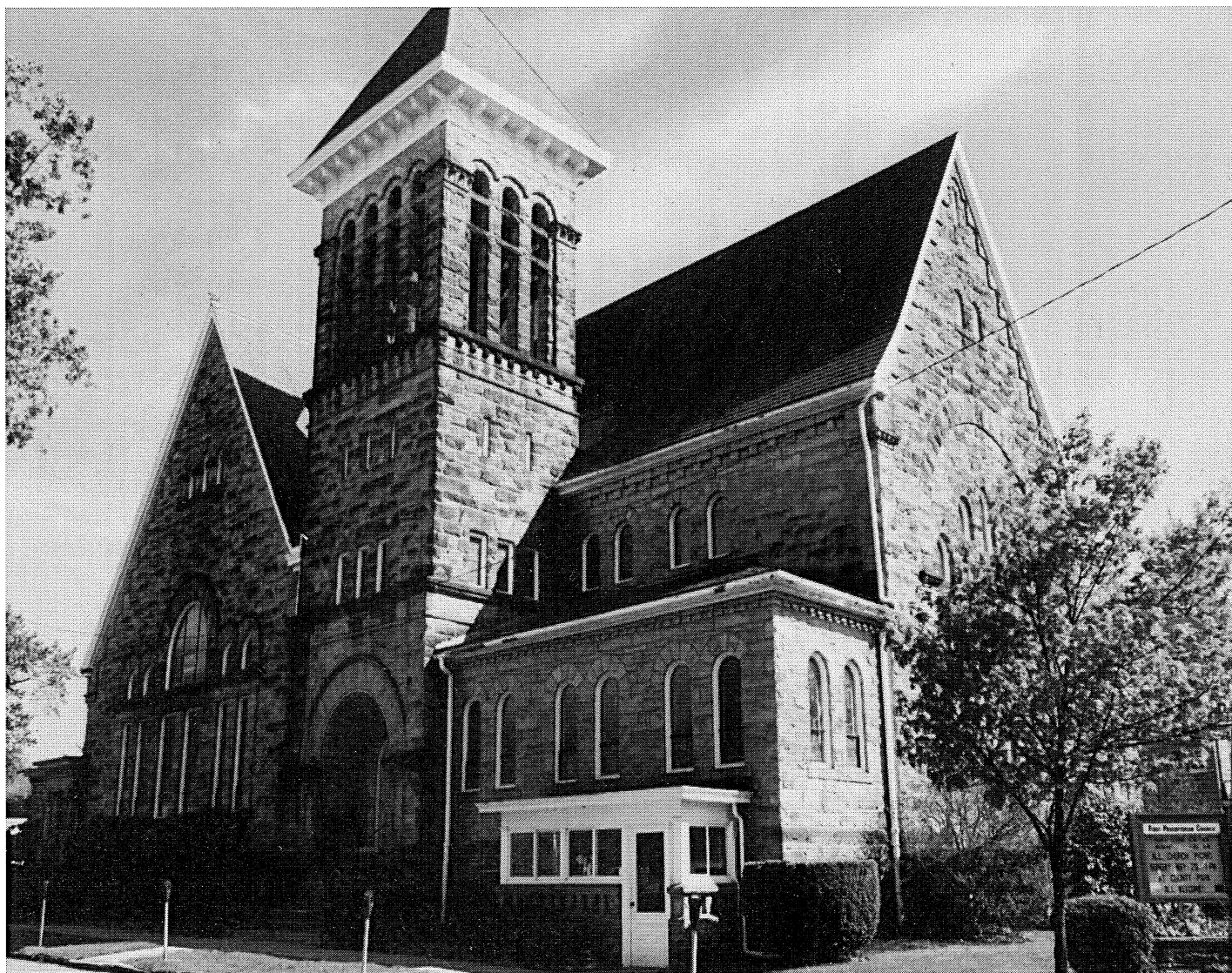


First Presbyterian Church



Third Sunday After Epiphany
January 21, 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)

Third Sunday after Epiphany

Welcome and Announcements

Lector, Pam Reid

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

Prelude

Partita on "Eisenach"

Johann H. Schien

Chiming of the Trinity

Introit

You Walk along Our Shoreline

Sylvia Dunstan/Johann Steurlein

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

Call to Worship

God is our rock and salvation.

We wait to hear from God; our souls wait.

We depend on God alone;

we release what will pass away and rest in God's enduring mercy.

Though God calls us down difficult paths,

we answer, relying on God's help, for God keeps calling us to the work.

Let us worship God!

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

✦ Hymn No. 720

Jesus Calls Us

Text: Alexander, 1852

Music: Jude, 1887

✦ 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 God in confidence. So, in humility and faith, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

✦ Prayer of Confession (Unison)

O Holy God, you called the disciples to drop their nets and follow you, yet we are hesitant to drop the tools and comforts of our lives. We distract ourselves from your call with busyness, stress, and worry. We tangle ourselves in webs of sin, and hatred that disguises itself as fear. Forgive us, O Lord, and by your forgiveness, open our ears to hear your voice saying to us, "Follow me." In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

✦ Declaration of Forgiveness

God has destined us not for wrath, but for salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that we might live.

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

Psalm 62:5-12

(p. 526)

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

Sermon "Fishers" Rev. Rebecca Mihm

Organ Interlude

♣ **Hymn No. 726** *Will You Come and Follow Me* Text: Bell and Maule, 1987
Music: Scottish melody; arr. Bell, 1987

We Give Thanks to God

♣ **Affirmation of Faith** *7.085 The Shorter Catechism*
To escape the wrath and curse of God, due to us for sin, God requireth of us faith in Jesus Christ, repentance unto life, with the diligent use of all the outward means whereby Christ communicateth to us the benefits of redemption.

Call for the Offering

Offering and Offertory *Come, Follow Me* Martin/Raney

♣ Doxology

♣ Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

We Go Forth to Serve

♣ **Hymn No. 721** *Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore* Text & Music: Gabaráin, 1979

♣ Charge and Benediction

Postlude *The Lord Is My Rock* Stephen Otis

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 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, Kurt & Brenda Nesbitt

The Sanctuary flowers today are given to the glory of God, and in memory of Marsha Beichner, by Glenn Beichner.

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

9:00 a.m. Choir Practice
10:00 a.m. Worship
11:00 a.m. Chili Cookoff, Social Hall

WEEKLY DEPOSIT SUMMARY

1/14/2024

Weekly Contributions

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Envelope Contributions | \$910.00 |
| Miscellaneous Cash Contributions | \$65.00 |
| Per Capita | \$336.80 |
| Total Contributions | \$1,311.80 |

Weekly Donations

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Food Bag | \$100.00 |
| Total Contributions | \$100.00 |

| | |
|--------------|-------------------|
| Total | \$1,411.80 |
|--------------|-------------------|

NOTES:

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBY

Tuesday, January 23

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

Wednesday, January 24

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

Thursday, January 25

5:00 p.m. Echoes of Joy Practice

6:00 p.m. Joyful Bells Practice

Saturday, January 27

9:00 a.m. Session Retreat, Chapel

Next Sunday, January 28

9:30 a.m. Choir Practice

10:00 a.m. Worship

11:00 a.m. Congregational Meeting

Immediately after Congregational meeting:

Sunday School

Confirmation Class

Choir Practice

ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED

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!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Do I Smell Chili? The Chili Cook Off is today in the Social Hall immediately after worship! 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 next Sunday January 28, 2024 at the conclusion of the worship service for the purpose of receiving annual reports.

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.

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.

Souper Bowl of Caring—Sunday, February 11th. Please

MEMBER CARE

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; the family and friends of a Keystone junior who took his life; 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 Cecelia "Bunny" Rhea, Highland Oaks at Water Run, Rm. 110, 300 Water Run Road, Clarion, PA 16214.

JANUARY 21, 2024
THIRD SUNDAY
AFTER EPIPHANY

taking faith home

Repentance turns us to the power of God's mercy.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

| | | |
|------------------|------------------------------|--|
| Sunday | Mark 1:14-20 | Jesus calls the first disciples |
| Monday | Jonah 3:1-5, 10 | Jonah goes to Nineveh |
| Tuesday | 1 Corinthians 7:29-31 | Live without anxiety |
| Wednesday | Isaiah 55:6-13 | God's ways are not our ways |
| Thursday | Psalms 51:1-12 | A prayer for forgiveness |
| Friday | 2 Corinthians 12:1-10 | Paul's visions |
| Saturday | Psalms 62:5-12 | God is powerful and kind |
| Sunday | Mark 1:21-28 | Jesus teaches in the synagogue |

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us. Psalm 62:8 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of steadfast love and mercy, help us to be open to the depth and breadth of your power of love that reaches others through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, just as you feed us with the life-giving power of this food, feed us with your love to care for others in Jesus' name. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the steadfast love of God give you peace.



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JANUARY 21, 2024
HYMN OF THE WEEK
O God of Mercy,
God of Light

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:

- Do you find it hard to love certain people? Explain.
- What do you think about God showing love and mercy to people who upset you?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Jonah 3:1-5, 10 and 4:1-4.

It is easy to get caught up in debates about whether or not Jonah was swallowed by a whale. We can miss the point—and the real miracle—of the whole book. Jonah ran away from God because God directed Jonah to preach repentance to the city of Nineveh. The great miracle in the book of Jonah is that Nineveh repented! The city was known as a corrupt, violent, and ungodly place. Jonah's harsh warning that the city would be overthrown in forty days brought the people—including the king—to repentance. Jonah was displeased about this outcome. He knew the steadfast love and mercy of God and did not want it to be given to Nineveh. Jonah didn't want God to love the people that Jonah didn't love at all. The message in the book of Jonah for us is to stop despising the people God loves. God's steadfast love is great. Even though we feel some do not deserve God's love and mercy, they may receive it anyway. Our call to repentance is the same kind of turning away from a world as we want it and be open to the power of God's kingdom to make all things new.

Discuss: When have you been surprised to see the power of God's love in the lives of those you felt were undeserving?

Pray: God of abundant grace, help us to trust that your ways are not our ways and that your ways are filled with a love and mercy for all through your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, what can you do to extend God's love to someone you dislike?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

We read about Jesus calling the first disciples in Mark 1:16-20. They were fishermen. The fish is an important Christian symbol. Each letter in the Greek spelling of the word "fish" (*IXTHUS*) begins a Greek word that stands for "Jesus Christ Son of God Savior." During the early church, it was dangerous to be a Christian in some parts of the Roman Empire. Believers developed a code to reveal their faith to others who were Christian. One person would draw on the ground the upper half of a fish symbol. If the other person was a Christian, they would recognize this and add a second curve line to complete the drawing of a fish. Draw a simple fish design. Place it in a visible place in your home as a reminder of your faith in Jesus.



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