



The Presbyter

May 2022

The First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit

The
Arts
at First Presbyterian Church

Drew Nugent & Midnight Society

**Friday, May 20, 2022
7:00 pm**



The Arts at First Presbyterian series will come to a "fiery" conclusion, when the hottest "hot jazz band" from Philadelphia travels north in a Model T to transform Fellowship Hall into a speakeasy.

Drew Nugent plays piano, trumpet, and tea kettle, as he leads the Midnight Society jazz band. They will bring alive the music of the Roaring 20's (the 1920's) as they put a smile on your face and a tap in your step.

And yes, there will be dancing.

The event is open to the public free of charge, but a free-will offering will be taken to help defray the costs of the event. 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; the members and staff of the First Presbyterian Church; and by individual contributions.

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!

Masks are now optional in our building.

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The majesty of God's creation

Earth Day offers a reminder to be wise stewards of God's creation. Former U.S. Senate chaplain Lloyd Ogilvie wrote about how the universe reveals the greatness of its Maker.

"If we were to drive a car day and night at top speed without stopping," he writes, "it would take us nine years to reach the moon, 300 years to reach the sun, 8,300 years to reach the planet Neptune, 75 million years to reach Alpha Centauri, and 700 million years to reach the Pole Star.

"This is the reason the Psalmist, even with his limited cosmology, could say, 'When I consider the work of Thy fingers, the moon and the stars which Thou hast ordained; what is man, that Thou dost take thought of him? And the son of man, that Thou dost care for him? Yet Thou hast made him a little lower than God, and dost crown him with glory and majesty!' (Psalm 8:3-5)." Astonishing indeed!

Published in: [April 2022](#), The Newsletter Newsletter

Earth Day may have come and gone, but our care for the earth must never wane.

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 June 2022 issue is
May 13

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
Organist	Kay Ten Eyck
Sexton	Don Gross

FROM YOUR FINANCE COMMITTEE FOR THE MONTH ENDING March 31, 2022

REVENUE	
Budget	\$ 98,550
Actual Received	<u>75,222</u>
Difference	(\$23,328)
EXPENSES	
Budget	\$100,042
Actual Expenses	<u>96,969</u>
Difference	\$ 3,074
Result of operations	(\$ 20,254)
PLEDGE	
Budget	\$ 81,250
Actually received	<u>71,281</u>
	(\$ 9,969)

2022 Per Capita assessment is
\$35 per member.

Dear Friends -

Now that the masks are coming off and the fearsome pandemic seems to be subsiding, what has happened to the church? Here are some of my observations:



We have learned a lot of things:

- **We are more resilient than we realized.** The shock and awe of an unseen virus has traumatized all of us, some abruptly, others slowly. It has been a hard two years. I don't know about you, but my tendency is to "push through" when life gets difficult – even if the difficulty numbs me. And we have pushed through. Mostly.
- **We truly can count on one another.** For those who have friendships within the church, they have experienced these friendships as life-giving and sustaining. For those who were brave enough to ask for help, they have made new friends. For those who preferred to hunker down and get through this season on their own, they report on the quiet support that they have felt.
- As much as we grumble about it, **technology has been a primary way to keep our congregation nurtured and connected.** I am regularly surprised and pleased at how many folks tune into our weekly worship service or read our weekly e-mail notes. They are grateful for the gifts of our staff. They are generous in keeping our congregation well-funded.
- **We are a spiritual asset to our community.** The Church on the Hill is a Light to the Neighborhood. Whether it's our arts outreach through concerts and broadcasts, our hybrid studies that pick up viewers as time goes on, or our hands-on projects to serve those in need, the community knows we are here. They appreciate what we offer. They admire our perseverance.

Other things have happened, too:

- **We have gotten slower.** It's as if we stepped into a time machine with a fast-forward button. We are moving more deliberately. There is some wisdom in this. Slow and steady wins the race.
- **Downward trends have accelerated,** revealing that some of our hunches about how things were headed have become inevitable truths. If a church program was limping, it has ceased. If a group was diminishing, it won't come back in its present form, if at all. Conversely, if the group or program was holding its own, it's probably doing fine. And all of this is OK.
- **We have simplified our priorities and let go of what we deemed unnecessary.** This has been particularly true for anybody who was due to make a job change, a move toward retirement, or a simple decision to engage in better self-care. And it seems to have happened in our congregation as a whole.
- To the positive column, **we have gotten much clearer about our values.** It is good to hear God speak through scripture. It is good to draw upon the resources of our faith. It is good to serve others. It is good to make a positive difference through our personal generosity. And it is really good to be together.

So where do we go from here? Clearly, we will do better if we build on our strengths, rather than fuss over our deficits. Saint Paul may have claimed to be "all things to all people," but that is not our church's calling. In the shaking down that we've experienced during the pandemic, I perceive a renewed consensus about what it means for us to be a worshiping, learning, and serving fellowship of faith.

In coming months, we will have leadership conversations about the emerging shape of our church program, especially as we look toward the fall. This can be an exciting and vital time for us to hit the reset button, particularly if we do it with our eyes open and our hearts alert.

As these conversations progress, let me suggest One Big Thing that all of us can do: **reach out to one another.** Expand the circles of our friendship. Share some meals together, now that it's safer to do that. Phone a stranger and introduce yourself. Ask simply, "How are you doing?" and listen deeply to the response. The health of our congregation will always be reflected in the strength of our relationships. I believe this.

And I send my love to you,

Rev. Bill Carter



Earth Care and Us

Mission and Justice and Adult Christian Education continue their team effort 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 to join this activity on May 15 as well as the WAY series listed on Page 5.

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.

Mission and Justice

The **Pentecost Offering**, the second of the PCUSA's four annual Special Offerings, is collected each year from between Easter and Pentecost Sunday (June 5th). Falling in the long shadow cast by Lent's One Great Hour of Sharing, this offering can be easily overlooked but like all our special offerings, it targets its own unique and important support need. All giving is directed specifically to **children and youth**, making it an investment in our greatest resource. And 40% of the giving is retained by individual congregations to make an impact in our own community, with the remaining 60% used to support children-at-risk, youth, and young adults through ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency.



For 2022 the Mission and Justice Committee has selected the **NEPA Youth Shelter** to be the recipient of this local share. A 501c3 nonprofit, they offer a rapid rehousing program for teens age 18-21 who find themselves homeless, and operate, as well, an after school drop-in center (at Olive and Wyoming) where at-risk youth can find food, drinks, computers, printers, a library, and other essentials like clothing, bathrooms, educational support, counseling, family reunification, and/or preparation for independent living. With a focus on social justice and advocacy, the Shelter welcomes youth from all backgrounds and is especially affirming to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) youth, as this population constitutes a high percentage of homeless youth in our area. The organization employs an executive director, a life-skills coach, and a technical specialist.

We encourage you to visit their website at www.nepayouthshelter.org to learn more about their good work, and to plan to stay after worship on **Sunday, May 22nd**, when the Shelter's executive Director, Maureen Maher-Gray, will join us for a table-talk during coffee hour.

Look for special envelopes in the pews for this Pentecost Offering, or simply note "Pentecost Offering" in the memo line of your check or online giving.



Adult Education for 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, 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.



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 earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein; for he has founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the rivers.

Psalm 24:1 RSV



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.



Thanks
for your Gifts

Women's Association

THANK YOU to everyone for your donations for The Clarks Summit State Hospital. Many of the items were used for Easter as well as prizes for the various games the staff has with the patients. We have not been able to host them at the church since 2019 so this is our way of continued support. The generosity of our congregation is amazing as this collection was also at the same time as those for Ukraine and Hickory Street Church.

Women's Association

Thank You—Hickory Street Meal Program Volunteers

On behalf of the Mission and Justice Committee, we extend our appreciation to all those who volunteered for the Hickory Street Presbyterian Church Meal Program on March 26, 2022. In addition to the 10 people from our congregation who were present on that day to help serve food, there were 19 cooks and bakers who prepared Irish beef stew, butterscotch apple cake, and Irish soda bread muffins. A total of 117 meals were served to the community, making this a successful and worthwhile event. Furthermore, we want to thank all those who contributed food items for the food pantry. 27 food bags were prepared and distributed to needy families on the 26th. We are indeed grateful to have such a generous and caring congregation at FPCCS.



Community Meal

The Nursery is now **OPEN** Sunday mornings from 9:40-11:10 a.m. for children ages 3 and younger.

The nursery is located in room 208, which is on the sanctuary level of the building.



Our nursery caregiver is Heather Lyons, a member of this congregation. She was our caregiver prior to the pandemic.

Welcome back, Heather!

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!



Class of 
2022

Calling all graduates!

If you are graduating this year (or know someone who is) we want to know. Whether it's a high school, college, or post-college graduation, we want to recognize your accomplishments...but we need to be sure you're on our list!

Please contact Myrna Diven at 570-586-8821 with information. Thank you.


Scholarship

Paul R. Dobson Memorial Scholarship

Any graduating high school senior member of the church who plans to further their education is invited to apply. The completed application can be downloaded from the church's website (www.fpccs.org) and mailed to Janet Dobson, 105 Center Lane, North Abington Township, PA 18414 by May 10. The Winner will be announced On Graduate Recognition Sunday.

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

Prayers

Emily Lily Koltis
and
Wesley Donald Koltis
were baptized on April
24, 2022 by Rev. Carter.



Born June 26, 2021, their parents are Andrew and Bethany Koltis, and they have an older sister named Evelyn. Sue Sill is their grandmother. Blessings and best wishes to this young family.



With sadness, we announce
the passing of
Gail Van Horn
and
Geraldine Conklin
on April 7, 2022.

Services celebrating their lives took place in the sanctuary, the Van Horn family on April 13 and the Conklin family on April 14.

We offer our love and prayers to their families and friends.



- 2 Gary Wadsworth
- 5 Alan Baker
- 8 Patty Anne McGonagle
- 10 Barbara Cocolin
- Robert Deremer
- 11 Wally Longcor
- Jim Cocolin
- 21 Jeanne DeVirgilis
- David Naeher
- 22 Jana Schillinger
- 23 Jillian Shane
- 24 Sue Flynn
- 25 Bonnie Perugini
- 28 Kate O'Brien
- 29 Kathy Sloneker
- 30 Bethany Koltis

Lectionary Readings

May 1-3rd Sunday of Easter

Acts 9:1-6 (7-20) and Psalm 30 or Isaiah 61:1-3 and Psalm 90:13-17; Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-19

May 8-4th Sunday of Easter

Acts 9:36-43 and Psalm 23 or Isaiah 53:1-6 and Psalm 114; Revelation 7:9-17; John 10:22-30

May 15-5th Sunday of Easter

Acts 11:1-18 and Psalm 148 or Leviticus 19:9-18 and Psalm 24:1-6; Revelation 21:1-6; John 13:31-35

May 22-6th Sunday of Easter

Acts 16:9-15 and Psalm 67 or Deuteronomy 34:1-12 and Psalm 109:21-31; Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5; John 14:23-29 or John 5: 1-9

May 29-7th Sunday of Easter

Acts 16:16-34 and Psalm 97 or 2 Kings 2:1-15 and Psalm 2; Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21; John 17:20-26



- 24 Nina & Brian Schillinger

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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

Holy Humor Sunday, followed by Strawberry Short Cake Social - May 1, 10 a.m.,
Sanctuary/Fellowship Hall

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

Board and Committee Meetings

Session Meeting—Tuesday, May 10, 7 p.m., Room 206

Board of Deacons—Tuesday, May 24 7 p.m., Room 206

Building and Grounds—Thursday, May 5, 7 p.m., Room 209

Christian Education—Thursday, May 5, 7 p.m., Room 206

Mission and Justice—Tuesday, May 3, 7:30 p.m., Room 206

Worship, Music, Arts— Thursday, May 5, 7 p.m., Zoom

Service/Study/Fellowship Gatherings

Adult Education Class meets each Wednesday, beginning at 6:00 p.m. (see page 5 for details)

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

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

Men's Breakfast and Bible Study—May 5 and 19, 8:30 a.m., Room 206

My Brother's Keeper Quilters—May 10 and 24, 10 a.m., Fellowship Hall

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

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 : Tuesdays at 7 p.m., Thursdays at 9:30 a.m., Saturdays at 9:45 a.m.

Next Presbyter Deadline is May 13; Anticipated mailing Date is May 25.

Masks are now optional in our building.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

300 School Street
Clarks Summit, PA 18411-1536

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DATED MATERIAL

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**CAMP LACKAWANNA REGISTRATION
FOR SUMMER CAMP IS NOW OPEN!**

2022 SCHEDULE

Week 1: June 26-July 1

Mini Camp	Grades 1-3
Elementary Camp	Grades 2-5
Adventure Camp	Grades 6-12

Week 2: July 3-8

Night Owl Camp	Grades 6-12
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Week 3: July 10-15

Elementary Camp	Grades 2-5
Adventure Camp	Grades 6-12

Week 4: July 17-22

Camp Olympics	Grades 2-12
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To register, go to www.camplackawanna.org