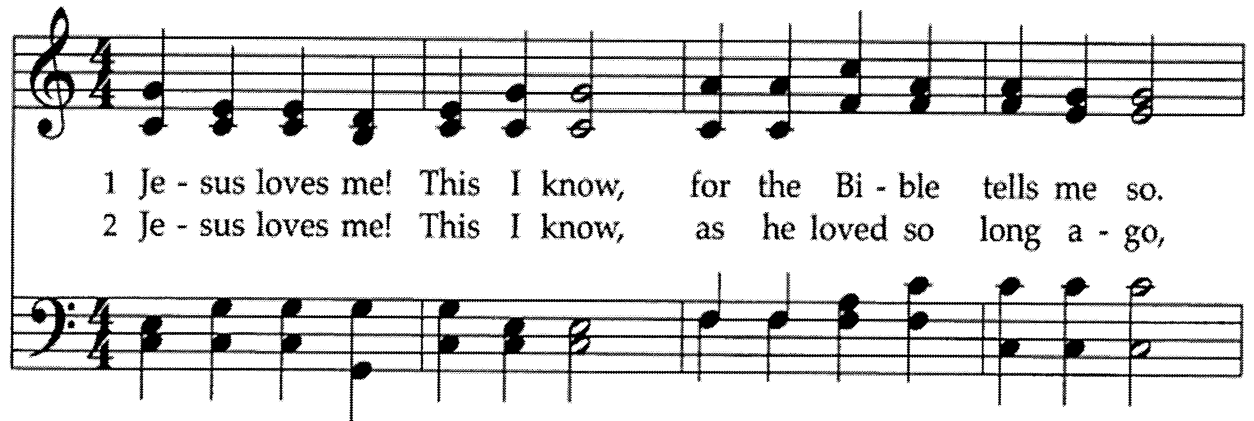
I am weak and I need your strength and power to help me

(A) B^b (D) E^b (D) E^b (D7) E^b7

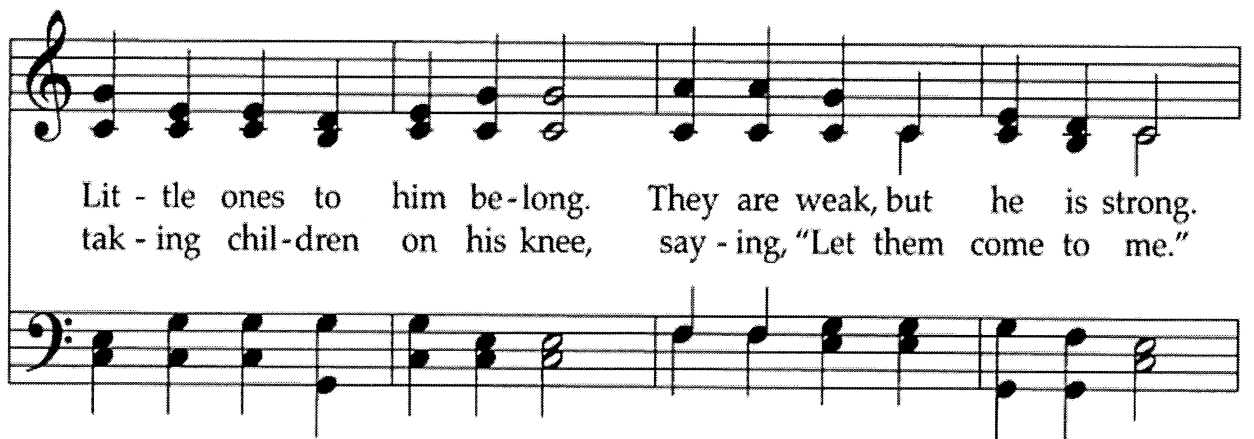
o - ver my weak - est hour. Help me through the dark-ness your

(Em) Fm (D) E^b (A7) B^b7 (D) E^b *to Refrain*

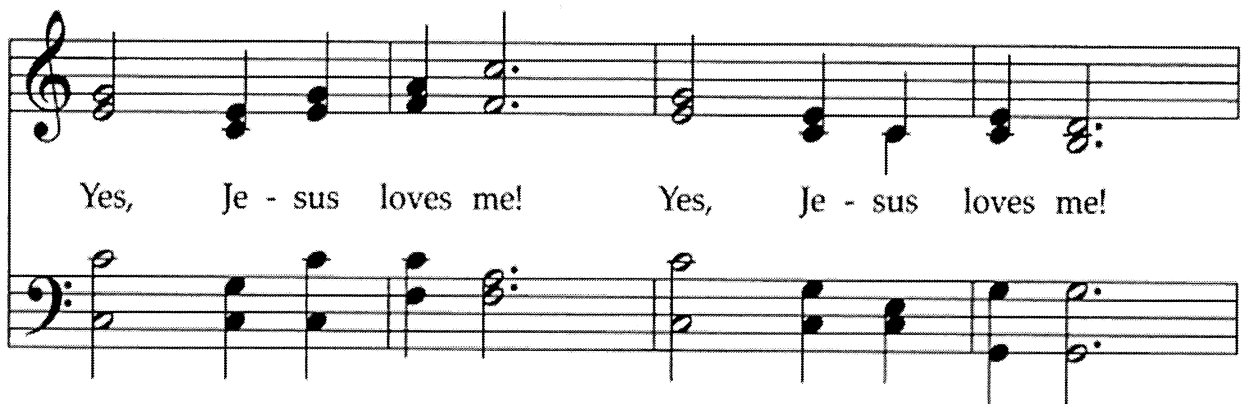
face to see. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.



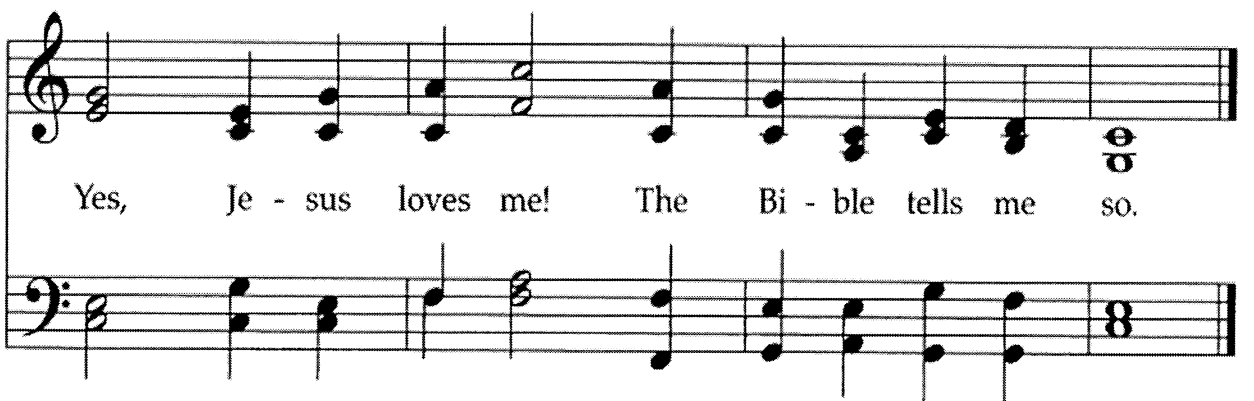
1 Je - sus loves me! This I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so.
2 Je - sus loves me! This I know, as he loved so long a - go,



Lit - tle ones to him be-long. They are weak, but he is strong.
tak - ing chil-dren on his knee, say - ing, "Let them come to me."

Refrain

Yes, Je - sus loves me! Yes, Je - sus loves me!



Yes, Je - sus loves me! The Bi - ble tells me so.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBY

Tuesday, April 27

8:00 p.m. MS Support Group, Social Hall

Wednesday, April 28

8:00 p.m. AA Meeting, Social Hall

Sunday, May 2

10:00 a.m. Worship

11:00 a.m. Children's Sunday School, CE Building

11:15 a.m. The Church God Wants for Us!, Adults in Chapel

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Church God Wants For Us! Today we will begin a six-week Adult Education program designed to explore the past, present, and future of our church. The meeting will be held in the chapel from 11:15 a.m. until noon.

Baby Supplies Drive. ABLE (Advisory Board for Leadership and Engagement) at Clarion University is accepting donations of baby supplies. Items requested include: Lotion, Powder, Bath Products, Q-Tips, Wipes, Diapers, Toys, etc. A donation box is in the Ramp Room. Donations are being accepted now through April 26th. Please consider supporting the university students seeking to serve our community.

Sanctuary flowers are needed for Sunday May 2, 16, and 30. The sign-up poster is in the hall by the church office. Due to flower shortages caused by winter storms earlier this year, the price has risen from \$20 to \$25 (plus delivery and tax). You may call or email the church office regarding those you wish to remember or honor: 226-8145 or churchoffice@clarionpresby.org

The Deacons invite you to join them in their Mending Ministry of kindness and helping out. A service choice board, listing a variety of things you can do to help others, is provided in your bulletin. Using this, consider Jesus Christ's call to service by completing simple actions for community ministry. When you have crossed off 5 or more items, (The items don't need to be in any set pattern of completion.) return the anonymous board to a deacon or the church office. We'll display them to give praise for the things the LORD has done for us and through us. "Called to Serve" are open spaces for you to write your own mending action that isn't on the board. Write a quick note of your ministry. You are welcome to complete as many boards as you feel led. Boards should be handed in by May 31st.

Looking Ahead:

May 9—Mother's Day

May 15—Outdoor Workday (Rain Date May 22)

May 16—Heritage Sunday

ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED

May 23—Pentecost

May 30—Military Recognition

June 6—Honoring Graduates

Our deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Edith May Deitz who was born on September 14, 1932, joined our church January 12, 1958, and entered the church triumphant on April 19, 2021.

NUGGETS OF WISDOM

When they first manufactured golf balls, they made the covers smooth. Then it was discovered that after a ball had been roughed up one could get more distance out of it. So they started manufacturing them with dimpled covers. So it is with life; it takes some rough spots in life to make you go your farthest.

Illustrations Unlimited, p. 12

MEMBER CARE

Please pray for:

- *Members with known health concerns:* Ruth Showers, Fred Port, Jim Young, Dorothy Jean Foreman, Herb & Dee Thrush, Rick Beggs, Mary McCamant, Pat McConnell, Pauline Henry, and Mary Swanger.
- *Our family and friends in need of prayer:* Shirley McKinley's daughter, Charlotte Hartman and nephew, Kenneth Daughtery Jr.; John McKinley's great-nephew, David Mahle; Marianne Reynolds' mother, Alice Davis; former treasurer, Jennifer Hurrelbrink; Carolyn McFarland's brother and his wife, Rick and Janelle Moore; Kristen Maze's uncle, Charles Gamble; Ellen DiBernardo's friend, Barbara Frampton; Pastor Paul's daughter, Helen Abell; Bill and Bonnie Champion's sister-in-law, Norma Stahlman Champion.
- *And all of those serving in the US Military* including members and friends of our own faith family.

Caring Caller member of the week: Please remember Sam Spencer, Edgewood Heights, 612 Keck Avenue, New Bethlehem, PA 16242. His birthday is 5/11.

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 Facebook page.

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 needs, please feel free to contact Pastor Paul Abell at the church office at 226-8145 between 9 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday. You may also email him at pastorpaul@clarionpresyb.org.

For more information visit our website at www.clarionfirstpresby.org.

Find us on Facebook! (First Presbyterian Church of Clarion)

Radio Broadcast-WWCH 1300AM and 94.1 FM every third Sunday of the month at 11:00 a.m.

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).

CHURCH STAFF AND LEADERSHIP

Interim Pastor: Rev. Paul W. Abell, Jr.
Organist: Jean Mitrosky
Director of Music: Bonnie Champion
Treasurer: Brenda Nesbitt
Secretary: Debra Owens
Sexton: Mike Hetrick
Sound Engineer: Josh Deitz
Video Engineer: Dan Willy

Ruling Elders:

<u>Class of 2021:</u>	<u>Class of 2022:</u>	<u>Class of 2023:</u>
Bobbie Cumo	Joe Burns	John Joy
Jeff Kapp	Robin Cable	Bert Louder
Elaine Matticks	Michelle Deitz	Jim McConnell
Marissa Widmer	Cindy Stants	

Deacons:

<u>Class of 2021:</u>	<u>Class of 2022:</u>	<u>Class of 2023:</u>
Doug Bills	Tamalyn Goble	Suellen Gourley
Pam Reid	Mike Hetrick	Cindy Kapp
Dana Solida	Carolyn McFarland	Norma Kooman
Amy Widmer	Debra Owens	

WORSHIP NOTES

Pastor: Rev. Paul W. Abell, Jr.
Lector: Bert Louder
Time with Children: Kara Willy
Director of Music: Bonnie Champion
Organist: Jean Mitrosky
Sound Engineer: Josh Deitz/Jeff Kapp
Video Engineer: Dan Willy
Greeter and Ushers: Dana Solida and Suellen Gourley

Flowers today are in honor of Cindy Stants and Tammy Slike for the ministry they are providing for our children, by Bonnie Champion.

Special thanks to Glenn Beichner for today's special music.

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

Sunday, April 25

10:00 a.m. Worship
 11:00 a.m. Children's Sunday School, CE Building
 11:15 a.m. The Church God Wants for Us!, Adults in Chapel

WEEKLY DEPOSIT SUMMARY

4/19/2021

Envelope Contributions	\$1,826.00
Miscellaneous Cash Contributions	\$91.00
Total Contributions	\$1,917.00
Food Bag Donations	\$251.00
Manse Rent	\$500.00
Total Deposit	\$2,668.00

NOTES

Feel free to use this space to take notes on the sermon, the service or for any personal reminders that may help you in your walk with God this week

APRIL 25, 2021
FOURTH SUNDAY
OF EASTER

taking faith home

As Jesus shepherds us, we shepherd one another.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 10:11-18	The Good Shepherd
Monday	Acts 4:5-12	Peter and John before the council
Tuesday	1 John 3:16-24	Love one another
Wednesday	Genesis 49:22-28	Jacob blesses his sons
Thursday	Mark 6:30-44	Jesus the compassionate shepherd
Friday	Ezekiel 34:20-31	God the true shepherd
Saturday	Psalms 23	The Lord is my shepherd
Sunday	John 15:1-8	Jesus the true vine

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. John 10:11 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God, we thank you for pursuing us with your goodness and mercy all the days of our lives through Christ, our Good Shepherd. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

God of abundance, as a shepherd you provide us with daily food; give us the faith and love to care that others have daily food on their tables, too. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May Jesus the Good Shepherd pursue you with goodness and mercy all the days of your life.



© 2020 Milestones Ministry, LLC. All rights reserved.



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

APRIL 25, 2021

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us

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:

- What does a shepherd do?
- What does Jesus do to shepherd us?
- How can we shepherd fellow Christians in the faith and in daily life?

DEVOTIONS

Read: 1 John 3:16-24.

The Fourth Sunday of Easter is known as the Good Shepherd Sunday. John 10 and Psalm 23 give clear attention to this shepherd theme: However, so does 1 John 3. Just as Jesus, as the Good Shepherd, lays down his life for the sheep (John 10:11), so we as brothers and sisters who follow Jesus are to lay down our lives for one another (1 John 3:16). We lay down our lives—we shepherd one another—by loving one another “in truth and action”—not just words (v. 18). We, as fellow shepherds, abide in the Good Shepherd by believing in Jesus Christ and loving one another with our whole being. As we give thanks for Jesus as the Good Shepherd, we also give thanks that we are surrounded by a community of faith that shepherds one another to believe in Jesus Christ and to lay down our lives for one another. Why is it important that Christians not only care for the needs of the world but also care for each other as followers of Jesus Christ?

Pray: Almighty and living God, strengthen us in faith and love to shepherd one another to live with hope and good courage through Christ, the Good Shepherd. Amen.

SERVICE

Be a servant this week by shepherding someone. Make a visit and listen to the person. Read Psalm 23 together. Talk about what it means to have Jesus as our shepherd and close with the Lord's Prayer.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The sheep listen to the voice of the shepherd. There will be one flock, one shepherd. (John 10:16) If there are children in your home, play “Follow the Leader.” Blindfold the followers and have the leader guide them by using only their voice. Think about what it means to listen to Jesus' voice and to follow him as sheep of the Good Shepherd.

