



# The Presbyter

September 2020

The First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit

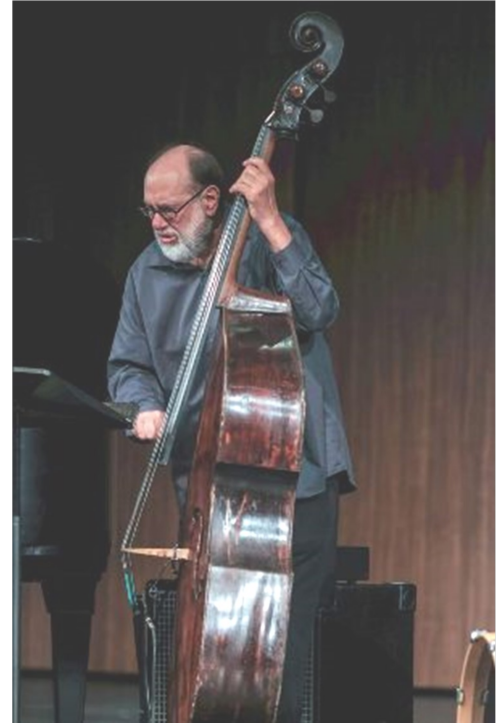
## 2020 Jazz Worship

Yes, we need a little music, especially during a pandemic. For this year's jazz service, the astounding bassist Tony Marino will be on hand to create duets with Rev. Bill. Their music will be shaped by the spirituals, drawing its inspiration from "Steal Away," a famous recording by Hank Jones and Charlie Haden.

The pre-recording of the jazz service will take place on **Thursday, September 3 at 4:00 pm** in the sanctuary. All the public health precautions apply. We are taking online reservations only, and 15 of the 50 available seats are already reserved.

Want to attend? Go to our website - [www.fpccs.org](http://www.fpccs.org) - to reserve a seat - but hurry! We have to limit the crowd.

Of course, if you miss it, you can watch the service online on Sunday, September 6. The links for the streaming service are always on our website.



***We worship online every weekend on Facebook and YouTube. Will you join us?  
Details are always on our church's website ([www.fpccs.org](http://www.fpccs.org))***



The celebration honoring Rev. William G. Carter's 30th anniversary as our pastor has been postponed due to the pandemic.

Originally scheduled for Friday, September 18th at Montdale Country Club, hopefully it will be held in the near future when it is safe to have a celebration. Please be safe,

Beverly Bright, Clerk of Session

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**Notes from the Session Meeting  
July 14, 2020**

1. Session met in Fellowship Hall with opening prayer led by Dr. Alan Baker.
2. Committees for the 2020-2021 year were announced: Building & Grounds - Jay Clymer; Music, Worship & Arts - Judy Cutler and Jan Thyren; Christian Education - Tabbi Miller-Scandle and Nancy Dennen; Fellowship - JoAnn Hall and Karen White; People in Ministry - Chris Norton and Craig Smith; Mission & Justice - Barbara Decker and Alan Baker; Finance – David Naeher and Grant Taylor.
3. Session is still looking for an elder for the Building & Grounds committee. If anyone is interested in helping fill our need please let Chris Norton know.
4. Session is helping to coordinate our **Worship Through Service project, which will be held the last two weekends of September.** Please remember to mark your calendars and help us make these work days very rewarding for our community.

The Presbyterian deadline for the October issue is September 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.

<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>	Amanda Roberts
<b>Clerk of Session</b>	Beverly Bright
<b>Director of Music</b>	Frank Jones
<b>Director of Bells</b>	Richard Cochran
<b>Director of Chapel Choir</b>	Kay Ten Eyck
<b>Organist</b>	Kay Ten Eyck
<b>Sexton</b>	John Conklin

**FROM YOUR FINANCE COMMITTEE  
FOR THE MONTH ENDING  
July 31, 2020**

<b>REVENUE</b>	
Budget	\$ 221,842
Actual Received	<u>190,048</u>
Difference	<u>(\$ 31,794)</u>
	=====

<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Budget	\$ 227,437
Actual Expenses	<u>211,261</u>
Difference	<u>(\$ 16,176)</u>
	=====

Result of operations ( \$ 15,618)

<b>Pledge</b>	
Budget	\$189,583
Actually received	<u>175,748</u>
	<u>(\$ 13,835)</u>
	=====

Per capita contributions received to date equal \$4,393.

Per capita assessment per member is \$35.00.

**Board of Deacons**

Care Team Ministry Coordinators are:

Deacon Meals	Anne Rich 570-587-2802
Time of Loss	Anne Rich 570-587-2802
Emergency Home Repairs and Maintenance	Joe Waters 570-586-6306
Deacon Driver	Mick Wirth 570-587-3767

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 assist 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 September 2020



A friend was surprised to hear we are having a jazz worship service in early September. Not because it's a novel idea (we have done this many times before), but because the pandemic has restricted so much of our lives.

"Not to worry," I replied. "We are going to improvise."

Experience as an improviser has been helping me get through the past six months. As far as the jazz service goes, sure, we can't have a saxophonist blowing germs through the air. But we could do something. How about just bass and piano? And that's the plan.

We couldn't risk the normal kind of Vacation Bible School with many joyful children in close quarters. But learning about God, Jesus, and (this year) Moses is central and important to our faith. There must be another way to do it. The pandemic restrictions forced us to invent another way to do what we have always done. And it was so.

As we move into the fall of this very unusual year, we pledge to be safe. We also pledge to worship, learn, and serve in fresh ways. Our situation requires us to be ingenious. It also compels us to be helpful. What do people need? The Gospel, for one thing. A purpose for living. Ways to connect with one another and the world. A thriving church creates meaning for people's lives. It witnesses to joy in the midst of sorrow, justice in the face of indifference, and abundant life even in the thick of health restrictions.

We have not changed in our commitment to Christ, although the "delivery system" must be different during this season. As we improvise, we are not creating something out of thin air. Rather, we reach into our values and experience to draw out fresh vitality in new ways. This is something the church has always done.

As I write these words, a new technology system is nearing completion in our sanctuary. It is my hope that in the very near future, we will return to "live" worship on Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. We have pre-recorded the services on Saturdays for almost six months, most recently with a very small audience of about 15 or 20 people. The new video system will allow for more immediacy, a very real sense that those who take part from the safety of their homes are experiencing the same service as those who gather in the relative safety of our sanctuary. **My goal is to return to live Sunday services on September 13.**

We will continue to offer Bible studies and educational opportunities in a variety of ways. As you will see from this newsletter, classes are scheduled for the fall. What's more, we will offer opportunities to reach out in service to our wider community. At a summer Session meeting, our elders were most insistent that we continue our Worship Through Service initiative as in recent years. Scheduling issues are pushing us to broaden this into a two week project. It's the same important work—in a different way.

You are in my heart during these challenging days. Keep our church in your heart as well.

*Rev. Bill*

## Worship Through Service

For past few years, Worship Through Service has been a vital part of our church's work, sending a hundred volunteers into the community to undertake service projects. This year, the question was, "Should we cancel?" The Session's answer: "Absolutely not!" So we will enthusiastically undertake our Worship Through Service program in some focused and slightly different ways.

This year, we will extend the event over two weekends in September. The projects and dates are:

### September 20

**Trail Clean-up at Camp Lackawanna** - A team will work with rakes, shovels, and chainsaws to tidy up a trail at our church camp. Volunteers are asked to wear work clothes, work gloves, and sturdy footwear. Bug spray is also a must!

### September 26-27

**Highway Clean-up** - At 9:00 am on Saturday, September 26, a team will meet in the parking lot of Clarks Summit United Methodist Church to clean up our adopted stretch of Route 307. Wear appropriate clothing and footwear. Bring work gloves and wear a face mask.

**Safety Net collection:** From now through the end of September, we will collect personal items for the people served by the Safety Net ministry of Scranton. Specially marked boxes are in the Narthex, and items can be dropped off whenever the building is open. We are looking for toothbrushes, combs and hairbrushes, shampoo, soap, wash cloths, deodorant, and any items that would provide dignity to the clients. The personal items will be sorted on Sunday, September 27, and delivered the next day.

**Recording Bible stories:** Through the weekend, we will schedule opportunities for our church members to record Bible Stories for children and their families, to be broadcast on the internet.

A couple of other **select projects** are anticipated with some small groups.

All of our sign-ups and recruiting will be done online. Please visit the church website ([www.fpccs.org](http://www.fpccs.org)) for more information and the opportunity to sign up.

## Presbyterian Women



We are unable to host another State Hospital Luncheon for October due to the pandemic. Since we also were unable to host our guests in April, and since we normally send the residents back with new socks, we would like to collect them for distribution. They must be new socks for men and women. Since we are going into the colder months nice warm socks would be appreciated. A box for your donations will be located in the Narthex (lobby) of the church.



*Our first event for a re-imagined season ...*

## **Tyler Canonico** **Organist in concert**

**Friday, September 25**  
**at 7:00 p.m.**

**Live concert in the sanctuary**  
**limited to 50 seats**

**Make reservations at**  
**[www.fpccs.org](http://www.fpccs.org)**

**September 27 at 4:00 p.m.**

*The*  
*Arts*  
*at First Presbyterian Church*

The Arts at First Presbyterian Church is delighted to welcome **Tyler Canonico** for a free organ concert.

The concert will take place in two formats. On Friday, September 25, Mr. Canonico will perform at 7:00 p.m. in the church sanctuary. All are required to wear face masks and observe the church's pandemic protocols. The concert will be recorded and broadcast on YouTube on Sunday, September 27 at 4:00 p.m. Information on the link will be available at [www.fpccs.org](http://www.fpccs.org) and on the church's Facebook page.

Tyler A. Canonico is the Minister of Music and Organist at Market Square Presbyterian Church in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. He is a graduate of the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, Alabama where he received a Master of Music in Organ Performance. Tyler received his Bachelor of Arts in Music with a concentration in Organ Performance and Sacred Music from Lebanon Valley College. He studied organ and piano with Dr. Shelly Moorman-Stahlman and orchestral conducting with Dr. Johannes Dietrich. Tyler has also studied organ with Dr. Jason Kissel, and piano and organ with Ms. Kathie Metz.

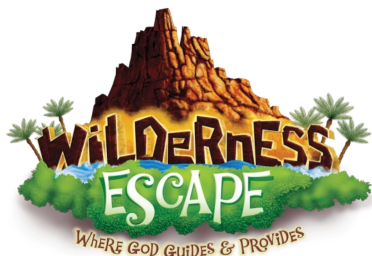
He is the organist for the Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra, a co-founding member of Allegro con Fuoco, a keyboard duo with Jordan R. Markham, and is the Collaborative Pianist for the Central Pennsylvania Women's Chorus. Tyler is the Sub Dean for the Harrisburg Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

Tyler is a frequent concert artist and a guest conductor throughout the country and has performed at both national and regional AGO conventions. He has been interviewed for both the radio and newspaper and has been heard on several radio broadcasts.

This event is offered as a gift to the community. The Arts at First Presbyterian series is supported by a grant from the Pennsylvania Partners in the Arts Program, by a Lackawanna County Community Arts and Culture Grant, and by private contributions. We thank our donors for their support. There is no admission charge for these events, but free-will offerings are generally taken. For more information, call the church office at 570-586-6306.







## THANK YOU!

While VBS looked a bit different this year, we still had an amazing virtual adventure together. Through stories of Moses and his people in the desert, we learned that God guides and provides for us, so **trust God**.

A huge thank you to all those who helped make the videos, sort supplies, and pack the boxes. You made our program possible!

### Confirmation Class

This year's scheduled confirmation class for youth in grades 7 and up has been **postponed** to Fall 2021.

The confirmation program is an important part of faith formation. A time of fellowship, learning, and self-reflection, it allows our youth to grow deeper into their faith and learn what it means to belong to the church.

In order to ensure meaningful discussions, build relationships, and encourage our youth to live their faith, we feel it best to postpone our classes.

Confirmation-age youth are encouraged to participate in WAY classes and Youth Group meetings this fall and throughout the year.

### Youth Group

Virtual Youth Group meetings will resume this fall for grades 6 and up.

For fun, fellowship, and discussion, please join us via Zoom on

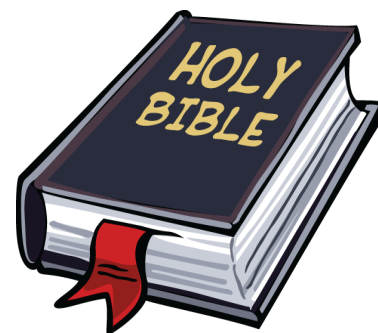
**Sunday, September 20th, at 4:00pm**

Interested? Contact Jana Schillinger (ce@fpccs.org) for the meeting ID and password.

### Bibles for Children

Each September, we present our new 3rd grade and Kindergarten students with Bibles. It is important to us as a church that we encourage our children to hear God's story and to begin reading it for themselves.

Are you on the list? If you have a kindergartener or third grade student, contact Jana Schillinger (ce@fpccs.org) to ensure that we present your child with a Bible.



### The W.A.Y. is on the WAY!

Classes for our Wednesday Aadults and Youth begin September 9. Following safety guidelines and state restrictions, we will be offering classes **virtually** for both children and adults.

Look for more information on our website (fpccs.org), in our weekly e-newsletter, and by mail.

Christian Education



It's for life!

## Adult Education for September 2020

As we move into the fall, there are many opportunities for adults to grow in faith. Here are some of them:

1) Rev. Carter will lead a **Weekly Bible study** on Wednesdays, 6:15-7:15 pm ("WAY standard time"). It will take place online on Zoom, with the link provided in the weekly e-mail and on the church website. Each week, he will lead an exploration of the text for the upcoming sermon. Given that our fall sermon series will be based on the Gospel of Matthew's "Ornery Parables of Christ," it should be an interesting and provocative series. The Bible study will run from September 9 to November 18.

2) When we return to Sunday worship services (hopefully on September 13), Chris Norton will lead a weekly conversation on David Brooks' book, **The Second Mountain: The Quest of a Moral Life**. The study will meet in Fellowship Hall after worship, around 11:00 am. Some will remember this book study was beginning as the pandemic hit, so this is a fresh re-boot. Watch for more information on the start date. By all means, read this remarkable book!

3) **Short-term adult studies** will be offered on different nights of the week. The first will be a six-week study on **Spiritual Practices**. It will run on Monday evenings on Zoom from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m., September 14 through October 19. We will utilize materials from "The Thoughtful Christian," sending out a study article in the church's weekly e-mail which the whole congregation will be welcome to download. Those who would like to discuss each week's materials can meet with Rev. Bill Carter on Zoom each Monday night.

Future short-term studies will include a pre-election study called "**Civility: American Politics and Christian Responses**" and another study called "**What Does the Lord Require,**" based on the favorite verse of Micah 6:8. Watch for specific details in the October Presbyterian.

4) A new **Immerse group for reading the Bible is forming**. Most likely, it will meet online on Zoom, at a time determined by all the participants. Interested? Contact Rev. Bill at pastor@fpccs.org or by phoning the church office.

5) The **Men's Breakfast** group has resumed meeting on the first and third Thursdays at 8:30 am in Fellowship Hall. After a half-hour of conversation, they dig into the scripture text for the upcoming Sunday sermon, usually led by the preacher for that day. All men are welcome. The donuts are tasty.

## FPC Book Group



The Book Group will meet at the church on Thursday, September 24 at 7:00 p.m. in the Session Room/Library (Room 206) of the church. Social Distancing will be observed. Wear your masks.

## SPAM ALERT!

## SPAM ALERT!

Are you not receiving church emails?  
Did you send a note and not receive a response.

**Please check your SPAM folder.**

At this writing, we are having difficulty with emails that end in “@fpccs.org”. Please call (570-586-6306) if you need to get in touch.

## CALENDAR NEWS

While most of our committees and groups are still meeting virtually, some are testing the waters with in-person meetings. Masks and social distancing protocols are in place. Sprays are available to clean chairs and tables before and after each use.

Groups currently meeting are:

AA	7:00 a.m. each day
AIAnon	7:00 p.m. Wednesday
AIAnon	7:00 p.m. Thursday
Men's Breakfast	8:30 a.m. 1st & 3rd Thursday
FPC Book Group	7:00 p.m. on September 24

**Please be patient as we learn how our room can be adapted for social distancing.**



The Church Office will be closed September 7 in observance of Labor Day and October 12 in observance of Indigenous Peoples Day.



Joys

Sorrows

Thank You Notes



**SEPTEMBER**  
Birthdays

- 7 Mary O'Brien,  
Frank Garnecki  
Bryan Shane
- 8 Dean Shane
- 11 Judy Cutler,  
Laura Moore
- 12 Sandra Bailey
- 14 Dick Broxton
- 20 Lee Wirth
- 21 Nancy Dennen
- 23 Ann Chamberlin
- 24 Tyler Kusma
- 27 Ethan Flynn,  
Stan Gilbert
- 29 Dick Maurer  
Wendy Wescott
- 30 Andrew Taylor,  
Tinka Zenke



Sympathy of the congregation is extended to the family of Catherine Ryon, who entered the church triumphant July 20, 2020.

**Lectionary  
Readings**

**September 6**

Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 149; Romans 13:8-14;  
Matthew 18:15-20

**September 13**

Exodus 14:19-31; Psalm 114; Exodus 14:1b-11,  
20-21; Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35

**September 20**

Exodus 16:2-15; Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45; Philip-  
pians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16

**September 27**

Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16; Philippi-  
ans 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32



**SEPTEMBER**  
Anniversaries

- 10 Maggie and Chuck Woolever
- 19 Shirley and Jim McLaughlin



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

300 School Street

Clarks Summit, PA 18411-1536

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**DATED MATERIAL**

**Return Service Requested**



The **Peace and Global Witness Special Offering** will be received between now and Sunday, October 4. This offering enables the church to promote the peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice in our own communities and around the world. This year, we will be donating our portion to the local non-profit organization Black Scranton Project, Inc. which is dedicated to celebrating the African-American heritage of the Scranton area. Please give generously.

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