



**First Presbyterian Church
300 School Street
Clarks Summit, PA 18411
570/586-6306
www.fpccs.org**

First Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day

5th Sunday in Lent

March 17, 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 223

Words of Welcome

Prelude

“Amazing Grace”

Call to Worship

from Psalm 56

In God, whose word I praise, in the LORD, whose word I praise,

in God I trust; I am not afraid.

For you have delivered my soul from death, and my feet from falling,

so that I may walk before God in the light of life.

* Hymn 450

“Be Thou My Vision”

Ushers will collect prayer request cards from the center aisle.

* Call to Confession

* Prayer of Confession

on Ecclesiastes

God of mystery,

our hearts are restless as we seek vain pursuits.

Our minds dream up empty substitutes for your presence.

Our tongues fill the air with useless words.

Our hands reach for what they can never hold.

Every attempt to capture you falls far short.

We are ensnared by our own foolishness.

In the light of your eternity,

grant us wisdom as we live our grounded days.

Teach us to trust and worship what we cannot see,

and keep us in the grace of your covenantal love;

through Christ our Savior. Amen.

* Silent Confession

* Kyrie 575 ***Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us.***

Lord, have mercy upon us.

* Assurance of Pardon

* Passing of the Peace

During the season of Lent, we will refrain from singing alleluias.

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson: John 12:20-33 (NT, pg. 115)

Psalter: Psalm 119:9-16 (OT, pg. 566)

A Time with Children

Anthem "Now the Green Blade Rises"

Second Lesson: Ecclesiastes 11:9-12:14 (OT, pg. 621)

Sermon: "The End of the Matter"

Rev. Carter

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

* Hymn 684 "Faith Begins By Letting Go"

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

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Prayer Response 471

O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. When I call, answer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and listen to me.

Minute for One Great Hour of Sharing

Offering

Offertory "Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley"

* Response (Hymnal 698)

Take, O take me as I am. Summon out what I shall be.

Set your seal upon my heart and live in me.

* Prayer of Dedication

GO IN GOD'S NAME

* Hymn 702 "Christ Be Beside Me"

* Charge and Benediction

* Postlude "God Be With You Till We Meet Again"

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

* All who are able shall stand.

The flowers are by Judy Cutler in honor of her daughter, Sarah.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Pastor

Rev. William Carter

Coordinator of Children and Youth

Jana Schillinger

Director of Music

Frank Jones

Organist

Will Beichler

Liturgist

Christine Lee

Ushers

Chris Jeske and Bett Ellis

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 and archived for later viewing on the same site.
- Please use the **red attendance pads** to record your presence today.
- **Large-print bulletins** are located at the rear of the sanctuary.

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 leaders downstairs 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.

The 2024 Flower Calendar is located on the bulletin board next to Rev. Carter's office. If you would like to place flowers in the sanctuary for a Sunday morning, sign up. You will be contacted for more information.

Adult Education on Wednesdays, 6 p.m., room 206: **"Singing the Blues: A Study of Ecclesiastes."** The group will explore life's persistent questions: Why are we here? What is the "good life"? What matters most? All are welcome as we explore one of the most enigmatic books of the Bible.

Knit hats, scarves, gloves and mittens are needed for My Brother's Keeper Quilts. If you would like additional information, please contact Marie Cochrane at 570-587-3970.

As Lent begins, we also begin our invitation to support **One Great Hour of Sharing**. This annual appeal addresses world hunger, assists those who suffer from disasters, and lifts those who wish to improve the circumstances of their lives.

For Your Information: Please bear with us as our office is managed by volunteers for a few weeks. Nancy Owens, our church administrator, will be on medical leave. We are fortunate to have many capable volunteers handling the daily operations. If you don't get an immediate response to a phone message or email, please be patient and try again.

Interested in a Presbyterian trip to Scotland? Our church is sponsoring a Presbyterian Heritage Tour of Scotland for September 5-14, 2024. The trip will take our travelers to Edinburgh, Glasgow, St. Andrews, and the mystical island of Iona. A brochure is available in the Narthex. An information session was recorded for your listening. The trip will be capped off at 24 travelers. Interested? Let Rev. Carter know.

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, Barb, Tami, Bette, Sharon, Jim, Ralph, Linzy, Sue, Dillon, Tony, Aiden, Bill, Margaret, Colleen M., Carmella, LeAnne, Wayne, Dennis V., Liz, Jerry, Wayne, Gerry, Tracy, Kathy, Hannah, Tom, Dick, Chris, Rick, Brian, Len, Joyce, Staci, Travis, Nancy, Helen, Edward, Irena, Maureen, Bentley, Sawyer, Nate, Kay, Ginny, and the Lipscomb, and Crotti families.

We are grateful for the many ways that people support our church's ministry to the community and world. If you wish to contribute by cell phone, scan here.



**State Hospital Luncheon
April 2nd, 12 Noon**

You are invited to join us for a luncheon and fellowship with our guests from the State Hospital. We are collecting new socks (male & female) in the box in the Narthex. Helpers are always needed. Won't you come, help serve and make our guests feel welcome? If you have any questions, please call Janet Dobson at (570) 563-1887.

Call for Volunteers and Giving: Our Next Hickory Street Meal

We will take our next turn helping Hickory Street Presbyterian Church with their community meals program on Saturday, March 23. We need volunteers to prepare the entrée, to make or purchase an easy to serve dessert (your choice), and help serve the meal that day. Sign-Up sheets and additional info will soon be found in the narthex. The program continues to serve 175+ meals.

We are also collecting 35+ bags of groceries to give away then, each containing the following items:

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 1 box of breakfast cereal | 1 box of pasta |
| 1 can or plastic jar of spaghetti sauce | 1 box of Mac n Cheese |
| 2 cans of vegetables, | 1 can of fruit, |
| 1 can of tuna | 1 4-pack of pudding or jello cups, |
| 1 box of Pop Tarts | 1 plastic jar of peanut butter |
| 1 plastic jar of jelly | 1 bag of candy |

You can shop for the complete list (printed shopping lists will also be found in the narthex) or just selected items, and bring them to the narthex.

If you would like additional information, please see Alan Baker or email him at **abaker2@verizon.net**.

This Week at a Glance

Today, March 17

- **10 a.m.**, Worship in the sanctuary and online
- **11 a.m.**, Coffee Hour, downstairs in Fellowship Hall

Monday, March 18

Tuesday, March 19

- **10:00 a.m.**, Presbyterian Women Bible Study

Wednesday, March 20

- **10:30 a.m.**, Prayer and Share, Room 209
- **6 p.m.**, Adult Education, Room 206
- **7:00 p.m.**, Adult Choir, Sanctuary
- **8 p.m.**, Adult Bell Choir, Fellowship Hall

Thursday, March 21

- **8:30 a.m.**, Men's Breakfast and Bible Study
- **5:45 p.m.**, Girl Scouts, Fellowship Hall

Friday, March 22

Saturday, March 23

- **Hickory Street Meal**

Sunday, March 24, **Palm Sunday**

- **10 a.m.**, Worship in the sanctuary with palms and online
- **11 a.m.**, LIFT Program for all ages. Enjoy a meal and a time of learning for Holy Week

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