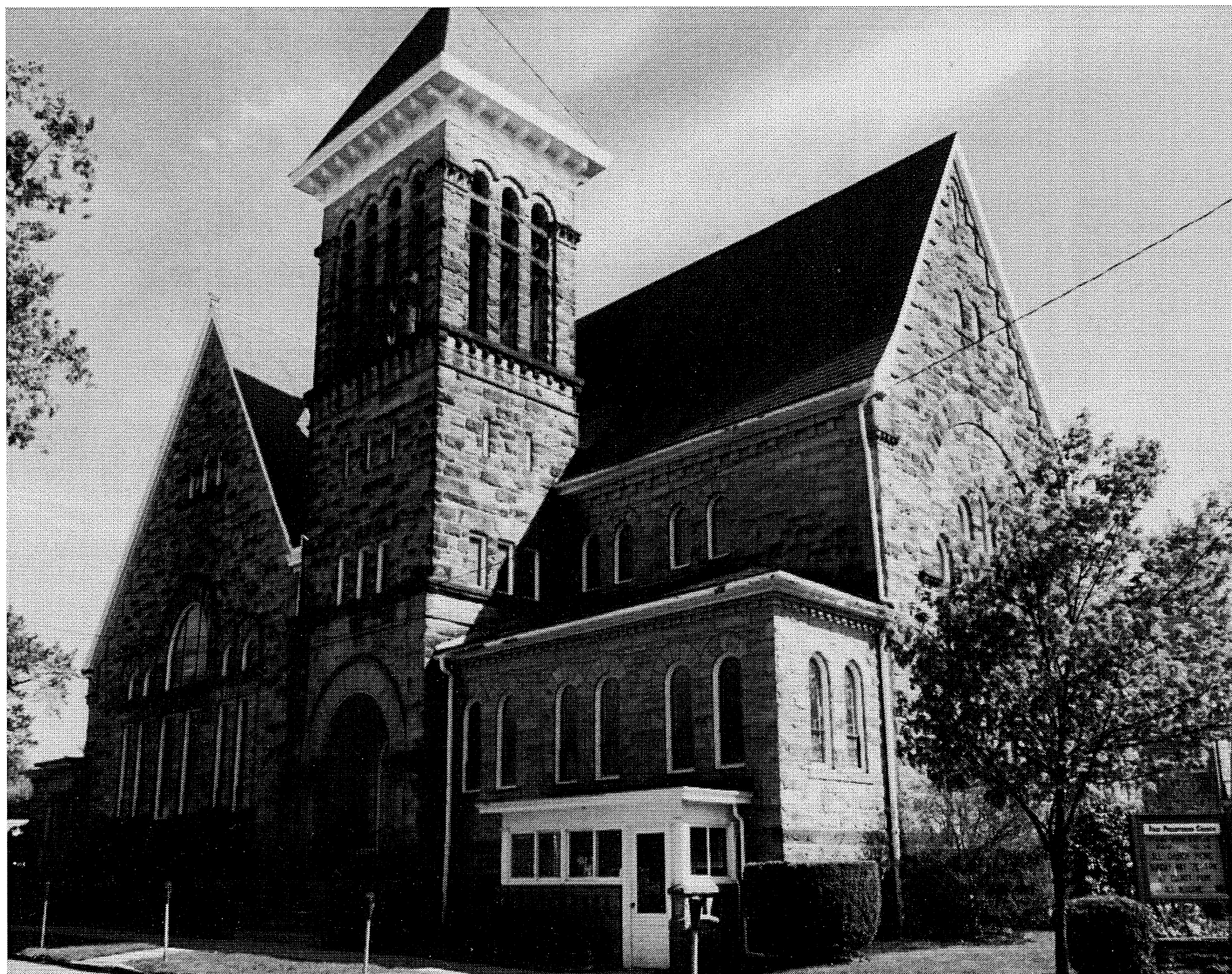


First Presbyterian Church



Twenty-First Sunday After Pentecost
October 22, 2023



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)

Twenty-First Sunday After Pentecost

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

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.

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

Welcome and Announcements

Lector, Jeff Deitz

Prelude

The Love of God

Frederick H. Lehman,
Arr. Robert Thygerson

Chiming of the Trinity

Introit

The Greatest Thing

Mark Pendergrass

Call to Worship

God's glory is too much to comprehend,
but we see God's face among us when we come together as the church.
Let us witness to God's glory together.
Let us worship God and serve God together.

✦ Hymn No. 363

Rejoice, the Lord is King!

Text: Wesley, 1746, alt.
Music: Darwall, 1770;
desc. Nicholson, 20th cent.

✦ Call to Confession

God has chosen us, but we frequently fail to choose God's will for our lives. Let us go before God, seeking forgiveness and peace.

✦ Prayer of Confession (Unison)

God of justice and truth, you ask us to give to you the things that are yours. If we are honest, we know we hold so much back. We have promised you our obedience, but we often fulfill our own desires first. We have promised you our worship, but we give our attention to idols instead. We have promised to do your work in the world, but we put it last on the list of priorities. Have mercy on us and forgive us. Increase our generosity that we might give freely, grateful for all of the gifts you have given us. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

✦ Declaration of Forgiveness

The good news remains true: God has chosen us, forgives us, and walks beside us, helping us become imitators of Christ.

Friends, believe the Good News:

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

✦ Gloria Patri

We Share God's Word

Time with the Children

Rev. Rebecca Mihm

Prayer of Illumination

Jeff Deitz

First Scripture Psalm 96:1-9 (p. 550)

Second Scripture Matthew 22:15-22 (p. 24)

The words of scripture, inspired by God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon "To Whom Do We Render" Rev. Rebecca Mihm

Organ Interlude

✦ Hymn No. 697 *Take My Life* Text: Havergal, 1874
Music: Malan, 1827

We Give Thanks to God

✦ Affirmation of Faith 7.237 *The Larger Catechism*

The honor which inferiors owe to their superiors is: all due reverence in heart, word, and behavior, prayer and thanksgiving for them; imitation of their virtues and graces; willing obedience to their lawful commands and counsels, due submission to their corrections; fidelity to, defense and maintenance of their persons and authority, according to their several ranks, and the nature of their places; bearing with their infirmities, and covering them in love, that so they may be an honor to them and to their government.

Call for the Offering

Offering and Offertory *Music of Thy Name* Craig Courtney

✦ Doxology

✦ Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

We Go Forth to Serve

✦ Hymn No. 612 *We Praise You, O God* Text: Cory, 1902, alt.
Music: *Neder-landtsch Gedenck-Clanck*, 1626;
harm. Kremser, 1877

✦ Charge and Benediction

Postlude *Psalm XX* Gordon Young

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, 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 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).

All rights reserved. All sheet music uploaded to our website (clarionfirstpresby.org) for use with this worship service has been reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-727612.

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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 2023:</u>	<u>Class of 2024:</u>	<u>Class of 2025:</u>
John Joy	Kathy Larimer	Jeff Deitz
Bert Louder	Elaine Matticks	Jeff Kapp
Jim McConnell	Pam Reid	Kurt Nesbitt

Deacons:

<u>Class of 2023:</u>	<u>Class of 2024:</u>	<u>Class of 2025:</u>
Suellen Gourley	Bonnie Champion	Kim Lewis
Cindy Kapp	Marianne Reynolds	Lee Seitz
Norma Kooman	Mary Swanger	Lori Smith

WORSHIP NOTES

Pastor: Rev. Rebecca Mihm
Lector: Jeff Deitz
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: Bill Champion, Carol and Kevin Roth

The Sanctuary flowers today are given to the glory of God, and in honor of Dave Steward and Carol Steward, by Pauline Henry.

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

10/16/2023

Weekly Contributions

Envelope Contributions	\$2,030.00
Miscellaneous Cash Contributions	<u>\$168.25</u>
Total Contributions	\$2,198.25

Weekly Donations

PDA Buckets	\$240.00
Food Bag	\$25.00
Men's Fellowship	<u>\$320.00</u>
Total	\$2,783.25

NOTES:

Monday, October 23 2:00 p.m. Connections (Kiski), Ministry Central

Tuesday, October 24 6:00 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous, Step Down Room

Wednesday, October 25 8:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous, Step Down Room

Thursday, October 26 5:00 p.m. Echoes of Joy Practice
6:00 p.m. Joyful Bells Practice

Next Sunday, October 29 10:00 a.m. Worship
11:00 a.m. Congregational Meeting, Sanctuary followed by
11:00 a.m. Sunday School, Children and Adults
11:00 a.m. Confirmation Class
11:00 a.m. Choir Practice

Wednesday, October 25
8:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous, Step Down Room

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

We will release the November/December 2023 edition of First Press (our newsletter) later this month. If your ministry or group has news or happenings during November and December, today is the deadline to turn in your info. Email Deb at churchoffice@clarionpresby.org

A Congregational Meeting will be held following the worship service on Sunday, October 29, 2023 for the purpose of electing new officers of the church.

Reformation Sunday is next week, October 29th. It is the time when we celebrate the tradition that grounds our faith, the occasion in 1517 when Martin Luther posted his 95 theses on the church door in Wittenberg, Germany. We will be processing the banners that represent the confessions of PC(USA). A bagpiper will be on hand to accompany the procession.

The choir will present a cantata at the evening Christmas Eve service. Bonnie will be handing out books and rehearsals CDs next Sunday, October 29. There is a congregational meeting after worship, but we will have rehearsal after that meeting. The weekly rehearsals will begin on November 5th. If you are unable to attend October 29, please let Bonnie know that you are interested in singing with the choir so a book and CD are set aside for you. Even though we would love to have you sing on a weekly basis with the choir, you are welcome to sing the cantata without making a long term

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It you are unable to attend October 23, please let Dominick know that you are interested in singing with the choir so a book and CD are set aside for you. Even though we would love to have you sing on a weekly basis with the choir, you are welcome to sing the cantata without making a long term

Love to have you sing on a weekly basis with the choir, you are welcome to sing the cantata without making a long term

MEMBER CARE

commitment.

MEMBER CARE

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Please pray for:

- *Members with known health concerns:* Ruth Ann Minich, Randy Cable, Pat McConnell, 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; Carolyn McFarland's relatives: Rick & Janelle Moore; Kristen Maze's friend Valerie & neighbor, Laurie Dickey; Beverly Wentling's daughter, Rebecca Irwin; Bert Louder's grandson, Anthony Louder; Jim & Pat McConnell's friend, Pat Hargest; Marianne Reynolds' mother, Alice Davis; Jeff Deitz's friend, Alexandra Sharrar; Peggy, Dee Wenner's sister-in-law; Jeff Kapp's friend, Chuck; Dr. Shannon Penland; Bill's friends Tammy & Charles; Laurie McFadden who has gone into the hospital; the family and friends of Jean Stroup; the family and friends of Dennis Raybuck; the family and friends of Donna Campbell; and Mason Martin's family.
- *Everyone serving in the US Military.*
- *Our faith partners: Gitiwe Congregation in Rwanda.*

Homebound Member of the Week: Please remember Gail Baptist, 42 E. 8th Avenue, Clarion, PA 16214.

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Baptist, 42 E. 8th Avenue, Clarion, PA 16214.

OCTOBER 22, 2023
TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

taking faith home

Love and trust God above everything else.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 22:15-22	The question of paying taxes
Monday	Isaiah 45:1-7	Cyrus serves the Lord
Tuesday	1 Thessalonians 1:1-10	The example of faith
Wednesday	Psalms 28	Prayer for help
Thursday	Proverbs 3:1-6	Trust God
Friday	Jeremiah 17:5-8	Trust the Lord
Saturday	Psalms 96	Sing a new song
Sunday	Matthew 22:34-46	Loving God and neighbor

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

For the people of those regions [Macedonia and Achaia] report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God. 1 Thessalonians 1:9 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of the nations, you alone are worthy of worship and praise; give us wisdom to see the false gods around us and remain true to you through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, you made the heavens and the earth to praise you. We praise you now for this food that strengthens the body and gladdens the heart. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you with joy and the steadfast love of Jesus.



MILESTONES
MINISTRY

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OCTOBER 22, 2023
HYMN OF THE WEEK
Lead Me, Guide Me

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:

- Doing the right thing is not always easy. What is something you have struggled with?
- A false god can be anything that we worship and trust to make us feel safe and secure. What false gods have you been tempted to worship in your life?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Matthew 22:15-22.

A surprising point of this story concerns trust in God, not false gods. Jesus had just successfully opposed religious leaders in the temple. Now those leaders go from debate to entrapment by getting Jesus to take a position that would place him against the Roman government (a deadly decision) or against the Hebrew Scriptures (an unfaithful position). Jesus navigates between these traps by tricking his opponents. He asks to see the coin used for the tax. It's a "gotcha" moment. The Jewish leaders should not have had the Roman coin in the temple. It has the face of the Roman Emperor on it and a confession that Emperor Augustus is the Son of God! With the coin they show Jesus the image and confession of an idol. Jesus says give back to Caesar the idolatry of the empire. Everything else is God's. These religious leaders had not considered that Jesus would outwit them, but he did. His words leave his opponents amazed and speechless. Idolatry to false gods can easily trip us all.

Discuss: What challenges you to be faithful to God above everything else?

Pray: Almighty God, give us wisdom to turn away from false gods in our life and courage to follow you and you alone through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you care for those who are struggling to trust God?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Paul wrote that the Christians in Thessalonica had become imitators of Jesus. Play a game of Simon Says. Then have a discussion about ways in which we imitate others in our lives—both in good and bad ways. Talk or think about what it means to be an example of Christian faith, hope, and love to others.

Pray: Lord Jesus, open our hearts to receive the gospel with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit so that we may become examples to all believers. Amen. (1Thessalonians 1:6-7)



MILESTONES
MINISTRY

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