



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

300 School Street
Clarks Summit, PA 18411-1536

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The Abington Ecumenical Ministerium

Dalton Food Pantry

The Dalton Food Pantry is located at the Dalton United Methodist Church at 125 S. Turnpike Road in Dalton, PA. The Food Pantry is open on Monday evenings from 6-7:30 p.m. We serve families, in need, in the Abington Heights School District and the Lackawanna Trail School District. The Food Pantry first opened its doors in June 1983 for this very important ministry.

To register you will need to provide the following information:

- 1) You will need to have a picture ID (current PA issued Drivers License) with your current address on it, for every person in your household 18 years or older.
- 2) For all children that live with you full time that are under the age of 18, you need to present an ACCESS Card or other form of insurance card.
- 3) You will also be required to show a current utility bill with your current street address on it. (No P.O. Box Numbers.)

For additional information please call the church at 570-563-1619 and leave a message and a phone number where you can be reached. Someone will contact you to answer any questions.



The Presbyter

April 2022

The First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit



Sunday, April 10, Palm Sunday, 10 a.m.

This service will direct our attention to Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem and his subsequent time of suffering.

Following the 10:00 AM Worship Service, the CE committee invites us to focus on Christ's death and resurrection. From the parade of Palm Sunday to the empty tomb at Easter, learn about the holiest and most important week in our faith. Enjoy lunch and fellowship as we remember and reflect on Holy Week.

Thursday, April 14, Maundy Thursday, 7:30 p.m.

On this evening, we will gather at the Lord's Table to commemorate Christ's last meal with his friends before his death. This service concludes with the observance of Tenebrae (Shadows).



Friday, April 15, Good Friday, 12 noon-1 p.m.

An observance of the Passion of Christ will take place in our sanctuary. Those present will participate in a reading of the Passion story from the Gospel of John.



Sunday, April 17, Easter Sunday One service at 10 a.m.

Hallelujah! We celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus with joyful music and the Lord's Supper.



Easter Sunday Easter Egg Hunt

Come One and All - Kids of All ages for an Easter Egg Hunt in Fellowship Hall after the Worship Service



Save the Date!

Sunday, May 1 - Holy Humor Sunday

We tried to take it off the calendar, but it wouldn't go!

Let's Celebrate the day God played a practical joke on the devil by raising Jesus from the dead. Easter is the celebration of life!

And a great way to celebrate is with Strawberry Short Cake! Please join us in Fellowship Hall for this tasty treat!



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NOTES FROM THE SESSION MEETING - MARCH 8, 2022

1. There will be a congregational meeting to elect elders and deacons on Sunday, May 1, immediately after the 10:00 a.m. service. Please plan to stay for this meeting.
2. Session approved up to \$15,000 to be used to update our kitchen and purchase necessary items including a stove. Building & Grounds will oversee this project.
3. Session determined that masks would be optional. A suggestion is made to everyone to bring a mask so you can slip it on if you feel it necessary in a prolonged conversation with someone who is wearing one.
4. Remember to attend the upcoming Lenten and Easter services as listed on our website and in our Sunday bulletin. An Easter Egg hunt for all children will take place immediately after the Easter Morning service.

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 May 2022 issue is
April 15

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 February 28, 2022

REVENUE

| | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| Budget | \$ 65,700 |
| Actual Received | <u>55,358</u> |
| Difference | (\$10,342) |

EXPENSES

| | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| Budget | \$ 66,695 |
| Actual Expenses | <u>65,155</u> |
| Difference | \$ 1,540 |

Result of operations (\$ 8,802)

PLEDGE

| | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| Budget | \$ 54,167 |
| Actually received | <u>51,776</u> |
| | (\$ 2,391) |

2022 Per Capita assessment is
\$35 per member.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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

Maundy Thursday Service, April 14, 7:30 p.m.

Good Friday Service, April 15, 12 noon-1 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 17 - one service at 10 a.m.

Easter Egg Hunt for all Kids at about 11 a.m.



Board and Committee Meetings

Session - No meeting in April. Next meeting is Tuesday, May 10, 7 p.m., Room 206

Board of Deacons—Tuesday, April 26, 7 p.m., Room 206

Building and Grounds—Thursday, April 7, 7 p.m., Room 209

Christian Education—Thursday, April 7, 7 p.m., Room 206

Mission and Justice—Tuesday, April 5, 7 p.m., Room 206

Service/Study/Fellowship Gatherings

The Way meets each Wednesday

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

Adult Choir—7:15 p.m., Sanctuary

Palm Sunday CE Event - April 10, 11 a.m., Fellowship Hall- Experience the events of Holy Week from the Parade on Palm Sunday to the viewing of the empty tomb. Enjoy lunch and fellowship as we reflect on the events of Holy Week.

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

Men's Breakfast and Bible Study—April 7 and 21, 8:30 a.m., Room 206

Mission and Justice Highway Clean up -- April 9, 9 a.m.

My Brother's Keeper Quilters—April 12 and 26, 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 April 15.

Anticipated mailing date is April 27.

*Masks are now optional in
our building.*

Joys

Sorrows

Prayers



Sympathy of the congregation is extended to Edie Suydam and her family on the passing of her husband, Ronald, on March 1, 2022.

Jane Dann and family on the passing of her husband, Ben, on February 27, 2022.

The family of Betsey Cooper who Entered the Church Triumphant March 14, 2022. Her daughter, Connie Baruffaldi, and family are members here.



- 1 Anne Rich
- Donna Evans
- 2 Colin Shane
- 7 Donald Keen
- 11 John Rich
- 12 Jennifer Sekol
- 16 Gerald Miller
- 19 Mark Kusma
- 23 Nancy London
- 26 Len Ballelli



- 16 Kevin & Holly Shane

Lectionary Readings

April 3 5th Sunday in Lent

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

April 10 Palm/Passion Sunday

Palm: Luke 19:28-40 and Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Passion: Isaiah 50:4-9a and Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 22:14-23:56 or
Luke 23:1-49

April 17 Resurrection of the Lord/Easter Day

Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 65:17-25 and
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24;
1 Corinthians 15:19-26 or Acts 10:34-43;
Luke 24:1-12 or John 20:1-18

April 24 2nd Sunday of Easter

Acts 5:27-32 and Psalm 118:14-29 or Psalm 150 or
2 Kings 7:1-16 and Psalm 2; Revelation 1:4-8;
John 20:19-31



Masks are now optional in
our building.

From the Pastor

April 2022



Sometime in late winter, the worship bulletin catalogs begin to appear in the church mailbox. Sized at 11 or 14 inches, there are plenty of choices, usually updated each year. We have had to rethink bulletins for the two years of the pandemic, since many of you have downloaded the bulletin from home while you've been on exile from the sanctuary. Everybody doesn't have a color printer, so we have kept them in black and white for the most part. And the formatting would be all wrong at home, especially since we had been using legal sized paper.

But the recurring question is the same: What should go on the cover?

The available Easter bulletin covers tend to divide in two camps. The first (A) offers a scene from nature: the blooming tulips, the fragrant lilies, the morning sunrise. After a long winter – and far longer pandemic – these images suggest the return of spring. Or the beginning of a new day. Or a hint of new life. We are ready for all of this, of course, and a general optimism is appropriate for the holy day.

The alternative (B) is usually a photo of a big hole in the side of a hill with a large stone nearby. This purports to be the Empty Tomb of all the Easter stories. As the accounts tell us, the women went early to anoint the body of Jesus with burial spices and discovered the burial stone had been rolled away. Often the scene is announced with a scripture verse, such as, "Why do you look for the living among the dead?"

Which is it? A or B?

Some theologians wince at any attempt to describe the resurrection with a scene from nature. Easter is an event that breaks the repetitive sequence of nature: life comes after death, when all we know is that life leads to death. Add to this the presumption in the northern hemisphere that Easter is a springtime event, while anybody south of the equator celebrates in what looks like autumn.

Yet an empty tomb is not all that satisfying, either. Nobody is in it. Sure, Jesus is risen and on the loose. Death cannot contain, restrict, or confine him. That's the Easter affirmation. But an empty tomb is merely... empty.

Let's agree that Easter is grander than a picture on a piece of paper. And we can affirm the Mystery of the resurrection promises the final redemption of all things – including a natural world that has been scarred by human greed and exploitation. Easter is glimpsed wherever we have clear signs that Christ is alive, and where his Spirit provides renewal and redemption. The resurrection that we proclaim inside a church building reaches outside that building to transform all things. All things.

To hold this creative tension, we have the refrain from a communion hymn from Fred Kaan. It holds together resurrection and renewal, proclamation and holy generosity. Remember how it goes?

Jesus lives again, Earth can breathe again, pass the Word around, loaves abound!

I think we shall sing that one on Easter, which occurs just a few days before Earth Day. For God is concerned with the renewal of all things. All things.

See you in church, where we pass around the Word and share the abundant loaves! And I'll see you outside, too, in the world God has created.

Rev. Bill Carter



Earth Care and Us

Mission and Justice and Adult Christian Education are teaming up this Spring to present a series of classes and activities blending current science, provocative questions, group discussion, and personal reflection on Climate Change and Sustainability. Mark your calendars for the activities on this page as well as the WAY series listed on Page 5.

Saturday, April 9, 2022

Highway Clean-Up

9:00-10:00 am, Clarks Summit United Methodist Church parking lot

The difference between out-of-sight and gone.

Get a "hands on" experience with the reality of just what kinds and how much stuff we get out of our sight but not out of the world. Enjoy good conversations as we walk the Morgan Highway between Country Club and Winola Roads to clean up the roadsides after the long winter. The walk is flat, the newly returned birds will be singing, and early spring flowers will be on show as we spruce up the look of one of our community's throughfares.

Friday, April 22, 2022

EARTH DAY 2022

Mark the 52nd International Earth Day with a visit to www.earthday.org and get to know their website. Take a few minutes to read the article there on ***The Recycling Problem: A Feel-Good Story That's Too Good to be True.*** Or take one of their site's short but informative quizzes (about 10 multiple-choice questions) to see if you know as much as you think you do about ***Climate Change, Clean Energy, Regenerative Agriculture, or Sustainable Fashion.***

Sunday, April 24, 2022

Following morning Worship, Fellowship Hall

If everyone around the world lived like us, how many earths would we need?

Join Meg Hatch and others from our Earth Care team to explore some easy and quick online apps to compute your personal carbon footprint, or that of your family. If you can't come, we invite you to do the online app at home sometime during the week. Then anonymously share your results on Sunday, May 1st by filling out an answer sheet and dropping it in the box in the narthex. We'll share our "us" average the following Sunday. Be honest!

Sunday, May 15, 2022

Following morning Worship

One more walk, but this time without the trash.

We close this series where we began, outside amid the beauties of nature, but this time without the trash bags. Wear comfortable clothes and shoes that morning and bring your binoculars! We will meet in the Session room after church to arrange carpools to the upper parking lot of the Church of the Epiphany where Meg Hatch will lead a walk down the Trolley Trail.

The Mission and Justice Committee would like to welcome anyone interested in helping a new refugee family settle in our area to join The Scranton Refugee Friendship Network. Their goal is to provide accompaniment, advocacy, and empowerment to these new neighbors. This is a collaboration of The University of Scranton, United Neighborhood Center, Catholic Social Services, Saint Ignatious, and Friends of the Poor.



REFUGEE ASSISTANCE

Your skills and availability will be assessed to build a good team. Do you speak another language, do you have connections to local resources, do you love to cook? Maybe you would like to pick an arriving family up at the airport or set up a new apartment with the donations from Friends of the Poor. Can you be a friendly face that shows up once in a while to see how everyone is?

The new families are arriving regularly again and some of our local resources for them have been dismantled. Let's help to build them back up. If interested, or if you have any questions please reach out to Ginny O'Brien 587-8149 or ginny8149@gmail.com.



The Mission and Justice Committee would like to thank our congregation for their overwhelming support for our 2 day drive for medical supplies for Ukrainian refugees in Poland. St. Vladimir Ukrainian Catholic Church in Scranton was very grateful for our response. If you missed it or would like to donate more, stay tuned to The Light On The Hill. In the event that another collection is scheduled, you will see it there.

In the meantime, M&J is also making a monetary donation, and if you would like to help out in this way checks can be mailed to:

Saint Vladimir Ukrainian Catholic Church
430 N. 7th Ave.
Scranton, PA 18503-2104

In the memo line add - Humanitarian effort in Ukraine

While the church family at St. Vladimir's is grief stricken, they are also overwhelmed with the love and support of our community.



Our friends from Uganda, Charles and Alice Busyinge, who visited us several years ago to tell us about Reaching the Pygmies ministry, have sent a note of thanks for our Christmas gifts to the Pygmies through our Give a Gift to a Stranger program during Advent.

"Thank you very much for the work you have done to lift Epiphany school as well as lifting the standard and well being of the Pygmies at Kebiremu settlement. I salute you for what you did for these people by giving them Christmas gifts. These days they have learned to appreciate whatever is given to them. So please receive their smiles and thanks through me. Please extend our gratefulness to others who were with you in this wonderful exercise. Praise God."

From Charles and Robin Pinches

Masks are now optional in our building.



Arts Concert On-line

Join the First Presbyterian Church and friends who participate musically throughout our church. This concert will feature our musical ensembles: chapel choir, alleluia choir, adult choir, and the bell choir. In addition to our ensembles, featured soloists and groups from throughout the years will be contributing to this program. The concert will be available on our Arts at First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit Youtube page and a link will be posted on our Facebook page on April 24.

Donations to the Arts at FPCCS program can be made through the church office or electronically via our website, fpccs.org. We appreciate your support of all Arts programs here at First Presbyterian.

Save the Date!

VBS 2022 will be held July 18-22

Calling all volunteers!

If you'd like to help children walk with Jesus in Jerusalem 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!

This year we collected

\$480.69

for the AEM Food Pantry through the Souper Bowl of Caring.



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.

Masks are now optional in our building.



THE W.A.Y.

The Wednesday Aadults and Youth Christian Education
"I am the WAY, the TRUTH, and the LIFE"

Adult Education for April and May: Earth Care and Us

A series of classes and activities blending current science, provocative questions, group discussion, and personal reflection on Climate Change and Sustainability.

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

Wednesday, April 6

What can the Church do for God's Earth? This summer, the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) will consider a new "Climate Care Overture." What kinds of actions does this document call for and on what timeframe? The Rev. Bruce Gillette, Moderator of Presbyterians for Earth Care, joins us to explain this important new initiative.

Wednesday, 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.

Wednesday, April 20

Dr. Meg Hatch will share the latest scientific information on Climate Change while leading discussion of the basic questions. **What is climate and how is it changing? How do we know these changes are due to human actions? What are some of the predicted and already observed effects?** We will also watch a short video and a slide presentation from the new international advocacy and training organization, Climate Ambassadors.

Wednesday, April 27

Jack and Diane Scheuer will share short videos followed by group discussion on the topics of: **What does the Bible say about the Natural World? Climate Change is a Poverty Issue. Climate Change is a Threat Multiplier.**

Wednesday, May 4

Jack and Diane Scheuer will share two more short videos followed by group discussion on the topics of: **Grateful for Fossil Fuels, But Time to Move On? There Can be a Better Future.**

Wednesday, May 11

Seriously, what can one person do about Climate Change? Kate O'Brien and Alan Baker will lead discussion of practical life hacks we can all try to live more sustainably while reducing our personal carbon footprint, including some product demonstrations and maybe even some give-aways.

Masks are now optional in our building.