



The Presbyter

November 2020

The First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit

Managing Stress and Cultivating Resilience in Challenging Times

A presentation by the Rev. Dr. Joanne G. Weiss, MSW, M.Div., M.A., D.Arts

Sunday, November 8 after worship (both in-person and online)

The Coronavirus pandemic impacts all aspects of our lives, with the prospect of it continuing for an unknown period of time. We need to stay as healthy as possible at all levels of our being: body, mind, and spirit. This presentation walks us through the most effective, short, in-the-moment tools and practices used to manage our stress. It will also highlight how to cultivate resilience by strengthening core qualities of strength, courage and love so we can embrace the challenges of these times and deepen and grow through them. Her program will be presented in the sanctuary and live-streamed on YouTube.



Rev. Dr. Joanne Weiss

Celebrating Advent:

Prepare the Way of the Lord

The season of Advent is a time to reflect on our many blessings, remember God's promises, practice patience (slowing down our busy-ness), and prepare our hearts to celebrate the birth of Jesus.



This year, as we continue to spend time apart, we encourage you to take time as a family to explore the meaning of Advent. We encourage our families to **sign up to receive an Advent Box** filled with an Advent calendar, devotions, activity suggestions, supplies for a craft, and more. All ages and everyone in the church is welcome and encouraged to participate, so boxes will be available both for families with children and for those without.



Sign up at fpccs.org or call the church office. Boxes will be available to pick up at the church beginning the week before advent (Nov. 22) or contact Jana to make arrangements for safe drop off at your home.

Online Church Concert

Our church-wide musical concert/recital will take place online this year. It will be broadcast on YouTube on Sunday, November 22 at 4:00 p.m. So far, we have a bell choir, vocal duets, vocal solos, an aria from an opera, and a jazz trio. More to come!



For more information, check our website at www.fpccs.org.

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**Notes from the Session Meeting
October 13, 2020**

Session approved Bill Farrell, Chair and Members Nancy Post and Heather Acker to the Norton Fund team. The Norton Fund has received notice of a \$5,000 gift in honor of Chris Norton, from WVIA. This gift was in appreciation for his interim leadership at the station. Please remember that the Norton Fund team considers all requests for any member or friend of the church when in need.

If anyone has need for a chalkboard, the church has some available. Contact Jay Clymer, Chair of Building & Grounds.

Several committees in our church are in need of members to help them with their work for First Presbyterian. If you are interested please contact Jay Clymer, Nancy Dennen, Judy Cutler, JoAnn Hall, and Barbara Decker, Chairs.

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 570-351-3620
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 December issue is
November 13**

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 Choir	Kay Ten Eyck
Organist	Kay Ten Eyck
Sexton	John Conklin

**FROM YOUR FINANCE COMMITTEE
FOR THE MONTH ENDING
September 30, 2020**

<u>REVENUE</u>	
Budget	\$285,225
Actual Received	<u>236,108</u>
Difference	(\$ 49,117)
	=====
<u>EXPENSES</u>	
Budget	\$292,419
Actual Expenses	<u>273,845</u>
Difference	\$ 18,574
	=====
<u>BUDGET VARIANCE</u>	(\$ 30,543)
<u>PLEDGE INCOME</u>	
Budget	\$ 243,750
Received	<u>221,395</u>
Difference	(\$ 22,355)
	=====

At the end of September, contributions for Per Capita (which is \$35 per member) were \$4,443.

From the Pastor

November 2020



As I ponder the upcoming election, the back-and-forth between the candidates, media's role and spin, the public reaction and all these divisions, I am grateful for this prayer written by Jill Duffield, who has served as editor of The Presbyterian Outlook. It is a good prayer for election day and the days that follow:

Almighty God, as people go to the polls this day we pray first and foremost for peace.
May the sense of community and connection be greater than any division or difference,
no matter how entrenched.

Knowing we will vote in schools, churches, synagogues, and other gathering places,
may our commitment to care for one another grow as we stand in lines,
talk to our neighbors and recognize we have more in common than we often realize.

May we show one another kindness and respect, today and in the days to come.
We thank you for the freedom to vote our conscience, of which you alone are Lord.

After this election, we are keenly aware that even if the political rhetoric fades,
the acrimony it highlighted will remain.

Grant us the courage to step into the breaches
and not shrink back into our enclaves of homogeneity.

Send your Spirit
to drive us to the places where you are already working to bring reconciliation.

Remind us relentlessly that you are greater than every category we devise,
more powerful than any estrangement we have created,
eternal, ever present and always calling forth justice, peace and abundant life.

Show us today and every day how to live in the love of Jesus Christ,
the perfect love that casts out fear. Amen.

I plan to pray daily in the coming weeks – not just for the concerns of the church but for our country – as I consider how the church of Jesus Christ is called to God's ministry of reconciliation and how our congregation will live into this calling.

With every good wish for our nation - and for you!

Rev. Bill

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.

Williamson Jacques [Yaya] status report.

Yaya completed his studies at Keystone College in January 2020 and is now interning at Bethany Christian Services. From the start of his studies, he believed he would put his knowledge to the benefit of children in Haiti and now comes the time for him to move back to Haiti to fulfill that dream.

He is now employed with Bethany Christian Services in the United States in the child preparation and Child Specific Recruitment services. Since Bethany Christian Services has a branch in Haiti and they find Yaya qualified, they will transition him, in November, to their Port-au-Prince, Haiti office where he will work as a Program Officer in their Youth Empowerment, Youth Resiliency, and Family Preservation programs. He will indeed make an impact on children and families lives in Haiti by applying his Keystone College education and Bethany Christian Services internship and employment experiences to the needs of these people in these programs.

Yaya is extremely grateful for all the love and support provided by all whom he has related to in the U.S. and extends a special thanks to First Presbyterian Church, particularly its Mission and Justice Committee members, for all they have done to help him succeed in this endeavor.

If you wish to congratulate Yaya personally before he leaves for Haiti, feel free to email him directly at Jacques.williamson94@gmail.com or send a note to him c/o Tamie Scalise at 35 Robin Lea Lane, Fleetwood, PA 19522. Tamie is his current sponsor.

Yaya can be contacted through Bethany Christian Services via email at wjacques@bethany.org or through his personal email at jacques.williamson94@gmail.com. In Haiti, Yaya's office address and phone will be:

Bethany Christian Services, Haiti
9, Linz Harry Village Gate 8,
Delmas, Haiti
Telephone: +509 3333-0702



- * **FPC Book Group will meet on December 3, 7:00 p.m. at the church**
(rather than our regular meeting date).

The book is **The Other Einstein** by Marie Benedict, 336 pages.

A marriage of geniuses: In a time when most twenty-year-old women were wives, or trying to be, Mileva Maric was studying physics at an elite university in Zurich. Her rise from the relative backwater of misogynistic Serbia to all-male university classrooms in Switzerland was nothing short of meteoric. Her male peers could only try to keep up with her clever calculations. For Mileva, math was an easier path than marriage. Then, fellow student Albert Einstein took an interest in her and the world turned sideways. Their life together was a partnership of heart and mind. But could there be room for more than one genius in a marriage?

The other Einstein: Mileva Maric was a fascinating, brilliant physicist in her own right. She was, in fact, the other Einstein. In the world of physics, there's much debate over the role she played in forming the theory of special relativity, one of her husband's greatest works. Was she simply a sounding board, computing the complex mathematical equations?

Or did she contribute something more.....



Mission & Justice Committee
ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET – 2020

The Mission and Justice Committee in past years has sponsored the Alternative Gift Market, usually held on a Sunday in late November. The Alternative Gift Market provides the opportunity for the congregation and the greater community to purchase fair trade items produced internationally, and also to support efforts to assist disadvantaged people throughout the world.

Unfortunately, due to Covid-19, we are unable this year to have the market displays and personal interaction we have previously enjoyed. Nonetheless, we still intend to have the market using a somewhat diminished and different format. Products and services for SERRV International and Heifer International will still be offered for purchase. From **November 1st through November 22nd**, catalogs from these entities will be available in the church narthex. You will then be able to purchase your items directly. Please return the catalogs to the narthex upon completion of your order(s). For those of you who do not plan to be in the church building, on-line catalogs are also available for your benefit as follows:

SERRV International – serrv.org
 Heifer International – heifer.org

In addition, as has been done in the past to support more local projects, it will be possible to purchase candy (\$8.00 per 1 lb. box) supporting Appalachian Service Project (ASP). Forms, with ordering directions, will also be available in the church narthex during the above referenced dates, or you may contact Sue Whitman, ASP coordinator, at (570) 510-1356.

Thank you for your continued support of these important missions.



Hugh thank you to everyone that contributed socks for the Clarks Summit Hospital. We were unable to have both our spring and fall luncheons with

our guests this year, so to go along with the socks, stocking stuffer items were purchased with the money that wasn't used for these two events.

THANK YOU ONE AND ALL!!
 Women's Association



to our new officers:

Elder – Class of 2023

- Alan Baker
- Tabbi Miller-Scandle
- Jan Thyren
- Karen White

Deacons – Class of 2023

- Erika Henderson
- Jim McLaughlin
- Debbie Miller
- Barbara Norton
- Riley Wescott

Clothing Donations: St. Francis is now accepting warm, winter clothing, including coats. Donations can be placed in Fellowship Hall.



Camp Lackawanna Youth Fall Retreat

November 13th-15th

For 6th-12th grade students

Featuring worship, our new low ropes course, games, s'mores, a hay ride, movie night and so much more! Join youth from around the Presbytery for a fun weekend.

Registration fee of \$40 (will be reimbursed by FPCCS, contact Jana for info).

Visit camplackawanna.org to register today. Space is limited!

Contact our Camp Director Mykela Bricka with any questions:

camplackawanna.director@gmail.com



For the very first time, we offer a **Trunk or Treat** event for the children of our community. It will take place on **Saturday, October 31, from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m.** in the upper parking lot on School Street. We want to offer a safe event for kids during this very unusual year. Here are the details:

- **All children in the community are welcome**, and we look forward to seeing their Halloween costumes. Help us spread the word!
- If you can **donate some candy**, we ask that **all candy is sorted in individual goodie bags** (think "grab and go").
- If you can help **distribute candy**, please arrive in the upper parking lot by 1:30 p.m. so we can set up together. We encourage you to decorate the back of your car (that's the "trunk" part). By all means, dress up in a costume - it's Halloween.
- We will do this **as safely as possible**. We will wear **face masks** and serve the candy bags with **sanitary gloves**. And we will have masks and gloves for those who need them.
- We need a **few people to serve as greeters** at the entrance of the parking lot. They will welcome our guests, direct them to other parking lots, offer a simple health screening, and ask guests to fill out information cards. In case the event is crowded, the greeters will monitor the foot traffic from getting too congested.



Can you help in one of these ways? Drop us an e-mail or notify our office (586-6306). Thank you!

Holiday Angel Tree



Our annual Pajama Drive for children in local Head Start programs **will** be taking place. We are excited to continue this gift to children in our community.

However, this year sign ups will take place **ONLINE** rather than taking a tag from the tree. (Those who prefer may call the church office at 586-6306 to sign up).

Visit fpccs.org to sign up for a child and learn which size pajamas to purchase. PJ's must be returned to the church, wrapped and tagged, by Monday, Dec. 7.

The W.A.Y.

Classes for our Wednesday Aadults 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 November, we will hear about how *Abigail Makes Peace, Elisha Helps a Family, A Girl Shares Her Faith*, and how we *Work for Peace and Justice*.
- * **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

- * The Rev. Dr. Brent Eelman is currently leading an online class on **Civility: A Christian Discipline**. It meets through Wednesday, November 4 at 7:15 pm on Zoom. Has our society become uncivil? Have we become so polarized that discourse over political, social, economic, and scientific issues quickly becomes shouting matches and filled with attacks? We will explore the roots of our incivility and ways that the church and its memberships can be advocates for civil discourse and debate. More information, including the Zoom link, can be found at the website at www.fpccs.org
- * After the Civility class concludes, we will take a brief break on Wednesday classes. **Rev. Carter will lead an Advent Bible study on Wednesdays in December** (December 2, 9, 16, 23). Watch for details.



Advent Devotional - We are seeking writers for our online Advent Devotional. Can we count on you? This year's theme is HOPE. If you can write a three paragraph reflection on a scripture text, please send a note to Rev. Carter at pastor@fpccs.org. All materials are requested by November 20.

Joys

Sorrows

Thank You Notes



We extend our sympathy to Tracy Smith, who lost her husband, Brian, on October 2.

Also, we extend our sympathy to the loved ones of John Darcy, who passed away in Florida. If you wish to send a card, contact our office for addresses.



- 2 Ned Connell
- 6 Charlie Pinches
- 7 Crosby Sekol
Tori Yankow
- 8 Mary Parry
- 12 Christine Jeske
- 13 Meg Hatch
- 14 Robin Pinches
- 22 Leelah Farrell
- 25 Jane Maurer
Chris Sekol
- 26 Max Earl



- 29 Tim and Debbie Shane



Thank you so much for all the cards that you sent when I celebrated my 106th Birthday. I appreciate hearing from so many church members and friends.
Love, Tinka Zenke.

Blessings and love to our church family.
Many thanks for the flowers, food, cards, transportation, and mostly prayers. It has left us particularly grounded and so thankful for all of you who have meant so much to us at this time.
Fondly,
Sandra and Stuart Bailey

Lectionary Readings

November 1 All Saints' Day
Revelation 7:9-17; Psalm 34:1-10, 22; 1
John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12

November 8
Amos 5:18-24; Psalm 70;
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13

November 15
Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18; Psalm 90:1-8 (9-11), 12;
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30

November 22 Christ the King
Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Psalm 100;
Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-46

November 29 1st Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19;
1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37

CALENDAR NEWS

These Groups are meeting in person several times each month on a regular basis: Masks and social distancing protocols are in place. Sprays are available to clean chairs and tables before and after each use.

Worship	10:00 a.m. each Sunday, Sanctuary and on line
AA	7:00 a.m. each day, Fellowship Hall
AlAnon	8:00 p.m. Wednesday, Fellowship Hall; 7:00 p.m. Thursday, Fellowship Hall
Immerse Group (Poets)	9:30 a.m. Friday Nov. 6, 13, 20, Fellowship Hall

Calendar notes for November

- Nov. 1—Daylight savings time ends – “fall back” and turn clocks back 1 hour
- 2—7:00—Mission, Zoom
- 4—5:30—Boomwhackers, Sanctuary; 7:15—Adult Ed.—“Civility: Christian Discipline, Zoom
- 5—8:30—Men’s Breakfast, Fellowship Hall
- 7:00—Christian Ed., Zoom; 7:30—Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 8—11:00—Managing Stress and Cultivating Resilience Thru COVID”
- 10—10:00—Quilters, Fellowship Hall; 7:00—Session, Fellowship Hall
- 11—Veterans Day, 5:30—Boomwackers, Sanctuary
- 12—7:30—Lyric Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 13—Deadline for the December Presbyter
- 17—10:00—PW Circle Bible Study, Fellowship Hall
- 18—5:30—Boomwackers, Sanctuary; 7:00—Bells, Sanctuary
- 19—8:30—Men’s Breakfast, Fellowship Hall; 7:30—Lyric Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 22—4:00—Broadcast of “All-Church Recital
- 24—7:00—Deacons, Zoom



November 26 and 27 (Thanksgiving and day after)



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

300 School Street
Clarks Summit, PA 18411-1536

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U.S. Postage
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DATED MATERIAL

Return Service Requested



Join us each week for worship!

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