



The Presbyter

July - August 2020

The First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit



The Fellowship Committee has scheduled a church picnic at Camp Lackawanna for Sunday, August 30. In light of the Covid 19 situation, we are questioning whether or not we should continue with our plans.

We are considering having an outdoor church service followed by a bag lunch but are unsure as to how many people would be comfortable participating. Many questions arise regarding carpooling, sitting with others during the service and lunch, whether the kids from different families can play together...questions that would be mostly answered based on your own comfort level. There would be plenty of room at the camp so that we could implement social distancing if it is still deemed necessary by the end of August.

Please share your thoughts with Karen White (570-945-0169), Jeanne DeVirgilis (570-587-0214 or westcollect@gmail.com) or JoAnn Hall (570-222-3591 or jodihall@nep.net).

Worship With Us

For the time being, we continue to host an online worship service on Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. All are able to take part on YouTube or Facebook Live. Find out more information by visiting our church website (www.fpccs.org).

As a "green" zone, we can welcome up to 50 people for the weekly recording of the service, which happens in the sanctuary on Saturday at 4:00 p.m. Contact the church office to reserve your spot.

Christian Education



It's for life!

Thank you to all Teachers

The Christian Education and Growth committee would like to say **thank you** to all of our teachers who helped lead the WAY for our children and adults. Your support, enthusiasm, creativity, and commitment to sharing God's word is appreciated. Many thanks and we hope to see you again in the fall!

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Notes from the Session Meeting on June 9, 2020

1. Session plans to have a Worship Through Service weekend, September 26-27. There will be information forthcoming on the project(s).
2. We are still in need of one Elder for the Building & Grounds committee and a couple of Deacons. Please contact Chris Norton or Craig Smith if you or if someone you know is interested in becoming an officer in our church.
3. Session discussed plans for a gradual re-opening of our church. If you are interested in attending a worship service, please call the church office to let them know.
4. Next Session meeting is July 14 at 7:00 pm.

Beverly Bright
Clerk of Session

**The Presbyterian deadline for
the September issue is
August 14.**

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

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 |
| Director of Chapel Choir | Kay Ten Eyck |
| Organist | Kay Ten Eyck |
| Sexton | John Conklin |

FROM YOUR FINANCE COMMITTEE

First Presbyterian Church has received great encouragement and financial support over the last several months. It is truly appreciated by the session.

Your contributions have allowed

- * local mission projects to be continued;
- * the work of disaster response (such as floods fires, hurricanes, tornadoes etc.) as well as seeding a response to COVID-19 both in the United States and internationally through One Great Hour of Sharing (our 2020 contribution was over \$5,000);
- * support for our local community by simply keeping our bills paid, maintaining our staff, and providing on-line worship and faith-based encouragement to meet our spiritual needs.

THANK YOU!

Board of



Care Team Ministry **Coordinators are:**

| | |
|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Deacon Meals: | Donna Kepler 570-587-2729 |
| Time of Loss: | Anne Rich 570-587-2802 |
| Emergency Home Repairs And Maintenance: | Joe Waters 570-351-3620 |

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 the Pastor



Here is a multiple-choice quiz: what is the best way to weather a pandemic?

- Watch cable news until you grow paranoid and belligerent
- Fill up your belly with cheese doodles and ice cream
- Grow your hair so long that your children no longer recognize you on Zoom
- Pursue life-enhancing activities that improve your brain, develop your skills, enhance your faith, and express your deepest values.

OK, this is a loaded list. But I am pleased to report that our church folks have repeatedly chosen Letter D. You are an extraordinary community of the faithful. This odd season of our lives has not been wasted. What has been going on? Lots of things:

- The church leaders have kept reaching out to the members of our church family. As one said, "I've made some new friends on the phone, and I can't wait to meet them in person."
- For a series of fifteen Thursday mornings, a group met for weekly Bible study. They want to do more of this, and we will pick this up in the fall in some way.
- The WAY program continued for adults, meeting every Wednesday for a "virtual potluck," eating dinner with one another while discussing matters of faith. We will take a summer break.
- Over thirty households have signed on for a 21 Day Challenge to learn more about racial equity and the ways it has been denied. (Learn more at <https://21daychallengepccs.blogspot.com/>)
- Generosity has created more generosity. Not only are our weekly pledges strong, but our Deacons and our Mission and Justice committee have supported programs that feed the hungry.
- We have explored how Christian education of children and youth might be done in new ways. I'm delighted that we will try to do a different kind of Vacation Bible School to reach God's kids.
- While we have been out of the building, our sexton has painted the interior walls. All of them.
- All the while, worship has continued. It's been taking place in a different way, yet we have more people tuning in each week than we normally have sitting in our pews. This is remarkable.

As our building slowly opens up, and people begin to return to our facility, I want to express my deep gratitude for your patience, positive energy, and support. This is a difficult time for all of us. But the restraint is making us stronger. I can see it.

I'm also pleased to share that we are "upping our game" for the weekly worship services. The Worship, Music, and Arts committee has engaged a consultant to help us improve our online worship services. The visual pictures will become sharper and the sound quality should be clearer. Most important, we will be able to broadcast the services live from the sanctuary, rather than offer a pre-recorded service. In the near future, we will invite you back on Sunday mornings if you wish to take part in the service as it happens.

Nevertheless, I cannot wait to see you again. I miss you.

With every good wish,

Rev. Bill Carter



New “Instant Church Directory” Progress Report

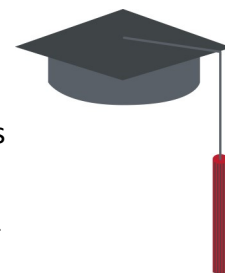
The church online directory is up and running and available to any church members who share their email address. We plan to professionally print directories but, like everything else in the world right now, got waylaid with Covid 19. Nancy can print a few copies in the church office if you would like to get one prior to our professional print.

If you have not shared your phone numbers and email addresses and would like to be included in the directory, you may do so by contacting JoAnn Hall (570-222-3591 or jodihall@nep.net) or Jeanne DeVirgilis (570-587-0214 or westcollect@gmail.com).

There are still a lot of members who have not had their pictures taken for the directory. Obviously, since we're not doing traditional church services, we have also not been able to take more pictures. If you have a photo you would like to submit, you may also do that by emailing it to JoAnn or Jeanne.

Supplying your updated phone numbers and email addresses is also very helpful so that the church may better communicate with its membership.

Congratulations Graduates!



Erin Albright, daughter of Diana Pope Albright and Richard Albright, is an Abington Heights graduate. Erin is planning to attend Haverford College in Haverford, Pennsylvania.

Madison Dobson, granddaughter of Janet Dobson, is planning to attend Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania.

Lucy Earl, daughter of Mary and Bryon Earl, is an Abington Heights graduate. Lucy plans to attend Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

Kathleen Shedlock, daughter of Lynne and Robert Shedlock, received a Masters degree in Epidemiology from the University of Pittsburgh. She is employed by the Highmark Corporate Headquarters in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Dr. Warren Acker, son of Heather and Warren Acker, is a resident at George Washington University Hospital in Washington, D.C. Warren graduated from Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine in Scranton, Pennsylvania.

Joys

Sorrows

Thank You Notes

July and August Birthdays

| July | August | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 3 Heather Cole Vi Dygert | 1 Jamie Strong Joan Miller | 12 Gwynne Gilbert Gail Van Horn |
| 8 Rebekah Naehar | 2 Alice Broxton | 15 Fred Lyon |
| 15 Chris Gilbert | Joe O'Brien | 17 Ariana Billiot |
| 25 Janet Stansbury | Johnny Rich | 19 Peter Moore |
| | 4 Barbara Pittman | 23 Betsy Ellis |
| | 5 Barbara Brown | Heather Lyons |
| | 8 Kate Hopkins | 29 Mick Wirth |
| | 11 Jack Pittman | |

July and August Anniversaries

| July | August |
|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| 5 Sandra & Stuart Bailey | 2 Dick & Alice Broxton |
| 19 Grace & Bill Farrell | 5 Lee & Mick Wirth |
| 22 Betty & Don Keen Karis & Dave Naehar | 7 John & Connie Weiss 23 Lou & Lori Kareha |
| 28 Barb & Tom Decker | 26 Charlie & Robin Pinches 29 Jack & Barbara Pittman |



In recent months, several of our members have passed away:

Venald Bovard
Richard Bovard
Dennis Christman
Lorraine Daniels
Alma Herron

Please join us in expressing our condolences.

Scripture Readings July and August

July 5: Psalm 42; Romans 7:15-25a; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

July 12: Psalm 65; Romans 8:1-11; Matthew 13:1-9

July 19: Psalm 139; Romans 8:12-25; Matthew 13:24-30

July 26: Psalm 1; Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

August 2: Psalm 17; Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21

August 9: Psalm 88; Romans 10:5-15; Matthew 14:22-33

August 16: Psalm 9; Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32; Matthew 15:(10-20) 21-28

August 23: Psalm 2; Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20

August 30: Psalm 26; Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28

Thanks for your service:

Diane Scheuer served as the Elder commissioner to the 224th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Originally scheduled for Baltimore, it was the first G.A. to be held virtually.

A Birthday Joy:



Ruth McKeown Deibert, who has worshiped with us on many occasions over the years, reached the wondrous milestone of 100 years of age on June 22, 2020. Ruth is the mother of member Mary Edna Vincent.

Mrs. Deibert's family celebrated with a drive-by parade of friends and family in Maryland (her home) to mark the occasion and have invited friends to participate in a card shower of birthday wishes. If you would like to send a greeting, call the church office for the mailing address. She would love hearing from friends.

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

300 School Street

Clarks Summit, PA 18411-1536

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Wilderness Escape: VBS at Home 2020

Due to social distancing requirements and restrictions on gatherings, as well as being mindful of the health and safety of our participants and volunteers, this summer our VBS program is **going virtual**.

What will that look like?

A mix of pre-recorded video, live conversations, social interactions, and a box filled with supplies for craft projects and activities to complete at home. (Once registered, families will receive additional information and instructions prior to the start of VBS.)

This year's theme is called **Wilderness Escape**. Our kids will join Moses as he and the Israelites flee Egypt and travel to parts unknown -- trusting God all the while! Moses helped to guide his people through uncertain times in a wild and unknown place. How great it is to trust that God is with us even when things are hard and we face unexpected challenges!

Spread the word to any children you know who have completed kindergarten through grade 5. Our virtual VBS will take place **July 13-17**.

Register by July 8 at myvbs.org/fpccs ASAP to save a spot in the caravan!

