



The Presbyter

January 2020

The First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit

The Arts

at First Presbyterian Church

Our next concert "Bohemian Winter" will be held on **Sunday, January 12 at 4 pm** featuring the John Vaida Trio. The group will perform a lively piece called "Cafe Music" by Paul Schoenfield, as well as piano trios by Haydn and Dvořák.

Violinist **John Vaida** is one of the finest musicians in our region. He serves on the faculty at Mansfield University and Wilkes University, and as Artist-in-Residence at the Wyoming Seminary College Preparatory School. He is a major advocate for chamber music in the area as Executive Director and co-founder of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Chamber Music Society.

For this concert he is joined by two visiting colleagues. Cellist **Theodore Buchholz** is on the music faculty at the University of Arizona, where he also serves as String Area Coordinator, String Chamber Music Coordinator, and the Director of the UA String Project. Pianist **Timothy Burns** is a versatile performer and collaborator, with significant instrumental, vocal, and choral accompanying experience. Currently, Dr. Burns serves as supervisor of piano accompanying at Colorado State University, where he frequently collaborates with faculty, guest artists, and students.



This concert is open to the public, free of charge, but a free-will offering is taken to help defray the cost of the event. For more information, please call the church at 570-586-6306 or visit www.fpccs.org.

We would like to thank all who have supported the Arts at First Presbyterian concert series through attendance at our concerts and by their financial support. If you haven't done so yet, please consider supporting the Arts at First Presbyterian concert series. Although we receive some support from state and county grants, we rely on individual donors to help us bring in the outstanding artists who have graced our series over the years. Please consider joining our family of supporters!

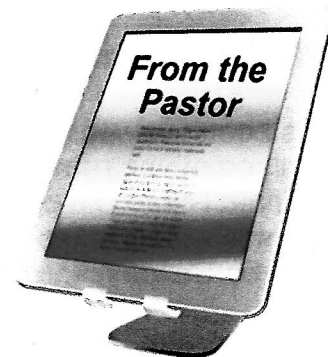
Contributions can be made by putting a check in the offering plate at a worship service noting "Arts Series" in the memo block, sending a check to the church at 300 School Street, Clarks Summit, PA. 18411, or contributing online at www.fpccs.org. Thank you for your support!

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From the Pastor January 2020

As we begin the new year together, it's a good time to remind one another that Presbyterians "do church" together, as a community of shared faith and pooled resources. And that brings up the topic of "per capita." What is it? Why do we welcome contributions for it?



Here is the authoritative word from the Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, stated clerk of our national church:

Per capita is a set amount of money — sometimes referred to as "apportionment" — per member that congregations pay to the larger Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Said another way, it is like a Presbyterian community fund — part of the glue that holds Presbyterians together. Because Presbyterians share in the benefit of the PC(USA)'s system of government, the expenses associated with performing the functions of that system are shared by everyone.

Deeply rooted in Presbyterian history — the first-known mention of per capita dates back to 1734 in a letter to ministers — per capita makes it possible for the OGA to organize and manage General Assembly, as well as to staff and support special committees and commissions, provide legal counsel for churches dealing with staff issues and seek ways to minister to a growing immigrant population.

When Presbyterians participate in per capita, they're saying, "I'm in. I'm a part of this denomination. We are connected to it. We intend to support it."

Where the per capita system has worked best over the years, sessions have taken seriously the unity of the church and have supported their presbyteries in working out a formula by which the per capita is distributed for support of the more inclusive governing bodies. Reflecting the unity of the church from congregation to General Assembly, per capita dollars help sustain mission at the local, regional and national level. In effect, per capita becomes the channel through which local Presbyterians can see their role in not only local mission programs but also the regional, national and worldwide mission of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

We are all in this work together. That's the message of our **per capita** donations, and it defines why and how we do what we do. I will be sending a check to our church office for all of the adult church members in my household (\$35 per person for 2020), and I hope you will do the same. These are not membership dues, but a way to participate in the national and local work of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

A per capita donation is our fair share in reimbursing volunteers and staff for the miles they travel on behalf of church work. It is offering fair compensation to those who run the office of Lackawanna Presbytery. It is a small investment in our church camp, and will pay for pizza when the camp counselors are trained. It ensures that our church leaders are properly insured and that our local commissioners can travel to next June's General Assembly meeting. I am proud to offer my part and I hope you will offer yours, too.

With you, completely,

Rev. Bill

Mission and Justice Committee

Table Talk on Racism Sunday February 23

In continuation of our fall series on Racism and with February being Black History month, we will be holding a table talk after the service on Sunday Feb. 23, 2020 with Reverend Allyson Brundige on "White Privilege." Allyson has a Master of Divinity degree from Yale University and presently is the chaplain at Choate Rosemary Hall. Allyson has worked both in New Haven and at Choate in addressing racism through community organizing and educating others about racism and white privilege.

In preparation for Reverend Allyson's visit, we will be reading the book White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk about Racism by Robin DiAngelo, PhD and holding discussions about the book following the service on the two Sundays preceding Allyson's table talk (Feb. 9 and 16). We encourage anyone interested in taking part to purchase the book and come join us in meaningful discussions.

Description of the book White Fragility: "This New York Times best-selling book explores the counterproductive reactions white people have when their assumptions about race are challenged, and how these reactions maintain racial inequality....In this in-depth exploration, anti-racist educator Robin DiAngelo examines how white fragility develops, how it protects racial inequality, and what can be done to engage more constructively." (Goodreads.com)

The Way Adult Education Series on Gun Violence

On January 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th one of the adult education opportunities will be examining gun violence. Each year over 100,000 individuals are shot in the US. How should we as Christians respond? Is there a way to reduce gun violence yet still respect individual rights? The four-week class will explore this complicated issue through film, discussion, and guest presenters.

My Brother's Keeper Quilting Group.....

....has been busy this fall, producing 20 sleeping bags in only five working sessions. And we are happy to have added three new members, Jeaneane Adams, Bonnie Lesko, and Inga Mills.

Barbara Mellander, Lee Wirth, Gayle Hamilton, Alma Herron and Marie Cochrane attended the Annual Picnic at the Wheatley's farm in celebration of volunteers who work on the Sleeping Bag Project.

Our Appetizers & Desserts Christmas party was a great success, with lots of food, conversation, laughter, and a Christmas song challenge. Did I mention lots of food!

Sadly, right after our party Barbara Mellander passed away, and a week later, Jim Wheatley, co-founder of the MBK Group. Both are greatly missed.

Our next work session will be January 14 at 10 AM in Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome.

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

All Classes resume on Wednesday, January 8 2020!

(Children's Choirs resume on January 15)

Classes for Children and Youth:

Spark Nursery (up to age 4): A nurturing class for our youngest learners, our nursery class will hear Bible stories, sing songs, play, and participate in activities appropriate to their age.

Grace & Faith (4 years old - Grade 5) experience Bible stories through our curriculum *Growing in Grace & Gratitude*. This winter we will hear messages of hope and comfort as we welcome Jesus — first as a baby, then as teacher and savior. In January, we will learn how *God Protects Jesus' Family*, that *John Baptizes Jesus*, that we can be *Fishers of People*, and that *You are Blessed*.

We Believe (Grades 6 and up): This winter, students will go back to the beginning by exploring the Old Testament. We'll continue to discover the history and richness of the Bible as we discuss, ask questions, and dig deeper into familiar stories. In January, we'll explore the Law and Judges.

Classes for Adults:

- **Can We Talk About Gun Violence?** Each year over 100,000 individuals are shot in the US. How should we as Christians respond? Is there a way to reduce gun violence yet still respect individual rights? The four-week class will explore this complicated issue through film, discussion, and guest presenters. (January 8, 15, 22, 29 in Room 206)
- **How to Spell Presbyterian** - Curious about our tribe? What we believe? How we think and act? What we value? Here is a wonderful opportunity to learn about the ways that Presbyterians live out the Christian faith. You might be able to fill in any gaps — and make some new friends (January 8, 15, 22, 29 in 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.

Christian Education



It's for life!

The W.A.Y.

Join us each week for a delicious meal, engaging classes for kids, thought-provoking classes for adults, and uplifting choir rehearsals for all!

See Page 7 for a list of classes.

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 Tabbi Miller-Scandle at (570)562-6118 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 cleanup.

Contact Karen White or Tabbi Miller-Scandle to volunteer!

Welcome Back to Our Adventures in the Bible Group



Families with children ages 2 and older are welcome, and parents of younger children are invited to stay in the class to enjoy the lesson and craft or activity with their little ones. We look forward to seeing your family downstairs on Sunday mornings at 9:00!

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

Join us for this year's Adventure in the Bible!

Is the Lord calling you to teach?

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.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
First Presbyterian Church January 2020			1 7am-AA 8 pm—AlAnon	2 7am-AA 8:30 am—Men's Breakfast 7 pm—AlAnon	3 7am-AA	4 7am-AA
5 7am-AA 9am-Adventures in the Bible 10am-Worship 3 pm-OA	6 7am-AA 6pm—Girl Scouts 7pm—Mission and Justice	7 7am-AA 10am—PW Exe. Board 5 pm—OA 5:30pm—Choral Society 7pm—Big Book	8 7am-AA 11am—Prayer and Share 12:30pm—AEM 5pm—Light Supper 6:15pm—The Way 7:15 pm Adult Ch. 8 pm—AlAnon 8:30pm—Bell Ch.	9 7am-AA 7 pm—AlAnon	10 7am-AA	11 7am-AA
12 7am-AA 9am-Adventures in the Bible 10am-Worship 11:15am-Session 3pm-OA 4 pm—Arts Concert	13 7am-AA 6 pm—Girl Scouts	14 7am-AA 10 am—MBK Quilts 5 pm—OA 5:30 pm—Choral Society 7pm—Big Book	15 7am-AA 10am—LP Nom. 11am—Prayer and Share 5pm—Light Supper 5:30-Children's Choirs 6:15 —The Way 7:15—Adult Ch. 8 pm—AlAnon 8:30—Bell Choir	16 7am-AA 8:30 am—Men's Breakfast 7pm—AlAnon	17 7am-AA Presbyter Deadline	18 7am-AA
19 7am-AA 9am-Adventures in the Bible 10am-Worship 11:15 - Fellow Ship Comm. 3pm-OA	20 7am-AA 6 pm—Girl Scouts Birthday of Martin Luther King Jr. Church Office is closed.	21 7am-AA 10am—PW Morning Circle 5pm—OA 5:30 pm—Choral Society 7pm—Big Book 7pm—PW Eunice Circle	22 7am-AA 11am—Prayer and Share 5pm—Light Supper 5:30-Children's Choirs 6:15—The Way 7:15—Adult Ch. 8pm—AlAnon 8:30—Bell Ch.	23 7am-AA 7 pm—AlAnon 7 pm - FPC Book Group	24 7am-AA	25 7am-AA
26 7am-AA 9am-Adventures in the Bible 10am-Worship 3pm-OA	27 7am-AA 6 pm—Girl Scouts @ FH, 103	28 7am-AA 10 am—MKB Quilts 5 pm—OA 5:30 pm—Choral Society 7 pm—Big Book 7 pm—Deacons	29 7am-AA 9 am—Presbyter Mailing 11am—Prayer and Share 5 pm—Light Supper 5:30-Children's Choirs 6:15 —The Way 7:15—Adult Ch. 8 pm—AlAnon 8:30—Bell Ch.	30 7am-AA 7 pm—AlAnon	31 7am-AA	