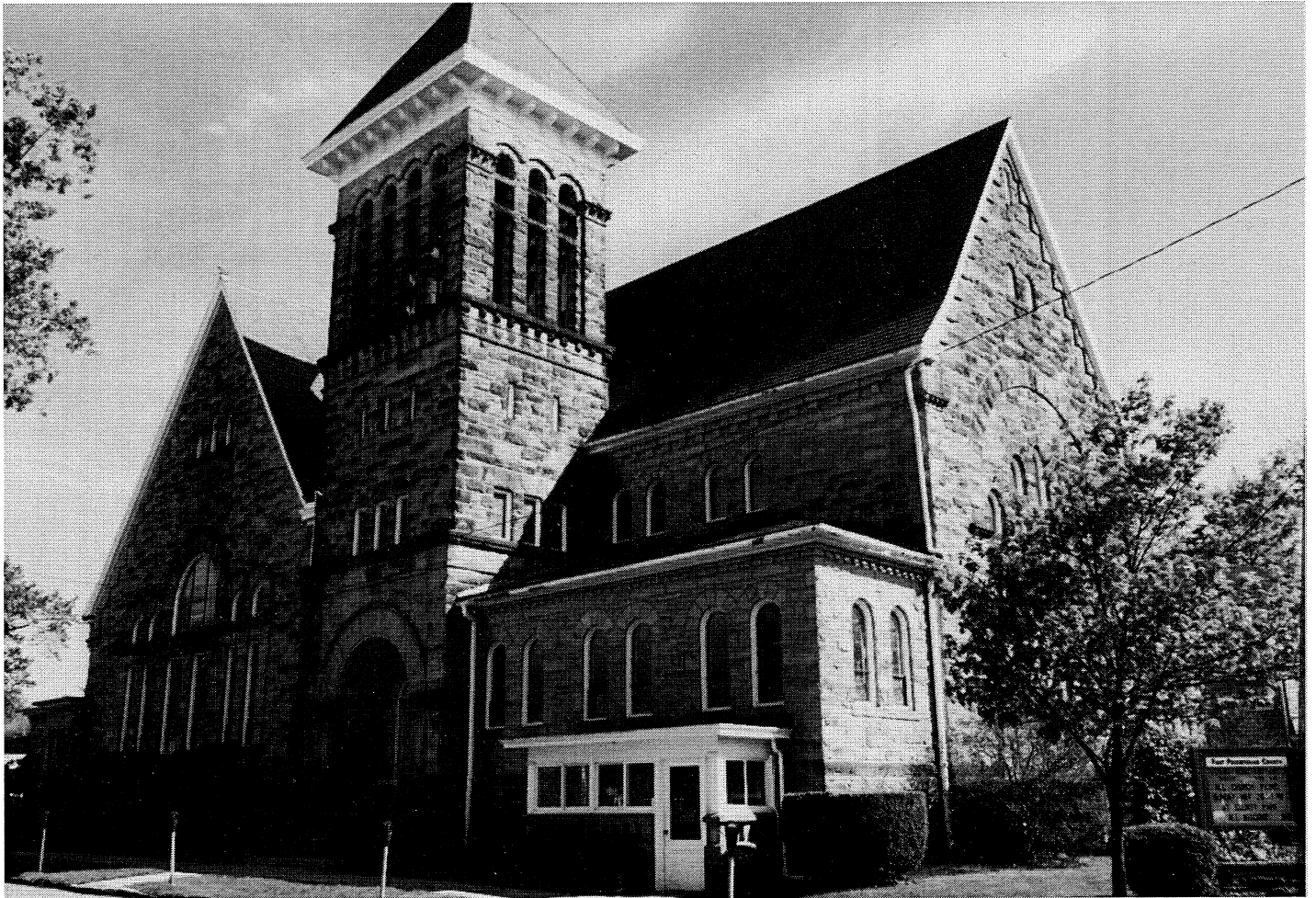


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 2, 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, Bobbi Cumo

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

Prelude

Non Nobis Domine

Wm. Byrd, arr. Robert Powell

"Not to us Lord, not to us, but to Your Name give the glory."

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

Call to Worship

We gather to praise and worship God,
the one who created us for love.

We gather to worship the True Vine,
the one in whose love we abide.

Easter people, Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed!

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

✦ Hymn No. 157

I Danced in the Morning

Text: Carter, 1963

Music: American Shaker melody; adapt. Carter, 1963

Call to Confession

Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess to God and to one another our failure to love our neighbors.

Prayer of Confession

O Christ, you are the true vine, and you have made us your branches. In your grace, we find strength, and in your love, we are set free. Forgive us, O God, when we do not live as people who have been freed, when we act as if the Easter story did not turn the world upside down. Forgive us, O God, when we do not live as people who are your branches, when we forget that we are rooted in you bound to one another by your Spirit. Forgive us, O Christ, our one True Vine, and teach us to abide in you. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

You have already been cleansed by the word that God has spoken to you. In baptism God claimed you and joined you to Christ, as branches to a vine. Believe the promise given to you: in Jesus Christ, you 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

Bobbi Cumo

Scripture Reading

John 15:1-8

(NRSV)

¹ "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ² He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³ You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

Prayer for Illumination
Come Holy Spirit, that through your word we may be guided into the love of God for all the world.
Amen.

Message
Rev. Paul W. Abell, Jr.
“Pruning: A Sign of Hope”

Prayer for Courage

✦ **Hymn No. 246**
Christ Is Alive!
Text: Wren, 1968; rev. 1995
Music: *Musica Sacra*, c. 1778

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
Shine Jesus Shine
(Soloist: Karen Neill)
Graham Kendrick

✦ **Doxology**

Prayer of Dedication

Prayers for the People and The Lord’s Prayer

We Go Forth to Serve

✦ **Hymn No. 765**
May the God of Hope Go with Us
Text: Schutmaat, 1984
Music: Argentine folk melody

✦ **Charge and Benediction**

Postlude
Voluntary on “Slane”
Eugene Butler—Irish Melody

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.

I Danced in the Morning



1 I danced in the morn-ing when the world was be-gun, and I
 2 I danced for the scribe and the Phar - i - see, but
 3 I danced on the Sab-bath and I cured the lame. The
 4 I danced on a Fri - day when the sky turned black. It's
 5 They cut me down and I leapt up high. }



danced in the moon and the stars and the sun, and I
 they would not dance and they would not foll - ow me. I
 ho - ly peo - ple said it was a shame. They
 hard to dance with the dev - il on your back. They
 I am the life that will nev - er, nev - er die. I'll



came down from heav - en and I danced on the earth. At
 danced for the fish - er - men, for James and John. They
 whipped and they stripped and they hung me high, and
 bur - ied my bod - y and they thought I'd gone, but
 live in you if you'll live in me, ?



Beth - le - hem I had my birth.
 came with me and the dance went on.
 left me there on a cross to die.
 I am the dance and I still go on.
 I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.

Refrain (F#m) (Bm) (F#m) (Bm) (D) (Bm)
Am Dm Am Dm F Dm

Dance, then, wher-ev - er you may be; I am the Lord of the

(Em) (A) (D) (Bm) (D) (A7) (D)
Gm C F Dm F C7 F

Dance, said he, and I'll lead you all, wher-ev - er you may be,

(Em) (A7) (D) (G) (D)
Gm C7 F Bb F

and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

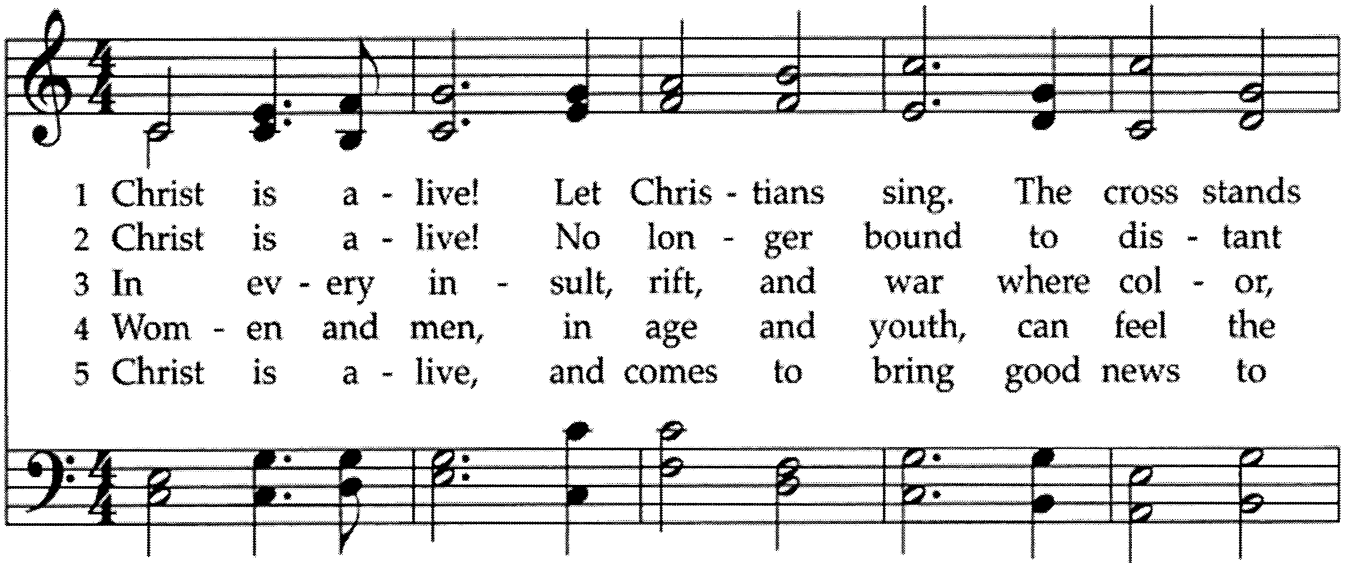
Dance, then, wher-ev - er you may be; I am the Lord of the

Dance, said he, and I'll lead you all, wher - ev - er you may be,

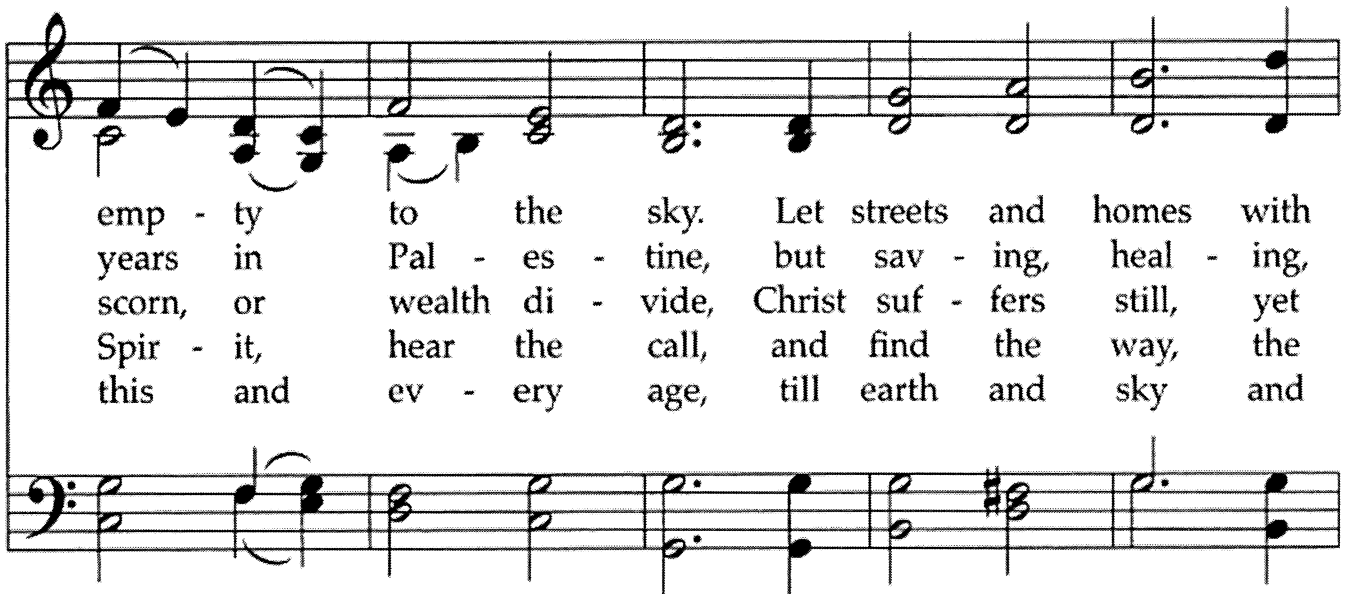
and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

Christ Is Alive!

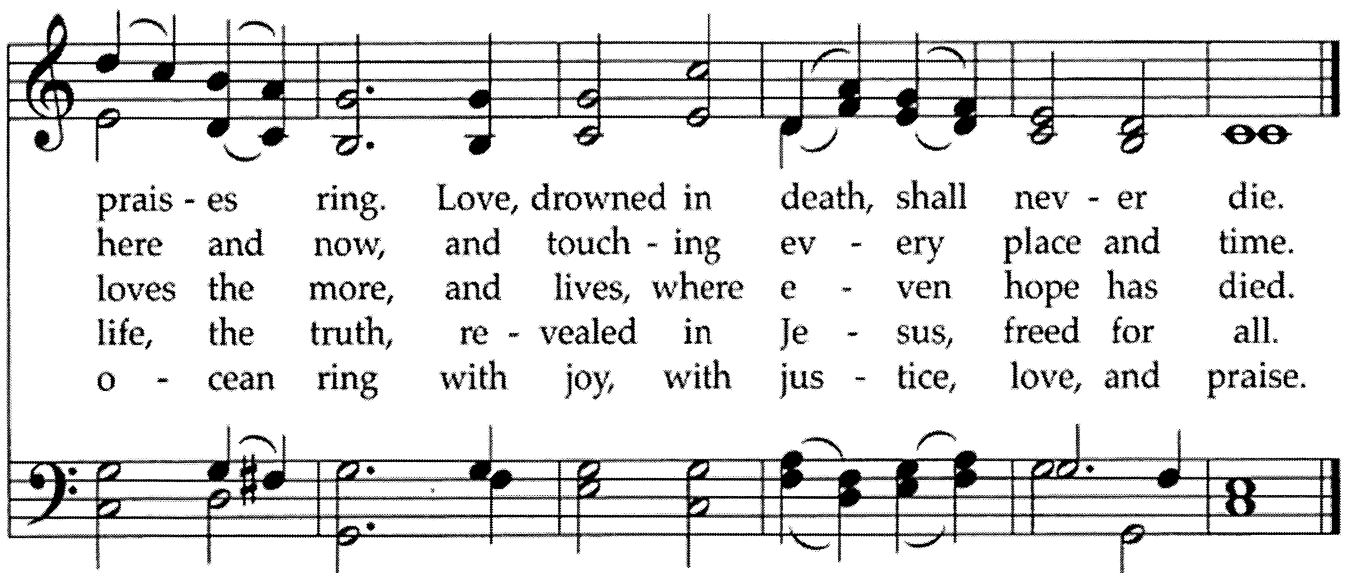
246



1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands
 2 Christ is a - live! No lon - ger bound to dis - tant
 3 In ev - ery in - sult, rift, and war where col - or,
 4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the
 5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to



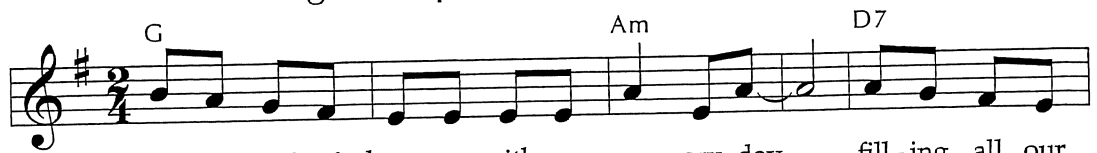
emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
 years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,
 scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet
 Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the
 this and ev - ery age, till earth and sky and



prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.
 here and now, and touch - ing ev - ery place and time.
 loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.
 life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.
 o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

May the God of Hope Go with Us 765

Song of Hope / Canto de esperanza



May the God of hope go with us ev - ery day, fill - ing all our
¡Dios de la es - pe - ran - za, da - nos go - zo y paz! Al mun - do en



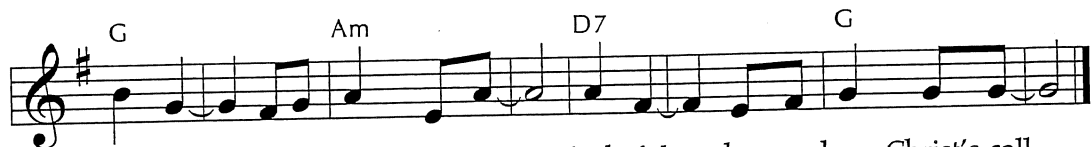
lives with love and joy and peace. May the God of jus - tice speed us
cri - sis, ha - bla tu ver - dad. Dios de la jus - ti - cia, mán - da -



on our way, bring - ing light and hope to ev - ery land and race.
nos tu luz, luz y es - pe - ran - za en la os - cu - ri - dad.



Pray - ing, let us work for peace; sing - ing, share our joy with all;
O - re - mos por la paz, can - te - mos de tu a - mor.



work - ing for a world that's new, faith - ful when we hear Christ's call.
Lu - che - mos por la paz, fie - les a ti, Se - ñor.

This Argentine folk melody sets Spanish and English words, both created by a PC(USA) missionary with much Latin American experience. The two versions complement each other: the Spanish text offering a prayer to God, and the English one providing inspiration for the singers.

TEXT: Alvin Schutmaat, 1984
MUSIC: Argentine folk melody

ARGENTINA
11.11.11.11 with refrain

**MAY 2, 2021
FIFTH SUNDAY
OF EASTER**



Perfect love casts out fear.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 15:1-8	Jesus the true vine
Monday	Acts 8:26-40	Phillip and the eunuch
Tuesday	1 John 4:7-21	God is love
Wednesday	Isaiah 41:8-10	The Lord's chosen servant
Thursday	1 Peter 5:6-11	Tending the flock of God
Friday	Deuteronomy 31:6-8	Joshua becomes Moses' successor
Saturday	Psalms 22:25-31	A vow of thanksgiving
Sunday	John 15:9-17	Love one another

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love.

1 John 4:18 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of love, free us from fear so that we may love others as you have loved us through Christ Jesus. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for this gift of food. Help us to show care for others and remember that we love because you first loved us through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen. (1 John 4:19)

A Blessing to Give:

May God who loves you dearly, free you from your fears so that you may love others.



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MAY 2, 2021

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Where True Charity and Love Abide



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:

- Talk or think about a time you were afraid.
- How is fear and feeling judged closely related?
- How does God's love for you free you from fear so that you can love others?

DEVOTIONS

Read: 1 John 4:7-21.

It is so tempting to protect and defend one's own life by judging others. Christ's model of love and love is to defend the cause, the needs of others, not oneself or one's own group. The love of God in Christ is sacrificial, it gives itself for others. The God of love casts out fear so that we can truly see others and care for them, knowing that we have already been cared for and loved by God. This love is totally freeing, without fear, without anxiety. The God of the day of judgment has already judged us with love. This is love perfected and the love we are now free to bestow on others—all others. Love is our way to see and experience God in the world. Hating others and loving God does not go together. Where in your life and in the world do you see that this great love needs to be known and experienced?

Pray: Loving God, help us to see with the eyes of faith and love that we may witness to your power and glory through our risen Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

SERVICE

Jesus' model for us is to care for others, especially the helpless. There are many who are in need of food, clothing, housing, and medical supplies. Can you think of ways you can help those in need?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

In John 15:5, Jesus says, "I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing." It is by being joined to Jesus, the true vine, that we bear the fruit of Jesus. Draw a vine and branches. Add leaves and fruit to the end of each branch. In what ways do you show God's love and kindness to others? Write those ways on the fruit. Look at your drawing this week and pray that you will produce fruit and show God's love to others.



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

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBY

Tuesday, May 4

7:00 p.m. Deacons, Zoom

Wednesday, May 5

1:00 p.m. Caring Callers, Ministry Central

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

Thursday, May 4

5:30 p.m. Food Bag Ministry, Parlor

Sunday, May 9 Mother's Day

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

Monday, May 10

7:00 p.m. Worship Team, Zoom

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Church God Wants For Us! Meets in the Chapel from 11:15 until noon. This adult group is exploring topics related to where our church came from, where it is now, and where we want to be in the future.

Sanctuary flowers are needed for Sunday May 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

Caring Callers will meet in Ministry Central this Wednesday at 1:00 p.m. in order to utilize the Wi-Fi connection.

The Deacons' Sharing Cupboard item for May is a box of stuffing mix. Our focus this year is helping the Food Bag Ministry. This will be distributed in the Food Bags handed out for May. Please have your donation in by Sunday, May 16th.

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 available in the Ramp Room. 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

NUGGETS OF WISDOM

*"I am able to do all things through
God who strengthens me."*

"God ... makes everything good that is good, makes himself to be loved. He does it as follows: first, God blesses us with his protection. When we live free from trouble we are happy, but in our pride we may conclude that we are responsible for our security. Then, when we suffer some calamity, some storm in our lives, we turn to God and ask his help, calling upon him in times of trouble. This is how we who love ourselves first begin to love God. We will begin to love God even if it is for our own sake. We love God because we have learned that we can do all things through him, and without him we can do nothing."

(From: Devotional Classics, Bernard of Clairvaux, Four degrees of Love, p. 42)

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 Louise Swarm, Clarion Health Care & Rehab Center, Rm 193, Clarion, PA 16214 as her birthday is May 10th.

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:	Bobbi Cumo
Time with Children:	Bobbi Cumo
Director of Music:	Bonnie Champion
Organist:	Jean Mitrosky
Sound Engineer:	Josh Deitz/Jeff Kapp
Video Engineer:	Dan Willy
Greeter and Ushers:	Norma Kooman, Dana Solida

Flowers today are in observance of Mental Health Awareness Month and in memory of my father, Ron McEntire (5-6-78) and mother, Pat Steward (2-3-21), by Lori Smith.

Special thanks to Karen Neill for today's special music.

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

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

WEEKLY DEPOSIT SUMMARY

4/26/2021

Envelope Contributions	\$930.00
Miscellaneous Cash Contributions	<u>\$115.45</u>
Total Contributions	\$1,045.45
Food Bag Donations	\$900.00
Head Start Rent—May	\$1,245.00
AA Rent April	\$20.00
Flowers	<u>\$51.00</u>
Total Deposit	\$3,261.45

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