



The Presbyter

April 2021

The First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit

The
Arts
at First Presbyterian Church

Simple Gifts folk duo

Live - Friday, April 16, 2021 7:00 pm

YouTube Broadcast - April 18 4:00 pm

Two women plus twelve instruments equals one good time when **Simple Gifts** takes the stage on **Friday, April 16 at 7 pm**. This award-winning band performs on an impressive array of instruments, including two violins, mandolin, hammered dulcimer, recorders, banjo, and guitar plus some more unusual instruments like the bowed psaltery, baritone fiddle, shruti box, banjolin, guitjo, and dombek.

Simple Gifts presents a wide variety of ethnic folk music, including everything from lively Irish jigs and down-home American reels to hard-driving Klezmer freilachs, haunting Gypsy melodies, and exotic Balkan dance tunes. Throughout their performances, they put their own distinctive stamp on traditional tunes, blending styles from diverse cultures with their American roots.

Those who have been vaccinated are welcome to attend this concert in person with a reservation made through our church website, at www.fpccs.org and on the church's Facebook page.

The 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 this event, but a free-will offering will be taken. For more information, call the church office at 570-586-6306.



See page 5 for
Holy Week and Easter Services

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Session Notes

Notes from the Session Meeting,
March 9, 2021

1. Session is very thankful for the faithfulness and generosity of their members and friends. We had a very good year in spite of the pandemic and events happening all around us that were out of our control.
2. Remember that if you know of anyone that is interested in being a church officer give their names to Chris Norton or Craig Smith at your earliest convenience.
3. As you have read in church emails, worship continues online. We welcome those who have had covid-19 vaccines (and their kids!), to attend worship in person. Just be sure to call the office and make a reservation.
4. Session would like to thank Kay Ten Eyck for the work she has done with our Chapel Choir. Kay decided to step back from leading them and we wanted to thank her for a job well done. The children will miss her leadership role. Thanks, Kay.

Beverly Bright
Clerk of Session

The Presbyterian deadline for
the May issue is
April 16

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
January 31, 2021**

REVENUE	
Budget	\$ 31,350
Actual Received	<u>30,863</u>
Difference	(\$ 487)
	=====
EXPENSES	
Budget	\$ 32,205
Actual Expenses	<u>29,401</u>
Difference	\$ 2,804
	=====
Result of operations	\$ 2,317
Pledge	
Budget	\$27,083
Actually received	<u>27,583</u>
	\$ 500

Per Capita received was \$1,664.
2021 Per Capita per member is \$35.

From the Pastor

April 2021



"Easter is the festival of protest," wrote the theologian Jurgen Moltmann. As the tulips push above the soil and the pandemic shows signs of slowing, that is a poignant and compelling way to think about resurrection. Abundant life is protesting the cold powers of death!

There is great irony, even humor, in the raising of Jesus. The authorities, both political and religious, believed they were crucifying a troublemaker. They were not troubled by his rural stories about seeds and sheep. But when he decimated their systems of punishment by pronouncing the possibility of forgiveness, when he cultivated uprising by valuing the poor, when he proclaimed the inevitable demolition of a corrupt Temple and its priests, those in charge declared he had to go. Nobody expected him to come back from the dead.

And God laughed.

Easter people are in on the joke. They know the raising of Jesus was more than a freak event of nature. It is a continuing disruption of the status quo. It is a fist raised in solidarity with the downtrodden. It is the announcement that brutality, corruption, intimidation, and violence will not win over the meek and pure in heart. Easter is God's protest against the death-dealing powers of this world. With wounded hands and an open heart, the Risen Christ invites us to join the march and undertake his work.

Earlier in my life, I heard Easter sermons that proclaimed a kind of invincibility, as if trusting in Jesus would make us death-proof. It was personally comforting, in a triumphant sort of way. Then people I loved started to die. While I joyfully entrust the dead to a Sabbath rest in the arms of God, I now affirm there is a great deal more at stake than the private assurances of those earlier sermons. Christ's resurrection inaugurates his mission to the world. Grace and truth will continue to confront destruction and deception until the Final Day when God says, "Enough is enough."

Until then, we testify to the resurrection by joining Christ's mission. As a newer Easter hymn says,

In every insult, rift, and war, where color, scorn, or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more, and lives where even hope has died.

Christ is alive, and comes to bring good news to this and every age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring with joy, with justice, love, and praise. (Brian Wren, "Christ is Alive!")

Let us not grow weary in well-doing. Our faith is not in vain!

Can't wait to see you back at church,

Rev. Bill Carter



Mission and Justice

Thank you to those of you who have contributed to our **One Great Hour of Sharing** offering. As of Thursday, March 18th, the offering has accrued to \$3,767 which means we have \$1,233 more to raise to reach our goal of \$5,000 by April 4th. To remind you, **One Great Hour of Sharing** supports efforts to relieve hunger through the Presbyterian Hunger Program, promote development through the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People, and assist in areas of disaster through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Additionally, this year, we are honoring Fred Lyon and his life of service as we contribute to this vital offering.

Send OGHS contributions to the church (or deliver in person) 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 you can contribute online through the Give Here green button on the church's website, www.fpccs.org, which takes you to our on-line site for giving. Be sure to designate OGHS.

In appreciation for your generosity!

How lovely of you, FPCCS, to honor Fred through the OGHS donations. Fred enjoyed working with the Mission and Justice committee members and was always delighted when our congregation reached its OGHS goal each year. Let's make that \$5,000 for 2021, remembering Fred's pulpit plea: "CIUFJ"*



Grace and Peace with love,
Char and all in the Lyon's Den

Three in One Program,
Serving needs of the people,
Declaring God's LOVE!

**Cough It Up For Jesus!*

In March, the **Mission and Justice** committee donated money to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) to go towards assisting all those who were affected by the winter storms in Texas and the surrounding states. They also donated to the Northeast Pennsylvania Youth Shelter Rapid Rehousing program in Scranton, which provides housing and training for homeless teens. Thank you for supporting the work of our committee so we can help those in need.

The Presbyterian Woman's Association

will be unable to host our Annual Spring Luncheon with guests from Clarks Summit State Hospital. However they are so appreciative of getting new socks when they come here that a Spring Gift of BRAND NEW socks will be collected (for both men and women) and taken to the residents. A box has been placed in the Narthex for your donations. Please call Janet Dobson (570-563-1887) with questions.



A Tribute to Pastor Bill



December 1, 1990 was an important day in the life of our church. On that day, Reverend William G. Carter accepted the call and has served and led our congregation for the past 30 years. His leadership has been outstanding in many areas including his efforts during the on-going pandemic.

As a tribute to Pastor Bill, a low-key campaign is being conducted to honor him for his service to us. To date, in excess of \$8,000 has been contributed to a new Endowment Fund in his honor. If you would like to be part of this recognition for his service, send a donation to the church office. Please mark it to the Endowment Fund, a Tribute to Pastor Bill.



Holy Week

Palm Sunday, March 28 10:00 AM

Maundy Thursday, April 1 7:30 PM

Good Friday, April 2 12:00 PM—online only

Easter Sunday, April 4 10:00 AM



A 'RE-GATHERING'

COVID crazy? We are too! And the winter has lasted way too long! With warm weather right around the corner (we hope), we are planning a picnic so that church folks can gather outside, have a long-overdue visit and just enjoy each other's company.

The date is May 16th following church. If you are attending worship in person, we will leave directly after church and head to **Lackawanna State Park** (so feel free to dress casually). If you are still attending virtually, plan on meeting us there between 11:30 and noon. Either way, bring a bag lunch and a folding chair so we can gather around and enjoy lunch, then take a walk on the trail or just hang out and visit.

I'm sure we're all getting tired of hearing this but 'don't forget your mask!'

Hope to see you then!

The Fellowship Committee



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, visited a recent worship service and shared with us about the new developments at our church camp.

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.camplackawanna.org.

Additional information and applications are available at ww.camplackawanna.org.

Robert London Scholarship Fund



The Christian Education and Growth Committee is pleased to award scholarships to any child, teen or young adult who wishes to go to a church camp, church leadership conference, church national event, or other Christian Education event. The amount given to each student is considered on an individual basis. Applications can be picked up in the church office.

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



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!

Thank You!



We collected **\$555.22** for the AEM Food Pantry through the Souper Bowl of Caring.



FPC Book Group

The Book Group is continuing to take a break and will re-group in the Fall.

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.

It's Time for a SPRING CLEAN-UP!

Mark Saturday, May 1 on your calendar, 9:00 a.m. to Noon, for an outside clean-up day.

On the schedule will be removing all evidence of this past winter from the sidewalks, parking lots, and flower patches in preparation for a warm and wonderful Summer!

Clean-up Crew



Lots of help
needed!

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 the appropriate vaccines and wish to return to the sanctuary for worship, we cordially invite you to contact our office and make a reservation. **We also welcome children who have returned to school.**

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.

Joys

Sorrows

Thank You Notes



April 1	Anne Rich
April 2	Colin Shane
April 7	Donald Keen
April 11	John Rich
April 12	Jennifer Sekol
April 16	Gerry Miller
April 19	Mark Kusma
April 23	Nancy London



April 16 Kevin and Holly Shane

Thank you



to everyone who sent me a card, prayed for me, or just thought of me during my recovery from recent surgery.

Chris Gilbert

Congratulations



and best wishes to
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas C. Heinze.

Tom Heinze and Linda Kennedy were united in marriage on February 25, 2021, with Rev. Carter presiding.

Lectionary Readings

April 4 – Easter

Acts 10:34-43; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11;
Mark 16:1-8

April 11

Acts 4:32-35; Psalm 133; 1 John 1:1-2:2;
John 20:19-31

April 18

Acts 3:12-19; Psalm 4; 1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24

April 25

Acts 4:5-12; Psalm 23; 1 John 3:16-24;
John 10:11-18



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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

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](#).



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 – April 13, 7:00 p.m., **in-person and virtual**,

Board of Deacons – April 27, 7:00 p.m., **virtual**

Mission and Justice Committee – April 5, 7:00 p.m., **virtual**

Christian Education Committee – April 8, 7:00 p.m., **virtual**

Worship, Music, Arts Committee – April 8, 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 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

Sunday April 11—Holy Humor Sunday

Next Presbyterian Deadline is April 16 - planning to mail on April 28.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

300 School Street

Clarks Summit, PA 18411-1536

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Return Service Requested



Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday worship will be in person and online. Advance reservations can be made by calling the church office. Palm branches will be distributed after the service, both in the sanctuary and on School Street for those who drive by after worship. "Communion packs" will also be distributed for those who wish to take communion at home for Maundy Thursday and Easter. Palms and "communion packs" will also be available from our office during Holy Week while supplies last.

A Maundy Thursday service will be held on April 1 at 7:30 pm. It will be in person and online. Those who make advance reservations may attend in person. The Lord's Supper will be served. Those worshipping at home are encouraged to take part.

We offer our own pre-recorded **Good Friday** worship service online. Go to fpccs.org for the link. There is also a **national Good Friday worship service**, featuring seven national leaders of the Presbyterian Church. It will be broadcast live online from California at 2:00pm Eastern time (fpccs.org for the link).



We will have an **Easter worship service** in the sanctuary at 10 am on April 4. It will be broadcast live as well as available in person to those who have [made advance reservations](#). We will serve the Lord's Supper during the service, and invite those at home to join us in the sacrament.

And yes, yes... we will have a **Holy Humor** worship service on Sunday, April 11, at 10:00 am. If there was ever a year when we needed it, this is it.