



# The Presbyter

February 2018

The First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit



## The Wizarding World of Ice

### Clarks Summit Festival of Ice February 16-18

The First Presbyterian Church is a vital part of the Festival of Ice—from an ice sculpture outside to a variety of activities inside.

Elaine Tweedy will organize an exhibit of work from local artists and congregation members, with a juried photography show sponsored by the NE Photography Club on Friday night. The exhibit will be open on Friday from 6:00 to 7:30 pm and on Saturday from 11 am to 4 pm.

Also on Saturday will be a magic show at 2:00 pm by Eddy Ray, "Pennsylvania's Busiest Magician & Illusionist", who has been astounding people from the U.S.A. to the far reaches of Japan with his incredible and artistic sleight of hand, hilarious interactive audience segments, and his fresh approach to performing magic and illusion. This event is offered free of charge.

From 11 am to 2 pm on Saturday, our Chili Café will provide a place to warm up, grab a bite to eat, and listen to student musicians perform. Featured performers include singers from the Jessica Hitchcock Vocal Studio.

These activities are part of the Arts at First Presbyterian program which 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.

## Ash Wednesday February 14



Classes for The Way will be held from 6:15-6:55, followed immediately by worship at 7:00 p.m.

Chapel Choir and Bell Choir will rehearse at their regular time; Adult Choir will meet following the Ash Wednesday Service.

**The Annual Meeting** of the congregation and corporation of First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit has been called for Sunday, February 4, 2018.

Come and celebrate all the good things that God is doing in our church. We will gather after worship for a potluck luncheon in Fellowship Hall at 11:00 a.m. (Bring a dish to pass.) The meeting is scheduled to begin at 11:45 a.m.

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## Notes from Session Meeting January 9, 2018

1. Session elected the following officers for the coming year: Barbara Brown, President of the Corporation; Wayne Griffiths, church treasurer and treasurer of the corporation of FPCCS; Beverly Bright, clerk of Session and secretary of the corporation of FPCCS and named Dr. Alan Baker, as the church representative to the Presbytery of Lackawanna.
2. Session would like to thank friends and members of the First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit for their continued financial support and volunteer efforts which are too numerous to mention. 2017 was a blessed year for us. YOU are very important.

The Presbyterian deadline for  
the March issue is  
February 16, 2018

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>	
<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

## A famine is coming...



Poor nutrition causes nearly half of all deaths in children under 5. Every day, over 7,000 kids die from hunger-related causes.

Together, we can make an impact:

**February 23-24**

**World Vision's 30-Hour Famine**

How can you help?

- Participate! Youth grades 6-12 are encouraged to take a stand against world hunger as we spend some eye-opening time together in fellowship and fun.
- Volunteer! Adult chaperones are needed...spend a few hours with us as we starve our bellies and feed our souls.
- Give! Every \$40 raised feeds a child for a month. Look for ways to give in upcoming weekly bulletins or on our website [fpccs.org](http://fpccs.org)

Need more info? Contact Jana Schillinger at (570)586-6306 or by e-mail at [ce@fpccs.org](mailto:ce@fpccs.org)

## FROM YOUR FINANCE COMMITTEE FOR THE MONTH ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2017

### REVENUE

-	Budget	\$352,500
	Actual Received	<u>356,086</u>
	Difference	\$ 3,586
		=====

### EXPENSES

-	Budget	\$366,548
	Actual Expenses	<u>361,259</u>
	Difference	\$ 5,173
		=====

BUDGET VARIANCE \$ (5,173)

### PLEDGE INCOME

	Budget	\$320,000
	Received	<u>327,199</u>
	Difference	\$ 7,199
		=====

From the Pastor  
February 2018

Here is an imaginary conversation that is rolling around in my head:

“Have any plans for Valentine’s Day?”

“Sure do! I’m going to the Ash Wednesday service at First Presbyterian Church.”



Admittedly, that’s pretty bizarre, but that is how the calendar falls this year. It is conceivable that a few folks may arrive for our 7:00 p.m. worship service that evening, having gone out for a romantic dinner beforehand. It is more reasonable to imagine that some folks will skip out of worship, go out to dinner, and notice diners at the next table with smudges on their foreheads.

Some believe our modern Valentine’s Day is a Hallmark invention, designed to sell greeting cards and sweet boxes of chocolate. Indeed the greeting card manufacturer got on board in 1913, and the holiday is one of their most profitable dates of the year. The truth is Valentine’s Day began as a Roman festival called Lupercalia. It was a three-day blowout too wild to describe in a church newsletter. Suffice it to say it was an R-rated festival (or worse), vastly different from romance.

After the Roman Empire was baptized and the citizens deemed “Christian,” the church renamed it after two of its saints, both named “Valentine.” Each had been martyred by the Roman emperor on February 14, on separate years in the third century. Pope Gelasius I believed this re-designation of the festival would clean it up. Sadly, it only served to muddle the event in the mind of his people.

And what about Ash Wednesday? That, too, is a calculated event. It’s scheduled by counting backwards 40 days prior to Easter, not counting the Sundays (which are considered miniature Easters). Since Easter is determined by the lunar calendar, just like Passover, it is on a floating calendar. This year, Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent on Valentine’s Day. Weird, isn’t it? Almost as weird as Easter occurring on April Fool’s Day!

Is there a link between the February 14 holidays? Certainly. The link is love; not merely the kind of adulation that gushes sweet nothings, but the honest-to-goodness love of covenantal commitment. It’s love that is not merely expressed in the heat of passion, but in the constancy of keeping promises and giving ourselves for the benefit of others. Love declares that commitments matter, that healthy relationships can bring out the best in us. We need not be in a relationship to affirm that love can change us for the better.

So this year, Ash Wednesday will be more than assembling in a long line of mortality, remembering we come from dust, and promising to make the most of our remaining days. We will take on the disciplines of Lent - prayer, study, reflection, works of generosity – as a way of enlarging our hearts and nurturing our capacity for the love of God and neighbor. We submit ourselves to the One who has loved us from the beginning, the One who will hold us to the end...and beyond.

*With love for you,*

*Rev. Bill Carter*



## THE W.A.Y.

The Wednesday Adults and Youth Christian Education

“I am the WAY, the TRUTH, and the LIFE”

### IMPORTANT DATE

**Wed., February 14** - Ash Wednesday - classes will be held from 6:15-6:55, followed immediately by worship.

### Wednesday Classes for Adults

**On February 7**, we welcome Travis Davis from Allied Services to make a presentation on **palliative care**, to which the public has been invited (Room 206). Across the hall, Phil Muntzel and Charlie Pinches conclude their **class on ethics (Room 210)**

**On February 14**, we have one abbreviated class from 6:15 to 6:55 to reflect on the scripture lesson for the Ash Wednesday service at 7:00 p.m.

**On February 21**, we begin two series for adults that will continue to the end of March:

- Rev. Carter and Charlie Pinches will lead a **Bible study on the biblical meaning(s)** of the cross in Room 210. It will coincide with the Sunday sermons series in Lent.
- Judy Cutler and friends will curate a series on **spiritual practices for Lent** in Room 206.

Come and grow with us! All are welcome.

### 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

### Classes for Children and Youth

**Spark (Newborn - 3 year old)** enjoy Bible stories, songs and games in the nursery. In February the kids will be learning about a storm, the centurion's servant, Jesus blessing the children, and Jesus healing two blind men.

**Power Xpress (4 year old - Grade 5)** experience Bible stories through interactive rotation classes. February's units will focus on parables of lost and found, learning about Ash Wednesday/Lent, and the Lord's Supper.

**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 February we'll learn about judges and kings.

**PresbyYouth (Grades 9-12 and college-age adults)** are encouraged to either join an adult class or participate in the middle school class.

### 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.

## Adventures in the Bible



**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.

Don't miss out on all the fun! Contact Karis Naeher at [knaeher@outlook.com](mailto:knaeher@outlook.com) or Tabbi Miller-Scandle at [tabbi.miller-scandle@scranton.edu](mailto:tabbi.miller-scandle@scranton.edu)

## Youth Fellowship

All youth grades 4-12 are invited to join us

Sunday, February 11

12:00—2:00 PM

Bring a friend! New faces always welcome.

## Calling all teachers!

The Wednesday Aadults 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:

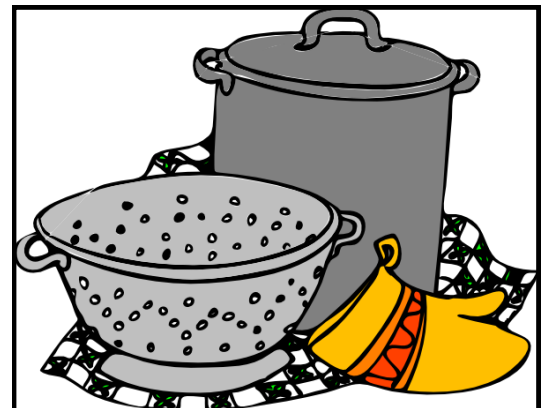
Cooking or helping to cook a main dish

Providing a salad

Providing a dessert

Helping with setup

Helping with clean up



Contact Karen White or Nancy Dennen to volunteer!

### The Underground Railroad: by Colson Whitehead

Cora, a slave on a cotton plantation in Georgia, is an outcast even among her fellow Africans. When Caesar, a recent arrival from Virginia, tells her about the Underground Railroad, they decide to take a terrifying risk and escape. Though they manage to find a station and head north, they are being hunted.



In Whitehead's ingenious conception, the Underground Railroad is no mere metaphor—engineers and conductors operate a secret network of tracks and tunnels beneath the Southern soil. Like the protagonist of *Gulliver's Travels*, Cora encounters different worlds at each stage of her journey—hers is an odyssey through time as well as space. As Whitehead brilliantly re-creates the unique terrors for black people in the pre-Civil War era, his narrative seamlessly weaves the saga of America from the brutal importation of Africans to the unfulfilled promises of the present day. *The Underground Railroad* is at once a kinetic adventure tale of one woman's ferocious will to escape the horrors of bondage and a shattering, powerful meditation on the history we all share.

The Book Group will meet on February 22, 7:00 PM at Judy Cutler's home.

### Souper Bowl Sunday

Sunday, February 4 isn't just the Big Game...it's a big opportunity to help those in need!

As you leave worship, our youth will be standing by with soup pots to collect money to combat hunger.

All proceeds will benefit the AEM Food Pantry.



### Ignore the Dots!

Amanda Roberts

Have you noticed the brightly colored dots on the spines of the books in our library? Do you know what they mean? It has probably been obvious that each color represented a different category.

But, alas, we have recently reorganized and renamed some of the categories, and added new ones! So the dots no longer fit. We are slowly but surely replacing them with a label inside each book indicating under which category it falls. But, sadly, not all of the dots come off easily. So, from now on..... just ignore the dots.



## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN BIBLE STUDY CIRCLES

Mary Ellen Lawlor



Come and celebrate LOVE—Christ's LOVE! Christ can understand and support us in our humanity in its highs and lows because He has experienced those times too. The Hebrews' community faced persecution because of faith in Christ. In some parts of today's world persecution is still happening - sometimes even death. We might not face that type of suffering but maybe we will deal with everyday suffering. What does that mean and how might we "suffer together in community?" As our author says, "The cloud of witnesses surrounds those who are hurting and the wall of the community of faith holds them up."

We hope to see you February 20 at 10:00 a.m. or 7:00 p.m. at church for our circles.

### 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:	Anne Rich	587-2802
Emergency Home Repairs And Maintenance:	Joe Waters	586-7233

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.



# A NEW COMMANDMENT

In John 13:34, Jesus offers important instructions for his followers.

*Directions: Figure out the pattern in each vertical line of letters. Then add the next letter in the sequence to the blank underneath, completing John 13:14, NIV.*

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZABCD...

F L S Y    F K Y    X E I Q B V O    O J    F  
 H M T A    I L A    Y H K R D Y P    S M    G  
 J N U C    L M C    Z K M S F B Q    W P    H

“ \_\_\_\_\_ ”

E X M B    C L M B U    V F R    P L    V F R  
 F Y P C    F M P C X    W I S    Q M    W I S  
 G Z S D    I N S D A    X L T    R N    X L T

\_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_

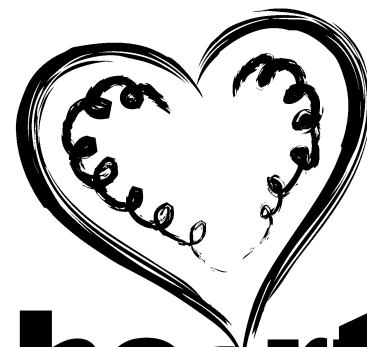
A R J Q    C C S B    F K Y    X H L Q B Y I  
 E S M R    F G T C    I L A    Y J M R D A L  
 I T P S    I K U D    L M C    Z L N S F C O

\_\_\_\_\_ ”

JOHN 13:34, NIV

Answer: "Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." John 13:34, NIV

## Snack Idea



# heart sandwich

Show your love by making someone this heartfelt snack on Valentine's Day.



### What you need:

- 2 slices of bread
- 2 heart-shaped cookie cutters (one large, one small)
- Lunchmeat and cheese (or peanut butter and jelly)

### What you do:

1. Cut a large heart out of each slice of bread.
2. Cut a small heart from the middle of one big heart.
3. With the small cookie cutter, make several heart shapes out of the meat and cheese. Place between the bread slices.
4. If you're using peanut butter and jelly, spread both onto the large, solid heart. Then place the slice with the small heart cutout on top.



## Mark Your Calendars! Save the Dates!

### Sunday, February 4

Souper Bowl Sunday  
Potluck luncheon 11:00 AM  
Annual Meeting 11:45 AM



### Sunday, February 11

Dixieland Band; Worship 10:00 AM



### Wednesday, February 14

Ash Wednesday Worship, 7:00 PM

### February, 16—18

Festival of Ice

### February, 23—24

World Vision's 30-Hour Famine

### Sunday, March 11

Daylight Saving's Time Begins  
Turn your clocks ahead 1 hour

### Tuesday, March 20

First day of Spring!

### Sunday, March 25

Palm Sunday

### Wednesday, March 28

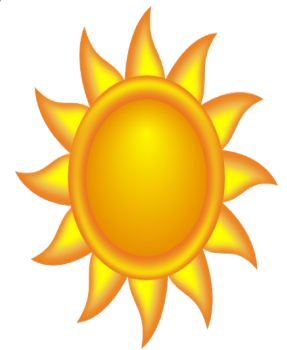
Seder Meal

### Sunday, April 1

Easter Sunday

## Save the Date!

Attention all children,  
families, and volunteers!  
Mark your calendars...



## VBS 2018

will be held

## July 16-20, 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.

Joys

Sorrows

Thank You Notes



Lectionary Readings

- February 2 Jeff McLaughlin
- February 4 JoAnn Hall
- February 7 Jonathan Schillinger
- February 10 SaraAnn Hosier
- February 17 Holly Shane
- February 19 Melba Fialko
- February 21 Rev. Bill Carter
- February 28 Diane Cole  
Gayle Hamilton  
Katie Taylor

February 4

Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11, 20c;  
1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39

February 11

2 Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50:1-6;  
2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9

February 18

Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-10;  
1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15

February 25

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31;  
Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38



Velma Longcor  
January 1, 2018

Mary Virginia Copley  
January 17, 2018

William H. Thorburn  
January 26, 2018

Our love and deepest  
sympathy to their families  
and friends.

**February Ushers**

Anne Rich  
Joe Waters

**February 4  
Communion Servers**

Jana Schillinger and  
Laura Moore, Captains

Dave Porter  
Donna Porter  
Olympia Cianfichi

February Welcomers

February 4  
John Conklin

February 11  
Jim McLaughlin

February 18  
Nancy London

February 25  
Jack and Barbara Pittman

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday 1	Friday 2	Saturday 3
						
4 7am-AA 9am-Adventures in the Bible 10am-Worship 11am-Potluck Lunch 11:45-Annual Meeting 3pm-OA	5 7am-AA 6pm-Weight Watchers 7pm-Mission & Justice	6 7am-AA 10am-PW Board Meeting 6pm-OA 7pm-Big Book	7 7am-AA 11am-Prayer/Share 5pm-The W.A.Y. Light supper 5:30-Chapel Ch. 6:15-Christian Ed. 7:15-Adult Choir 8:00-AIAnon 8:30-Bell Choir	8 7am-AA 6 pm-Alleluia Ch.	9 7am-AA	10 7am-AA
11 7am-AA 9am-Adventures in the Bible 10am-Worship 12 noon-Youth Fellowship 3pm-OA 	12 7am-AA 6pm-Weight Watchers	13 7am-AA 10am-MBK Quilts 6pm-OA 7pm-Session 7pm-Big Book	14 7am-AA 11am-Prayer/Share 5pm-The W.A.Y. Light supper 5:30-Chapel Ch. 6:15-Christian Ed. 7pm-Ash Wednesday Service TBD-Adult Choir 8:00-AIAnon 8:30-Bell Choir	15 7am-AA 8:30-Men's Breakfast 4:30-Staff	16 7am-AA Presbyter Deadline  Clarks Summit  Ice Festival	17 7am-AA
18 7am-AA 9am-Adventures in the Bible 10am-Worship 11am-Fellowship 11am-Worship, Music, Arts 3pm-OA  Clarks Summit Ice Festival	19 7am-AA 6pm-Weight Watchers  Presidents' Day- Church Office is closed.	20 7am-AA 10am-Morning Circle 6pm-OA 7pm-Eunice Circle 7pm-Big Book	21 7am-AA 11am-Prayer/Share 5pm-The W.A.Y. Light supper 5:30-Chapel Ch. 6:15-Christian Ed. 7:15-Adult Choir 8:00-AIAnon 8:30-Bell Choir	22 7am-AA 6 pm-Alleluia Ch. 7pm-Book Group	23 7am-AA  30-Hour Famine	24 7am-AA
25 7am-AA 9am-Adventures in the Bible 10am-Worship 3pm-OA	26 7am-AA 6pm-Weight Watchers	27 7am-AA 10am-MBK Quilts 6pm-OA 6:30-Deacons 7pm-Big Book	28 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 8:00-AIAnon 8:30-Bell Choir			



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
300 School Street  
Clarks Summit, PA 18411-1536

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

**DATED MATERIAL**

**Return Service Requested**



**Save the Date:**

Wednesday, March 28, there will be a Seder meal here in Fellowship Hall. Reservations will be necessary! Additional information to follow.

**Looking ahead:**

We've invited a Dixieland Band to defrost our worship service on Sunday, February 11. Join us as we celebrate Mardi Gras in style.

