



# The Presbyter

October 2017

The First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit

## OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

**Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is responding to Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, Maria and the Mexico earthquakes.**

Thank you for your gifts and assistance in the wake of these natural disasters, including Gift of the Heart Kits (see below). And given this over-active hurricane season, we know these gifts and assistance will be well used and appreciated.

**Thank you!**

## PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING

The Mission and Justice committee would like to thank you for your contributions to the Peace and Global Witness offering which concludes October 1.

Next month we will report the total contributions for the Peace and Global Witness offering.



## Gift of the Heart Kits

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

**Gifts of the Heart school, hygiene, and cleaning kits are being assembled for hands-on hurricane relief effort.**

Flyers listing the necessary contents of each kit are in the narthex. If you would like to prepare a kit on your own, please deliver it to the church by Sunday, October 8. As the cleaning kits are so expensive, contributions of individual cleaning products and items for the cleaning bucket can also be placed in the narthex. Our goal for the cleaning kits is to send 20 buckets. Check the sign-up sheet in the Narthex for the most up-to-date needs.

## Table of Contents

Page 2 -	Session Notes, Financial Info
Page 3 -	From The Pastor
Page 4 -	The Way
Page 5 -	Reformation 500 Book Fair, Youth Fellowship, Adventures in the Bible, Helpers needed
Page 6 -	Arts at First Presbyterian, Food Pantry
Page 7 -	Deacons, Chapel & Alleluia Choirs
Page 8 -	Kid's Page
Page 9 -	Presbyterian Women, FPC Book Group, Library
Page 10 -	Joys & Sorrows, Ushers, Birthdays, Anniversaries, Lectionary Readings, Communion Servers, Welcomers
Page 11 -	Calendar
Page 12 -	Stephen Ministry

## Notes from September Session Meeting

1. Session would like congregational members to help with our Advent devotional this year. You just have to write a brief reflection for a seasonal scripture. Please give it some thought and let the office know of your interest.
2. Note from our Building & Grounds committee -- If you are running late for church and find yourself parking in the exit lane, please move your vehicle immediately after service so others can freely leave. Thank you for your co-operation.
3. Session is planning our Stewardship campaign which will begin shortly.



### FROM YOUR FINANCE COMMITTEE FOR THE MONTH ENDING AUGUST 31, 2017

#### REVENUE

Budget	\$ 235,000
Actual Received	219,859
Difference	\$ ( 15,141)
	=====

#### EXPENSES

Budget	\$ 244,365
Actual Expenses	240,399
Difference	\$ 3,966
	=====

BUDGET VARIANCE \$ (11,176)

#### PLEDGE INCOME

Budget	\$ 213,333
Received	199,352
Difference	\$ (13,981)

Per Capita 2017 is \$32 per member.  
As of the end of August, \$2,995 has been contributed.

The Presbyter deadline for  
the November issue is  
October 20, 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.

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



**Are you interested in joining our church, or in learning more about this congregation?**

Rev. Carter will lead "Conversations about Membership," a 2-part seminar on October 8 and 15 following worship at 11:15 in room 206.

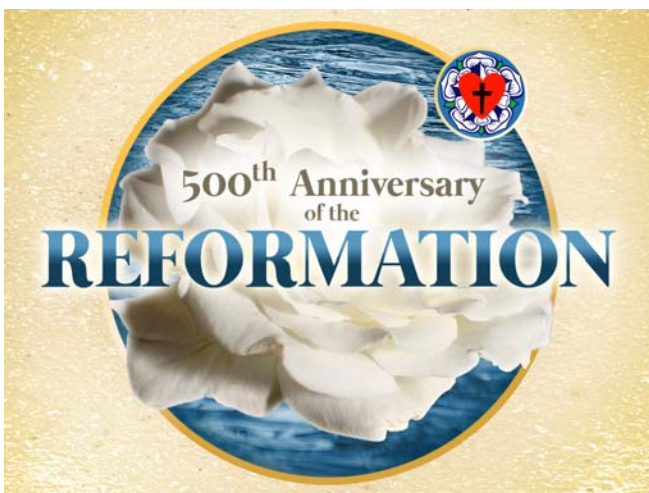
## From the pastor

Dear Friends—

On October 31, 1517, a Roman Catholic scholar posted the notice for an academic debate on the door of a church in Wittenberg, Germany. He was troubled by distortions that he perceived in the faith and practice of the church, and wished to raise these concerns so they could be corrected.



Little did he realize that this action would set off a religious powder keg that we refer to as the Protestant Reformation.



Truth be told, there have been a lot of reformations in the Christian church, and there continue to be even more. The Christian faith professes that God's Spirit stays active in shaping and correcting the church. As the Presbyterians declare, "We are the church reformed, and still being reformed by the Word and Spirit of God." We don't pursue change for change's sake; we seek to be faithful to what God invites us to be and do.

I love even more how Luther didn't take all the credit for what he began. In the words from one of his sermons: "I simply taught, preached, and wrote God's Word; otherwise I did nothing. And while I slept, or drank

Wittenberg beer with my friends Philip and Amsdorf, the Word so greatly weakened the papacy that no price or emperor ever inflicted such losses upon it."

And yet, credit is due to Brother Martin. He showed tremendous courage and clarity as he preached and taught the Gospel, sometimes doing so at great risk to his life. The church is better because of his witness, even in these days when another spiritual Reformation could benefit both church and world.

October 2017 is hereby Martin Luther Month at the Church on the Hill. We will study his life and times, revisit his message, take a closer look at some of his foibles, and learn more about the forces that have shaped our faith. In worship, we will pray his prayers, hear instrumental music from his era, and sing his great hymn, "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" more than a few times. We will also hear sermons on the great themes of his preaching: "By Scripture Alone," "By Faith Alone," and "By Grace Alone."

Of course, like Luther, if you wish to shave a monastic circle on your head (a "tonsure"), wear an ugly brown robe, drink a bit of Wittenberg beer, and marry a former nun, nobody here will stop you. Especially if you proclaim at the top of your lungs, "To God Alone Be the Glory!"

Happy Martin Luther Month. It's going to be a grand celebration of an extraordinary saint's work.

To God Alone Be the Glory,

Rev. Bill Carter

Christian Education



It's for life!

THE W.A.Y.

The Wednesday Aadults and Youth Christian Education

"I am the WAY, the TRUTH, and the LIFE"

## Classes for Children and Youth

**Spark (Newborn - 3 year old)** enjoy Bible stories, songs and games in the nursery. In October the kids will be learning about Isaac's Blessing, Free from Slavery, the Red Sea, and the Ten Commandments.

**Power Xpress (4 year old - Grade 5)** experience Bible stories through interactive rotation classes. October's units will be about Joshua and King David.

**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

**"Reading Jeremiah in Uncertain Times"** - Jeremiah, the Old Testament prophet, lived and ministered 2600 years ago! His period of time was characterized by turmoil and uncertainty, and "fake news" flooded the oral airways. Sound familiar? For four weeks **[October 11 - November 1]** we will explore the appropriateness of "Reading Jeremiah in Uncertain Times." **Led by Dr. John Lawlor, this class meets in room 206.**

**"Meet Martin Luther"** - It's been 500 years since Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses to a door and began a Protestant Reformation. Let's find out more about this man: who he was, when he lived, what he believed, and what he did. **With Rev. Bill Carter (October 11-November 1) in room 210.**

## 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.



## Adventures in the Bible



## Are you ready for an adventure?

Each Sunday, 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 at tabbi.miller-scandle@scranton.edu or Karis Naeher at klnaeher@outlookcom.

## Youth Fellowship

All youth grades 4-12 are invited to join us  
on

October 6th, 6:30-8:30pm

and

October 20, 6:30-8:30pm

Bring a friend! New faces are  
always welcome!

## Reformation 500 Book Fair

Do you want to learn about the history of the Reformation, Martin Luther’s writings, and their impact on Christianity today?

We have just the thing!

Browse through our selection of books  
available to order after worship on

**Sunday, October 8, 15, and 22**

or during the WAY program on

**Wednesday, October 11 and 18.**

## Calling all teachers!

The Wednesday Adults and Youth Christian Education Program (the WAY), offers classes for all ages every week.

Christian Education is an important part of who we are and what we do — and you can be a part of it! Help us all to grow in Christ by volunteering to teach...at any grade level for any amount of time, you can lead our children and adults in learning and growth. Please prayerfully consider helping with this important ministry.

Contact Nancy Dennen at (570) 407-1037 for more information.

## Helpers Needed!

The W.A.Y. is looking for people to help with our meals. You are welcome to help once in a while, once a month, or whenever you are able!

### You can help by:

- Cooking or helping to cook a main dish
- Providing a salad    Providing a dessert
- Helping with setup    Helping with cleanup



## 2017-18 Arts at First Presbyterian concert series

**Sunday, October 15, 2017 4:00 pm**  
**An Afternoon of Classical Music**  
**Brenda Leach, organ and Katie Morell, clarinet**



The first concert in the 2017-2018 Arts at First Presbyterian concert series will feature two members of the music faculty at Marywood University in an Afternoon of Classical Music on Sunday, October 15 at 4:00 pm. 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 features clarinetist Katie Morell performing Mozart's Clarinet Quintet in A and Mackey's Breakdown Tango, joined by a superb supporting group.

*Dr. Leach*

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

Dr. Morell is an artist-teacher in the NEPA area. She is on the 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. Dr. Morell is a Backun artist and performs on MoBa clarinets.

This event is open to the public, free of charge, but a free-will offering will be taken. The Arts at First Presbyterian concert series receives support from the Pennsylvania Partners in the Arts Program (administered by the Pocono Arts Council), a Lackawanna County Arts & Cultural Grant, and numerous individual donors.

For more information or directions, please contact First Presbyterian Church at 570-586-6306 or visit [www.fpccs.org](http://www.fpccs.org).



*Dr. Morell*



### We're collecting for the AEM Food Pantry in October.

During this month please bring non-perishable food items and leave them in the Narthex.

Items such as soups, cereals, pastas, powdered milk, tuna, peanut butter, etc. are of particular need.

Please consider each time you go shopping to buy an item for yourself and one for our neighbors.

Items will be collected until the end of October.

## Board of Deacons

Care Team Ministry **Coordinators are:**

Independent & Assisted Living:	Sara Ann Hosier	587-0371
Deacon Meals:	Donna Kepler	587-2729
Time of Loss:	Anne Rich	587-2802
Emergency Home Repairs And Maintenance:	Joe Waters	586-7233

Please let the Board of Deacons Care Team Coordinators or the church office know if anyone is in need of care.

We're here to care for FPC members and friends and we count on all of you to let us know when help is needed. This is our ministry and our Christian privilege to care for you.



## Chapel Choir & Alleluia Choir Notes

*Submitted by Kay Ten Eyck*

*"Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world."  
-- Martin Luther*



This month we are celebrating the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation. As a musician, this is an especially important celebration because Luther strove to "give music back" to the congregation by uniting them in song. We are blessed with a congregation that heartily sings a wide variety of styles. A tradition we wish to continue.

Our children and youth come together each week to learn and grow as singers and as children of God. This is the future of our congregational song. We encourage and welcome children and youth whether or not they are members of our particular congregation. We want them to be a part of our choirs even if it is only for a few months of the year. We want them to sing with the voice they were given.

### Join us in song and celebration!

**Chapel Choir:** Kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade ~ Wednesday evenings 5:30 pm to 6:10 pm

**Alleluia Choir:** 6<sup>th</sup> grade through 12<sup>th</sup> grade ~ every other Thursday evening 6:30 to 7:30 pm.  
Please contact Kay for our schedule.

**Adult Choir:** high school students welcomed! ~ Wednesday evenings 7:15 pm to 8:25 pm

For more information regarding our music program, please contact Kay Ten Eyck at [kayt1085@gmail.com](mailto:kayt1085@gmail.com) or [570-313-0146](tel:570-313-0146), Frank Jones at [fjones217@gmail.com](mailto:fjones217@gmail.com), or the church office at [570-586-6306](tel:570-586-6306).



Make this sign to hang on your wall as a daily reminder of God's amazing gift of grace.

**What you need:**

- White poster board
- Large wooden letters that spell GRACE
- Painter's tape
- Tempura paint
- Paper plates
- Paintbrushes
- Colored pens or markers



**What you do:**

1. Place the poster board on the ground (outside, if possible).
2. Put tape on the back of the letters and secure them to the board. No tape should be visible.
3. Paint and draw all over the poster board. Be creative with splatters, handprints and so on.
4. When paint is dry, remove the letters and hang up the poster.



# The gift of grace

God's grace is a free gift, not something we can earn on our own. How do we have this gift?

*Directions: Complete the Bible verse by placing the capital letters from the gifts on the blanks below.*

F	u	O	R	L	t	A	s	W	v	w	G
I	x	V	p	E	N	M	q	O	S	a	r
E	r	S	e	G	R	m	A	C	E	d	T
R	U	n	T	H	T	H	R	k	O	U	G
H	j	J	E	S	f	U	S	u	C	o	H
R	b	I	y	p	S	T	J	O	i	H	N

“ \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ was \_\_\_\_\_  
 through \_\_\_\_\_ ; \_\_\_\_\_ and  
 \_\_\_\_\_ came \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ .”

\_\_\_\_\_ 1:17, NIV

Answer: "For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ." John 1:17, NIV



## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Our Presbyterian Women Circle Bible studies got off to a big start in September with both Relax/Relate/Renew on September 12 and our first lesson on September 19.

On October 17 we will continue with lesson two: "In Community with the Living God" from Cloud of Witnesses: The Community of Christ in Hebrews" by Melissa Band Sevier. "This lesson reminds us that God lives both in us and among us and that this living God supports who we are and how we live."

All ladies are invited to attend either the Dorcas and Priscilla Circle at 10:00 a.m. or the Eunice Circle at 7:00 p.m. at the church. If you need a book, a ride, or have any questions, please call Lee Wirth at 587-3767 or Barbara Pittman at 587-2050.



See you there for study and fellowship!

## STATE HOSPITAL LUNCHEON

Tuesday, October 3

Noon

Join us for Fellowship and lunch with our guests.

If there are any questions about this event, please call Janet Dobson at 570-563-1887.

Women's Association



**The FPC Book Group** is meeting at 7 p.m. on October 26th at Patti Delaney's home. Join us as we discuss A Man Called Ove by Fredrik Backman.

Meet Ove. He's a curmudgeon—the kind of man who points at people he dislikes as if they were burglars caught outside his bedroom window. He has staunch principles, strict routines, and a short fuse. People call him "the bitter neighbor from hell." But must Ove be bitter just because he doesn't walk around with a smile plastered to his face all the time? Behind the cranky exterior there is a story and a sadness. So when one November morning a chatty young couple with two chatty young daughters move in next door and accidentally flatten Ove's mailbox, it is the lead-in to a comical and heartwarming tale of unkempt cats, unexpected friendship, and the ancient art of backing up a U-Haul. All of which will change one cranky old man and a local residents' association to their very foundations. A feel-good story in the spirit of *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry* and *Major Pettigrew's Last Stand*, Fredrik Backman's novel about the angry old man next door is a thoughtful exploration of the profound impact one life has on countless others.

## Our Church Library is in need of some Tender Loving 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.



# Joys and Sorrows



## Blessings and Best Wishes to Mr. and Mrs. Peter Moore!

Laura Schillinger and Peter Moore were united in marriage on September 23, 2017, with Rev. Carter presiding.

## Lectionary Readings

### October 1<sup>st</sup>

Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16; Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32

### October 8<sup>th</sup>

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20; Psalm 19; Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46

### October 15<sup>th</sup>

Exodus 32:12-23; Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23; Philippians 4:1-9; Matthew 22:1-14

### October 22<sup>nd</sup>

Exodus 33:12-23; Psalm 99; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22

### October 29<sup>th</sup>

Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17; 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Matthew 22:34-46

## October Birthdays



- |                          |               |                          |                |
|--------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| October 1 <sup>st</sup>  | George Harris | October 21 <sup>st</sup> |                |
| October 4 <sup>th</sup>  | Riley Wescott |                          | Ryan Flynn     |
| October 9 <sup>th</sup>  | Sadie O'Brien | October 23 <sup>rd</sup> |                |
| October 12 <sup>th</sup> | Carol Hudak   |                          | Kim Barrows    |
| October 13 <sup>th</sup> | Sue Fulton    |                          | Ed Cole        |
| October 19 <sup>th</sup> | Nancy Owens   | October 27 <sup>th</sup> | Linda Weaver   |
| October 20 <sup>th</sup> |               | October 28 <sup>th</sup> | Linda Schuller |
- Darlene Scappatura  
Charlotte Spory



## Communion Servers

October 1

- Myrna Diven, captain
- John Diven
- Ginny O'Brien
- Nancy Dennen
- Nancy Post

## Welcomers

- October 1<sup>st</sup>, Lee and Mick Wirth
- October 8<sup>th</sup>, Lee and Mick Wirth
- October 15<sup>th</sup>, Jack and Barbara Pittman
- October 22<sup>nd</sup>, Jay Clymer
- October 29<sup>th</sup>, Sandra and Steuart Bailey

## October Usher

Marsha Parrish



October 28<sup>th</sup> Anne and John Rich



## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

300 School Street

Clarks Summit, PA 18411-1536

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Clarks Summit PA

**DATED MATERIAL**

**Return Service Requested**



## Stephen Ministry

Often we are in a situation where we know someone who needs help but don't know just what to do. Here is a suggestion from our Stephen Ministry training: The best way is simple but often overlooked: Just ask.

A good example of why this is important comes from an episode of the TV show *Parenthood* from a few years ago. One of the main characters, Christina, has recently been diagnosed with cancer, and two friends drop by to cheer her up and bring her a roasted chicken.

Christina goes to put the chicken away in the refrigerator—where there are four more chickens just like it, leaving barely any room for anything else. These friends meant well, but because they made an assumption about what Christina needed—a chicken dinner—their help

was not all that helpful. They could have done much more for Christina if they had said:

*“What can we do right now?  
Do you need any meals, or help with transportation, or someone to run errands—or something else? We’d really like to help.”*

Then they could have acted based on Christina’s response, and helped in ways that Christina genuinely needed right then.

