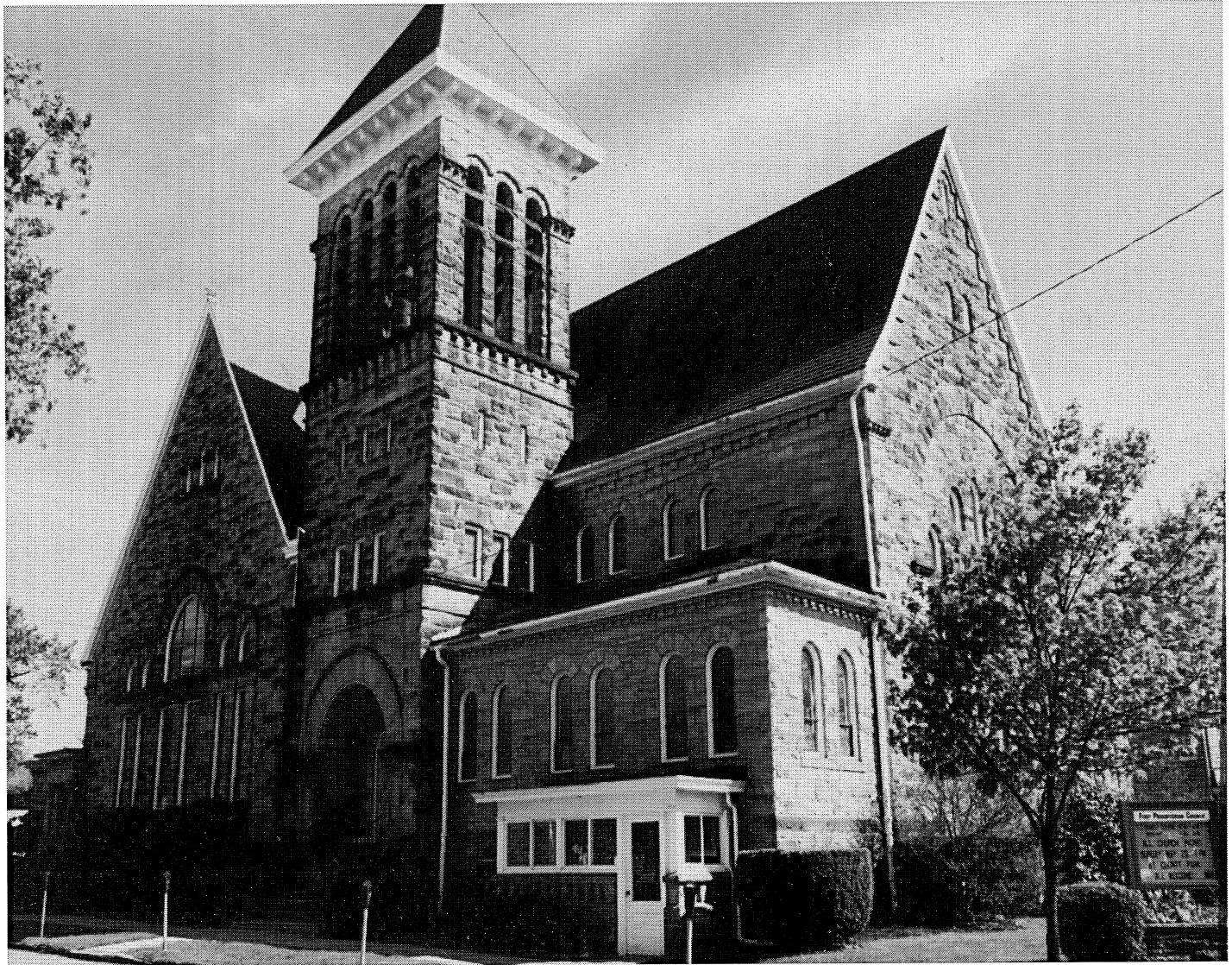


First Presbyterian Church



*First Sunday in Lent
February 18, 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)

First Sunday in Lent

Welcome and Announcements

Lector, Elaine Matticks

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

Prelude

Lenten Meditation

Richard Blake

Chiming of the Trinity

Introit

Lead Me, Guide Me

Doris Akers

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

Call to Worship

The praise we come to share is praise of thanksgiving.

In our worship, we hold God's love close to our hearts.

We desire to surround ourselves with community.

As our songs echo, our prayers rise, claiming God as our strength.

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

✠ Hymn No. 409

God Is Here!

Text: Green, 1979; rev. 1988

Music: Taylor, 1941

✠ 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.

✠ Prayer of Confession (Unison)

In the season of Lent, O God, we say lofty words about renewing our spiritual disciplines, journeying with you to the cross, or denying ourselves material wants for the good of the soul. Forgive us, O God, if our actions are in vain: if we are concerned with the good of the soul rather than the good of your people; if we have twisted this season of penitence into a reason for praise or judgment; if we are so preoccupied with the sins of the world that we cannot recognize and confess the sins of our own lives. Forgive us, O God, and wash us in your mercy. Forgive us, O God, and free us to try 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

We Share God's Word

Time with the Children

Rev. Rebecca Mihm

Prayer of Illumination

Elaine Matticks

First Scripture

1 Peter 3:18-22

(p. 234)

Second Scripture

Psalm 25:1-10

(p. 502)

The words of scripture, inspired by God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Prayer”

Rev. Rebecca Mihm

Organ Interlude

✦ Hymn No. 339

Lift Every Voice and Sing

Text: James Weldon Johnson, 1900

Music: J. Rosamond Johnson, 1905

We Give Thanks to God

✦ Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Call for the Offering

Offering and Offertory

*Prayer for Guidance **

Allen Pote

*We do not have permission to stream this piece, therefore the audio portion of our Facebook livestream will be muted until the song ends. We will then rejoin the audio in progress.

✦ Doxology

✦ Prayer of Dedication

Baptism of Lucille Rose Kurtas

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

We Go Forth to Serve

✦ Hymn No. 735

I Need Thee Every Hour

Text: Hawks, 1872; ref. Lowry, 1872

Music: Lowry, 1872

✦ Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Fantasy on "Forty Days and Forty Nights"

Matthew McConnell,

arr. Martin Herbst

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).

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 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: Elaine Matticks
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: Robin Cable, Suellen Gourley, Doug Bills

The Sanctuary flowers today are given to the glory of God, and in honor of the Baptism of Lucille Rose Kurtas, by her mother and father Alexis Burns and Matthew Kurtas.

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

9:00 a.m. Choir Practice
10:00 a.m. Worship
11:00 a.m. Radio Broadcast—94.1FM (previously recorded service)
11:00 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Confirmation Class
11:00 a.m. Deb's Moving Shower, Social Hall

WEEKLY DEPOSIT SUMMARY

2/11/2024

Weekly Contributions

Envelope Contributions	\$1,970.20
Miscellaneous Cash Contributions	\$53.00
Per Capita	<u>\$187.00</u>
Total Contributions	\$2,210.20

Weekly Donations

Food Bags	\$50.00
Blessing Box	<u>\$250.00</u>
Total Contributions	\$300.00

Total	\$2,510.20
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NOTES:

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBY

Monday, February 19

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

Tuesday, February 20

9:00 a.m. Head Start Parent Café, Social Hall

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

Wednesday, February 21

7:00 pm Property, Ministry Central

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

Thursday, February 22

5:00 p.m. Echoes of Joy Practice

6:00 p.m. Joyful Bells Practice

Next Sunday, February 25 Second Sunday of Lent

9:30 a.m. Choir Practice

10:00 a.m. Worship

11:00 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Confirmation Class

11:00 a.m. Choir Practice

PRAYER LIST

Ruth Ann Minnich

Randy Cable

Margy Port

Don McCord

Rick Goble

All our homebound

members

Mary Biser

Charlotte Harman

Kenneth Daugherty, Jr.

Ben McKinley

David Mahle

Laurie Dickey

Rebecca Irwin

Anthony Louder

Pat Hargest

Michael McConnell

Alice Davis

Alexandra Sharrar

Peggy

Dr. Shannon Penland

Mary Kay Arth

Kay Fye

Tracey & Jody Hall

Mason Martin and family

Angelo Gehenio

Jerri Reddinger

Joe Amato

Tom Minich
Dawn Reed and family

Around the World

Everyone serving in the US
Military

Gitwe Congregation in
Rwanda, our faith partners

Homebound Member of the Week

Beverly Wentling
157 S. 5th Ave., Apt. 301
Clarion, PA 16214



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Easter Flowers are on sale until March 10. If you would like to order flowers for our Sanctuary Easter morning, order forms are in this bulletin and available in the Ramp Room. They can be returned to the church office or the offering plate with your payment.

One Great Hour of Sharing turns 75! For 75 years, One Great Hour of Sharing has connected us in God's healing, tending and growing to create a world where all needs are met. Repairing the breach, providing relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry and support for the poor and oppressed, your gifts are shared with the ministries of the Presbyterian Hunger Program, Self-Development of People and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. You may give from February 14 through Palm Sunday. Envelopes and brochures will be in next week's bulletin. To learn more about how your gift makes a difference visit pcusa.org/oghs.

Roma Kline & Wayne L. Fulton Scholarship Fund applications are now available in the church office and on the Resources page of our website. The deadline to apply is March 31. The Fulton Scholarship is available to church members and children of church members who are full time students pursuing a bachelors or associate degree at an accredited college or university; both first year and subsequent year students. Applicants must have a 3.0 GPA or higher in high school or during their previous year of enrollment. Applicants are eligible to receive this scholarship twice. Donations to the Fulton Scholarship Fund are always accepted. Please make checks payable to "The Presbyterian Foundation", designate Fulton Scholarship Fund on the notation line and send to the church office.

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.

NOTES:

FEBRUARY 18, 2024
FIRST SUNDAY
IN LENT

taking
faith
home

Jesus brings the good news of God's reign.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Mark 1:9-15	Temptation of Jesus
Monday	Genesis 9:8-17	God's promise to Noah
Tuesday	1 Peter 3:18-22	Suffering for doing right
Wednesday	Romans 14:13-23	Do not make someone stumble
Thursday	Psalms 16:5-11	Song of trust
Friday	James 3:13-18	Two kinds of wisdom
Saturday	Psalms 25:1-10	Prayer for guidance
Sunday	Mark 8:31-38	Jesus predicts his death

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent and believe in the good news."

Mark 1:14-15 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, you love what you have created; we thank you for your protection and that you come to bring us peace, joy, and love through Jesus Christ, your Beloved Son. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, you remember the lowly and the hungry; we thank you for remembering us with your love and with this meal that gives us strength. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the good news of Jesus give you joy.

FEBRUARY 18, 2024

HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Jesus Calls Us; o'er
The Tumult*

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 survive in the wilderness?
- How would you describe God's reign to someone?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Mark 1:9-15.

It is easy to miss the power and drama of Jesus' message that now is the time for the kingdom of God. His message seems so brief. Yet, in Jesus, God's reign is taking on all other claims to power and glory. The arrest of John the Baptist calls attention to another kind of power, the kind that seeks to control and destroy. In a world ordered by inequalities, unfairness, and brutality, another power is needed that can take on such harmful ways. That power is seen in Jesus' ability to take on Satan's deceitful testing of him. We also see it in Jesus being protected from wild beasts that could otherwise cause harm. God's justice and mercy has always championed life, love, and peace. Jesus, the Beloved Son of God, now steps out of his baptismal waters with the power of God's Spirit and takes on all forms of evil and death. We are now called to join this kingdom by turning away from destructive powers and trusting this good and awesome news and kingdom that Jesus brings.

Discuss: How do you see God's kingdom in Jesus bringing you and the world good news?

Pray: **Merciful and loving God, give us courage to trust the power and presence of your reign of life, love, and peace through Jesus Christ, your Beloved Son, our Redeemer and Lord.** 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 bring Jesus' message of love and peace to others?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The cross is an ancient symbol of the Christian faith. It reminds us Jesus died that we may live with God forever and is a reminder of a way of life for Jesus' followers. Lay out a purple cloth (the color for repentance and Lent) and place seven votive candles or battery-operated votive candles in the shape of a cross on the cloth. Light one of the candles this first week in Lent. Sit in silence for a moment while looking at the cross.

Then pray: **Dear God, we give you thanks for your steadfast love and goodness that forgives and renews us in Christ. Amen.**



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

Easter Flower Order Form (Please include this order form with your payment.)

Yes, I would like to order Easter flowers to be placed in the Sanctuary.

How many? _____ at a cost of: \$9.00 Each

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Please make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church.



Deadline to order is Sunday, March 10, 2024.

(Please print clearly.)

IN MEMORY OF:

IN HONOR OF:

1. _____

1. _____

2. _____

2. _____

BY _____

BY _____

Please take your flowers home to enjoy after the Easter Service. Questions? Call the church office at (814) 226-8145.

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