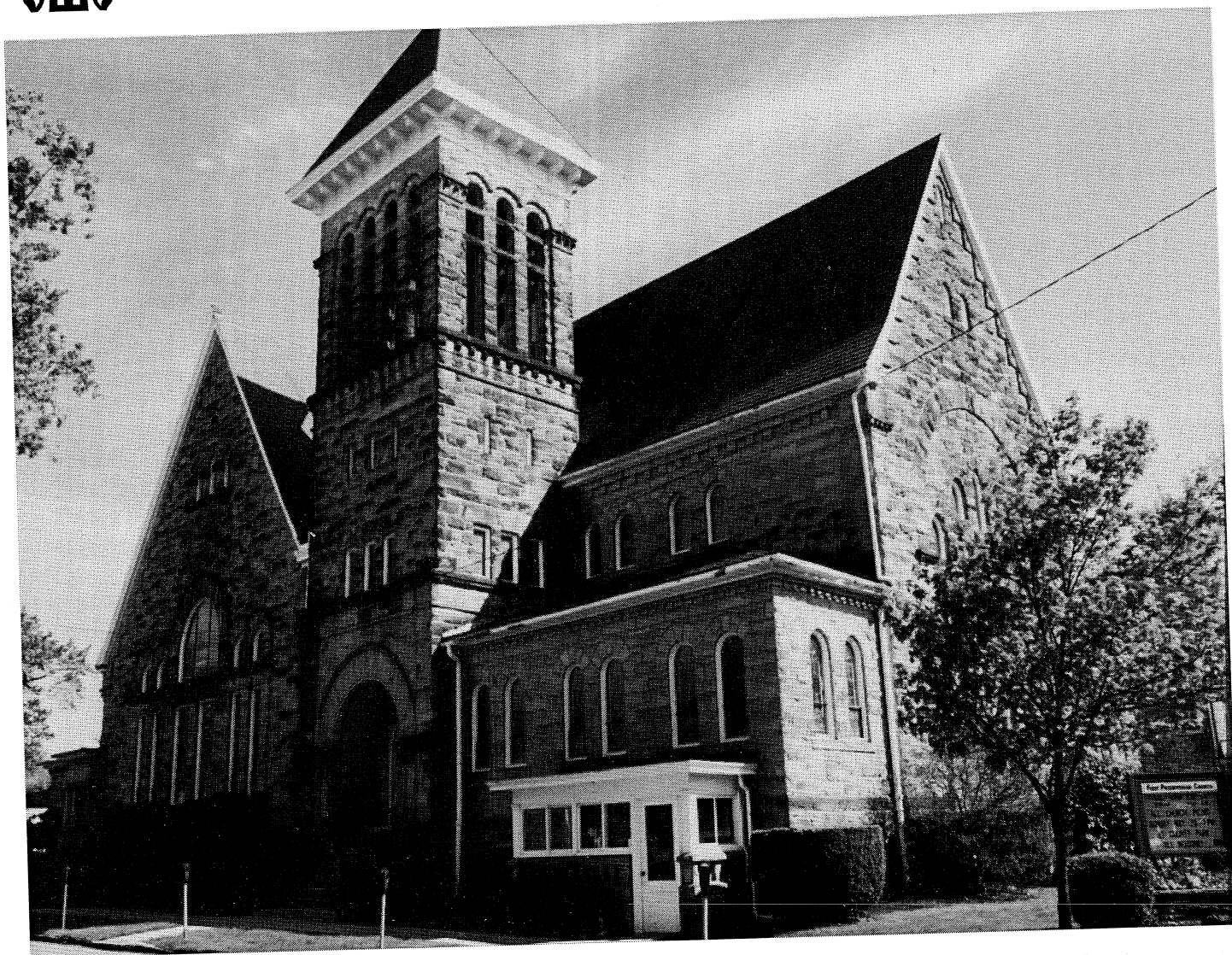


First Presbyterian Church



Second Sunday in Lent
March 16, 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)

Second Sunday in Lent

Welcome and Announcements

Lector, Cindy Stants

Prelude

Largo from Sonata in C for Cello, Op. 1, No. 5

Benedetto Marcello,
Arr. Robert Lau

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

Chiming of the Trinity

Introit

Lord, Prepare Me

Jack Thompson/Randy Scruggs

Call to Worship

The Lord is our light and our salvation; whom shall we fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of our life; of whom shall we be afraid?

We seek your face, O Lord. Do not hide your face from us!

Do not forsake us, O God of our salvation!

Make us strong, and let our hearts take courage.

We wait for the Lord. Let us worship God!

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

✦ Hymn No. 450

Be Thou My Vision

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

✦ 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's grace with confidence. So, in faith and humility, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

✦ Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Loving God, you have formed a covenant with us, committing yourself to us and inviting us to walk with you. Yet we have resisted, seeking other companions, going in different ways, thinking that we know best. Now we find ourselves far from life, far from you. Have mercy on our waywardness. Help us find our way back. Give us faith so that we can hold the hand you have extended to us in Jesus Christ. 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

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

Psalm 27

(p. 503)

Second Scripture

Philippians 3:17-4:1

(p. 198)

The words of scripture, inspired by God.

Thanks be to God.

| | | |
|------------------|---|-------------------|
| Sermon | "Imitation" | Rev. Rebecca Mihm |
| Choral Interlude | <i>Show Me How</i> | Terre McPheeters |
| ✦ Hymn No. 223 | <i>When I Survey the Wondrous Cross</i> | |

We Give Thanks to God

✦ Affirmation of Faith

Adapted from 5.026 The Second Helvetic Confession

We acknowledge saints to be living members of Christ and friends of God who have gloriously overcome the flesh and the world. Hence we love them, honor them, and imitate them. For with ardent longings and supplications we earnestly desire to be imitators of their faith and virtues, to share eternal salvation with them, to dwell eternally with them in the presence of God, and to rejoice with them in Christ. They are to be honored by way of imitation.

Call for the Offering

Offering and Offertory

Everything Good

Don Schlosser

✦ Doxology

✦ Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

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.

We Go Forth to Serve

✦ Hymn No. 726

Will You Come and Follow Me

✦ Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Am I a Soldier of the Cross

Robert Powell, Thomas A. Arne
arr. Ralph Harrison

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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Introit: "Lord, Prepare Me" from *Glory to God* #701. Text: John Thompson and Randy Scruggs, 1982. Music: John Thompson and Randy Scruggs, 1982; arr. Nylea L. Butler-Moore. Text and Music: © 1982 Full Armor Music Publishing Co. Music Arr.: © 2013 Full Armor Music Publishing Co. (admin in the U.S.A. by Peermusic III, Ltd. / Hal Leonard Corp.) Livestreamed with permission under CCLI Streaming Plus License™ A-21963048, all rights reserved.

1st Hymn: "Be Thou My Vision" from *Glory to God* #450. Text: Irish poem; trans. Mary E. Byrne, 1905; vers. Eleanor Hull, 1912, alt. Music: Irish ballad; harm. David Evans, 1927. Text & Music: Public Domain. Livestreamed with permission under CCLI Streaming Plus License™ A-21963048 and reprinted with permission under Church Copyright License ® A-21963031, Public Domain.

Choral Interlude: "Show Me How," Terre McPheeters. Text and Music: © 1991 Hal Leonard Corporation. Livestreamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-727612, all rights reserved.

2nd Hymn: "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" from *Glory to God* # 223. Text: Isaac Watts, 1707 Music: Lowell Mason, 1824. Livestreamed and reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-727612, all rights reserved.

Offertory: "Everything Good," Don Schlosser. Livestreamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-727612, all rights reserved.

3rd Hymn: "Will You Come and Follow Me" from *Glory to God* #726. Text: John L. Bell and Graham Maule, 1987. Music: Scottish melody; arr. John L. Bell, 1987. Text & Music Arr.: © 1987 WGRG, Iona Community (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.). Livestreamed and reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-727612, all rights reserved.

Postlude: "Am I a Soldier of the Cross," Robert Powell, Thomas A. Arne; arr. Ralph Harrison. © 2015 Lorenz Publishing Co., a division of The Lorenz Corporation. Livestreamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-727612, all rights reserved.

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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 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: | Joey & Gavin Kunselman, Bill Champion |

The Sanctuary flowers this morning are in honor of Dave and Carol Steward, by Pauline Henry.

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

| | |
|------------|-------------------------------|
| 9:00 a.m. | Choir Practice |
| 10:00 a.m. | Worship |
| 11:00 a.m. | Sunday School (children only) |
| 11:00 a.m. | Just Desserts, Social Hall |

WEEKLY DEPOSIT SUMMARY

3/9/2025

Weekly Contributions

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Envelope Contributions | \$3,207.00 |
| Miscellaneous | <u>\$552.26</u> |
| Total Contributions | \$3,759.26 |

Weekly Donations

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Caring Callers | \$25.00 |
| Men's Fellowship | \$20.00 |
| Food Bags | \$35.00 |
| PMEF Distribution | <u>\$16,073.09</u> |
| Total | \$16,153.09 |
| Total | \$19,912.35 |

NOTES:

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBY

Monday, March 17

8:00 a.m. Head Start Dental Clinic, Social Hall

Tuesday, March 18

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

Wednesday, March 19

12:00 p.m. Advent Study Continues, SS Start Room

6:00 p.m. CE Meeting, Ministry Central

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

Thursday, March 20

10:00 p.m. Morning Circle, Marilyn's home

12:00 p.m. Afternoon Circle, Chapel

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

6:00 p.m. Joyful Bells Rehearsal

Next Sunday, March 23

10:00 a.m. Worship

11:00 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Adult Choir Practice

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Come join us for Dessert and Fellowship after worship this morning! We will meet in the Social Hall.

Newsletter Deadline Do you have news of your family or ministry team plans to share? The deadline for the April-May-June Edition of the First Press is **Tues., March 18**. Submissions can be sent to churchoffice@clarionfirstpresby.org or given to Deb in the church office.

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 for staff and members to effect smooth office operations. Professional Qualifications: Computer experience necessary;

ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONTINUED)

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.

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.

PRAYER LIST

| | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Randy Cable | Kathy Meley |
| Margy Port | Shawn Martin |
| Shirley McKinley | Sammy DiBernardo |
| Pauline Henry | Clayton Hayden & family |
| Ruth Ann Minich | John McConnell |
| Marcia Rearick | Kay Fye |
| Dave Steward | Kate Bowser |
| All our homebound members | Ryan Kemmer and family |
| | Dave Schirmer |
| Mary Biser | A 2-year-old with eye cancer |
| Charlotte Hartman | A 4-year-old with kidney |
| Ben McKinley | Cancer |
| Anthony Louder | Darlene Eaker |
| Pat Hargest | Terry Wensel |
| Alexandra Sharrar | |
| Dr. Shannon Penland | <u>Bereaved</u> |
| Mary Kay Arth | Please remember the friends |
| Mason Martin and family | and family of: |
| Angelo Gehenio | Bertie Gibson |
| Joe Amato | Cecelia "Bunny" Rhea |
| Rob Summerville | |
| Evie Renwick | <u>Around the World</u> |
| Cori | Everyone serving in the US |
| Chuck Reninger | Military |
| Grace Carroll | Gitwe Congregation in |
| Kay Caller | Rwanda, our faith partners |
| Dan Clark | |
| Amy Benhoff | <u>Homebound Member</u> |
| Archer Kunselman | <u>of the Week</u> |
| Ryan Cornicki | |
| Jerry Deitz | Virginia Mohny |
| Greg Rhoads | 49 N. 3rd Avenue |
| Don Neideritter | Clarion, PA 16214-1831 |
| Michael Kurtas, Jr. | Her Birthday is March 22nd. |
| Tom Minich | |
| Rev. Robin Sharp | |

MARCH 16, 2025
SECOND SUNDAY
IN LENT

taking faith home

Jesus' compassion is greater than our misguided ways.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

| | | |
|-----------|------------------------|------------------------------|
| Sunday | Luke 13:31-35 | Jesus' sorrow over Jerusalem |
| Monday | Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18 | God's covenant with Abram |
| Tuesday | Philippians 3:17-4:1 | Stand firm in the Lord |
| Wednesday | 1 Peter 5:6-11 | Helping Christian leaders |
| Thursday | James 5:7-12 | Patience in suffering |
| Friday | Hebrews 10:19-29 | A call to persevere |
| Saturday | Psalms 27 | A song of trust |
| Sunday | Luke 13:1-9 | Parable of the fig tree |

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I [Jesus] desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing." Luke 13:34 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, you are the source of all goodness and our salvation; give us confidence in your care through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen. (Psalm 27:1)

Meatime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for your love that cares for us with this gift of food, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May Jesus be your strength and protection.



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MARCH 16, 2025

HYMN OF THE WEEK

*I Want Jesus to
Walk with Me*

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:

- How do you respond to someone who is being treated unfairly?
- Jesus stood firm against those who opposed him. Would you do the same? Explain.

DEVOTIONS

Read: Luke 13:31-35.

Jesus stands firm against powers that oppose him. He opposes the Roman government that alone has the power to execute him. He opposes religious leaders who have killed God's prophets. He speaks against those who cannot or will not see the healing he brings (first described in Luke 4:16-21). Jesus' desire is to gather in misguided people who oppose him, much like a hen gathers in her chicks to protect them. This compassionate image of care is a strong contrast to acts of violence. Jesus refuses to let concern for his safety deter him from his task to go to Jerusalem where he will meet betrayal, suffering, and death. His reference to "on the third day" (v. 32) is a clue that his work has not ended until the day of his resurrection. This Lent we reflect on the depth of our misguided ways and the greater depth of God's love in Jesus that will not be stopped.

Discuss: How might some of your actions or thoughts appear to be misguided ways?

Pray: **Loving God, forgive us when we stray from your compassionate ways and strengthen us to follow Jesus who died that we may live. 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 speak up for someone who is being mistreated?

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 second week in Lent we reflect on "your kingdom come" (v. 2b). Add this to verse 2a from the first week in Lent by writing it 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