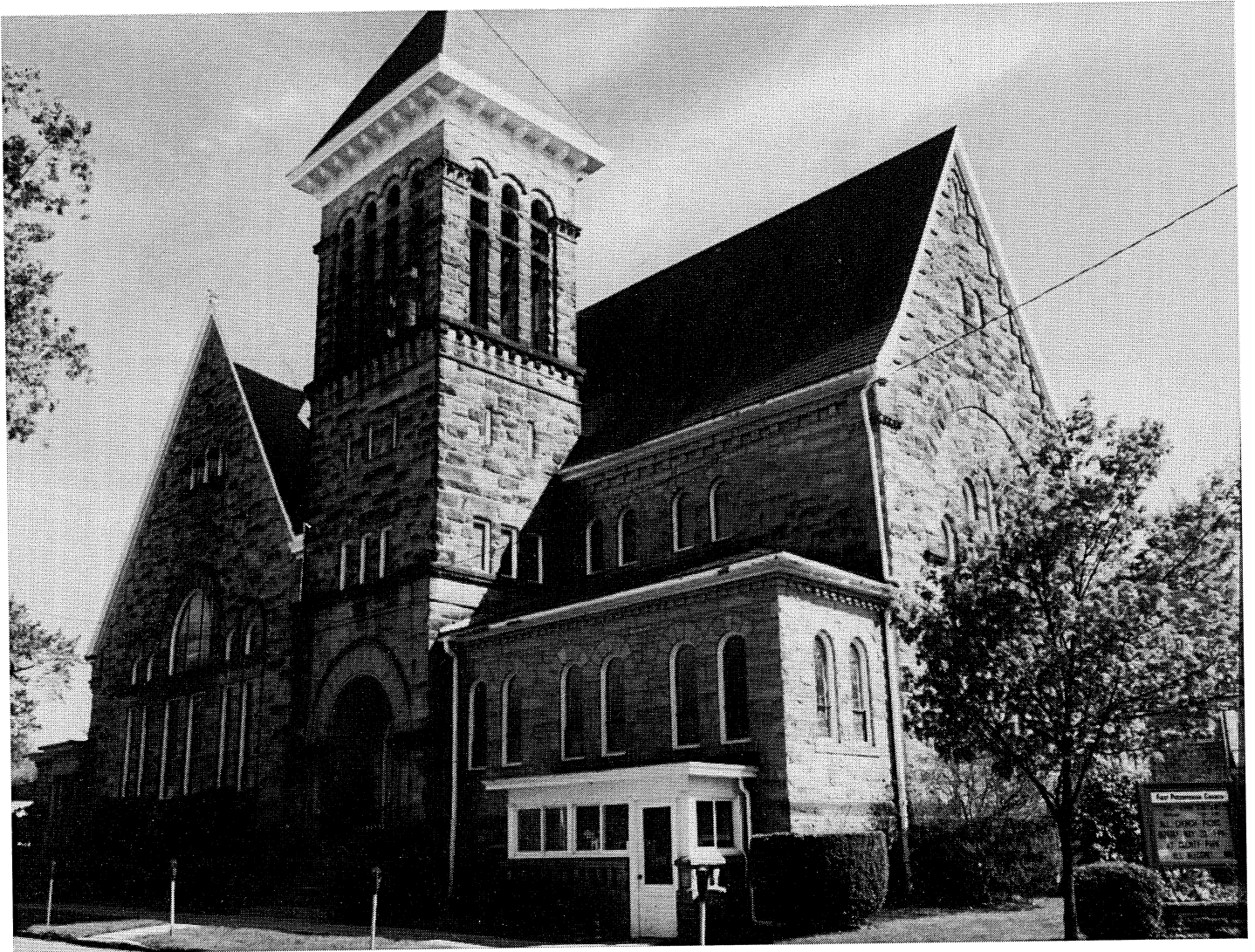


First Presbyterian Church



*Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost
Reformation Sunday
October 27, 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)

Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome and Announcements

Lector, David Larimer

Prelude

American Folk Tune

arr. Jean Mitrosky

Chiming of the Trinity

Introit

Come Sing, O Church, In Joy

Call to Worship

God has gathered us in this place from the community.

We've come from many kinds of dwellings and many kinds of families, from the many places we work and learn.

We join our hearts and voices to glorify God.

We come from very close by, and farther away.

God welcomes us in this place.

Let us worship God!

✦ Hymn No. 35

Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

✦ Call to Confession

Remember that our 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.

✦ Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on us. Heal us of our blindness, O Lord, for it is a blindness we have chosen. We close our eyes when faced with the suffering of the world, turn our gaze away from the needs of our neighbors, and blur our faces in the mirror, lest we recognize your image. Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on us. Heal us of our blindness, and open our eyes to the beauty of your grace. 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

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

David Larimer

First Scripture

Job 42:1-6,10-17

(p. 488)

Second Scripture

Mark 10:46-52

(p. 47)

The words of scripture, inspired by God.

Thanks be to God.

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

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.

Sermon

“Jesus Stops”

Rev. Rebecca Mihm

Organ Interlude

✦Hymn No. 653

Give Thanks to God Who Hears Our Cries

We Give Thanks to God

✦Affirmation of Faith

10.7 The Confession of Belhar

We believe that God has revealed God’s self as the one who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people; that God, in a world full of injustice and enmity, is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor and the wronged; that God calls the church to follow God in this; for God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the hungry; that God frees the prisoner and restores sight to the blind.

Call for the Offering

Offering and Offertory

A Firm Foundation

arr. by David Peninger

✦Doxology

✦Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

We Go Forth to Serve

✦Hymn No. 275

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

✦Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Fanfare on “Ein feste Burg”

Martin Luther,
arr. Roberta Rowland Raybold

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: “Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty” from Glory to God #35. Text: Joachim Neander, 1680; trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1863, alt. Music: Stralsund *Ernewerten Gesangbuch*, 1665; harm. *The Chorale Book for England*, 1863. Livestreamed and reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-727612, 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:	David 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:	Clara Stants, Jeremy Willy, Andrew Scovel, Nathan Scovel, Sawyer Kunselman
Ushers in Charge:	Bill Champion, Aubrie & Janna Scovel

The Sanctuary flowers today are given to the glory of God, and in memory of Dave Louder, by Richard McFarland.

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

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

WEEKLY DEPOSIT SUMMARY

10/20/2024

Weekly Contributions

Envelope Contributions	\$4,565.00
Miscellaneous Cash Contributions	\$184.00
Total Contributions	\$4,749.00

Weekly Donations

Food Bags	\$700.00
Men's Fellowship	\$35.00
Parking Fees	\$600.00
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	\$25.00
Circle Books	\$12.00
Total	\$1,372.00
Total	\$6,121.00

NOTES:

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBY

Monday, October 28

7:00 p.m. Evening Circle, Bonnie Champion

Tuesday, October 29

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

Wednesday, October 30

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

Thursday, October 31

5:00 p.m. Echoes Bell Rehearsal

6:00 p.m. Joyful Bells Rehearsal

Next Sunday, November 3

10:00 a.m. Worship, Rev. Gary Lyon preaching

11:00 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A Congregational Meeting will be held immediately after worship today for the purpose of electing new officers of the church.

Today is Reformation Sunday. It is the time when we celebrate the tradition that grounds our faith, the occasion in 1517 when Martin Luther posted his 95 theses on the church door in Wittenberg, Germany. We will be processing the banners that represent the confessions of PC(USA).

November/December 2024 Newsletter Folding. We plan to fold and mail/email the newsletter on Monday, October 28th, at 2:00 p.m. in Ministry Central. If you are available to help, call the office at (814) 226-8145.

Disaster Clean-Up Buckets: The Mission Team is putting together clean-up buckets and hygiene kits to help those affected by the recent hurricanes. We are coordinating with Church World Service. The need is great and any help is much appreciated. If you choose to donate, please make your check payable to First Presbyterian Church with "clean-up buckets" on the memo line.

Young Families Cooking Classes have been cancelled. There was not enough interest.

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 or boots are also needed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONTINUED)



PRAYER LIST

Randy Cable	Peggy Seigworth
Margy Port	Jerry Deitz
Shirley McKinley	Greg Rhoads
Pauline Henry	Elizabeth
Ruth Ann Minich	Don Neideritter
All our homebound members	Michael Kurtas, Jr.

Mary Biser
Charlotte Hartman
Kenneth Daugherty, Jr.
Ben McKinley
Laurie Dickey
Anthony Louder
Pat Hargest
Alice Davis
Alexandra Sharrar
Dr. Shannon Penland
Mary Kay Arth
Mason Martin and family

Angelo Gehenio
Joe Amato
Rob Summerville
Evie Renwick
Cori
Chuck Reninger
Sara Bennefield
Grace Carroll
Mike Hiles
Kay Caller
Bertie Gibson
Dan Clark
Amy Benhoff
Archer Kunselman
Lori Beth
Ryan Cornicki

Bereaved

Please remember the friends
and family of:
Don McCord

Around the World

Everyone serving in the US
Military

Gitwe Congregation in
Rwanda, our faith partners

Homebound Member of the Week

Gail Baptist
42 E. 8th Avenue
Clarion, PA 16214

OCTOBER 27, 2024
TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

taking faith home

Followers seek mercy from Jesus.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Mark 10:46-52	Jesus heals blind Bartimaeus
Monday	Jeremiah 31:7-9	Israel will return to its land
Tuesday	Hebrews 7:23-28	Our Lord is a high priest
Wednesday	Psalms 25:4-7	Prayer for guidance
Thursday	Micah 6:6-8	What God requires
Friday	Romans 15:1-13	Please others, not yourselves
Saturday	Psalms 126	Song of joy
Sunday	Mark 12:28-34	Love God and neighbor

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*Jesus said to him [Bartimaeus], "Go; your faith has made you well."
Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.*
Mark 10:52 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Merciful God, you who bring us hope and healing, may we see in Jesus the one who brings us from loneliness to a life of joy. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, as you fill our bodies with this gift of food, fill our spirits with joy and laughter in your presence through Christ Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May you be filled with laughter and shouts of joy through Christ our Lord. (Psalm 126:2)



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OCTOBER 27, 2024
HYMN OF THE WEEK
Day by Day

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:

- When is a time you have felt like an outsider?
- When is a time you have experienced Jesus' presence in your life?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Mark 10:46-52.

This story gives us important information about followers of Jesus. Bartimaeus, a blind beggar, sits along a roadside. He is an outsider. He sits alone without family or other supportive community. He's poor; he's not a contributor to his people; and, he's blind. And yet, contrary to the twelve disciples, he does see Jesus in a way that is captivating. He seeks what all need to seek from Jesus, mercy. He acknowledges Jesus as the Son of David and as his teacher. He's persistent in his request. He responds to Jesus' call by springing up and throwing off the only worldly good that could give him comfort or status, his cloak. He gives it all up and springs into action. Jesus affirms Bartimaeus' faith and the blind man gains his sight; and, without delay Bartimaeus follows Jesus. In contrast to the rich man in Mark 10:17-31, Bartimaeus doesn't walk away, doesn't hesitate, and doesn't return to his prior status and possessions. No longer on the side of the road, he follows Jesus on the road. He's "all in."

Discuss: When have you been excited about Jesus' presence in your life of faith and felt "all in"?

Pray: God of mercy and strength, help us to see as Bartimaeus sees that our lives may be filled with the joy and mercy you bring to us through Christ Jesus, the Son of David. 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 bring joy and laughter to someone who feels like an outsider?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Think or talk about a time when you thanked someone and showed appreciation for what they did for you. Was it a gift, an act of kindness, a note, or something else? Then think or talk about a time you have thanked God for something. Psalm 126:3 says, *"The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced."* Write a thank you note to God and use it as a bookmark in your Bible as a reminder to be thankful and rejoice in what God has done for you.



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