# The First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit

## Presbyterian Women Birthday Offering

The Birthday Offering is one of Presbyterian Women's offerings. It will be received on May 13 during worship. This offering, traditionally 1-cent for each birthday you've celebrated, gives women a tangible way to celebrate the blessings in their lives. This offering funds up to five projects per year, in amounts of \$100,000 to \$300,000 each. Grant amounts depend on the gifts received.

2018 recipients are:

- Cottage Village, a Tiny-house Community for low-income residents in Cottage Grove, Oregon;
- Village of Grace for Physical and Spiritual Health, Tegucigalpa, Honduras;
- The Dwelling Place in Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota.

Additional information can be found at www.presbyterianwomen.org

#### Our Session invites you to Read the Bible!

As a way to facilitate Bible reading through the congregation, we will be organizing **Immerse Bible groups** this spring. **Immerse** is a program to read the Bible in informal reading groups, gathering for regular discussion in the homes of our members. We will begin with the Messiah study, which introduces the New Testament. The Immerse program has prepared an edition of the Bible that is more accessible, easier to understand, and in more logical order. These books are now available from our office for \$10 each. They are also available for Kindle. To sign up for an Immerse Bible group, contact the church office.

The Congregational Innovation Team of Lackawanna Presbytery invites you to

#### Simple Gifts: Spring 2018 Whisper Sabbath of Lackawanna Presbytery Saturday, May 19, 9am–5pm Camp Lackawanna

A Whisper Sabbath is a time to stop and listen for God's still, small voice in the midst of a chaotic world. At this Sabbath, we will focus on the gifts God has given us for use in the church and the world, meditating on 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, among other scripture passages.

There will be time for silence, stillness, discussion, and activities. All pastors, elders, teachers, and church leaders or volunteers - anyone who might benefit from this retreat - are welcome. Come and take a Sabbath from the rest of the world for just one day, and see what God may have to "whisper" to you!

Registration is \$10 and includes 3 meals.

More information is available on the Lackawanna Presbytery website: lackawannapresbytery.org

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#### The Presbyter

#### Page 2

#### A congregational meeting was held on Sunday, April 15th to elect officers for the coming year.

Nominations by the committee, Craig Smith, Chair, were: Session: Nancy Dennen, Jay Clymer, JoAnn Hall, Judy Cutler and Grant Taylor. Deacons: Steuart Bailey, Gwynne Gilbert, Vi Dygert, Joe Water and Peter Moore.

Ordination and Installation of these officers will take place on Sunday, May 20, during worship.

Since there were no nominations from the floor the names as given were elected. Also, elected were the nominating committee members at large for the 2019 year: Grace Farrell, Marie Cochrane, Heather Acker and Dave Brown.

Beverly Bright, Clerk of Session

#### The Presbyter deadline for the June issue is May 18.

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.fpccs.org
Pastor	William G. Carter
Administrative Assistant	Nancy Owens
Coordinator of Children &	Youth Jana Schillinger
Treasurer	Wayne Griffiths
Editor	Amanda Roberts
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

## FROM YOUR FINANCE COMMITTEE

FOR THE MONTH ENDING MARCH 31, 2018

#### REVENUE

Budget Actual Received Difference	\$ 91,834 <u>92,735</u> \$ 901
<u>EXPENSES</u>	
Budget Actual Expenses Difference	\$ 94,927 <u>90,403</u> \$ (4,524) ======
BUDGET VARIANCE	\$ 5,426
PLEDGE INCOME	
Budget Received Difference	\$ 80,000 <u>81,057</u> \$ 1,057 

Per Capita 2018 is \$33 per member. As of the end of March, \$2,622 has been contributed.

# **Board of Deacons**

Care Team Ministry Coordinators are:				
Independent & Assisted Living:	Sara Ann Hosier 587-0371			
Deacon Meals:	Donna Kepler			

Deacon Meals:

Time of Loss:

**Emergency Home Repairs** And Maintenance:

Joe Waters 586-7233

587-2729

Anne Rich 587-2802

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.

#### From the Pastor May 2018

One of the gifts that our congregation has given to me is an annual week of "spiritual leave." It has been an expression of God's grace to me, and I have appreciated this gift of time for a number of years.

But I am very aware that it's a gift that a lot of other people never receive. And I wonder why that is.

As I worked it through with our personnel committee about a decade ago, we agreed the week should be a "mini sabbatical": a time set aside for prayer, listening for God, reflecting on God's call upon my life, and replenishing my spirit. The relentless pace of ministry can diminish the spark in a pastor's eyes. Without some time and space to breathe, the preacher can be tempted to speak in vague platitudes about mysteries kept at arm's length. That is, it's possible to stand up in a pulpit and fake it. Nobody can talk about grace if they haven't welcomed it first-hand.

So what have I done with this annual leave? A variety of things, all helpful. Some years, I've retreated to monasteries for a week of intentional silence. One year, I took a course in contemplative leadership which required eight Thursdays away and a lot of reading. Another time, I joined up with a Men's Retreat at Camp Krislund where we reflected on the Desert Fathers, pounded on drums, and got in touch with our unacknow-ledged emotional wounds. I also took part in a retreat with singer Bobby McFerrin to experience the spiritual power of song – which was followed by three days in a silent hermitage to work through all the music in my head. All of it has been helpful.

Like I said, I am grateful for this gift. And I wonder why more people don't undertake God's invitation to deepen their own spiritual life. Are we fearful that God might get too close? Or do we believe the devilish notion that we should be damnably busy? A spiritual leave – a true Sabbath, if you will – could be a healthy corrective.

So I invite you to two upcoming Sabbaths, both at Camp Lackawanna. The first is called a "**Whisper Sab-bath**," and it's scheduled for Saturday, May 19 from 9:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. The cost is just \$10, which includes breakfast, lunch, and a light dinner. Our friends at Lackawanna Presbytery say, "A Whisper Sabbath is a time to stop and listen for God's still, small voice in the midst of a chaotic world." You can register by contacting the presbytery office (348-0643 or <u>www.lackawannapresby.org</u>). I am attending and will gladly take a car-full of Clarks Summiteers with me.

The other event is **our church's getaway at Camp Lackawanna**, scheduled for the weekend of Sunday, August 26. You will see it advertised as our Church Picnic (which it will be), but I hope it can be so much more than that. It's a time to retreat together to the woods. You can camp or bunk up there on the previous night, go for a canoe trip on Sunday afternoon, or take a long walk in the woods to slow down the busy pace of your life. The invitation is now in your hands. More information will be forthcoming.

Apart from the occasional bursts of a crisis, we are only as busy and chaotic as we wish to be. I pray you will take some time to lean back into God's arms and receive the Spirit's gifts of grace and restoration. We can set aside special days or seasons for this, keep a regular Sabbath, or – imagine this – create a pause of breathing room each day.

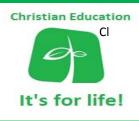
With you in the journey, Rev. Bill Carter

P.S. – When you read this, I will most likely be on this year's spiritual leave, which will be a week at Ghost Ranch, a Presbyterian retreat center in the high desert of New Mexico. The plan is to sit back, admire the red rock formations that look like a Road Runner cartoon, and welcome the cleansing breeze of the desert air. See you soon.

From the

Pastor

The Presbyter



# THE W.A.Y.

The Wednesday Adults and Youth Christian Education

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

#### **IMPORTANT DATE**

Summer is almost here. The WAY will conclude on Wednesday, May 23...see you in September!

#### **Classes for Children and Youth**

**Spark (Newborn - 3 year old)** enjoy Bible stories, songs and games in the nursery. In May, the kids will be learning about the Holy Spirit, Saul becomes Paul, an angel frees Peter, and Paul's letters.

**Power Xpress (4 year old - Grade 5)** experience Bible stories through interactive rotation classes. May's units will focus on Pentecost and Timothy, Eunice, and Lois.

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. In May, we will wrap up the lessons of the Old Testament.

**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

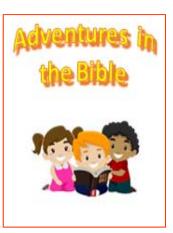
#### Wednesday Classes for Adults

- Hidden Treasures of the Bible is a springtime Bible series to explore some scripture texts that we may overlook. Dr. John Lawlor will introduce us to Ecclesiastes and Job (April 25, May 2, 9). Rev. Bill Carter will unlock the 2nd and 3rd letters of John (May16.). In Room 206.
- The Journey to Wellness The World Health Organization defines wellness as "a state of complete physical, mental, and social wellbeing, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity". Wellness matters. It's all about choices. Join us as we explore some of the elements of wellness and aging: nurturing your soul and your mind, living a healthy lifestyle, maintaining relationships. With Nancy Post and friends, May 2, 9, 16, in Room 210.
- All adults are invited to a planning conversation about adult education for the 2018-2019 year on Wednesday, May 23, in Room 206. What would you like to learn? What have been highlights from the past year? Please come and share. As Dr. Freda Gardner of Princeton Seminary once said, "Adults learn best when they can choose what they would like to learn."

## **Supper Reservations**

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

Please return reservation slips no later than Monday by placing them in the basket near the phone in the kitchen or in the offering plate. You may also call the church office. Reservations slips can be found in the church office, in the kitchen, or in pews.



Adventures in the Bible meets each Sunday at 9:00 a.m. for children ages 2 to 7 and parent(s) in room 110. The children will hear a story from the Bible, then participate in activities that will reinforce the story.

We are getting close to the end of another year of learning and growing together. Join our growing circle of children and families throughout the month of May to celebrate the resurrection of Christ and his appearances to his disciples before his ascension. We look forward to seeing you on Sunday mornings before worship!

Questions? Contact Karis Naeher (<u>klnaeher@outlook.com</u>) or Tabbi Miller-Scandle (<u>tabbi.miller-scandle@scranton.edu</u>.

#### **Youth Fellowship**

All youth grades 4-12 are invited to join us

Friday, May 11th (Iron Chef) 6:30-8:30PM and Sunday, May 20th from 12-2PM

Bring a friend! New faces always welcome.

#### PAUL R. DOBSON SCHOLARSHIP

Any graduating high school member of the church who plans to further their education is encouraged to apply. The application can be downloaded from the church's website and returned to the church office by May 15th. The winner will be announced on Graduate Recognition Sunday.



#### WHAT: VBS 2018

WHEN: Monday, July 16 to Friday, July 20, 9am-12pm

WHERE: First Presbyterian Church

300 School St, Clarks Summit

WHO'S INVITED: all children age 4 to completed grade 5

TO REGISTER, VISIT: myvbs.org/fpccs

Want to volunteer? You can help bring ancient Babylon to life by teaching, leading, or preparing.

\*\*\*\*

Please contact Jana Schillinger, or send an email to fpccs.vbs@gmail.com

# **Book Group**



May is movie night for the book group. We will be watching the original version of "My

Cousin Rachel". We are moving the meeting to May 31st so we can enjoy Marie Cochrane's wonderful home theater. We will also discuss the books for next fall/winter/spring. Come and enjoy a fun evening.

For more information about the Book Group, contact Judy Cutler at 570-446-9310 or jdragonflyc@hotmail.com

Fellowship, Food and Entertainment (our own Bell Choir) was enjoyed by all on April 3rd, with our guests from Clarks Summit State Hospital.

THANK YOU

Presbyterian Women

# Lectionary Readings

#### May 6

Acts 10: 44-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5: 1-6 John 15: 9-17

#### May 13

Acts 1: 15-17, 21-26; Psalm 1; 1 John 5: 9-13; John 17: 6-19

#### May 20

Ezekiel 37: 1-14; Psalm 104: 24-34, 35b; Romans 8: 22-27; John 15: 26-27; 16: 4b-15

#### May 27

Isaiah 6: 1-8; Psalm 29; Romans 8: 12-17; John 3: 1-17

#### Earth Care Task Force Information Congratulations to First Presbyterian! We have again been renewed as an Earth Care Congregation!

SPRING CLEANING — Tips for a more environmentally-friendly spring cleaning **TIP # 1: General Dusting-** Instead of general dry dust-

ing, try a damp cloth or 1 tsp of olive oil per  $\frac{1}{2}$  c. white vinegar that you can mix together and apply on a soft cloth for use.

**TIP # 2: Window Cleaning**-Try using a spray bottle of 3 T of white vinegar per 1 qt. of water. Using half white vinegar and half water is also recommended. For extra dirty windows, try a ½ tsp of liquid soap, 3 T of white vinegar, and 2 cups of water. Shake well.

**TIP # 3: Carpet Cleaning**- Try mixing together equal parts of white vinegar and water. Place this in a small container to dab on a clean cloth.

**TIP # 4: Wood Floors**- Try white vinegar as a natural disinfectant

Hard to Recycle Items – Lackawanna County http://www.lackawannacounty.org/portal/recycling/ hardtorecycle.html

#### Thank You!



I would like to thank our staff and congregation for another successful season of concerts and events in the 2017-2018 Arts at First Presbyterian concert series. Special thanks to our committee chairs and anyone who helped put this season together.

Co-chair: Dick Cochrane Operations: Nancy Post, Olympia Cianfichi Publicity: Beverly Bright, Dick Cochrane, John Weiss Hospitality: Karen White, Connie Weiss Financial Development: John Weiss Church Staff: Nancy Owens, John Conklin Members at large: Frank Jones, Rev. Bill Carter, Connie Weiss, Kay Ten Eyck, Beverly Bright

The committee will be meeting in May to discuss potential performers for 2018-2019 season. If you have any suggestions, please contact me at jaweiss@epix.net.

John Weiss, Co-Chair, Arts at First Presbyterian

#### **Chapel Choir and Alleluia Choir Notes**

By Kay Ten Eyck

#### "The fact that children can make beautiful music is less significant than the fact that music can make beautiful children"

Cheryl Lavender

Our chapel and Alleluia Choirs are looking forward to singing for worship on Mother's Day, May 13th. We'll combine both choirs for our last anthem for the 2017—2018 year. It is titled "Make a Joyful Noise" and we appreciate the congregation's support for all of our "joyful noises" throughout the year!

We are also looking forward to spending Saturday, May 19th at "Music in the Parks". The day starts with an adjudicated performance, we'll spend the afternoon at Hersheypark and late in the afternoon we'll attend the awards ceremony. It is a wonderful way to finish a year of singing, learning and fellowship.

Thank you to our parents and grandparents who bring their children to rehearsals each week; to Judy Cutler, Connie Weiss and Janet Dobson for being our choir parents; and to Frank and Bill for their support and help throughout the year. See you in the fall!



#### My Brothers' Keeper Quilting Group

completed 6 sleeping bags for the homeless at their March 27th Sewing Workshop. It was great fellowship and good eating for the sewing members, our knitters, and Flo & Jim Wheatley, the founders of MBK project.

# PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN CIRCLE BIBLE STUDIES Mary Ellen Lawlor

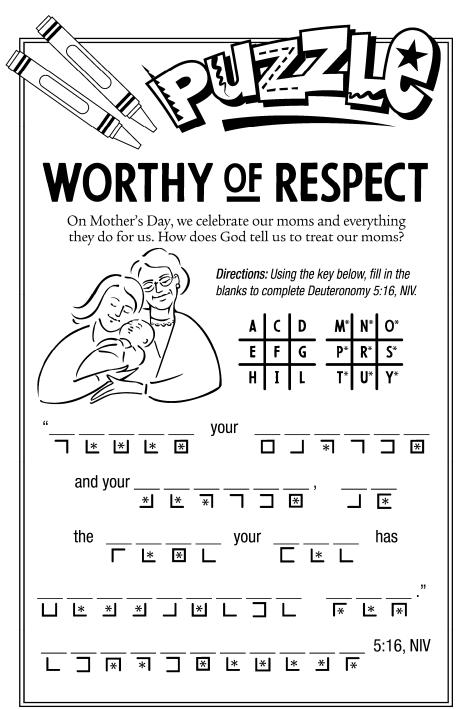


In our concluding lesson "In Community with All the Saints" Melissa Bane Sevier wants us "to think of the community, or communities, that have formed us as individuals; think of the community that is our study group." What kind of a support (like a rock wall) have we built and who surrounds us (like a cloud) in our life's journey?

We as "saints" like those in Hebrews 6:9-12 and 13:24-25 are "running a race" according to Hebrews 12:1-2. Come and let's "cheer each other on!"

We will meet on Tuesday, May 15 at 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. at the church. Our last meeting before the summer break will be in June for either a lunch or dinner with further details to come.





Answer: "Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you." Deuteronomy 5:16, NIV



the jar.
Write a note that says,
"Mom, you're the light of my life!" Punch a hole in one corner of the note, thread twine through the hole and tie the note around the jar's neck.

## **Robert London Scholarship Fund**



The Christian Education and Growth Committee is pleased to award scholarships to any child, teen or young adult who wishes to go to a church camp, church leadership conference, church national event, or other Christian Education event. The amount given to each student is considered on an individual basis. Applications can be picked up in the church office.



Summer camp at Camp Lackawanna is the adventure your camper is looking for. We've got a variety of programs, such as Wet 'n Wild, Sports Camp, Art and Drama, and our popular

Night Owls Camp. There are options for campers from Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Older teens can combine leadership and fun in our Staff-In-Training program. Campers all enjoy swimming, crafts, canoeing, games, learning about God, and making new friends.

Go to <u>www.camplackawannafirst.com</u> to register. Camperships are available through the Christian Education and Growth Committee.

If you are jealous that your camper gets to come to camp this summer, why not join them? We are offering a Family Camp Weekend from July 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> for all ages. You can stay in tents, cabins, or a lodge. Our staff will run a selection of your favorite camp activities and we will enjoy spending time with God, our families, and relaxing in God's creation. Registration is online.

#### Summer Programs at Camp Lackawanna

July  $24^{th} - 29^{th}$ Wet 'N Wild (grades 2-4, 5-8) Leader-In-Training (ages 14 and 15) July  $1^{st} - 3^{rd}$ You and Me (grades K-2) July  $1^{st} - 4^{th}$ Explorers (grades 1-3) July 6<sup>th</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup> Family Camp Weekend (all ages!) July  $1^{st} - 13^{th}$ Staff In Training (ages 16 and 17) July  $8^{th} - 13^{th}$ Mad Scientist (grades 2-4) Craft Camp (grades 3-5) Discovery Camp (grades 2-4) July  $15^{th} - 20^{th}$ Night Owls (grades 4-6, 7-9, 9-12) July  $22^{nd} - 27^{th}$ Music, Art, and Drama (grades 6-9, 9-12) Sports Camp, (grades 3-5, 6-8)

## JOIN US FOR A PNC CHAMBER PERFORMANCE

Featuring Katy Williams Friday, May 25 7:00 PM First Presbyterian Church 300 School St., Clarks Summit **Tickets: \$35** 

A frequent performer on the Philharmonic's Masterworks, soprano Katy Williams is well known and loved by music lovers in Northeast Pennsylvania. She is sure to dazzle the audience with her repertoire ranging from contemporary music, to favorite opera arias and Broadway hits.

Tickets are available online at NepaPhil.org or by phone at 570-270-4444.

# Joys

# Sorrows

# **Thank You Notes**



Colin Shane, born April 2, 2018, son of Kevin and Holly Shane, and newest grandson of Linda and Chris Woodley and Debbie and Tim Shane.

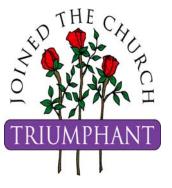


May 24 Nina & Brian Schillinger



May 2	Gary Wadsworth
May 7	Nancy Ford
May 11	Wally Longcor
NA. 44	

- May 14 Bill Fulton
- May 21 Jeanne DeVirgilis David Naeher
- May 22 Jana Schillinger
- May 23 Jillian Shane
- May 24 Sue Flynn
- May 28 Kate O'Brien



The sympathy of the congregation is extended to the family and friends of Donald Lewis, who passed away March 27, 2018. His wife, Barbara, survives.

Condolences are also sent to Mary Ann Nichols, at the recent passing of her brother.

#### Ushers

Drew Taylor and Ginny O'Brien

#### Welcomers

May 6—Janet Dobson May 13—John Conklin May 20—Lee and Mick Wirth May 27—Lee and Mick Wirth

#### May 6 Communion Servers

Frank Garnecki, Captain

Sue Flynn, Ryan Flynn, Tabbi Miller-Scandle, Phil Muntzel

## The Presbyter

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday 1	Wednesday 2	Thursday 3	Friday 4	Saturday 5
May	2018	7am-AA 6pm-OA 10am-PY Exec. Board 7pm-Big Book	7am-AA 11am-Prayer/Share 5pm-The W.A.Y. Light supper 5:30-Chapel Ch. 6:15-Christian Ed. 7:15-Adult Choir 8pm-AlAnon 8:30-Bell Choir	7am-AA 8:30-Men's Breakfast 6pm-Alleluia Choir 7pm-B & G 7pm-CE 7pm-Finance	7am-AA	7am-AA Meeting of Lackawanna Presbytery
6 7am-AA 9am-Adventures in the Bible 10am-Worship 3pm-Overeaters Anonymous	7 7am-AA 6pm-Weight Watchers 7pm-Mission & Justice	8 7am-AA 10am-MBK Quilts 6pm-OA 7pm-Session 7pm-Big Book	9 7am-AA 11am-Prayer/Share 5pm-The W.A.Y. Light supper 5:30-Chapel Ch. 6:15-Christian Ed. 7:15-Adult Choir 8pm-AlAnon	10 7am-AA 4:30-Staff	11 7am-AA 6:30-Youth Group	12 7am-AA
13 7am-AA 9am-Adventures in the Bible 10am-Worship 3pm-Overeaters Anonymous	14 7am-AA 6pm-Weight Watchers	15 7am-AA 10am-PW Circles 6pm-OA 7pm-PW Circle 7pm-Big Book	16 7am-AA 11am-Prayer/Share 5pm-The W.A.Y. Light supper 5:30-Chapel Ch. 6:15-Christian Ed. 7:15-Adult Choir 8pm-AlAnon	17 7am-AA 8:30-Men's Breakfast	18 7am-AA Presbyter Deadline	19 7am-AA 9am-Whisper Sabbath at Camp Lackawanna
20 7am-AA 9am-Adventures in the Bible 10am-Worship Ordination, installa- tion of officers 11:15-Worship, Music, Arts Comm. 11:15-Fellowship Comm. 12pm-Youth Group 3pm-Overeaters Anonymous	21 7am-AA 6pm-Weight Watchers	22 7am-AA 10am-MBK Quilts 6pm-OA 6:30-Deacons 7pm-Big Book	23 7am-AA 11am-Prayer/Share 5pm-The W.A.Y. Light supper 5:30-Chapel Ch. 6:15-Christian Ed. 7:15-Adult Choir 8pm-AlAnon	24 7am-AA	25 7am-AA 7pm-Philharmonic at FPCCS	26 7am-AA
27 7am-AA 9am-Adventures in the Bible 10am-Worship 3pm-Overeaters Anonymous	28 7am-AA Church Office is closed.	29 7am-AA 6pm-OA 7pm-Big Book	30 7am-AA 9am-Presbyter Mailing 11am-Prayer/Share 7:15-Adult Choir 8pm-AlAnon	31 7am-AA 7pm-Book Group		



#### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

300 School Street

Clarks Summit, PA 18411-1536

Nonprofit Org. U.S. Postage Permit No. 30 P A I D Clarks Summit PA

DATED MATERIAL

**Return Service Requested** 





Come join us for our annual bike ride down the Lehigh Gorge on June 9, 2018. We will start at White Haven and ride all downhill to Jim Thorpe, have lunch, and shuttle back to White Haven. Bike rentals are also available.

Contact Dick Cochrane at 570-587-3970 to reserve your spot.



Once again, our church has gone above and beyond for One Great Hour of Sharing. We not only met our goal of \$5,000, we exceeded it. As of this writing, we have received \$5,806 for the offering.

The Mission and Justice committee would like to thank you for your generosity, compassion, and willingness to help those in need with your offerings. We are grateful to have such a supportive congregation.