

# First Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day

6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

May 9, 2021

10:00 a.m.

Prayer before Worship

O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you, that, loving you above all else, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## **ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME**

Words of Welcome

Prelude

"How Great Thou Art"

arr. Robert Hobby

Call to Worship

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God;  
***and that is what we are.***

This is the day the Lord has made.

***Let us rejoice and be glad in it.***

\* Hymn 485

"We Know That Christ Is Raised"

- 1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.  
Embraced by death he broke its fearful hold,  
and our despair he turned to blazing joy. Alleluia!
- 2 We share by water in his saving death.  
Reborn we share with him an Easter life  
as living members of a living Christ. Alleluia!
- 3 The Father's splendor clothes the Son with life.  
The Spirit's power shakes the church of God.  
Baptized we live with God the Three in One. Alleluia!
- 4 A new creation comes to life and grows  
as Christ's new body takes on flesh and blood.  
The universe, restored and whole, will sing: Alleluia!

\* Call to Confession

\* Prayer of Confession

***Almighty God, you have sent Jesus Christ as the light of the world,  
exposing the lies that we tell,  
revealing the falsehoods that we perpetuate,  
unveiling the evil deeds that we have done,  
and shining your light on what we have hidden in the shadows.***

***We hurt one another,  
distort the damage by speaking untruths,  
and resist the honesty of your love.***

***In the name of Christ, we boldly ask for mercy.  
Cancel our sin. Cleanse us from all lawlessness.  
Restore us to walk in fellowship with you and one another;  
through Jesus Christ, the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Amen.***

\* Silent Confession

\* Assurance of Pardon and Passing of the Peace

\* Easter Response 587                   ***Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

## **PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD**

Prayer for Illumination

Gospel Lesson: John 15:9-17

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

Psalter: Psalm 98 (Hymnal 276)

*Refrain:* Sing a new song unto the Lord; let your song be sung from mountain's high.  
Sing a new song unto the Lord, singing hallelujah!

- 1 Shout with gladness! Dance with joy! O come before the Lord.  
And play for God on glad tambourines, and let your trumpet sound. *Refrain.*
- 2 Rise, O children, from your sleep; your Savior now has come.  
He has turned your sorrow to joy, and filled your soul with song. *Refrain.*
- 3 Glad my soul for I have seen the glory of the Lord.  
The trumpet sounds; the dead shall be raised. I know my Savior lives. *Refrain.*

Time with Children

Epistle Lesson: 1 John 5:1-6

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

Sermon: "Belief and Birth"

Rev. Carter

*Easter Series: The Shape of Love*

## **RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

\* Hymn 488

"I Was There To Hear Your Borning Cry"

- 1 "I was there to hear your borning cry; I'll be there when you are old.  
I rejoiced the day you were baptized to see your life unfold.  
I was there when you were but a child with a faith to suit you well;  
in a blaze of light you wandered off to find where demons dwell."
- 2 "When you heard the wonder of the Word, I was there to cheer you on.  
You were raised to praise the living Lord to whom you now belong.  
If you find someone to share your time and you join your hearts as one,  
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme from dusk till rising sun."
- 3 "In the middle ages of your life, not too old, no longer young,  
I'll be there to guide you through the night, complete what I've begun.  
When the evening gently closes in and you shut your weary eyes,  
I'll be there as I have always been with just one more surprise."
- 4 "I was there to hear your borning cry; I'll be there when you are old.  
I rejoiced the day you were baptized to see your life unfold."

Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Presentation of Ronan Hayes Connors

\* Affirmation of Faith: Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;  
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;  
he descended into hell;  
the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand  
of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church;  
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Offering

Offertory

"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

arr. Cochrane

Prayers of the People and 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.**

## GO IN GOD'S NAME

\* Hymn 702

"Christ Be Beside Me"

- 1 Christ be beside me; Christ be before me; Christ be behind me, King of my heart.  
Christ be within me; Christ be below me; Christ be above me, never to part.
- 2 Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand, Christ all around me,  
shield in the strife.  
Christ in my sleeping, Christ in my sitting, Christ in my rising, Light of my life.
- 3 Christ be in all hearts thinking about me; Christ be on all tongues telling of me.  
Christ be the vision in eyes that see me; in ears that hear me, Christ ever be.

\* Charge and Benediction

Postlude

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

arr. John Leavitt

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**The roses** at the front of the sanctuary have been given in honor of the baptism of Ronan Hayes Connors.

Ronan is the son of Kaitlin Scappatura and Steve Connors. His grandmother, Darlene Scappatura, and great-grandmother, Rose Hurd are members of this congregation, as are his aunts, Rachel and Susan. Standing with Ronan's parents today are Rachel Scappatura and Bob Connors. Judy Cutler is the assisting elder. Blessings and prayers for this family.

**The New Guinea Impatiens** plants are in celebration of Mother's Day. Women present are invited to take one.

### PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preacher	Rev. William G. Carter
Coordinator of Children And Youth Ministries	Jana Schillinger
Liturgist	Alan Baker
Cantor	Riley Westcott
Director of Music	Frank Jones
Director of Bell Choir	Richard Cochrane
Organist	Kay Ten Eyck

**First Presbyterian Church**  
**300 School Street**  
**Clarks Summit, PA 18411**  
**570/586-6306**  
**[www.fpccs.org](http://www.fpccs.org)**

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## Family Announcements

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

- **Have you had your vaccines?** [Make a reservation with our office](#) (570-586-6306) and join us in person at 10:00 a.m.
- Tune in online for our weekly service, which is broadcast live on [our video page on YouTube](#) and archived for later viewing on the same site.

**FEMA is currently accepting applications to reimburse** up to \$9000 for Covid-19 related funeral expenses. The original article (from Boston Globe) and the FEMA link are below. <https://www.boston.com/news/coronavirus/2021/04/08/fema-coronavirus-funeral-expenses> or [www.fema.gov/disasters/coronavirus/economic/funeral-assistance](http://www.fema.gov/disasters/coronavirus/economic/funeral-assistance).

**Interested in joining our church?** We have a newcomer who wishes to join our church, and we will receive her on May 16 in worship. Want to join with her? We would love to have you. Drop a note to the pastor.

**The Session has called a meeting of the congregation after worship on Sunday, May 16.** The purposes of this special meeting are to (a) act on the Nominating Team's slate of elders and deacons, and (b) to change the bylaws to reduce the number of the Board of Deacons from "eighteen" to "fifteen or more."

**After the meeting,** all in the church family are invited to a **picnic at Lackawanna State Park** on Abington Road, North Abington Township. We will begin to meet at the Pine Pavilion (near the pool) between 11:30 and 11:45. **Bring your own food and lawn chairs to sit on.** Plan to stick around and spend time with friends new and old.

### CAMP LACKAWANNA INFORMATION

**Summer Camp 2021 Registration is open! Head on over to [camp.lackawanna.org](http://camp.lackawanna.org)** to see what programs are being offered this summer and to register your children for camp! Family Camp registration is also open!

<b>DATES</b>	<b>CAMP</b>	<b>AGE GROUP</b>
June 24-27	Family Camp	All Ages
June 28-30	Mini Camp	Ages 6-10
July 4-10	Wet n' Wild	Ages 7-16
July 11-17	Music, Arts and Drama	Ages 7-16
July 11-24	JH/SR 2-week	Completed grades 6-11
July 18-24	Adventure Camp	Completed grades 6-10
July 25-31	Night Owls	Completed grades 3-10
August 1-7	Camp Olympics	Ages 7-16

**Our church offers scholarships** for all young people who want to go. Check with Jana Schillinger for details.

**Camp Lackawanna is actively seeking staff for Summer Camp.** In addition to counselors, a cook is also needed. Applications can be filled out at [www.camp.lackawanna.org](http://www.camp.lackawanna.org)

## Mark Your CALENDARS!

Tuesday, May 11 from 10 a.m. to noon, My Brother's Keeper Quilters return to Fellowship Hall

Friday, May 14 at 7:00 a.m. – Our next Arts Series event will feature The Susquehanna Valley Brass.

Sunday, May 16 after Worship – “Re-Gathering” **PICNIC** at **Lackawanna State Park**

## Susquehanna Valley Brass

Live at FPCCS - Friday, May 14 7:00 p.m.

YouTube Broadcast - May 16 4:00 p.m.

The Susquehanna Valley Brass (SVB) will perform an in-person concert at this church on Friday, May 14 at 7:00 PM. The SVB is a dynamic new group comprised of five of NEPA's premiere brass musicians. Locally members of the SVB can be heard performing with the NEPA Philharmonic, Scranton Brass Orchestra, Voodoo Brass Band, and the East Coast Sound Brass Quintet. Members of the group have previously held touring positions performing all across the country with the Monumental Brass Quintet (DC), Bay Street Brass (IN), and the Rodney Marsalis Philadelphia Big Brass (PA). Several members of the ensemble are committed to the future of the arts and are active educators holding positions at Tunkhannock High School, Bloomsburg University, and Marywood University. This program in particular will survey early Americana including styles found in popular songs, music of the American Armed Services, and Jazz. Members of the Susquehanna Valley Brass are: Kenneth Luckey and Sean Mason on trumpets, Rena Hummel on French horn, Chuck Smith on trombone, and ensemble leader Michael Parker on tuba (pictured).



Those who have been vaccinated (and kids!) are welcome to attend this free concert in person with a reservation made by going to our church website at [www.fpccs.org](http://www.fpccs.org) or the church's Facebook page. For others, the concert will be recorded and broadcast on our YouTube channel on Sunday, May 16 at 4 PM. Information on the link will be made available at [www.fpccs.org](http://www.fpccs.org) and on the church's Facebook page.

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### Enjoy the Convenience of Electronic Giving

First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit offers electronic Giving as a way to support the church on a regular or one-time basis. You can go to [fpccs.org](http://fpccs.org) or scan the QR code (at right) anytime to set up an automatic donation plan, change your donation plan, make a one-time donation or view your online donation history. Why not give it a try today?

