



The Presbyter

October 2020

The First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit

Chapel and Alleluia Choir Fall News

by Kay Ten Eyck

How does a choir "sing" when a pandemic does not allow you to safely sing?

We find other ways to express ourselves through music. We continue to meet, to learn, to grow as musicians, we just use a different format. This year our children and youth will be using two different formats as we continue to be a choir, albeit one that temporarily can't sing.

I recently asked the Music, Worship, and Arts committee "Did you ever hear of a Boomwhacker?". After a few chuckles from the group, I explained that instead of singing, we needed another way of expressing ourselves. Let's buy some Boomwhackers!

In 1995, a man named Craig Ramsell produced brightly colored plastic tubes that are tuned to musical pitches. You hit the tube on a table, knee, your sibling, etc. As a group, you can play songs. Think of a handbell choir playing plastic tubes instead of bells. Using a combination of Zoom rehearsals and safely meeting in person, our contribution to worship this fall will consist of Boomwhacker music.

Also, I am looking for anybody who knows American Sign Language, in this season when all of us can't sing the hymns. We could visually express the lyrics and participate that way! If you are willing to help or know someone willing to help, please contact me through the church office.



World Communion Sunday

October 6th



Join us in person, online,
or "on the corner" (see page 3)

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Notes from the Session Meeting September 8, 2020

1. Session is still in need of an elder to serve on the Building & Grounds Committee. Please contact Chris Norton if you are interested in helping us and working on this committee with Jay Clymer, Chair.
2. Committee members are needed for the Christian Education committee along with Building & Grounds.
3. Our weekly worship service is held in the sanctuary each Sunday beginning at 10 o'clock. If you are planning to attend please email or call the church office to let them know. You can also participate by watching live on our YouTube channel. Find it through our website, www.fpccs.org.
4. The Session calls a special congregational meeting for Sunday, October 4, immediately following worship. The purpose of this special meeting is to elect elders and deacons and to update our church by-laws.

Beverly Bright, Clerk of Session



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 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 November issue is October ??

The Presbyter 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
Director of Chapel and Alleluia Choirs Choir	Kay Ten Eyck
Organist	Kay Ten Eyck
Sexton	John Conklin

FROM YOUR FINANCE COMMITTEE FOR THE MONTH ENDING August 31, 2020

<u>REVENUE</u>	
Budget	\$253,533
Actual Received	<u>208,597</u>
Difference	(\$ 44,936)
=====	
<u>EXPENSES</u>	
Budget	\$259,928
Actual Expenses	<u>242,847</u>
Difference	\$ 17,081
=====	
<u>BUDGET VARIANCE</u>	(\$ 27,855)
<u>PLEDGE INCOME</u>	
Budget	\$ 216,667
Received	<u>194,090</u>
Difference	(\$ 22,577)
=====	

At the end of August, contributions for Per Capita 2020 (which is \$35 per member) were \$4,393.

From the Pastor

October 2020

What is the most difficult aspect of this pandemic? Everybody has an answer: fear of catching the disease, loss of a job, isolation from others, cancellation of special events, inability to attend school or church in person. All of these answers are real for so many of us. I would add one more: the postponing of the sacrament of Holy Communion. Hear me out on this. It's more than a preacher's answer. It lies at the heart of who we are.



The last time we celebrated the Lord's Supper was Maundy Thursday. I felt we had to do it. Even with only five of us in the sanctuary, we marked the night when Jesus broke the bread and poured out the cup. Those who watched our pre-recorded service in their homes broke their own bread and drank from their own cups. One friend sent me a picture of a goblet of Chardonnay and a couple of Ritz crackers. He meant well, but I pondered the Last Supper words of Jesus, "from now on, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." (Luke 22:18)

Since that date, I have resisted offering the sacrament for reasons both sanitary and theological. I don't want anybody to catch the Covid-19 virus. We must persist in caution until a tested vaccine is widely available. And theologically, it's not "communion" without community. I don't believe in private "me and Jesus" sacraments. I believe we testify to God's goodness together.

To a church infected with selfish individualism, the apostle Paul wrote, "Discern the body" (1 Corinthians 11:29). He was referring to the Body of Christ, aptly describing both the spiritual bread and the fellowship that gathers to receive it. We receive Christ through faith when we eat his bread and when we do so as a community. It's "both and," not "either or."

Here comes World Communion on October 4. The call to celebrate the Eucharist is unavoidable. For the fifty or so masked folks who will gather safely in the church sanctuary, we will offer a specially prepared bread and cup. For those who wish to take part as they view the live-streamed service at home, please do so joyfully and reverently, knowing that you are part of our Lord's family.

And if you are anxious about gathering in a crowd but still wish to receive Communion from the church, we invite you to drive by the corner of School Street and Stone Avenue between 11:05 and 11:30 am on this Sunday morning. I will be serving communion with the deacons in a safe and sanitary way.

These are tumultuous times. We are isolated by the threat of illness. We are divided by a brutal election season. We are ashamed by a national reappraisal of centuries of American racism. What is our faithful response? To be the Body of Christ, fed by the Body of Christ. To live together in peace, thanks to Christ who has broken down the walls of division and isolation. To be there for one another in the name of Jesus.

We belong together, thanks to the grace of God who calls us together. Whether or not you can physically be present with your church family, please know that you are dear to us and we are here for you. Together let us witness to the God who loves us generously and invites us into the kingdom.

With you in the journey,

Rev. Bill Carter



FPCCS Church Directory

We hope that many of you are using our church's new online directory. With the pandemic bringing our photo taking to an abrupt halt, we have not yet done a professional print of the directory for those of you would prefer a printed copy. However, Nancy is willing to print copies as needed with all the contact information that we have to date. Please call her at the church office to request a copy.

If you have a computer or an iPhone and have not yet downloaded the online directory, check it out. It's very easy to use and password protected so that only church members who have shared their email address have access.

For more information on the directory, contact JoAnn Hall at jodihall@nep.net or 570-222-3591 or Jeanne DeVirgilis at westcollect@gmail.com or 570-587-0214..

Picnic at Camp Lackawanna



On August 30, thirty people gathered at Camp Lackawanna for a church picnic. With all of the restrictions due to Covid, we did not get as many people as we normally would, but everyone who attended enjoyed having the opportunity to visit with church friends in a beautiful setting on a beautiful day. For the past six months many of us had not seen each other so it was great to be back with our church family.

The Fellowship Committee would like to thank everyone who brought their own picnic lunch (a little different from the normal church picnic) and showed up with mask-clad faces. The restrictions didn't seem to interfere with everyone enjoying each other's company.

Stay healthy! Stay safe!

The Fellowship Committee

Presbyterian Womens Association

We are unable to host another State Hospital Luncheon for October due to the pandemic. Because we also were unable to host them 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 and since we are going into the colder months nice warm socks would be appreciated. A box will be located in the Narthex (lobby) for your donations.

Thank you!



The Path of Peace

A Message from your Mission & Justice Committee

During September, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) congregations observed a **Season of Peace**, a four-week spiritual journey designed to deepen the pursuit of peace in our communities, our nation and the world. This journey culminates on October 4th with our celebration of World Communion.

If you visit this offering's website (see below) there is still some time to find and use its resources for individuals and families who want to join this peace pilgrimage. One way to do so is through the site's daily reflections, all of which remain fully accessible on the web page and include scripture, reflection, prayer, and even a suggested short exercise or activity.

Now we are collecting, as we do each year at this time, our **Special Offering for Peace and Global Witness**. 50% of this offering is directed to support peace work across the globe, 25% goes to our mid council, where it will join with the gifts of other congregations in our area to support peacemaking in our region. The final 25% is gifted to a local partner working on behalf of peace and reconciliation here in our own back yard. The Mission and Justice Committee is directing our contribution this year to **The Black Scranton Project**, a local non-profit dedicated to archiving and celebrating the African-American heritage and culture of the Scranton Area while also cultivating awareness and unity through arts and public history. We encourage you to visit their website (see below) read about their important work, which extends from resources promoting anti-racism, to justice reading lists, and support for black LGBTQ youth.

Giving to this important offering is easy. There are special envelopes in your church offering boxes, special envelopes in the pews, or you can just note "Peace Offering" in the memo line on your check. You can also donate by credit card online at the website. Be sure to tell them you are part of our congregation! You can even contribute \$10 by just texting the word PEACE to 20222. **Last year we collected \$1,735 for Peace and Global Witness and we hope to do as well, this year, in spite of the ways that the pandemic has reshaped our together time.**

As this special offering's webpage reminds us, "Peace is Active, not Passive. Peace is Doing, not Waiting."

Websites to Visit

www.blackscranton.org

www.specialofferings.pcusa.org

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/season-peace/category/daily-reflections/>

WANTED!

Backup Webmaster, for those times when the webmaster is unavailable. We are looking for a volunteer with a working knowledge of CSS and HTML to assist the webmaster as needed to maintain and update the church's website.

Contact Richard Cochrane at webmaster@fpccs.org.

FPC Book Club

October 22, Room 206 of the church

masked and socially distant

“We Were the Lucky Ones” by Georgia Hunter

Inspired by the incredible true story of one Jewish family separated at the start of World War II, determined to survive—and to reunite—*We Were the Lucky Ones* is a tribute to the triumph of hope and love against all odds.

“Love in the face of global adversity? It couldn’t be more timely.” (Glamour)

It is the spring of 1939, and three generations of the Kurc family are doing their best to live normal lives, even as the shadow of war grows closer. The talk around the family Seder table is of new babies and budding romance, not of the increasing hardships threatening Jews in their hometown of Radom, Poland. But soon the horrors overtaking Europe will become inescapable, and the Kurcs will be flung to the far corners of the world, each desperately trying to navigate his or her own path to safety.

As one sibling is forced into exile, another attempts to flee the continent, while others struggle to escape certain death, either by working grueling hours on empty stomachs in the factories of the ghetto or by hiding as gentiles in plain sight. Driven by an unwavering will to survive and by the fear that they may never see one another again, the Kurcs must rely on hope, ingenuity, and inner strength to persevere.

An extraordinary, propulsive novel, *We Were the Lucky Ones* demonstrates how in the face of the 20th century’s darkest moment, the human spirit can endure and even thrive.



The Church Office will be closed Monday, October 12 in observance of Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples Day.

Let's grow our faith . . .

The W.A.Y.

Classes for our Wednesday Adults and Youth began on September 9 and continue throughout the Fall. 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!

Classes Offered:

- * **Grace & Faith (4 years old - Grade 5)** can be experienced virtually at fpccsway-grace.blogspot.com anytime. Each week, you can hear the Bible story, sing songs, take time for prayer, and complete simple activities. In October, we will hear about how *Miriam Rejoices*; learn to *Love God, Love Others; Welcome the Stranger*; and hear the story of *The Shepherd Boy and the Giant* (David & Goliath).
- * **We Believe (Grades 6 and up)** is a virtual lesson found at fpccsway-believe.blogspot.com and can be completed whenever fits in your child's schedule. Each week will feature a Bible verse or story, reflection, and questions to ponder.

Adult Education

We offer many opportunities for adults to grow in faith. Here are descriptions and details:

- * Rev. Carter will lead a **Weekly Bible study on Wednesdays**, 6:15-7:15 pm. It will take place online on Zoom (**details on www.fpccs.org and the weekly e-mail**). Each week, he will lead an exploration of the text for the upcoming sermon. The Bible study runs from September 9 to November 18.
- * Rev. Brent Eelman will lead three Zoom conversations on **Civility: A Christian Discipline** on Wednesdays, October 21, 28, and November 4 (day after Election Day) from 7:15 to 8:15 pm. Has our society become uncivil? Have we become so polarized that discourse over political, social, economic, and scientific issues quickly become shouting matches and filled with attacks? These 3 sessions will examine the roots of our incivility and ways that we can be advocates for civil discourse and debate. Readings will be provided in the week prior to each session (**details on www.fpccs.org and the weekly e-mail**).
- * Chris Norton has been leading a weekly conversation on David Brooks' book, **The Second Mountain: The Quest of a Moral Life**. The study concludes this Sunday in Fellowship Hall after worship. We have a couple of extra copies of the book in the church office and library if you would like to borrow one.
- * Want to develop spiritual skills to sustain you during a pandemic? A six-week study on **Spiritual Practices** is running through October 19. Each week, a downloadable article will be available online. During the series, Rev. Bill will lead a conversation on Monday evenings from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Zoom,
- * Last call: 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. Books are \$10 and will need to be ordered.

Joys

Sorrows

Thank You Notes


OCTOBER

Birthdays

4	Riley Wescott
5	Tim Shane
9	Sadie O'Brien
14	Barbara Decker
19	Nancy Owens
20	Darlene Scappatura
21	Ryan Flynn
23	Kim Barrows
27	Linda Weaver
28	Linda Schuller


OCTOBER

Anniversaries

October 28th Anne & John Rich

No clothing donations

at this time. St. Francis is not accepting clothing donations due to the pandemic.

Please hold on to your donations for now, or deposit them in a road-side collection bin.

CHALK BOARDS

Christian Education has replaced our chalk boards with white boards.

There are four large (4' x 6') chalk boards looking for a new home. If interested, contact the church office.

Baptism

On September 13, Mason David Miller was baptized by Rev. Carter. He is the son of Doug and Ciera Miller and grandson of Debbie Miller. Blessings and best wishes to Mason and his family.

Lectionary Readings

October 4

World Communion Sunday
Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalm 80:7-15;
Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46
28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 11

Isaiah 25:1-9; Psalm 23, Philippians 4:1-9;
Matthew 22:1-14

October 18

Isaiah 45:1-7; Psalm 96:1-9 (10-13);
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22

October 25

Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18; Psalm 1;
1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Matthew 22:34-36

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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.

WORSHIP takes place each Sunday at 10:00 a.m., both in person and live streamed. There is a 50-person maximum attendance. Please email or call for a reservation (office@fpccs.org; 570-586-6306).

Congregation, Boards, and Committees

Congregational Meeting – October 4, 11:00 a.m.

Will meet in the sanctuary following worship

To elect officers and approve revised by-laws.

Session Meeting – October 13, 7:00 p.m.

In person, Session Room

Board of Deacons – October 27, 7:00 p.m.

In person, Session Room

Christian Education Committee – October 1, 7:00 p.m.

Zoom

Mission and Justice Committee – October 5, 7:00 p.m.

Zoom

Worship, Music, Arts Committee – October 8, 7:00 p.m.

Zoom

Study/Social Gatherings meeting in person:

Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 1st & 3rd Thursday
October 1 and 15 8:30 a.m.

MBKQuilts 2nd & 4th Tuesdays
October 13 and 27 10:00 a.m.

Women's Circle Bible Study 3rd Tuesdays
October 20 10:00 a.m.

FPC Book Group 4th Thursday
October 22 7:00 p.m.

Musical Groups, please check with your director for current schedule.

Many educational opportunities are available on Zoom. Please check page 7 for complete listing.

Support Groups

For purposes of social distancing, Support Groups are currently meeting in Fellowship Hall.

Groups currently meeting in person are:

AA 7:00 a.m. each day

Big Book Group AA 7:30 p.m. Tuesday

AIAnon 7:00 p.m. Wednesday

AIAnon 7:00 p.m. Thursday

OA TBD



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

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DATED MATERIAL

Return Service Requested



Rev. Bill is preaching a fall sermon series on "The Ornery Parables of Christ," based on texts from the Gospel of Matthew.

The service is broadcast online at 10:00 a.m. on Sundays on [our video page on YouTube](#). There is also a link on [the church's Facebook page](#).