



# The Presbyter

January and February 2021

## The First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit



### ANNUAL MEETING

The **Annual Meeting** of the First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit has been called for February 7, 2021. As provided by our bylaws, it will be held online on ZOOM immediately following worship. A link will be available on our FPCCS website in the days before the meeting. The reports will be e-mailed to those on our e-mail list on Wednesday, February 3.

For those who have no access to the internet, we will gladly send you a printed packet of all reports, as well as a ballot to act upon all proposed motions. We would kindly ask that all ballots be returned to the church office by 4:00 pm on Monday, February 8.

Church leaders are asked to email reports to the church office ([office@fpccs.org](mailto:office@fpccs.org)) by January 22 so that they can be emailed or mailed in sufficient time before the meeting.



During the pandemic, Rev. Carter acquired a grant to provide a series of three **online concerts of uplifting music** as a gift to the community.

The next concert is called, "**Valentines from Vienna: An Afternoon of Chamber Music,**" to be broadcast live from the sanctuary on **February 14 at 4:00 p.m.** We welcome Dr. Katie Morell's chamber group to perform Beethoven's "Gassenhauer" piano trio. You can watch it on our church's FPCCS Arts page on YouTube. Check our church webpage for the link.

The first concert was a celebration of **Dave Brubeck's 100th birthday** in December. It's available for online viewing on the FPCCS Arts page on YouTube.



### Lent: A Time for Reflection and Prayer *Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2021*

As we continue to spend time apart, we encourage you to take time individually and as a family to explore the meaning of Lent.

We encourage everyone to pick up a Lent Box filled with devotions, activity and reflection suggestions, and more. As with our Advent Boxes, we will have versions available both for families with children and for those without. You do NOT need to sign up to receive a box, but we DO ask that you take only one box per family.

**Boxes will be available to pick up at the church beginning Feb. 10** or contact Jana to make arrangements for safe drop off at your home.



February 14 will be **Mardi Gras Sunday** with New Orleans music in our live-streamed worship service.

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### Notes from the Session Meeting January 10, 2021

1. Election of the officers of the corporation: Alan Baker, President; Beverly Bright as Clerk of Session and secretary, Wayne Griffith as the church treasurer and treasurer of the corporation.
  2. It is time to think of our nominating committee and a new slate of officers for 2021-2022. If you are interested in holding a church office, or know of someone who is, please let Chris Norton or Craig Smith know. Our committee will be starting to work in the next couple of weeks. We need YOU!!!!
  3. David Naehar presented the 2018-2019 financial review report prepared by Bill Farrell and Amanda Roberts. The auditors reported that most transactions were supported by backup documentation and no irregularities were found. Staff and volunteers have followed previous recommendations for enhancements to recordkeeping procedures.
- Beverly Bright, Clerk of Session

### The Presbyterian deadline for the March issue is February 12

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 Cochrane
<b>Director of Chapel Choir</b>	Kay Ten Eyck
<b>Organist</b>	Kay Ten Eyck
<b>Sexton</b>	John Conklin

### 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	TBD

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 YOUR FINANCE COMMITTEE FOR THE MONTH ENDING November 30, 2020

<b>REVENUE</b>	
Budget	\$ 348,608
Actual Received	<u>331,607</u>
Difference	(\$ 17,001) =====
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Budget	\$ 357,401
Actual Expenses	<u>338,699</u>
Difference	(\$ 18,702) =====
Result of operations	( \$ 7,092)
<b>Pledge</b>	
Budget	\$297,917
Actually received	<u>279,938</u>
	(\$ 17,979) =====

## From the Pastor

Winter 2020

*Life is difficult.*

*This is a great truth, one of the greatest truths. It is a great truth because once we truly see this truth, we transcend it. Once we truly know that life is difficult - once we truly understand and accept it - then life is no longer difficult. Because once it is accepted, the fact that life is difficult no longer matters.*



This is how M. Scott Peck began an old book (1978), titled The Road Less Traveled. The past eleven months have confirmed his wisdom. You and I have carried great challenges during this pandemic, exasperated or expressed through conflicts in our nation. We have lost familiar ways to relate to one another, lost beloved friends to death or other kinds of relocation, and lost a good deal of self-confidence.

Yet we know there is more to life than its difficulties. This is a central affirmation of faith.

Here is my mid-winter question for you: how do we keep this vision alive? Especially given the circumstances?

I can tell you what I am doing. I read a lot, usually one book in the morning and another at night. My current morning book is His Truth is Marching On: John Lewis and the Power of Hope, by historian Jon Meacham. It is a tremendous book, clear, direct - and with great photos. I am discovering the blind spots in my education.

The evening book is Blowback, a mystery novel by Scottish author Peter May. Yes, it's a "popcorn book," one of his Enzo Macleod murder investigations. What I had always enjoyed about mystery novels, no matter how tangled, is the morality of the plots. The truth is discovered. Evildoers are exposed. Justice triumphs. That's exactly how I want the universe to function, even when it looks like that isn't the case.

I also listen to music - no surprise. In a blue winter, I'm listening to Big Music. A gift card from Christmas just funded a recording of the symphonies of Brahms. Santa also delivered a ninety minute concert by pianist Keith Jarrett, recorded live in Budapest. Music lifts me into a realm of beauty beyond what I can see and sense.

It's also important to have creative pursuits. I scribble in a journal. Sometimes I tinker with a poem. While my wife sits next to me on the couch, meticulously working on a cross-stitch, I've been scratching out new melodies on a pad of manuscript paper. If they pass the fermentation test, there might be something there to share.

What I most enjoy are my friendships. I refuse to remain isolated, so I correspond, call, and ZOOM. While I am as weary of online communication as anyone else, it lifts my spirits to see the twinkle in a good friend's eyes and hear the cadences of a familiar voice. I discover again that human connections give life.

Simple practices open us to a larger dimension of life. We see what is not always obvious. We reaffirm what we have forgotten. Along with praying and reading scripture, we begin to discern that God's world is larger than the circumference of our glumness. Often in the thick of it, we sense the fluttering of angel wings.

With you in the journey,

*Rev. Bill Carter*



### FPC Book Group

With the sharp rise in coronavirus cases, the book group has decided to cancel the January meeting. These are the books that are on the list for our next meeting, date of which will be determined: The Other Einstein by Marie Benedict, and Such a Fun Age by Kiley Reid.

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**Camp Lackawanna** is open for summer registrations, and our church provides scholarships for all kids who want to go. Mykela Bricka, our new camp director, will take part in our February 14 worship service and tell us about the new developments at our church camp. Check out the Camp’s website at

[Camplackawanna.org](http://Camplackawanna.org)

### Offering Envelopes



2021 Offering Boxes are available at the church. Some of our members have offered to deliver boxes to neighbors. So, if you recognize the eyes of the person at your door, it could be a neighborhood church member with your offering envelopes!

### Per Capita

The per capita assessment for 2021 is \$35 per member, the same as last year. The distribution is as follows: \$8.98 to General Assembly; \$2.40 to Synod of the Trinity; \$23.62 to Lackawanna Presbytery.

What IS per capita? Per capita is a set amount of money (apportionment) per member that congregations pay to the larger Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Said another way, “PER CAPITA is “the tie that binds” — annual support that unites the entire church in the ongoing and essential work that guides the Office of the General Assembly, the life of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and benefits every congregation and every mid council ministry. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, the Office of the General Assembly encourages the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to be a people of hope ~ Seeking together the mind of Christ; Working for justice and mercy in the world; and Participating in God’s continual reformation of the church.”

– Taken from Per Capita brochure published by PCUSA in 2019.

## Mission & Justice Committee

### RE-GIFTING

Reflections from your Mission and Justice Committee

As we enter a new year, the Mission and Justice Committee is thankful for the financial support so many have shown our church throughout 2020. The 2021 annual meeting and report will detail our work, but as we close the past year, it seems appropriate to reflect now on the many ways that individual generosity has allowed us to share with many others.

A glance through the Mission and Justice financial report for 2020 shows support of more than 30 programs beyond our church walls, out of our immediate field of view and thus perhaps too, beyond our regular consideration. That support is local, regional, national, and even international. It helps meet needs ranging from hunger, housing, utilities, and clothing to household items, medical costs, transportation needs, and disaster assistance. It assists seniors, infants, children, teens, women, farmworkers, and immigrants, and addresses issues ranging from missionary-support, racism, and recidivism in formerly incarcerated individuals to community-building, nature conservancy, and sustainable agriculture.

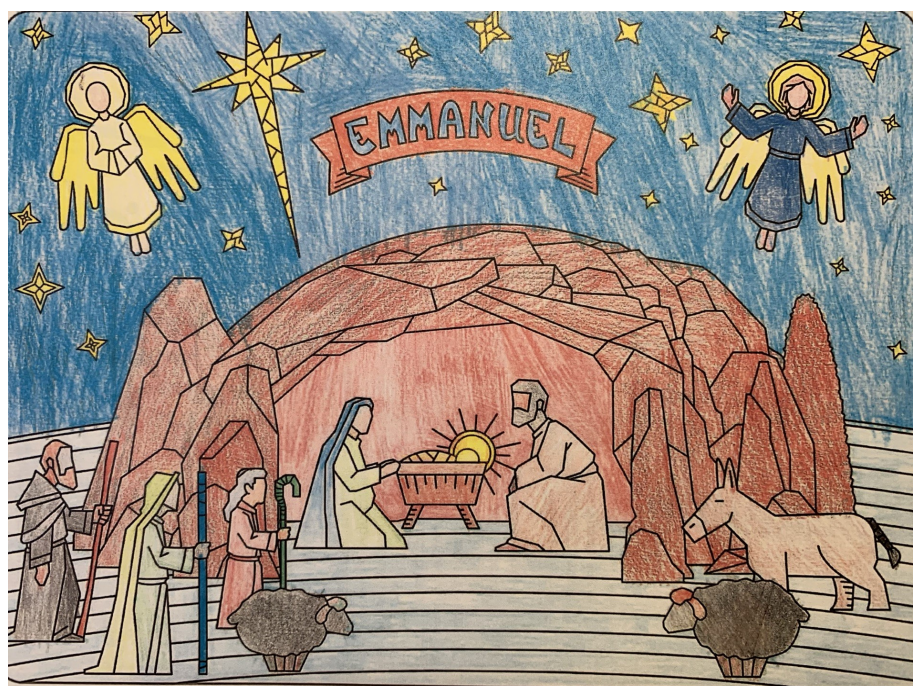
Real needs in the real world, your support for all of these is re-gifting at its best.

Thank you! Thank you to all of you who contributed so generously to this year's **Christmas Joy Offering!** Our grand total collected for this offering was \$962.00.

**50%** of our Christmas Joy Offering gifts make it possible for students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. **50%** of our Christmas Joy Offering gifts provide assistance for current and retired church workers and their families with critical financial needs.



Thank you as well for your weekly donations that help fund our committee to make contributions to worthy causes in our community and the nation and world. This month, we sent our first disbursement of \$400 to **St. Francis of Assisi Kitchen, Food, and Clothing Pantry** (\$100 per month for the months of January, February, March, and April). As in years past, we will continue to send them quarterly donations of \$400 throughout the year. This Catholic agency provides a free, hot, nutritious lunch 7 days a week, every day of the year to the hungry in Scranton. Through their pantry, they also provide free and donated clothing and non-perishable food to those in need.



First place: Rebekah Naeher

Runner up: Jillian Shane

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## Coloring Contest

As part of our Advent box activities, our children were invited to participate in a coloring contest, with the winning entry to appear as a bulletin cover. Since we held Christmas Eve services virtually this year, the winners are instead featured here. Thank you to our participants!



## Holiday "Angel Tree"

**THANK YOU** to all who purchased pajamas for our Holiday Angel Tree (even without our tree in the Narthex). With the corona virus still present in the world I was trying to figure out how we could safely accomplish this. Thanks to Jana who set this up through our church's webpage. With the exception of a few glitches everything worked well. The Scranton-Lackawanna Human Development Agency couldn't thank us enough when they picked the gifts up for delivery to local Head Start Centers. My elves had a break this year from helping with tree setup to tag making.

Blessings,  
Janet Dobson  
Christian Education and Growth Committee

## Souper Bowl Sunday

Sunday, February 7 isn't just the Big Game...it's a big opportunity to help those in need!

Check [fpccs.org](http://fpccs.org) for donation information.

All proceeds will benefit the AEM Food Pantry.



Christian Education



It's for life!

**THE W.A.Y.**The Wednesday Adulds and Youth Christian Education

“I am the WAY, the TRUTH, and the LIFE

**Classes Offered:**

**Grace & Faith (4 years old - Grade 5)** Families with children in the Grace & Faith age group should receive a mailing with information and activities to complete, as we continue social distancing in the new year. If you would like to receive a mailing but have not received one by the end of January, please contact Jana Schillinger at [ce@fpccs.org](mailto:ce@fpccs.org) or call (570)586-6306 to ensure you are on the list.

**We Believe (Grades 6 and up)** Youth grades 6 and up will also be receiving a mailing with information suitable to their age level. Please contact Jana at [ce@fpccs.org](mailto:ce@fpccs.org) if you have not received it by the end of January.

**Adult Education**

Rev. Carter is currently leading a Bible study on texts from 1 Corinthians on Zoom. It meets Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m.

## Lectionary Readings

**January 3, 2021**

Jeremiah 31:7-14, Psalm 147:12-20;  
Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1(1-9) 10-18

**January 10**

Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11

**January 17**

1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20), Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18;  
1 Corinthians 6:12-20; John 1:43-51

**January 24**

Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 62:5-12;  
1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20

**January 31**

Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 62:5-12;  
1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:21-28

**February 7**

Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11, 20c;  
1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39

**February 14** – Transfiguration of the Lord

2 Kings 2:12; Psalm 50:1-6; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6;  
Mark 9:2-9

**February 21** – First Sunday in Lent

Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Peter 3:18-22;  
Mark 19:9-15

**February 28** – Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31;  
Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38

## Joys

## Sorrows

## Thank You Notes

Our thoughts and prayers  
are with

the family of Fred Lyon,  
who entered the church tri-  
umphant December 2, 2020.

Lee Wirth and her family at the loss of her hus-  
band, Mick Wirth on December 25, 2020.

Kathy and Steve Sloneker family on the recent  
passing of Steve's mother, Elizabeth..



Darlene Scappatura an-  
nounces the birth of her  
first grandchild. Ronan  
Hayes Connors was born  
November 29 to Kaitlin Scappatura and fiancé,  
Steve Connors. All are doing well. Blessings  
and Best Wishes to all.



## JANUARY

Birthdays

The family of Steuart Bailey would like to thank  
their Church Family for their love, support, and  
many contributions given in Steuart's memory.

Blessings and love to all,  
Sandra Bailey

- 1 Jesse Davis
- 5 Rylee Yankow
- 10 Warren Grill
- 16 Dana Miller
- 17 Margaret Reese
- John Weiss
- 21 Connie Weiss
- 26 Char Lyon
- 28 Briar Woodley
- 29 Greg Yankow
- 30 Lucy Earl

To Our FPC of CS Family,

Thank you for ALL your support, prayers, caring and  
love that you have bestowed upon Fred and me,  
especially these past 2 years that we have lived in  
Clarks Summit Sr. Living . . . cards brightening our  
days, enjoyable visits, telephone calls (informative  
and fun) shared communions . . . We have been most  
blessed!

Fred did not have covid to end his days in a hospital  
without family. Our daughters, Char-Anne and Cris  
Beth, were here with him when his energy finally  
could last no longer, and on Wednesday, December 2,  
2020, Fred departed to a realm we know not yet.

Grace and Peace to you,  
From Char and All in the "Lyon's Den"  
*God's love knows no bounds. He's "at our heels"  
throughout life; at our side in death!.*

## FEBRUARY

Birthdays

- 2 Jeff McLaughlin
- 4 JoAnn Hall
- 6 Chris Shane
- 7 Jonathan Schillinger
- 10 SaraAnn Hosier
- 17 Holly Shane
- 19 Melba Fialko
- 21 Bill Carter
- 28 Diane Cole
- Gayle Hamilton
- Katie Taylor



## *MARK YOUR CALENDAR*

Currently **WORSHIP** takes place **VIRTUALLY ONLY** each Sunday at 10:00 a.m.

February 7, 2021—Annual Meeting of the First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit will take place **virtually** immediately following worship.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 17

Most of our committees and groups are still meeting virtually. Masks and social distancing protocols are in place whenever anyone is in the church building.

### **Board and Committee Meetings**

Board of Deacons – January 26 and February 23, **virtual**

Mission and Justice Committee – February 1, 7:00 p.m., **virtual**

Christian Education Committee – February 4, 7:00 p.m., **virtual**

Worship, Music, Arts Committee – February 4, 6:00 p.m., **virtual**

### **Study/Social Gatherings**

Men's Breakfast and Bible Study, MBK Quilts, Women's Circle Bible Study, FPC Book Group are **not meeting** at this time.

Adult Education: Study the Bible with Friends each Wednesday evening by **ZOOM**.

### **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

**Deadline for the March Presbyterian will be February 12, 2021 for mailing on February 23.**

Church office is closed on February 15 in observance of Presidents' Day.





**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

300 School Street  
Clarks Summit, PA 18411-1536

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
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Clarks Summit PA

**DATED MATERIAL**

**Return Service Requested**



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Our worship 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.**

