


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

300 School Street

Clarks Summit, PA 18411-1536

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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)



The Presbyterian

February 2022

The First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit

Rescheduled: "Music for Midwinter"

 The Arts
 at First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, February 6, 2022

4:00 pm

 Nathaniel Worrell, piano; Mike Carbone, soprano sax;
 with Bill Carter, piano


Nathaniel Worrell offers a dazzling program of classical piano music.

Mike Carbone presents a set of chamber music for soprano saxophone, accompanied by pianist Bill Carter.

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



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.

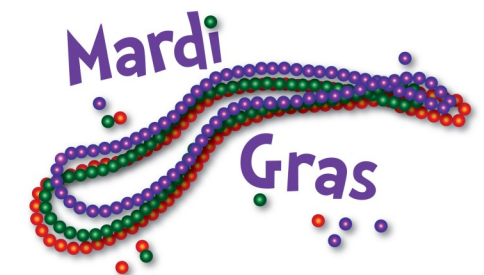
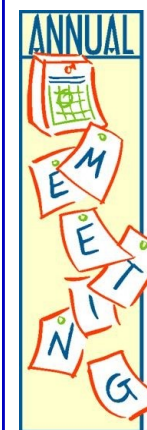
Weary of winter? We have the cure!

February can be a dreary month, especially as a pandemic stretches on. Fortunately, some of our favorite musical friends will be in worship to lead a **Mardi Gras Sunday** on February 27 at 10:00 am.

Music will be provided by the South Abington Stompers, an outstanding jazz band of dubious reputation.

We welcome Jeff "Sweet Baby" Leas on trumpet, Tony "Big Foot" Marino on bass, Tyler "Don't Wake the Baby" Dempsey on drums, and Notorious M. C. on the straight soprano sax. They have graciously asked our pastor to sit in at the piano (if he doesn't preach too long).

It's a morning of swinging fun, planned to defrost icy hearts. Join us in person - or tune in online.


FPCCS Annual Meeting


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.

The meeting will take place live in the sanctuary and on the online platform ZOOM. Check our website for the link to participate from home. Printed copies of the annual report will be available from the office by February 2. A PDF version will be sent to our e-mail list.

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Notes from the Session Meeting January 9, 2022

1. Session approved the annual Omnibus Bill presented to elect Alan Baker as the president of the corporation of First Presbyterian Church, Clarks Summit. Elect Beverly Bright as the clerk of session and secretary of the corporation of FPCCS. Elect Wayne Griffith as the church treasurer and treasurer of the corporation of FPCCS.
2. The date of the "Souper Bowl" offering is February 13 to benefit the Abington Food Pantry.
3. Session has hired Andrew Barren as our Audio Video Technician and welcomes him to our staff. Don Gross, our new custodian was recently hired to replace John Conklin who deserves a big THANK YOU for all of his work at FPCCS.
4. Remember that our Annual Meeting will be held in the sanctuary on Sunday, February 13, 2022. Information packets will be sent prior to the meeting.
5. Our Nominating Committee is beginning to look for new members for the Class of 2025. Please give any suggestions to Chris Norton or Craig Smith or any current Session Member.

Beverly Bright, Clerk of Session

Board of Deacons

Care Team Ministry Coordinators are:

Deacon Meals	Erika Adams 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.

The Presbyterian deadline for
the March 2022 issue is
February 11.

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 December 31, 2021

REVENUE

Budget	\$376,200
Actual Received	<u>374,318</u>
Difference	(\$ 1,882)

EXPENSES

Budget	\$386,461
Actual Expenses	<u>369,273</u>
Difference	\$ 17,188

Result of operations \$ 5,045

PLEDGE

Budget	\$325,000
Actually received	<u>330,341</u>
	\$ 5,341

2022 Per Capita assessment is \$35 per member.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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

Board and Committee Meetings

Session Meeting—Tuesday, March 8, 7 p.m., Session room (206)

Board of Deacons—Tuesday, February 22, 7 p.m., Session room (206)

Building and Grounds—Thursday, February 3, 7 p.m., room 209

Christian Education—Thursday, February 3, 7 p.m., room 206

Mission and Justice—Tuesday, February 1, 7:30 p.m., room 206

Worship, Music, Arts— - Thursday, February 3, 7 p.m., ZOOM

Service/Study/Fellowship Gatherings

The Way meets each Wednesday

Classes (currently for adults only) begin at 6:00 p.m. (see page 5 for details)

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

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

Men's Breakfast and Bible Study—Thursday, February 3 and 17, 8:30 a.m. Room 206

My Brother's Keeper Quilters—February 3 (Th), 8 (Tu), 17 (Th), 22 (Tu), 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. and Thursdays at 7 p.m. in Room 206.

Overeaters Anonymous (OA) meets in room 210 : Sundays at 3 p.m., Tuesdays at 7 p.m.,

Thursdays at 9:30 a.m., Saturdays at 9:45 a.m.

Next Presbyter Deadline is February 11

Anticipated mailing Date – February 23, 9 a.m., room 205

The Church Office will be closed on Monday, February 21 in observance of Presidents' Day.

We are pleased to **welcome Andrew Barren** as our Audio/Video Technician.

Please welcome him as he provides support for our sound, video, and livestreaming work.



Joys

Sorrows

Prayers


FEBRUARY
Birthdays

- 1 Jan Thyren
- 2 Jeff McLaughlin
- 4 JoAnn Hall
- 6 Chris Shane
Steven Sloneker
- 7 Jonathan Schillinger
- 10 SaraAnn Hosier
Tabbi Miller-Scandle
- 17 Holly Shane
- 19 Melba Fialko
- 21 Rev. Bill Carter
- 25 Erika Adams
Victoria Jeschke
Susan Kelly
Thomas Heinze
- 26 Jeneane Adams
David Moore
Diane Smith
- 28 Diane Cole
Gayle Hamilton

Flower Sign Up

Start the new year by 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 hall next to Rev. Carter's office.

Lectionary Readings

February 6 - 5th Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 6:1-8(9-13) and Psalm 138
1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11

February 13 - 6th Sunday after Epiphany

Jeremiah 17:5-10 and Psalm 1;
1 Corinthians 15:12-20; Like 6:17-26

February 20 - 7th Sunday after Epiphany

Genesis 45:3-11,15 and Psalm 37:1-11,39-40
1 Corinthians 15::35-38,42-50; Luke 6:27-38

February 27 - Transfiguration of the Lord

Exodus 34:29-35 and Psalm 99
2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-36(37-43a)

The Music, Worship and Arts Committee

wants to thank all the wonderful people that helped to decorate and un-decorate our sanctuary for Advent and Christmas this year!!! Thanks to: Bev Bright, Bill Carter, John Conklin, Judy Cutler, John Diven, Janet Dobson, Don Gross, Andy and Donna Kepler, Nancy Owens, Jack and Barbara Pittman, Robin Pinches, Jim and Jan Thyren, John and Connie Weiss, and Karen White. The sanctuary looked beautiful, and we all had a lot of fun doing it!

Jan Thyren

From the Pastor

February 2022



Dear Friends -

As winter continues on, what are you thinking about? I'm thinking about joy.

A strange topic, perhaps. No one above the age of eighteen looks out the window to exclaim, "Yippee! Another snow storm!" Likewise, the predominant responses to a lingering pandemic are either (a) bleak weariness or (b) unmasked denial.

All of this suggests this is a good time to think about joy.

The notion popped into my head as I recalled the title of a now-ancient Stevie Wonder song: "Joy Inside My Tears." The singer reports the experience of another's love for him has created healing. He is astonished to discover a hidden power at work. In the midst of pain, alienation, and fear, joy has found him. What a powerful, surprising gift!

This is a gift of the Holy Spirit, I think, especially in our own frozen and constricted circumstances. Sometimes joy bubbles up as a protest against despair, in the affirmation that we are worthy of sound mind and good health. Other times joy discovers us when God makes good on a holy promise. Once in a while, it is love that sparks joy. Or vice versa.

Curiously, joy can bubble up into the worst circumstances. Remember the apostle Paul, banging his tin cup against the iron bars of his prison cell, and shouting, "Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say rejoice!" (Philippians 4:4). Or consider the outrageous exhortation of brother James, "Whenever you face trials of any kind, consider it nothing but joy." (James 1:2).

Either these two apostles were deluded or something else is afoot. What could it be?

There's a clue to be found in an odd little verse in the New Testament. Reflecting on Jesus and his willingness to go to the cross, the writer of the letter to the Hebrews says Christ endured it "for the sake of the joy that was set before him." (12:2). Joy? In the face of crucifixion? Yes. How? Because it was joy, defined as a hidden confidence that God is alive and working out his purposes. When that confidence comes, when those purposes are assured, they stand taller than anything that stands against us.

There is more to be said about these things, if only because they are mysteries, and as mysteries, they are elusive. Suffice it to say that joy is what carries us through to another day. It is the engine of the holy soul. Joy is what sustains us, what carries us through impossible difficulties, what pushes us forward. In the end, it is inexplicable. And it is real.

So take heart, little flock. As Jesus said, it is God's desire to give you the kingdom. God's desire - and God's joy.

With you in the winters - and the summers,

Rev. Bill

Mission and Justice Committee



Thanks! Thanks! Thanks!

Thanks to all of you, **Give a Gift to a Stranger**, the alternative gift market in the narthex during Advent this year, was very successful. We so appreciate the generosity of our church members who made it possible.

Reaching the Pygmies Ministry received more donations than ever before, with \$961.00 collected. This allowed Christmas gifts to be bought for the Batwa pygmies in Uganda. The economy in Uganda struggled in 2021 with the effects of the pandemic. The region where the Pygmy settlement and school is located is already very poor, and the Batwa are among the poorest of the poor. The annual Christmas distribution of food, household items and clothing was all the more welcome for residents of the settlement. Funds provided by members of our church bought a variety of items, including seeds for planting, clothes, mattresses, soap, dishes, and farming tools.

With the ASP chocolates that were purchased, we were able to contribute \$166.00 to the local **Appalachia Service Project**, that will use the funds to help purchase supplies for their upcoming mission trips in repairing substandard housing in the Appalachia region. For any of you who contributed to **Heifer International** or to the **Presbyterian Giving Catalog**, we are confident that your funds will be added to their accounts that help needy families and individuals around the world with such things as livestock, water, and health care. And finally, you surely helped to make three **local refugee families** happy with your generous gifts to them at the holiday time. With all three families having just recently resettled in Lackawanna County, their needs are great! To each of the newly relocated Afghanistan couples, we delivered a \$50 money tree, gift cards from Walmart and Boscovs, socks, and a soccer ball. To the Congolese family of 8, we delivered a \$50 money tree, Walmart and Boscovs gift cards, socks to the parents, and pajamas, socks, coloring & drawing materials and soccer balls to the children. Each of the families were most appreciative with wide smiles and words of great thanks.

Barbara Decker

I would like to thank the congregation for their support of the Weinberg NE Regional Food Bank by volunteering to pack boxes of food for community members in need. Many more people wanted to go than I was allowed to take because of covid guidelines. However, a group of 10 church members went to the packing site on Wednesday, December 15, and a group of 11 went on Friday, December 17. We completed 656 boxes of food in time for Christmas.

It is a privilege for me to belong to a church with such caring and dedicated members. I am proud of our commitment to the people in our community.

Diane Scheuer

My Brothers Keeper

Due to extreme cold, the "My Brother's Keeper Quilters" will be adding some days to their work schedule. In addition to their regular second and fourth Tuesdays, they will meet the first and third Thursdays. The time for all gatherings is 10:00 a.m. to noon; the location is Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to assist.



Christian Education



It's for life!

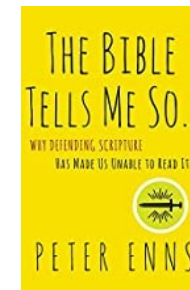
THE W.A.Y.

The Wednesday Aadults and Youth Christian Education

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

Children and Youth classes will not meet in February.

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.



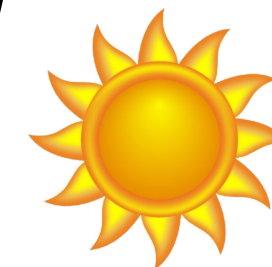
February 2, 9, 16, and 26 – The Bible Tells Me So: Why Defending Scripture Has Made Us Unable to Read It, based on the book by Peter Enns. What if the Bible is fine just the way it is? Not a well behaved Bible, where everything lines up and makes sense, but the messy, troubling, and weird Bible we actually 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.

Two special learning opportunities for February:

- We invite you to revisit our online **21 Day Challenge for Racial Equity**. This is an online blog page with links to learn more about the roots of racial injustice in America. It will be updated from the version from two years ago. Here is the link to the page: <https://21daychallengefpcps.blogspot.com>
- Rev. Bill invites you to an online conversation to **discuss Martin Luther King Jr.'s "Letter from Birmingham Jail."** He has scheduled it on ZOOM for **7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 22**. The link will be posted on the church website and the weekly e-mail. Copies of Dr. King's letter will be placed in the narthex. You can also readily find it online. All are invited to read it before the ZOOM conversation.

Save the Date!

Attention all children,
families, and volunteers!
Mark your calendars...



VBS 2022 will be held July 18 - 22

Join us for an amazing Bible adventure filled with laughter, learning, and fun times with friends new and old! Look for more information this spring.

Souper Bowl Sunday

Sunday, February 13 isn't just the Big Game...
it's a big opportunity to help those in need!

As you leave worship, our youth will be standing by with soup pots to collect money to combat hunger.

All proceeds will benefit the AEM Food Pantry.

