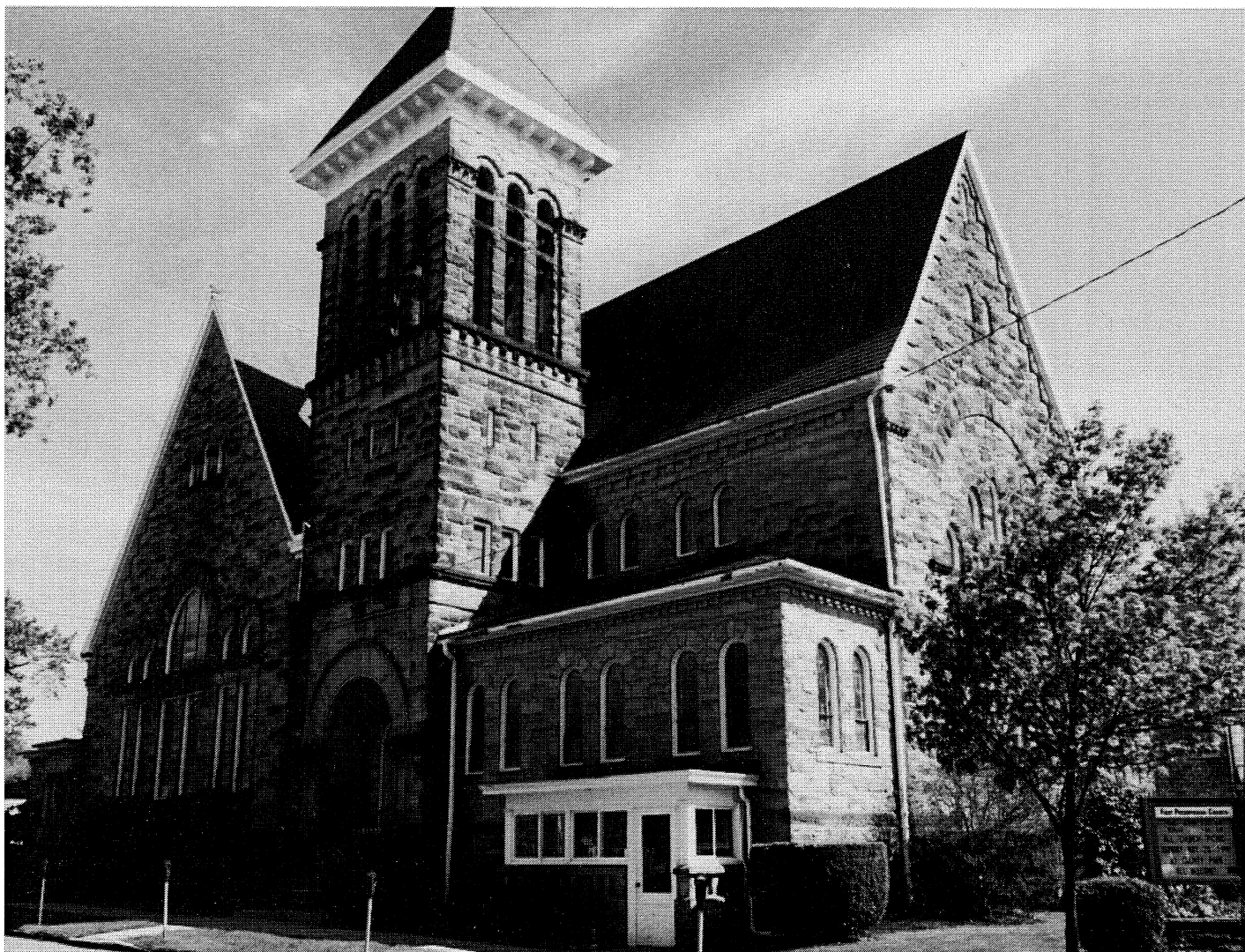


# *First Presbyterian Church*

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*Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost*  
*October 20, 2024*



700 Wood Street, Clarion, PA 16214

814-226-8145

[churchoffice@clarionfirstpresby.org](mailto:churchoffice@clarionfirstpresby.org)

[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)

Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

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.

**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

## Welcome and Announcements

Lector, David Larimer

### Prelude

*Setting on a Shaker Hymn*

arr. Gregg Sewell

### Chiming of the Trinity

### Introit No. 621

*I Will Call upon the Lord*

Michael O'Shields

### Call to Worship

God's greatness is beyond our understanding, yet we proclaim...

**Bless the Lord, O my soul!**

God stretched the heavens across the sky;

**let us marvel at the stars that fill it.**

God raised mountains above the depths;

**let us gather in wonder before them.**

### ✦ Hymn No. 12

*Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

### ✦ 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 Lord, you have taught us that whoever wishes to become great must be a servant, and whoever seeks to be first must be last and servant of all. Still, O Lord, we are like James and John, seeking seats of glory. We organize our lives around ladders to climb, not realizing that we are stepping on people whom you love. Forgive us, O Christ, and teach us to follow in your way, for the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. 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

## We Share God's Word

### Time with the Children

Debra Owens

### Prayer of Illumination

David Larimer

### First Scripture

Hebrews 5:1-10

(p. 220)

### Second Scripture

Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35c

(p. 554)

The words of scripture, inspired by God.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Sermon

"God the Creator"

Rev. Rebecca Mihm

Piano Interlude

✦Hymn No. 14

For the Beauty of the Earth

We Give Thanks to God

✦Affirmation of Faith

4.026 The Heidelberg Catechism

I believe that the eternal Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who out of nothing created heaven and earth and everything in them, who still upholds and rules them by his eternal counsel and providence, is my God and Father because of Christ the Son. I trust God so much that I do not doubt he will provide whatever I need for body and soul, and will turn to my good whatever adversity he sends upon me in this sad world. God is able to do this because he is almighty God and desires to do this because he is a faithful Father.

Call for the Offering

Offering and Offertory

Praise to the Lord, for the Lord is Good

Ellen Woods Bryce

✦Doxology

✦Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

We Go Forth to Serve

✦Hymn No. 20

All Things Bright and Beautiful

✦Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Holy. Holy, Holy

Edward Broughton,  
John B. Dykes

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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**Children's Message:** "Families on Faith Adventures at Home," The United Reformed Church, accessed October 13, 2024, <https://urc.org.uk/your-faith/children-young-people/families-on-faith-adventures-at-home/>  
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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](http://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](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

<b>Pastor:</b>	Rev. Rebecca Mihm
<b>Organist:</b>	Jean Mitrosky
<b>Director of Music:</b>	Bonnie Champion
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Ann Brooks
<b>Secretary:</b>	Debra Owens
<b>Sexton:</b>	Mike Hetrick
<b>Sound Engineer:</b>	Josh Deitz
<b>Video Engineer:</b>	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

<b>Pastor:</b>	Rev. Rebecca Mihm
<b>Lector:</b>	David Larimer
<b>Time with Children:</b>	Debra Owens
<b>Director of Music:</b>	Bonnie Champion
<b>Organist:</b>	Jean Mitrosky
<b>Sound Engineer:</b>	Josh Deitz/Jeff Kapp
<b>Video Engineer:</b>	Dan Willy/Kurt Nesbitt
<b>Acolytes:</b>	Clara Stants, Jeremy Willy, Andrew Scovel, Nathan Scovel, Sawyer Kunselman
<b>Ushers in Charge:</b>	Bill Champion, Carol & Kevin Roth

**The Sanctuary flowers today are given to the glory of God, and in memory of my mother Pat Steward, by Lori Smith.**

## 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

10/13/2024

### Weekly Contributions

Envelope Contributions	\$2,247.00
Miscellaneous Cash Contributions	\$92.00
<b>Total Contributions</b>	<b>\$2,339.00</b>

### Weekly Donations

Food Bags	\$300.00
Men's Fellowship	\$20.00
Christian Education	\$25.00
Caring Callers	\$100.00
Circle Books	\$105.84
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$550.84</b>

<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,889.84</b>
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### Additional Deposit on 10/8/24 for ALF Activities

Men's Fellowship	\$3,365.04
Food Bags	\$840.00
<b>Total Contributions</b>	<b>\$4,205.04</b>

## NOTES:

## THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBY

### Tuesday, October 22

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

### Wednesday, October 23

7:00 p.m. Session Meeting, Chapel

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

### Thursday, October 24

3:00 p.m. Cooking Class, Social Hall

5:00 p.m. Echoes Bell Rehearsal

6:00 p.m. Joyful Bells Rehearsal

### Saturday, October 26

11:00 a.m. Don McCord's Memorial Service

### Next Sunday, October 20

10:00 a.m. Worship

—Congregational Meeting

11:00 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**A Congregational Meeting** will be held following the worship service on Sunday, October 27, 2024 for the purpose of electing new officers of the church.

**Reformation Sunday is coming October 27th.** 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 it 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 will be putting together clean-up buckets and hygiene kits to help those affected by the recent hurricanes. We will be 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:** The PennState Extension Office is holding cooking classes in the Social Hall. Classes run from 10/24 through 12/5 and start at 3:00 p.m. To qualify, you must be the parent or caregiver of a child who qualifies for free/reduced school lunch or WIC. To register contact Elaine Matticks at (814) 229-5245 or etmatticks@yahoo.com.

## 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 or boots are also needed.

## PRAYER LIST

Randy Cable	Archer Kunselman
Margy Port	Lori Beth
Shirley McKinley	Ryan Cornicki
Pauline Henry	Peggy Seigworth
Ruth Ann Minich	Jerry Deitz
Kathy Larimer	Greg Rhoads
All our homebound members	Elizabeth
	Don Neideritter

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  
Tom Minich  
Rob Summerville  
Evie Renwick  
Cori  
Chuck Reninger  
Sara Bennefield  
Edd Myers  
Grace Carroll  
Mike Hiles  
Kay Caller  
Bertie Gibson  
Dan Clark  
Amy Benhoff

### Bereaved

Please remember the friends and family of:  
Brigette Mattson  
Don McCord

### Around the World

Everyone serving in the US Military

Gitwe Congregation in Rwanda, our faith partners

### Homebound Member of the Week

Virginia Mohny  
49 N. 3rd Avenue  
Clarion, PA 16214-1831

OCTOBER 20, 2024  
TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST

taking<sup>†</sup>  
faith  
home

*Greatness is about serving others.*

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Mark 10:35-45	The Son of Man came to save
Monday	Isaiah 53:4-12	Suffering servant song
Tuesday	Hebrews 5:1-10	Jesus the great high priest
Wednesday	Matthew 11:1-6	Jesus talks about himself
Thursday	Acts 9:10-19	Conversion of Saul
Friday	Philippians 3:7-11	Being acceptable to God
Saturday	Psalms 91:9-16	God's protection
Sunday	Mark 10:46-52	Jesus heals blind Bartimaeus

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*"[W]hoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant,  
and whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave."*

Mark 10:43b-44 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

**A Prayer for the Week:**

Almighty God, help us to serve the needs of others, for the sake of Jesus Christ who suffered and died that we may live. Amen.

**Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear God, we thank you for this food and for your sacrifice of love through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

**A Blessing to Give:**

May God bless you with a life of service.

OCTOBER 20, 2024  
HYMN OF THE WEEK  
*To Be Your Presence*

taking<sup>†</sup>  
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:

- Think or talk about how you like to serve others.
- How did Jesus serve others?

DEVOTIONS

*Read:* Mark 10:33-45.

Jesus gives a clear prediction of his suffering, death, and resurrection. James and John totally miss the point of Jesus' description of humiliation, suffering, and death to ask for their own place of glory. The contrast could not be more glaring. The desire for power and recognition that the two disciples ask for is understandable. However, in contrast to a lust for power and personal glory, Jesus presents a view of glory that is all about serving others in love, even to the point of death. Jesus' spirituality, that is, his way of life with God in prayer and action is all about service. His spirituality centers on caring for others. Praying for greatness—as James and John asked of Jesus—is a misguided spirituality that needs to put the cross of Christ at the center. When that happens, greatness no longer looks like power and prestige but loving acts that serve others in the name of God.

*Discuss:* When you think of a life lived close to the heart of Jesus, do you consider suffering and service to others?

*Pray:* God of power and might, help us to see as Jesus sees that we may live lives filled with acts of loving service for the sake of our crucified Christ. 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 sacrifice your comfort for the needs of others?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

There are many in our congregations and communities who serve humbly and faithfully without much recognition. Think or talk about people you know who serve Christ through their words and actions. Choose one or two of those people identified who you would like to honor. Send them a thank you card or give a small gift to them in recognition of their servant work.

*Pray:* Dear God, give me a humble heart that I may gladly be a servant of others through Christ our Lord. Amen.