



The Presbyter

January 2019

The First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit

If the winter seems long and dark..

Stop by our church library (Room 206) and borrow a book. There is a wealth of wisdom on the shelves, and we would love to have you enjoy the resources.

There is also a collection of family-friendly DVDs that have been donated to the library over the years. It's easy to sign out something!

You can review our library catalog online by visiting www.librarything.com/catalog/fpcps.



The Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation of First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit has been called for Sunday, February 3, 2019 at 11:45 a.m., following our morning worship and a potluck luncheon.

The Arts

at First Presbyterian Church

First Presbyterian will once again be hosting an Art Show and Juried Photography Exhibit as part of the 2019 Clarks Summit Ice Festival festivities. The Exhibit will be in the Session Room from February 15 - 17.

If you are a budding, blooming, or fully grown artist and you would like to exhibit your art work, please contact Elaine Tweedy, who is coordinating the Art Show. She will need to hear from you no later than Friday, January 25th, if you are interested in participating, or if you have any questions.

Elaine can be reached by calling 570-575-1705, or sending her an email at elainetweedy@gmail.com. If you are already on the email list for the event, you will receive an email with instructions from Elaine by the end of the first week in January.

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Notes from the Session Meeting November 27, 2018

1. Session passed the budget from the 2019 year as recommended by the Finance Committee.
2. Session would like to thank our congregation members and friends for their support this last year, both financial and volunteer. Wishes for a blessed and healthy 2019.

Beverly Bright
Clerk of Session

To all Board and Committee chairpersons -

Please forward a report of your committee's activities from 2018 and goals/plans for 2019 to the church office by January 13, 2019.

Electronically if possible (office@fpccs.org).

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:	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.

The Presbyterian deadline for
the February issue is
January 18

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

FROM YOUR FINANCE COMMITTEE FOR THE MONTH ENDING NOVEMBER 30, 2018

REVENUE

Budget	\$336,723
Actual Received	302,658
Difference	\$ (34,065)
	=====

EXPENSES

Budget	\$348,064
Actual Expenses	334,447
Difference	\$ (13,617)
	=====

BUDGET VARIANCE \$ (20,448)

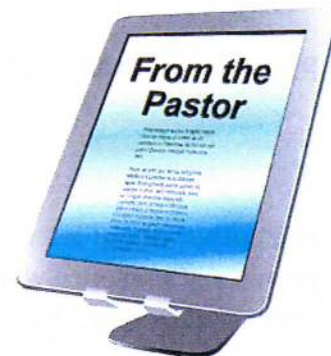
PLEDGE INCOME

Budget	\$293,333
Received	281,356
Difference	\$ (11,977)
	=====

Per Capita 2018 was \$33 per member. As of the end of November, \$3,321 has been contributed.

From the Pastor January 2019

Happy New Year, my friends! As we are putting away Christmas, I have found three Epiphany poems by my friend Tom Troeger. I pass them along with his permission, in the great hope that we can live this year in the light of Christ:



A star not mapped on human charts disturbed the eastern skies
and the stirred the questing minds and hearts of three kings rich and wise.
Attracted by the mystic light their science did not frame,
they travelled through the cloud of night to learn its holy name.

That star which cheered the seeking soul announcing Christ was here,
made Herod plot to keep control through violence, lies and fear.
The tyrant hid his anxious thought and said "Report to me
when you have found the child you've sought that I might come and see."

That star above our shadowed earth now moved across the skies
and marked the place of holy birth before the wise men's eyes.
They offered incense, myrrh, and gold while on their knees to pray.
Then through a dream the kings were told: "Go home another way."

That star which pierced the ancient night has faded from above,
yet through the visionary sight of faith and hope and love
we, like the wisemen, still may find life's animating goal:
the Christ who prompts the probing mind and lights the open soul.

One gift the magi bore worth more than all the rest:
the grace to kneel and bow before the child whom starlight blest.
Their myrrh and frankincense lay sweet upon the air,
but sweeter yet and more intense the magi's humble prayer.

And though their gift of gold shone brightly with the skies
still heaven's light was twice as bold with their adoring eyes.
One gift the magi bore worth more than all the rest:
we give that gift when we adore the child whom starlight blest.

Be constant as the star that guides you from above.
the trip is strenuous and far that leads from fear to love.
When snow that drives and drifts has blocked the sky from view,
take shelter till the blizzard lifts, the star will wait for you.
The light that bright star sends at last will come to rest,
revealing where the journey ends begins a deeper quest.

See you in church!

Rev. Bill Carter

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN CIRCLE BIBLE STUDIES



"God with us when we're powerless"

The author of our lessons, Amy Poling Sutherland, says in her introduction, "God's promise of presence when we are powerless invites us to lay down our weapons of worry and keep our eyes on God."

In January our lesson is about King Jehoshaphat who was only one of a handful of "good" kings who ruled faithfully. He sought to follow prophetic instruction found in II Chr. 15:2, "The Lord is with you while you are with him. If you seek him, he will be found by you, but if you abandon him, he will abandon you." Did Jehoshaphat always seek God? Do we always seek God? Do we rely on faith or fear in God? Do we praise God before or after He shows us He is with us? Come and let's study these questions together.

The Priscilla and Dorcas Circles will meet on January 16 at church from 10:00-12:00 a.m. and the Eunice Circle will meet at 7:00 p.m. Start the New Year with us for a time of fellowship and Bible study. All the ladies of the church are welcome.

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.

After completing the 19th sleeping bag of the season, members of **My Brothers' Keeper** quilting group headed north to Jeanne Comly's for a wonderful pot luck Christmas Luncheon. The setting was beautiful, the food was delicious, and the camaraderie was uplifting - a perfect way to enjoy the holiday season. A big "Thank-You" to Jeanne and all our members for their dedicated work throughout the year.



Helps Needed: Presbyter Mailers

We need to add a few more hands around the table to prepare the Presbyter for mailing. This includes putting the pages together in the correct order, folding from top to bottom, and applying the round tabs to keep them closed while they are traveling through the mail. If you are willing to help, please call the church office (570-586-6306). The time involved is about 1 hour, one morning a month (usually the last Wednesday of the month) beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Per Capita assessment for 2019 is \$34.50 per member. The money will be distributed as follows:

To Lackawanna Presbytery	\$23.25
To Synod of the Trinity	2.30
General Assembly of PC(USA)	8.95
	\$34.50

MISSION AND JUSTICE

Your Mission and Justice committee would like to thank you all for your gracious involvement in so many acts of service and love. A few of the things we have done this past year include: packing food boxes for the elderly, helping families with groceries at Thanksgiving, volunteering for the NEPA youth shelter, beautifying a local park, daycare and advocacy center, making quilts for the homeless, assisting refugees in settling into their new life in our area, caring for the earth with the highway clean up, packing personal care items for those in need, supporting Fair Trade coffee, and supporting various ministries at our Alternative Gift Market. Your monetary gifts also allow us to support the work of justice and of missions both locally and around the world.

This is an active church that lives out Christ's love through service and through giving. We, as a committee, are very grateful for your ongoing support.

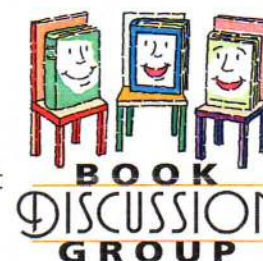
January 24, 7:00 p.m. @ Judy Cutler's home

Origin by Dan Brown

Robert Langdon, Harvard professor of symbology and religious iconology, arrives at the ultramodern Guggenheim Museum Bilbao to attend a major announcement—the unveiling of a discovery that “will change the face of science forever.” The evening's host is Edmond Kirsch, a forty-year-old billionaire and futurist whose dazzling high-tech inventions and audacious predictions have made him a renowned global figure. Kirsch, who was one of Langdon's first students at Harvard two decades earlier, is about to reveal an astonishing breakthrough . . . one that will answer two of the fundamental questions of human existence.

As the event begins, Langdon and several hundred guests find themselves captivated by an utterly original presentation, which Langdon realizes will be far more controversial than he ever imagined. But the meticulously orchestrated evening suddenly erupts into chaos, and Kirsch's precious discovery teeters on the brink of being lost forever. Reeling and facing an imminent threat, Langdon is forced into a desperate bid to escape Bilbao. With him is Ambra Vidal, the elegant museum director who worked with Kirsch to stage the provocative event. Together they flee to Barcelona on a perilous quest to locate a cryptic password that will unlock Kirsch's secret.

Navigating the dark corridors of hidden history and extreme religion, Langdon and Vidal must evade a tormented enemy whose all-knowing power seems to emanate from Spain's Royal Palace itself . . . and who will stop at nothing to silence Edmond Kirsch. On a trail marked by modern art and enigmatic symbols, Langdon and Vidal uncover clues that ultimately bring them face-to-face with Kirsch's shocking discovery . . . and the breathtaking truth that has long eluded us.



Youth Fellowship

All youth grades 6-12 are invited to join us
on
Sunday, January 13th 12:30-2:30pm
and
Friday, January 25th, 6:30-8:30pm

Bring a friend! New faces always welcome.

Adventures in the Bible



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

together. During the season of Advent, we eagerly awaited the birth of Christ, now it is time for us to learn about Jesus' life and ministry on earth. We look forward to the lessons to come. Join us on the adventure!

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

Classes begin at 9:00, and we welcome children age 2 and older as well as a parent(s) or grandparent(s). Older siblings who would like to help are also encouraged to join us. There is room for everyone.

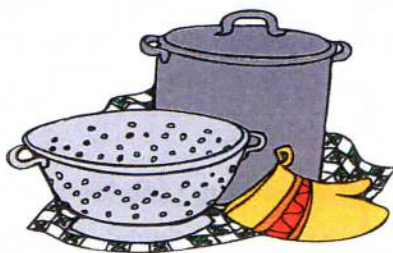
Helpers Needed!

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!



Calling All Teachers

The Wednesday Adults 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 Tabbi Miller-Scandle at (570)562-6118 for more information.

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 DATES:**Wednesday, January 2** - No WAY classes. Happy New Year!**Classes Offered:**

Grace & Faith (4 years old - Grade 5) experience Bible stories through our new curriculum *Growing in Grace & Gratitude*. Promises, challenges, and blessings: this winter we'll explore them all. In January, we will learn about Epiphany, the baptism of Jesus, putting our trust in God, and hear the good news of Jesus' ministry.

We Believe (Grades 6 and up): This winter, students will begin exploring a unit called *The Bible and Prayer*. In January, we will consider: Never-ending Story (who wrote the Bible? How did it come to be?), Take Your Pick (why are there so many versions of the Bible?), God Glasses (do we take the Bible literally? All of it?), and Why Pray?

Wednesday Classes for Adults**January**

- **The Beatitudes of Jesus** is a winter study that will meet in Room 210. In his teaching, Jesus challenges our expectations and invites us to look anew at our lives. The eight pillars of the Beatitudes - meekness, empathy, righteousness, peace, persecution, purity, poverty and simplicity - are valuable codes of value and conduct. With Rev. Carter and friends.
- **How Shall We Sing the Lord's Song in a Strange Land: Faithfulness in the 21st Century** will be led by Rev. Brent Eelman in Room 206. This class will be looking at what has changed in the culture and society and what has and has not changed in the Church. Participants will also wrestle with what in the gospel is 'non-negotiable'."

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 fresh start

Baptism is a blessing because it changes us and gives us hope.

Directions: Write the boxed letters in the squares below. Then unscramble those letters to form two words that complete the Bible verse and represent the gift of baptism.

We were therefore buried with him
through baptism into death in order that,
just as Christ was raised from the dead
through the glory of the Father,
we too may live a _____.

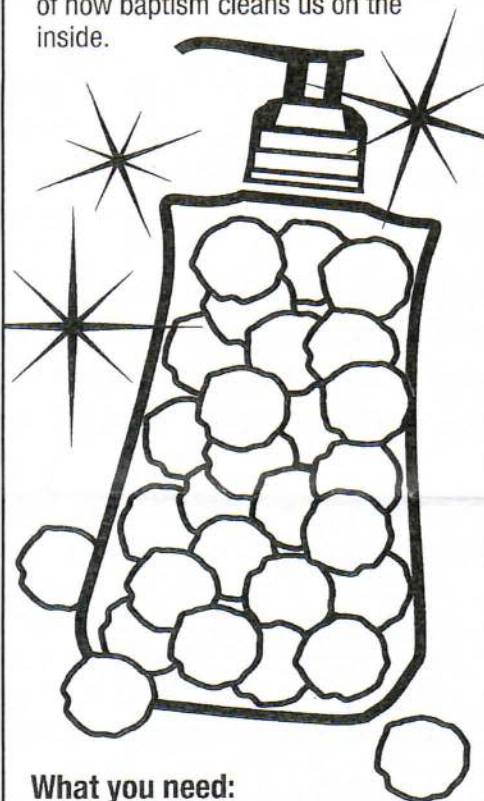
Romans 6:4, NIV

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Answer: f i e l e w n y, new life

Washed Clean

Decorate a soap bottle as a reminder of how baptism cleans us on the inside.



What you need:

- Bottle of clear liquid hand soap
- Small craft pompoms (different colors)
- Wooden skewer

What you do:

1. Remove the bottle label and unscrew the lid.
2. Using the skewer, push pompoms down into the soap one at a time.
3. Replace the lid and put the dispenser in a bathroom or kitchen.

Baptisms

During December, we were blessed to witness three infant baptisms!

- December 16, Colin Jeffrey Shane, son of Kevin and Holly Shane, was baptized. Colin is the grandson of Debbie and Tim Shane and Linda and Chris Woodley. His aunt, Briar, assisted with the baptism. Colin has an older brother, Dean, and an older sister, Jillian.
- December 23, Hannah Ruth Glasser, daughter of Andrea and David Glasser, was baptized. She is the granddaughter of Connie and John Weiss. She has an older brother, Jack.
- December 30, Declan Arthur Wall was baptized. Declan is the son Corey and Melany Wall, and grandson of Sherry and Greg Wall.

Best wishes and blessings to all.

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 22-23

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

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

Lectionary Readings

January 6

Isa. 60:1-6 Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Eph. 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12

January 13

Isa. 43:1-7; Psalm 29; Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

January 20

Isa. 62:1-5; psalm 36:5-10; 1 Cor. 12:1-11; John 2:1-11

January 27

Neh. 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19; 1 Cor. 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21

Offering Envelopes



2019 Offering Envelopes are available from the tables near Rev. Carter's office. If you want a box of envelopes, and one wasn't prepared for you, please call the church office (570-586-6306). (There isn't a box for anyone that contributes electronically, however, a packet of "Special offering" envelopes (Deacons, One Great Hour of Sharing, Per Capita, etc.) is available in the office.)

Joys

Sorrows

Thank You Notes



- 1 Jessie Davis
- 10 Warren L Grill
- 16 Dana Miller
- 17 Margaret Reese
John Weiss
- 21 Connie Weiss
- 26 Char Lyon
- 28 Briar Woodley
- 30 Lucy Earl
Jeff Shane

MANY THANKS to all the elves who participated in our Holiday Pajama Drive. We were able to provide PJ's for 101 children throughout Lackawanna County's Head Start Centers.

Special thanks to 2 elves, Tabbi and Zach who helped with cutting out the tags and tree set-up.

Christian Education & Growth Committee

THANK YOU to everyone that came to sing Carols at Clark Summit State Hospital on December 20.

I received this request with only a couple weeks notice and I was glad that we were able to pull this together.

They want us back Next Year!
Janet Dobson



The sympathy of the congregation is extended to the family and friends of Riccardo Girello, who entered the church triumphant December 1, 2018.

We want to thank everyone for your cards and expressions of sympathy for the passing of our dad Rick Girello. Thank you also to all the volunteers who helped prepare and serve the luncheon for our family and friends – it was terrific. Your kindness and caring meant so much to all of us. God bless.

Sincerely, Joanie, Denise, Rick and Bonnie



"The Sekol family would like to thank everyone for their support, concern and prayers during Chris's illness, it has meant a great deal. Our church family is such a blessing."

January 6

Communion Servers

Heather Acker, Captain

Adrienne Horger, Gwynne Gilbert,
Barbara Brown, Tabbi Miller-Scandle

January Ushers

Ryan Flynn
Hadley Gilbert

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday 1	Wednesday 2	Thursday 3	Friday 4	Saturday 5
January 2019						
6 7am-AA 9am-Adventures in the Bible 10am-Worship 11:15-Confirmation 11:15-Finance 3pm-OA	7 7am-AA 9am-Presbyter Mailing 6pm-Girl Scouts 7pm-Mission & Justice	8 7am-AA 10am-MBK Quilts 5pm-OA 7pm-Big Book	9 7am-AA 11am-Prayer/Share 5pm-The W.A.Y. Light supper 5:30pm-Chapel & Alleluia Choirs 6:15-Christian Ed. 7:15-Adult Choir 8pm-AIAnon 8:30-Bell Choir	10 7am-AA 7pm-AIAnon	11 7am-AA	12 7am-AA
13 7am-AA 9am-Adventures in the Bible 10am-Worship 11am-Session 11:15-Confirmation 12:30pm-Youth Fellowship 3pm-OA Deadline for Annual Reports office@fpccs.org	14 7am-AA	15 7am-AA 10am-PW Circles 5pm-OA 7pm-PW Circle 7pm-Big Book	16 7am-AA 11am-Prayer/Share 5pm-The W.A.Y. Light supper 5:30pm-Chapel & Alleluia Choirs 6:15-Christian Ed. 7:15-Adult Choir 8pm-AIAnon 8:30-Bell Choir	17 7am-AA 8:30am-Men's Breakfast 7pm-AIAnon	18 7am-AA Presbyter Deadline	19 7am-AA
20 7am-AA 9am-Adventures in the Bible 10am-Worship 11:15-Confirmation 11:15-Fellowship 11:15-Worship, Music, Arts 3pm-OA	21 7am-AA 6pm-Girl Scouts OFFICE CLOSED Birthday of Martin Luther King Jr.	22 7am-AA 10am-MBK Quilts 5pm-OA 6:30pm-Deacons 7pm-Big Book	23 7am-AA 11am-Prayer/Share 5pm-The W.A.Y. Light supper 5:30-Chapel Ch. 6:15-Christian Ed. 7:15-Adult Choir 8pm-AIAnon 8:30-Bell Choir	24 7am-AA 7pm-AIAnon 7pm-FPC Book Group	25 7am-AA 5pm-Girl Scout lock-in 6:30pm-Youth Fellowship	26 7am-AA
27 7am-AA 9am-Adventures in the Bible 10am-Worship 11:15-Confirmation 2pm-Holy Hootenanny at St. Benedict Church 3pm-OA	28 7am-AA	29 7am-AA 5pm-OA 7pm-Big Book	30 7am-AA 9am-Presbyter Mailing 11am-Prayer/Share 5pm-The W.A.Y. Light supper 5:30pm-Chapel & Alleluia Choirs 6:15-Christian Ed. 7:15-Adult Choir 8pm-AIAnon	31 7am-AA 7pm-AIAnon		



The 2019 Flower Calendar has been placed on the bulletin board next to Rev. Carter's office. Please indicate your intent to contribute flowers by signing the flower calendar. "We would like to have flowers in the sanctuary each Sunday throughout the year. If the date you prefer is already chosen, please select another Sunday on or near a date with significant meaning to you."

