

First Presbyterian Church



*3rd Sunday Of Advent
December 14, 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)

3rd Sunday of Advent

Welcome and Announcements

Lector, Jeff Kapp

Prelude

Gift of Peace

Cynthia Dobrinski

Echoes of Joy Handbell Choir

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

Chiming of the Trinity

Advent Reading and Candle Lighting

John Joy & Bill Champion

Hymn #85

Light One Candle To Watch For Messiah (v. 3)

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

Call to Worship

Soon parched lands will blossom into life

And burst into joyful song — very soon.

Say to those who are drowning in fear,

“Take courage! Here is God, coming to save you.”

Soon every creature will have what it needs in abundance.

All peoples of all abilities and ages will shout for joy in freedom — very soon.

A highway stretches heavenward, smooth and level.

All may walk or roll there unimpeded.

Soon happiness and joy will overwhelm us!

Grief and groaning will flee for good — very soon. Amen.

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

✠ Hymn No. 82

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

✠ Call to Confession

✠ Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Your love is good news for the oppressed, O Lord, and you bind up the brokenhearted. Forgive us, O God, when we think that your good news is only for us. Forgive us, O God, when we twist your gospel into something that fits comfortably into our lives. By your light, let us see you leading us beyond ourselves and into the world you love. By your grace, forgive us, and free us to try again. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

✠ Declaration of Forgiveness

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

Jeff Kapp

Prayer of Illumination

First Scripture

Psalms 146: 5-10

(pp. 581-582)

Second Scripture

Matthew 11: 2-11

(p. 11)

The words of scripture, inspired by God.

Thanks be to God.

Organ Interlude

✦Hymn No. 96

On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry

We Give Thanks to God

✦Affirmation of Faith

We Believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

Call for the Offering

Offering and Offertory

I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day
Echoes of Joy Handbell Choir

Cynthia Dobrinski

✦Doxology

✦ Prayer of Dedication

Ordination/Installation of Officers

Marianne Reynolds, Tammy Slike, Joyce Alberta, Glenn Beichner,
Carolyn McFarland, Mary Swanger

✦Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

We Go Forth to Serve

✦Hymn Insert

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

✦Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Set on “Veni Emmanuel”

Edward Landin

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 Thursday.

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: Cindy Kapp
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: Jeff Kapp
Time with Children: Jeff Kapp
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, Logan Myers
Ushers in Charge: Stacy & Stu Hoffman, Bill Champion

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

10:00 a.m. Worship
 11:00 a.m. Sunday School
 11:00 a.m. Cantata rehearsal

WEEKLY DEPOSIT SUMMARY 12/07/25

Weekly Contributions

Envelope Contributions	\$2,560.00
Miscellaneous Cash Contributions	<u>\$137.00</u>
Total Contributions	\$2,697.00

Weekly Donations

Blessing Box	\$300.00
PMEF Distribution	\$19,086.16
Food Bags	\$335.00
Men's Fellowship	\$120.00
Caring Callers	<u>\$25.00</u>
	\$19,866.16
Total	\$22,563.16

NOTES:

Monday, December 15

6:00 a.m. Evening Circle @ Cindy Stants' home

Tuesday, December 16

6:00 p.m. NA Meeting

6:00 p.m. PMEF Meeting

Wednesday, December 17

6:00 p.m. CE Team Meeting

8:00 p.m. AA Meeting

Thursday, December 18

10:00 a.m. Morning Circle-Perkin's Restaurant

12:00 p.m. Afternoon Circle

4:30 p.m. Echoes of Joy Handbell Practice

5:30 p.m. Joyful Bells Handbell Practice

Sunday, December 21

10:00 a.m. Worship

11:00 a.m. Choir Practice

11:00 a.m. Sunday School

ANNOUNCEMENTS

—I will be working on the Jan/Feb/Mar newsletter come the first of the year. If you would like anything included in this, please get the information to me by the **5th of January**. Thank you! Cindy

—Men's Breakfast/Fellowship would like to thank everyone involved in our Christmas project to help less fortunate families. This year with fundraisers and your generosity, we were able to help 15 families, totaling \$5250.00. Without your help, this project could not happen. Thank you! Bill Champion

—The Fellowship Team is hosting Christmas Caroling on Sunday, Dec. 21 @ 5:00 for our shut-in members. Refreshments will follow at the church. Come join us for a night of music and fun!

—On Thursday, we will be having a joint Deacon-Session dinner at 6:00p.m., followed by separate Deacon and Session meetings. All incoming officers are welcome to join the meetings. Feel free to wear an ugly Christmas sweater!

—The **yearly offering envelopes** are located in the Ramp Room. Please be sure to get yours on your way in or out of the Sanctuary.

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Hymn#96: "On Jordan's Bank the Baptists Cry" Text: LM; Charles Coffin, 1676-1749, tr. By John Chandler, 1806-1876, alt. Music: Georg Wittwe's Musikalisches Hand-Buch, Hamburg, 1690; adapt. By William H. Havergal, 1793-1870. Contributors; Winchester New, Charles Coffin. Livestreamed with permission under ONELICENSE #A-84259, all rights reserved.

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PRAYER LIST

Randy Cable
Shirley McKinley
Pauline Henry
Jeff Deitz
Mary Ann Lees
Greg Rhoads
Dave Steward
Sue Widmer
Jim McConnell
Charlie Kurtas
Lucy Kurtas
All our homebound members

Mary Biser
Charlotte Hartman
Ben McKinley
Anthony Louder
Pat Hargest
Alexandra Sharrar
Mary Kay Arth
Mason Martin and family
Rob Summerville
Cori
Chuck Reninger
Kay Caller
Dan Clark
Amy Benhoff
Archer Kunselman
Ryan Cornicki
Jerry Deitz
Don Neiderriter
Shawn Martin
John McConnell
A 4-year-old with kidney cancer
Terry Wensel
Kathy Lahr
Nina Faust Joslin
Alec Booth
Terry
Elise Burns Pasles
Darlene Hargenrader
Sara Riggins
Sherrie Kapp

PRAYER LIST (CONTINUED)

Bernice Yockey
Bill Burnworth
Steve Payne
Kara's friend
Karen McMillen
Nancy Mills
Dudley Fye
Susan Joy's neighbor
Emily Champion
Zack
Mark Willy
Marsha Siple
Denise

Bereaved: Please remember the friends and families of:

Denny Hickman

Around the World

Everyone serving in the US Military

Gitwe Congregation in Rwanda, our faith partners

Homebound Member of the Week

Beverly Wentling
157 S. 5th Ave. Apt. 301
Clarion, Pa. 16214