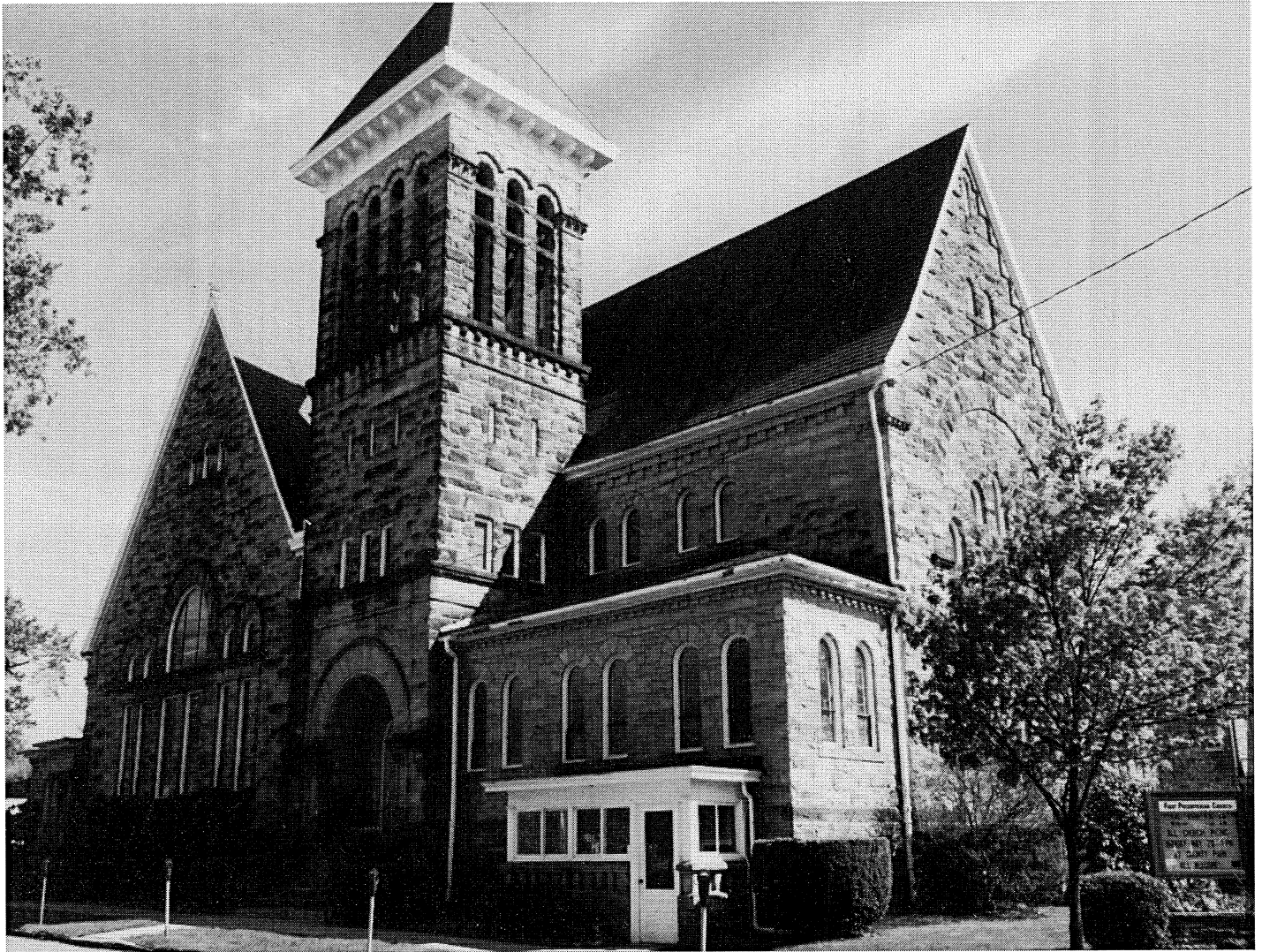


First Presbyterian Church



Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
July 28, 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)

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Be sure to either turn off your phone,
or switch it to airplane mode, during the service

Welcome and Announcements

Lector, Jeff Kapp

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

Prelude

Priere

Theodore Salome, Arr. Charles Callahan

Chiming of the Trinity

Introit

O Radiant Dawn
(Alium Spiritum Quartet)

James McMillan

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

Call to Worship

All your works shall give thanks to you, O God, and all your faithful shall bless you.

For you uphold all who are falling and raise up all who are bowed down.

All look to you; you give them food in due season.

You open your hand, satisfying the desire of every living thing.

We lift our hearts in thanks to you.

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

✦ Hymn No. 703

Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me

✦ Call to Confession

The proof of God's amazing love is this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Because we have faith in him, we can approach the throne of God in confidence. In faith and humility, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

✦ Prayer of Confession (Unison)

O Christ, when the crowds surrounded you, hungry for bread and for your word, you took an offering—five loaves, two fish—and made them for a feast. Still, O Lord, we doubt the abundance of your grace. Still, O Lord, we are hesitant to share the gifts we have. Still, O Lord, we wonder whether there is enough for all. Forgive us, O God, and make of us a more generous people. Empower us to share the gift of our lives, and enlighten us to see the miracles around us. For you are the giver of grace upon grace, the one who turns want into plenty. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

✦ Declaration of Forgiveness

The love of God is from everlasting to everlasting. Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ. And Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, and Christ prays for us.

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

Debra Owens

Prayer of Illumination

Jeff Kapp

First Scripture

Psalm 145:10-18

(p. 581)

Anthem *Little David, Play on Your Harp* Arr. Robert Latham
(Alium Spiritum Quartet)

Second Scripture Ephesians 3:14-21 (p. 193)

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

Sermon "Wrapped in Love" Rev. Rebecca Mihm

Organ Interlude

✦ **Hymn No. 440** *Jesus, Lover of My Soul*

We Give Thanks to God

✦ **Affirmation of Faith** *6.075 The Westminster Confession of Faith*

They who are effectually called and regenerated, having a new heart and a new spirit created in them, are further sanctified, really and personally, through the virtue of Christ's death and resurrection, by his Word and Spirit dwelling in them; the dominion of the whole body of sin is destroyed, and the several lusts thereof are more and more weakened and mortified, and they more and more quickened and strengthened, in all saving graces, to the practice of true holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.

Call for the Offering

Offering and Offertory *The House on the Rock* Sean Taylor
(Alium Spiritum Quartet)

✦ **Doxology**

✦ **Prayer of Dedication**

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

We Go Forth to Serve

✦ **Hymn No. 188** *Jesus Loves Me!*

✦ **Sung Benediction** *Small Things with Great Love* Lara Alami
(Alium Spiritum Quartet)

Postlude *The Ash Grove* Welsh Folk tune, Arr. Jean Mitrosky

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: Jeff Kapp
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: Robin Cable, Lee Seitz, Cindy Kapp

The Sanctuary flowers today are given to the glory of God, and in honor of Dave and Kathy Larimer's recent 53rd Wedding Anniversary, by Kathy Larimer.

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

10:00 a.m. Worship

WEEKLY DEPOSIT SUMMARY

7/22/2024

Weekly Contributions

Envelope Contributions	\$2,410.00
Miscellaneous Cash Contributions	\$108.00
Total Contributions	\$2,518.00

Weekly Donations

Christian Education/VBS	\$25.00
Food Bag	\$225.00
Men's Fellowship	\$20.00
Total	\$270.00

Total \$2,788.00

NOTES:

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBY

Tuesday, July 30

- 6:00 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous, Step Down Room
6:15 p.m. VBS Registration
6:30 p.m. VBS, All Ages

Wednesday, July 31

- 6:30 p.m. VBS, All Ages
8:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous, Step Down Room

Thursday, August 1

- 6:30 p.m. VBS, All Ages

Friday, August 2

- 5:00 p.m. Blessing of the Pets, BBQ & Ice Cream Social,
Pavilion
6:30 p.m. VBS, All Ages

Next Sunday, August 4

- 10:00 a.m. Worship
—Communion
11:00 a.m. Congregational Meeting

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today, *Alium Spiritum* will joins us for worship. The quartet will sing four pieces during worship. Full information on the group can be found in the bulletin insert.

There will be a Congregational Meeting on August 4th, immediately following the worship service, for the purpose of accepting a grant to promote children's participation in worship, and the terms and conditions listed in it.

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!**

Come join us this Friday, August 2nd, at 5 p.m. at our pavilion outside for a Blessing of the Pets, BBQ, and Ice Cream Social. Pets must be on a leash or crated. If you cannot bring your pet, bring a photo for the blessing. Hope to see you there!

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. Please share this with anyone you know who might be interested in the position.

ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED

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.

PRAYER LIST

Randy Cable	Sara Bennefield
Margy Port	Edd Myers
Don McCord	Bob McGregor
Shirley McKinley	
Pauline Henry	<u>Bereaved</u>
All our homebound members	The Jeri Reddinger family
Mary Biser	<u>Around the World</u>
Charlotte Hartman	Everyone serving in the US
Kenneth Daugherty, Jr.	Military
Ben McKinley	
Laurie Dickey	Gitwe Congregation in
Anthony Louder	Rwanda, our faith partners
Pat Hargest	
Alice Davis	<u>Homebound Member</u>
Alexandra Sharrar	<u>of the Week</u>
Dr. Shannon Penland	Kay Fye
Mary Kay Arth	11981 Rt. 338
Tracey & Jody Hall	Knox, PA 16232
Mason Martin and family	Kay is Tam Goble's mother.
Angelo Gehenio	
Joe Amato	
Tom Minich	
Rob Summerville	
Evie Renwick	
Richard Moore	
Bridget Mattson	
Cori	
Ellen DiBernardo	
Sam DiBernardo	
Chuck Reninger	

JULY 28, 2024
TENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

taking
faith
home

God shows us the abundant life through Jesus.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 6:1-21	Jesus feeds the five thousand
Monday	2 Kings 4:42-44	Elisha feeds one hundred
Tuesday	Ephesians 3:14-21	Christ's love for us
Wednesday	2 Corinthians 9:6-15	Generous giving
Thursday	Deuteronomy 28:1-14	Blessings for obedience
Friday	Isaiah 30:18-22	God's promise to Zion
Saturday	Psalms 145:10-18	The Lord is kind and merciful
Sunday	John 6:24-35	Christ, the bread of life

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted.
John 6:11 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Merciful God, give us generous hearts that reach out to others with compassion so that we may know and experience abundant life through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for providing us with this food and opening your hand to satisfy the desire of all living things. In Christ's name we pray, amen. (Psalm 145:15-16)

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you with abundant life through Jesus Christ.

JULY 28, 2024

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises

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:

- What would you do if you had invited three guests for dinner and instead, six showed up?
- Describe what an abundant life looks like. How do you experience an abundant life?

DEVOTIONS

Read: John 6:1-21.

God's creation produces enough to feed the world. There are times when our own stewardship of God's bounty creates fear that we will not have enough to survive. Some go hungry and suffer poor health while others suffer poor health from consuming too much. In this reading, Jesus takes five loaves and two fish, gives thanks, and feeds five thousand people. He shows the power of giving thanks for God's abundance. This story is about more than gratitude and abundance. It is a sign—a divine example—of the unique character of Jesus that is also seen in Jesus walking on water and bringing the disciples to a safe shore (vv. 16-20). Jesus provides the abundant life and safe harbor because of who he is, the Word made flesh, the Son of God who came to save us. He is worthy of our trust and our praise.

Discuss: How does the story of the feeding of the five thousand help you understand God's abundance?

Pray: Dear God, take away our fears and give us the joy of life in your presence that we may be filled with generous hearts through Christ Jesus, our Savior 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 be generous to others by sharing your resources?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Having enough food to eat is a God-given blessing. Providing a meal and enjoying it with others is a way to celebrate the God of abundance. This week prepare and share a meal with others. Begin the meal by sharing highs and lows with one another. Then start the meal with prayer: **Dear God, we give you thanks for the fruit of the earth and for the delight of joining with others to eat and be satisfied. We thank you for the joy of living in your presence through Jesus Christ, the one who fed the five thousand and gives us the abundant life. Amen.** After the meal pray the Lord's Prayer together.

The ensemble portion of today's worship music is performed by Alium Spiritum, a classical vocal quartet founded in 2018 by Brookville native Sean Taylor and his wife, Diane, who now live in Brownsville, Texas. They are joined by Lara Alami, from Detroit, Michigan, and Daniel Parks, from Williamsburg, Virginia.

Diane Walters, described as a "clear, beautifully colored soprano" (Broad Street Review) and "sweetly endearing" (Music in Cincinnati), is an artist based in Brownsville, Texas. A specialist in collaborative music and frequent soloist, Diane has sung with ensembles across the country and in Europe including The Crossing, Cincinnati's Vocal Arts Ensemble, Alium Spiritum, Chorosynthesis, RedShift, Taylor Festival Choir, Weimar Bach Cantata Academy, Berwick Chorus of the Oregon Bach Festival, Dallas Choral Festival, and JSB Ensemble of the International Bachakademie Stuttgart. She can be heard on several commercial recordings including the 2022 GRAMMY® nominated recording *Rising w/The Crossing*. Diane is on the voice faculty at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. She holds degrees from the Capital University Conservatory of Music and the Boyer College of Music and Dance at Temple University. Diane enjoys knitting, cooking, and spending time with her husband, Sean and daughter, Cecilia.

Lara Alami performs regularly with professional choral ensembles Audivi, Vocal Arts Ensemble Cincinnati, Conspirare, Sounding Light, and has also performed with True Concord Voices and Orchestra, and Oregon Bach Festival. She has sung the contralto role of Vera Boronel in Menotti's *The Consul* with Opera MODO Detroit. She has also performed with Motor City Lyric Opera, sharing opera with students in Detroit and the surrounding area. Recent highlights as a soloist include the Durufle's *Requiem*, Ethnic Soloist in Carl Jenkins' *Stabat Mater* (singing in Aramaic). Lara performs annually for events with Greenfield Singers (Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village in Dearborn, MI). She is soloist and section leader at First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham, MI, and joins the St. John's Episcopal Church of Detroit quartet for the summer season. Lara Alami is a private voice instructor with Rochester Conservatory in Rochester, Michigan. When she isn't singing, she is spending time with her family: husband Faris and their three children. Lara enjoys watercolor and oil painting, having most recently exhibited her work at the Spread Art Gallery in Detroit.

Daniel Edward Parks is a Visiting Assistant Professor of Music and Choral Conducting at William & Mary and the Interim Director of Choirs. He holds degrees from the University of Colorado Boulder (DMA), where he received the Lynn Whitten Fellowship in Graduate Choral Conducting, the University of Minnesota (MM) and Lawrence University (BM). Since joining the Department of Music in 2021, he has conducted the W&M Choir and taught academic courses in music theory and audio production. In the Fall of 2022, he conducted the Barksdale Treble Chorus and Botetourt Chamber Singers as a sabbatical replacement, culminating in a combined performance of Mozart's *Requiem* in D minor at Commonwealth Auditorium. Daniel was recently named the Artistic Director of the Williamsburg Choral Guild for the upcoming 2023-2024 season. In 2020, he was a finalist in the Graduate Conducting Competition of the Southwestern American Choral Director's Association. As an educator, he taught choral music in Wisconsin schools for five years. He has appeared with a wide variety of choral ensembles in Minnesota, Colorado, and Virginia, and with the professional chamber vocal ensemble Alium Spiritum, based in South Texas.

Pennsylvania native Sean Taylor is Associate Professor of Voice and Director of Choral Studies at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, conductor of the Valley Symphony Orchestra Chorale, Director of Traditional Music at First Methodist Church in Harlingen Texas, and in September 2024 will assume the role of Director of Music with Berkshire Choral International. A specialist in professional ensemble singing, Sean has sung with Conspirare, Cincinnati's Vocal Arts Ensemble, the Dallas Choral Festival, Charleston's Taylor Festival Choir, The Oregon Bach Festival, and the Choir of Cincinnati's St. Rose Church. Sean earned a DMA in Choral Conducting from the University of Cincinnati, College-Conservatory of Music and a Master of Music in Conducting from Carnegie Mellon University, where he served as assistant conductor to Grammy-winning conductor Robert Page. Sean balances his scholarly and artistic work with video games, Batman movies, and preparing for Shark Week with his daughter Cecilia.

Founded in 2018, Alium Spiritum, Latin for "different breath", is devoted to making music relatable to audiences and the community through purposeful, intimate concerts. Alium Spiritum has performed live annually in western Pennsylvania annually since 2018. For additional information, visit www.aliumspiritum.org and follow Alium Spiritum on Facebook and Instagram.

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3rd Hymn: “Jesus Loves Me!” from Glory to God #188. Text: Stanza 1, Anna Bartlett Warner, 1859; stanza 2, David Rutherford McGuire, 1971. Music: William Batchelder Bradbury, 1862, alt. Livestreamed and reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-727612, Public Domain.

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