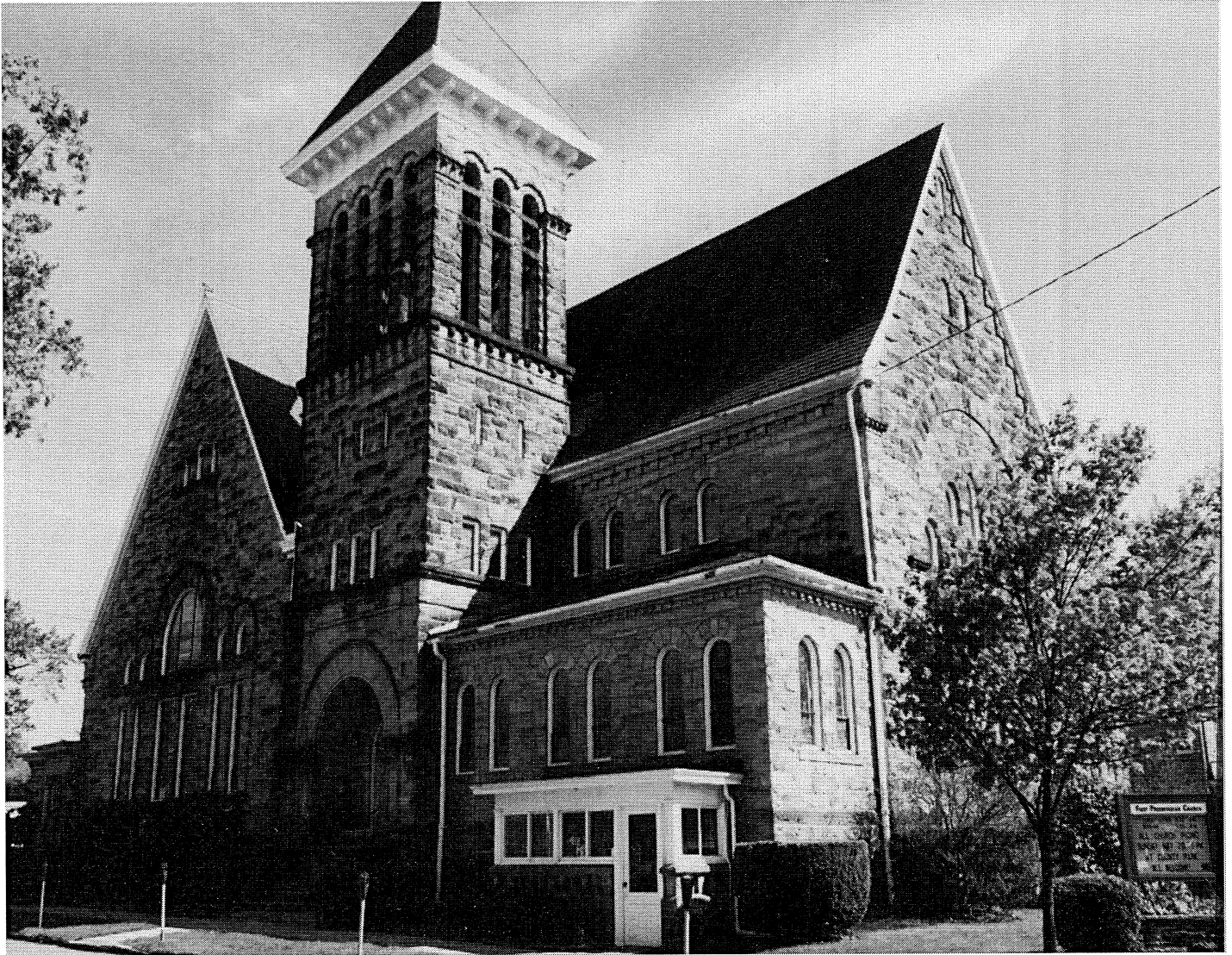


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



*18th Sunday after Pentecost
October 9, 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)

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

Welcome and Announcements

Lector, Robin Cable

Prelude

Toccata (from Fiori Musicali)

Gerolamo Frescobaldi

Chiming of the Trinity

Introit

Ten Lepers Facing Constant Scorn

Thornburg & Pavlechko

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

Call to Worship

Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them.

Full of honor and majesty is his work,
and his righteousness endures forever.

He has gained renown by his wonderful deeds;
the LORD is gracious and merciful.

The fear of the lord is the beginning of wisdom;
all those who practice it have a good understanding.

His praise endures forever.

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

✦ Hymn No. 179

Ten Lepers Facing Constant Scorn

Text: Thornburg, 1995

Music: Pavlechko, 1993

Call to Confession

Remember that our great high priest, the Lord Jesus, can sympathize with us in our weaknesses, since in every way he was tempted as we are, yet without sin. Because of this, we can approach the throne of God's grace with boldness, to seek to get rid of those things that drag us down, and hurt others, to seek God's mercy, and to receive God's grace in our times of need. With that in mind, let us confess our sins before God.

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Wondrous God, forever seeking us, willing to forgive us, we should be amazed at your grace. Yet how often we ignore your presence. We focus on keeping life in control, in balance, and get angry at the interruptions, the problems that ruin our plans and mess up our days. We never entertain the thought that you may be speaking to us in the turmoil, in the messiness of life. We are so bent on our desires and our plans that we squeeze you out. Holy God, you are there in all the circumstances of life. Open our eyes; help us come to our senses and trust your guiding hand. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. Because of what Jesus did for us, we are forgiven. May the God of mercy, who forgives our sin, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, keep us in eternal life. 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

Luke 17:11-19

(p. 80)

Second Scripture

2 Kings 5:1-15c

(p. 336)

The words of scripture, inspired by God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Rebecca Mihm

“Grace”

✠ Hymn No. 797

We Cannot Measure How You Heal

Text: Bell and Maule, 1989

Music: Scottish melody, arr. Bell, 1989

We Give Thanks to God

✠ Affirmation of Faith

Adapted from the Westminster Confession of Faith, 6.055

God in infinite and perfect love, having provided in the covenant of grace, through the mediation and sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ, a way of life and salvation, sufficient for and adapted to the whole lost race of humankind, doth freely offer this salvation to all in the gospel.

Call for the Offering

Offering and Offertory

We Will Give Thanks

Mark Patterson

✠ 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. 649

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

Text: Newton, 1772

Music: *Columbian Harmony*, 1829; arr. Excell, 1910 alt.

✠ Charge and Benediction

Postlude

The Solid Rock

William B. Bradbury

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

Flowers today are given to the glory of God, and in memory of Roberta Tobicyzk, by her daughter Elaine Matticks.

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

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

WEEKLY DEPOSIT SUMMARY

10/03/2022

Envelope Contributions	\$3,795.00
Miscellaneous Cash Contributions	<u>\$291.00</u>
Total Contributions	\$4,086.00
Mission	\$405.00
Food Bags	\$730.00
Men's Fellowship	\$2,484.50
Peacemaking Offering	<u>\$160.00</u>
Total Deposit	\$7,865.50

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

Monday, October 10

7:00 p.m. Worship,

Tuesday, October 11

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

Wednesday, October 12

10:00 a.m. Morning Circle, Parlor

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

3:30 p.m. Deacons Meeting, Chapel

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

Thursday, October 13

12:00 p.m. Afternoon Circle, Chapel

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

6:00 p.m. Joyful Bells Rehearsal

Saturday, October 15

8:00 a.m. Men's Fellowship Breakfast, Social Hall

Next Sunday, October 16

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 10th for inclusion in the Nov-Dec edition of The First Press.

Adult Lunch Study continues Wednesday, October 12th 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. Class meets in the Chapel at noon.

Deacons Meeting is Wednesday, October 12th at 3:30 p.m. in the Chapel.

The Men's Fellowship will be hosting a breakfast on Saturday, October 15th at 8:00 a.m. in the Social Hall. If you plan to attend please contact Bill Champion at 814-764-3886. Come and enjoy good food and a dynamic speaker.

Thanks to all who helped with Parade Day parking last week! It was wonderful to have the help of Robin Cable, Juanita Smart, Kathy Larimer, and Mary Swanger to sell

ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED

passes and park cars. Many thanks to Michelle and Jeff Deitz for the loan of their canopy to keep us dry during the rainy periods. Also many thanks to the "committee" of folks who helped us set up the canopy and then take it down, including Dave Larimer and Charlie Siegel. Bill Champion, the loan of the cash box was awesome! Thanks also to the person(s) who brought out and put away the table we used. Special thanks to Keaton Stants who took down all the string barriers and put away all those heavy, weighted poles used to mark off the lot. Mission and Food Bags are splitting the proceeds, the final total should be available next week.

If you are interested in joining the church, please contact Pastor Rebecca: in the church office (814) 226018145 or by email pastorrebecca@clarionfirstpresby.org

MEMBER CARE

Please pray for:

- *Members with known health concerns:* Fred Port, Randy Cable, Jim & Pat McConnell, and Carol L'Insalata.
- *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.

Homebound Member of the Week: Please remember Herb Thrush, Highland Oaks at Water Run, Rm. 303, 300 Water Run Road, Clarion, PA 16214.

OCTOBER 9, 2022 EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST taking faith home

God's wisdom strengthens the powerless.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 17:11-19	One leper gives thanks to God
Monday	2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c	Elisha heals Naaman
Tuesday	2 Timothy 2:8-15	A good soldier of Christ Jesus
Wednesday	Psalms 46:1-7	God is our mighty fortress
Thursday	James 3:13-18	Wisdom from above
Friday	Isaiah 40:27-31	The Lord gives strength
Saturday	Psalms 111	Praise God for wonderful works
Sunday	Luke 18:1-8	Parable of the persistent widow

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever.

Psalms 111:10 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of power and might, may your wisdom that lifts up the powerless and humbles the powerful guide us each day of our lives through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for this gift of food; give us wise hearts to know that all good things come from your goodness and mercy through Christ Jesus. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May you trust in God and receive a wise heart.

OCTOBER 9, 2022 HYMN OF THE WEEK On Eagle's Wings 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:

- How would you describe someone who is wise?
- How is the wisdom of God different than the wisdom of people in leadership?

DEVOTIONS

Read: 2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c.

How God chooses to act stands in stark contrast to how we act toward one another. In ancient times, people bowed down to the powerful, barely able to look up or speak. Naaman, who is an important and powerful leader from Aram (Syria), has leprosy. The king of Israel fears Naaman's position and threatening presence. However, a slave girl who was captured out of the land of Israel speaks with a voice worth hearing. Her simple and honest words lead Naaman to Elisha, the great prophet of Israel, to be healed of his leprosy. Elisha, who doesn't even bother to address Naaman in person, provides a simple and easy request for Naaman to be cleansed in the River Jordan. This humiliates and infuriates Naaman's pride. While Naaman is offended, his own servants convince him to do as requested, and he is healed. The God of Israel is then acknowledged for the greatness due the Lord, and nameless and powerless servants deliver the wisdom and power of God.

Discuss: How has the wisdom of God spoken to you from an unlikely source?

Pray: **God of the powerless, help us to rejoice in your wisdom and strength that speaks and works through the lives of those often overlooked and unseen, through Christ Jesus our Healer. 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 honor those often not recognized for their abilities and wisdom?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Jesus healed ten lepers. Only one of them thanked Jesus. (Luke 17:11-19). As God's people, we are called to count our blessings each day and give thanks to God. Take time this week in your home, at work, or at school to say thanks to others who have been kind, thoughtful, and contributed positively to your life or the lives of others. Then pray: **Dear God, you have blessed us with so much. We ask that we be given thankful hearts, through our Lord Jesus. Amen.**



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



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