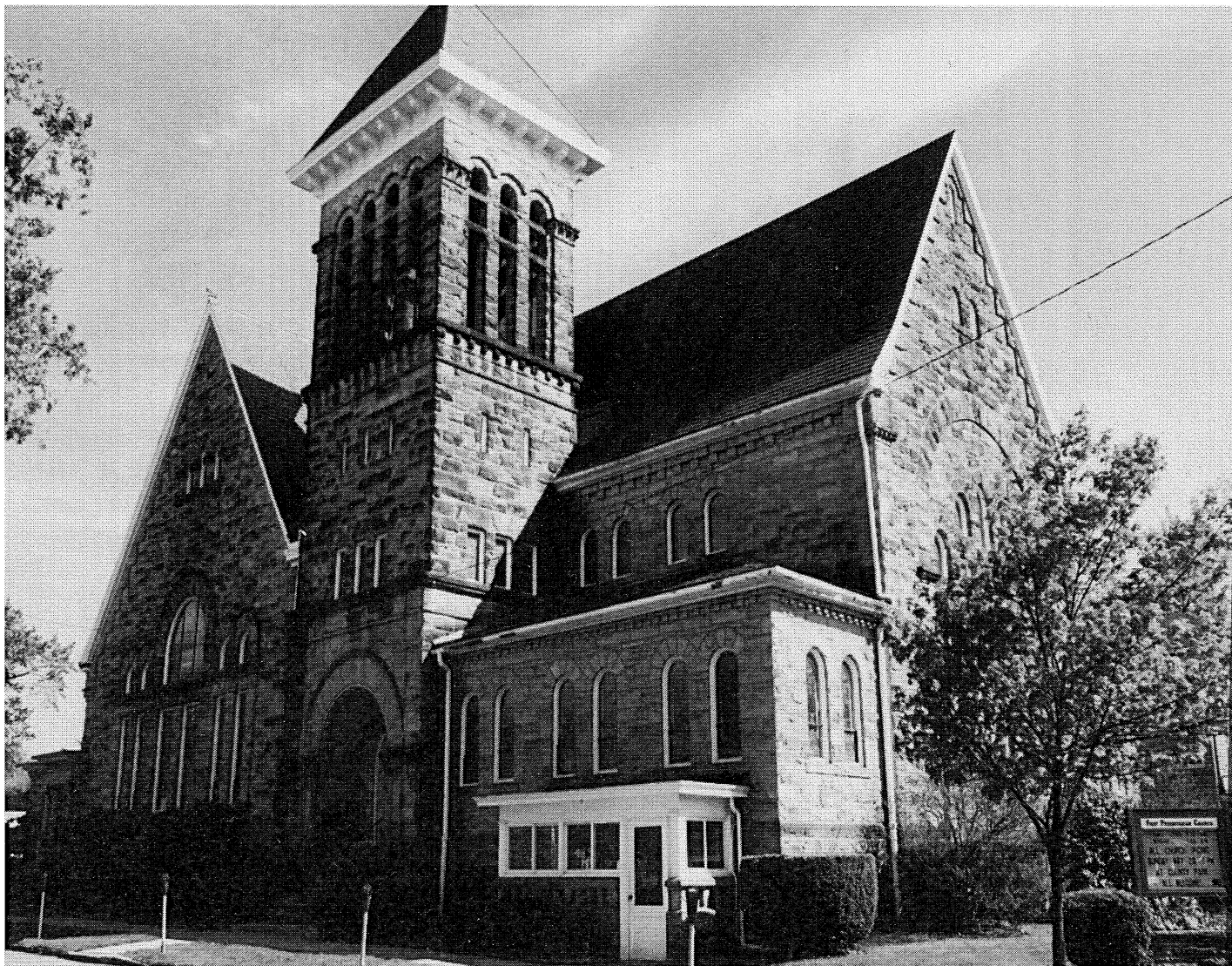


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



*13th Sunday after Pentecost
September 4, 2022*



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.

PER THE SESSION, MASKS ARE NOW OPTIONAL UNLESS YOU HAVE AN UPPER RESPIRATORY AILMENT.

We Gather in God's Name

(Tune your car radio to 88.7 FM)

Welcome and Announcements

Lector, John Joy

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

Prelude

Andante Cantabile
(from String Quartet Op. 11)

Tchiakovsky

Chiming of the Trinity

Call to Worship

With endless creativity,
God forms and shapes our lives.
Each of us bears the image of our maker.
Each of us is made in love.

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.

✦ Hymn No. 69

I, the Lord of Sea and Sky
(*Here I am, Lord*)

Text & Music: Schutte, 1981, alt.

Call to Confession

Jesus calls us to follow him, knowing that the path is difficult and that sin lurks at every turn. Trusting in God's mercy, let us seek forgiveness, that we may follow more nearly in the way of Jesus.

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

O God, you have given us a firm foundation in Jesus Christ, yet we have chosen to build on sinking sand. The works of our hands crumble around us, and our best efforts are not good enough; sin is real, and we are powerless before it. Forgive us for thinking we know best. Mend our broken values and create in us hearts that seek your purposes, so that what we build with our lives may give you glory. Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

Jesus accompanies us on life's journey, offering abundant mercy and bountiful forgiveness along the way. This is good news! **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**

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

✦ Gloria Patri

✦ Passing of the Peace

We Share God's Word

Time with the Children

Jeff Deitz

Prayer for Illumination

God of Wisdom, open us to the work of your Spirit, that we may hear and faithfully respond to your holy Word. **Amen.**

Sermon

"Many Things, One Answer"

Jeff Deitz

Scripture Reading

John 3:16

(p. 94)

¹⁶ "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life."

The Gospel of Christ.
Praise be to you, O Christ!

✦ Hymn No. 410

God Is Calling through the Whisper

Text: Bringle, 2003
Music: Polish carol

We Give Thanks to God

✦ Affirmation of Faith

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Call for the Offering

Offering and Offertory

I Saw the Light
(Duet: Jeff & Cindy Kapp)

African American spiritual

✦ 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. 697

Take My Life

Text: Havergal, 1874
Music: Malan, 1827

✦ Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Faith of Our Fathers
(Tune: St. Catherine)

arr. Gerhard Krapf

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 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 Congregational Care, please reach out to Elders Bert Louder (814) 758-0455 or Robin Cable (814) 221-1528.

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).

WORSHIP NOTES

Guest Preacher: Jeff Deitz
Lector: John Joy
Time with Children: Jeff Deitz
Director of Music: Bonnie Champion
Organist: Jean Mitrosky
Sound Engineer: Josh Deitz/Jeff Kapp
Video Engineer: Dan Willy
Acolytes: Emma Willy, Aubrie Scovel, and Gavin Kunselman
Ushers in Charge: Marianne Reynolds, Lee Seitz, and Doug Bills

We warmly welcome Jeff Deitz to our pulpit this morning. Jeff grew up in this church and became an Elder in the late 1980s. He is a member of our vocal and handbell choirs. He also is a member of the New Bethlehem Barbershop Chorus.

Special thanks to Jeff and Cindy Kapp for providing today's special music.

Flowers today are given to the glory of God and in memory of Richard & Vesta Moore's anniversary, by Carolyn McFarland.

CHURCH STAFF AND LEADERSHIP

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 2022:</u>	<u>Class of 2023:</u>	<u>Class of 2024:</u>
Joe Burns	John Joy	Kathy Larimer
Robin Cable	Bert Louder	Elaine Matticks
Michelle Deitz	Jim McConnell	Pam Reid
Cindy Stants		

Deacons:

<u>Class of 2022:</u>	<u>Class of 2023:</u>	<u>Class of 2024:</u>
Tamalyn Goble	Suellen Gourley	Bonnie Champion
Mike Hetrick	Cindy Kapp	Marianne Reynolds
Carolyn McFarland	Norma Kooman	Mary Swanger
Debra Owens		

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

10:00 a.m. Worship
 11:00 a.m. Sunday School (Children in CE Bldg, Adults in Chapel)
 11:00 a.m. Vocal Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

WEEKLY DEPOSIT SUMMARY

8/29/2022

Envelope Contributions	\$1,110.00
Miscellaneous Cash Contributions	\$23.00
Total Contributions	\$1,133.00
Men's Fellowship	\$20.00
Food Bags	\$100.00
Jefferson-Clarion Head Start Rent September	\$1,245.00
Parking Permits	\$675.00
Misc. Income—CC Reimbursement	\$1.00
Total Deposit	\$3,174.00

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBY

Monday, September 5 Labor Day

The Church Building and Office will be closed.

Tuesday, September 6

6:00 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous, Step Down Room

Wednesday, September 7

12:00 p.m. Caring Callers, Ministry Central

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

Thursday, September 8

12:00 p.m. Afternoon Circle, Chapel

5:00 p.m. Echoes of Joy Bells, Choir Room

6:00 p.m. Joyful Bells, Choir Room

Next Sunday, September 11

9:30 a.m. Adult Choir Practice

10:00 a.m. Worship—Tamalyn Goble

11:00 a.m. Sunday School (Children, CE Building)

11:00 a.m. Adult Choir Practice

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Per the Session, masks are now optional unless you have an upper respiratory ailment. Please note that CDC guidance may result in future changes.

Matters of congregational care are being handled by Elders Bert Louder (814) 758-0455 and Robin Cable (814) 221-1528.

Vocal Choir rehearsal resumes today, September 4th. We will rehearse after worship today and begin participating in worship next week, September 11.

Sunday School resumes on September 11th. It will continue to be held after worship.

September Women's Fellowship Meetings:

Morning Circle meets on the second Wednesday (9/14) at 10:00 a.m. in the Parlor; **Afternoon Circle** meets the second Thursday (9/8) at 12 noon in the Chapel (bring your own lunch); and **Evening Circle** will now meet the **third Tuesday, September 20th at 7:00 p.m.** We will meet at the home of Bonnie Champion to determine what direction to go in our Bible study and to enjoy fellowship around an evening fire!

September Food Bag Distribution is Thursday, September 15, from 2:00—4:00 p.m. or supply runs out, whichever happens first.

Men's Fellowship is back!!!! Men's Fellowship/Breakfast will resume in September. Meetings will be held in **our Social Hall in the third Saturday of the month:** September 17, October 15, and November 19. Breakfast is at 8:00 a.m., followed by a speaker. If you have an idea for a speaker,

ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED

please contact Bill Champion. There will not be a breakfast meeting in December.

ALF (Autumn Leaf Festival) is fast approaching. Men's Fellowship is seeking your help to park cars during Craft Day on Friday, September 30th and to work in the concession stand on Saturday, October 1st. Contact Bill Champion to volunteer. Also, on Saturday, October 1st, Food Bags/Mission needs volunteers to park cars. Contact Deb Owens in the Church Office to sign up.

ALF Parking Passes for Craft Day and Parade Day will go on sale September 1st!! Parking is still \$10 for the entire day. Passes will be available for purchase in the Church Office for both days.

Fall Parking Permits for weekday student parking are still available in the church office, Mon.-Thurs., 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. and Fridays 9:00 a.m. to noon. Free to church members and their children, \$100.00/semester for non-members the first semester, \$75.00/semester thereafter. Guaranteed space, no driving around before class!

Peacemaking Offering As Presbyterians, we view peace as a core part of our identity and calling as believers. It is a central declaration of the gospel, calling us to model our lives in the pattern of the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ. This special PC USA offering will be collected until Oct. 2; envelopes will be provided in a future bulletin and on the Usher's table at worship. Together, we can transform cultures of violence into communities of peace.

MEMBER CARE

Please pray for:

- *Members with known health concerns:* Fred Port, Randy Cable, Jim & Pat McConnell, Carol L'Insalata, Judy Montgomery, and Mike Hetrick
- *Our family and friends in need of prayer:* Shirley & John McKinley's relatives: Mary Biser, Charlotte Hartman, Kenneth Daugherty Jr., Ben McKinley, and David Mahle; Carolyn McFarland's relatives: Rick & Janelle Moore; Mary Kay Arth; Kristen Maze's neighbor Laurie Dickey; Bob & Paula Bowersox; Beverly Wentling's daughter, Rebecca Irwin; Pat & Jim McConnell's friend, Pat Hargest; Bert Louder's grandson, Anthony Louder; and Ron Alberta.
- *And all of those serving in the US Military* including members and friends of our own faith family.

Caring Caller members of the week: Please remember Dave Steward, 320 Mayfield Road, Unit H, Clarion, PA 16214-4063.

SEPTEMBER 4, 2022 THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST taking faith home

Love for all the saints.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 14:25-33	The cost of being a disciple
Monday	Deuteronomy 30:15-20	Choose life, not death
Tuesday	Philemon 1:1-21	Philemon's love and faith
Wednesday	Psalms 82:1-5	A plea for justice
Thursday	John 15:12-17	Jesus the true vine
Friday	Philippians 2:1-11	Imitating Christ's humility
Saturday	Psalms 1	The way to happiness
Sunday	Luke 15:1-10	The lost sheep and the lost coin

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus.

Philemon 1:4-5 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Loving God, help us to treat all people with respect and honor that together we may bring healing to the church and to society, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

For life and health and every good, we give you thanks for this, our food. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God watch over you and give you peace and courage.



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SEPTEMBER 4, 2022 HYMN OF THE WEEK *Behold, What Manner of Love* 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 words would you use to describe your family?
- Who do you consider to be your brother/sister in Christ and why?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Philemon 1:1-21.

This letter truly focuses on the power of the law of love. Paul gives us the founding principle to free the lives of others. Onesimus was a runaway slave who was imprisoned with Paul. Philemon was his master. Philemon had the legal right to have Onesimus killed as his runaway slave. However, Paul is requesting Philemon to treat Onesimus as a brother, just as Paul has treated Onesimus as a son. He uses language of being part of the same family. Paul wants a brother in Christ to treat a slave not as property but as a saint, that is, a fellow believer in Christ. Paul could have demanded this of Philemon, but the law of love makes Paul's approach one of free consent, not domination. With Philemon free to make the call, Onesimus can be freed to be a brother, a fellow heir with Paul and Philemon. Through the gospel of Christ, the law of love heals broken relationships in church and society.

Discuss: How can caring for one another in the body of Christ bring freedom and fairness to all people?

Pray: **Loving God, free us to care for others as you care for us through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and the theme for this week, how can you show God's law of love to someone?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Jesus said, "*Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple*" (Luke 14:27). This isn't easy. It means that we sometimes have to do things that are hard or that we don't want to do. Think or talk about what this means for you. Make a small cross out of pipe cleaners or wire and carry it in your pocket this week as a reminder of Jesus' words.

Pray: **Lord Jesus Christ, free me of all that keeps me from following you. Amen.**



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