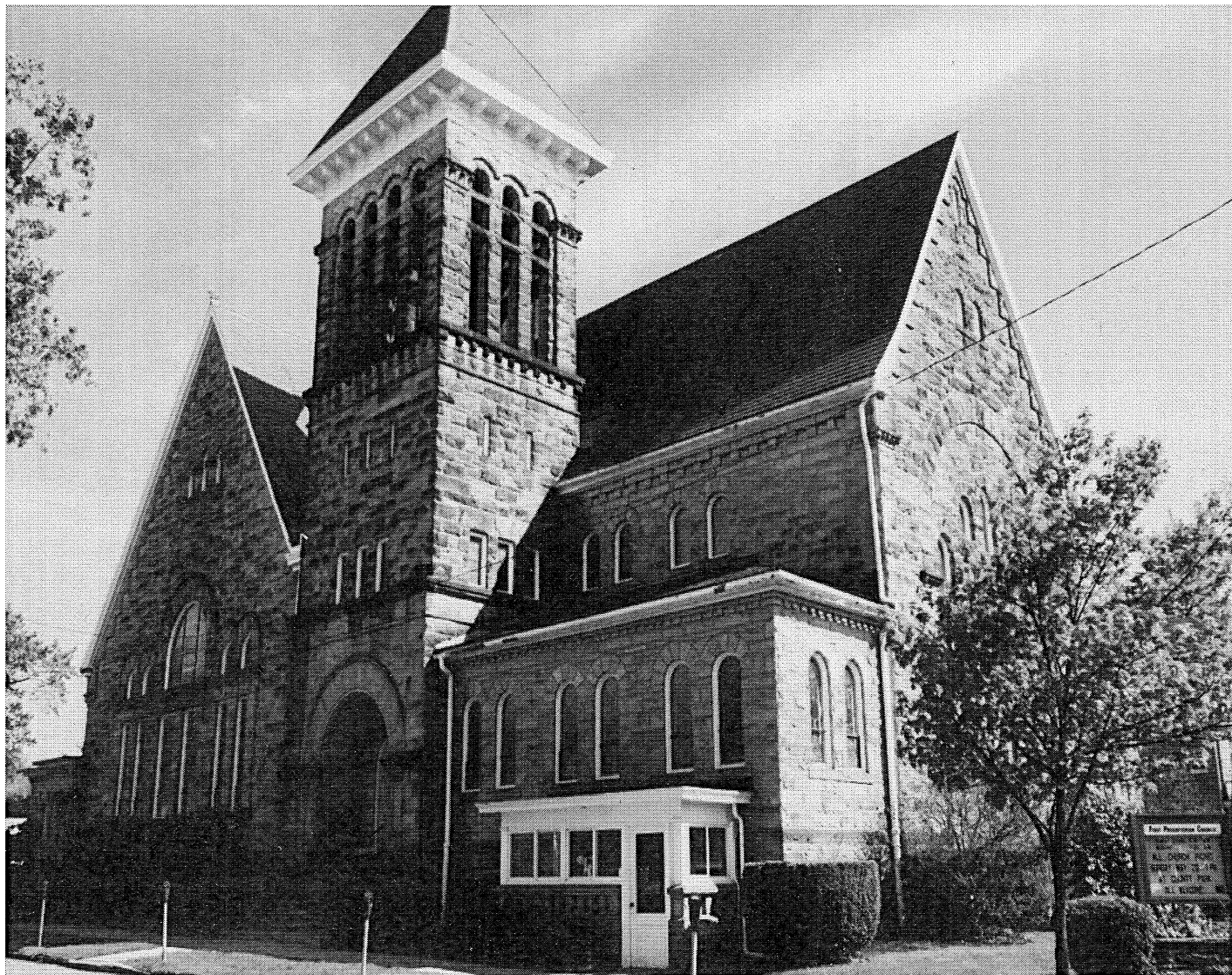


First Presbyterian Church



Second Sunday After Epiphany

January 14, 2024



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)

Second Sunday after Epiphany

Welcome and Announcements

Lector, Pam Reid

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

Prelude

Prayer (with chimes)

Ethel B. Clarke

Chiming of the Trinity

Introit

Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song

Text & Music: Les Petites Soeurs de Jesus

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

Call to Worship

The boy Samuel heard God's voice in the night.

We come listening for God's voice.

God knew us before we knew ourselves.

We come listening for God's voice.

Our minds, bodies, and souls belong to God.

We come listening for God's voice.

We come to this place to listen and follow.

Let us worship God!

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

✦ Hymn No. 450

Be Thou My Vision

Text: Irish poem; trans. Byrne, 1905; vers. Hull, 1912, alt.
Music: Irish ballad; harm. Evans, 1927

✦ Call to Confession

Scripture tells us that if we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. But, if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive us our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. So, in humility and faith, let us confess our sins to God.

✦ Prayer of Confession (Unison)

God of abundant mercy, you embodied love for us in the life of Jesus Christ. You ate with sinners and shared with outcasts. You loved with boldness and healed with grace. Forgive us, O God, when we do not trust your love: when we doubt whether we are worthy of your care. Forgive us, O God, when we try to cheapen love: when we limit it to shallow feelings instead of bold actions. Help us, O God, when we cannot feel your love, when we are isolated, afraid, and unable to see your presence. Forgive us, O God, of the ways we fall short. Free us to try again, and let your love lead the way. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

✦ Declaration of Forgiveness

Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ. And Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, 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

We Share God's Word

Time with the Children

Rev. Rebecca Mihm

Prayer of Illumination Pam Reid

First Scripture 1 Samuel 3:1-10 (p. 247)

Second Scripture John 1:43-51 (p. 92)

The words of scripture, inspired by God.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon "Skeptic" Rev. Rebecca Mihm

Organ Interlude

✦ Hymn No. 265 *Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun* Text: Watts, 1719, alt.
Music: Attr. Hatton, c. 1793

We Give Thanks to God

✦ Affirmation of Faith *5.112 The Second Helvetic Confession*

Christian faith is not an opinion or human conviction, but a most firm trust and a clear and steadfast assent of the mind, and then a most certain apprehension of the truth of God presented in the Scriptures and in the Apostles' Creed, and thus also of God himself, the greatest good, and especially of God's promise and of Christ who is the fulfilment of all promises.

Call for the Offering

Offering and Offertory *The Summons* John Bell

✦ 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. 69 *I, the Lord of Sea and Sky* Text & Music: Schutte, 1981, alt.

✦ Charge and Benediction

Postlude *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms* Anthony J. Showalter,
arr. Marianne Kim

POSTLUDE

Please remember at the close of the service, the Postlude is a time to silently reflect on God and the mission to which we are called. We ask that you please remain silent and seated until the music has ended.

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 more information visit our website at www.clarionfirstpresby.org.

Find us on Facebook! (First Presbyterian Church of Clarion)

Radio Broadcast-WWCH 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).

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CHURCH STAFF AND LEADERSHIP

Pastor: Rev. Rebecca Mihm
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 2024:</u>	<u>Class of 2025:</u>	<u>Class of 2026:</u>
Kathy Larimer	Jeff Deitz	Norma Kooman
Elaine Matticks	Jeff Kapp	Dave Larimer
Pam Reid	Kurt Nesbitt	Cindy Stants

Deacons:

<u>Class of 2024:</u>	<u>Class of 2025:</u>	<u>Class of 2026:</u>
Bonnie Champion	Kim Lewis	Robin Cable
Marianne Reynolds	Lee Seitz	Tamalyn Goble
Mary Swanger	Lori Smith	Joey Kunselman

WORSHIP NOTES

Pastor: Rev. Rebecca Mihm
Lector: Pam Reid
Time with Children: Rev. Rebecca Mihm
Director of Music: Bonnie Champion
Organist: Jean Mitrosky
Sound Engineer: Josh Deitz/Jeff Kapp
Video Engineer: Dan Willy/Kurt Nesbitt
Acolytes: Gavin Kunselman, Clara Stants, Jeremy Willy
Ushers in Charge: Kim Lewis, Lori Smith, and Tammy Slike

The Sanctuary flowers today are given to the glory of God, and in memory of Richard Kooman, by Norma Kooman.

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

10:00 a.m. Worship
11:00 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Confirmation Class
11:00 a.m. Choir Practice

WEEKLY DEPOSIT SUMMARY

1/8/2024

Weekly Contributions 1/8/24

Envelope Contributions	\$2,575.00
Miscellaneous Cash Contributions	\$78.00
Per Capita	\$960.40
Total Contributions	\$3,613.40

Weekly Donations 1/8/24

Rental 1st Quarter AA	\$60.00
Food Bag	\$325.00
Blessing Box	\$300.00
Miscellaneous (Reimbursement for Circle Boosk)	\$75.00
Men's Fellowship	\$120.00
Total Contributions	\$880.00

Total \$4,493.40

Online Donations Dec 2023, Deposited Jan 2024

Offering Contributions	\$357.29
Total	\$357.29

Grand Total \$4,850.69

NOTES:

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBY

Monday, January 15

6:00 p.m. Community Team, Sisterhood Room

7:00 p.m. Session, Chapel

Tuesday, January 16

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

Wednesday, January 17

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

Thursday, January 18

10:00 p.m. Morning Circle

5:00 p.m. Echoes of Joy Practice

6:00 p.m. Joyful Bells Practice

Saturday, January 20

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

Next Sunday, January 21

9:00 a.m. Choir Practice

10:00 a.m. Worship

11:00 a.m. Chili Cookoff, Social Hall

ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED

2024 Sunday morning memorial/honor flowers: The signup calendar is in the Ramp Room. Select the date(s) you want and indicate the person(s) you wish to remember/honor. Please be aware that the cost had increased from \$25 to \$30. The delivery fee remains \$8.

Souper Bowl of Caring—Sunday, February 11th. Please bring your most delicious soup and/or bread to share. Donations will go to our Food Bag Ministry. We will be in the Social Hall immediately after Worship. We hope to see you there!

Our deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Shawn Bauer, who passed away on January 7, 2024. He was Michelle Deitz's oldest nephew and son of her sister, Roxanne.

MEMBER CARE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Men's Fellowship Breakfast is this Saturday, January 20th, at 8:00 a.m. in the Social Hall. Scott Gourley, our guest speaker, will talk about his overseas mission trips.

Do I Smell Chili? The Community Committee is holding a **Chili Cook Off next Sunday, January 21**, in the Social Hall immediately after Worship. Bring your special, family, super-secret recipe Chili! Please use the signup sheet in the Ramp Room to indicate what you are bringing. Chili makers may bring their crockpots. We will all vote on the "Tastiest Chili." Pastor Rebecca will speak about her trip to Israel. A donation jar will be available for those who wish to donate.

The Session has called a Congregational Meeting to be held on Sunday January 28, 2024 at the conclusion of the worship service for the purpose of receiving annual reports.

Mission's Coat Project continues. The coat rack is on the walkway between the Ramp Room and the CE Building. Coats hung on the rack are for anyone who needs a coat. If you need a coat, please take one. If you have a coat or two that are new or still in great shape, hang them on the rack so someone else may be blessed with their warmth this winter. New or gently-used boots are also needed. The Coat Project will run from now until spring.

Please pray for:

- *Members with known health concerns:* Ruth Ann Minich, Randy Cable, Margy Port, Don McCord, Rick Goble, and those who are homebound.
- *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; Kristen Maze's neighbor, Laurie Dickey; Beverly Wentling's daughter, Rebecca Irwin; Bert Louder's grandson, Anthony Louder; Jim & Pat McConnell's friend, Pat Hargest and Jim & Pat's son Michael; Marianne Reynolds' mother, Alice Davis; Jeff Deitz's friend, Alexandra Sharrar; Peggy, Dee Wenner's sister-in-law; Dr. Shannon Penland; Mary Kay Arth, Carolyn McFarland's friend; Kay Fye, Tamalyn Goble's mother; Tracey & Jody Hall, Stu & Stacy Hoffman's daughter and granddaughter; the family and friends of Janelle Moore; Dawn Reed and family; Mason Martin and his family; Angelo Gehenio; and Jeri Reddinger.
- *Everyone serving in the US Military.*
- *Our faith partners: Gitwe Congregation in Rwanda.*

Homebound Member of the Week: Please remember Kay Fye, 11981 Rt. 338, Knox, PA 16232. Her birthday is January 20th. She is Tamalyn Goble's mother.

JANUARY 14, 2024
SECOND SUNDAY
AFTER EPIPHANY

taking
faith
home

Trusted relationships help people follow Jesus.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 1:43-51	Jesus calls Philip and Nathanael
Monday	1 Samuel 3:1-20	The call of Samuel
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 6:12-20	Honor God in body and spirit
Wednesday	Ephesians 6:1-4	Nurturing faith at home
Thursday	2 Timothy 1:1-7	Timothy's faith through family
Friday	2 John 1:12-13	Nurturing faith by relationships
Saturday	Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18	The Lord knows us well
Sunday	Mark 1:14-20	Jesus calls the first disciples

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." John 1:45 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Nurturing God, we thank you for your love that reaches out to us through others that we may have confidence and joy as followers of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, with this food you care for our lives and our physical wellbeing; we thank you for the many ways you show your love for us. In Jesus' name, amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you with joy as a follower of Jesus.

JANUARY 14, 2024
HYMN OF THE WEEK
*You Have Come Down
to the Lakeshore*

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:

- Who is someone you trust and why do you put your trust in that person?
- Who has helped you as a follower of Jesus? What was it about this person that encouraged you in your Christian life?

DEVOTIONS

Read: John 1:35-51.

Beginning with the wise men from the East and Jesus' baptism, Epiphany is the season that focuses on revealing Jesus to the world. In John 1 it is the followers of Jesus who do some of that revealing. Jesus "found" Philip and brings him into the fold of followers. Just as Jesus "found" Philip, now Philip finds Nathanael (vv. 43, 45). Philip is described as someone from Bethsaida, the same hometown as Andrew and Peter who were just added to Jesus' followers. It is likely they had been neighborhood boys, familiar with one another. These are examples of faith formed through personal relationships. First, it was John the Baptist pointing to Jesus that drew in Andrew, and then Andrew "found" Peter and brought in his brother. Now Philip is added to the group, and he goes and gets his friend Nathanael. Nathanael is a skeptic. Philip simply suggests with a note of confidence that Nathanael should find out for himself. Nathanael then has his own experience of being "found" by Jesus and he, too, is drawn in.

Discuss: How do you speak about Jesus to others?

Pray: Faithful God, we thank you for those you have placed in our lives to help us in our life's journey as a follower of Jesus. Amen.

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, as a follower of Jesus, how can you encourage someone in their faith?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Psalms 139 speaks poetically about the intimate relationship that God has with us. We are fully and utterly known by God and God's love for us. Take time to read Psalm 139:1-6 and 13-18. Think about the personal relationship you have with God. How has that relationship been enriched by others who have nurtured you in the Christian faith over the years? Consider writing a card thanking one or more people for their care for you in your Christian faith.