



The Presbyter

March 2021

The First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit

Let's Help Those in Need

In a world of disaster, hunger, and oppression, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity.

One Great Hour of Sharing supports three programs: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People. All of them work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

First Presbyterian Church will be sponsoring this worthy One Great Hour of Sharing special offering during Lent (February 17 to April 4), with our goal to raise \$5,000, as in past years. For this year, we honor our beloved committee member **Fred Lyon**, who died on December 2, 2020, as we contribute to this offering. Fred served on our Mission and Justice Committee for many years, as always, an advocate for service to others with a generous heart to those in need. He took a special interest in promoting this One Great Hour of Sharing offering, so it makes sense that we make Fred the honorary OGHS designee. As we salute Fred's life, please consider making a contribution to this incredibly deserving offering.

How can you contribute? Send to the church (or deliver in person) your contributions with a check noting OGHS on the memo line (either in the One Great Hour of Sharing blue envelope in your box of offering envelopes or in a plain envelope) or contribute online. You can find the **Give Here** green button on the church's website, www.fpccs.org, which takes you to our online site for giving. Be sure to designate OGHS.

In appreciation for your generosity,
The Mission and Justice Committee



Have you had your shots?

A growing number of folks in our church family have received their vaccinations for covid-19. Bravo!

If you have **received both shots** and wish to return to the sanctuary for worship, we cordially invite you to contact our office and make a reservation. Because the corona virus continues to be contagious, we ask all who attend to wear masks, keep appropriate distances, and refrain from singing.

We look forward to the day when ALL of us can be back together. That day is coming. In the meantime, we will respect one another and do what is safe for all.

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ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit was held virtually on February 7, 2021.

Copies of the Annual Report are available in the church office.

The Presbyter deadline for the April issue is March 12

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

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
December 31, 2020**

REVENUE

Budget	\$380,000
Actual Received	<u>374,511</u>
Difference	(\$ 5,789)
	=====

EXPENSES

Budget	\$389,892
Actual Expenses	<u>368,396</u>
Difference	\$ 21,496
	=====

Result of operations **\$ 6,115**

Per capita received for 2020 was \$4,933.

Per capita assessment for 2021 remains \$35 per member.

From the Pastor

March 2021

When the church established its liturgical year, it modeled the season of Lent after the forty days that Jesus spent in the wilderness. It was a time of testing. All of creation watched with anticipation. What was Jesus made of? How would he respond?



The Gospel of Mark gives us a sparse account (1:12-13). Perhaps it is the most evocative. Still wet from baptism, Jesus is "hurled" into the wilderness. Like the nation of Israel crossing the Red Sea, Jesus steps into a series of challenges that reveal his character. Mark doesn't specify the challenges. Unlike other accounts, Mark summarizes the experience with three descriptions: "tempted by Satan, with the wild beasts, and angels waited on him."

Temptation is testing. Satan is not a major character in the Bible, but he is always crouching at the door. As an early church leader taught, "Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour" (1 Peter 5:8). Face it: there are hidden forces that threaten to do us in. The antidote? "Discipline yourselves, keep alert." A healthy life is an attentive life. We discern what leads to abundant life and what opens us to the possibility of destruction. We must choose wisely.

As for the "wild beasts," we don't know what Mark has in mind. He doesn't mention lions, tigers, and bears. Israel's wilderness is barren land. There may be critters that come out after dark, and snakes that sun themselves in the noonday heat, yet they stay hidden from view most of the time. The inference in the text is that savagery lurks just out of view. Just as a peaceful protest may erupt into a deadly insurrection, so may a gentle animal turn on us fiercely with claws bared.

All the while, "angels waited on him." Or to translate, "angels ministered." Ever notice? in the middle of tough times, there is help. There is always help. Sometimes we are too proud to accept it. Or we can't see it yet. Or we may shrug it off. But the angels are there, seen and unseen.

During this long Pandemic Lent, which now feels more like forty years than forty days, the story of Jesus becomes our story. We are tempted in so many ways: tempted to destructive attitudes and behaviors, tempted to deny the true danger of what we cannot see, tempted to rush through the barren land, tempted to turn away the assistance of angels, tempted to avoid the important inner work that clarifies our judgment and builds our resilience. Lent reveals what we are made of.

I pray for you, especially in this season. Remember that you have been baptized into the covenant of grace, marked as Christ's own. Keep doing the hard work of nourishing your soul. Please count on me and the members of Christ's family as available angels who can assist you.

We will get through this long Lent. And we will be changed.

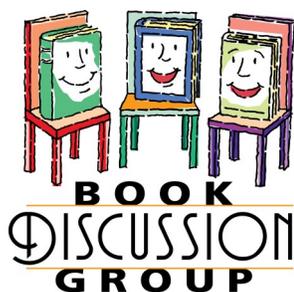
With you in the journey,

Rev. Bill Carter

Lent: A Time for Reflection and Prayer

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 you to pick up a Lent Bag filled with devotions, activity and reflection suggestions, and more.

As with our Advent Boxes, we have versions available both for families with children and for those without. Please take only one bag per family. Bags are available for pick up NOW or contact Jana to make arrangements for safe drop off at your home.



FPC Book Group

The Book Group is continuing to take a break. 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.



A Beautiful Spot in the Mountains - for YOU

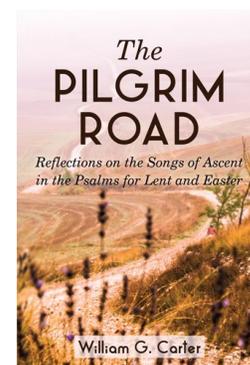
Camp Lackawanna is open for summer registrations, and our church provides scholarships for all kids who want to go.

The camp is also actively seeking staff for the summer. They are looking for a Cook as well as Counselors. Applications are available at www.camlackawanna.org.

A New Book by Our Pastor

Rev. Bill Carter is pleased to announce the birth of **The Pilgrim Road**, a new book of reflections on the Psalms of Ascent (Psalms 120-135). Actually it's an old book, originating from two summer sermon series from some years ago.

Signed copies are available in the church office for \$20. It is also available in print or Kindle formats on the Amazon website, or from CSS Publications.



Christian Education



It's for life!

THE W.A.Y.The Wednesday Aadults and Youth Christian Education

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

Classes Offered:

Grace & Faith (4 years old - Grade 5) Throughout the season of Lent, children are encouraged to follow the devotions and activities found in the Lent bags available to the congregation. Additional copies of the family devotional are available in .pdf format by contacting Jana at ce@fpccs.org

We Believe (Grades 6 and up) Youth are encouraged to make time and space for God during Lent, reading the devotions available in the Lent bags.

For the Adults:

Rev. Carter is offering a Bible study at 10 a.m. on the Wednesday mornings of Lent. It is being held live on Zoom with a small group meeting simultaneously in Room 206 (Session Room). Would you like to be physically present? **Contact the church office** (586-6306) to make a reservation. Masks and safety rules apply!

The study is "**Into the Light: Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament,**" which is the Horizons study for this year. All are welcome to take part.

We have ordered a limited number of study books, which will be available from the church office for \$10. You may also order a book yourself. Check with the office for details.

**Save the Date!****VBS 2021 will be held July 19-23****Calling all volunteers!**

If you'd like to help welcome everyone to God's table by teaching, leading, or preparing, let us know!

Please contact Jana Schillinger or send an email to fpccs.vbs@gmail.com

Stay tuned for more details!

Joys

Sorrows

Thank You Notes

MARCH



BIRTHDAYS

7	Nina Schillinger
11	Sue Sill
16	Candy Ferrese
20	Chuck Woolever
23	Jacob Gilbert
27	Bonnie Plantholt
31	Beverly Bright



Thank you for the care you have given me since Mick passed. I appreciate the love and support I have received. The care, cards, and phone calls have truly been a blessing.

Sincerely,
Lee Wirth



Feeding the Hungry

During this cold and snowy winter, our **Mission and Justice** committee has responded with support of local agencies.

We have made donations in the church's name to Keystone Mission (\$250.00), Weinberg NE Regional Food Bank (\$250.00) and Community Intervention Center (\$100.00) to assist these agencies in caring for homeless individuals and those with food insecurities.

Thank you for your support of this committee as we all try to be the hands and feet of Jesus.

Lectionary Readings

March 7 - 3rd Sunday in Lent -
Exodus 10:1-17; Psalm 19;
1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22

March 14 - 4th Sunday in Lent
Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22;
Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21

March 21 - 5th Sunday in Lent
Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-2; Psalm 119:9-16;
Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33

March 28 - Palm/Passion Sunday
Psalms: Mark 11:1-11; John 12:2-16;
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29;
Passion: Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16;
Philippians 2:5-11; Mark 4:1-15:47



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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

—See page 1 “Have you had your shots?”

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

Next Stated Session Meeting – March 9

Board of Deacons – March 23, **virtual**

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

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

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

Study/Social Gatherings

YouTube concert live from our sanctuary—Sunday, March 21, 4:00 p.m.

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

Adult Education: Check out our Wednesday morning study. See page 5 for time and topic.

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

Next Presbyterian Deadline is March 12 - planning to mail on March 24.



March 14 - Daylight Saving Time begins.

Sunday, March 28





FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

300 School Street
Clarks Summit, PA 18411-1536

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Clarks Summit PA

DATED MATERIAL

Return Service Requested



Our worship service is broadcast online at 10:00 a.m. on Sundays on our church’s video page on YouTube. You can always find a link on the church’s website (www.fpccs.org) or our **Facebook page**.

You can also go to www.YouTube.com and search for **fpccs** or **FirstPresbyterianCS**.

Jazz Concert goes online, March 21

Join us for a third online concert, broadcast live from our sanctuary and offered as a gift to the community. Links will be on our website and Facebook page.

You can also go to www.YouTube.com and search for **FPCCS Arts**.



Blue Notes for Lent
an afternoon of jazz
Live on YouTube
Sunday, March 21 at 4:00 pm