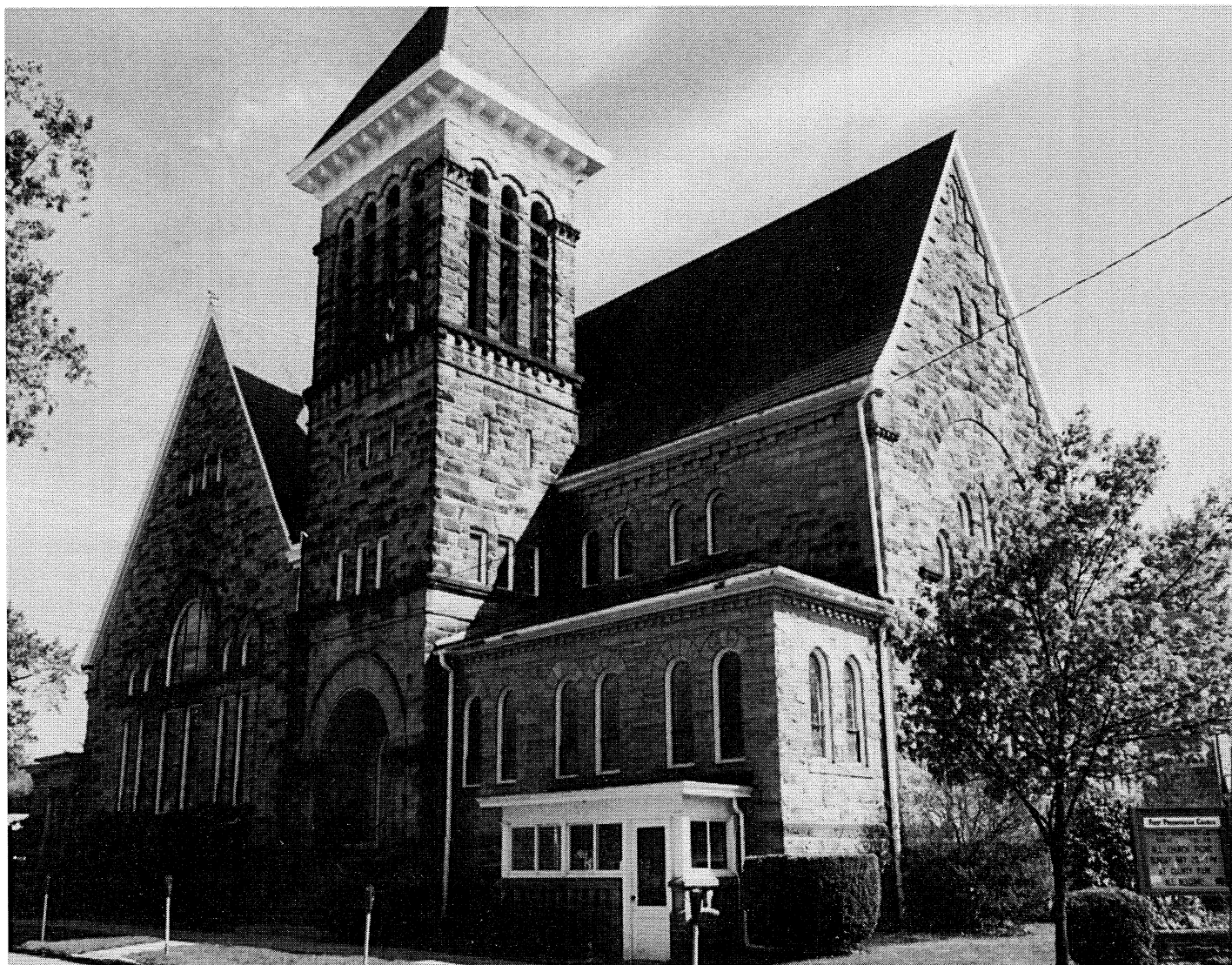


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



*17th Sunday after Pentecost
World Communion Sunday
October 2, 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, Robin Cable

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

Prelude

Let Us Break Bread Together

arr. Franklin D. Ashdown

Chiming of the Trinity

Introit

You Are My Strength When I Am Weak

Dennis L. Jernigan

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

Call to Worship

All around the world, people rise to greet the morning and sing praise to the Creator.

All over the earth, people hold hands around a table and offer thanks.

All around the globe some cry for food, some are filled with laughter.

All around the world, all search for truth,
hearts hear a sacred melody and yearn for peace.

Throughout this day, across many lands,
brothers and sisters touch the bread of life and drink the cup of joy.

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

✠ Hymn No. 39

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Text: Chisholm, 1923

Music: Runyan, 1923

Call to Confession

The proof of God's amazing love is this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. And because we have faith in Him, we can approach the throne of God's grace with confidence. So, in humility and faith, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Risen Savior, you call us to your table of grace to enjoy your presence, to experience your healing, to be made one with your people of every time and place. But we dare not come to the table with dirty hands and sin-stained hearts. Only your forgiveness can make us clean within. We confess we have edged you to the fringes of our lives as we become occupied with countless so-called "urgent" matters. We confess we have fooled ourselves into believing we are too busy to pray and too exhausted to serve. We have devised clear justifications for ignoring the poor and avoiding those in despair. Forgive us, dear Lord, and help us to do better. Help us order our days and our deeds according to your will. Open our hearts to the needs of those who cannot return our favors. Grant us pardon, and comfort us with the assurance of your Spirit. Then shall we be free to celebrate your feast of love with the saints of this and every time and place. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

The love of God is from everlasting to everlasting. Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ. And Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, and Christ reigns in power for us, and Christ prays for us. Friends, believe the 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

Rev. Rebecca Mihm

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture

Lamentations 1:1-6; 3:19-26

(p. 762)

Sermon

“Pep Talk”

Rev. Rebecca Mihm

✦Hymn No. 498

Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken

Text: Stuempfle, Jr., 2005
Music: The Sacred Harp, 1984

We Give Thanks to God

✦Affirmation of Faith

Adapted from the Heidelberg Catechism, 4.080

The Lord’s Supper declares to us that all our sins are completely forgiven through the one sacrifice of Jesus Christ, which he himself accomplished on the cross once for all. It also declares to us that the Holy Spirit grafts us into Christ, who with his true body is now in heaven at the right hand of the Father where he wants us to worship him.

Call for the Offering

Offering and Offertory

This Do in Remembrance of Me

Judy Hunnicutt

✦Doxology

✦Prayer of Dedication

The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving and The Lord’s Prayer

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Words of Institution

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

We thank you God for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ, and have received Christ’s gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth your praise in our lives. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

We Go Forth to Serve

✦Hymn No. 305

Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!

Text & Music: Sleeth, 1986

✦Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Marilyn Thompson, St. Denio

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.

It is our tradition in this church family to hold each element until everyone has received, and then partake together. (Gluten free bread is in the containers in the center of the plates.)

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.

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).

CHURCH STAFF AND LEADERSHIP

Pastor: Rev. Rebecca Mihm
Organist: Jean Mitrosky
Director of Music: Bonnie Champion
Treasurer: Brenda Nesbitt
Secretary: Debra Owens
Sexton: Jeff Kapp/Cindy Kapp
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		

WORSHIP NOTES

Pastor: Rev. Rebecca Mihm
Lector: Robin Cable
Time with Children: Rev. Rebecca Mihm
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: Doug Bills, Bill Champion, and Amy Widmer

We warmly welcome our new Pastor, Rev. Rebecca Mihm, to our pulpit today. Plans are being made for her official installation to take place later this month. She is a graduate of Geneva College and Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

Flowers today are given to the glory of God and in honor of Pastor Rebecca Mihm, by Bonnie and Bill Champion.

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

10:00 a.m. Worship
 11:00 a.m. Sunday School
 11:00 a.m. Adult Vocal Choir

WEEKLY DEPOSIT SUMMARY

9/26/2022

Envelope Contributions	\$1,770.00
Miscellaneous Cash Contributions	<u>\$214.00</u>
Total Contributions	\$1,984.00
Mission	\$100.00
Food Bags	\$125.00
Men's Fellowship	\$550.00
Head Start Rent—October	<u>\$1245.00</u>
Total Deposit	\$4,004.00

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.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBY

Tuesday, October 4

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

Wednesday, October 5

12:00 p.m. Adult Lunch Study, Chapel

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

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

Thursday, October 6

5:00 p.m. Echoes of Joy Bell Rehearsal

6:00 p.m. Joyful Bells Rehearsal

Next Sunday, October 9

9:30 a.m. Adult Choir Practice

10:00 a.m. Worship

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

11:15 a.m. Adult Sunday School, Chapel

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.

Newsletter Deadline: Have news from your family or ministry team to share? Please contact Deb in the church office by October 10 for inclusion in the Nov-Dec edition of The First Press.

The 2022 Per Capita Apportionment for the Clarion First Presbyterian Church is \$34.38 per individual active member. This funds our work as a connectional church at the Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly levels. An envelope has been included in the 2022 envelope packets for the annual cost for each church member. Please make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church and write Per Capita in the memo line.

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. Today is the last day this special PC USA offering will be collected; envelopes are available at the Usher's table in the Ramp Room. Together, we can transform cultures of violence into communities of peace.

Adult Lunch Study continues Wednesday, October 5th at noon. If you can't attend Sunday School after worship because you have commitments in the choir, bells, or teaching Children's Sunday School, here is your chance! Meet and study Hope with other adults. Please contact the

ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED

Church Office (814) 226-8145 to register so we can have material for everyone. If you cannot meet at noon on Wednesdays, please request a home study packet.

A BIG thank you to all who helped with the Men's Fellowship fund raiser Friday and Saturday. I appreciate those who helped park cars on Friday, helped set up the concession stand, baked cookies and cinnamon rolls, provided chili sauce, and worked the concession stand. I also appreciate those who gave donations. You have made possible our ability to provide less fortunate families at Christmas they might not have had otherwise. Bill Champion

Remember the story in Mark of the paralyzed man? His friends brought him to Jesus. Sometimes we are on the mat and sometimes we are carrying the mat. Thank you for carrying the mat for me—with your prayers, get well wishes and visits (food). This is what a community of love does! And I am blessed to be a part of this church family. Thank you. God's blessing on all of you, Judy and Ron Montgomery.

MEMBER CARE

Please pray for:

- *Members with known health concerns:* Fred Port, Randy Cable, Jim & Pat McConnell, Carol L'Insalata, and Judy Montgomery.
- *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; Ron Alberta; and Deb Owens' sister, Lee Proctor.
- *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 Virginia Motzer, 161 S. 2nd Avenue, Clarion, PA 16214.

OCTOBER 2, 2022

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY

AFTER PENTECOST

taking faith home

The righteous live by faith.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 17:5-10	Faith the size of a mustard seed
Monday	Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4	The righteous live by faith
Tuesday	2 Timothy 1:1-14	Thanksgiving and encouragement
Wednesday	Romans 1:16-17	The power of the gospel
Thursday	Galatians 3:10-14	Faith is the only way
Friday	Hebrews 10:32-39	A call to persevere
Saturday	Psalms 37:1-9	Trust the Lord
Sunday	Luke 17:11-19	One leper gives thanks to God

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Look at the proud! Their spirit is not right in them, but the righteous live by their faith. Habakkuk 2:4 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSINGS

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, give us the confidence to trust in your justice and loving presence now and always through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

God of our future, we thank you for this food that gives us the strength we need to serve others in love as we place our trust in you through Jesus Christ. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. (2 Timothy 1:13)



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OCTOBER 2, 2022

HYMN OF THE WEEK

O Holy Spirit, Enter In

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 have you seen, read, or heard about that seems unfair and unjust?
- When something bad happens, where do you feel God is in that moment?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4.

The prophet, Habakkuk is complaining and wondering: why do the wicked prosper? This is an age-old question. Life is just not fair. Violence and destruction continue and the righteous look doomed. God's answer is "*the righteous live by their faith*" (Habakkuk 2:4b). This text is also quoted in Romans 1:17, Galatians 3:11, and Hebrews 10:38. These few words hit an important chord for New Testament faith. Faith in God involves the "long game," not routine experiences of victory after victory. History is full of moments where God's law and justice are overshadowed by the din of evil. God's answer to Habakkuk is now our answer received through faith in Christ. Hang in there with faith in God. God's way will win the day, even if it doesn't appear so now. The apostles in Luke 17:5 say to the Lord, "*increase our faith!*" It's not about the quantity of faith we have. It's about the qualities of the God in whom we place our trust.

Discuss: When life seems unfair, how do you rely on your faith in God?

Pray: God of the ages, when our confidence is low, when we see wickedness, remind us again and again that in Christ we can rely on your faithfulness now and always. 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 support someone who feels they have been treated unfairly?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Jesus told a parable about the kingdom of God by comparing faith to a small mustard seed. (Luke 17:5-10). Cut an apple in half and count the seeds. Talk about what would happen if each seed became a tree and produced countless apples. Now compare your faith to a seed and name the ways you can bear fruit for the kingdom of God. Conclude by praying: **Lord God, help us to trust in you and bear fruit that gives glory to you and serves the work of your kingdom through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**



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