



The Presbyter

January 2022

The First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit

Arts at First Presbyterian Events in January

Music for Midwinter

Sunday, January 16, 2022 4:00 pm

Nathan Worrell, piano; Mike Carbone, soprano sax; Bill Carter, piano



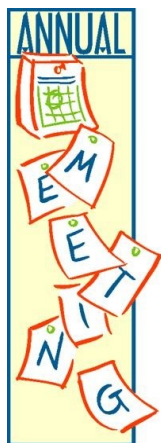
Two talented artists will warm our winter air. Nathaniel Worrell, a student at Valley View High School, will offer a dazzling program of classical piano music. Mike Carbone, music professor at Binghamton University, will offer a set of chamber music for soprano saxophone, accompanied by pianist Bill Carter.

At this point, the concert will take place live in the sanctuary, and live-streamed for all to enjoy from a distance (or at a later date). The link will be available soon on our church's website (www.fpcs.org). One way or another, we hope you can join us!



Update: Clarks Summit Festival of Ice Events at FPC

We regret that we will not participate in this year's festival, which is scheduled for January 28-30, 2022. COVID-19 infection rates are too high, and that has affected our volunteer efforts. But please be sure to check out the ice sculptures around town.



Mark your calendar!

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation of First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit will be held following worship on Sunday, February 13, 2022.

We will plan on holding the meeting live in the church sanctuary and live streaming it on Zoom. Watch for details.

Table of Contents

- Page 2 - Session Report, Deacons, Financial
- Page 3 - From the Pastor
- Page 4 - Mission and Justice, Thank you notes
- Page 5 - Endowment, My Brother's Keeper
- Page 6 - Church Directory, Live in the light
- Page 7 - The Way, Music Notes
- Page 8 - Joys, Sorrows, Lectionary
- Page 9 - Calendar
- Page 10 - Meeting Safely

Notes from the Session Meeting December 14, 2021

1. Session passed the 2022 budget at a special meeting held on Tuesday, December 14, 2021. Dave Naeher, chair of Finance, moved that Session pass the 2022 budget as presented by the Finance committee earlier in December. A thorough explanation was given by the chair. All were in agreement.
2. Session presented John Conklin with a Gift Card to thank him for his years of service to our church. Session wanted John to know how much he was appreciated by them.
3. Session wishes members and friends of the congregation good health in the coming days. They also want to thank them for their financial and volunteer support of the church and their church projects.
4. The January meeting of Session will be on Sunday, January 9, 2022 at 11:15 a.m. in the Session Room. Our Confirmation class will meet with them to learn more about their work.

Beverly Bright, Clerk of Session

The Presbyterian deadline for
the February 2022 issue is
January 14.

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	Don Gross

FROM YOUR FINANCE COMMITTEE
FOR THE MONTH ENDING
November 30, 2021

REVENUE

Budget	\$344,850
Actual Received	<u>336,287</u>
Difference	(\$ 8,563)

EXPENSES

Budget	\$354,256
Actual Expenses	<u>336,789</u>
Difference	\$ 17,467

Result of operations \$ 8,904

PLEDGE

Budget	\$297,917
Actually received	<u>294,369</u>
	(\$ 3,547)

Per Capita received thus far in 2021 is \$3,744. 2021 Per Capita assessment was \$35. 2022 Per Capita assessment will remain \$35 per member.

Board of Deacons

Care Team Ministry Coordinators are:

Deacon Meals	Erika Henderson 570-878-2410
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 the Pastor

January 2022



On the last day of congressional business in December, Chaplain Margaret Grun Kibben offered this prayer to the U.S. House of Representatives:

Great is your faithfulness, eternal God of all creation.
As the years go by, while our attentions stay absorbed on the here and now,
you remain sovereign over all our days.
We cannot even fathom the immensity of what you do from one year to the next,
let alone what you have done from the beginning of time to its end.
Much has transpired, both good and ill, in this year 2021.
We have lived and thrived in your grace
and by your great mercy we have not been consumed.
As we reflect on all that has taken place in these chambers,
in our country, and in our own lives,
grant us hearts of overflowing gratitude
for the outpouring of the blessings you have granted us,
and produce a harvest of righteousness in the discipline you have conferred on us.
Redeem the memories we lay before you,
and grant your favor on the hopes we hold for our future.
Kindle in our hearts the deep desire for the eternity you lay before us.
To you, whose unfailing love never ends,
and in the great faithfulness of your name, we pray. Amen.

A former Chief of Chaplains for the U.S. Navy, my old friend from seminary days nails our experience of the past year ("Much has transpired, both good and ill"). She also voices an excellent prayer for 2022 ("grant your favor on the hopes we hold for our future").

What I find most striking is how she sets our temporal days in the light of eternity. She trusts in an eternal God, whose faithfulness precedes us and whose grace will outlive us. What a good Word for the passing of a hard and difficult year!

As we hunker down for the winter and the end of a second pandemic year, please know that I pray for you regularly. And join me in looking toward the horizon, affirming God is both walking with us and waiting for us.

Blessings to you and yours,

Rev. Bill Carter

Mission and Justice

Made possible in great part by our local share of the congregation's tremendous response to this year's One Great Hour of Sharing, the Mission and Justice Committee has purchased 24 books (12 books and 12 workbooks), notebooks, pencils and flashcards for an English as a Second Language Conversation class. This class was put on hold due to the pandemic and students and volunteers are anxious to get back together and keep working on English skills as soon as the Scranton Library will allow. It is open to all. Most of the students are refugees of war. This is the only class in the area where parents are welcome to bring their children, enabling those without childcare to attend as well as the children to receive help with their homework. This is overseen by Dr. Pryle and the Abington Heights Interact Club. These new supplies will be essential in getting going again.



And...

Our congregation's own, Mary O'Brien, is taking her experience with the English Conversation Class in Scranton and starting one in Washington DC. After the arrival of 1000 Afghan refugees, Mary and her roommate, Sanaa Phinzy, reached out to local churches and mosques to find where there was a need. They found it at Ivy City Masjid. A sign up sheet has been hanging and people keep signing up for this free ESL class the mosque is thrilled to host. Classes will begin on January 16. Mission and Justice has decided to purchase 20 books (10 books and 10 workbooks) to help in getting this class off the ground.

Our congregation's generosity continues to be felt by so many. On behalf of these new neighbors relying on God's good grace to get by, Thank you.

Thank You Notes

The Mission and Justice Committee

would like to say a big thank you to everyone who supported the *alternative* Alternative Gift Market this year. Your generosity continues to amaze us and we are grateful for your interest, even with a different approach to the market this year. Thank you for bringing joy to so many this Christmas, and throughout the year!

Holiday Angel Tree

Huge thank you to all for your participation in support of our pajama drive. They were distributed to seven Head Start Centers throughout Lackawanna County.

Special thanks go out to my elves: the confirmation class for tag preparation, Zach with tree setup, and Gwynne for sorting/packing the presents for delivery.



Blessings to all!

Janet Dobson, Christian Education and Growth Committee

Reflect, Renew, Endow, Imbue

from the FPCCS Endowment Team

If we collectively can do just those four things, our Church may continue to thrive and inspire future generations to be faithful followers of Jesus Christ.

If we **reflect** on the ways our lives have been influenced by the members of our Church family through their love, faith and support, we may better come to realize just how meaningful the First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit has been in our individual lives.

If we **renew** our spiritual senses to heighten our feeling of belonging to something so very special, our commitment will make each of us even more grateful for all our Church has given us.

An **endowment** will help sustain our church during the down times, such as those we've experienced during the last two years, and enhance our abilities to minister to the needs of outreach and mission for decades to come.

If we **imbue** our current and future congregations with optimism and faith, our generous gifts now will have significant impact going forward.

Imagine what our lives would be like without the First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit. For me, that's a very sad thought. Now imagine how we would feel knowing that this very Church will be alive for future generations to follow. The difference between these two musings is exactly what having an Endowment is all about. An Endowment will allow each of us to pay it forward.

Thank you for taking the time to reflect on what this Church has done and is doing in your life. Let's feel good together. Please consider a gift to the Endowment Fund that will come close to matching your love of the First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit. It's easy to give by clicking the Endowment link on our website (fpccs.org) or by sending a check to the office. The long term effect of your current gift will be so very rewarding, for all time.

Kim Barrows, for the FPCCS Endowment Team

My Brother's Keeper

My Brothers' Keeper quilting group got off to a slow start in 2021 due to COVID; not meeting until May 11th. The down time was used to organize our supplies, including large donations by the Abington Heights Civic League, Inc., the Rotary Club of the Abingtons, and many members of our Church family.

Normally we do not meet from June through August, but decided to continue through the summer months to make up for lost time. By the end of August we had made and delivered to the Wheatleys, (Founders of the MBK movement) 19 sleeping bags. In late November we learned Keystone Mission was in dire need of sleeping bags for the local homeless. Ten bags were sent immediately to them. With two extra work sessions, and three donated commercial bags, we were able to send another thirteen bags the first week of December and another four the following week!

We enjoy our fellowship in making the sleeping bags, and the satisfaction in knowing they are making a real difference in someone's life. If you would like to join us, we meet the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month (regardless of the number of weeks) at 10:00 AM in Fellowship Hall. Our next work session will be January 11, 2022. Hope to see you there!

Online Church Directory

We're hoping that those of you who are connected to the internet are using your online directory. Looking for a member of your church family's address, phone number or email? Or maybe even trying to remember what they look like? The information is at your fingertips on your phone, computer or other devices; it's password protected and easy to access.



If you're not already using it and need help getting started, contact Jeanne DeVirgilis or JoAnn Hall and they will send you directions. We have pictures for many members of our church family but would like to add more. We are in hopes that we soon will be able to start taking pictures again during Fellowship Hour or you can email a photo to either Jeanne or JoAnn. We also hope to have directories professionally printed and would like to be able to add your picture if we haven't already done so.

For more information or to make arrangements to have your photo taken, please contact us.

Jeanne: westcollect@gmail.com; 570-587-0214 or 570-479-7960 (cell)

JoAnn: jodihall@nep.net; 570-222-3591 or 570-806-1591 (cell)



As We Start the New Year

Live in the Light

Often we want to be able to see into the future. We say, "How will next year be for me? Where will I be five or 10 years from now?" There are no answers to these questions. Mostly we have just enough light to see the next step — what we have to do in the coming hour or the following day.

The art of living is to enjoy what we can see and not complain about what remains in the dark. When we are able to take the next step with the trust that we will have enough light for the step that follows, we can walk through life with joy and be surprised at how far we go. Let's rejoice in the little light we carry and not ask for the great beam that would take all our shadows away.

—Henri Nouwen, *Bread for the Journey*

Expecting a Surprise

Each day holds a surprise. But only if we expect it can we see, hear or feel it when it comes to us. Let's not be afraid to receive each day's surprise, whether it comes to us as sorrow or as joy. It will open a new place in our hearts, a place where we can welcome new friends and celebrate more fully our shared humanity.

—Henri Nouwen, *Bread for the Journey*

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”

Given the holiday schedule, information on Children and Youth classes was not yet available for the January Presbyter.

Adults: The WAY continues on Wednesday evenings, with a Bible study at 6:00 p.m. It will be offered in Room 206 – and on ZOOM. The link for ZOOM will be available in our weekly E-mail and on the church website.

January 5 – Where are the Wise Men From? Ken Bailey, the Presbyterian missionary of the last generation, offered deep insight into the background of familiar Bible texts. On the evening before Epiphany, we explore his work on the Magi. Who were they? Where did they come from? Why are they included in Matthew’s Christmas story? Join us as we explore a text we have taken for granted.

January 12, 19, 26 (and beyond) – The Bible Tells Me So: Why Defending Scripture Has Made Us Unable to Read It, based on the book by Peter Enns. What if the Bible is fine just the way it is? Not a well behaved Bible, where everything lines up and makes sense, but the messy, troubling, and weird Bible we actually have? What if the Bible doesn’t need to be protected and defended, but understood – just as it is? Perhaps, when we let the Bible be the Bible (rather than what we expect it ought to be, or need it to be), we find a deeper faith in the process. Our winter series on Wednesday nights draws on the work of scholar Peter Enns, drawing from his book, *The Bible Tells Me So* which can be ordered from any bookstore.

**Music At First Presbyterian**

Adult Choir - Wednesdays - 7:15-8:15: Students in 9th Grade to adults are welcome! Don’t have much of a music reading ability? Don’t worry; our singers support one another in and out of the church. We rehearse in the sanctuary, currently with masks and socially distant.

Bell Choir- - Wednesday rehearsals are as needed - 8:30-9:15 p.m. Those interested are asked to contact Richard Cochrane, director, for more information

Joys

Sorrows

Prayers



JANUARY Birthdays

1 – Jessie Davis
 5 – Rylee Yankow
 9 – Katie Carter
 11 – Peggy Lyons
 16 – Dana Miller
 17 – Margaret Reese
 John Weiss
 21 – Connie Weiss
 26 – Char Lyon
 28 – Briar Woodley
 29 – Greg Yankow
 30 – Lucy Earl



As We Start the New Year

Flower Sign Up

Start the new year by honoring loved ones, celebrations, and family events with a special floral arrangement to mark the occasion.

The 2022 Flower Calendar is now hanging on the bulletin board next to Rev. Carter's office.

THANK YOU!

I would like to take a moment and thank all of you for the kindness and love you have shown me this past year after the death of my dear Steuart. The meals, rides, companionship, and prayers is a true testament to the ways our congregation works through God. Dedicated hearts like yours inspires more to living in God's true love.

Very truly yours,
 Sandra Bailey

Congratulations to Jake Cole and Sami Guyette on the birth of MacKenzie Madison Cole, born on December 27, 2021. She joins sisters Abby and Leda.



The sympathy of the congregation is sent to Bob Merriman and his family on the passing of his wife of 67 years, Jean on November 25.

Lectionary Readings

January 2, 2022

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

January 9

Isaiah 43:1-7 and Psalm 29;
 Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

January 16

Isaiah 62:1-5 and Psalm 36:5-10;
 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11

January 23

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 and Psalm 19;
 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21

January 30

Jeremiah 1:4-10 and Psalm 71:1-6;
 1 Corinthians 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Worship every Sunday, 10 a.m., Sanctuary and on-line

Board and Committee Meetings

Session Meeting—Sunday, January 9, 11:15 a.m., Room 206. On ZOOM and in person.

Board of Deacons—Tuesday, January 25, 7 p.m., Room 206

Building and Grounds—Thursday, January 6, 7 p.m. - Room 209

Christian Education—Thursday, January 6, 7 p.m. - Room 206

Mission and Justice—Tuesday, January 4, 7:30 p.m. - Room 206

Worship, Music, Arts— - Thursday, January 6, 7 p.m. - ZOOM

Service/Study/Fellowship Gatherings

The Way meets each Wednesday

Only Adult Classes are meeting currently, beginning at 6:00 p.m. (see page 7 for details)

Adult Choir—7:15 p.m., Sanctuary; Bell Choir—8:30 p.m., January 26, Sanctuary

The Arts at First Presbyterian - January 16, 4 p.m., Sanctuary (see page 1)

“Music for Midwinter”

Nathan Worrell, piano; Mike Carbone, soprano sax; Bill Carter, piano

Confirmation—each Sunday, 11:15 a.m., Room 206

Men’s Breakfast and Bible Study—January 6 and 20 at 8:30 a.m.

My Brother’s Keeper Quilters—January 11 and 25, 10 a.m., Fellowship Hall

Prayer and Share—each Wednesday, 10:30 a.m., Room 209

Women’s Circle Bible Study and 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 Room 206.

AlAnon meets on Wednesdays at 8 p.m. by ZOOM, and Thursdays at 7 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

Overeaters Anonymous (OA) meets in room 210: Tuesdays at 7 p.m., Thursdays at 9:30 a.m.,

Saturdays at 9:45 a.m.; Sundays at 3 p.m.

Next Presbyterian Deadline is January 14, 2022

Anticipated mailing date is January 26, 2022.

Church Office is closed on January 17.

Per Capita for 2022 is the same as last year: \$35.00 for each adult church member. We pay this amount to Lackawanna Presbytery as our contribution to the shared cost of the administrative expenses of our national church. We are grateful for your contributions to cover this expense!



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



Our Session requires masks for all worship services, meetings, and group events in the church building. Temperature checks will continue at church gatherings, and social distancing will be encouraged. We believe in the effectiveness of the covid-19 vaccinations and urge everybody to get vaccinated against covid-19.

If all of us can choose restraint and pursue public health, we have a better chance for stopping the spread of the virus and its variants. In the words of St. Paul -

"Do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" (Galatians 5:13-14)



As We Start the New Year