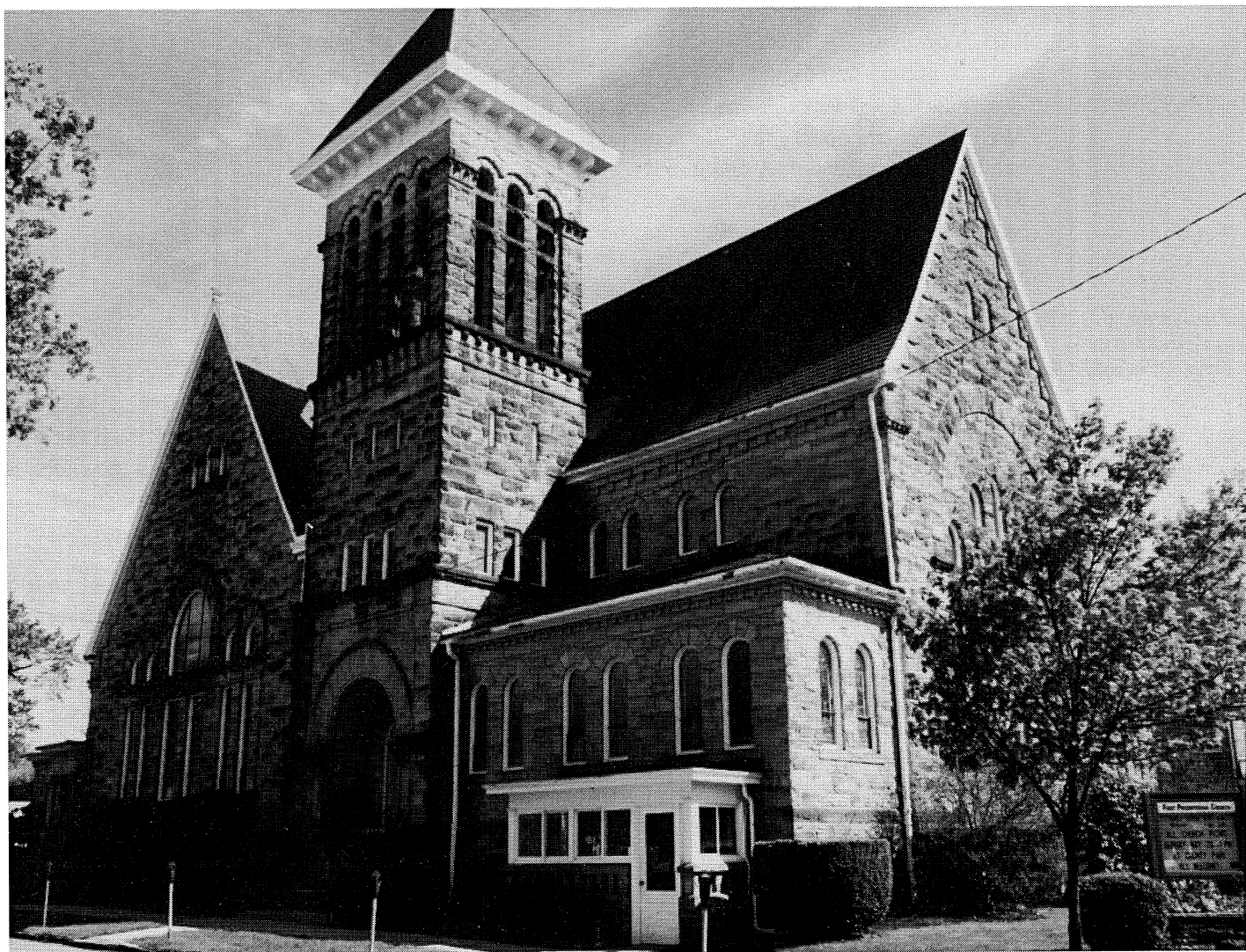


First Presbyterian Church



Third Sunday in Lent
March 23, 2025



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)

Third Sunday in Lent

Welcome and Announcements

Lector, Cindy Stants

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

Prelude

O The Deep, Deep Love of Jesus
(Echoes of Joy Bell Choir)

Williams/Pethel

Chiming of the Trinity

Call to Worship

O God, you are our God;
our souls thirst for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.
We have looked upon you in the sanctuary;
we have seen your power and glory.
Our lips will praise you as long as we live;
we lift up our hearts and call on your name.
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. 441

Hear the Good News of Salvation

✠ Call to Confession

Remember that our great high priest, the Lord Jesus, can sympathize with us in our weaknesses, since in every way 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)

Almighty God, though you lovingly tend to us, we have not put forth the good fruits of your Spirit. We are not good stewards of the earth. Our tempers and bad moods threaten those around us. Our greed exploits everyone, especially the poor. We must seem a waste of time, but don't give up on us yet, O God. In your power to abundantly pardon, forgive us for the sake of Christ, and help us to live transformed lives that exude love, peace, goodness, and faithfulness. 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 all our sins, 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

Cindy Stants

First Scripture

Isaiah 55:1-9 (p. 685)

Second Scripture

Luke 13:1-9 (p. 76)

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

Organ Interlude

✦ Hymn No. 442

Just as I am, Without One Plea

We Give Thanks to God

✦ Affirmation of Faith

7.186 *The Larger Catechism*

Repentance unto life is a saving grace, wrought in the heart of a sinner by the Spirit and Word of God, whereby out of the sight and sense, not only of the danger, but also of the filthiness and odiousness of one's sins, and upon the apprehension of God's mercy in Christ to such as are penitent, one so grieves for, and hates one's sins, as that one turns from them all to God, purposing and endeavoring constantly to walk with God in all the ways of new obedience.

Call for the Offering

Offering and Offertory

There Is a Balm in Gilead
(Echoes of Joy Bell Choir)

arr. Jeffrey Honoré

✦ Doxology

✦ Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

We Go Forth to Serve

✦ Hymn No. 649

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

✦ Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Postlude on "Ose Shalom"

Christina Harmon

COPYRIGHTS:

Prelude: "O The Deep, Deep Love of Jesus," Samuel Trevor Francis, Robert M. Vandervliet, Jr. Text & © 2000 *Harold Flammer Music*, a division of *Shawnee Press, Inc.* Livestreamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-727612, all rights reserved.

1st Hymn: "Hear the Good News of Salvation" from *Glory to God* #441. Text: Native American (Dakota); John B. Renville, 1879; trans. Emma Tibbets, 1955; vers. Jane Parker Huber, 1989. Music: Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second*, 1813. English Trans. Metrical Version: © 1989 *Jane Parker Huber* (admin. *Westminster John Knox Press*). Livestreamed and reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-727612, all rights reserved.

2nd Hymn: "Just as I Am, without One Plea" from *Glory to God* # 442. Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1834, alt.; Spanish trans. Tomás M. Westrup, alt; Korean trans. anon. Music: William Batchelder Bradbury, 1849; harm. *The Hymnbook*, 1955. Korean Trans.: © *The Hymnal Society of Korea*. Music Harm.: © 1955, ren. 1983 *John Ribble* (admin. *Westminster John Knox Press*). Livestreamed and reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-727612, all rights reserved.

Offertory: "There Is a Balm in Gilead," Don Schlosser. Music: © 1999 *Concordia Publishing House*, cph.org. Used by permission.

3rd Hymn: "Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound" from *Glory to God* #649. Text: Stanzas 1-4, John Newton, 1772; stanza 5 *A Collection of Sacred Ballads*, 1790; Navaho, Albert Tsosie. Music: *Columbian Harmony*, 1829; arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1910, alt. Text Phonetic Transcr. Cherokee, Kiowa, Creek, and Choctaw: © *Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference*; Phonetic Transcr. Navaho: © *Albert Tsosie*. Livestreamed and reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-727612, all rights reserved.

Postlude: "Postlude on "Ose Shalom"," Christine Harmon. © 2018 *Lorenz Publishing Co.*, a division of *The Lorenz Corporation*.

Livestreamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-727612, all rights reserved.

Scripture quotations are from the **New Revised Standard Version Bible (NSRV)** copyright © 1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

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).

All rights reserved. All sheet music uploaded to our website (clarionfirstpresby.org) for use with this worship service has been reprinted with permission under OneLicense.net #A-727612 or reprinted with permission under Church Copyright License ® A-21963031, all rights reserved. Livestreamed music is with permission under CCLI Streaming Plus License™ A-21963048 and/or OneLicense.net #A-727612.

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 2025:</u>	<u>Class of 2026:</u>	<u>Class of 2027:</u>
Jeff Deitz	Norma Kooman	Bill Champion
Jeff Kapp	Dave Larimer	Matt Kurtas
Kurt Nesbitt	Cindy Stants	Kathy Larimer

Deacons:

<u>Class of 2025:</u>	<u>Class of 2026:</u>	<u>Class of 2027:</u>
Kim Lewis	Robin Cable	Barb Beggs
Lee Seitz	Tamalyn Goble	Stacy Hoffman
Lori Smith	Joey Kunselman	Bert Louder

WORSHIP NOTES

Pastor: Rev. Rebecca Mihm
Lector: Cindy Stants
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, Audrina Champion
Ushers in Charge: Bill Champion, Joyce Alberta, Robin Cable

The Sanctuary flowers this morning are in honor of Doug Bills, by Pauline Henry.

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

10:00 a.m. Worship
11:00 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Choir Practice

WEEKLY DEPOSIT SUMMARY

3/16/2025

Weekly Contributions

Envelope Contributions	\$1,908.00
Miscellaneous	<u>\$157.00</u>
Total Contributions	\$2,065.00

Weekly Donations

Pastor Discretionary Fund	\$25.00
Men's Fellowship	\$20.00
Blessing Box	\$200.00
Reimbursement by RMihm	<u>\$15.29</u>
Total	\$260.29
Total	\$2,325.29

NOTES:

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBY

Monday, March 24

7:00 p.m. Evening Circle, Parlor

Tuesday, March 25

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

Wednesday, March 26

6:30 p.m. Fellowship Committee

7:00 p.m. Session, Chapel

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

Thursday, March 27

5:00 p.m. Echoes of Joy Bell Rehearsal

6:00 p.m. Joyful Bells Rehearsal

Saturday, March 29

9:00 a.m. Deacon's Kitchen Clean-up, Social Hall

Next Sunday, March 30

10:00 a.m. Worship

11:00 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Adult Choir Practice

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Easter Flowers are on sale for \$9 each until April 6. If you would like to order flowers for our Sanctuary Easter morning, order forms are in your bulletin today. They can be returned to the church office or the offering plate with your payment.

Kitchen Spring Cleaning—March 29: Friends of the Deacons are invited to join us at 9:00 a.m. in the Social Hall. We'll appreciate all the help we can get. You are welcome to bring your favorite cleaning cloths.

One Great Hour of Sharing has connected us in God's healing, tending and growing to create a world where all needs are met. Repairing the breach, providing relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry and support for the poor and oppressed, your gifts are shared with the ministries of the Presbyterian Hunger Program, Self-Development of People and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. You may give from now through Palm Sunday. To learn more about how your gift makes a difference visit pcusa.org/oghs.

Roma Kline & Wayne L. Fulton Scholarship Fund applications are now available in the church office and on the Resources page of our website. The deadline to apply is March 31. Full details are also available on the website.

Help Wanted: We need a Church Secretary to staff the church office. Personal Qualifications: Holds and demonstrates Christian values; ability to maintain utmost confidentiality regarding members and/or staff; detail oriented, with ability to handle multiple tasks simultaneously; and ability to serve daily as a troubleshooter

ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONTINUED)

for staff and members to effect smooth office operations. Professional Qualifications: Computer experience necessary; Windows operating system; Microsoft Office including Word, Outlook, and Publisher; maintain web-based membership and calendar software; clarity and accuracy in verbal and written communication; all requisite clearances. Mail resumes to: First Presbyterian Church, 700 Wood St., Clarion, PA 16214 or email to churchoffice@clarionfirstpresby.org. Deadline for resumes is March 31, 2025. Start date for this job is August 25, 2025, but there will be training prior to the start date.

PRAYER LIST

Randy Cable	Sammy DiBernardo
Margy Port	Clayton Hayden & family
Shirley McKinley	John McConnell
Pauline Henry	Kay Fye
Ruth Ann Minich	Ryan Kemmer and family
Marcia Rearick	Dave Schirmer
Dave Steward	A 2-year-old with eye cancer
All our homebound members	A 4-year-old with kidney Cancer

Mary Biser
Charlotte Hartman
Ben McKinley
Anthony Louder
Pat Hargest
Alexandra Sharrar
Dr. Shannon Penland
Mary Kay Arth
Mason Martin and family
Angelo Gehenio

Rob Summerville
Evie Renwick
Cori

Chuck Reninger
Grace Carroll
Kay Caller

Dan Clark
Amy Benhoff
Archer Kunselman
Ryan Cornicki
Jerry Deitz
Don Neideritter
Michael Kurtas, Jr.

Tom Minich
Rev. Robin Sharp
Kathy Meley
Shawn Martin

Terry Wensel
Kaleb Pheiff

Bereaved

Please remember the friends and family of:
Cecelia "Bunny" Rhea
Darlene Eaker
Caryl Space

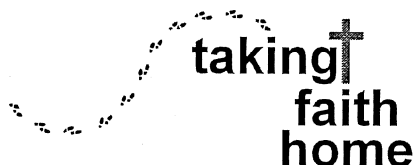
Around the World

Everyone serving in the US Military
Gitwe Congregation in Rwanda, our faith partners

Homebound Member of the Week

Dave Steward
350 Mayfield Rd., Unit C
Clarion, PA 16214
Dave's Birthday is 3/27.

MARCH 23, 2025
THIRD SUNDAY
IN LENT



We are fed by God's love to bear good fruit.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 13:1-9	Parable of the fig tree
Monday	Isaiah 55:1-9	Abundant life
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 10:1-13	Warnings from Israel's history
Wednesday	John 15:1-11	Jesus the true vine
Thursday	Colossians 1:9-14	Paul thanks God for the Colossians
Friday	James 3:13-18	Two kinds of wisdom
Saturday	Psalms 63:1-8	Comfort in God's presence
Sunday	Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32	Parable of the forgiving father

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.
Psalm 63:3 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, feed us with your loving power so that our lives may reflect your love for others through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Mealtide Prayer:

Dear God, for the food that feeds us, your love that strengthens us, and your call to love others that inspires us, we give you thanks in Jesus' name. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God surround you with love.



© 2024 Milestones Ministry, LLC. All rights reserved.

MARCH 23, 2025
HYMN OF THE WEEK
Beloved, God's Chosen



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 difference does it make if you practice something daily?
- What are some of your daily practices that strengthen your faith to live a life of loving service?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Luke 13:1-9.

We can be tempted to evaluate the successes or failures of others and sometimes speculate about their futures. In Luke 13, Jesus stops this speculation and turns our attention back to ourselves to look at our own lives. We are to live lives that reflect a God-centered life (repentance). Our lives are valued and are to bear the fruit of our loving God. In Jesus' parable of the fig tree, the unfruitful tree is not cut down immediately. For three years the tree is nurtured to bear fruit. A fourth year is even added to give it a chance to produce fruit. Our lives are to bear the fruit of God's love in Christ. We must be fed and cared for so that we may bear the fruit of a God-centered life. Our inspiration to be nurtured in faith is not the fear of being cut down but the love of God in Christ that feeds us and frees us to love God and our neighbor. *Discuss:* What practices (like prayer, worship, reading Scripture, service, or other Christian traditions) help feed you so that you may bear the fruit of a God-centered life?

Pray: Nurturing God, you feed us with the power of your love through Christ; help us that we may enjoy a life of repentance through Jesus Christ our 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 support and nurture the life of someone else?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Prayer is an important spiritual practice for Christians. During this Lenten season, take time to focus on the prayer Jesus taught us to pray, the Lord's Prayer (Luke 11:2-4). This third week in Lent we reflect on "Give us each day our daily bread" (v. 3). Add this verse to verses 2a and 2b from the first and second weeks in Lent by writing it around the outside of the cross drawn on the paper the first week. Take a moment to think or talk about what this verse means to you.

Pray: The Lord's Prayer.



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