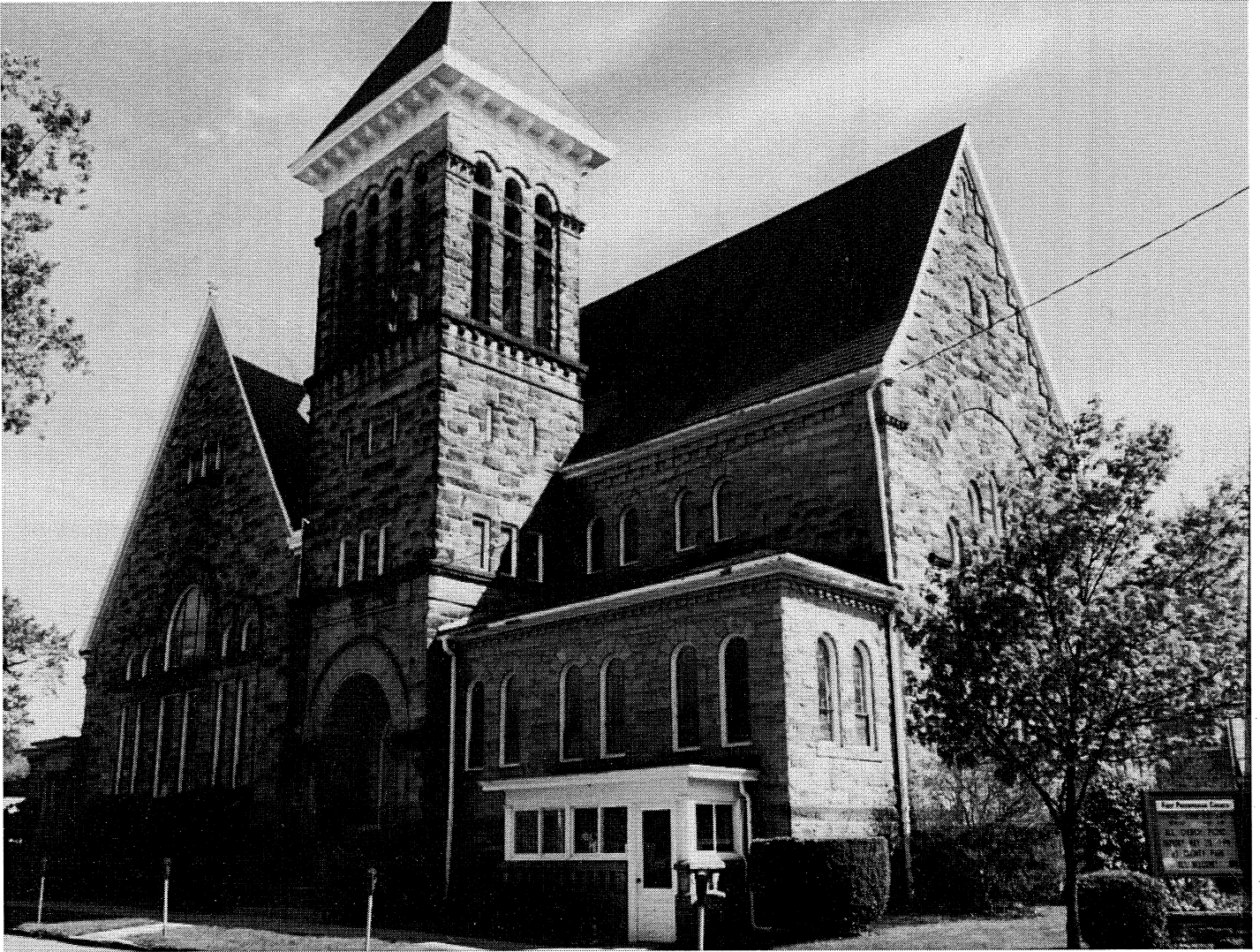


First Presbyterian Church



*Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
November 10, 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-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome and Announcements

Lector, Norma Kooman

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

Prelude

Canticle of Hope

Cynthia Dobrinski

Chiming of the Trinity

Call to Worship

A wandering people wondered what their new life would be like, and Moses said:

You shall love the Lord with all your heart.

Generations later, leaders argued over which rules were most important, and Jesus reminded them:

You shall love the Lord with all your soul.

And in this world that so often feels broken, we recognize God's call:

You shall love the Lord with all your might.

With heart, soul, and might, let us worship God.

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. 475

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

✦ Call to Confession

Scripture says, if we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. But, if we confess our sin, God 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)

Holy God, you call us to love you with all our heart, and with all our soul, and with all our mind. Forgive us when selfishness takes up too much of our heart, when worry seems to crowd wonder out of our soul, when fear causes us to close our minds to anything new. Holy God, you call us to bear with one another in love. Forgive us when we cannot love our neighbors. Forgive us when we cannot love ourselves. 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

Norma Kooman

First Scripture

Hebrews 9:11-14

(p. 223)

New Testament Reading

Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17

(p. 243)

The words of scripture, inspired by God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Redemption"

Rev. Rebecca Mihm

Organ Interlude

✦ Hymn No. 443

There Is a Redeemer

We Give Thanks to God

Call for the Offering

Offering and Offertory

Now Thank We All Our God

Kevin McChesney

✦Doxology

✦Prayer of Dedication

Donna Maxwell, Aubrie Scovel, and Janna Scovel join the Church

✦Apostles' Creed 2.1-2.3

I believe in God, the Father Almighty
maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;

who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.

Amen.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

We Go Forth to Serve

✦Hymn No. 438

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

✦Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Praise Him, Praise Him

Chester Allen, arr. Robert J. Hughes

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 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: Norma Kooman
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: Marianne & David Reynolds, Emma Willy

The Sanctuary flowers today are given to the glory of God, and in memory of Terry Henry, 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

11/3/2024

Weekly Contributions

Envelope Contributions	\$3,465.00
Miscellaneous Cash Contributions	\$197.00
Total Contributions	\$3,662.00

Weekly Donations

Food Bags	\$700.00
Men's Fellowship	\$245.00
Blessing Box	\$400.00
PDA Buckets	\$635.00
Total	\$1,980.00

Total	\$5,642.00
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Online Donations Oct. 2024, Deposited Nov. 2024

Offering Contributions	\$675.88
Grand Total	\$6,317.88

NOTES:

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBY

Monday, November 11

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

Tuesday, November 12

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

Wednesday, November 13

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

Thursday, November 14

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

Saturday, November 16

8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast, Social Hall

Next Sunday, November 17

10:00 a.m. Worship
11:00 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal
11:45 a.m. Cantata Rehearsal

ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Church Members: This morning we will receive three people as members of our congregation. Aubrie Scovel will join through confirmation. Her mother, Janna Scovel, and grandmother, Donna Maxwell, will join through transfer of membership. What a blessing to receive three generations into our church family!

Cantata Rehearsal begins next Sunday, November 10, after regular choir rehearsal ends, approximately 11:45 a.m.

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.

Our Annual Old-Fashioned Thanksgiving Returns! The dinner will be on Friday, November 22nd, at 6:00 p.m. in the Social Hall. Deacons will provide Turkey, Mashed Potatoes, and Stuffing. Everyone is encouraged to bring a side dish to share. This is not open to the general public, but if you decide to bring a guest, please note that so the Deacons have enough food. Sign up sheets are in the Ramp Room and the Narthex. They are asking that you bring a non-perishable food item for donation to the Blessing Box.

Christmas Flowers for the Sanctuary in honor of or in memory of a loved one may be ordered for \$9.00 each. Order forms were in the newsletter. They will also be in the Ramp Room next week. The deadline for orders is **Sunday,**

ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONTINUED)

November 24. Please make checks payable to "First Presbyterian Church" and enclose payment with your order.

Red Kettle Ringers Needed: First Presbyterian's day for the local Salvation Army bell ringing is Friday, Dec. 6th at the Walmart in Clarion. The sign-up sheet is available in the Ramp Room.

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.

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
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
Kenneth Daugherty, Jr.

Around the World
Everyone serving in the US Military

Gitwe Congregation in Rwanda, our faith partners

Homebound Member of the Week

Marsha Spencer
Shipperville Health Care & Rehab, Rm 205
Shipperville, PA 16254
Her birthday is today, November 10.

NOVEMBER 10, 2024 TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

taking faith home

The mercy of God reaches out in unexpected ways.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Mark 12:38-44	The widow's generous offering
Monday	1 Kings 17:8-16	Elijah helps a widow
Tuesday	Hebrews 9:24-28	Christ's great sacrifice
Wednesday	Luke 6:32-36	Love for enemies
Thursday	Deuteronomy 4:25-31	The Lord is merciful
Friday	Joel 2:12-14	Return to the Lord
Saturday	Psalms 146	Praise for God's help
Sunday	Mark 13:1-8	The signs of the end of the age

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"Go [God says to Elijah] now to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and live there; for I have commanded a widow there to feed you."

1 Kings 17:9 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, your ways are not our ways; help us to be open to your surprising grace that reaches out to all through Christ Jesus our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Meatime Prayer:

Dear God, to you who made heaven and earth and give justice to those who are burdened, we give thanks for the gift of this food. In Jesus' name, amen. (Psalm 146:6-7)

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you with mercy to share with others.



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NOVEMBER 10, 2024 HYMN OF THE WEEK

taking faith home

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

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 have you learned from someone who is from another country?
- Think or tell about someone you know from another faith tradition.

DEVOTIONS

Read: 1 Kings 17:8-16.

This story from the Old Testament is surprising. How can a man of God go to a poor, non-Hebrew widow, who is economically, religiously, and socially "marginalized", and ask for help? To get to the heart of this message, understanding the background is helpful. King Ahab of Israel had married the foreign princess Jezebel from Sidon. She brought her Baal worship to Israel and tried to put an end to the worship of the God of Israel. As a result, there was fear of—and a distancing from—foreigners in portions of the Old Testament. The widow, like Jezebel, is from Sidon. Despite that, God directs Elijah to receive the aid of a woman, who is widowed, who is poor to the point of death, and who is a Baal worshiper. Elijah is fed and the widow receives miraculous assistance. This passage is a reminder that the grace and mercy of God is for all. We are to pray and look for that grace in unexpected places and for people who seem to be the furthest from God's reign.

Discuss: How has someone from another faith tradition helped you understand your own faith better?

Pray: Merciful God, just as you served Elijah through the work of a foreign widow, help us to be open to how you extend your grace and mercy through those unlike us. In Jesus' name, 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 care for someone who seems ignored by others?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Generosity is giving to others freely and abundantly. Mark 12:38-44 is the story of a widow who gave two small coins, all that she had to live on, as an offering. In the same way that the widow gave to the Lord, we also should give. Money isn't all that we can give. Generosity is the giving of time, talent, and treasure. Write a list of ways you can show generosity to others.

Take a moment to talk about or reflect on your list.

Pray: Dear God, as you have been generous and kind to me, help me to be generous and kind to others through Christ our Lord. Amen.



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