



First Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day
First Sunday after Epiphany

January 7, 2024

10:00 a.m.

In preparation for worship, please turn off all cell phones and electronic devices.

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Gathering Hymn
Words of Welcome
Prelude

"Borning Cry"

arr. Robert Hobby

Call to Worship

from John 1

The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness did not overcome it.

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him.

* Hymn 744

“Arise! Your Light is Come”

Ushers will collect prayer request cards from the center aisle.

* Call to Confession

* Prayer of Confession

Holy God, you see each of us

and know us as creatures in need of your constant care.

**We confess that we have neither listened for your word
nor followed your will.**

**We have failed our nation, neighbors, families, friends,
and ourselves.**

Give us ears to hear your wisdom.

Lead us to honesty and faith

**so that we may begin again with renewed strength;
in Jesus' name. Amen.**

* Silent Confession

* Assurance of Pardon

* Passing of the Peace

* Response (refrain to 113)

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson: Acts 19:1-7 (NT, p. 139)

Psalter: Psalm 29 (Hymnal 10)

A Time with Children

Second Lesson: Mark 1:9-15 (NT, p. 34)

Sermon: “Thrown into the Wilderness”

Rev. Carter

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

* Hymn 159

“O Sing a Song of Bethlehem”

* Affirmation of Faith: Apostles' Creed (Hymnal, p. 35)

Offering

Offertory

“When Jesus Came to Jordan” arr. David Cherwein

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer (Hymnal, p. 35)

The Words of Institution

Communion of the People

Please hold the bread until all are served, so that we might share it as a sign of our unity in Christ. As a sign of individual devotion and commitment, you may drink the cup as you are served.

Prayers of the People

GO IN GOD'S NAME

* Hymn 506 "Look Who Gathers at Christ's Table!"

* Charge and Benediction

* Postlude "Baptized in Water" rr. Dale Wood

If you are leaving before the postlude is finished, please do so quietly.

* All who are able shall stand.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Pastor

Rev. William Carter

Coordinator of Children and Youth

Jana Schillinger

Director of Music

Frank Jones

Organist

Kay Ten Eyck

Liturgist

Warren Acker

Ushers

Sue Flynn and Bill Keller

The communion elements now include a gluten-free bread or cracker option. The wafers placed in the middle of each bread plate are gluten-free. Also, individually sealed, gluten-free communion kits can be found in a basket with the bulletins at the back of the sanctuary. If you have a sensitivity to gluten, please, take advantage of the gluten-free items.

First Presbyterian Church

300 School Street

Clarks Summit, PA 18411

570/586-6306

www.fpccs.org

Church Family Announcements

Our congregation worships God, equips God's people for ministry in the world, and serves God in ways that are faithful to the Gospel.

Thank you for joining us for Worship. We worship in two ways!

- **Join us in person at 10:00 a.m.**
 - **Tune in online** for our service, which is broadcast live on and archived for later viewing on the same site.
- **Large-print bulletins** can be found at the rear of the sanctuary.
- **Please** use the red attendance pads to record your presence today.

Bible Time is our program for children (age 4 to approx. grade 4) to hear Bible stories told in a fun and engaging way. Each Sunday following the anthem, children are invited to go (with adult leadership) for Bible Time (lasting about 20 minutes) and return for the Prayers and the end of service.

The Nursery is open Sunday mornings from 9:40-11:10 a.m. for children ages 3 and younger in room 208. The nursery is staffed by Heather Lyons.

Adult Education continues Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. in room 206. We are taking a look at and discussing some portions of "**The Chosen**," a remarkable film series on the life of Jesus. All are welcome, especially newcomers. This class will continue through January 24.

Make some music with us. Every Wednesday, **the Adult Choir** rehearses at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary, and **the Bell Choir** rehearses at 8 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. New singers and ringers are welcome for these ensembles.

Tell us your prayer concerns. Prayer Request Cards are in the pew racks. Pass them to the center aisle to be collected during the first hymn.

Please pray for: Hall, Bob, Bonnie, Betty, Lisa, Janet, Patty, Sharon, Jim, Sonny, Ralph, Linzy, Sue, Dillon, Tony, Aiden, Margaret, Colleen M., Bill, LeAnne, Wayne, Dennis V., the families of Judy Keiser and Kate Hopkins, Liz, Jerry, Wayne, Tracy.

It's Time for Annual Reports - As we prepare for our annual Congregation Meeting on February 4, we ask all committee chairpersons to submit a report of committee activities for 2023, and give plans of upcoming activities for 2024. Please submit them to the church office (office@fpccs.org) by **January 11**.

Calling All Keys - Have a church key that you are not using weekly? We need it back. Our keys are expensive to replace, and we have some folks who need the keys that you might not be using. *It's Amnesty Week.* Bring them home to Nancy.

2024 Offering Envelopes can be found on the table in the hallway by the pastor's office. Please take yours home today. If you would like a box of envelopes, and one hasn't been prepared for you, contact the church office (570-586-6306).

Join us for an Undecoration Party, now that Christmas is over. We are looking for volunteers to put away the trees and decorations in the sanctuary. Join the team on Saturday, January 13, 2024, at 10 a.m.. Volunteers of all ages are welcome.

As the year concludes, we want you to know of our gratitude for your support for our church's ministry and mission. Thank you for your consistent support and generosity. It helps you bring the Gospel alive in our faith community. If you wish to contribute by cell phone, scan here.

The Chamber Music Society of NEPA will perform a concert "Tempestuous Harmony" at the First Presbyterian Church in Clarks Summit on **Sunday, January 14 at 4 pm**. The program will feature piano quartets of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Richard Strauss. Artists are Brian Farrell, piano, John M Vaida, violin, Amy Iwasumi, viola, and Bryan Hayslett, cello.

Mr. Farrell currently holds the position of Music Director and Conductor of Repertory Opera Company of Los Angeles, and both Bachelor's and Master's Degrees from The Juilliard School where he studied piano with Jerome Lowenthal, opera with Diane Richardson, and collaborative piano with Samuel Sanders.

John Vaida and his wife, Amy Iwasumi, are co-founders of the NEPACMS, and perform regularly as soloists, recitalists, and chamber musicians. Vaida is currently on the faculty at Mansfield University and Wilkes University, and Artist-in-Residence at the Wyoming Seminary College Preparatory School. His wife enjoys a diverse career as a musician, web developer and graphic designer, and is the chief of operations for the NEPACMS.

Cellist Bryan Hayslett teaches as Assistant Professor of Cello at the New World School of the Arts and serves as the cellist of contemporary performance group Juxtatonal.

The Piano Quartet in G Minor by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was one of only a handful of his compositions in G Minor, a key in which his most turbulent and tragic yet beautiful works were written. Paired with the fiery and expansive Piano Quartet in C Minor by Richard Strauss, this concert is not to be missed!

This Week at a Glance

Today, Sunday, January 7, 2024

- **10 a.m.**, Worship in the sanctuary and online

Tuesday, January 9

- **10 a.m.**, MBK Quilters, Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, January 10

- **10:30 a.m.**, Prayer and Share, Room 209
- **6 p.m.**, Adult Education, Room 206
- **7 p.m.**, Adult Choir, Sanctuary
- **8 p.m.**, Adult Bell Choir, Fellowship Hall

Thursday January 11

- Please turn in your Annual Reports by today.

Saturday, January 13

- 10 a.m., Time to Un-Decorate the Church

Sunday, January 14

- **10 a.m.**, Worship in the sanctuary and online
 - Following anthem, Bible Time

Sunday, January 14

- **After worship**, We Worship Together for children, theme of **Baptism**.
- **After worship**, Session, Room 206
- **4 p.m.**, NEPA Chamber Music Society presents "**Tempestuous Harmony**", in our Sanctuary.

Looking Ahead: The Clarks Summit Ice Festival will be held on **January 27-29, 2024**.

As part of the Ice Festival, Our **Chili Cafe** will take place on Saturday, January 27th -11 a.m.-2 p.m. We are looking for donations of crockpots of chili and we also need a crew of volunteers to help pull this event together. Please see or call/ text Karen White at 570-575-7005.



More details on the Ice Festival are available in our January Presbyter. If you do not receive the **Presbyter** in your mailbox, but would like to, notify the church office at 570-586-6306.