



# The Presbyter

April 2019

The First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit



## Palm Sunday, April 14

10:00 AM Worship

11:00 AM Holy Week program

The Christian Education committee welcomes all to participate in an intergenerational program held after worship. From palm branches to pieces of silver to a crown of thorns, Holy Week is full of symbols that help to tell the story of Jesus' last days. Join us as we use the symbols to learn, remember, and reflect on this important week.

Refreshments will be provided.

## Maundy Thursday, April 18

7:30 PM Communion Service and Tenebrae

## Good Friday, April 19

12:00 Noon Worship Service

## Easter Sunday, April 21

8:30 and 10:00 AM Worship Service with the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper



**Last call for Easter flower orders.** Please deliver your order and check to the church office by March 31. Plants are \$9.00 each.

## Sunday, April 7

4:00 PM  
In the Sanctuary

The  
*Arts*  
at First Presbyterian Church

Finger Painting: Jazz of Herbie Hancock  
Bill Carter and the Presbybop Sextet.

Pastor Bill, our resident jazz pianist, gathers a consort of musicians for an afternoon of the extraordinary music of Herbie Hancock.

See page 5 for full article.

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Notes from the Session Meeting on March 12, 2019

- Session approved the audit performed on the 2017 books and would like to thank William Farrell and William Keller for their work on it.
- Jay Clymer, Chair of Building & Grounds announced that the Spring Clean-up will be Saturday, April 27th from 9 a.m. to 12 Noon.
- Frank Garnecki has been named as co-chair of Building & Grounds.
- Diane Scheuer and Margaret Hatch, Mission & Justice, will represent our church at the Peace for the Earth: From the Bible to the Frontlines at Stony Point Center in August, 2019.

Beverly Bright  
Clerk of Session

The Presbyterian deadline for  
the May issue is  
April 12

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.fpcs.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

**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 And Maintenance:	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.

**FROM YOUR FINANCE COMMITTEE**  
FOR THE MONTH ENDING  
FEBRUARY 28, 2019

REVENUE

Budget	\$ 61,222
Actual Received	<u>69,226</u>
Difference	\$ 8,004
	=====

EXPENSES

Budget	\$ 63,284
Actual Expenses	<u>57,879</u>
Difference	\$ 5,405
	=====

BUDGET VARIANCE \$ 13,409

PLEDGE INCOME

Budget	\$ 53,333
Received	<u>59,118</u>
Difference	\$ 5,785
	=====

Per Capita 2019 is \$34.50 per member. As of the end of February, \$2,960 has been contributed.

## From the Pastor

April 2019

“April is the cruelest month,” said the poet, but it may be the kindest as well. The season of Lent moves toward Holy Week and Easter, continuing the pattern of death and resurrection that shapes the Christian life. As we gather for worship and study through this April, we revisit the life-giving mystery at the heart of our faith.



As the theologian Ernst Kasemann once wrote, “The cross is the signature of the one who is risen.” This is a paradox which marks our sanctuaries. More than that, it is the sign made with water on our brows when any of us are baptized. Jesus died, Jesus was raised. As one of our confirmation students recently remarked when he saw a depiction of the crucifixion: “Jesus is on the cross, but his eyes are open, his hands outstretched, and looks free and alive.” Exactly. It’s both-and, death and resurrection.

The New Testament writers honored the paradox by how they told the Easter story. One of the most striking is the writer of the Gospel of Luke. He reports how the Risen Christ suddenly appeared in a locked room where the remaining disciples were cowering in fear. Obviously they thought they were seeing a ghost (24:37), which would have been frightening enough. But then he asks for something to eat, an odd request if a ghost were to make it. They gave him a piece of broiled fish which he consumed in their presence. Along the way he showed him the crucifixion wounds on his hands and feet - not healed yet no longer deadly. The Risen Christ still bears the scars — and is hungry. That’s astonishing.

The apostle Paul had a first hand experience of the Living Christ, long after the death and burial. It was totally unexpected, as Paul (then named “Saul”) was hunting down the dissident Christ-followers. Jesus appeared in blinding light, calling Saul/Paul by name, and essentially knocking him off his high horse. Thus began an astonishing turnaround in the zealous man’s life. He reported to one of his churches how the Christians praised God, declaring, “The one who formerly was persecuting us is now proclaiming the faith he once tried to destroy (Galatians 1:23).” Paul changed his life after the Risen Lord revealed himself to him, and later wrote, “If we have died with Christ, we believe we will also live with him (Romans 6:8).”

We know all about death, so much so that we exercise and take pills to fend it off as long as possible. We know about life too; the robins will return to sing soon and the daffodils will announce the Pennsylvania spring. April reminds us of two Christian truths. First, we need not be afraid of death. Christ has trampled it down and death is not final. The One who was dead now lives, and so it shall be with us.

Second, and I think more central, is that the abundant life of resurrection does not remove us from the daily crucifixions of this life. We are called to give of ourselves sacrificially, especially to benefit the needs of others. We wean ourselves of the intoxications that damage us and our loved ones. We walk humbly, never removing ourselves from the reality of suffering in an unfinished world. All the while, we point to the God who suffers with us on the cross, the God who is so full of life that even our suffering shall be redeemable.

These things are deep mysteries, and we encounter them best when we worship together. I will be looking for you to join us, especially in the stretch of worship services for Holy Week and Easter.

With you in the journey,

***Rev. Bill Carter***



### MISSION AND JUSTICE

## One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering

March 6-April 21, 2019

Since 1949, Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through One Great Hour of Sharing to share God’s love with people experiencing need. Our gifts support ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, food for the hungry and community development that helps people find safe refuge, start new lives and work together to strengthen their families and communities.

One example of assistance given from this offering is Strength of Love Farms in Baltimore. A \$15,000 grant was given for this urban farm that is owned and maintained by returning citizens and community members. The project is in an area with an extremely high rate of incarcerated men and the lowest access to fresh food in the Baltimore area.

Please consider giving to help us make our goal of \$5,000 for One Great Hour of Sharing.

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### State Hospital Luncheon

April 2nd at Noon

Join us in Fellowship Hall for lunch and entertainment with guests from Clarks Summit State Hospital. There will be entertainment and fellowship. The guests and hospital staff appreciate this outing. It is an important ministry to people in our community. **All are welcome.**

Presbyterian Women’s Association

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### PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN CIRCLE BIBLE STUDIES

Mary Ellen Lawlor



#### GOD WITH US AS THE HOLY SPIRIT

Christmas (God with us as Emmanuel) is past and now we are approaching Easter. The Scriptures record Jesus’ birth, early life, ministry, death and resurrection. After His ascension, his disciples were to prepare for God’s presence in a different form [“God with us as the Holy Spirit”] - fifty days later. God would be with them as the Holy Spirit dwelled in them.

What a promise of His presence! We are preparing for Easter by remembering Christ’s death and burial but celebrating His resurrection. We who are his disciples today have that same assurance of “God with us as the Holy Spirit.” Come and celebrate that together.

We will meet here at the church on Tuesday, April 16 for all three Circles. Dorcas and Priscilla Circles will meet at 10:00 a.m. and Eunice Circle will meet 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. and Kate Hopkins at 570-587-2390 or Barbara Mellander at 570-587-5236 for 7:00 p.m.



**Finger Painting: Jazz of Herbie Hancock  
Bill Carter and the Presbybop Sextet.**

**Sunday, April 7  
4:00 PM in the Sanctuary**

Rev. Bill Carter and the Presbybop Sextet will perform a jazz concert on Sunday, April 7 at 4 pm in the church sanctuary. Pastor Bill, our resident jazz pianist, gathers a consort of musicians for an afternoon of the extraordinary music of Herbie Hancock. The rich harmonies, funky rhythms, and memorable melodies of Hancock’s tunes will be interpreted by trumpeter Jeff Stockham, Tom Hamilton on sax and flute, trombonist Andrew Williams, drummer Tyler Dempsey, and Joe Michaels on bass. Don’t miss this homage to one of the world’s greatest composers.

This event is open to the public, free of charge, but a free-will offering will be taken. These activities are 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 or directions, please call the church at 570-586-6306 or visit [www.fpccs.org](http://www.fpccs.org).



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This group of mostly, but not entirely, church members gathers on the fourth Thursday of the month, September through May, and is open to all! We meet in members' homes at 7:00 p.m. for light refreshments and to discuss the “book of the month.”

**This month we meet on April 25, 7pm @ Owens home – Read any biography of Eleanor Roosevelt to join in the discussion.**

At the May session, the group collectively selects seven books and a movie for the upcoming year. Our fearless leader, Judy Cutler, keeps us on track and coordinates hostesses and book order. Thanks, Judy!

For more info contact Judy, 570-446-9310 or [jdragonflyc@hotmail.com](mailto:jdragonflyc@hotmail.com)





**VBS 2019**

will be held

**July 8-12, 9AM-12PM**

**Calling all volunteers!**

**If you'd like to help bring ancient Athens to life by teaching, leading, or preparing, let us know!**

**Please contact Jana Schillinger or Tabbi Miller-Scandle, or send an email to [fpccs.vbs@gmail.com](mailto:fpccs.vbs@gmail.com)**

**Stay tuned: youth registration coming soon!**

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



We are learning about Jesus' life and ministry on earth. Join us on the adventure!

If you have any questions, please contact Karis Naeher ([klnaeher@outlook.com](mailto:klnaeher@outlook.com)) or Tabbi Miller-Scandle ([tabbi.miller-scandle@scranton.edu](mailto:tabbi.miller-scandle@scranton.edu)).

Classes begin on Sunday morning at 9:00am, and we welcome children age 2 and older as well as accompanying adult(s).

**PAUL R DOBSON SCHOLARSHIP**

Members of our church who are graduating from HIGH SCHOOL are encouraged to apply if you plan to further your education. The application can be downloaded from the church's website and returned to the church office by May 1st.

The winner will be announced on Graduate Recognition Sunday.

Janet Dobson

**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 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 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 DATE**

**Sun., April 14 - Palm Sunday** - following worship, join us downstairs for a special Christian Education program for all ages as we explore the symbols of Holy Week.

**Classes Offered:**

**Grace & Faith (4 years old - Grade 5)** experience Bible stories through our new curriculum *Growing in Grace & Gratitude*. This spring, we'll hear about light, listening, being found, and the joy of celebrating God's grace and love. In April, we will listen to parables of being **Lost and Found**, rejoice that God forgives us in **Welcome Home**, recognize Jesus' love and sacrifice in **The King of Glory Comes**, and be surprised by the joy of Easter when we hear that **He is Risen!**

**We Believe (Grades 6 and up):** This spring, students will finish exploring a unit called *The Bible and Prayer* and turn to the Epistles. In April, we will finish our unit on Prayer and begin to examine the letters written by Paul.

**Wednesday Classes for Adults**

**The Lord's Prayer: Entering into God's Country:** The Lord's Prayer is so well known and so often repeated that we are apt to miss the great theological themes that present themselves in this prayer. Join us for a 6 week study based on Walter Wangerin, Jr.'s teaching on the Lord's Prayer. Discussion will be led by Judy Cutler and Amanda Roberts. Room 206.

**Saints and Martyrs** with Charlie Pinches. The pattern of Christ's death and resurrection is repeated in the inspiring lives of Christian saints and martyrs. This study will remember some of their extraordinary stories. Room 210.

**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.



# Jesus gives us *life*

Through his death and resurrection, Jesus offers the free gift of eternal life.

*Directions: Match each clue from Holy Week with the correct image. If you get stuck, look up the Bible verses.*

People spread these on the road for Jesus. (Matthew 21:8)

Mary pours this on Jesus' feet. (John 12:3)

Jesus shares this with his disciples. (Matthew 26:26)

This is placed on Jesus' head. (John 19:2)

Soldiers may have used these to compete for Jesus' coat. (John 19:23-24)

Jesus carries this himself for a while. (John 19:17)

Marks caused by these help Thomas identify Jesus. (John 20:25)

While on the cross, Jesus is thirsty and is given this. (John 19:28-29)

This is rolled away from Jesus' tomb. (John 20:1)

These are used to prepare Jesus' body for burial. (Luke 23:55-56)

These remain in the tomb after Jesus rises. (John 20:6-7)

Judas betrays Jesus for this. (Matthew 26:14-15)



Answer: palm branches, perfume, crown of thorns, cross, nails, vinegar on a sponge, stone, spices, linen, silver coins

God so loved the world

Remember God's special gift of Jesus by making this craft.

**What you need:**

- Large piece of blue paper
- Large bowl
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Paint (green and red)
- Paintbrush
- Wet wipes
- 3 wooden craft sticks
- Craft glue
- Black marker
- Bible



**What you do:**

1. On the paper, trace around the bowl. Cut out the circle.
2. Paint your palms green, one at a time, and press them in the circle side by side. (Clean your hands with wet wipes.)
3. Dip a finger in red paint and make a dot on the center of each handprint.
4. Between the handprints, glue two sticks end to end vertically. Glue the third stick horizontally to make a cross.
5. In marker, write the words of John 3:16 around the blue circle.



## April is Food Pantry Month!

We collect for the AEM food pantry twice a year. All donations of non-perishable items will be gratefully accepted.

Canned fruit  
 Soup  
 Tuna  
 Pasta Sauce  
 Canned meat (including chili, raviolis, Spaghetti O's)  
 Powdered Milk



Please bring items to the narthex any time during the month of April. The need is great as more people make use of the pantry, yet donations are down. Thank you for your continuing generosity.

**Lent: A period of prayer and discipline in which to deepen our spiritual union with Jesus Christ.**



It's not too late to add a devotion to your Lenten discipline. There are two new ones in our church library! In *A Grown-Up Lent: When Giving Up Chocolate Isn't Enough*, Joanna Leiserson guides us through digging deeper into the Lenten Season. Walter Brueggemann asks us to "consider the challenging, beautiful life that comes with walking the way of grace" in *A Way other than Our Own*. Look for both books on the display shelf of the library.



Saturday, April 27 is Spring Clean-up Day at the Church.

Please come at 8:00 a.m. to lend a hand.

## 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.

**Joys**

**Sorrows**

**Thank You Notes**



- April 1 Anne Rich
- April 7 Donald Keen
- April 11 John Rich
- April 12 Jennifer Sekol
- April 14 Steuart Bailey
- April 19 Mark Kusma
- April 23 Nancy London
- April 30 Joe Fulton



- April 25 Ed and Diane Cole

**Communion Servers**

Communion will be served during the Maundy Thursday Service on April 18 at 7:30 p.m. and on Easter Sunday, April 21 at 8:30 and 10:00 a.m.

Easter communion servers include Beverly Bright, Alan Baker, Judy Cutler, Rev. Brent Eelman, Jim McLaughlin, Chris Norton, and Janet Stansbury.

**Greeters**

- April 5 Melba Fialko
- April 14 John Conklin
- April 21 Open
- April 28 Steuart and Sandy Bailey

**Ushers**

- Drew Taylor TBA



The sympathy of the congregation is extended to JoAnn Hall on the passing of her mother, Claribel Todd, on March 18, 2019.



Sandra and Steuart Bailey are thrilled to announce the birth of their first GREAT-granddaughter. Catherine Jean Lee was born on March 7, 2019 to Nicole Bailey Lee and Barnabas Lee. Proud grandparents are Steuart and Carole Bailey and Raymond and Priscilla Lee. All are well.

**Lectionary Readings**

**April 7**  
Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8

**April 14**  
PSALMS: Luke 19:28-40; Psalms 118:1-2, 19-29; PASSION: Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalms 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 22:14-23:56 or Luke 23 1-49

**April 21 - Easter**  
Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 65:17-25; Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24; 1 Corinthians 15:19-26 or Acts 10:34-43; John 20:1-18 or Luke 24:1-12

**April 28**  
Acts 5:27-32; Psalms 118:14-29 or Psalms 150; Revelation 1:4-8; John 20:19-31

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 7am-AA 6pm-Girl Scouts 7 pm-Mission and Justice	2 7am-AA 12pm- State Hospital Luncheon 5pm-OA 7pm-Big Book	3 7am-AA 11am-Prayer/Share 5pm-The W.A.Y. Light supper 5:30-Chapel & Alleluia Choirs 6:15-Christian Ed. 7:15-Adult Choir 8:00-AIAnon 8:30-Bell Choir	4 7am-AA 8:30am-Men's Breakfast 7pm-AIAnon 7pm-Building and Grounds 7pm-Christian Ed	5 7am-AA	6 7am-AA
7 7am-AA 9am-Adventures in the Bible 10am-Worship 11am-Refreshments 11:15-Confirmation 11:15am-Finance 3pm-OA 4pm-Arts: Jazz of Herbie Hancock	8 7am-AA	9 7am-AA 10am-MBK Quilts 5pm-OA 7pm-Big Book	10 7am-AA 11am-Prayer/Share 5pm-The W.A.Y. Light supper 5:30-Chapel & Alleluia Choirs 6:15-Christian Ed. 7:15-Adult Choir 8:00-AIAnon 8:30-Bell Choir	11 7am-AA 4:30pm-Staff meeting 7pm-AIAnon	12 7am-AA Presbyter Deadline	13 7am-AA 9am-Adopt-a-Highway 
14 7am-AA 9am-Adventures in the Bible 10am-Worship 11am-Refreshments 11:15-Palm Sunday program 11:15-Worship, Music, Arts 3pm-OA <b>Palm Sunday</b>	15 7am-AA 6pm-Girl Scouts	16 7am-AA 10am-PW Morning Circle 5pm-OA 7pm-Eunice Circle 7pm-Big Book	17 7am-AA 11am-Prayer/Share 5pm-The W.A.Y. Light supper 5:30-Chapel & Alleluia Choirs 6:15-Christian Ed. 7:15-Adult Choir 8:00-AIAnon 8:30-Bell Choir	18 <b>Maundy Thursday</b> 7am-AA 8:30-Men's Breakfast 7pm-AIAnon 7:30pm-Maundy Thursday Service	19 <b>Good Friday</b> 7am-AA 12pm-AEM Good Friday Service	20 7am-AA
21 7am-AA 8:30am-Easter Early service 9am-Adventures in the Bible 10am-Worship 11am-Refreshments 3pm-OA <b>Easter</b>	22 7am-AA 6pm-Girl Scouts  Church Office is closed.	23 7am-AA 10am-MBK Quilts 5pm-OA 7pm-Deacons 7pm-Big Book	24 7am-AA 9am-Presbyter 11am-Prayer/Share 5pm-The W.A.Y. Light supper 5:30-Chapel and Allelula Ch. 6:15-Christian Ed. 7:15-Adult Choir 8:00-Alanon 8:30-Bell Choir	25 7am-AA 7pm-FPC Book Group 7pm-AIAnon	26 7am-AA	27 7am-AA 8am- Spring Clean-up
28 7am-AA 9am-Adventures in the Bible 10am-Worship 11:15-Confirmation 1:30pm-Crop Walk registration  <b>CROP Hunger Walk</b>	29 7am-AA 6pm- Girl Scouts	30 7am-AA 5-pm-OA 6pm- Choral Society rehearsal 7pm-Big Book			<b>April 2019</b> 	

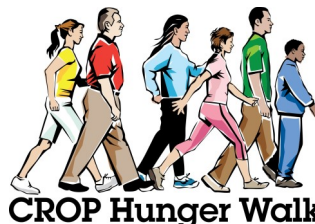


**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
300 School Street  
Clarks Summit, PA 18411-1536

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
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Clarks Summit PA

**DATED MATERIAL**

**Return Service Requested**



**Adopt-a-Highway**

The next FPCCS Adopt-a-Highway clean-up will be Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup>. We will meet in the Clarks Summit Methodist Church parking lot at 9AM. Please join us. Any questions about it, contact Donna Porter [porterhouse@epix.net](mailto:porterhouse@epix.net)

**The Abington CROP WALK,**

sponsored by A.E.M., will take place on Sunday, April 28. Registration begins at 1:30 pm. at Dalton Fire Company. The Walk, which takes place along the Countryside Conservancy's Trolley Trail, is 3 miles long and begins at 2:00 p.m.