



# The *Presbyter*

April 2025

The First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit

## An Evening with the Seraph Brass Saturday, April 5 at 7:00 pm

Enjoy an evening with this award-winning quintet of the world's best brass players. In its 11th season, Seraph Brass was founded by trumpet soloist Mary Elizabeth Bowden with a mission to showcase the excellence of women brass players and highlight musicians from marginalized groups, both in personnel and in programming. Winners of the American Prize in Chamber Music, the group has been praised for their "beautiful sounds" (American Record Guide), "fine playing" (Gramophone), and "staggeringly high caliber of performance" (Textura). Don't miss this outstanding ensemble as they return to NEPA!



**Palm Sunday** April 13 at 10:00 a.m.  
11:15—**LIFT**: Seder celebration and program  
for all ages (see page 5)

**Maundy Thursday** April 17 at 7:30 p.m.

**Good Friday** April 18, 12 to 1 p.m.

**Easter Sunday** April 20 at 10:00 a.m.

## THANK YOU!

On behalf of the Dalton Food Pantry, I would like to thank the parishioners of First Presbyterian Church for your recent donation of \$410. Your donation will be used to purchase the food we need to continue this very important ministry. I cannot thank you enough for your continued support. We couldn't help our families without the generosity of our community. The Pantry is open on Monday evenings and serves families in Abington Heights and Lackawanna Trail School Districts.

Sincerely,

Nancy Thompson, Pantry Coordinator

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## Thank You

A big thank you to Richard (Dick) Maurer for his generous Memorial Gift given to the Building & Grounds committee in memory of his wife Jane. The money will be used to repair the session room roof. Members of Session and many church members are very appreciative of this gift to our church. THANK YOU AGAIN.

Notes from the Session Meeting, March 11, 2025

1. Many events are being planned for the Spring-Summer of 2025. Remember our Highway Clean-Up on April 12, Hickory Street Dinner on April 26; and Vacation Bible School July 14-18. Volunteers are always needed for these events, so please contact Barbara Decker and/or Alan Baker for the M & J Highway Clean-up or Hickory St. project and Jana or the Christian Ed committee for Bible School.

2. The Nominating Committee is working diligently to find church members to serve as Elders and Deacons. We will have a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, May 11 to approve the slate of officers.

3. Session wishes members and friends a Blessed Easter Season. Hope to see all of you at church.

Beverly Bright, Clerk of Session

## Board of Deacons

Care Team Ministry Coordinators are:

Moderator	Grace Farrell
Deacon Meals	Diana Pope-Albright
Ushers	John Conklin
Deacon Driver	Jack Pittman

Church phone number is 570-586-6306

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.

The Presbyter deadline for  
the May 2025 issue is  
Wednesday, April 16.

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>Organist</b>	Kay Ten Eyck
<b>Sexton</b>	Michael Lambert

## FROM YOUR FINANCE COMMITTEE FOR THE MONTH ENDING February 2025

### REVENUE

Budget	\$ 70,031
Actual Received	<u>76,146</u>
Difference	\$ 6,115

### EXPENSES

Budget	\$ 69,863
Actual Expenses	<u>72,552</u>
Difference	(\$2,689)

Result of operations \$3,594

### PLEDGE

Budget	\$ 61,831
Actually received	<u>67,301</u>
	\$ 5,470

Per capita assessment for 2025 is \$46.10 per member.

## From the Pastor

April 2025



It was twenty-five years ago but seems like yesterday. One day in Lent, my father and I walked the Via Dolorosa with a tour group. According to tradition, that's the traditional path that Jesus walked on the way to his crucifixion. It weaves through the Old City of Jerusalem.

The narrow streets bustled with nervous energy. There was a shout, somebody pointed, and a man stumbled into the crowd. He carried a huge piece of lumber on his shoulders. Thugs on either side of him shook leather straps, compelling him forward. A woman clutched her rosary as the crowd began to chant in Italian.

Others seemed embarrassed by the spectacle and receded into the shadows. Some were curious and stood in silence to watch. A few cheered, others jeered. Our small party of visiting pilgrims had mixed responses to this reenactment of Christ's passion. "Is this necessary?" one asked, "I find it disturbing." Another admitted she was deeply moved. Someone else was crying.

The crucifixion story divides the house. It always has. Somebody said to me the other day, "It was God's will that Jesus die for us on the cross." But I was thinking of what Jesus says to the city of Jerusalem in the Gospel of Luke, "You did not recognize the time of your visitation from God" (19:44). Jesus died for our sins, yet he also died because of our sins. Our all-too-human enchantment with violence was part of the mix. To which Jesus responded, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing" (Luke 23:34).

What I remember from that moment in Old Jerusalem was not the play-acting of the crucifixion. It was the indifference surrounding it. Merchants were hawking their wares along the route. Many were selling pocket-sized crosses carved from olive wood, as if to say, "See the spectacle where it happened and take a little bit home with you." Others weren't paying much attention. Someone was scanning a map of the sites, trying to locate (this was the real name) "The Church of the Flagellation." I wonder if they had a gift shop.

What a mix of humanity! From this vantage point of years later, it is amazing to realize Christ loves them all. The pious, the indifferent, the self-righteous, the ignorant, and everybody in between. He gives his life for them, for all. He takes the abuse on his shoulders so that he can take it away. He suffers because of us – yet he comes back to claim us. Love so amazing, so divine, so deep that I can't quite take it all in.

And that's why we keep telling the story. Be sure to join us for Holy Week and Easter.

*Rev. Bill*

## Wednesday Evening Opportunities

**Adult Education** meets on Wednesdays at 5:45 p.m., Room 206. **Our Lenten study is called “An Acceptable Fast.”** Based on the Old Testament lectionary readings for the season of Lent, Old Testament scholar Patricia Tull describes the biblical verses in their original context and then explores a key Lenten theme related to the text. Upcoming themes include: accepting responsibility, welcoming the future and trusting God in times of conflict.

**All are welcome to join the weekly conversations.** Also, the study materials will be available through the weekly e-mail from the church. Please download them at home and use them for your daily reflections!

**Adult Choir** rehearses at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary. **Bell Choir** rehearses at 8 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

## Additional Adult Education Opportunities

**Presbyterian Women – 2024-25 Horizon Bible Study**

**Let Justice Roll Down: God’s Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation** by Patricia K. Tull  
**Tuesday, April 15, 10 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.**

Join us for Lesson 8 as we deal with **Intergenerational Justice**. The biblical authors reflected midstream on the meaning of ancient Judah’s story with God. These writers didn’t know what the outcome would be, but they kept their hopes for their future alive for future generations. We, too, have a story with God, a story whose meaning is changing. Not only are we concerned about the environment, safety and fair distribution of food, clean and accessible water, air quality, and economic justice, but also, who is raising our children if both parents are working, how do we (parents and church people) school the next generation of children in the faith of our ancestors, and what situation are we leaving for those that follow us?



\*\*\*\*\*

**Men’s Breakfast and Bible Study** meets for donuts and Bible study on the first and third Thursday of every month. They gather for conversation at 8:30 a.m. in the Session Room (206) and have their study from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. They are working through the Acts of the Apostles with Rev. Bill. All men in the church family are always welcome.

## Lectionary Readings

### April 6:5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent

Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:4b-14;  
 John 12:1-8

### April 13: Palm/Passion Sunday

Luke 19:28-40; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29;  
 Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11;  
 Luke 22:14-23:56; Luke 23:1-49

### April 20: Resurrection of the Lord/ Easter Day

Acts 10:34-43; Isaiah 65:17-25; Psalm 118:1-2,  
 14-24; 1 Corinthians 15:19-26; Acts 10:34-43;  
 John 20:1-18, Luke 24:1-12

### April 27: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter

Acts 5:27-32; Psalm 118:14-29, Psalm 150,  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 7:1-16; Psalm 2; Revelation 1:4-8;  
 John 20:19-31

## Christian Education: Growing in Faith and Love

**Bible Time:** Hear Bible stories told just for our young children during worship. We invite any kids age 4 to approx. grade 4 to join us after the anthem for learning and fun; we will return for prayers and the conclusion of service. **April stories** will include learning about God's forgiveness, Jesus entering Jerusalem, Easter, and recognizing the presence of Jesus.



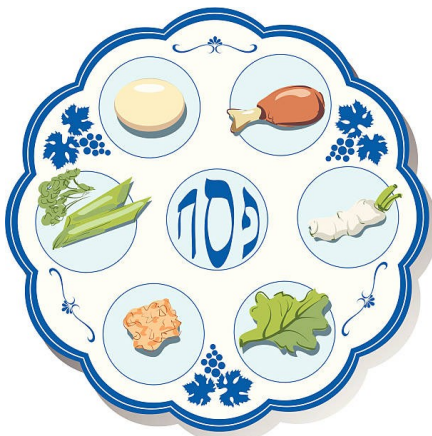
**We Worship Together series:** A 30-minute program held after worship for children through grade 6. We Worship Together examines questions we have about church practices and traditions. Each family will receive a book to take home related to the topic discussed. What is a creed and why do we say it together during worship? What do the phrases in the Apostles' Creed mean? Our next program in the series will be held in two parts on **May 4 & 11** to learn about the **Apostles' Creed**. Please plan to attend both classes.

**We Believe:** Faith foundations for our pre-confirmation age youth. A mix of Bible 101, faith questions, and church basics to help prepare children in grade 6 and up for their confirmation journey, We Believe will be a combination of discussions, activities, and self-study. Our next meeting is **April 27** after worship. More information and current assignments can be found on our class website: <https://sites.google.com/view/fpcs-we-believe/>



### LIFT: Living In Faith Together

As we conclude the Lenten season, join us after worship on **Sunday, April 13** for a **Seder celebration** as our meal and intergenerational program. Families with children as well as congregants of all ages are invited. Learn about the traditional Passover feast, a remembrance of the Exodus from Egypt and the holiday which



brought Jesus to Jerusalem for what we now call Holy Week. For this special LIFT session, we would like to know if you are planning to attend. Please sign up in the Narthex or phone the church office (570-586-6306) to let us know you're coming.

Also, please save the date for our next **LIFT** program:  
**Sunday, June 8 (Pentecost)**



## Mission and Justice Committee



**MISSION  
MINDED**



### SPRING HIGHWAY CLEANUP

We'll hold our first highway cleanup of 2025 for PennDOT on Saturday morning, April 12th, meeting at 9:00 am in the parking lot of the Methodist Church at corner of the Morgan Highway and Grove Street. All are welcome. Takes us about an hour to divide up and pick up the trash from the roadside on the highway between Winola Road and Country Club Road. We are provided gloves, trash bags, and safety vests by PennDOT. Please let Alan Baker know at [abaker2@verizon.net](mailto:abaker2@verizon.net) if you can help or have any questions.



### Hickory St. Meal

### ANOTHER HICKORY STREET COMMUNITY MEAL

On Saturday, April 26th we will again be preparing and serving a free community meal at Hickory Street Presbyterian Church, so please visit the narthex to sign up to help. As usual, we will need volunteers to prepare the entree (a yummy Shepherd's Pie) and/or supply desserts, serve the meal, transport items over the day before, and to supply lots of groceries for the food bags we give

away the same day. Hunger and Food Insecurity are very real here among our neighbors and this is one small thing we can do to help many of them. For more information, contact Alan Baker at [abaker2@verizon.net](mailto:abaker2@verizon.net).

The shopping list for the grocery bags is:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| ___ 1 box of Cereal                    | ___ 1 bag of Candy                          |
| ___ 1 box of Pasta                     | ___ 1 can or plastic jar of Spaghetti Sauce |
| ___ 1 box of Mac n Cheese              | ___ 1-2 cans of Vegetables                  |
| ___ 1 can of Fruit                     | ___ 1 can of Tuna                           |
| ___ 1- 4-pack of Jello or Pudding cups | ___ 1 box Pop Tarts                         |
| ___ 1 plastic jar of Peanut Butter     | ___ 1 plastic jar of Jelly                  |

### **CEO WEINBERG FOOD BANK** **SERVICE DAYS – SPRING 2025**

The Mission and Justice Committee is planning two mornings of service at Monsignor McGowan Center for Healthy Living (CEO Weinberg Northeast Regional Food Bank) in Pittston on May 10, 2025 and June 21, 2025 from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM. Both days would entail packing monthly food boxes for qualifying senior citizens in an assembly line manner.

May 10 is unique in that we will be working with Boy Scouts already scheduled, and we may take only 10 volunteers. Diane will form the list as she is contacted.

The June 21 date will be just our group from FPCCS.

Carpooling will be available for both events, leaving the church's side parking lot at 8:30 AM.

If you are interested in participating on either of these dates, please contact Diane Scheuer at 570-362-3276 or [divinends@gmail.com](mailto:divinends@gmail.com). It is always a fun and rewarding experience.

## Our One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering

This offering supports efforts to relieve hunger through the **Presbyterian Hunger Program**, promotes development through the **Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People**, and assists in areas of disaster through **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance**. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope. Our goal is \$5,500, and thus far our donations total \$2,275. We so appreciate your generosity thus far and encourage those of you who have not yet donated to please consider giving to this important offering. Blessings to all.



## Save the Date!

**VBS 2025** will be held **July 14-18**

### *Calling all volunteers!*

If you'd like to help children explore Egypt by teaching, leading, or preparing, let us know!

Please contact Jana Schillinger or send an email to [fpcs.vbs@gmail.com](mailto:fpcs.vbs@gmail.com)

Stay tuned for more details!

## April 2025 Volunteer Corner

This month the spotlight is on the volunteers of My Brother's Keeper Quilting Group. Established in 1992 by Pauline Heckman and friends, the group is going strong 33 years later!

Marie Cochrane, the group's leader since 2014, was quick to give credit to the 16 active members and 8 associate members and to those who have lent a hand with "behind the scenes" details: Sewers Bonnie Lesko and Edie Suydam, Jeanne Comley and Mary Ellen Lawlor who prepare toiletry packets and Linda Weaver who transports the finished products to Keystone Mission. Some members also knit hats and gloves which are also donated to Keystone Mission for distribution.

How many sleeping bags have they created through the years? Sooooo many! In 2024 alone they made 93!

Interested in joining the group? MBK welcomes new "quilters". They meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of each month from 10:00 to Noon in Fellowship Hall. You don't need to have any quilting experience. The only skill you need to bring along is the ability to tie a knot and sew a running stitch.

Not a sewer? If you'd like to help in other ways, you can donate materials. If you get in touch with Marie, she can tell you exactly what they need.

Thank you to Marie and the members of the MBK Quilting Group for their service to our community. Their prayer says it all:

"Lord, take the work of our hands and bless it,  
and let the person who receives this gift know that he or she is loved."

**Joys**

**Sorrows**

**Prayers**

- 1 Anne Rich
- Donna Evans
- 2 Colin Shane
- 5 John Diven
- 7 Donald S. Keen III
- 11 John Rich
- 12 Jennifer Sekol
- 19 Mark Kusma
- 23 Nancy London
- 26 Len Ballelli



**APRIL BIRTHDAYS  
& ANNIVERSARIES**

- 16 Kevin & Holly Shane
- 29 Len & Mary Parry-Ballelli

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to friends of Gayle Hamilton, who entered the Church Triumphant Saturday, March 15, 2025.



**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.

**Easter Communion Servers**

- Beverly Bright, captain
- Kim Barrows
- William Farrell
- JoAnn Hall
- Patty McGonagle
- Jack Pittman
- Michael Thompson



**Church Prayer List for soon to be united Lackawanna and Lehigh Presbyteries**

- First United Presbyterian Church of Lackawanna Valley, Peckville, PA
- Pennside Presbyterian Church, Reading, PA
- Hickory Street Presbyterian Church, Scranton, PA
- First Presbyterian Church of Troy, Troy, PA
- Welsh Presbyterian Church, Warrior Run, PA
- Blank Slate Church, Allentown, PA



For more information on our Presbyteries, or for these individual churches, go to [polackawanna.org](http://polackawanna.org) or [lehighpresbytery.org](http://lehighpresbytery.org)



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

*Worship every Sunday, 10 a.m., Sanctuary and on-line*

*See schedule of Holy Week Services on page 1.*

### Board and Committee Meetings

**Session Meeting**— Tuesday, May 6, 7 p.m., Room 206 (no session meeting in April)

**Board of Deacons**—Tuesday, April 22, 7:00 p.m., Room 206

**Building and Grounds**— Thursday, April 3, 7 p.m., Room 209

**Christian Education**—Thursday, April 3, 7 p.m., Room 206

**Finance**—Thursday, April 3, 5 p.m., Room 209

**Mission and Justice**—Tuesday, April 1, 7 p.m., Room 206

**Worship, Music and Arts** - Thursday, April 3, 5:30 p.m., Room 206

### Service/Study/Fellowship Gatherings

**Arts at First Presbyterian: Seraph Brass**—Saturday, April 5, 7 p.m., Sanctuary

**Hickory Street Community Meal**—Saturday, April 26, Hickory Street Presbyterian Church

**Highway Cleanup**—Saturday, April 12, 9 a.m., meeting at Clarks Summit Methodist Church parking lot

**Men's Breakfast and Bible Study** – Thursday, April 3 and 17, 8:30 a.m., Room 206

**MBK Quilters**—Tuesday, April 8 and 22, 10 a.m., Fellowship Hall

**Presbyterian Women's Bible Study**—Tuesday, April 15, 10:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall

**Senior Game Day**—Thursday, April 17, 2 p.m., Fellowship Hall

**State Hospital Luncheon**—Tuesday, April 1, 12:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

**Prayer and Share** - Each Wednesday, 10:30 a.m., Room 209

**Adult Education**—Each Wednesday, 5:45 p.m., Room 206

**Adult Choir**—Each Wednesday, 7:00 p.m., in the Sanctuary

**Bell Choir**—Most Wednesdays, 8:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

### Support Groups

We welcome members of the following support groups to our building on a regular basis, as scheduled:

- Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) meets each morning at 7 a.m. in Room 206.
- Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) also meets each Tuesday evening, 7 p.m., Room 111.
- AlAnon meets on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. in room 206.
- Overeaters Anonymous (OA) meets in room 210: Sundays at 3 p.m., Tuesdays at 6 p.m., and Saturdays at 9:45 a.m.

**Deadline for the May 2025 Presbyterian: Wednesday, April 16.**

**Anticipated mailing date is Wednesday, April 30.**



The Nursery, located in room 208 on the sanctuary level of the building, is open Sunday mornings from 9:40—11:10 a.m. for children ages 3 and younger.

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

300 School Street

Clarks Summit, PA 18411-1536

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## Volunteers and Ideas Wanted!

The Christian Education committee **invites anyone interested** to join us in planning upcoming programs for children and adults. We will meet in Room 206 on Thursday, April 3, 2025 at 7:00 pm. After some brief introductions and business, we will break up into groups to discuss the following:

### Children and Youth Programs

Vacation Bible School is scheduled for July 14-18, 2025. Our theme will be "Joseph's Journey from Prison to Palace." We would also like to form a Youth Choir and look ahead to other opportunities for children this summer and fall. Please reach out to Jana at [ce@fpccs.org](mailto:ce@fpccs.org) with any ideas or questions.

### Adult Programs

We are looking to create fun events and fresh learning opportunities for adults of all ages. We will meet socially this summer and start new groups to nurture faith this fall. Please reach out to Michael at [mkthompson96@gmail.com](mailto:mkthompson96@gmail.com) with any ideas or questions.

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