



The Presbyter

June 2021

The First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit



On May 23, we ordained and installed elders and deacons for the next term.

Brad Campbell, Ginny O'Brien, and Barry Shepherd were ordained and installed as elders, class of 2024.

JoAnn Hall and Robin Pinches (both in the class of 2024) and Jay Clymer (class of 2023) were installed as elders.

Diana Pope-Albright and Tracy Smith were ordained and installed as Deacons, class of 2024. Bill Farrell, Kate Hopkins, and Peter Moore were installed as Deacons, class of 2024.

Welcome to this ministry!

We worship every Sunday in two ways!

Have your vaccines? Make a reservation with our office (**570-586-6306**) and join us in person at 10:00 am.

Tune in online for our weekly service, which is broadcast live on **our video page on YouTube** and archived for later viewing on the same site.

There is also a link on **the church's Facebook page**.

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Flower Sign Up

As we are returning to more regular services and attendance at church, please consider honoring loved ones, celebrations, and family events with a special floral arrangement to mark the occasion.

A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the narthex.



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Session Notes

Notes from the Session Meeting, May 4, 2021

1. Jay Clymer, Chair of Building & Grounds reported that we had a very successful outdoor cleanup on May 1st and he wanted to thank everyone who helped at the church that day.

2. Session said good-bye to Nancy Dennen, Judy Cutler, and Grant Taylor, and thanked them for all they did for us. Nancy was Chair of Christian Ed.; Judy, Chair of Music, Worship & the Arts; and Grant served on the People In Ministry committee. We welcomed Barry Shepherd, Brad Campbell, Ginny O'Brien and Robin Pinches as part of the Class of 2024.

Beverly Bright
Clerk of Session

The Presbyter deadline for the combined July/August issue is **June 18.**

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	Jeanne DeVirgilis 570-587-0214

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 March 31, 2021

REVENUE

Budget	\$ 94,050
Actual Received	<u>- 82,214</u>
Difference	<u>(\$11,836)</u>
	=====

EXPENSES

Budget	\$ 96,615
Actual Expenses	<u>- 90,012</u>
Difference	<u>\$ 6,603</u>
	=====

Result of operations (\$5,232)

PLEDGE

Budget	\$ 81,250
Actually received -	<u>77,222</u>
	<u>(\$ 4,028)</u>
	=====

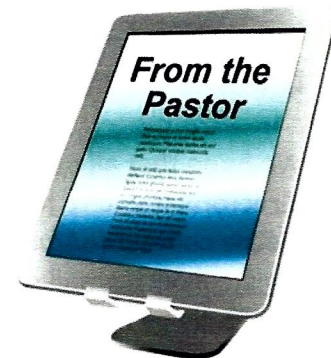
2021 Per Capita assessment per member is \$35.

From the Pastor

June 2021

Dear Friends,

As you have probably heard, I will depart for a three-month pastoral sabbatical on June 1. I am grateful to the Session and the Presbytery for making this gift of time available to me and my family. This is a tremendous blessing, and I look forward to returning to you on the last weekend of August.



We are fortunate to have grants from the Louisville Institute and Lackawanna Presbytery to make this sabbatical possible. Thanks to the grant, we have lined up an outstanding team to preach each week and provide pastoral continuity in my absence. The Rev. Bill Samford, recently retired from the Hawley church, will preach for the first three weeks of June and August, and the Rev. Jim Thyren, whom many of you have gotten to know, will preach during July. The Rev. Joanne Weiss will preach on the last Sunday of June, and Dr. Tabbi Miller-Scandle will preach on the fourth Sunday of August.

For pastoral care, we have secured the Rev. Rebecca Tanner for June and August, and the Rev. Ken Forbes for the month of July. You will find them to be warm and friendly pastors, and I am delighted that we have been able to secure them. They will be available for pastoral care at any time, and you can contact them through our church office.

Pastoral sabbaticals have emerged in the past two decades as essential practices for long-term pastors. They provide for an extended break from the day-in, day-out demands of pastoral ministry. In the best of years, my work requires constant availability, emotional energy, spiritual presence, mental clarity, organizational oversight, and an enormous level of patience. After fifteen months of working through the pandemic, this sabbatical break will be good for my spiritual well-being. I'm tired and it's time to fill the well.

So what will I do this summer? Relax, rest, restore – and write. As I've told many of you, I have begun working on a book to explore the connections between jazz and the spiritual life. The seeds for this project have been planted during my three decades of ministry with you. I have a deep sense that this is the time to harvest what we have experienced together and share it with the wider church.

Most of the weekdays, I will be holed up in one of the quiet writing places that we've set up. Weekends will offer time with family members and out-of-town friends. It will be a quiet summer Sabbath, without the distraction of heavy travel that I have undertaken in previous sabbaticals. If we should see one another at the supermarket or baseball stadium, I will smile and wave – and you'll understand that I will quickly return to the writing desk. I want to make the most of the time that I've been granted.

Please keep me and my family in your prayers, and trust that I keep you in my prayers as well. If you would like to keep up with my sabbatical project, I have started an online journal. It will be a great way to keep in touch while I am gone. You can find it at <https://thrivingonariff.blogspot.com>.

Holding you in my heart until I see you at the end of August,

Rev. Bill Carter

ON-LINE DIRECTORY



We hope that all of you who have compatible equipment are using your on-line directory. If you're having any problems accessing the Instant Church Directory, please contact JoAnn Hall (jodihall@nep.net or 570-222-3591) or Jeanne DeVirgilis (westcollect@gmail.com or 570-587-0214) for whatever assistance you might need. Hopefully by the fall we will be able to take additional pictures at church or, if you have a photo you'd like to submit, you can also do that through JoAnn or Jeanne. And, once things return to normal, we will have directories professionally printed.

The Fellowship 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 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. However, the blue tape has been removed from the pews, so seating is more at your discretion. Hymnals have been returned to the pews, which means we can sing softly while wearing masks. 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.

We continue to worship every Sunday in two ways!

Have your vaccines? [Make a reservation with our office](#) (570-586-6306) and join us in person at 10 a.m.

or

Tune in online for our weekly service, which is broadcast live on [our video page on YouTube](#) and archived for later viewing on the same site.

FEMA Funeral Related Reimbursement

FEMA will be accepting applications to reimburse up to \$9000 for Covid-19 related funeral expenses beginning April 12. The original article (from the Boston Globe) and the FEMA link are below.

<https://www.boston.com/news/coronavirus/2021/04/08/fema-coronavirus-funeral-expenses>

www.fema.gov/disasters/coronavirus/economic/funeral-assistance

MBK QUILTS will meet during the summer. All who are interested are invited to assist in assembling quilts for the homeless. The group will gather in Fellowship Hall at 10:00 a.m. on

June 8 and 22

July 13 and 27

August 10 and 24.

Did you know? FPCCS has an official Endowment Fund!

The FPCCS Endowment Fund was established in 2020 to serve as a lasting resource for the church as it fulfills its mission of faith to future generations. The Endowment builds on our church's long history of faithful giving and stewardship, a legacy that blesses all of us today.

Endowment contributions to date total \$69,256, including over \$8,000 in gifts honoring Reverend Bill Carter's 30+ years of outstanding leadership and service to our congregation. We are very grateful for the generous support of . . .

Mr. and Mrs. Warren Acker

Beverly Bright

Mr. and Mrs. William Davis

Mr. and Mrs. Russ Delaney

Mr. and Mrs. William Farrell

Mr. and Mrs. Stan Gilbert

Rebecca Harrison

Erika Henderson

Mr. and Mrs. John Lawlor

Debbie Miller

Mary Ann Nichols

Nancy Owens

Amanda Roberts

Mr. and Mrs. William Siebecker

Janet Stansbury

Chris Wiesel

Nancy Witaconis

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Albright

Jay Clymer

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Decker

Violet Dygert

The Estate of Paul and Nancy Ford

JoAnn Hall

Pauline Heckman

Mr. and Mrs. Andy Kepler

Janet Loewe

Mr. and Mrs. David Naeher

Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Norton

Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Reese

Mr. and Mrs. John Scheuer

Tracy Smith

The Rev. and Mrs. James Thyren

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Wirth

Mollie Woehling

The FPCCS Endowment Fund is administered by The Presbyterian Foundation. Endowment gifts can be made using an online [form](#) (please note FPCCS Account #102241000055) or by mailing a gift to the office. Additional information on the fund will be shared in coming weeks.

-- FPCCS Endowment Committee

Summer 2021 Preaching Schedule

June 6	Rev. Bill Samford, retired pastor
June 13	Rev. Bill Samford
June 20	Rev. Bill Samford
June 27	Rev. Joanne Weiss, pastoral counselor
July 4	Rev. Jim Thyren, retired pastor
July 11	Rev. Jim Thyren
July 18	Rev. Jim Thyren
July 25	Rev. Jim Thyren
August 1	Rev. Bill Samford
August 8	Rev. Bill Samford
August 15	Rev. Bill Samford
August 22	Dr. Tabbi Miller-Scandle
August 29	Hymn Sing Service, followed by a "Parking Lot Picnic" to welcome back Rev. Carter
September 5	Jazz Communion, featuring the music of Dizzy Gillespie <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jeff Stockham, trumpet • Mike Carbone, saxophone and flute • Tony Marino, bass • Tyler Dempsey, drums • Rev. Bill Carter, piano

During the summer, Rev. Bill Samford will moderate the Session in Rev. Carter's absence.

In case of emergency or needing pastoral care, contact the church office (586-6306).

Covering in Rev. Carter's sabbatical:

June	Rev. Rebecca Tanner
July	Rev. Ken Forbes
August	Rev. Rebecca Tanner

Summer Hours begin June 1

From June 1 to August 31, the church office hours will be Monday through Friday, 9AM to 4PM with lunch at noon. Every effort will be made to have the office staffed each day, but if you need to speak face-to-face with a member of the staff, please call ahead (570-586-6306).

Mission and Justice Committee

It is not too late to donate to the **Pentecost Offering!** Pentecost Sunday was on May 23rd but we continue to welcome donations. To remind you....

A gift to this offering helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people, and also address the needs of at-risk children.

60% of the Pentecost offering is used to support children, youth, and young adults through ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

40% is retained by individual congregations to make an impact in the lives of young people within their own community.

The Mission & Justice Committee decided this year to allocate the 40% to the Children's Advocacy Center of Northeastern PA that since 1998 has helped more than 12,000 children and adolescents by effectively assessing and treating child abuse and neglect.

Ways to contribute:

Send or deliver a check to the church, noting Pentecost on the memo line.

Contribute online through the church website using the Give Here green button. Be sure to designate Pentecost.

Thank you for your generosity!

Fred C. Lyon Memorial

A gift of \$1000.00 has been made in memory of Fred C. Lyon to the Presbyterian Mission Agency for the Frontera de Cristo Ministry. It will be used to support the Migrant Resource Center and the Health Ministry aspects of Frontera de Cristo. Frontera de Cristo is a border ministry located in the sister cities of Agua Prieta, Sonora, and Douglas, AZ. It works with churches, presbyteries, and secular organizations on both sides of the border to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God. The Migrant Resource Center provides for humanitarian needs like food, clothing, and medical attention. They help inform migrants of their options, document abuse, and help victims of crime pursue legal options. The Health Ministry's primary areas of focus are women's health and dental hygiene.

This gift was given to honor Fred's dedication to Presbyterian Mission, his leadership as a Deacon and Elder, his leadership as a past Moderator of Lackawanna Presbytery, and his guidance as past President of the greater Scranton Council of Churches.

The gift was contributed by members of the First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit and others, and designated by the Mission & Justice Committee.

Missionaries

The Mission and Justice committee continues to support two Presbyterian missionaries, one in central Europe and one in Asia. In April we sent our annual support to them. In May, we sent our support to two local groups, St. Francis of Assisi kitchen and Friends of the Poor, both organizations serving people in Scranton with meals and food giveaways. We are grateful for the monetary gifts given by the members and friends of our church that allow us to help those in need.

***Congratulations to our graduates
and best wishes for the future!***

**Class of
2021**

Ariana Billiot, daughter of Heather Cole, graduated from Tunkhannock High School.

Max Earl, son of Mary and Bryon Earl, graduated from the University of Scranton with a major in Electronics Media and Journalism and another in Philosophy.

Jacob Gilbert, son of Rachel and Teal Gilbert, graduated from Wyoming Seminary Preparatory School.

Tyler Kusma, son of Heather and Mark Kusma, graduated with a B.A. degree from George Washington University.

Mary O'Brien, daughter of Ginny and Joseph O'Brien, graduated from Abington Heights High School.

With God, all things are possible. Matthew 19:26

Junior Girl Scouts Complete Bronze Award

Five Junior Girl Scouts from Troop 50075 in Clarks Summit have recently completed their Bronze Award Take Action Project and received word that they will receive their Bronze Award Pins at their Bridging Ceremony in June. Erin Bartell, Maryn McArdle, Mia Mehr, Ryan Mulligan, and Rebekah Naeher, 5th graders at Abington Heights Middle School, worked together to organize and carry out a wetlands restoration tree-planting project at Hillside Park in South Abington Township. With the guidance of Paul Bechtel, a local environmental scientist and volunteer with Lackawanna River Conservation Association who secured the saplings and educated them in planting techniques, the young ladies planted 46 saplings along the beginning of the path around Lake Eston Wilson at the park. The trees and bushes they planted are suitable for the conditions in a wetlands area, and they will help maintain the area for years to come.



CONGRATULATIONS!

Christian Education



It's for life!

The Christian Education and Growth committee would like to say **thank you** to all of our teachers who helped lead virtual WAY classes in this unusual year. Your support, enthusiasm, creativity, and commitment to sharing God's word is appreciated. Many thanks -- we hope to see you again in the fall!



Summer Camp 2021

Registration is open! Head on over to camp.lackawanna.org to see what programs are being offered this summer and to register your children for camp! Family Camp registration is also open! **Our church offers scholarships** for all young people who want to go. Check with Jana Schillinger for details.

Help Needed: Many cabins at camp need a fresh coat of paint before the beginning of camp season. If you have any available time to help with a little hands-on effort, please contact Mykela Bricka (570-550-2391 or camplackawanna.director@gmail.com).



WHAT: VBS 2021

WHEN: Monday, July 19 to Friday, July 23, 9am-12pm

WHERE: First Presbyterian Church

300 School Street, Clarks Summit

WHO'S INVITED: all children age 4 to completed grade 5

TO REGISTER, VISIT: myvbs.org/fpccs

Want to volunteer? You can help welcome everyone to God's table by teaching, leading, or preparing. One day or the whole week, we need YOU to make it possible!

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

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.

Joys

Sorrows

Thank You Notes



- 3 Karis Naehner
- 5 Sherry Connell
Ron Wescott
- 8 Debbie Miller
- 9 Deb Traettino
- 10 Hadley Gilbert
Drew Taylor
- 17 Al Traettino
- 21 Gerry Conklin
Jacob Wescott
Caly Yankow
- 22 Jacob Cole
Kim Rich
- 23 Jay Clymer
- 24 Ran Billiot
- 25 Jacki Bailey
Brooklyn Yankow
- 28 Tom Decker
- 30 Janet Dobson
Brady Kareha



Ronan Hayes Connors, son of Kaitlin Scappatura and Steve Connors, was baptized on May 9, 2021. Ronan, who was born on November 29, 2020, is the grandson of Darlene Scappatura and the great grandson of Rose Hurd.

Lectionary Readings

- June 6** 1 Samuel 8:4-20; 11:14-15;
Psalm 138
- June 13** 1 Samuel 15:34-16:13; Psalm 20
- June 20** 1 Samuel 17:1a, 4-11, 19-23,
32-49; Psalm 133
- June 28** 2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27; Psalm 130



- 4 Jay & Liz Clymer
- 8 Al & Deb Traettino
- 11 David & Donna Porter
- 26 Ron & Wendy Wescott

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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Board and Committee Meetings

Next Stated Session Meeting – June 8, 7:00 p.m., Session Room (206)

Board of Deacons – June 22, 7:00 p.m., Room 206 of church

Mission and Justice Committee – June 1, 7:00 p.m., Room 206 of church

Christian Education Committee – June 3, 7:00 p.m., Room 206 of church

Worship, Music, Arts Committee – July 1, 5:30 p.m., Room 206 of church

Study/Social Gatherings

My Brother's Keeper Quilters will meet at 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall on the following dates:

June 8 and 22

July 13 and 27

August 10 and 24

Friends of Naomi will meet Monday, June 7 at 11:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Highway Clean-up is June 12 at 9:00 a.m. at Clarks Summit United Methodist parking lot.

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

Support Groups

Many of our support groups are resuming in-person meetings. The schedule is below.

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) meets each morning at 7 AM in Fellowship Hall.

AIAnon meets on Wednesdays at 7 PM by Zoom and Thursdays at 7 PM in Fellowship Hall.

Overeaters Anonymous (OA) meets in room 210 on Tuesdays at 7 PM, Thursdays at 9:30 AM, Saturdays at 9:45 AM, and Sundays at 3 PM.

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

Next Presbyterian Deadline is June 18 for the July/August issue - planning to mail on June 30.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

300 School Street

Clarks Summit, PA 18411-1536

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
Permit No. 30
P A I D
Clarks Summit PA

DATED MATERIAL

Return Service Requested



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