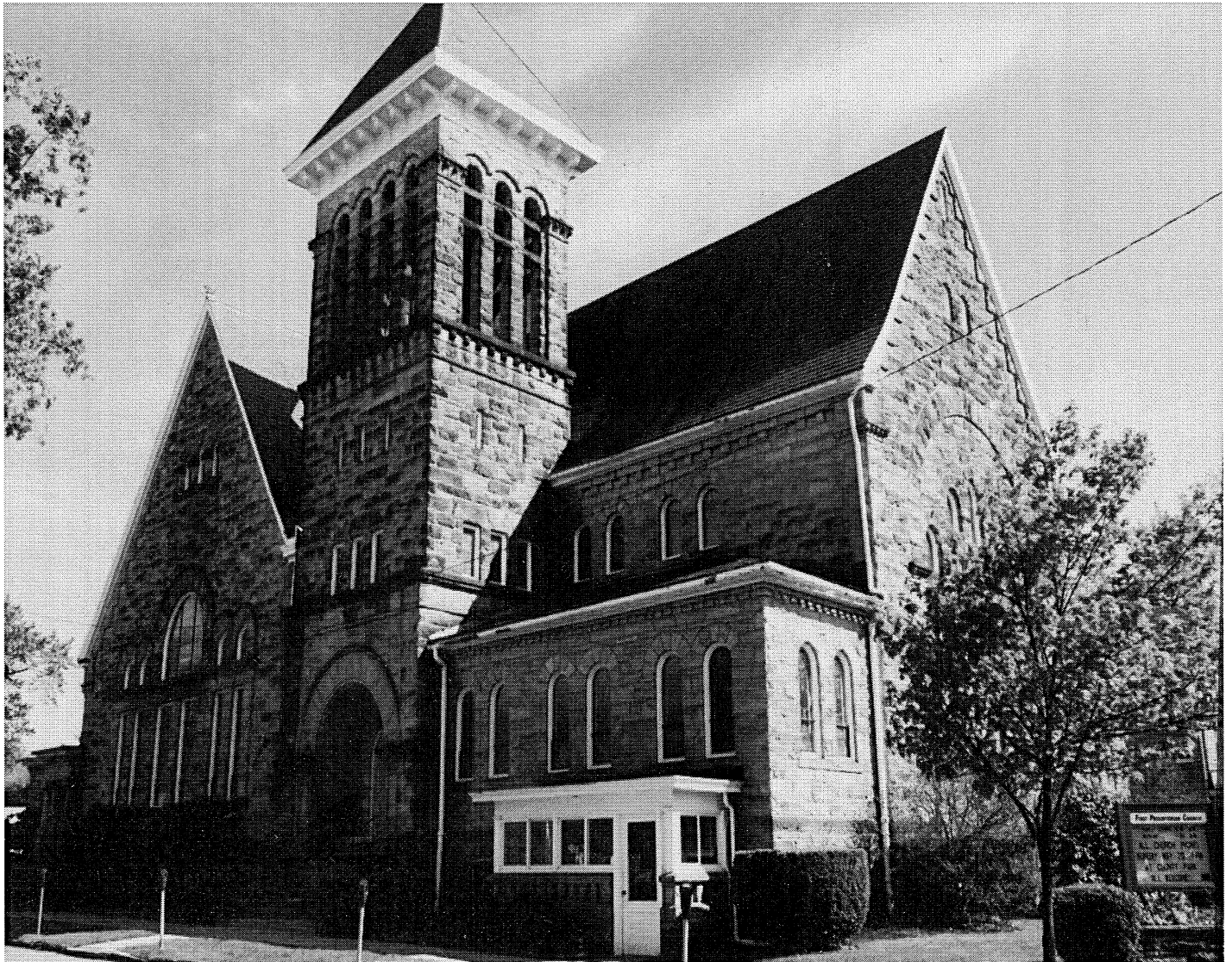


First Presbyterian Church



Fifth Sunday in Lent
March 17, 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)

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Welcome and Announcements

Lector, Kathy Larimer

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

Prelude

Prayer
(Echoes of Joy Bell Choir)

Jean C. Warzyn

Chiming of the Trinity

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

Call to Worship

Let us join our voices with the saints whose lives inspire.

We are here today, aspiring to claim the life of faith with courage.

We are ready to worship and give thanks for whose we are.

In our worship, we share God's message with the world.

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

✠ Hymn No. 408

There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit

✠ Call to Confession

Christ is nearer than we can imagine. Jesus' power is not just for a distant past and a far-off future. Jesus is here for us here and now. Because there is forgiveness with God, let us call upon the Lord.

✠ Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Through this season of Lent, O God, we have prayed for clean hearts and right spirits. Forgive us, O Lord, if we have prayed with our words but failed to pray with our actions. Forgive us of what we have done that has contributed to the suffering of one another, and forgive us of what we have failed to do that could have lightened a neighbor's burden. Forgive us, O God, and wash us in your mercy. Forgive us, and free us to try again. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

✠ Declaration of Forgiveness

Thus says the Lord, you shall know that I am the Lord when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall 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

Debra Owens

Prayer of Illumination

Kathy Larimer

First Scripture

Psalm 51:1-12

(p. 520)

Second Scripture

Hebrews 5:5-10

(p. 220)

The words of scripture, inspired by God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Jesus, the High Priest"

Rev. Rebecca Mihm

Organ Interlude

✠ Hymn No. 262

Since Our Great High Priest, Christ Jesus

We Give Thanks to God

✠ Affirmation of Faith

The Heidelberg Catechism 4.031

[Christ] has been ordained by God the Father and has been anointed with the Holy Spirit to be our chief prophet and teacher who fully reveals to us the secret counsel and will of God concerning our deliverance; our only high priest who has delivered us by the one sacrifice of his body, and who continually pleads our cause with the Father; and our eternal king who governs us by his Word and Spirit, and who guards us and keeps us in the freedom he has won for us.

Call for the Offering

Offering and Offertory

Holy, Holy, Holy
(*Echoes of Joy Bell Choir*)

Arr. Kevin McChesney

✠ Doxology

✠ Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

We Go Forth to Serve

✠ Hymn No. 542

God Be with You Till We Meet Again

✠ Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Am I a Soldier of the Cross Robert Powell, arr. Ralph Harrison

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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: Kathy Larimer
Time with Children: Debra Owens
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: Mary Swanger, Tamalyn Goble, Amy Widmer

The Sanctuary flowers today are given to the glory of God, and in honor of Stu and Stacy Hoffman, by Pauline Henry.

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

9:00 a.m. Bell 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

3/10/2024

Weekly Contributions

Envelope Contributions	\$2,515.00
Miscellaneous Cash Contributions	<u>\$65.00</u>
Total Contributions	\$2,580.00

Weekly Donations

Food Bags	\$25.00
PMEF 1st Qtr Distribution	\$15,624.11
Men's Fellowship	\$20.00
Easter Flowers	\$155.00
Caring Callers	\$25.00
OGHS	<u>\$25.00</u>
Total	\$15,869.11

Total \$18,449.11

NOTES:

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBY

Tuesday, March 19

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

Wednesday, March 20

7:00 p.m. Property Meeting, Ministry Central

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

Thursday, March 21

12:00 p.m. Afternoon Circle, Chapel

5:00 p.m. Echoes of Joy Practice

6:00 p.m. Joyful Bells Practice

Friday, March 22

10:00 a.m. Head Start Easter Egg Hunt, Church Pavilion

Next Sunday, March 24 Palm Sunday

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

Robin Cable

Shirley McKinley

All our homebound

members

Mary Biser

Charlotte Hartman

Kenneth Daugherty, Jr.

Ben McKinley

David Mahle

Laurie Dickey

Rebecca Irwin

Anthony Louder

Pat Hargest

Michael McConnell

Alice Davis

Alexandra Sharrar

Dr. Shannon Penland

Mary Kay Arth

Kay Fye

Tracey & Jody Hall

Mason Martin and family

Angelo Gehenio

Jeri Reddinger

Joe Amato

Tom Minich

Rob Summerville

Bereaved

Louise Swarm Family

Doris Mintz Family

Around the World

Everyone serving in the US

Military

Gitwe Congregation in

Rwanda, our faith partners

Homebound Member of the Week

Virginia Mohney

49 N. 3rd Avenue

Clarion, PA 16214-1831

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Property Team is meeting this Tuesday, March 20th at 7:00 pm in Ministry Central.

Holy Moments: A Program for Hope. The Lent adult study class meets on Wednesdays 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. 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 learn about the meal when Jesus introduced the Lord's Supper? Want to see how the Jewish people celebrate Passover? Want to spend an evening of fellowship with the Body of Christ? Join us for a Seder dinner on Thursday, 3/28, at 6 p.m. Sign-up in the Ramp Room is required. Bring a dish.

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 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. New or gently-used boots are also needed.



MARCH 17, 2024
FIFTH SUNDAY
IN LENT

taking faith home

Jesus is revealed to the whole world.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 12:20-33	The hour has come
Monday	Jeremiah 31:31-34	A new covenant
Tuesday	Hebrews 5:5-10	Jesus as a high priest
Wednesday	1 John 4:7-12	God is love
Thursday	Numbers 12:1-9	Aaron, Miriam, and Moses
Friday	Acts 7:54-60	The stoning of Stephen
Saturday	Psalms 51:1-12	A prayer for cleansing
Sunday	Mark 11:1-11	Jesus enters Jerusalem

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

They [some Greeks] came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." John 12:21 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Loving God, may your power and glory be seen in Jesus' death and resurrection that all the world may know of the depth of your care. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for this gift of food that we may be given strength and courage to follow you all the days of our lives through Jesus Christ. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May you see and hear of God's love for you.



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MARCH 17, 2024
HYMN OF THE WEEK
Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song

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 a famous person you would like to see? Why?
- Where and how do you see Jesus in the world today?

DEVOTIONS

Read: John 12:20-33.

Greeks, that is, non-Jews and people who represent the larger world beyond Galilee and Judea, want to see Jesus. This is an example of John 3:16, "for God so loved the world." Now is the time for Jesus as the Son of Man to be revealed to the whole world in glory. What does that reveal look like? The answer is death and resurrection described through a grain of wheat that must die in order to rise and bear fruit (v. 24). We, too, want to see Jesus and would love to hear a heavenly voice that points to Jesus among us. What we do see and hear is a community of faith that follows Jesus into the world. Through the work of Philip, Andrew, and all others who serve and follow Jesus, the message of his death and resurrection reaches the whole world.

Discuss: How do we as followers of Jesus make him known through our lives?

Pray: **Eternal God, help us to see Jesus in the world and be seen and heard as his followers who serve him and give our all for the sake of your love for the world. 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 others experience the love and mercy of God?

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 five 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 Jesus, help us to see you in your suffering and death that we may glorify you through your cross and empty tomb. Amen.**



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