

# *First Presbyterian Church*

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*Fifth Sunday after Pentecost  
June 23, 2024*



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[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)

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

## Welcome and Announcements

Lector, John Joy

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

## Prelude

*Andante Cantabile from B flat Trio*

Ludwig van Beethoven,  
Arr. Ellen J. Lorenz

## Chiming of the Trinity

## Call to Worship

The God who first heard the morning stars sing never forgets the cry of the afflicted.

**You, O God, have not forsaken those who seek you.**

The God who sets the limits of the seas remains a stronghold for the oppressed.

**You, O God, have not forsaken those who seek you.**

Come, let us thank God for steadfast love, for all God's mighty works.

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

✠ 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

Remember that our great high priest, the Lord Jesus, can sympathize with us in our weaknesses, since in every respect 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. So, let us confess our sins to God.

## ✠ Prayer of Confession (Unison)

**O Christ whose voice brought peace to the waves, we pray for a glimpse of your peace in our lives. When all around us has given way to chaos, ground us in your presence. When the struggle for justice seems endless and we grow tired, refresh us by your mercy. Help us to see that you are in the boat with us, even when we are certain that it is sinking. Forgive us when we doubt the power of your grace, O Lord, and make us agents of your reign. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.**

## ✠ Declaration of Forgiveness

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. Because of what Jesus did, we are forgiven. May the God of mercy, who forgives us of all our sin, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, keep us in eternal life.

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

John Joy

## First Scripture

Mark 4:35-41

(p. 39)

## Second Scripture

Psalm 133

(p. 575)

The words of scripture, inspired by God.

**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

“Unity”

Rev. Rebecca Mihm

Organ Interlude

✦ Hymn No. 306

*Blest Be the Tie That Binds*

## We Give Thanks to God

✦ Affirmation of Faith

*10.3 The Confession of Belhar*

We believe that unity is both a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ; that through the working of God’s Spirit it is a binding force, yet simultaneously a reality which must be earnestly pursued and sought: one which the people of God must continually be built up to attain.

Call for the Offering

Offering and Offertory

*Who Is This King?*  
(Soloist: Janie Reynolds)

Lloyd Larson

✦ Doxology

✦ Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

## We Go Forth to Serve

✦ Hymn No. 318

*In Christ There is No East or West*

✦ Charge and Benediction

Postlude

*Allegro from Organ Concerto No. 13 (excerpt)*

George F. Handel,  
Arr. Ellen J. Lorenz

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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:** John Joy  
**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:** Bill & Bonnie Champion, Audrina Smith

**The Sanctuary flowers today are given to the glory of God, and in honor of Tam and Tom Goble's recent 55th Wedding Anniversary, by Pauline Henry.**

## TODAY'S SCHEDULE

10:00 a.m. Worship  
11:00 a.m. Fellowship Lunch in the Social Hall

## WEEKLY DEPOSIT SUMMARY

6/16/2024

|                                   |                   |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Weekly Contributions</b>       |                   |
| Envelope Contributions            | \$1,905.00        |
| Miscellaneous Cash Contributions  | <u>\$135.44</u>   |
| <b>Total Contributions</b>        | <b>\$2,040.44</b> |
| <b>Weekly Donations</b>           |                   |
| Blessing Box                      | \$300.00          |
| Food Bag                          | \$400.00          |
| Christian Education/Sunday School | \$25.00           |
| Men's Fellowship                  | \$120.00          |
| Women's Fellowship                | \$50.00           |
| Misc. Income                      | <u>\$39.56</u>    |
| <b>Total</b>                      | <b>\$934.56</b>   |
| <b>Total</b>                      | <b>\$2,975.00</b> |

## NOTES:

## THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBY

### Tuesday, June 25

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

### Wednesday, June 26

7:00 p.m. Session Meeting, Chapel

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

### Next Sunday, June 30

10:00 a.m. Worship

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**The Fellowship Chicken and Biscuit Lunch is immediately after church today!** We will meet downstairs in the Social Hall immediately after Worship.

**Session meets this Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel.**

**Part-Time Treasurer Needed.** Requires knowledge and experience with Quickbooks, payroll, bookkeeping, accounting, budgets, banking & financial reporting. Treasurer will work collaboratively with staff members, church boards & organizations. Approximately 8-10 hours per week. Submit cover letter and resume to First Presbyterian Church, 700 Wood Street, Clarion, PA 16214 or email to churchoffice@clarionfirstpresby.org or through clarionfirstpresby.org which is our website. Deadline to apply is June 24, 2024. Please share this with anyone you know who might be interested in the position.

### Looking Ahead:

- **Vacation Bible School is scheduled for July 30th through August 2nd.** This year's theme is "All God's Creatures!" VBS will run for four evenings: 6:30—8:15 p.m. The first evening will start at 6:15 pm to allow for Registration. There will be crafts, music, snacks, games, and lessons. Puppets will also be appearing this year! All children and adults are welcome as there will be lessons for both!

**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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED

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.



## PRAYER LIST

|                           |                            |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Randy Cable               | Bridget Mattson            |
| Margy Port                | Cori                       |
| Don McCord                | Ellen DiBernardo           |
| Rick Goble                | Chuck Reninger             |
| Shirley McKinley          | Sara Bennefield            |
| Sue Burns                 | Edd Myers                  |
| Pauline Henry             |                            |
| All our homebound members | <u>Around the World</u>    |
| Mary Biser                | Everyone serving in the US |
| Charlotte Hartman         | Military                   |
| Kenneth Daugherty, Jr.    | Gitwe Congregation in      |
| Ben McKinley              | Rwanda, our faith partners |
| Laurie Dickey             |                            |
| Anthony Louder            |                            |
| Pat Hargest               | <u>Homebound Member</u>    |
| Michael McConnell         | <u>of the Week</u>         |
| Alice Davis               | Alice Davis                |
| Alexandra Sharrar         | 29 Enlow Road              |
| Dr. Shannon Penland       | Imperial, PA 15126         |
| Mary Kay Arth             |                            |
| Tracey & Jody Hall        | She is Marianne Reynolds'  |
| Mason Martin and family   | mother.                    |
| Angelo Gehenio            |                            |
| Jeri Reddinger            |                            |
| Joe Amato                 |                            |
| Tom Minich                |                            |
| Jim Minich                |                            |
| Rob Summerville           |                            |
| Evie Renwick              |                            |
| Richard Moore             |                            |

**JUNE 23, 2024**  
**FIFTH SUNDAY**  
**AFTER PENTECOST**

**takingt  
 faith  
 home**

*God cares for us when we are afraid.*

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

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

|                  |                              |                                       |
|------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Sunday</b>    | <b>Mark 4:35-41</b>          | <b>Jesus calms the waters</b>         |
| <b>Monday</b>    | <b>Job 38:1-11</b>           | <b>God's rebuke of Job</b>            |
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | <b>2 Corinthians 6:1-13</b>  | <b>How Paul served God</b>            |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | <b>Psalms 56</b>             | <b>A prayer of trust in God</b>       |
| <b>Thursday</b>  | <b>Joshua 1:1-9</b>          | <b>God's commission to Joshua</b>     |
| <b>Friday</b>    | <b>Joel 2:18-27</b>          | <b>God's response and promise</b>     |
| <b>Saturday</b>  | <b>Psalms 107:1-3, 23-32</b> | <b>God saves those in distress</b>    |
| <b>Sunday</b>    | <b>Mark 5:21-43</b>          | <b>Jesus heals and raises to life</b> |

**SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK**

*And they [disciples] were filled with great awe and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"*  
**Mark 4:41 (NRSV)**

**PRAYERS AND BLESSING**

**A Prayer for the Week:**  
 God of comfort and assurance, we thank you for your presence that promises to protect us through the storms of life through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

**Mealtime Prayer:**  
 Dear God, you who still the storm and hush the waves, we thank you for protecting us and caring for us with this food through Christ our Lord. Amen. (Psalm 107:29)

**A Blessing to Give:**  
 May your heart be open to the grace of God in Christ. (2 Corinthians 6:13)



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**JUNE 23, 2024**  
**HYMN OF THE WEEK**  
*Calm to the Waves*

**takingt  
 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:

- When is a time you were afraid? What did you do?
- How is God with you when you are afraid?

**DEVOTIONS**

*Read:* Mark 4:35-41.

This story is not simply about a miracle showing the powers of Jesus over nature. It is about the presence of the kingdom of God in Jesus silencing and rebuking the powers of evil, death, and destruction. First century Jews and Christians experienced a traumatic time in history. Roman rulers dictated their lives, destroyed the temple in Jerusalem, and slaughtered countless lives. It is reminiscent of the shock and sorrow that many have experienced throughout time. At such times one wonders what will happen and if there is hope for the future. The disciples in the boat with Jesus are filled with fear and wonder who this Jesus is. We, as the readers of Mark, have a better view of what is happening. An image for the church is the boat at sea with Jesus. A word we use for the worshipping space inside a church building is nave from the Latin word (*navis*), which means "ship." There can be times in our lives when we, ourselves, are tossed by the wind and waves yet sheltered by Jesus, the Son of God who silences and rebukes all that frightens us.

*Discuss:* How does faith in Jesus calm you and others who follow Christ?

*Pray:* **Almighty and living God, in the midst of our uncertainties and fears we thank you for your saving presence that silences the storms of our lives and world through 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, how can you show God's love and care for someone who is going through a difficult time?

**RITUALS AND TRADITIONS**

In the Bible the sea is often seen as a place that lacks order and safety. The sea represents that which seeks to undermine God's design for life. Because of this, the church has been portrayed as a ship at sea with Jesus at the helm. Some congregations actually have a ship hanging down from the ceiling in the sanctuary or nave (word for ship). Draw a picture of a boat or take a model of a ship and place it in a visible place to remind you that your life in Christ is protected by Jesus just as he protected his disciples during the storm on the Sea of Galilee. Place next to the ship these words: Thank you, Jesus, for protecting us in the storms of life.



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