



# The Presbyter

May 2019

The First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit

## John Michael Vaida and the NEPA Chamber Music Society

Sunday, May 19

4:00 PM in the Sanctuary

The  
*Arts*  
at First Presbyterian Church

The final concert on the Arts at First Presbyterian concert series will take place on Sunday, May 19 at 4 pm when we welcome back John Michael Vaida, the brilliant young violinist and violist, and members of the NEPA Chamber Music Society for an afternoon of chamber music. This event will highlight the double-bass and cello in a concert featuring the Duo Cello e Basso. Co-founders of Duo Cello e Basso are the husband and wife team, Pascale Delache-Feldman, double-bass, and Emmanuel Feldman, cello, both with extraordinary accomplishments and successful careers. Revel in an afternoon filled with rarely performed works for double-bass and cello, including the lush Vaughn-Williams Piano Quintet, a relatively early work by Ralph Vaughn-Williams for piano, violin, viola, cello, and double-bass. The duo will be joined by Hwaen Ch'uj, piano; Amy Iwazumi, violin; and John Michael Vaida, viola.



Left: Duo Cello e Basso, the husband and wife team, Emmanuel Feldman, cello, and Pascale Delache-Feldman, double-bass.

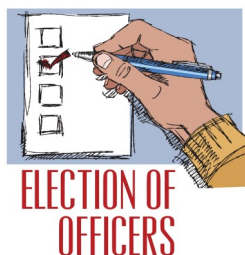
This event is open to the public, free of charge, but a free-will offering will be taken. These activities are part of the Arts at First Presbyterian concert series at the church. This program receives support from the Pennsylvania Partners in the Arts Program (administered by the Pocono Arts Council),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

For more information or directions, please call the church at 570-586-6306 or visit [www.fpccs.org](http://www.fpccs.org).

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**A congregational meeting has been called for  
Sunday, May 5, 2019  
immediately following the  
worship service  
for the purpose of  
electing new elders and deacons.**



**The Presbyter deadline for  
the June issue is  
May 17**

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>	Amanda Roberts
<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

## Board of Deacons

Care Team Ministry **Coordinators are:**

Independent & Assisted Living:	Donna Kepler 587-2729
Deacon Meals:	Donna Kepler 587-2729
Time of Loss:	Anne Rich 587-2802
Emergency Home Repairs And Maintenance:	Joe Waters 351-3620

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 YOUR FINANCE COMMITTEE FOR THE MONTH ENDING March 2019

### REVENUE

Budget	\$ 93,377
Actual Received	<u>89,591</u>
Difference	- \$ <u>3,786</u>
	=====

### EXPENSES

Budget	\$ 96,013
Actual Expenses	<u>98,400</u>
Difference	- \$ <u>2,387</u>
	=====

**BUDGET VARIANCE - \$ 6,173**

### PLEDGE INCOME

Budget	\$ 81,250
Received	<u>77,259</u>
Difference	- \$ <u>3,991</u>
	=====

Per Capita 2017 is \$34.50 per member.

## From the Pastor

May 2019

Dear Friends,

I came late to Holy Humor Sunday. Not literally, and not this year, but “late” in the sense that I didn't think it was proper and appropriate for Christian worship.

As a child of the '60's, I was painfully aware of innovations that attempted to update the Christian faith. *Jesus Christ Superstar* was rocking and cool, but *Godspell* was suspicious: Jesus was portrayed in white grease paint, red nose, and suspenders, cracking jokes and handing out flowers. As far as I was concerned, the Gospel was concerned with sterner stuff.

The opinion was reinforced at Princeton Seminary. In the tall trees of theology, biblical studies, and church history, there was little room for humor in classroom or chapel. Sure, we had our share of pranks to blow off steam; there was that dead Volkswagen Beetle that we hid in a lecture hall after hours. But we dressed up for class and generally didn't smile much.

Imagine my shock and disgust one Friday when clowns showed up for worship — intentionally! Fridays were reserved for students who signed up to lead a service. It was “anything goes,” and became known as Freaky Friday. There might be a slide show, or a banjo and bass drum duet, rarely an actual sermon. One day, a number of white-faced classmates romped down the aisle with bullhorns and tricycles, trying to shake up the rest of us. I was immovable. To be fair, the worship planner that day was a Methodist.

My first church never laughed very much. Never smiled much either. In a heavily Pennsylvania Dutch neighborhood, the ancient Welsh saints preferred lugubrious hymns in dank minor keys. They also believed in hard work and lengthy sermons, both of which were fine for me. When Easter came, however, I confess my disappointment that no one wore yellow. “He is Risen Indeed” was spoken in a monotone. No obvious joy.

So a number of years ago, the pastor of a nearby Presbyterian church mentioned Holy Humor Sunday. I thought she was out of her mind. But as she recounted her plan, I leaned forward. “Lent was long enough,” she said, “so we begin worship with a benediction and end with a call to worship. The assurance of pardon will be in Pig Latin, in honor of all who ate ham for Easter on behalf of Jesus the Jew.” There was a website for the Fellowship of Merry Christians, and they had a Joyful Noiseletter. I decided to explore. I pitched it to the worship committee, and they were more enthusiastic than me. We began modestly, the congregation pushed back for more. So now, we're all in. God save us, we are all in.

Over the past nine or ten years, Holy Humor Sunday has become one of our signature services. As someone said to me recently, “We'll be traveling for Easter, but we will definitely be back for that.” I pointed out that last year, Biker Gene delivered my worship bulletin on a motorcycle, but we would do something else this year. “I know,” she said, “That's why I don't want to miss it.”

OK, OK, I get it. Christ is alive and calls each one of us to be alive. Joyfully alive. So on with the show!

Yours,

**The Rev. William G. Carter, His Holy Mess**



**MISSION AND JUSTICE**

**May 2019**



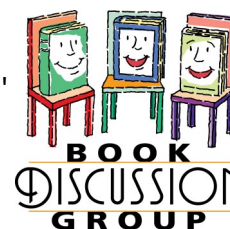
“Even before the full extent of damage from Cyclone Idai is known, government and aid officials are calling it one of the worst natural disasters to hit southern Africa, perhaps even in the Southern Hemisphere, in decades. The storm which first struck Mozambique (on March 15, 2019) before moving inland to Zimbabwe and Malawi, caused widespread flooding throughout the region. It has displaced hundreds of thousands of people in Mozambique alone, and has affected more than a million lives in three of the world’s poorest countries.” (N.Y. Times, 3/21/19)

Along with multiple organizations helping those affected by the cyclone, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is responding as well. In the immediate aftermath of the storm, PDA is working with ACT Alliance, a coalition of 151 churches and faith-based organizations, to assess needs and direct funds. The initial focuses will be issues such as controlling water-borne diseases such as cholera and security at shelters for the thousands of displaced people, as well as food and water. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Associate for International Disaster Response Luke Asikoy says “The need is enormous, and recovery will go on for a number of years.” (Presbyterian News Service, March 22, 2019)

The Mission and Justice Committee is pleased to share with you that we have donated \$1,000 to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance fund directly allocated to the South African countries and peoples affected by Cyclone Idai. Quite a worthy cause!

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This group of mostly, but not entirely, church members gathers on the fourth Thursday of the month, September through May, and is open to all! We meet in members' homes at 7:00 p.m. for light refreshments and to discuss the “book of the month.”



**We will meet on May 30 at Marie Cochrane’s home. This is our annual Movie night. We will be viewing the movie Casablanca.**

At the May session, the group collectively selects seven books and a movie for the upcoming year. Our fearless leader, Judy Cutler, keeps us on track and coordinates hostesses and book order.

For more info contact Judy, 570-446-9310 or [jdragonflyc@hotmail.com](mailto:jdragonflyc@hotmail.com)

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN CIRCLE BIBLE STUDIES

Mary Ellen Lawlor



### GOD WITH US

This month we will conclude our 2018-2019 PW/Horizon Bible Study with Lesson 9, "God with us." Matthew 18:20 says "For where two or three are gathered in my name I am there among them," and Matthew 28:19-20 says "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I command you; and lo, I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS, EVEN TO THE END OF THE AGE."

Is God with us always as well? What an exciting lesson to end our study after the past 9 months! We will meet at the church on Tuesday, May 21 for all three Circles. Dorcas and Priscilla Circles will meet at 10:00 a.m. and Eunice Circle will meet at 7:00 p.m. If you have any questions or need a ride please call Barbara Pittman at 570-587-2050 or Bonnie Plantholt at 570-212-1566 for 10:00 a.m. and Kate Hopkins at 570-587-2390 or Barbara Mellander at 570-587-5236 for 7:00 p.m.

Please mark your calendar for our luncheon or dinner on Tuesday, June 18 before our break until September. More details will come in June.



## Looking Ahead at First Presbyterian Church

Spring Clean-up—April 27

CROP Walk—April 28

Congregational Meeting—May 5

Arts Event—May 19

John Michael Vaida and the NEPA Chamber Music Society

Final "The Way" meeting for the season—May 22

Planning for next year

Ordination and Installation of Elders and Deacons—May 26

Confirmation Sunday—June 2

Recognition Day—June 9

Parking Lot Picnic—June 23





**VBS 2019**

will be held

**July 8-12, 9AM-12PM**

**Calling all volunteers!**

**If you'd like to help bring ancient Athens to life by teaching, leading, or preparing, let us know!**

**Please contact Jana Schillinger or Tabbi Miller-Scandle, or send an email to [fpcs.vbs@gmail.com](mailto:fpcs.vbs@gmail.com)**

**Stay tuned: youth registration coming soon!**

## Adventures in the Bible

We are growing in our faith and as a group. It is a joy to welcome families with children of all ages as we learn, laugh, sing, and grow together.



We are learning about Jesus' life and ministry on earth. Join us on the adventure!

If you have any questions, please contact Karis Naeher at [klnaeher@outlook.com](mailto:klnaeher@outlook.com) or Tabbi Miller-Scandle at [tabbi.miller-scandle@scranton.edu](mailto:tabbi.miller-scandle@scranton.edu)

Classes begin on Sunday morning at 9:00 am, and we welcome children age 2 and older as well as an accompanying adult(s).

Summer camp at Camp Lackawanna is the adventure that your child is looking for. There are a variety of programs and option for campers from first through twelfth grade. Campers all enjoy swimming, crafts, canoeing, games, and studying the word of God, making new friends and worshipping.



Camp Lackawanna hosts a special **Family Camp Weekend** on June 27-30. It's really affordable for families of all shapes and sizes.

Go to [CampLackawannafirst.com](http://CampLackawannafirst.com) for more information and a complete schedule.

Scholarships are available from the Christian Education committee, Tabbi Miller-Scandle, chairperson, and from the Robert London Scholarship Fund (see page 9 for more information).



**Calling all graduates!**

If you are graduating this year (or know someone who is) we want to know. Whether it's a high school, college, or post-college graduation, we want to recognize your accomplishment on Sunday, June 9. But we need to be sure you're on our list!

Please contact Myrna Diven at 570-586-8821 as soon as possible with information. Thank you.

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"

Supper 5:00 Classes 6:15

**IMPORTANT DATE**Summer is almost here. The WAY will conclude on **Wednesday, May 22**...see you in September!**Classes Offered:**

**Grace & Faith (4 years old - Grade 5)** experience Bible stories through our new curriculum *Growing in Grace & Gratitude*. This spring, we'll hear about light, listening, being found, and the joy of celebrating God's grace and love. In May, we will recognize the gracious presence of Jesus in **Our Eyes Were Opened**, express gratitude for **Forgiveness**, hear about putting God first with **Mary and Martha**, and **Return with Thanks** in gratitude for the grace we've been given.

**We Believe (Grades 6 and up):** in May, we will conclude our year by examining Paul's letters to hear themes of faith, love, joy, and unity.

**Wednesday Classes for Adults**

**Gracious Encounters of the Rev. Thomas P. Skillman**— During a pastoral sabbatical, Brent Eelman reflecting on ministry in terms of grace and humor. The result was a series of stories about a fictitious pastor, Thomas P. Skillman and his often humorous, sometimes sad, experiences in a suburban congregation near St. Louis. The stories suggest that God's grace is discovered in the ordinary, the awkward, and the mundane. In this class, Brent will share the stories as preludes to discussions about God's grace in our lives. **May 1, 8, and 15 in Room 210.**

**Mister Rogers and the Kingdom of God**— Jesus said, "To enter God's kingdom, you must become like a child." Through the written and recorded works of Fred Rogers, we will explore how that conversion might look. **May 1, 8, and 15 with Rev. Bill Carter and friends in Room 206.**

**May 22 - Planning Night** - All adults are invited as we plan next year's adult education on Wednesday, May 22. We will meet at 6:15 pm in Room 206.

**Wednesday Evening Schedule**

5:00-6:10 pm	Light supper *
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

\*Please make a reservation for supper by filling out a slip found in the church office, the kitchen, or in pews and returning it in the offering plate or in the basket near the phone in the kitchen. You may also call the church office to make a reservation.

Suggested donation \$3 per person.



# A blessed woman

The last chapter of Proverbs describes a woman who loves God and strives to be a good wife and mother.

Directions: Use the picture clues to complete Proverbs 31:15, 28.

She gets \_\_\_\_\_ while it is still \_\_\_\_\_ ;



she provides \_\_\_\_\_ for her \_\_\_\_\_ ....



Her \_\_\_\_\_ rise \_\_\_\_\_ and



\_\_\_\_\_ her blessed.



PROVERBS 31:15, 28 (NIV)

Answers up, night, food, family, children, up, call



# HEART-SHAPED breakfast



Treat Mom with this yummy, beautiful yogurt parfait.



**What you need:**

- Large heart-shaped cookie cutter
- Greek yogurt (any flavor)
- Toppings (mini chocolate chips, granola, shredded coconut, chia seeds, oats, slivered almonds, blueberries, sliced strawberries, raspberries, bananas)
- 2 teaspoons maple syrup

**What you do:**

1. Place cookie cutter on a plate. Spoon in yogurt, spreading it to the edges of the cookie cutter.
2. Add toppings, making a nice design. Remove cookie cutter.
3. Drizzle syrup around the edge of the plate.
4. Serve to your mom on Mother's Day!



Cooperation  
Harmony  
Opportunity  
Involvement  
Responsibility

**Chapel and Alleluia Choir Notes**  
*submitted by Kay Ten Eyck*



The choirs have enjoyed a wonderful season of singing and ringing! We look forward to singing and being liturgists for Mother's Day, May 12th. Our Chapel Choir is also looking forward to singing for Music in the Parks on Saturday, May 18th. We'll sing for an adjudicated panel in the morning, spend some time at Hershey Park in the afternoon, and meet up with other choirs for an awards ceremony.

Thank you to the parents and grandparents who faithfully brought us to rehearsals on Wednesday evenings. Thank you to Judy Cutler, Connie Weiss, and Janet Dobson who volunteer to help us on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings. Thank you to Alan Baker for accompanying us. And thank you to our supportive and caring congregation. While we will use our summer hiatus to rest and recharge, please know that we also look forward to seeing everyone the fall!

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**State Hospital Luncheon**



HUGE THANKS to everyone who helped with our recent State Hospital Luncheon.. Fellowship and entertainment was enjoyed by all and our guests went home with a huge selection of socks and candy.

From Janet Dobson

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**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.

**Joys**

**Sorrows**

**Thank You Notes**



- 2 Gary Wadsworth
- 7 Nancy Ford
- 11 Wally Longcor
- 14 Bill Fulton
- 21 Jeanne De Virgilis
- 21 David Naeher
- 22 Jana Schillinger
- 23 Jillian Shane
- 24 Sue Flynn
- 28 Kate O'Brien



Phil and Abby Wadsworth welcomed James David on March 6, 2019 in Champlin, MN. He joins two -year-old sister, Hannah Grace. James is the grandson of Barbara and Gary Wadsworth, and great-grandson of Nancy Ford.

Scarlett Luca Figueroa, daughter of Hannah Parrish and Lou Figueroa, was born on March 9, 2019. Scarlett is the granddaughter of Marsha Parrish.

Blessings and Best Wishes to both families!



- 24 Nina and Brian Schillinger

**Lectionary Readings**

**Communion Servers**

May 5

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

**Ushers**

John Diven TBA

**May 5<sup>th</sup>**

Acts 9:1-6 (7-20); Ps. 30; Revelation 5:11-14;  
 John 21:1-19

**May 12<sup>th</sup>**

Acts 9:36-43; Ps. 23; Revelation 1:9-17; John  
 10:22-30

**May 19<sup>th</sup>**

Acts 11:1-18; Ps. 148; Revelation 21:1-6; John  
 13:31-35

**May 26<sup>th</sup>**

Acts 16:9-15; Ps. 67; Revelation 21:10; 21:22-  
 22:5; John 13:23-29 or John 5:1-9

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday 1	Thursday 2	Friday 3	Saturday 4
<b>First Presbyterian Church-</b> <b>May 2019</b>			7am-AA 11am-Prayer/Share 5pm-The W.A.Y. Light supper 5:30-Chapel and Alleluia Ch. 6:15-Christian Ed. 7:15-Adult Choir 8 pm-AI Anon 8:30-Bell Choir	7am-AA 8:30-Men's Breakfast 7pm-Building & Grounds 7pm-Christian Ed. 7pm-AIAnon	7am-AA	7am-AA
5 7am-AA 9am-Adventures in the Bible 10am-Worship 11:15 Confirmation 3 pm-OA	6 7am-AA 7pm-Mission and Justice	7 7am-AA 10am-PW Executive Board 5pm-OA 7pm-Big Book	8 7am-AA 11am-Prayer/Share 5pm-The W.A.Y. Light supper 5:30-Chapel Ch. 5:30-Last Alleluia Choir 6:15-Christian Ed. 7:15-Adult Choir 8pm-AIAnon	9 7am-AA 7pm AIAnon	10 7am-AA	11 7am-AA
12 7am-AA 9am-Adventures in the Bible 10am-Worship 11:15-Confirmation 3pm-OA	13 7am-AA	14 7am-AA 10am-MBK Quilts 5pm- OA 7pm-Big Book 7pm- Session	15 7am-AA 11am- Prayer and Share 5pm-The W.A.Y. Light Supper 5:30-Last Chapel Choir 7:15-Adult Choir 8pm- AIAnon	16 7am-AA 8:30-Men's Breakfast 7pm-AIAnon	17 7am-AA Presbyter Deadline	18 7am-AA
19 7am-AA 9am-Adventures in the Bible 10am-Worship 11:15am-Fellowship 11:15-Confirmation 3pm-OA 4pm-Arts Series: NEPA Chamber Music Society	20 7am-AA	21 7am-AA 10am-PW Morning Circle 5pm-OA 7pm-Big Book 7pm-PW Eunice Circle	22 7am-AA 11am-Prayer/Share 5pm-The W.A.Y. Light supper 6:15-Christian Ed. 7:15-Adult Choir 8pm-AIAnon	23 7am-AA 7pm-AIAnon	24 7am-AA	25 7am-AA
26 7am-AA 9am-Adventures in the Bible 10am-Worship 10am-Ordination/ installation of officers 11:15-Confirmation 3pm-OA	27 Memorial Day 7am-AA	28 7am-AA 10am-MBK Quilts 5pm-OA 7pm-Deacons 7pm-Big Book	29 7am-AA 9am-Presbyter mailing 11am-Prayer and Share 7:15pm-Adult Choir 8pm-AIAnon	30 7am-AA 7pm- AIAnon 7pm-Book Group	31 7am-AA	



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

300 School Street

Clarks Summit, PA 18411-1536

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**DATED MATERIAL**

**Return Service Requested**



**Take us out to the Ball Game!** The Presbytery of Lackawanna will be having a night at the Rail-Riders game on AUGUST 2. It's AAA baseball with everything you could ask for! Friday, fireworks and Phillies (vs. local favorite Yankees, of course!) Put it on your calendars; more details will be available soon.