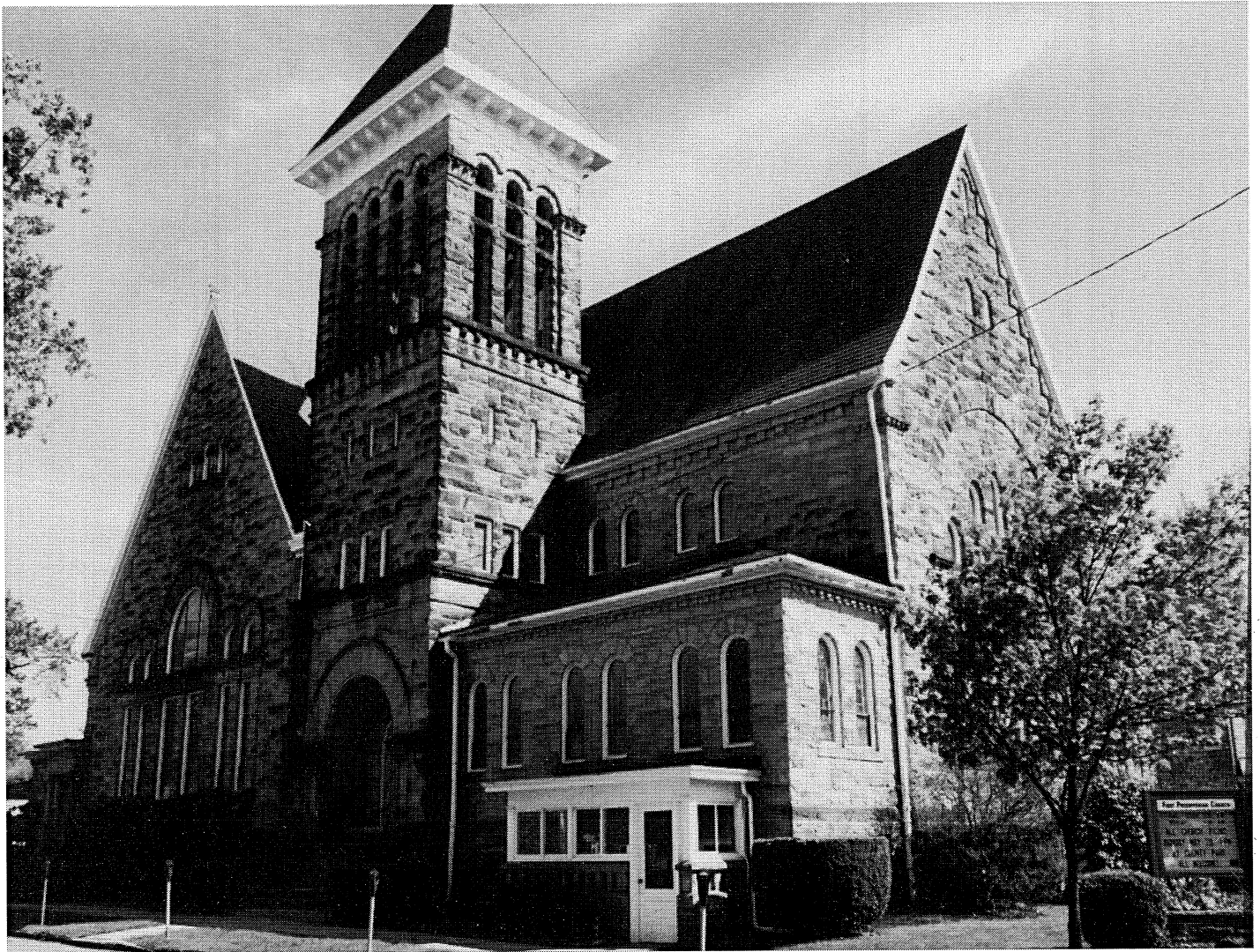


First Presbyterian Church



*Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 8, 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)

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome and Announcements

Lector, Kathy Larimer

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

Prelude

Spirit of God

Frederick C. Atkinson, arr. Lani Smith

Chiming of the Trinity

Introit

Come All You People

Alexander Gondo

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

Call to Worship

Trust in the Lord,
who made heaven and earth;
Trust in the Lord,
who loves every part of it.
Trust in the Lord,
who cares for those in need;
Trust in the Lord,
who leads us to do the same.
Let us worship God,
who shows us the way.

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

✠ Hymn No. 610

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

✠ 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. Friends, let us confess our sins to God.

✠ Prayer of Confession (Unison)

You love us with open arms, O God. Forgive us when we do not put your love into practice: when we do not challenge the injustice around us; when we are not generous with the gifts we have to share; when we are slow to compassion and quick to judgment; when we contribute to the brokenness of the world instead of helping to make it whole. Forgive us, O God, of the ways we fall short. Free us to try again, and let your love lead the way. 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

Presentation of Bibles

Acolyte Recognition

Prayer of Illumination

Kathy Larimer

First Scripture

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23

(p. 604)

Second Scripture

Mark 7:24-37

(p. 42)

The words of scripture, inspired by God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Rabbi Jesus”

Rev. Rebecca Mihm

Organ Interlude

✦ Hymn No. 175

Seek Ye First

We Give Thanks to God

✦ Affirmation of Faith

6.058 The Westminster Confession of Faith

Since there is no other way of salvation than that revealed in the gospel, and since in the divinely established and ordinary method of grace faith comes by hearing the Word of God, Christ has commissioned his Church to go into all the world and to make disciples of all nations.

Call for the Offering

Offering and Offertory

The Music of Thy Name

Craig Courtney, John Newton

✦ Doxology

✦ Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

We Go Forth to Serve

✦ Hymn No. 450

Be Thou My Vision

✦ Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Sent Forth By God’s Blessing

Welsh Folk Song

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.

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1st Hymn: “O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing” from *Glory to God* #610. Text: Charles Wesley, 1739, alt. Music: Carl Gotthelf Gläser, 1828; arr. Lowell Mason, 1839. Livestreamed and reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-727612, Public Domain.

2nd Hymn: “Seek Ye First” from *Glory to God* #175. Text: Stanza 1, Karen Lafferty, 1971, alt. stanzas 203, anon. Music: Karen Lafferty, 1971. Words & Music: © 1972 *CCM Music* (Admin. by *Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc.*) Livestreamed with permission under CCLI Streaming Plus License™ A-21963048 and reprinted with permission under Church Copyright License ® A-21963031, all rights reserved.

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3rd Hymn: “Be Thou My Vision” from *Glory to God* #450. Text: Irish poem; trans. Mary E. Byrne, 1905; vers. Eleanor Hull, 1912, alt. Music: Irish ballad; harm. David Evans, 1927. Text & Music: Public Domain. Livestreamed with permission under CCLI Streaming Plus License™ A-21963048 and reprinted with permission under Church Copyright License ® A-21963031, Public Domain.

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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 YouTube channel.

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)

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: Ann Brooks
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: Lori Smith, Matt Kurtas, Alexis Burns, and Lucy Kurtas

The Sanctuary flowers today are given to the glory of God, and in honor of Elaine Matticks, by Pauline Henry.

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

10:00 a.m. Worship
11:00 a.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room
11:00 a.m. Sunday School, Children and Adults

WEEKLY DEPOSIT SUMMARY

9/1/2024

Weekly Contributions

Envelope Contributions	\$2,891.00
Miscellaneous Cash Contributions	<u>\$323.00</u>
Total Contributions	\$3,214.00

Weekly Donations

Christian Education	\$25.00
Food Bags	\$50.00
Men's Fellowship	<u>\$70.00</u>
Total	\$145.00

Total	\$3,359.00
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NOTES:

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBY

Monday, September 9

6:00 p.m. Mission Team, Ministry Central
7:00 p.m. Worship, Chapel

Tuesday, September 10

6:00 p.m. NA Meeting, Step Down Room

Wednesday, September 11

7:00 p.m. Evening Circle, Parlor
8:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous, Step Down Room

Thursday, September 12

2:00 p.m. Food Bag Distribution, CE Lobby
5:00 p.m. Echoes Bell Rehearsal
6:00 p.m. Joyful Bells Rehearsal

Next Sunday, September 15 Rwanda Sunday

10:00 a.m. Worship
11:00 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Acolyte Recognition: This morning we are celebrating our acolytes. We are thankful for Gavin Kunselman and his faithfulness to our acolyte program. We wish him well as he graduates from this program. We are also thankful for Clara Stants and Jeremy Willy and their dedication to the program. Today we welcome Audrina Champion, Andrew and Nathan Scovel, and Sawyer Kunselman as a new class of acolytes. We look forward to their role in our worship services.

Sunday School starts today for children and adults. Join us for Bible lessons, crafts, songs, and snack immediately following church in the CE building. Adults meet in the Chapel.

Sign up ends today! Come watch the musical "Annie" at the Barrow-Civic theater with us on September 29th at 2:00 P.M. Then join us after the show for dinner at a restaurant. Please sign up in the Ramp Room today! If you have any questions, ask someone on the Fellowship Committee or the Christian Education Committee.

Peacemaking Offering As Presbyterians, we view peace as a core part of our identity and calling as believers. It is a central declaration of the gospel, calling us to model our lives in the pattern of the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ. This special PC USA offering will be collected until October 6. Together, we can transform cultures of violence into communities of peace.

Men's Fellowship/Breakfast is a group of men from the area. We meet the third Saturday of the month; October 19, November 16 of 2024 and January 18, February 15, March 15, April 19, and May 17 of 2025. We meet at 8:00 am in the social hall, and enjoy a breakfast and fellowship, followed by a guest speaker. All men are welcome. Please contact Bill Champion with any questions or to let him know you plan to attend, 814-764-3886.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONTINUED)

Autumn Leaf Festival is fast approaching. The Men's Fellowship needs your help. October 4 we will be parking cars during the Craft Day and October 5 will be our concession stand. We host our stand at the corner of 7th Avenue and Wood Street. Our location is dependent on the weather so just look for us!!! We will need parking lot staff, concession stand workers, and any cookies anyone cares to bake! Call Bill Champion to volunteer, 814-764-3886.

Special thanks to Charlie Siegel and Mike Hetrick for making and installing the new handrail in the choir loft stairwell. It will be appreciated every Sunday morning!

PRAYER LIST

Randy Cable	Bertie Gibson
Margy Port	Dan Clark
Don McCord	Amy Benhoff
Shirley McKinley	Archie Kunselman
Pauline Henry	Lori Beth
All our homebound members	Ryan Cornicki

Mary Biser	<u>Bereaved</u>
Charlotte Hartman	Barney Mecom friends and family
Kenneth Daugherty, Jr.	
Ben McKinley	
Laurie Dickey	Maria Temchulla friends and family
Anthony Louder	
Pat Hargest	
Alice Davis	Richard Moore friends and family
Alexandra Sharrar	
Dr. Shannon Penland	Bob McGregor friends and family
Mary Kay Arth	
Tracey & Jody Hall	

Mason Martin and family	<u>Around the World</u>
Angelo Gehenio	Everyone serving in the US Military
Joe Amato	
Tom Minich	

Rob Summerville	Gitwe Congregation in Rwanda, our faith partners
Evie Renwick	
Bridget Mattson	

Cori	<u>Homebound Member of the Week</u>
Ellen DiBernardo	
Sam DiBernardo	

Chuck Reninger	Mary McCamant
Sara Bennefield	Clarion Health Care & Rehab
Edd Myers	999 Heidrick Street
Jackie Primas	Clarion, PA 16214
Grace Carroll	
Mike Hiles	
Kay Caller	

SEPTEMBER 8, 2024 SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

taking faith home

We praise God through acts of kindness.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Mark 7:24-37	Jesus heals the Gentiles
Monday	Isaiah 35:4-7a	Return of the exiled
Tuesday	James 2:1-17	Faith without works is dead
Wednesday	Ephesians 1:3-14	Spiritual blessings in Christ
Thursday	Daniel 2:17-23	Nebuchadnezzar's dream
Friday	2 Samuel 22:47-51	God is the living Lord
Saturday	Psalms 146	Praise for God's help
Sunday	Mark 8:27-38	Taking up the cross

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul! I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long.
Psalm 146:1-2 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, we praise you for your loving kindness that restores us, carries out justice, and fills our lives with your goodness and mercy through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for restoring us with strength today with this gift of food. Help us to praise you with acts of kindness that help feed others, too. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May you see the goodness of God each and every day.

SEPTEMBER 8, 2024 HYMN OF THE WEEK

taking faith home

Soli Deo Gloria

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 or someone you know was praised for an act of kindness? Explain.
- What actions lead you to praise God?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Psalm 146.

This is the first in a series of five psalms of praise. It introduces many reasons to give God praise. We are to praise and trust God, not human leaders who are mortal and limited in their abilities. Mortal leaders are not necessarily bad, but in contrast to God, they can disappoint. The one worthy of praise is described as the one who creates all things, who gives justice for those who are oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets prisoners free, and who heals the body and spirit of those in need. God cares for those who live at the margins: the stranger, the orphan, and the widow. Knowing the kind of God we have, our praise to God is not only in words and song but shown in the way we live our lives. We praise God with deeds of compassion: our search for fair treatment of those who are hungry, those who are seen as without value, and those living with infirmities. In the reading from Mark 7:24-37, we see in Jesus the one who does all these things as he heals a foreign woman's daughter and a man who wanted to hear and speak clearly.

Discuss: How have you praised God through a deed of compassion?

Pray: **God of justice and mercy, we praise you for your goodness that leads us to care for all people through Christ Jesus our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how can you show care for someone who is not being treated well in your community?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

September 8th is National Grandparent's Day in the United States. During this week, plan a special way to show appreciation for those who are or have treated you as a grandchild. Give thanks to God for them with prayer: **Loving God, thank you for the gift of grandparents and other older caregivers in our lives. Your kindness is shown in their love and care for us. Thank you for their wise minds, listening ears, and loving hearts. Amen.**