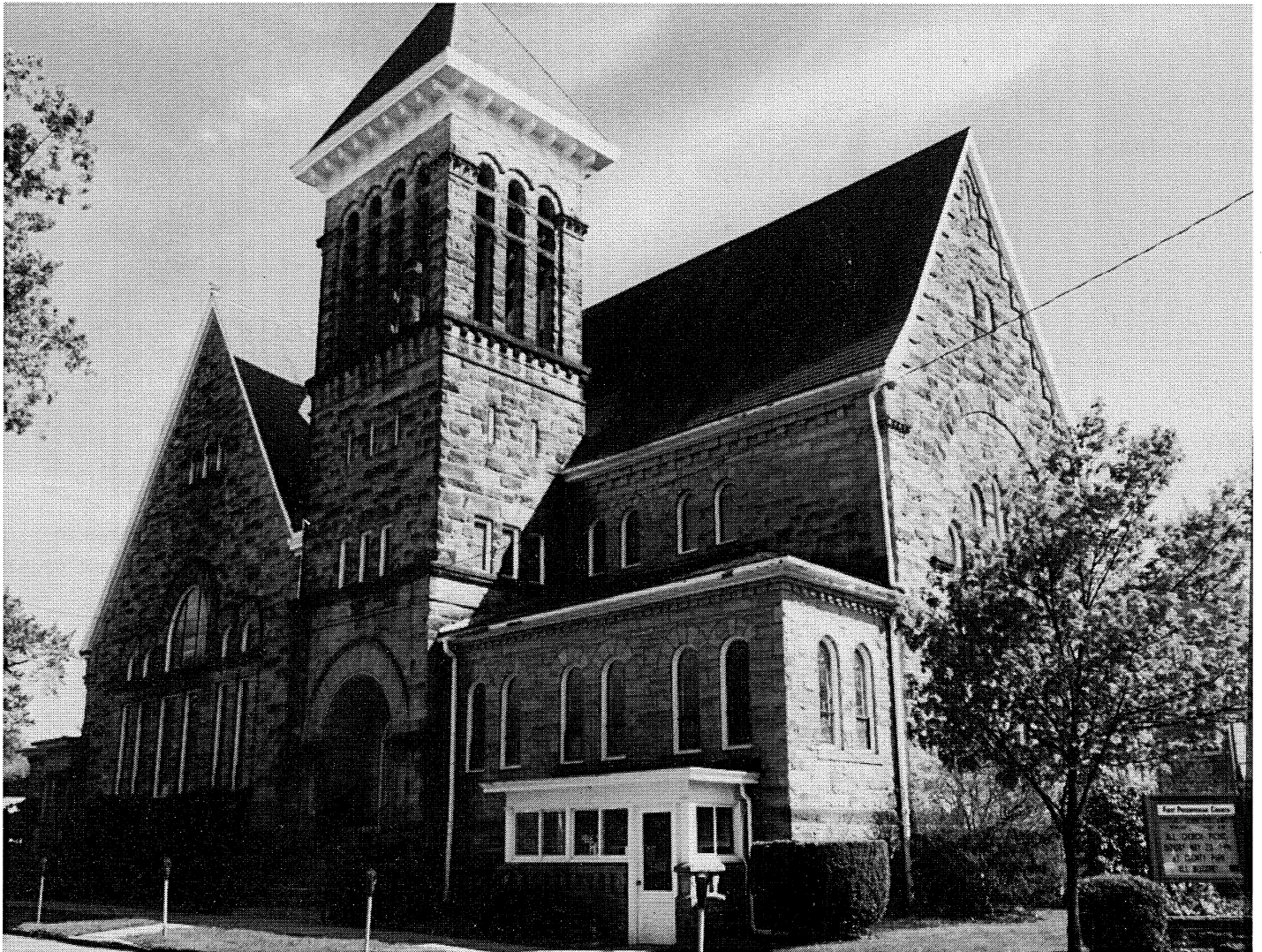


# First Presbyterian Church

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*Trinity Sunday*  
*May 26, 2024*



700 Wood Street, Clarion, PA 16214

814-226-8145

[churchoffice@clarionfirstpresby.org](mailto:churchoffice@clarionfirstpresby.org)

[www.clarionfirstpresby.org](http://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)

Trinity Sunday

## Welcome and Announcements

Lector, Jeff Deitz

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

## Prelude

*When Thou Art Near*

J. S. Bach, arr. Cecil Bentz

## Chiming of the Trinity

## Introit

*Let There Be Glory and Honor and Praises*

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

## Call to Worship

Holy, holy, holy is our God;

**Heaven and earth are filled with God's glory.**

The God of glory thunders;

**God's voice shakes the wilderness.**

No one knows from where it comes or to where it goes,

**And all in God's temple say, "Glory!"**

Will we hear that voice saying: "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?"

**O God, we are here, send us!**

Let us worship God in holy splendor.

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

## ✦ Hymn No. 1

*Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!*

## ✦ Call to Confession

Scripture says that if we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. But, if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive us our sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. So, in humility and faith, let us confess our sins to God.

## ✦ Prayer of Confession (Unison)

**For you so loved the world, O God, that you came among us to feel our pain, amplify our joy, and bless our broken stories. For you so love the world, O God, that you are among us still, calling us by your spirit to follow in the way of your love. Forgive us when we do not listen, O God: when we forget the love that you have for us and the love we are called to share with one another. Forgive us, three-in-one God, and let your love transform our lives. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.**

## ✦ Declaration of Forgiveness

Hear the good news! This saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. He, himself, bore our sins in his body 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

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

Jeff Deitz

## First Scripture

John 3:1-17

(p. 93)

The words of scripture, inspired by God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon "Our God Is Greater" Rev. Rebecca Mihm

Organ Interlude

✠ Hymn No. 616 (sing twice) *Our God Is an Awesome God*

## We Give Thanks to God

✠ Affirmation of Faith *Adapted from the Confession of 1967 9.07*

Jesus Christ is God with humankind. He is the eternal Son of the Father, who became human and lived among us to fulfill the work of reconciliation. He is present in the church by the power of the Holy Spirit to continue and complete his mission. This work of God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is the foundation of all confessional statements about God, humanity, and the world. Therefore, the church calls all people to be reconciled to God and to one another.

Call for the Offering

Offering and Offertory *The Kingdom* Andre J. Thomas

✠ Doxology

✠ Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

## We Go Forth to Serve

✠ Hymn No. 12 *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

✠ Charge and Benediction

Postlude *Praise and Thanksgiving* G. F. Handel,  
arr. Edward Broughton

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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](http://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](http://www.clarionfirstpresby.org) or a phone app is available at [sermon.net](http://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:** Jeff Deitz  
**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:** Marianne Reynolds, David Reynolds, and Suellen Gourley

**The Sanctuary flowers today are given to the glory of God, and in memory of my parents A.E. Mack & Elsie B. Summerville, by Norma Kooman.**

## TODAY'S SCHEDULE

9:30 a.m. Choir Practice  
10:00 a.m. Worship

## WEEKLY DEPOSIT SUMMARY

5/19/2024

### Weekly Contributions

Envelope Contributions	\$2,717.60
Miscellaneous Cash Contributions	\$190.00
Per Capita	\$37.40
<b>Total Contributions</b>	<b>\$2,945.00</b>

### Weekly Donations

Food Bags	\$100.00
Pentecost	\$210.00
Caring Callers	\$25.00
Men's Fellowship	\$90.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$425.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,370.00</b>

## NOTES:

## THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBY

### Monday, May 27 Memorial Day

Church Office and Building Closed

### Tuesday, May 28

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

### Wednesday, May 29

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

### Next Sunday, June 2

10:00 a.m. Worship

—Communion

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Heritage Sunday**, celebrating members with 50 or more years in this church family, will be held on Sunday, June 9th. RSVPs must be returned by May 28th so the Deacons can plan appropriately.

**Graduate Recognition Sunday, June 16.** Graduates from high school and college (December 2023 and May/June 2024) will be recognized for their accomplishments during the 10:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, June 16. Be sure to contact the church office no later than June 9.

### Looking Ahead:

- **Vacation Bible School is scheduled for July 30th through August 2nd.** This year's theme is rumored to be pretty exciting! More details will be revealed as the time draws closer. Do not miss it!!!

**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 tennis shoes are also needed.

**I would like to thank everyone for the privilege of serving this congregation for the past 35 years.** It doesn't seem possible that I have been employed here for that long! What they say, "If you love what you are doing, then it isn't a job," is very true in my case. I am blessed to work with wonderful people who help make beautiful music to praise our Lord

## ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED

and Savior. Last Sunday, I was taken by surprise for the presentation made by Jeff Kapp. The necklace that I was gifted is beautiful. I'm sure I will wear it often, a Treble clef inside a heart. I appreciate the recognition and the gift.

—Bonnie Champion, Music Director

## PRAYER LIST

Randy Cable

Margy Port

Don McCord

Rick Goble

Shirley McKinley

Sue Burns

All our homebound members

Mary Biser

Charlotte Hartman

Kenneth Daugherty, Jr.

Ben McKinley

David Mahle

Laurie Dickey

Anthony Louder

Pat Hargest

Michael McConnell

Alice Davis

Alexandra Sharrar

Dr. Shannon Penland

Mary Kay Arth

Tracey & Jody Hall

Mason Martin and family

Angelo Gehenio

Jeri Reddinger

Joe Amato

Tom Minich

Rob Summerville

Evie Renwick

Richard Moore

A person going through  
some family issues

Bridget Mattson

Cori

Ellen DiBernardo

Chuck Reninger

### Bereaved

Jim Hager Family and  
Friends

Travis Raddaker Family and  
Friends

Ella Henry Family and  
Friends

John Pezek Family and  
Friends

Liz Williams Family and  
Friends

### Around the World

Everyone serving in the US  
Military

Gitwe Congregation in  
Rwanda, our faith partners

### Homebound Member of the Week

Dorothy Jean Foreman  
Clarion Health Care & Rehab  
Rm 207  
999 Heidrick Street  
Clarion, PA 16214

MAY 26, 2024  
TRINITY SUNDAY

# taking faith home

*We are born for a relationship with God.*

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 3:1-17	Born of the Spirit
Monday	Isaiah 6:1-8	A vision of God
Tuesday	Romans 8:12-17	Life in the Spirit
Wednesday	Deuteronomy 31:1-8	Joshua becomes Moses' successor
Thursday	Zephaniah 3:14-20	A song of joy
Friday	1 John 3:1-3	Children of God
Saturday	Psalms 29	The voice of God
Sunday	Mark 2:23-3:6	A question about the sabbath

## SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*Jesus answered him [Nicodemus], "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." John 3:3 (NRSV)*

## PRAYERS AND BLESSING

### A Prayer for the Week:

God of mystery and love, we thank you for coming to us in three persons that we may be born to a living hope through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Mealtime Prayer:

Triune God, we thank you for this gift of food that reminds us of our relationship to you based on trust, dependence, and belonging. Amen.

### A Blessing to Give:

May you trust in Jesus Christ and enjoy eternal life.

MAY 26, 2024

## HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord  
God Almighty!*

## 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:

- What is something that is hard for you to understand or believe?
- Jesus compared the Holy Spirit to the wind (John 3:8). How is the Holy Spirit like the wind?

## DEVOTIONS

*Read: John 3:1-17.*

The Holy Trinity, God in three persons, is a mystery. Who can fully understand or describe God? No one! Trinity Sunday is about more than a mystery. It gives us an opportunity to recognize and celebrate that we are born of God, we are given new life through water and the Spirit, and we are made part of the kingdom of God through Jesus Christ. We have a dynamic, relational God who becomes flesh so that we may be born of the Spirit and enjoy eternal life. Like a child, we are given an intimate relationship with God based on trust, dependence, and belonging. Yes, this awesome God can leave us confused and asking questions like Nicodemus. However, what started for Nicodemus with confusion in the dark of night eventually led to his defense of Jesus (John 7:50-52) and his taking the risk of joining Joseph of Arimathea in preparing Jesus' body for burial (John 19:39-42). Jesus' life and work is all about overcoming the judgment of the world with a living faith in him, the Son of God, so that our lives may be filled with abundance, grace, and truth.

*Discuss:* How does God as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit fill you with trust, dependence, and a sense of belonging?

*Pray: Creator God, for your Holy Spirit and your Son, our Savior and Lord, we thank you for giving us a relationship to you based on trust, love, and mercy. 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 walk alongside others in their faith journey?

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

A doxology is an expression of giving praise to God. One of the most treasured doxologies sung around the world each week in Christian congregations and homes was written by Anglican Bishop Thomas Ken and published in 1709. It is often used as a mealtime prayer. Light three candles to symbolize the Holy Trinity. Then sing or read the doxology: **Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, you heavenly hosts; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**