



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
4th Sunday in Lent

March 30, 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 "Trio in G Minor" Josef Rheinberger
Call to Worship from Psalm 30
Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.
**Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**
You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble;
You surround me with glad cries of deliverance.

* Hymn 440 "Jesus, Lover of My Soul"
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;
create in me a clean heart, O God;
create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.** Hymnal 423

* 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: Joshua 5:9-12 (OT p. 197)

Psalter: Psalm 32 (Hymnal 446)

A Time with Children

Anthem "The King of Love My Shepherd Is"

Traditional

Second Lesson: Luke 15:11-32 (NT p. 78)

Sermon: "Homeward Bound"

Rev. Carter

Sermon series: Come Home with Luke

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

* Hymn 418 "Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling"

* Affirmation of Faith: A Brief Statement of Faith, PCUS, 5.1

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father.

***In sovereign love God created the world good
and makes everyone equally in God's image,
male and female, of every race and people,
to live as one community.***

But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.

Ignoring God's commandments,

***we violate the image of God in others and ourselves,
accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature,
and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.***

We deserve God's condemnation.

Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.

Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.

***Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,
God is faithful still.***

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Minute for One Great Hour of Sharing

Barbara Decker

Offering

Offertory

"Adagio"

by Albinoni arr. S. D. Wolfe

* Doxology (606)

* Prayer of Dedication

GO IN GOD'S NAME

* Hymn 435 "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

* Charge and Benediction

* Postlude "Prelude in Phrygian Mode" Tallis arr. Noel Rawsthorne

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

* All who are able shall stand.

Flowers today have been given to the glory of God in memory of Heidi Matthews by Cass Morgan.

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

Charlie Pinches

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, the family of Carolyn, Judy S., Mollie.

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.

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

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.

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.



Looking Ahead:

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.

ARTS at First Presbyterian

**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.

Volunteers and Ideas Wanted!

The Christian Education committee **invites anyone interested** to join us in planning upcoming programs for children and adults. We will meet in Room 206 on Thursday, April 3, 2025 at 7:00 pm. After some brief introductions and business, we will break up into groups to discuss the following:

Children and Youth Programs

Vacation Bible School is scheduled for July 14-18, 2025. Our theme will be "Joseph's Journey from Prison to Palace." We would also like to form a Youth Choir and look ahead to other opportunities for children this summer and fall. Please reach out to Jana at ce@fpccs.org with any ideas or questions.

Adult Programs

We are looking to create fun events and fresh learning opportunities for adults of all ages. We will meet socially this summer and start new groups to nurture faith this fall. Please reach out to Michael at mkthompson96@gmail.com with any ideas or questions.