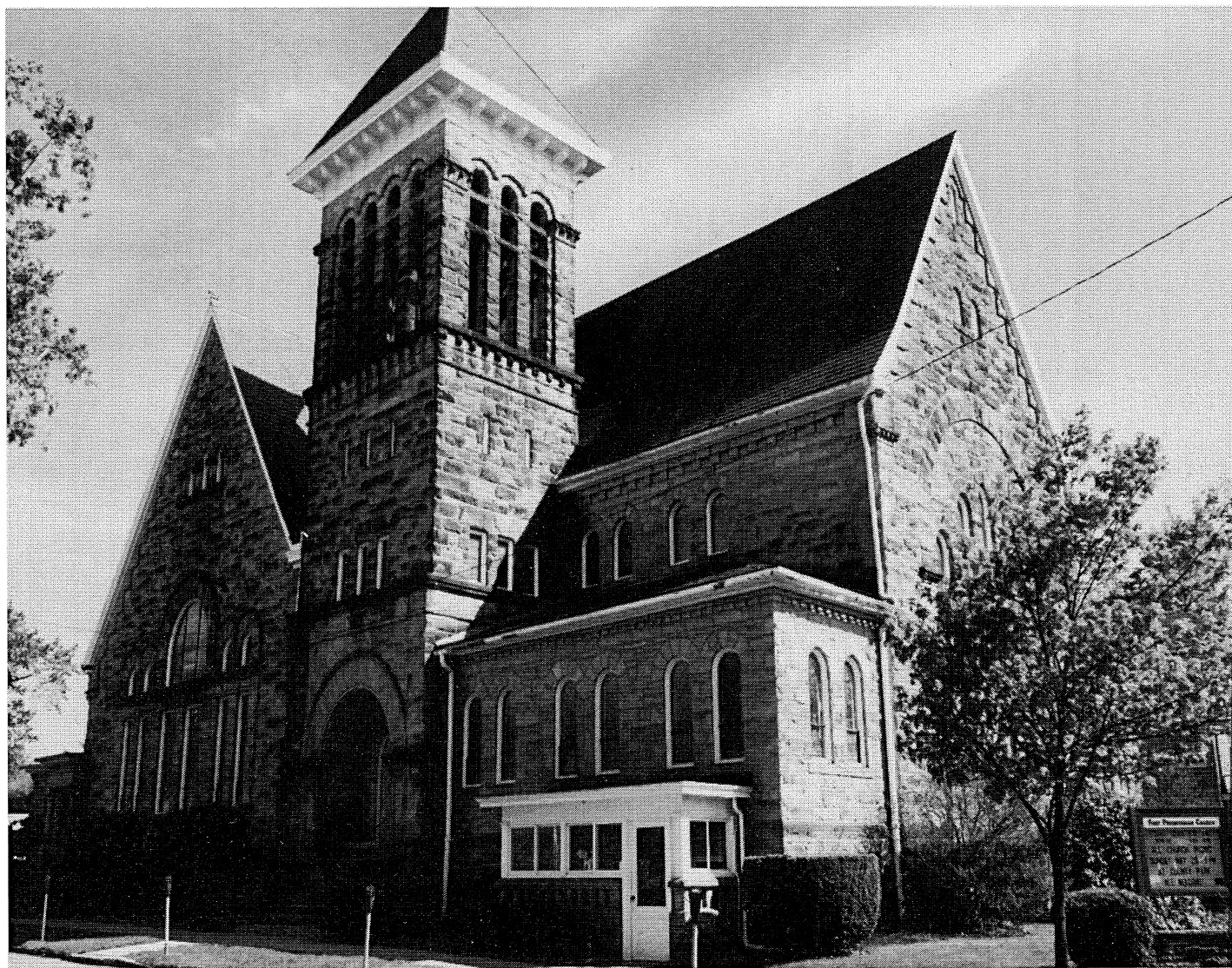


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



*19th Sunday after Pentecost
October 16, 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

Sweet Hour of Prayer

arr. James Southbridge,
William Bradbury

Chiming of the Trinity

Introit

Open Your Ears, O Faithful People

Willard F. Jasbuch,
Hasidic melody

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

Call to Worship

Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near.

Let the wicked forsake his ways, and the unrighteous their vain thoughts. Let us together return to the Lord.

Incline your ears, and come near; hear, and your souls shall live,

For as the rain comes down, and fails not to bring forth fruit; so shall his words be upon us, to the praise of his glorious grace.

Let us praise the Lord.

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

✦Hymn No. 453

Open Your Ears, O Faithful People

Text: Jasbuch, 1966
Music: Hasidic melody

Call to Confession

Gathered before the throne of God's infinite mercy, let us lay aside the weight and the sin that clings so closely, and confess our need for grace. With that in mind, let us confess our sins before God.

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Persistent and loving God, you are forever drawing near to us, always calling us to follow, faithfully beckoning us to trust you in the deeper waters. Yet how often we choose easier paths, and turn away from your voice. We see our limitations but not your assurance of blessing. We wallow in guilt and refuse to believe the Good News of forgiveness. We move so fast we miss your summons in the beauty of the day, the words of a friend, the hope amidst discouragement. Calling God, speak to our hearts, lift us from despair, and place us on the path of discipleship. Again and again. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

Jesus endured the cross and disregarded its shame for the sake of the joy that was set before Him. That joy is our salvation. His joy is our freedom. 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 18:1-8 (p. 81)

Second Scripture Psalm 119:97-104 (p. 569)
The words of scripture, inspired by God.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon “God’s Word” Rev. Rebecca Mihm

✦Hymn No. 458 Thy Word Is a Lamp unto My Feet Text: Grant, 1984
Music: Smith, 1984

We Give Thanks to God

✦Affirmation of Faith Adapted from the Larger Catechism 7.114
The Scriptures manifest themselves to be the Word of God, by their majesty and purity; by the consent of all the parts, and the scope of the whole, which is to give all glory to God; by their light and power to convince and convert sinners, to comfort and build up believers unto salvation. But the Spirit of God, bearing witness by and with the Scriptures in the heart of man, is alone able fully to persuade it that they are the very word of God.

Call for the Offering

Offering and Offertory I Lift My Eyes John Carter

✦Doxology

✦Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

We Go Forth to Serve

✦Hymn No. 459 O Word of God Incarnate Text: How, 1867, alt.
Music: Columbian Harmony, 1829; arr. Excell, 1910 alt.

✦Charge and Benediction

Postlude The Power and the Glory Roy E. Nolte

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.

POSTLUDE
Please remember at the close of the service to remain quiet and seated until the conclusion of the Postlude, which marks the end of the worship service.

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:	Bill Champion, Taamalyn Goble, and Kristen Maze

Flowers today are given to the glory of God, and in honor of Valerie Melia's birthday, by her friend Kristen Maze.

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

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

WEEKLY DEPOSIT SUMMARY

10/11/2022

Envelope Contributions	\$1,805.00
Miscellaneous Cash Contributions	\$88.00
Total Contributions	\$1,893.00

Mission	\$950.00
Food Bags	\$170.00
Men's Fellowship	\$90.00
Total Deposit	\$3,103.00

Online Donations

Envelope Contributions	\$290.00
Food Bags	\$75.00
Men's Fellowship	\$25.00

Online Giving	\$390.00
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NOTES:

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBY

Tuesday, October 18

- 6:00 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous, Step Down Room
7:00 p.m. Evening Circle, Cindy Stants

Wednesday, October 19

- 12:00 p.m. Adult Lunch Study, Chapel
7:00 p.m. Session Meeting, Chapel
8:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous, Step Down Room

Thursday, October 20

- 2:00 p.m. Food Bag Distribution, CE Lobby
5:00 p.m. Echoes of Joy Bell Rehearsal
6:00 p.m. Joyful Bells Rehearsal

Next Sunday, October 23

- 9:30 a.m. Adult Choir Practice
10:00 a.m. Worship
—Congregational Meeting
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 CONTINUED

October 30th is Reformation Sunday. During that morning's worship service, we will process the banners that represent the confessions used through the history of the Presbyterian Church. Each banner's depiction of a confession will be explained during the service.

The First Press Newsletter for November/December 2022 will be mailed out at the end of this month.

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.

A Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, October 23, 2022 following the worship service for the express purpose of electing officers and to adopt proposed changes to the corporate bylaws of the church.

Adult Lunch Study continues Wednesday, October 18th 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.

Session meets Wednesday, October 19th at 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel.

Food Bag Distribution is Thursday, October 20th at 2:00 p.m. If you wish to help with shopping, packing bags, or organizing and handing out bags, please get in touch with Elaine Matticks.

Mark your calendar for 3:30 p.m. October 30th, when Pastor Rebecca's installation service will be held. The service will be followed by a reception, hosted by the Deacons.

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 Ruthie Showers, Clarion Health Care & Rehab Center, Room 193, 999 Heidrick Street, Clarion, PA 16214.

OCTOBER 16, 2022
NINETEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

taking
faith
home

Do not lose heart.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 18:1-8	Parable of the persistent widow
Monday	Genesis 32:22-31	God renames Jacob
Tuesday	2 Timothy 3:14-4:5	Paul's instruction to Timothy
Wednesday	Psalms 31:19-24	A prayer for protection
Thursday	Ephesians 3:7-13	Paul's ministry to the Gentiles
Friday	Hebrews 12:1-12	The example of Jesus
Saturday	Psalms 121	Assurance of God's protection
Sunday	Luke 18:9-14	A Pharisee and tax collector pray

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. Luke 18:1 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, for those lives torn by injustice and pain, give us faith to pray always and to trust in you, through Jesus Christ, the one who comes in glory at the end of time. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear Lord, we thank you for the gift of this food and that you neither slumber nor sleep but watch diligently over us to keep us safe. Amen. (Psalm 121:4-8)

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord Jesus keep watch over you and protect you always.

OCTOBER 16, 2022
HYMN OF THE WEEK
*Lord, Let My Heart Be
Good Soil*

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:

- Talk or think about a time when you or someone you know faced something that was unfair.
- What gives you courage to go on when unfairness seems to win time and again?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Luke 18:1-8.

Jesus is telling us in this parable: *"Keep the faith; keep praying for the reign of God; don't become complacent with an unjust world."* This parable of the persistent widow is a good example of why we should not use Jesus' parables as analogies comparing God to us. We certainly don't want to see God as an unjust judge. The point is that if even an unjust judge can give in to the persistence of the widow, how much more will our merciful God listen to and respond to our cries for help. What begins as a call to pray constantly, ends as a focus on faith itself. When Christ, the Son of Man returns, will he see faith on earth? Faith is expressed as a constant prayer to God for the justice and mercy of God.

Discuss: When is a time you have prayed without ceasing for God's justice and mercy?

Pray: Come, Lord Jesus, come into our world and into our lives that we may pray without ceasing for your power and justice and not lose heart. Amen.

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week and the theme, who do you know that is "losing heart" and how can you pray for them?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

In Genesis 32:28 God changes Jacob's name to *Israel* which means, *"you have striven with God and with humans and have prevailed."* We don't often see our lives of faith as wrestling with God, yet that is exactly what God honors and expects from us. This week, question God in your prayers, asking, "Lord, how come . . . ?" Let this questioning of God's intent be an example of building a strong and trusting relationship with God. Conclude by praying the Lord's Prayer.