



The Presbyter

September 2017

The First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit

Where there is a WAY, people grow!

There's room for YOU to learn and sing

Wednesday, September 13 is the beginning of our popular mid-week church night program. Since we began the WAY (which stands for Wednesday for Adults and Youth) program a few years ago, it has been a joy to see how God nourishes the faith of those who attend our classes and make music with our ensembles.

Why not join us? There is literally something for everyone. We gather for a simple evening meal at 5:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. At 5:30, our young children who sing with the Chapel Choir will go to rehearsal (see page 7). Christian Education classes for all ages begin at 6:15 p.m. (see page 6 for details), and the Adult Choir convenes in the sanctuary to rehearse at 7:15. Our Bell Choir meets in Fellowship Hall to rehearse at 8:30.

It is a full night, and a lot of great things happen: faith-filled learning, warm fellowship, good food, joyful singing, and the steady growth of Christian hearts and minds. We would love to have you and your family spend Wednesday evenings with us!



Swing with us on September 3

The sanctuary will be swinging at 10:00 a.m. on September 3, 2017, as we celebrate our annual Jazz Communion service.



This year's event will celebrate the music of pianist Keith Jarrett. A world renowned composer and band leader, Jarrett's compositions are loved by many, but rarely played by others. Rev. Carter has transcribed many of them from original recordings and notes, "Jarrett has a lyrical quality to his melodies that is rare and beautiful. When people hear his music, they will not only tap their feet; they'll go away humming the tunes."

We welcome guest musicians who are well known: bassist Tony Marino, drummer Tyler Dempsey, and saxophonist Mike Carbone. This event promises to be an extraordinary celebration of creativity and faith. The music will begin around 9:45 a.m.

Table of Contents

Page 2	- Session Notes, Financial Info
Page 3	- From The Pastor
Page 4	- Announcing the 2017-18 Arts Series!
Page 5	- Kids Page
Page 6	- Christian Education news
Page 7	- Music Notes and Choir Updates
Page 8	- Stephen Ministry
Page 9	- Thank You Notes, Presbyterian Women, Book Club
Page 10	- Joys & Sorrows, Lectionary Readings, Birthdays, Anniversaries, Communion Servers, Welcomers, Ushers
Page 11	- Calendar
Page 12	- Poem

Notes from Session Meeting of July 2017

1. Session and Deacons met for their yearly combined meeting and discussed the calendar for the 2017-18 year.
2. Committees updated each other on ongoing church matters that needed attention.
3. Building and Grounds made a proposal on a new church sign.
4. Planning the 2017, Worship Through Service Project.

The Presbyter deadline for
The July/August issue is
June 16, 2017

The Presbyter is a monthly newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church, 300 School Street, Clarks Summit, PA 18411.

All visitors are welcome to worship with us. **Worship services are held on Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m.** Child care is available. Communion is observed the first Sunday of every month.

If you do not attend a church in this area, we invite you to any and all of the events, programs, and worship services described in this newsletter. Please call the church office to arrange child care. Our sanctuary and Fellowship Hall are both handicapped accessible.

Church Office	(570) 586-6306
Fax	(570) 587-3784
Web Page	www.fpcps.org
Pastor	William G. Carter
Administrative Assistant	Nancy Owens
Coordinator of Children & Youth	Jana Schillinger
Treasurer	Wayne Griffiths
Editor	
Clerk of Session	Beverly Bright
Director of Music	Frank Jones
Director of Bells	Richard Cochrane
Director of Chapel Choir	Kay Ten Eyck
Organist	Kay Ten Eyck
Sexton	John Conklin

About the Roof Repairs:

THANK YOU!

Thanks to your generous gifts, the challenge of paying for the slate roof has been met!

Every dollar contributed is appreciated.

THANK YOU!



FROM YOUR FINANCE COMMITTEE FOR THE MONTH ENDING JULY 31, 2017

REVENUE

Budget	\$ 205,625
Actual Received	<u>194,160</u>
Difference	\$ (11,465)

EXPENSES

Budget	\$ 213,820
Actual Expenses	<u>211,780</u>
Difference	\$ 2,039

BUDGET VARIANCE \$ (9,426)

PLEDGE INCOME

Budget	\$ 186,667
Received	<u>174,173</u>
Difference	\$ (12,494)

Per Capita 2017 is \$32 per member. As of the end of July, we have received \$2,965.

REFRESHMENTS



THANK YOU

Thank you to all who hosted refreshments during the summer months.

Thank you to Karen White, who, while she was "off duty" for the summer, still kept close-enough watch to be sure things ran smoothly.

From the pastor



Dear Friends,

Our Session and Deacons are excited to announce our **2017 Worship Through Service Day**, scheduled for the weekend of **September 24, 2017**. Last year was the first time we tried this, and it was a tremendous success. Here are the projects that we are planning:

- **A musical experience with St. Joseph's Center:** Interact musically with residents of St. Joseph's Center, Scranton. 12:30 - 2:00 on September 24. We will sing along and use percussion instruments. No musical expertise needed!
- **Bread Basket Side dish assembly:** At church immediately after worship. Help assemble a kit for food pantry families complete with ingredients and recipe. Low impact, kid friendly activity! Bread Basket would also welcome donations of bags of apples!
- **Ronald McDonald House Family Room at Moses Taylor Hospital** needs a "**deep cleaning**". 12-2. Volunteers are needed to clean and disinfect toys, vacuum, etc. Staff and supplies will be present.
- **Our Brother's Keeper Quilters will make sleeping bags for the homeless** from gifted materials. We fill the bags with a hat, scarf, gloves, socks, shampoo, toothbrush, toothpaste – and bless them with a prayer. We will meet in Fellowship Hall, right after worship, where we will make as many quilts as possible. If you can make a knot, you can help!
- The Christian Education committee will take a work team to the **Children's Advocacy Center**, 1710 Mulberry Street, Scranton. They will be raking, weeding, cleaning out gardens, and planting bulbs and mums on the grounds.
- The Mission & Justice Committee invites you to help **pack food boxes for the Weinberg Northeast Regional Food Bank**. We will carpool to their distribution center in Pittston to assemble boxes for the Senior Citizen Food Box Program. This project will take place on Saturday, September 23 from 9 – 12:00. We will meet in the church parking lot at 8:00 A.M.
- The Deacons will organize and clean out a warehouse stocked with furniture and household items donated to the **refugee program sponsored by Catholic Social Services**. Some work gloves would be a good idea to protect hands.
- The Fellowship Committee will **clean up the children's playground** at the UCP Childrens' Center, located on Center Street in Clarks Summit.
- The Finance Committee will perform light **landscaping services on the grounds of the Abington Community Library**. We will trim shrubs, clear weeds, and complete other tasks, principally in the garden near the children's library.
- **Friends of the Poor** - We will collect and deliver personal toiletries, household goods, and food for the soup kitchen. This would be a donation and delivery project. (See page 8 for suggested items.)

Let's make a difference in our neighborhood. We want you to take part! Sign up on our website (www.fpccs.org) or in worship on Sunday morning.

See you on Sunday, especially on the 24th of September,

Rev. Bill Carter

2017-18 Arts at First Presbyterian concert series

We are again blessed to have members of the music faculty at Marywood University to open the 2017-18 Arts at First Presbyterian concert series! **Brenda Leach**, nationally-renowned organist and Director of the Marywood University Symphony Orchestra, will perform an organ recital on the first half of the program. The second half will feature clarinetist **Katie Morell** performing two selections, including Mozart's "Clarinet Quintet in A" and Mackey's "Breakdown Tango."



Dr. Leach

Dr. Leach has performed solo recitals worldwide at such distinguished venues as St. Petersburg Grand Philharmonic Hall, Moscow Cathedral, the St. Petersburg Imperial Cappella Concert Hall (all in Russia), Notre Dame Cathedral (Paris), Westminster Cathedral (London), St. George's Cathedral (Jerusalem), Washington National Cathedral (DC), and St. Patrick's Cathedral (NYC).

Dr. Katie Morell is an artist-teacher in the Northeastern Pennsylvania area. She is on faculty of Marywood University teaching applied clarinet and select music courses, and at the University of Scranton teaching music history. She is a sought-after studio teacher and performer. She has her doctorate in clarinet performance from the Ohio State University.



Dr. Morell

Please mark these dates on your calendar, and plan now to attend the upcoming events.

Sunday, October 15, 2017	4:00 pm	Brenda Leach and Katie Morell
Sunday, November 19, 2017	4:00 pm	All-church recital
Friday thru Sunday, February 16-18, 2018		Ice Festival activities
Sunday, April 8, 2018	4:00 pm	Bill Carter and Mark Woodyatt
Sunday, April 29, 2018	4:00 pm	Hickory Project

All concerts and events will be held at the church. They are open to the public, free of charge; a free-will offering is taken to help defray the costs. We receive some financial support from state and county grants, but rely heavily on the support of individual donors to produce the series.

Please consider supporting the Arts Series at First Presbyterian Church. Donations may be made payable to: First Presbyterian Church, 300 School Street, Clarks Summit, PA 18411. Donors will be recognized in the concert programs.





These healthy chips make a yummy back-to-school snack.

What you need:

- 4 apples, cored and cut into 1/8" rings
- Large bowl
- Spoon
- 2 teaspoons cinnamon
- 2 teaspoons sugar
- Baking sheets (sprayed)

What you do:

1. Place apple slices in the bowl. Add cinnamon and sugar. Stir so apples are coated evenly with the mixture.
2. Place apple slices on the sprayed baking sheets in a single layer.
3. Bake at 200 degrees for two to three hours, until chips are dry but still slightly soft.

Are you ready for an adventure?

Adventures in the Bible



Beginning on Sunday, September 17, all children and their parents are invited on Sunday mornings from 9:00 – 9:45 as we prepare for worship in a special way. We spend time getting to know each other and developing our knowledge of the Bible through storytelling, activities, crafts, and songs.

Teachers tell the story, and children get a chance to retell or reenact it through “Godly Play.” Crafts, activities, and songs reinforce the lesson and give children a chance to express what they have understood. The only thing we are missing is YOU!

Questions? Contact Tabbi Miller-Scandle @ tabbi.miller-scandle@scranton.edu or Karis Naehner @klnaehner@outlook.com.



APPLE OF HIS EYE

Start each school day by remembering God’s loving care for you.

Directions: Starting at the K by the stem and going clockwise, circle each word. Then place the words in the blanks to complete Psalm 17:8.



“ _____
 _____;

 _____.”

PSALM 17:8, NIV

Christian Education



It's for life!

W.A.Y. Kick-off - Sunday September 10, following worship
The W.A.Y. begins Wednesday, September 13!

Classes for Children and Youth

Spark (Newborn - 3 year old) enjoy Bible stories, songs and games in the nursery. In September the kids will be learning about the story of creation, Noah, and Abram's call.

Power Xpress (4 year old - Grade 5) experience Bible stories through interactive rotation classes. September's units will be about Noah and Joseph.

We Believe (Grades 6-8) Using *We Believe: The Story of God's Faithfulness*, the class will spend the year digging deeper into the Old Testament, learning and experiencing how God revealed himself to the Hebrew people. This fall, students will begin their Old Testament journey with the book of Genesis.

PresbyYouth (Grades 9-12 and college-age adults) are encouraged to either join an adult class or participate in the middle school class.



Our Wednesday Evening Schedule

5:00-6:10 pm	Light supper begins
5:30-6:10	Chapel Choir Rehearsal
6:15-7:10	Christian Education classes for All Ages
7:15-8:25	Adult Choir
8:30-9:15	Bell Choir

Wednesday Classes for Adults

A Way to Live - Wendell Berry is a modern American prophet, poet, novelist, environmentalist, Kentucky farmer and Christian whose writings have challenged many to think and live better and more thoughtful lives. This class, led by Charlie Pinches with help from Rev. Carter and Phil Muntzel, will explore some of his many inspiring words and ideas. Meets in **Room 206**.

The Hymnal as a History of Christian Thought - Our *Glory to God* hymnal is more than a collection of religious songs. The hymns tell the 2000 year history of the church. When we sing a hymn in worship, we connect with this history. Participants will have an overview of church history—and also have fun singing hymns! With Brent Eelman, accompanied by Alan Baker, in the **Choir Loft**.

Wednesday Supper Reservations



Light Supper is served before The Way classes from 5:00-6:10 for those with **reservations**. Suggested donation: \$3 per person.

Please return reservation slips no later than **Monday**. Slips can be placed in the **basket near the phone in the kitchen** or in the **offering plate**. You may also **call the church office** to make reservations.

Reservations slips can be found in the church office, in the kitchen, or in pews.





CHOIR PRACTICE BEGINS AGAIN



Chapel Choir & Alleluia Choir Notes

Submitted by Kay Ten Eyck

"If everyone started off the day singing, just think how happy they'd be."

Lauren Myracle

Ready, Set, SING! Our Chapel Choir (ages Kindergarten through 6th grade) will start the year with their first rehearsal on Wednesday, September 13th at 5:30 in the choir room. Along with learning anthems for worship, we will play musical games that help us learn to read and understand music. We will sing for worship and be liturgists about once a month from September through May. All children are welcome; they do not need to be members of the church to participate.

Our Alleluia Choir (middle school through high school) will rehearse every other Thursday evening from 6:30 to 7:30 beginning September 14. We'll also sing for worship about once a month. If you are interested in singing with us, please contact Kay Ten Eyck at 570-313-0146 or the church office for their rehearsal schedule.

Judy Cutler, Connie Weiss, Frank Jones and I are all looking forward to an exciting year of exploring our faith through music!

YOU'RE INVITED TO RING!

The adage, "Many hands make light work" applies to bell choirs, too. "*Many hands make beautiful bell music!*"

If you can read music and count to six, then the bell choir is for you!



Rehearsals are on Wednesdays at 8:30 pm, and the first rehearsal is on September 13.

Please contact Richard Cochrane at 570-881-5379 or the office if possible, but walk-ons are welcome.

Adult Choir Resumes Rehearsals

Our Adult Choir is beginning rehearsals on **August 30** at 7:15 p.m. in the sanctuary. Director Frank Jones welcomes singers of all experience levels.



Stop by and give it a try!



Earth Care Road Clean-up

The next Adopt-a-Highway clean-up will be Saturday, September 9. We will meet in the Clarks Summit Methodist Church parking lot at 9 AM.

Contact Donna Porter (porterhouse@epix.net) for additional information.



Worship Through Service

From now until Sunday, September 24, the Deacons will be collecting much needed personal toiletry items and gently-used household linens and kitchen ware for Friends of the Poor. All donations will be delivered the week of September 24th for a Worship through Service project. Items may be placed in the boxes in the Narthex. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Suggested Items

Toiletries

- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Deodorant
- Body lotion
- Soaps
- Travel size shampoo and conditioner

Linens

- Blankets
- Sheets
- Towels

Kitchenware

- Pots and Pans
- Utensils
- Plates/cups/bowls



Stephen Ministry

The Stephen Ministry is a program to provide confidential, one on one, care for people going through some difficulty in their lives. This can be

home/family issues, illnesses, loss of a loved one, loss of a job, moving to a new area, to mention a few. The Stephen Leaders attended a week long training program to learn how to train our Stephen Ministers. Our Stephen Ministers went through 50 hours of training to learn how to be caring, effective listeners to help you work through your problems. All care given is strictly confidential. Men are paired with men and women with women. Our Stephen Ministers will usually meet with their care receivers for about an hour once a week. This can last for just a few weeks or go on for many months, depending on the need and situation. If you have any questions about receiving a Stephen Minister or are interested in becoming involved in this wonderful program, contact one of our Stephen Leaders, John Conklin, Judy Cutler, or Rev. Bill Carter.

Worship through Service: My Brother's Keeper Quilts



The summer has flown by, and now it is time for My Brothers' Keeper group to resume quilting.

The first meeting will be Tuesday, September 12, at 10 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. We will prepare our project for the Worship through Service Sunday on September 24th.

Hope to see you all then!



Our Church Library is in need of some Tender Lov- ing Care. Can you help?

We are looking for a couple of volunteers who could oversee and promote our church library. It would take a couple of hours each month to return books to the shelves, do occasional organizing, and write a short paragraph for the monthly newsletter to let everybody know what is on our shelves. Interested? Please let Jana Schillinger or Rev. Bill know.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

**Relax, Relate, Renew is
September 12 at 6pm**

Welcome to our 2017-2018 Presbyterian Women Bible Study Season. We will be studying *Cloud of Witnesses: The Community of Christ in Hebrews* by Melissa Bane Sevier.

We are looking forward to a new year of Bible study and fellowship. Our Relate/Relax/Renew Potluck Supper and Study Overview will be September 12 at 6:00 p.m. at the church.

Our Circles will begin on September 19 and meet the third Tuesday of each month. Dorcas Circle meets at 10 a.m.; Priscilla Circle at 1:30 p.m.; and Eunice Circle at 7 p.m. at the church.

All ladies of the church are invited to attend any or all of the meetings. If you have any questions please contact Lee Wirth at 587-3767.



The FPC Book Group is meeting at 7 p.m. on September 28 at Char Lyon's home. All are welcome. The book of the evening will be **Unshackled: From Ruin to Redemption** by Gene McGuire

Gene McGuire received a life sentence for a murder he did not commit. Serving that life sentence ... he found life.

No one would have imagined such an outcome when, as a 17-year-old, he was convicted of Second Degree Murder and heard the judge speak those ominous words, "...for the rest of your natural life."

In **Unshackled**, McGuire takes readers from the scene of the crime—a lakeside tavern in sleepy little *Lake Winola, Pennsylvania* through 34 years, nine months, and 15 days of incarceration, all while serving a life sentence... for a murder he didn't commit. Glimpses of light penetrate a world of abject darkness, making **Unshackled** a most surprising, engaging and liberating read—a powerful and moving story of freedom, forgiveness and moving forward in life.

STATE HOSPITAL LUNCHEON

The next luncheon with guests from Clarks Summit State Hospital is Tuesday, October 2 at noon in Fellowship Hall. This event is organized by members of our Presbyterian Women. All are welcome to assist with this ministry of friendship, activities, and *GOOD FOOD*. Serving, cleaning up, and visiting with our guests are among the tasks of the day. If you have any questions about this event, please call Janet Dobson, 570-563-1887.

Joys and Sorrows



Blessings and Best Wishes to:

Amanda Tosh and Jason Waters, who were united in marriage on May 20, 2017 and to
 Lauren Urso and Joe Iacovazzi, who exchanged wedding vows on July 8, 2017.

Lectionary Readings

September 3

Exodus 3:1-15; Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26; 45b; Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28

September 10

Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 149; Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20

September 17

Exodus 14:19-31; Psalm 114; Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35

September 24

Exodus 16:2-15; Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45; Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16

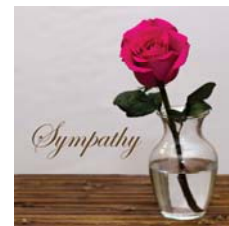
September Birthdays



1	Lorraine Daniels	23	Ann Chamberlin
7	Mary O'Brien		
8	Dean Shane	24	Tyler Kusma
11	Judy Cutler	27	Ethan Flynn
	Laura Schillinger		Stan Gilbert
12	Sandra Bailey	29	Richard Maurer
14	Dick Broxton		Wendy Wescott
20	Lee Wirth	30	Andrew Taylor
21	Nancy Dennen		Tinka Zenke

Sincere sympathy to

Rick Marquardt and his family on the recent passing of his father, Richard C. Marquardt.



September Ushers

Betty Keen and Mary Parry

September Anniversary

19 Jim and Shirley McLaughlin



Communion Servers

September 3

Beverly Bright, Captain; Janet Stansbury, Judy Cutler, Chris Norton, Bill Farrell, Connie and John Weiss.

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

300 School Street

Clarks Summit, PA 18411-1536

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DATED MATERIAL**Return Service Requested**

Be yourself for God

Rabbi Joseph Liebermann describes a dream where he dies and goes to stand before God's judgment seat. As he waits, the rabbi fears that the Lord will ask him, "Why weren't you a Moses ... or a David ... or a Solomon?" Instead, God surprises him by simply asking, "Why weren't you Rabbi Liebermann?"

When our lives are over, God won't ask us why we weren't a Mother Teresa or another saintly soul. He simply wants us to be who he created us to be.

"We are his workmanship," St. Paul writes in Ephesians 2: 10. In Greek, workmanship means *"a piece of art."* You are God's masterpiece. Life isn't a game of comparison. It's a journey of discovery of how God has uniquely created you to perform specific tasks in this life.

Your life is God's canvas. Don't hinder the painting process!

—Mike Paulison
