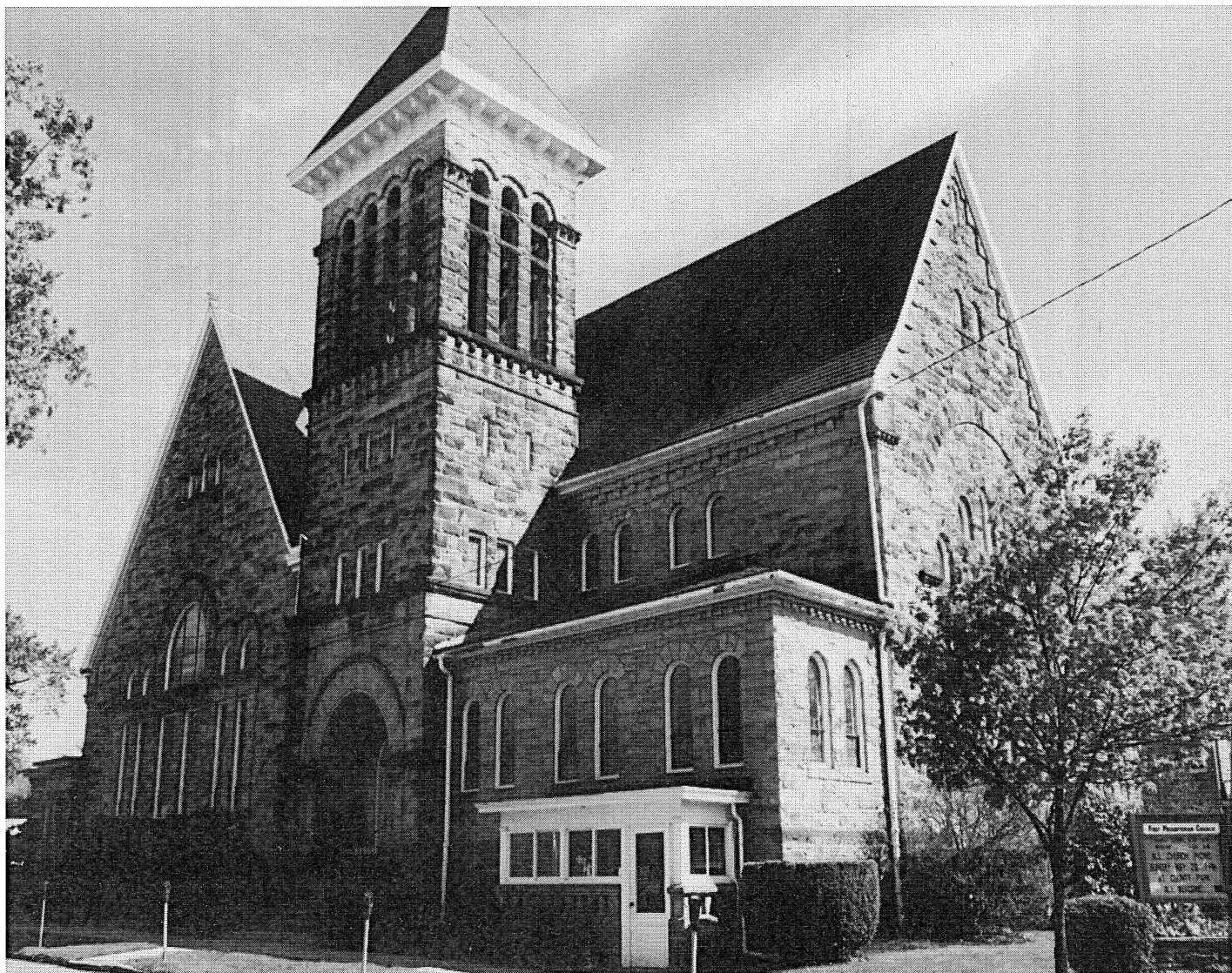


First Presbyterian Church



*Second Sunday in Lent
February 25, 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 in Lent

Welcome and Announcements

Lector, Elaine Matticks

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

Prelude

The Inward Heart

Gilbert M. Martin

Chiming of the Trinity

Introit

Your Faithfulness, O Lord, Is Sure

Joy Patterson,
Musikalishces Handbuch

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

Call to Worship

Every time we gather in God's name, we learn something new.

What will be God's gift of revelation to us today?

We enter this time of worship joyfully, assured of God's new mercies.

Celebrating these blessing to come, we bring our love to God.

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

✠ Hymn No. 49

The God of Abraham Praise

Text: Maimonides, 12th cent.;
vers. Dayan, 1404
Music: Jewish melody; 17th cent.

✠ Call to Confession

Remember that our great high priest, the Lord Jesus, can sympathize with us in our weaknesses, since in every way he was tempted as we are, yet without sin. Because of this, we can approach the throne of God's grace with boldness, to seek to get rid of those things that drag us down and hurt others, to seek God's mercy, and to receive God's grace in our times of need.

✠ Prayer of Confession (Unison)

O God, you have made us your covenant people, marked us as your own, and charged us for lives of service. Forgive us when we live as if success were the worthiest aim or independence the highest virtue. Call us once more to take up our crosses, and show us how to follow you. 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

Friends, this saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. He, himself, bore our sins on the cross, that we might be dead to sin, and alive to all that's good.

Friends, believe the Good News:

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

✠ Gloria Patri

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

We Share God's Word

Time with the Children

Rev. Rebecca Mihm

Prayer of Illumination

Elaine Matticks

First Scripture

Mark 9:2-9

(p. 234)

Second Scripture

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

(p. 502)

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

Sermon "Name Change" Rev. Rebecca Mihm

Organ Interlude

♣ **Hymn No. 51** *To Abraham and Sarah* Text: Fetter, 1984
Music: Welsh melody

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 Apostles' Creed, and thus also of God himself, the greatest good, and especially of God's promise and of Christ who is the fulfillment of all promises.

Call for the Offering

Offering and Offertory *A Covenant Prayer* Allen Pote

♣ **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. 39** *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* Text: Chisholm, 1923
Music: Runyan, 1923

♣ **Charge and Benediction**

Postlude *Cast Thy Burden Upon the Lord* Mendelssohn

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: 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, Bill Champion, Kurt Nesbitt

The Sanctuary flowers today are given to the glory of God, and in memory of Zachary Botzer, by his mother Norma Kooman.

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

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

WEEKLY DEPOSIT SUMMARY

2/20/2024

Weekly Contributions

Envelope Contributions	\$2,960.00
Miscellaneous Cash Contributions	\$837.00
Per Capita	\$112.20
Total Contributions	\$3,909.20

Weekly Donations

Food Bags	\$485.10
Caring Callers	\$25.00
Men's Fellowship	\$40.00
Total	\$550.10
Total	\$4,459.30

NOTES:

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBY

Tuesday, February 27

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

Wednesday, February 28

7:00 pm Session Meeting, Chapel

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

Thursday, February 29

5:00 p.m. Echoes of Joy Practice

6:00 p.m. Joyful Bells Practice

Next Sunday, March 3 Third 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	Tracey & Jody Hall
Randy Cable	Mason Martin and family
Margy Port	Angelo Gehenio
Don McCord	Jerri Reddinger
Rick Goble	Joe Amato
All our homebound members	Tom Minich
Mary Biser	Rob Summerville
Charlotte Hartman	Dawn Reed and family
Kenneth Daugherty, Jr.	<u>Bereaved</u>
Ben McKinley	Louise Swarm Family
David Mahle	<u>Around the World</u>
Laurie Dickey	Everyone serving in the US Military
Rebecca Irwin	
Anthony Louder	Gitwe Congregation in Rwanda, our faith partners
Pat Hargest	
Michael McConnell	<u>Homebound Member of the Week</u>
Alice Davis	Randy Cable
Alexandra Sharrar	450 Greenville Pike
Dr. Shannon Penland	Clarion. PA 16214-6122
Mary Kay Arth	
Kay Fye	

NOTES:

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Holy Moments: A Program for Hope. The Lent adult study class will begin on Wednesday, March 6th. We will meet at 11:30 a.m. in the Sunday School room. We will focus on the book Holy Moments: A Handbook for the Rest of Your Life, by Matthew Kelly. We are hoping for a good turnout. If you plan to participate, please call Jim or Pat McConnell at 814-229-0168, or Deb Owens at the church office 814-226-8145.

- ◆ Want to make an impact in this community and world? We live in a chaotic and confusing world. We don't like it, but we feel powerless to stop it. Some ideas are so powerful that simply being aware of them can change our lives forever. The concept of Holy Moments may be one of them.
- ◆ Holy Moments is a program of hope. It applies to everyone. It is practical, easy to understand, and supported in the Bible. Come and learn how to create holy moments that will transform us, our community, and this world.

Easter Flowers are on sale until March 10. If you would like to order flowers for our Sanctuary Easter morning, order forms 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. To learn more about how your gift makes a difference visit pcusa.org/oghs.

Roma Kline & Wayne L. Fulton Scholarship Fund applications are available in the church office and on the Resources page of our website. The deadline to apply is March 31.

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.

It is with sadness, but in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, that we share news of the death of Louise Swarm. Louise was born on May 10, 1924, joined our church by transfer of membership on May 17, 1992, and entered the church triumphant on February 18, 2024. She is survived by her daughters Dr. Christine Swarm and Lori Buzard, along with grandchildren and great grandchildren.

FEBRUARY 25, 2024
HYMN OF THE WEEK
Come, All You People

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:

- Think or tell about a time you or someone you know felt rejected or in despair.
- Do you believe that God can help us overcome pain? Explain.

DEVOTIONS



Read: Psalm 22:23-31 and Mark 8:31-38.

Psalm 22 begins, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me" (v. 1). The psalmist, in verses 23-31, then utters praise with a new understanding of his/her life and identity in the presence of God. Jesus calls us to give up any self-identity that is not grounded in God through Jesus when he says, "let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me" (Mark 8:34b). Psalm 22 expresses a similar point. We, ourselves, are not defined by our hurts, suffering, or disappointments, but by God. There is a move from despair to praise after recognizing that God has not left the psalmist (or us) in pain. What defines us is the God who delivers us and frees us through Christ. In Psalm 22, God's power and glory reaches the ends of the earth, even the dead and those unborn (vv. 29-31). Like the psalmist in Psalm 22, Peter in Mark 8:33 experiences rejection, but we know that one day he will join in the praise expressed at the end of this psalm. A life of praise to God and God's ways will change Peter just as it changed the psalmist and just as it changes us.

Discuss: How does God's power lead us from rejection to praise?

Pray: **Life-changing God, help us to see your glory at work in the world and to trust that in Jesus Christ your kingdom has come to put an end to all evil and suffering. 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 help someone who is going through a difficult time?

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. Light two candles of the seven votive candles shaped like a cross being used for Lent. Sit in silence for a moment while looking at the cross.

Then pray: **Dear God, thank you for never giving up on us as we seek to lovingly give of ourselves for the needs of others and for the sake of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

FEBRUARY 25, 2024
SECOND SUNDAY
IN LENT

taking faith home

From despair to praise, God is with us.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Mark 8:31-38	Jesus predicts his death
Monday	Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16	Sign of the covenant
Tuesday	Romans 4:13-25	God's promise
Wednesday	2 Corinthians 5:16-21	Bringing people to God
Thursday	Psalms 63	Comfort in God's power
Friday	Ezekiel 36:21-28	God will make God's people clean
Saturday	Psalms 22:23-31	Suffering and praise
Sunday	John 2:13-22	Jesus cleanses the temple

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

From you [God] comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him. The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD. Psalm 22:25-26a (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Eternal God, we thank you for bringing us into your kingdom that is like no other, a power and rule filled with love and hope through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we give you thanks for this food, a gift of love that gives us strength to praise you for your faithfulness to us through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May your life in Christ give you hope.



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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