



The Presbyter

January 2017

The First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit

Friday-Sunday, February 17-19, 2017
Clarks Summit Ice Festival activities at FPC

The church will participate in the Clarks Summit Ice Festival on February 17-19 by offering an ice sculpture outside and a variety of activities inside. Elaine Tweedy will again organize an exhibit of artwork from local artists and FPC congregation members, with a juried photography show on Friday night. Activities on Saturday will include a Broadway Revue at 2 pm, performed by students of the Erin Malloy Vocal Studio. Our Chili Café will provide a place to warm up, grab a bite to eat, converse, and listen to students from the Abington Piano Academy as they entertain. Aspiring young artists from Barry's Art Room will display their talents downstairs. The Art Show upstairs will also be open on Saturday and Sunday. Please plan on stopping by that weekend!

Alert: Volunteers are needed to assist us with the Chili Cafe. We will need help setting up the Cafe and volunteers to provide the chili. If you can assist us, please call Karen White 570-563-2135 or Barbara and Jack Pittman 570-587-2050.



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Notes from the Special Session Meeting, December 11, 2016

1. The Finance Committee sent the 2017 budget to Session for Approval at this special meeting. A review and discussion followed with the Session approving the budget as presented
2. The Session approved the date for the annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, February 5, 2017,
3. Session thanks all of our church members and friends for their support in 2016 and wishes blessings of good health and happiness for 2017.

The Presbyterian deadline for
The February issue is
January 13, 2017

The Presbyter is a monthly newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church, 300 School Street, Clarks Summit, PA 18411.

All visitors are welcome to worship with us. **Worship services are held on Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m.** Child care is available. Communion is observed the first Sunday of every month.

If you do not attend a church in this area, we invite you to any and all of the events, programs, and worship services described in this newsletter. Please call the church office to arrange child care. Our sanctuary and Fellowship Hall are both handicapped accessible.



Annual Reports

All committee chairpersons and board moderators are asked to write a review of 2016 activities for inclusion in the Annual Report. Deadline for submission is January 13th. If you can submit the article electronically, that would be very helpful. The e-address is: office@fpccs.org

Prayer & Share Group

Our group meets on
Wednesdays at
11:00 a.m. in room 209.
You are invited to participate. Please consider stopping by.



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	Lindsey Hardy
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

**FINANCIAL INFORMATION
FROM YOUR FINANCE COMMITTEE
FOR THE MONTH ENDING November 30, 2016**

REVENUE

Budget	\$ 323,950
Actual Received	<u>299,947</u>
Difference	\$ (24,003)
	=====

EXPENSES

Budget	\$ 323,038
Actual Expenses	<u>309,507</u>
Difference	\$ (13,531)
	=====

BUDGET VARIANCE \$ (10,472)

PLEDGE INCOME

Budge	\$ 293,333
Received	<u>273,943</u>
Difference	\$ (19,390)

Per Capita 2016 total Received to date - \$4,190
The 2016 Church Per Capita due to the Presbytery of Lackawanna, General Assembly, and The Synod = \$16,500.

Dear Friends—

I had preached a few sermons about the three Wise Men before I realized who they actually were: they were people of a different religious faith, traveling from somewhere around Persia.

When Matthew tells the story (Matt. 2:1-12), he describes them as Ultra Outsiders. Most likely they come from the caste of priests that the ancient historian Herodotus describes. Called "magi," they practiced the dualistic religion of Zoroastrianism, and their specialty was interpreting dreams. We know from elsewhere in the New Testament (Acts 8:9-14 and 13:6-11) that some magi were floating around the Mediterranean world.

As one scholar summarized the research, "The term 'magi' refers to those engaged in occult arts and covers a wide range of astrologers, fortune tellers, priestly augurers, and magicians of various plausibility." (Raymond Rown, *The Birth of the Messiah*). According to traditional Jewish piety, they would have been regarded as heretics and outsiders.

Yet here they were, drawn to the infant Christ. Their study of the heavens led them to kneel in worship.

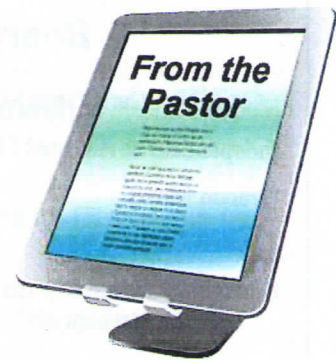
In the light of this Epiphany story, how will we relate to people who worship differently from ourselves? To people who believe what we don't believe? To those who are drawn to the same Light and Life that we've witnessed in Jesus, but who arrive or depart by another way? This will be a recurring theme for us from now until Lent begins on March 1.

As you will note from page six of this newsletter, I'll be leading a winter study on the topic, as part of our Wednesday WAY classes. I hope you will join us as we consider a wide range of scripture passages that deal with the issues. You may be surprised at what the Christian Bible says - and does not say - about our treatment and regard of those with different faith.

Until then, stay warm and keep in touch!

See you on Sundays,

Rev. Bill Carter



Miss a recent sermon?

Check out the sermon blog at www.billcartersermons.blogspot.com

Long for a friendly voice?

Listen to podcasts of the weekly sermon on our website,
www.fpccs.org

Board of Deacons

Care Team Ministry Coordinators are:

Independent & Assisted Living:	Sara Ann Hosier	587-0371
Deacon Meals:	Donna Kepler	587-2729
Time of Loss:		
Emergency Home Repairs and Maintenance:	Joe Waters	586-7233
	Greg Matthews	587-2644

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.

MISSION AND JUSTICE

Earth Care Task Force Solar Energy Table Talk

As faithful stewards of the earth, when we seek environmental justice and conscientious use of our resources, it is important to understand the different types of energy. Join the Earth Care Task Force on Sunday, January 29th during the Fellowship Hour for a Table Talk on Solar Energy led by Jay Clymer.



STEPHEN MINISTRY - There are times in our busy lives that we yearn for a comfortable spot to relax. We find it in Church, in a close friend to talk out a problem. Some can find it in taking a walk in the park.

Sometimes we forget we can talk to God. You don't have to be in Church on Sunday to do this. God is always there to listen. We have Stephen Ministers who are waiting to help you with issues you may have, but don't know who to see or where to look. They can assist you by listening to your problems and they may offer suggestions for you to solve the issues you may have.

The Stephen Minister will meet you for an hour once a week at any location you feel comfortable. Confidentiality is of the utmost importance.

It only takes a phone call or you can see Rev. Carter, Judy Cutler or any of our Stephen Ministers you may know.

Matthew 6:25-34. 1 Peter 5:6-7

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

HAPPY NEW YEAR

A great way to start 2017 would be to come for one of our Bible Study Circles on January 17.

We are continuing our studies on "Who is Jesus" by Judy Yates Siker. This month we are studying Jesus through the lens of the apostle Paul. Our author thinks it is interesting that even though Paul wrote his letters earlier (during the 50s & 60s CE) than the Gospel writers (70s to 100 CE), Paul's portrait of Jesus is of the Crucified Lord.

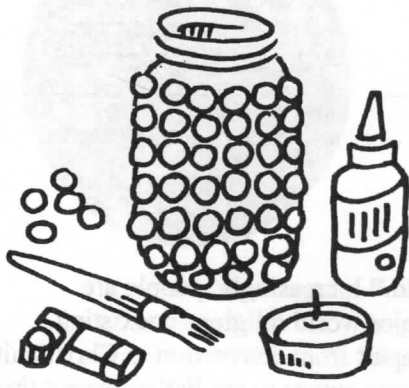
All three Circles will study Paul's lesson but the Priscilla and Eunice Circles will also include Lesson 4 on the gospel of John.

Dorcas Circle meets at 10:00 a.m.; Priscilla Circle meets at 1:30 p.m. and Eunice Circle meets at 7:00 p.m. All meet at the church.

Hope to see you there.

MASON JAR nightLight

Because Jesus is the light of the world, his followers don't need to fear darkness or life's dark times. Make this nightlight to remind you of Jesus' light and presence.



What you need:

- Work area with good ventilation
- Mason jar
- Clear glue that works on glass
- Paintbrush
- Glass stones
- Tealight candle
- Lighter
- Adult supervision

What you do:

1. Starting at the top of the jar, brush glue on a small section.
2. Press glass stones onto the glue in rows. Let dry.
3. Continue gluing stones, in small sections, until the entire jar is covered.
4. When dry, place a candle inside. Light with adult help.



Light OF THE World

In a world full of sin and darkness, how can we find our way?
Discover Jesus' answer in John 8:12, NIV.

*Directions: Use the key to fill in the missing vowels.
Then read the completed Bible verse.*

KEY:  **A**  **E**  **I**  **O**

" _ _ M TH _ L _ GHT _ F
TH _ W _ RLD. WH _ _ V _ R
F _ LL _ WS M _ W _ LL N _ V _ R
W _ LK _ N D _ RKN _ SS."
J _ H N 8:12, NIV

Answer: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness." John 8:12, NIV

Christian Education



It's for life!

THE W.A.Y.

The Wednesday Adults and Youth Christian Education

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

Supper, 5:00 * Classes for all ages, 6:15

Spark (Newborn - 3 year old) enjoy Bible stories, songs and games in the nursery. In January they will hear the stories of the Boy at the Temple, John the Baptist, Jesus Goes to Nazareth, and the Disciples.

Power Xpress (4 year old - Grade 5) Experience Bible stories through interactive rotation classes. In January they will discover Jesus in the Temple and Walking on Water.

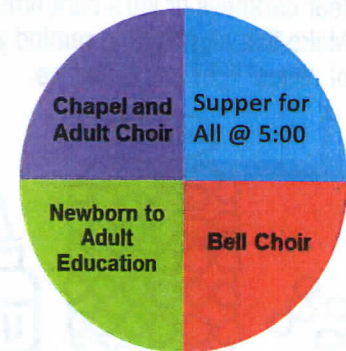
We Believe (Grades 6-8) This winter, students will explore a unit called *The Bible and Prayer*, answering questions about how God speaks to us through scripture and beyond. In January, we will answer questions about who wrote the Bible, what's in it, and how to pray.

Adults:

Rev. Carter begins a winter series of "**The Faith of Jesus in a Pluralistic World.**" Increasingly, people are recognizing that the survival of the human race depends upon adherents of the major world religions coexisting peacefully with one another. Yet many Christians wonder how peace is possible apart from conversion to Christianity, particularly in light of Jesus' statement, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." Is it possible to take these words seriously without denying the existence of other paths God may create for humanity? In this series, we will discover how this question is being answered and lived in surprising and hopeful ways.

Beginning on January 11 in Room 206, and continuing until February 22.

Dr. Charlie Pinches begins a **Bible study on the Apostle Paul on January 25 in Room 210**, and continuing until February 22. Join him for a fascinating look of an amazing leader of the early church.

Welcome to Wednesdays

Christian Education is an important part of who we are and what we do...and we need YOU to make it happen.

How? You can enrich your own faith and help our church grow in Christ by:

- ◆ Attending the W.A.Y. for dinner, classes, and choirs...we want to see you here!
- ◆ Bringing a friend...new faces are always welcome.
- ◆ Volunteering to teach...at any grade level for any amount of time, you can help our children and adults learn and grow. Please prayerfully consider helping with this important ministry.
- ◆ Helping to set up for, cook, and serve our weekly meal...our church family loves to eat.
- ◆ Joining the CE committee...our group meets the first Thursday of each month to plan the W.A.Y., youth group, special events, and more — we're always looking to hear from new voices.

**Wednesday Supper Reservations**

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

Please return reservation slips no later than **Monday**. Slips can be placed in the **basket near the phone in the kitchen** or in the **offering plate**. You may also **call the church office** to make reservations.

Reservations slips can be found in the church office, in the kitchen, or in pews.



Save the Date

Attention all children,
families, and volunteers!

Mark your calendars...



VBS 2017

will be held

July 10-14, 9AM-12PM

Join us for an amazing Bible adventure filled with
laughter, learning, and fun times with friends new
and old!

Look for more information this spring.

Youth Fellowship

All youth grades 4-12 are invited to join us

Friday, January 13th, 5-7PM

for **Iron Chef**

and

Sunday, January 22nd, 12:30-2:30PM

for a **Game Day**

(lunch provided)

and

Friday, February 10th, 8:15-10:15PM

for **Cosmic Bowling**

Bring a friend! New faces always welcome.



We want your children to join us for a new adventure!

Adventures in the Bible, a Sunday morning gathering for children ages 2-7 and their parent(s) or grandparent(s), has begun, and we are eager to welcome more children to the group. Each week, we will meet from 9:00 - 9:45 in room 111 to

**Adventures in
the Bible**



- explore a Bible story,
- bring the story to life with an activity or craft, and
- sing songs of praise.

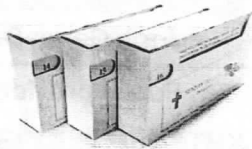
Feel free to email either Tabbi Miller-Scandle (tabbi.miller-scandle@scranton.edu) or Karis Naeher (klnaeher@outlook.com) with any questions.

Join us to prepare for the next part of the journey . . . worship!

Joys and Sorrows



Carolyn Grace Ceresini, daughter of Joseph and Becky (Owens) Ceresini, was born on December 16, 2016. Best wishes and blessings to all.



Happy New Year from the Church Office!

2017 Offering Envelopes have arrived!!! They are available in the hallway on tables next to Rev. Carter's Office.

They are organized alphabetically and everyone has a new number, so be sure to double check the name on the box.



We are resuming our meetings on January 26th and will be at Judy Cutler's home at 7:00. Join us for an evening of conversation, food and good times as we discuss **The Nest** by Cynthia D'Aprix. Every family has its problems. But even among the most troubled, the Plumb family stands out as spectacularly dysfunctional. Years of tensions reach a breaking point on a cold afternoon in New York City as Melody, Beatrice, and Jack Plumb gather to confront their charismatic and reckless older brother, Leo, freshly released from rehab. Months earlier, an inebriated Leo got behind the wheel of a car with a nineteen-year-old waitress as his passenger. The ensuing accident has endangered the Plumbs' joint trust fund, "The Nest," which they are months away from receiving. Meant by their deceased father to be a modest mid-life supplement, the Plumb siblings have watched The Nest's value soar along with the stock market and have been counting on the money to solve their self-inflicted problems.

Melody, a wife and mother, has an unwieldy mortgage and looming college tuition for her twin teenage daughters. Jack has secretly borrowed against the beach cottage he shares with his husband to keep his store open. And Bea, a once-promising short-story writer, can't seem to finish her overdue novel. Can Leo rescue his siblings and the people they love? Or will everyone need to re-imagine their futures? Brought together as never before, they must grapple with old resentments, present-day truths, and the emotional and financial toll of the accident, as well as acknowledge the choices they have made in their own lives.

This is a story about the power of family, the possibilities of friendship, the ways we depend upon one another and the ways we let one another down. In this tender, entertaining, and deftly written debut, Cynthia D'Aprix Sweeney brings a remarkable cast of characters to life to illuminate what money does to relationships, what happens to our ambitions over the course of time, and the fraught yet unbreakable ties we share with those we love.

Lectionary Readings

January 1

Isaiah 63:7-9; Psalm 148; Hebrews 2:10-18; Matthew 2:13-23

January 8

Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29; Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:15-17

January 15

Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11; 1 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42

January 22

Isaiah 9:1-4; Psalm 27:1, 4-9; 1 Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-23

January 29

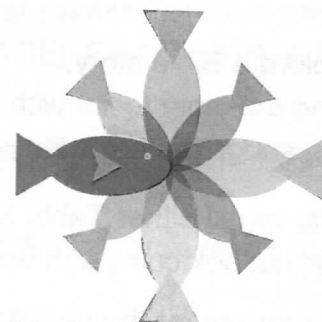
Micah 6:1-8; Psalm 15; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Matthew 5:1-12

Welcomers for January

Char and Fred Lyon

THANK YOU to everyone who helped provide pajamas for the holidays to 6 Head Start Centers in Lackawanna County.

From the Christian Education and Growth Committee



United in Christ

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
First Presbyterian Church January 2017						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7am-AA 10am-Worship 3pm-OA New Years' Day	7am-AA 7pm-Mission & Justice	7am-AA 4pm-Art Class 7pm-Big Book 7pm-OA	7am-AA 9am-Presbyter 11am-Prayer/Share 5pm-The W.A.Y. Light supper 5:30-Chapel Ch. 6:15-Christian Ed. 7:15-Adult Choir 8:30-Bell Choir	7am-AA 4:30-Staff 7pm-Building & Grounds 7pm-Christian Ed.	7am-AA	7am-AA
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
7am-AA 9am-Adventures in the Bible 10am-Worship 11:15am-Confirm. 11:15am-Session 3pm-OA Recital	7am-AA 7pm-Worship, Music, Arts	7am-AA 10am-MBK Quilts 4pm-Art Class 7pm-Big Book 7pm-OA	7am-AA 11am-Prayer/Share 1pm-LP COM 5pm-The W.A.Y. Light supper 5:30-Chapel Ch. 6:15-Christian Ed. 7:15-Adult Choir 8:30-Bell Choir	7am-AA 8:30-Men's Breakfast	7am-AA 5pm-Youth Group Presbyter Deadline	7am-AA
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
7am-AA 9am-Adventures in the Bible 10am-Worship 11:15am-Confirm. 3pm-OA	7am-AA Birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King (Church Office is closed.)	7am-AA 10am-Dorcas Cir. 1:30pm-Priscilla Circle 4pm-Art Class 7pm-Eunice Circle 7pm-Big Book 7pm-OA	7am-AA 11am-Prayer/Share 5pm-The W.A.Y. Light supper 5:30-Chapel Ch. 6:15-Christian Ed. 7:15-Adult Choir 8:30-Bell Choir	7am-AA 6:30-Fellowship	7am-AA	7am-AA
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
7am-AA 9am-Adventures in the Bible 10am-Worship 11:15am-Confirm. 12:30-Youth Group 3pm-OA	7am-AA	7am-AA 10am-MBK Quilts 4pm-Art Class 7pm-Deacons 7pm-Big Book 7pm-OA	7am-AA 9am-Presbyter mailing 11am-Prayer/Share 5pm-The W.A.Y. Light supper 5:30-Chapel Ch. 6:15-Christian Ed. 7:15-Adult Choir 8:30-Bell Choir	7am-AA 8:30-Men's Breakfast 7pm-FPC Book Group	7am-AA	7am-AA
29	30	31				
7am-AA 9am-Adventures in the Bible 10am-Worship 11:15am-Confirm. 11:15am-Table Talk 3pm-OA	7am-AA	7am-AA 4pm-Art Class 7pm-Big Book 7pm-OA				



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

300 School Street

Clarks Summit, PA 18411-1536

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DATED MATERIAL

Return Service Requested



Calling all teachers!

The Wednesday Addults and Youth Christian Education Program (the WAY), offers classes for all ages every week. Christian Education is an important part of who we are and what we do — and you can be a part of it! Help us all to grow in Christ by volunteering to teach...at any grade level for any amount of time, you can lead our children and adults in learning and growth. Please prayerfully consider helping with this important ministry.

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



Helpers Needed!

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

You can help by:

Cooking or helping to cook a main dish, providing a salad, providing a dessert, helping with setup, or helping with cleanup.

If so, contact Karen White
(570) 563-2135

