



The Presbyter

March 2020

The First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit

One Great Hour of Sharing

February 26 – April 12

Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing – Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People – all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.



Received during the season of Lent (February 26 – April 12), each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations. The offering provides us a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need. **In fact, OGHS is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world.**

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is the emergency and refugee program that receives 32% of funds raised by OGHS. It enables our congregations and mission partners to witness the healing love of Christ through caring for communities adversely affected by crisis and catastrophic events.

Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP) works to alleviate hunger and eliminate root causes, receiving 36% of funds raised. Our contributions helped to support 113 grant partners to make an impact in 21 countries, including the United States.

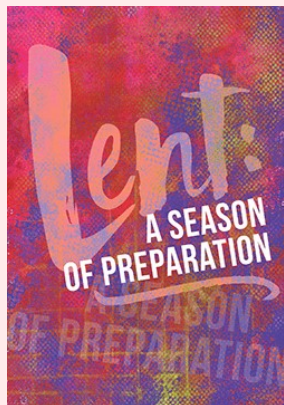
Self-Development of People (SDOP) Committee continues to work with low-income communities across the United States to overcome oppression and injustice, receiving 32% of funds raised.

One Great Hour of Sharing makes a difference in the world.

If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!

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The Presbyterian deadline for the April issue is March 13, 2020

The Presbyterian 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
January 31, 2020**

REVENUE

Budget	\$ 31,692
Actual Received	<u>38,976</u>
Difference	<u>\$ 7,284</u>

EXPENSES

Budget	\$ 32,491
Actual Expenses	<u>32,802</u>
Difference	<u>(\$ 311)</u>

Result of operations \$ 6,974

Pledge

Budget	\$ 27,083
Actually received	<u>29,746</u>
	<u>\$ 2,663</u>

Per capita contributions received to date equal \$2,630.

Per capita assessment per person is \$35.00.

Board of Deacons

Care Team Ministry Coordinators are:

Deacon Meals:	Donna Kepler 570-587-2729
Time of Loss:	Anne Rich 570-587-2802
Emergency Home Repairs And Maintenance:	Joe Waters 570-351-3620
Deacon Driver:	Mick Wirth 570-587-3767

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.

Do you need a ride to church? Please contact Deacon Mick Wirth directly at 570-587-3767.

From the Pastor

March 2020

We have begun the season of Lent, a six-week preparation for Easter. Someone once referred to it as "spring training for the soul." That's an apt analogy. Just like the professional baseball teams that gather in Florida to get ready for the next season, we have to stretch our spiritual ligaments, strengthen the muscles of the heart, clear out the cobwebs in our heads, and develop our skills to a higher level. That's what Lent is all about.



We hear the call of Jesus, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it." (Matthew 16:24-25). It is a demanding invitation but it lays out the stakes. The Christian life is all about the work of "losing our lives" for the sake of Jesus. This is the way to the kingdom of heaven.

Certainly the season of Lent is about the cross of Christ. It's all too simple to profess how his sacrifice redeems us without also considering what happens on the way to the cross. We cannot reach the conclusion without taking the journey. To follow Jesus is to encounter what he encounters. At each step, there is an invitation to faithfulness which will demand something of us.

That's why we have the gift of the Passion stories in the New Testament. They invite us to do more than recount the history of Jesus' betrayal, suffering, and death. We have the privilege of entering the story with him and learning what it has to teach us.

This year's story from the Gospel of Matthew will form the basis of our weekly worship services until Easter. It will be supported through one of our WAY classes, as we explore the Holy Week stories through the insights of scholar Amy-Jill Levine. Each week we will slow down the story that we often speed by on our way to the empty tomb, and reflect on how the story can shape us to follow Jesus more closely.

Here are some of the weekly worship topics:

- * The unnamed woman who anoints Jesus with expensive perfume and Judas Iscariot, who sells out Jesus for an embarrassingly low amount of money. (Matthew 26:1-16)
- * The Last Supper, when Jesus hands bread and wine to Judas and others, stating his blood is poured out "for many." Many? How many? Who? (Matthew 26:17-29)
- * What about unanswered prayer? Listen to Jesus pray for "the cup to pass." (Matthew 26:36-46)
- * Coming to terms with cowardice, fear, and not wanting to get involved. (Matthew 26:31-35, 69-75)
- * Can you imagine a trial without truthful witnesses, surrounded by lies? (Matthew 26:57-68)
- * Have you ever been part of a crowd that is easily swayed, especially toward violence? (Matthew 27:15-24)
- * When people turn against you, can you defend yourself? (Matthew 26:47-56)

It is heavy labor to work through these matters. They demand a great deal from us. But it is good work that opens to us the life-giving grace that comes from losing our lives. A paradox? Not really. Not for those who are able to stay close to Jesus.

With you in the journey,
Rev. Bill Carter



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN CIRCLE BIBLE STUDIES

LOVE CARVED IN STONE: A FRESH LOOK AT THE 10 WORDS

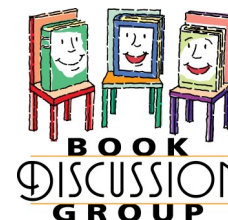
“Words of love: Do Not Steal” is our Eighth Word.” Our author, Eugenia Gamble, wants us to think about the variety of ways stealing has been interpreted in the Old Testament. We next will look at how Jesus explained this Word in the New Testament. A question for our consideration is, “What are the implications of this Word for us today?”.

All ladies are welcome to our time of refreshments, prayer, writing cards and studying God’s Word. We meet on March 17 at the church for the Dorcas and Priscilla Circles at 10:00 a.m. or the Eunice Circle 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. or Kate Hopkins at 570-587-2390 for 7:00 p.m.

How Not to Die Alone

by Richard Roper, 334 pages

Cutler home, March 26, 7:00 p.m.



A darkly funny and life-affirming debut novel for readers of *Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine* the story of one man who is offered a second chance at life and love when he develops an unexpected friendship--if he can expose the white lie he told years ago that grew into so much more.

Andrew's day-to-day is a little grim, searching for next of kin for those who die alone. Thankfully, he has a loving family waiting for him when he gets home, to help wash the day's cares away. At least, that's what his coworkers believe.

Andrew didn't mean for the misunderstanding to happen, yet he's become trapped in his own white lie. The fantasy of his wife and two kids has become a pleasant escape from his lonely one bedroom with only his Ella Fitzgerald records for company. But when new employee Peggy breezes into his life like a breath of fresh air, Andrew is shaken out of his routine. She doesn't notice the wall he's been safely hiding behind and their friendship promises to break it down.

Andrew must choose: Does he tell the truth and start really living his life, but risk losing his friendship with Peggy? Or will he stay safe and alone, behind the façade? *How Not to Die Alone* is about the importance of taking a chance in those moments when we have the most to lose. Sharp and funny, warm and real, it's the kind of big-hearted story we all need.

For more info contact Judy Cutler, 570-446-9310 or jdragonflyc@hotmail.com



WHO IS HALL?..... and why have we been praying for him each week for the past several years?

Our Grandson is an eight-year old boy who lives in California with his parents, Mike and Julia Griffiths and his 3 year-old sister, Rowe.

Hall's life has been an interesting one. At the age of six months, he underwent emergency surgery for a life-threatening intestinal problem. Since his first birthday he has struggled with seizures, which are now somewhat controlled by medication.

Due to his slow development and inability to communicate orally, Hall has undergone numerous tests with neurologists and geneticists. After two and a half years, it was finally determined that he was suffering from a very rare gene related disorder, of which there are less than 25 recorded cases in the world. Doctors have stated that Hall is a very unique individual. They doubt that he will ever speak.

In spite of all this, Hall is a happy boy who has shown amazing ability on the trampoline and will spend hours there. With the assistance of many wonderful therapists he has skied at Lake Tahoe, surfed the Pacific, ridden horses and enjoyed swimming. But then there are also days when simply walking proves difficult.

Hall is truly a special gift from God who has taught our family more about life and love and what is truly important. We continue to pray for his well-being and with God by his side, we remain confident in his future. We appreciate your prayers.

Wayne and Kathy Griffiths

It's time to order those Easter Flowers!

After 30 years, there has been a slight price increase! The plants will be \$9 this year. You are invited to order lilies, tulips or mums. Our order deadline is Sunday, March 22—use the order form on page 12.



Thank you to all who have helped me through my recent hip replacement surgery. The meals that nourished my body to enable it to heal, the phone calls from concerned friends, the cards that lifted my spirits, and the prayers that were felt daily have all helped me heal quickly. I am truly blessed to be part of such a wonderful community.

They say it takes a village and the village at First Presbyterian is just amazing. I send you my heartfelt love and prayers of gratitude.

Judy Cutler



Many thanks from Alma Herron to everyone for the cards, calls, and visits she has received.

The 2020 Flower Calendar is hanging on the bulletin board next to Rev. Bill's office. It currently has many open dates.



If you would like to contribute flowers for Sunday worship during 2020, please indicate your interest by signing up on this calendar.

Mission and Justice

Gun Violence Series Follow-up

January’s 4-part series on Gun Violence was just an introduction to a very complex topic. For those who would like to continue examining and growing in understanding of this important issue, here are several suggested resource options/actions:

For materials related to our faith, go to pcusa.org and type in gun violence.

For local advocacy, Moms Demand Action is a non-partisan group advocating responsible gun ownership and common sense gun legislation.

Resource lists are available in the Session Room.

Gun violence elicits varied and strong responses, but we found in our discussion there was common ground in “Red Flag” law, so another action to consider is contacting your representative to encourage movement on this legislation.

My Brothers’ Keeper Quilting

Each month the Presbyterian Women designate a Prayer Concern - for March it is to "Pray for Flo Wheatley and MBKQ (My Brothers' Keeper Quilting) Project".

To this end, we are again having our Spring Sewing Workshop to make sleeping bags for the homeless on March 24, from 10 AM to 2 PM.



We will be making sleeping bags in the morning, followed by a Pot Luck Luncheon. Flo Wheatley, founder of MBKQ movement will join us to share stories of how this project started and has grown.

We hope you will join us too!

Help Wanted: Volunteer Positions available



Bulletin Board Artist: The church bulletin board just inside the door (across the street from the parking lot) needs a new artist. There are some materials available in the church office. A talented person who can periodically create something welcoming would be an asset.

Edie Suydam has been our bulletin board artist for many years, and we thank her for her service! It has been such a bright, welcoming addition to that entry area that I hate to see it disappear.

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

Classes Offered:

Spark Nursery (up to age 4): A nurturing class for our youngest learners, our nursery class will hear Bible stories, sing songs, play, and participate in activities appropriate to their age.

Grace & Faith (4 years old - Grade 5) experience Bible stories through our curriculum *Growing in Grace & Gratitude*. This spring during Lent, we will think about how Jesus wants us to live. In March, we will learn about prayer in *Jesus Teaches us to Pray*, share the message of God's love with others in *Sow a Seed*, hear who Jesus is in *You are the Messiah*, and learn about forgiveness in *Jesus Calls us to Forgive*.

We Believe (Grades 6 and up): This winter, students will go back to the beginning by exploring the Old Testament. We'll continue to discover the history and richness of the Bible as we discuss, ask questions, and dig deeper into familiar stories. In March, we'll explore Babylonian Captivity and the Prophets.

Wednesday Classes for Adults

The Second Mountain: The Quest for the Moral Life - Chris Norton will lead a weekly conversation on the recent best-selling book by David Brooks. Brooks explores the four commitments that define a life of meaning and purpose: to a spouse and family, to a vocation, to a philosophy or faith, and to a community. Our personal fulfillment depends on how well we choose and execute these commitments. Brooks looks at a range of people who have lived joyous, committed lives, and who have embraced the necessity and beauty of dependence. **Room 210 (March 4, 11, 18, 25)**

Entering the Passion of Jesus - Led by Rev. Carter and friends, the class will explore the Bible texts of the last week of Jesus' life. The study features the work of scholar Amy-Jill Levine., New Testament professor at Vanderbilt Divinity School. Dr. Levine's work shows us how the biblical texts raise ethical and spiritual questions for all of us, and how we all face risk in our Christian experience. **Room 206 (March 4, 11, 18, 25, April 1, 8).**

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.

VBS 2020

will be held

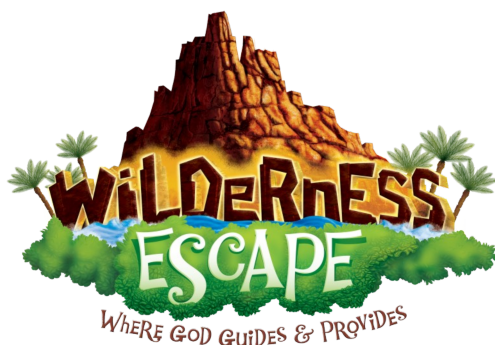
July 13-17, 9AM-12PM

Calling all volunteers!

If you'd like to help our journey through the desert by teaching, leading, or preparing, let us know!

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

Stay tuned: youth registration coming in April!



Thank You!

This year we collected

\$623

for the AEM Food Pantry through the
 Souper Bowl of Caring. .

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

Contact Karen White or Tabbi Miller-Scandle to volunteer!



Welcome

to Our Adventures in the Bible Group



Families with children ages 2 and older are welcome, and parents of younger children are invited to stay in the class to enjoy the lesson and craft or activity with their little ones. We look forward to seeing your family downstairs on Sunday mornings at 9:00!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Karis Naeher at klnaeher@outlook.com or Tabbi Miller-Scandle at tabbi.miller-scandle@scranton.edu.

Join us for this year's Adventure in the Bible!

Next Arts Series Event:

Sunday, March 15, 2020 4:00 pm
Violinist Sophie Till with Ron Stabinsky, piano



On Sunday, March 15 at 4 pm we will have the opportunity to hear two of our area's finest musicians in concert. Violinist Sophie Till and pianist Ron Stabinsky have gained both regional and international recognition through their performances. For this concert they will be playing Brahms Sonatas for Violin and Piano. They've been playing together for over twenty years, performing a variety of repertoire.

Sophie Till is Associate Professor of Violin/Viola at Marywood University, Director of the Marywood String Project for children ages 4-18 and is on the Violin Faculty at the Golandsky Institute, NY. Stabinsky has performed as an accompanist for numerous local ensembles. Ron recently released his debut album, *Free for One*, the culmination of more than a decade of evolving solo piano improvisation. He enjoys working on music in stylistically diverse situations throughout the United States and Europe with a variety of other musicians and ensembles. He continues his piano studies with Edna Golandsky in New York City and other mentors.



This concert is open to the public, free of charge, but a free-will offering is taken to help defray the cost of the event. This event is 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, please call the church at 570-586-6306 or visit www.fpccs.org.



Save the Dates!

Sunday, March 8
Daylight Savings Time begins

Friday, March 20
First day of Spring

Thursday, March 12, 7:00 p.m.
NE Philharmonic Chamber Concert @
FPCCS

Sunday, April 5
Palm Sunday

Sunday, March 15, 4:00 p.m.
The Arts: Sophie Till and Ron Stabinsky

Holy Week
Maundy Thursday
Good Friday
Easter Sunday, April 12

Plans are being made to honor Rev. William G. Carter, Pastor, for his thirty-five years of ministry and thirty years as pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit on Friday, September 18, 2020 at 5 p.m. at the Montdale Country Club in Scott Township. Please mark your calendar. Invitations will be sent to members and friends of the congregation during the summer.

Beverly Bright, Clerk of Session

Joys

Sorrows

Thank You Notes



- March 7 Nina Schillinger
 16 Candy Ferrese
 20 Chuck Woolever
 23 Jacob Gilbert
 27 Bonnie Plantholt
 31 Beverly Bright

Lectionary Readings

March 1

Genesis 2:15-17; Ps. 32; Romans 5:12-19;
 Matthew 4:1-11

March 8

Genesis 12:1-4a; Ps. 121; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17;
 John 3:1-17

March 15

Exodus 17: 1-7; Ps. 95; Romans 5:1-11;
 John 4:5-42

March 22

1 Samuel 16:1-13; Ps. 23; Ephesians 5: 8-14;
 John 9:1-41

March 29

Ezekiel 37:1-14; Ps. 130; Romans 8:6-11;
 John 11:1-45

Eliza Arp was born Monday,
 February 17! Blessings and best
 wishes to Kelly and Joshua, as
 well as her brothers and sisters.



The sympathy of the congregation is
 extended to the Callahan and Wall
 families on the passing of Laurie Wall
 Callahan on February 18th. A memo-
 rial service was held on February 25th
 at the church.



Greeters

- March 1 Jo Ann Hall
 March 8 Lee and Mick Wirth
 March 15 Sara Ann Hosier and Clyde Ellsworth
 March 22 Maggie and Chuck Woolever
 March 29 John Conklin

Usher: Drew Taylor

Communion Servers

Captain Laura Moore
 Jana Schillinger, Wayne Griffiths, Nancy London,
 Dave Brown, Gayle Hamilton

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 7am-AA 9am-Adventures in the Bible 10am-Worship 3pm-OA	2 7am-AA 6pm- Girl Scouts 7pm- Mission and Justice	3 7am-AA 10am-PW Exec. Board 5pm-OA 5:30pm-Choral Society 7pm-Big Book	4 7am-AA 11am-Prayer/Share 5pm-Light Supper 5:30-Childrens Choir 6:15-The Way 7:15-Adult Choir 8pm-AIAnon 8:30-Bell Choir	5 7am-AA 8:30-Men's Breakfast 4:30-Staff 7pm-AIAnon 7pm-Building & Grounds 7pm-Christian Ed.	6 7am-AA	7 7am-AA
8 7am-AA 9am-Adventures in the Bible 10am-Worship 11:15-Worship, Music, Arts 3pm-OA	9 7am-AA 6pm-Girl Scouts	10 7am-AA 10am-MBK Quilts 5pm-OA 5:30-Choral Society 7pm-Big Book	11 7am-AA 11am-Prayer/Share 5pm-Light supper 5:30-Children's Choir 6:15-The Way 7:15-Adult Choir 8pm-AIAnon 8:30-Bell Choir	12 7am-AA 7pm-AIAnon 7pm-NE Philharmonic Chamber	13 7am-AA	14 7am-AA
15 7am-AA 9am-Adventures in the Bible 10am-Worship 11:15-Fellowship 3pm-OA 4pm-Arts: Sophie Till and Ron	16 7am-AA 6pm- Girl Scouts	17 7am-AA 10am-PW Morning Circle 5pm-OA 5:30-Choral Society 7pm-Big Book 7pm- PW Eunice Circle	18 7am-AA 11am-Prayer/Share 5pm-Light supper 5:30-Chapel Ch. 6:15-The Way 7:15-Adult Choir 8pm-AIAnon 8:30-Bell Choir	19 7am-AA 8:30-Men's Breakfast 7pm AIAnon	20 7am-AA	21 7am-AA
22 7am-AA 9am-Adventures in the Bible 10am-Worship 3pm-OA	23 7am-AA 6pm- Girl Scouts	24 7am-AA 10am-MBK Quilts 5pm-OA 5:30-Choral Society 7pm-Big Book 7pm-Deacons	25 7am-AA 9am-Presbyter 11am-Prayer/Share 5pm-Light supper 5:30-Chapel Ch. 6:15-The Way 7:15-Adult Choir 8pm-AIAnon 8:30-Bell Choir	26 7am-AA 7pm-FPC Book Group 7pm-AIAnon	27 7am-AA	28 7am-AA
29 7am-AA 9am-Adventures in the Bible 10am-Worship 3pm-OA	30 7am-AA 6pm-Girl Scouts	31 7am-AA 5pm-OA 5:30-Choral Society 7pm-Big Book				



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

300 School Street
Clarks Summit, PA 18411-1536

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
Permit No. 30
PAID
Clarks Summit PA

DATED MATERIAL

Return Service Requested



Easter Flowers order form

We are ordering lilies, tulips and mums. Each plant will cost \$9.00. (A slight increase in price.)

Please complete the following information and return to the church office with payment by Sunday, March 22.

Flowers are given by _____
(as it should appear in the flower insert)

In (select one) _____ memory _____ honor

Of _____

Number of Flowers: Lily _____ @\$9.00 each

Tulips _____ @\$9.00 each

Mums _____ @\$9.00 each

Total Amount Enclosed: _____



I will pick up my flowers _____

Please give to a shut-in _____

Please enclose cash or check payable to First Presbyterian Church for the Total Amount.
