



# The Presbyter

March 2022

## The First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit

### Calling for a “Blue-Out” on Sunday, March 6<sup>th</sup>

*Show Your Support for  
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance*

Sunday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, PDA is not only welcome, but encouraged!

Our Lenten season will be filled with blue. Of course, our March arts series concert will feature blues music from *The Merchants of Groove*, but between Ash Wednesday and Easter we will be collecting for the Presbyterian Church USA’s “One Great Hour of Sharing” special offering. Each gift supports the *Presbyterian Hunger Program*, the *Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People*, and *Presbyterian Disaster Assistance* (PDA!). While we might never experience disaster, hunger, or oppression, **millions of people in our country and around the world do lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity.** The PDA website lists no less than 42 crises to which it is currently responding, both here and abroad. OGHS is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world, and **Mission & Justice Committee has set a goal of \$5000 for our congregation.**

**The first Sunday in Lent every year is designated “Wear your blue t-shirt to church Sunday” as a specific testament and reference to PDA.** While you might not have a blue t-shirt or think it warm enough for a t-shirt at start of March, we encourage you to don as much blue clothing as you can on March 6<sup>th</sup> to launch this year’s offering and note it’s importance in funding PDA across the coming year.

### Wednesday March 2nd

Join us for an Ash Wednesday Service at 7 p.m. It will last 1/2 hour. Ashes will be offered.

ASH WEDNESDAY

### Blues with the Merchants of Groove Sunday, March 20, 2022 4:00 pm

Paul Lyon brings his premier house-rockin’ blues band, The Merchants of Groove, to raise the roof and stir the spirit. Featuring Teddy Young on guitar, this band showcases the music of BB King, Buddy Guy, and other blues greats.



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 online link will be posted on our church’s website ([www.fpccs.org](http://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.



The series is supported in part by grants from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and administered by NEIU-19, and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency. The season is also generously supported by a Lackawanna County Community Arts and Culture Grant, a program of Lackawanna County Commissioners Jerry Notarianni, Debbie Domenick, Esq., and Chris Chermak; members and staff of First Presbyterian Church; and by individual contributions.

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### Winter Updates on Building and Grounds Based on Minutes from their February Meeting

Winter has taken a toll on grounds and properties everywhere. Ours not excluded! There are some potholes in both parking lots, some of the sidewalks need repair, the back fence in the lower parking lot was damaged by a snowplow, and some windows need to be painted. But all of those items will be attended to as soon as the weather allows. And the good news is that the snow blower is working well!

Inside, the physical plant is in good condition, the heating system has been serviced and routine maintenance and cleaning have been completed on schedule.

Looking forward, our new sexton is transitioning into the job, our new computer technician is doing a fine job, Austin Lyons, an Eagle Scout candidate, is planning to plant a pollinator garden, and we anticipate some outdoor clean-up days in the spring. Stay tuned!



The Presbyter deadline for the April 2022 issue is March 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.

|  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| <b>Church Office</b>                       | <b>(570) 586-6306</b> |
| <b>Fax</b>                                 | <b>(570) 587-3784</b> |
| <b>Web Page</b>                            | <b>www.fpccs.org</b>  |
| <b>Pastor</b>                              | William G. Carter     |
| <b>Administrative Assistant</b>            | Nancy Owens           |
| <b>Coordinator of Children &amp; Youth</b> | Jana Schillinger      |
| <b>Treasurer</b>                           | Wayne Griffiths       |
| <b>Editor</b>                              | Amanda Roberts        |
| <b>Clerk of Session</b>                    | Beverly Bright        |
| <b>Director of Music</b>                   | Frank Jones           |
| <b>Director of Bells</b>                   | Richard Cochrane      |
| <b>Organist</b>                            | Kay Ten Eyck          |
| <b>Sexton</b>                              | Don Gross             |



### Board of Deacons

Care Team Ministry Coordinators are:

|  |                             |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Deacon Meals                           | Erika Adams<br>570-878-2410 |
| Time of Loss                           | Anne Rich<br>570-587-2802   |
| Emergency Home Repairs and Maintenance | Joe Waters<br>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, 2022

|                      |                 |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| <b>REVENUE</b>       |                 |
| Budget               | \$32,850        |
| Actual Receipts      | - <u>31,018</u> |
| Difference           | (\$1,832)       |
| <b>EXPENSES</b>      |                 |
| Budget               | \$33,347        |
| Actual Expenses      | - <u>31,403</u> |
| Difference           | \$ 1,944        |
| Result of operations | \$ 112          |
| <b>PLEDGE</b>        |                 |
| Budget               | \$27,083        |
| Actually received    | <u>28,134</u>   |
|                      | \$ 1,051        |

2022 Per Capita assessment is \$35 per member.

## From the Pastor

March 2022



As a teenager, I hosted a number of neighborhood “Hide and Seek” games. You’ll remember how they go. One of the group shuts the eyes and counts loudly to one hundred, as the others scatter and hide. The counter becomes the seeker, looking in trees and behind bushes. When someone is found, they are chased and tagged. When all are found, another begins to count while the others hide.

The game continues until everybody is found or a significant number of the gang is weary of hiding. Sound familiar?

There’s a hide-and-see nature to our pandemic. Some are calling out, “All-ee, all-ee, in free,” and acting as if the long night of hiding is over. The local supermarket recently relaxed its safety requirements and made masks optional. Predictably, few masks were seen.

By contrast, I remember the dark night of hide and seek when my sister and I were hiding behind a garden shed. We had kept out of sight so successfully that we wondered if we would ever be found. After a long, interminable wait, my sister whispered, “Do you think it’s safe to come out now?”

That’s a good question for you and me. After two long years, the covid-19 numbers seem to be dropping - but we’ve been there before. Another variation of the virus could pop up at any time. But is it safe to come out?

I hope so. There are increasing hints of safety. And I believe the day is coming when covid-19 will recede far enough into the shadows that it won’t be a widespread threat. It will be safe to return and reconnect.

I am immensely proud that our church leaders have managed this health crisis with the utmost caution and care. To our knowledge, no one has caught or spread the virus within our church building, which is the best for which we can hope. And we will continue to take the utmost precaution to protect you and everybody else as we gather. For now, we will continue wearing masks when we are together in church. The coast is not quite clear.

But it will be. We know that. And when you feel that it’s safe to return and join your fellow church members in the sanctuary, fellowship hall, or the church classroom, we will love to see you.

I look forward to the next time we can be together. All of us.

*Rev. Bill Carter*

## The FPCCS Endowment Fund Is Growing!

**Thank you!** As of January 31, 2022, the FPCCS Endowment Fund totals \$107,000!

Session created the fund in 2021 “to encourage bequests and gifts to the church [and] provide a mechanism for the use of such gifts to further the mission of the Church and the work of Jesus Christ.”



### Together, we're working to raise \$1 million for the fund. Why?

**For tomorrow:** so that the vital, Faith-filled church we love will live on to nurture, guide and bless future generations!

**For today:** so that our gifts earn interest for the church, helping to stabilize its financial position year-to-year.

Please consider making your own “now and forever” gift to the church through the FPCCS Endowment Fund. Donation forms are available on the [FPCCS website](#), in the narthex and office.

We're very grateful to all who've responded so generously to recent Endowment fundraising appeals. Please join us in thanking . . .

|                        |                                 |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Warren & Heather Acker | Dr. Phil & Rev. Barbara Muntzel |
| Diana Pope-Albright    | Chris & Barbara Norton          |
| Beverly Bright         | Ginny & Joe O'Brien             |
| Dave Brown             | Nancy Owens                     |
| Bill & Grace Farrell   | Jean & Bill Siebecker           |
| Donna & Andy Kepler    | Janet Stansbury                 |

Thank You!,  
The FPCCS Endowment Committee

## Another Hickory Street Meal...Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup>

*From The Mission & Justice Committee*



On Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup> we will again be preparing/serving a meal and collecting/distributing bags of groceries as part of Hickory Street Presbyterian's bi-monthly community meals program. We will be seeking lots of volunteers to assist with:

- Purchase of ingredients and preparation of Irish Stew (recipe provided)
- Purchase of ingredients and preparation of Irish Soda Bread Muffins (recipe provided)
- Purchase of ingredients and preparation of Apple Butterscotch Cakes (recipe provided)
- Shopping for various grocery items for food bags (a shopping list will be provided)
- Transport of food bags to Hickory Street on Friday, March 25<sup>th</sup>
- Serving the meal (in house dining and to-go orders) and distributing food bags at Hickory Street Presbyterian from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup>

Sign-Up lists for all of the above, as well as the various recipes and shopping list can be found in the Narthex. Please consider how you might contribute to this important outreach to our neighbors. For additional information, please email Alan Baker at [abaker2@verizon.net](mailto:abaker2@verizon.net).

Christian Education



It's for life!

**THE W.A.Y.**The Wednesday Adults and Youth Christian Education

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

**Adult Education for Lent****The Shape of Repentance: How Does It Look When We Return to God?**

Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. Room 206 and ZOOM (link to be on our website and weekly e-mail)

**March 2 - The Inner Work of Returning (Bible study of Joel 2:12-17)**

The prophet calls us to "rip open our hearts," presumably because they have hardened. What could this metaphor mean? What will it require of us? Why is change so difficult?

**March 9 - The Outer Work of the Soul (Bible study of Luke 3 and Luke 15)**

Of the four Gospels, Luke's book issues a persistent call to repent. Why? What does this mean?

**March 16 - When God's People Are Torn Apart: what fear and racism do to us**

We will reflect together on a brief video from Jim Wallis of Sojourners, as he calls us to move beyond our fear to learn how to embrace our neighbors.

**March 23 - Recovering from a Disturbing History: Slavery and Princeton Seminary**

Our Presbyterian seminary in New Jersey uncovered its own tortured past with slavery. How have they responded? One of the seminary trustees shares the journey with us.

**March 30 - When God's People Misuse God's Earth**

For a number of years, our congregation was designated an "Earth Care" church. Let's revisit this, as a national leader in the church's earth care movement joins us.

**April 6 - What Can the Church Do for God's Earth? Commitments and Initiatives**

This summer, our General Assembly considers acting on a "Climate Care Overture" to guide us. What does it cover? What does it invite us to do?

**April 13 - Holy Week as the Portal of Repentance**

What do we pray and sing during Holy Week? It's all about turning from destructive ways and turning back to God.

**Wanted: Donations for prizes for Clarks Summit State Hospital Residents**

Once again we will be unable to host our guests from Clarks Summit State Hospital for Our Spring luncheon. Therefore we would like to collect small items that can be used for game prizes. The Dollar Store (now \$1.25) is a good source and some suggested items are nail polishes, lipsticks, hair items, small notebooks, combs/brushes, small stuffed animals (no buttons), puzzles etc. Hopefully these items will be delivered in time for Easter but PLEASE do not buy candy. A box will be placed in the Narthex for your donations. Recently a trunk load of brand new socks was delivered to them. If anyone has any questions, please do not hesitate in contacting me at 570-563-1887.



Janet Dobson, Presbyterian Women

Joys

Sorrows

Prayers



- 7 Nina Schillinger
- 11 Susan Sill
- 16 Candy Ferrese
- 20 Chuck Woolever
- 23 Jacob Gilbert
- 27 Bonnie Plantholt
- 29 Nancy Post  
Bill Davis
- 31 Beverly Bright

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Nancy Dennen and her family on the recent passing of Nancy's mother, Ruth Browneller.

Lectionary Readings

March 6-1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent

Deuteronomy 26:1-11  
and Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16;  
Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13

March 13-2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent

Genesis 15:1-12,17-18 and Psalm 27;  
Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35

March 20-3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent

Isaiah 55:1-9 and Psalm 63:1-8;  
1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9

March 27-4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent

Joshua 5:9-12 and Psalm 32;  
2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Lent:



A Time for Reflection and Prayer

As we begin a new church season, we encourage you to take time individually and as a family to explore the meaning of Lent. Families can pick up a Lent Bag filled with devotions, activity and reflection suggestions, and more. We have versions available both for families with children and for those without. Please take only 1 bag per family. Bags will be available for pick up by Sunday, Feb. 27 or contact Jana to make arrangements for safe drop off at your home.

Wednesday March 2nd



Join us for an Ash Wednesday Service at 7 p.m. It will last 1/2 hour, and ashes will be offered.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

*Worship every Sunday, 10 a.m., Sanctuary and on-line*  
*Ash Wednesday Service, March 2, 7 p.m., Sanctuary and on-line*

### Board and Committee Meetings

**Session Meeting**—Tuesday, March 8, 7 p.m., Room 206

**Board of Deacons**—Tuesday, March 22, 7 p.m., Room 206

**Building and Grounds**—Thursday, March 3, 7 p.m., Room 209

**Christian Education**—Thursday, March 3, 7 p.m., Room 206

**Mission and Justice**—Tuesday, March 1, 7 p.m., Room 206

**Worship, Music, Arts**—Tuesday, March 3, 7 p.m., Zoom

### Service/Study/Fellowship Gatherings

The Way meets each Wednesday

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

Adult Choir—7:15 p.m., Sanctuary; Bell Choir - 8:30 p.m. as needed

**ARTS at First Presbyterian - The Merchants of Groove, March 20, 4 p.m., Sanctuary and on-line**

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

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

**My Brother's Keeper Quilters**—March 8 and 22, 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. on Zoom, and Thursdays at 7 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

**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 Presbyterian Deadline** is – March 18; Anticipated mailing Date – March 30

### **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.



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

300 School Street  
Clarks Summit, PA 18411-1536

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
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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)*