



THE PARABLE OF THE FRUITLESS FIG TREE

Luke 13:6-9

**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

3rd Sunday in Lent

March 23, 2025

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

“Amazing Grace”

arr. Anna Laura Page

Call to Worship

Isaiah 55:6-7

Seek the LORD while he may be found,

call upon God while he is near;

let the wicked forsake their way,

and the unrighteous their thoughts;

let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them,

and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

* Hymn 415

“Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy”

Ushers will collect prayer request cards from the center aisle.

* Call to Confession

* Prayer of Confession

Everlasting God,

fountain of all life and the true home of every heart:

Our hearts are restless until they rest in you.

Yet our hearts have wandered away

by selfish passion and base desire.

Having sought many things,

we have neglected the one thing needful.

We have not loved you with our whole hearts;

turn us back to you and grant us forgiveness.

Lead us home, that we may find in you

our life and joy and peace.

* Silent Confession

* Response: ***Create in me a clean heart, O God;***

Hymnal 423

create in me a clean heart, O God;

create in me a clean heart, O God,

and renew a right spirit within me.

* Assurance of Pardon and Passing of the Peace

During the season of Lent, we refrain from singing alleluia.

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson: Isaiah 55:1-9 (OT p. 685)

Psalter: Psalm 63 (Hymnal 696)

A Time with Children

Anthem "What Wondrous Love Is This" arr. Susan E. Geschke

Gospel Lesson: Luke 13:1-9 (NT p. 76)

Sermon: "But What About?"

Rev. Carter

Sermon series: Come Home with Luke

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

* Hymn 816 "If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee"

* Affirmation of Faith Heidelberg Catechism, Q.1

Q. What is your only comfort in life and in death?

**A. That I am not my own, but belong— body and soul,
in life and in death— to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.**

**He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood,
and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil.**

**He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall
from my head without the will of my Father in heaven;
in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.**

**Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit,
assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing
and ready from now on to live for him.**

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Minute for One Great Hour of Sharing

Diane Scheuer

Offering

Offertory

"By the Babylonian Water"

arr. Robert Hobby

* Doxology (606)

* Prayer of Dedication

GO IN GOD'S NAME

* Hymn 442 "Just as I Am, without One Plea"

* Charge and Benediction

* Postlude "The Old Rugged Cross" arr. Harold DeCou

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

* All who are able shall stand.

The flowers are given to the glory of God

- in memory of loved ones by JoAnn Hall;
- in memory of Gayle Hamilton by John Conklin and Diane Cosner;
- in loving memory of our longtime friend, Gayle Heckman Hamilton, by Barbara Gelder Kelley, Sherrel Wolever Kruggel and Margaret Reese.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Pastor	Rev. William Carter
Coordinator of Children and Youth	Jana Schillinger
Director of Music	Frank Jones
Director of Bell Choir	Richard Cochrane
Organist	Kay Ten Eyck
Liturgist	Laura Moore
Ushers	John Conklin, Diane Cosner, Farrell Family

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 gather at 10:00 a.m. in person or on our YouTube channel, (or stream the service on YouTube at a later time).
- Please use the red attendance pads to record your presence today.

This morning for our children:

- The Nursery is staffed regularly on Sunday mornings from 9:40 to 11:10 a.m. Located in room 208 (sanctuary level), it is furnished with a changing table, and age-appropriate toys and books for children ages 3 and younger.
- During Bible Time we will be listening to Jesus, learning about being a good neighbor, growing God's kingdom, celebrating, and being lost & found.



Our Wednesday Adult Bible Study continues each week at 5:45. The Bible study is called ***“An Acceptable Fast,”*** based on the Old Testament lectionary readings for the season of Lent. Want to be with a group that studies the Bible and enjoys one another? Come and join us!

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, Ann, Bill, Mike, Jason, Bobby, Craig K., Gary K., Phil, Tucker, Frank, Cheryl, Kathy, Tim, Ray, Caleb, Jon, Char, Susan, Jerry, Don, Roberta, Judy, Wayne, Clark family, Candace, Jen, Terry, Edward, Sue, Joseph, Baby Lyric, Lisa, Carolyn, Judy S., the Brojack and Jeschke families.

The next Mobile Food Pantry takes place **Thursday, April 10.** Pre-registration is required at fpccsfoodpantry@gmail.com or 570-586-6306. More Lackawanna County families are welcome. Put the word out so that others can have access to this program.

2025 Flower calendar: There are still several available weeks for individuals, families, and church committees to donate flowers for the worship service. Please email office@fpccs.org or call 570-586-6306 and Karis or Rebekah Naeher will contact you.

Do You Know What You're REALLY Saying? At a Table Talk on Sunday, March 30 at 11:15 we will welcome Dr. Yerodin Lucas for a helpful conversation on "cultural humility," the lifelong process of self-reflection and self-critique where we examine our assumptions, biases, and cultural identities while also learning about others. Often we are not aware of our own biases, that shape our beliefs, judgments, and actions toward our neighbors. Grab a cup of coffee and join in the conversation downstairs after worship.

STATE HOSPITAL LUNCHEON - Tuesday, April 1, noon, Fellowship Hall:

All are welcome to join us for a meal and fellowship with guests from Clarks Summit State Hospital. Items such as small writing journals/notebooks (not wire bound), greeting cards (with or without message), CD'S, candy (no hard candy or nuts), and new socks for adult men and women are being collected in the narthex. Any questions or if interested in attending that day, contact Janet Dobson, or leave a message at the church office, 570-586-6306 or office@fpccs.org



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.

ARTS at First Presbyterian

Saturday, March 29, 7 p.m., a Tuba Recital will be presented by renowned British tuba player Will Druiett. Mr. Druiett has appeared in recitals throughout Europe, USA, and Asia. Recently Will was invited to perform as a soloist as part of the 79th Vienna Philharmonic Ball in the Musikverein.



**Saturday, April 5, 7 p.m.,
An Evening with the Seraph Brass**

Now in its 11th season, Seraph Brass was founded by trumpet soloist Mary Elizabeth Bowden with a mission to showcase the excellence of women brass players and highlight musicians from marginalized groups, both in personnel and in programming. Winners of the American Prize in Chamber Music, the group has been praised for its "beautiful sounds" (American Record Guide), "fine playing" (Gramophone), and "staggeringly high caliber of performance" (Textura). Members of Seraph Brass are passionate about music education, and hold teaching positions at the University of North Texas, Shenandoah Conservatory, Texas State University, and Texas Lutheran University.



Looking Ahead:

State Hospital Luncheon, April 1, noon
Highway Cleanup, April 12, 9 a.m.
Palm Sunday Service, April 13, 10 a.m. – LIFT program at 11:15
Maundy Thursday Service, April 17, 7:30 p.m.
Good Friday Service, April 18, 12:00 noon
Easter Sunday Service, April 20, 10 a.m.

This Week at a Glance

Sunday, March 23

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

Monday, March 24

Tuesday, March 25

- 9:30 a.m., Yoga, Room 111
- 10 a.m., MBK Quilters, Fellowship Hall
- 6 p.m., OA, Room 210
- 7 p.m., Deacons, Room 206
- 7 p.m., AA, Room 111

Wednesday, March 26

- 9 a.m., Presbyter mailing, Room 206
- 10:30 a.m., Prayer and Share, Room 209
- 5:45 p.m., Adult Christian Education, Room 206
- 7 p.m., Adult Choir, Sanctuary
- 7:30 p.m., AlAnon, Room 206
- 8 p.m., Adult Bell Choir, Fellowship Hall

Thursday, March 27

- 5:45-7:45 p.m., GSA, Fellowship Hall

Friday, March 28

Saturday, March 29

- 7 p.m., Tuba Recital with Will Druett

Sunday, March 30

- 10 a.m., Worship in the sanctuary and online
- Following the anthem, Bible Time
- 11:15 a.m., TableTalk: Conversation on "cultural humility," Fellowship Hall

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