

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

300 School Street

Clarks Summit, PA 18411-1536

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**DATED MATERIAL**

Return Service Requested



# CHURCH picnic

**PARKING LOT PICNIC**Sunday, August 28<sup>th</sup> following church

The grill will be fired up for hot dogs and hamburgers  
Side dishes and beverages will be provided by the Fellowship Committee  
Dessert will be dished up from the Manning's Ice Cream Truck  
Rain or shine!!!

Tables will be set up in the lower parking lot for the picnic.  
In case of rain, we will eat inside.

Join us for fun, fellowship, and fine food!



# The Presbyter

September 2022

**The First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit**

## Please join us for the 2022 Worship Through Service Weekend September 24 & 25

Our annual Worship Through Service event is a reminder that praise begins inside the church and moves outside to love our neighbors and serve our community. Our service activities will take place on Saturday, September 24, and Sunday, September 25, 2022. A sign-up sheet can be found on the bulletin board in the church narthex.



- Hickory Street Presbyterian Church Community Meal – Saturday, September 24 (Alan Baker)
- Hymn Sing at the Pines (and possibly the Gardens of Green Ridge) – Sunday September 25 at 2:00pm (Jan Thyren)
- Collection of Personal Items for SafetyNet – items will be collected until Sunday, September 25 (Tabbi Miller-Scandle)
- Collection of socks, scarves, gloves, hats for Clarks Summit State Hospital (Janet Dobson)
- Mowing and Cleanup of Abington Hills Cemetery – Sunday, September 25 (Jay Clymer)
- Card Writing and Assembly of “Thinking of You” Packages for Homebound Members – Sunday, September 25 - Jana Schillinger (ce@FPCCS.org)

Check the bulletin board for more opportunities to serve!

If you have any questions or need a ride to an event, please contact Tabbi Miller-Scandle at (570) 470-9762.

**Friday, September 9, 5-7 p.m.**

Welcome Back Dinner and Program

See Page 4 (top) for information.

**Jazz Communion on September 4***The Presbybop Band turns thirty years old this year*

Thirty years ago, Maud Thomas, our saintly organist, could not find a substitute to fill in for Labor Day weekend. She asked our pastor, “Could you play the hymns?” After he agreed, she asked, “Will you jazz them up?” We have been rolling downhill ever since.



2022 is a significant landmark for the Presbybop Quartet/Quintet/Sextet. We will mark it with a lively communion service that begins a few minutes before 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, September 4. The band will jazz up the congregational singing and include some of their favorite arrangements of hymns and original tunes.

Invite your friends – especially if they cannot imagine yet what it's like to have a jazz band lead worship.

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**Notes from the Combined Session and Deacons Meeting on Tuesday, July 26, 2022**

- The Session would like to thank everyone, staff, volunteers and friends who participated in Bible School this year. It was a wonderful week for children to learn about God. Much appreciation is sent to all of the leaders, teachers and helpers on a job well done.
- Session recognized Meg Hatch, Ph.D, associate professor of biology at Penn State Scranton, for her selection as a fellow of the American Ornithological Society. Meg is a church elder currently serving on the Mission & Justice committee.
- Session would like church members to volunteer on Saturday, September 24th at Hickory St. Presbyterian Church for our Community Lunch project. Sign-Up sheets to help are in the Narthex. This is very satisfying work, please consider getting involved.

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 **Presbyter** deadline for the October 2022 issue is September 16.

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>	(570) 586-6306
<b>Fax</b>	(570) 587-3784
<b>Web Page</b>	www.fpccs.org
<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

**FROM YOUR FINANCE COMMITTEE FOR THE MONTH ENDING JULY 31, 2022**

REVENUE

Budget	\$229,950
Actual Received	<u>- 221,220</u>
Difference	(\$ 8,730)

EXPENSES

Budget	\$233,432
Actual Expenses	<u>- 242,579</u>
Difference	(\$ 9,147)

Result of operations (\$ 17,877)

PLEDGE

Budget	\$ 189,583
Actually Received	<u>186,609</u>
	(\$ 2,975)

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2022 Per Capita assessment is \$35 per member.

Per Capita received to date = \$2,079.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

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

**Board and Committee Meetings**

**Session Meeting**—September 13, 7 p.m., Room 206

**Board of Deacons**—September 27, 7 p.m., Room 206

**Building and Grounds**—September 1, 7 p.m., Room 209

**Christian Education**—September 1, 7 p.m., Room 206

**Mission and Justice**—September 6, 7 p.m., Room 206

**Worship, Music and Arts**—September 8, 5 p.m., Room 206

**Service/Study/Fellowship Gatherings**

**Men's Breakfast and Bible Study**—September 1 and 15, 8:30 a.m., Room 206

**Welcome Back Dinner**—Friday, September 9, 5-7 p.m., Fellowship Hall (See page 4.)

**Highway Clean-up**—Saturday, September 10, 9 a.m., Clarks Summit UM Church Parking Lot

**Third Grade and Kindergarten children receive Bibles**—September 11 during worship

**Confirmation Class resumes**—September 11, 11:15 a.m., Room 206

**MBK Quilters**—Tuesday, September 13, 10 a.m., Fellowship Hall

**Deadline for the next Presbyter** is September 16 with anticipated mailing date of September 28.

**Women's Circle Bible Study**—September 20, 10 a.m., Room TBD

**\*\*Worship through Service Weekend—September 24 and 25\*\***

(See pages 1 and 6 for more information.)

**Adult Bible Study**—Each Wednesday, 6 p.m., Room 206

**Adult Choir**—Each Wednesday, 7 p.m., Choir Loft

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

**FPCCS Book Group** has resumed their meetings. Watch your bulletin and "Light from the Hill" for the next meeting date.

**The Church Office** will be closed Monday, September 5 in observance of Labor Day.

**Support Groups**

Many of our support groups have resumed 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 Fellowship Hall
- Overeaters Anonymous (OA) meets in room 210: Sundays at 3 p.m., Tuesdays at 6 p.m., Thursdays at 9:30 a.m., Saturdays at 9:45 a.m.

*My apologies if there are errors in the calendar above.*

*Please let me know the correct meeting day and time in October for your group. -- Nancy*

Joys

Sorrows

Thank You Notes



Thank you from Betty and Don Keen for the cards, gifts, donations and well-wishes surrounding their 50th Anniversary Celebration.



- 7 Mary O'Brien, Bryan Shane, Frank Garnecki, Amy Berry
8 Dean Shane, Tony Scandle
11 Judy Cutler, Laura Moore
12 Sandra Bailey, Don Gross
13 Ruth Richards
14 Dick Broxton
16 Hoyt Keiser
20 Lee Wirth
21 Nancy Dennen
23 Ann Chamberlin
24 Tyler Kusma, Linda Orcutt
27 Ethan Flynn, Stan Gilbert
29 Richard Maurer, Wendy Wescott
30 Andrew Taylor



- 10 Chuck & Maggie Woolever
19 Jim & Shirley McLaughlin



Diane Grick and Clinton Randall were married August 6, 2022 by Rev. Katherine Randall, Officiant and Rev. Robert Klouw, Officiant. Best wishes to the happy couple..



Blessings and Best Wishes to Peter and Laura Schillinger Moore on the birth of their son, Wesley John Moore, on August 3, 2022.



Sympathy to the Selige family and friends on the passing of Steve Selige on July 2, 2022

Lectionary Readings

- Sept 4 Jeremiah 18:1-11 and Psalm 96; Luke 14:25-33
Sept 11 Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28 and Psalm 14; Luke 15:1-10
Sept 18 Jeremiah 8:18-9:1 and Psalm 79:1-9; Luke 16:1-13
Sept 25 Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16; Luke 16:19-31

From the Pastor
September 2022



Even though it's the ninth month of the year, September offers a new beginning. The yellow school buses begin their routes. The football teams kick off their competitions. And a church like ours reignites its program.

You'll see a lot of fresh beginnings in this newsletter. Not a return to all our pre-pandemic activities, although many will resemble what we've done before. The truth is we can't "return" to the way it was. We can only move forward. And we'll do so with the lessons we've learned over the past thirty months.

The Christian church's ministry is fueled by its work with scripture, so you'll notice a number of Bible study opportunities for you. The Presbyterian Women will begin a new monthly study on the third Tuesday morning of the month. A weekly Wednesday study will explore the parables of Jesus, as a way of preparing for a sermon series on the same texts. And there's the venerable Men's Breakfast on the first and third Thursdays, a table full of Wise Guys who learn from one another's wisdom. All this, as we invite our children and their families to grow in faith together.

Our music program begins to rehearse imminently. Some new voices will join the adult choir, and that's exciting. The bell choir expects to have a full set of ringers, having kept a steady schedule of performances during a demanding and restrictive pandemic. We are hopeful our church's children will come and enjoy making music for God's glory. And our arts program will offer a very full year of tuneful offerings for the community.

And we give ourselves in service to the community! I am so proud that we never backed off from sharing compassion during the pandemic. Your commitment to loving our neighbors has been exemplary. Whether it's our highly visible Worship Through Service weekend at the end of the month or the quiet acts of generosity that support those in need, we are making a difference in the lives of others. What an extraordinary community of faith you are!

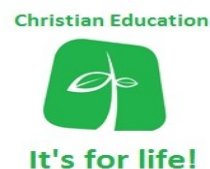
I'm looking forward to September, with gratitude to God and thanks for you. Let's jump in with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love.

See you in church – and in the community!

Rev. Bill

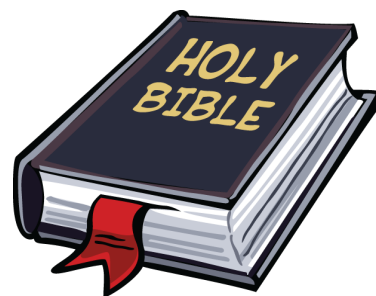
### Welcome Back Dinner and Program

Families with children as well as congregants of all ages are invited to join us on **Friday, September 9, from 5-7pm** for a meal and educational programming. School just started for the fall and things are a little upside-down and a lot busy, so enjoy some breakfast for dinner, discuss simple ways we can grow in faith, and participate in a fun activity. It's a great time to share fellowship and faith with our friends and family, so be sure to mark your calendars and invite someone to come with you!



#### Bibles for Children

On September 11, we will present our new **3rd grade** and **Kindergarten** students with Bibles. It is important to us as a church that we encourage our children to hear God's story and to begin reading it for themselves.



Are you on the list? If you have a kindergartener or third grade student, contact Jana Schillinger to ensure that we present your child with a Bible.

#### THANK YOU!



We had an amazing week at VBS because of our incredible volunteer staff.

A huge thank you to all those who gave their time and talents this year!



Classes will resume on September 11, meeting Sundays after worship in room 206 from 11:15am-12:30pm.



The Nursery is 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.



### The Arts at First Presbyterian concert series

is very close to being finalized, and we have some dates for you to put on your calendar for next season:

#### 2022-23 Arts at First Presbyterian concert season:

Sun, Oct 16- Arcadia Chorale- choral concert and associated art show

Sun, Nov 6- Beverly Trio (Tom Heinze, Gayle Klaber, Harold Levin)- chamber music

Sun, Nov 20- All-church recital

Sun, January 8- chamber concert by Chamber Music Society of NEPA

January or February- we will participate in CS Ice Festival- art show, Chili Cafe, entertainment

Sun, March 5- "Afternoon of Song" featuring art songs, arias, spirituals, and show tunes

Sat, April 15 - Cantata "Considering Matthew Shepard" with Choral Society and Bloomsburg University Choir

Sun, April 30- Big Band Concert organized by Tom Heinze and Bill Carter featuring a 16 piece band and 2 singers



Arcadia Chorale



It's a quite ambitious program, and we're looking for support from the congregation and other sources to make it possible. To make your donation, drop off or mail your check to the church with "Arts Series" in the memo block. We look forward to seeing you at our first concert on October 16!

Arts at FPCCS Committee

#### Help us Reach our Capital Campaign Goal!

Our beautiful, but aging, building needed some repairs, appliance replacements, and restoration beyond the scope of our operating budget during the first half of this year. An unexpected sewer line project and necessary external painting, the need for new ovens to provide for opportunities for church fellowship, and increased operating costs have necessitated pulling funds from our reserves. In addition to increased expenses, our investment portfolio has taken a hit along with everyone else's. In total, we are down \$114,000. In the next few years, we anticipate replacing the church's boiler and roof.

With your help, we look to raise \$250,000. Donations can be made one time or over a three-year period. The Finance Committee is asking for your help to keep our church financially viable moving into the future. Questions about our Capital Campaign? Reach out to Tabbi Miller-Scandle at 570-470-9762.

## Afghan Refugees: An Update from Mission and Justice

The Mission & Justice Committee recently purchased hours of a translation service to help a young Afghan couple apply for asylum to stay in the United States. Asylum seekers must apply for asylum within one year of arriving in the United States, and many Afghan families like this one arrived in August 2021. This means their deadline to apply for permanent residency is quickly approaching. In the best of times, local immigration resettlement services could assist them with this application, but until recently, they were closed. They have now reopened, but their accreditation to process such immigration paperwork has lagged.



So, our new neighbors are running out of time to extend their stay, and unfortunately, it is not safe for them to go back to Afghanistan. Thank you to the congregation for supporting our efforts-to-date to help them; the couple is eternally grateful. Please lift them up in your prayers, and if anyone knows any pro-bono immigration attorneys who could help them, please reach out as soon as possible to Ginny O'Brien at [ginny8149@gmail.com](mailto:ginny8149@gmail.com).

## My Brothers' Keeper Quilting Group

Just a reminder that MBK will start the 2022-2023 season on Tuesday, September 13 at 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. We hope you will join us.

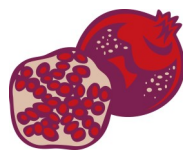


Upcoming: Saturday September 17, 2022: The Annual Thank You Picnic at the Wheatley's Homestead in Hop Bottom, PA. They ask participants to:

Bring a Covered Dish  
Bring a Friend  
Please Bring a Basket to Raffle

We will discuss attending and carpooling when we meet on the 13th.

## Christian Symbol



**POMEGRANATE**—Because the pomegranate has an abundance of seeds, the fruit is used to represent hope and future life. It also symbolizes the many believers who are individual members of the universal Christian church.

## Wednesdays at First Presbyterian Church

6:00 p.m. **Bible study** with Rev. Carter and Friends

This fall, we will be exploring the parables of Jesus from the Gospel of Luke. Many of the studies will coincide with the sermon texts. Drawing upon the works of scholars Ken Bailey and A.J. Levine – and one another – the group will meet at 6:00 p.m. in the Session Room (206). We will also make this study available on ZOOM for anybody who makes advance arrangements with the church office. The study will begin on Wednesday, September 7.

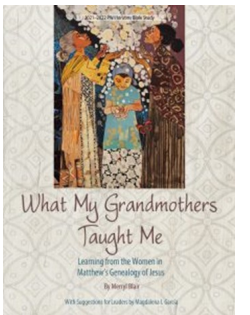
7:00 p.m. **Adult Choir** will rehearse each week in the sanctuary (beginning August 31).

8:00 p.m. The **Bell Choir** will rehearse weekly in Fellowship Hall (beginning in October).

## Other Opportunities for Learning

The **Men's Breakfast group** meets for donuts and Bible study on the first and third Thursdays of every month. They gather for conversation at 8:30 a.m. in the Session Room (206) and have their study from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. They normally discuss the scripture text for the following Sunday's sermon.

The **Presbyterian Women** will meet monthly for a Bible study on the third Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Rev. Carter will lead the Horizons Bible study, entitled "What My Grandmothers Taught Me: Learning from the Women in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus." This group will take COVID-19 precautions when they meet. To reserve a study book, please contact Barbara Pittman.



**Our church music ensembles** are always looking for new members! We're happy to invite new singers and ringers to our programs. The adult choir will rehearse at 7:00 PM on Wednesdays in the Sanctuary beginning August 31. The bell choir will rehearse in Fellowship Hall at 8:00 PM beginning in October.

The children's music program is looking for children to join us. The music program will include singing and instrument playing. All ages are welcome! If you're interested, please contact Frank Jones at [fjones217@gmail.com](mailto:fjones217@gmail.com).

## Mission and Justice

### Call for Volunteers: Hickory Street Community Lunch

On Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup> we will again prepare and serve a free lunch for the community at Hickory Street Presbyterian Church, accompanied by distribution of bags of groceries. This monthly program continues to fill a real need in that community, with requests for 120+ meals and 25-30 bags of food. Volunteers will be needed for the following tasks, many which can be pursued with children as a family activity.



#### Prepare the Main Dish (need 12 volunteers)

*We will be making the Chicken/Broccoli Casserole recipe we used last August. We will supply the spice packet and the aluminum baking pan. Bake in advance and bring to the church the day before.*

#### Make a Dessert (need 12 volunteers)

*Prepare a dessert (to serve 10-12 people) of your own choosing that is easy to serve or package for to-go meals. Cookies, brownies, sheet cakes are all good ideas. Make in advance and bring to the church the day before.*

#### Serve the Meal (need 10 volunteers)

*Greet guests and seat them or take their take-out order, package desserts, heat and serve/package the hot meals, fill grocery bags, clean-up. Start at 9:00 am and finish at 1:00 pm at Hickory Street Presbyterian.*

#### Purchase Groceries for Food Bags (need 25-30 bags)

*Purchase and bring to the Narthex items on the "shopping list;" copies in the Narthex. Grab a list early and you can watch for sales!*

#### Provide Financial Support

*If you can't join in the work, consider making a donation we can use to purchase needed groceries and other items for the meal. Put "Hickory Street" on the memo line of your check.*

Sign-Up Sheets for these tasks, the casserole recipe, grocery bag shopping lists, and a grocery collection box are available in the Narthex. This is very satisfying work; please consider getting involved.

### Highway Cleanups scheduled for 2022-2023

We will continue to clean our strip of the Morgan Highway (between Winola and Country Club Roads) in 2022-2023 meeting on the second Saturdays of September, November, April, and June. On those mornings, we will meet at 9:00 am in the parking lot of the Methodist Church (Morgan and Grove). PennDOT supplies us with garbage bags, gloves, and safety vests, and we put up warning signs to alert traffic from both directions. The work usually takes about an hour. Please consider joining; some of our dedicated clean-up veterans will be glad to show you the ropes, i.e. "See that can? Pick it up."



Saturday, September 10, 2022

Saturday, November 12, 2022

Saturday, April 8, 2023 (day before Easter)

Saturday, June 10, 2023

If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Alan Baker at abaker2@verizon.net or 570-3612-0382.

## Mission and Justice

During September, a **Season of Peace** (designed by the national Presbyterian Church) will be observed for four weeks from Sunday September 4th until World Communion Sunday on October 2nd. This month long pilgrimage is designed to deepen the pursuit of peace for congregations, small groups, families, and individuals. Participants are invited to define and deepen their calling as peacemakers through daily reflections that address some of the major issues of our time (climate change, nonviolence, the intersection of poverty and racism, and immigration/migration).



To receive these daily reflections in your email during Season of Peace, subscribe at [pcusa.org/subscribeSOP](https://pcusa.org/subscribeSOP).

Also, be on the lookout for Peace Cards that will be in the Narthex and on tables during coffee hour (they offer a question for reflection, an action to be taken and a prayer to be spoken).

During this Season of Peace, we will be collecting our **Peace and Global Witness Special Offering**. A gift to this offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world. 50% of this offering will be used by the Presbyterian Mission Agency to advocate for peace and justice in cultures of violence, including our own, through collaborative projects of education and Christian witness. 25% will be used by mid councils for ministries of peace and reconciliation. The final 25% is designated for local congregations to continue with peacemaking efforts of their choice. This year, we will be donating our **25% congregational portion** to the village of Gwo Jan, Haiti, with our friend YaYa as the disperser of the funds to aid the villagers facing the most severe sustenance, shelter, and security needs.

We have received reports from our former church member and friend Dave Porter that the village of Gwo Jan, much like most of Haiti, is in dire straits with gangs threatening with robbery and kidnapping, causing a need for hiding and a loss of income. So, our wish with our 25% donation to YaYa's village will be to provide help with the survival, safety, and sustenance needs of the villagers. Please take a look at the photo display in the Narthex of the Choukoun (place of meaningful encounter) in this village, that serves for village conferences and educational classes for visitors to Haiti. We helped in the funding of this Choukoun's construction, and you will see how we and other contributors were honored in the construction with hearts.

Please consider giving generously as we promote peacemaking through our offering. You can make your donations on line via our church's website (follow the "Give Here" green button and designate your gift to this offering), send the church a check through the mail noting the offering on your check, or using the special offering envelope found in the pews at church or in your box of weekly offerings envelopes.

PEACE IS ACTIVE, not passive, PEACE Is DOING, not waiting. Thank you for your support!

Turn the page for more Mission and Justice

(Afghan Refugees) on Page 8!



REFUGEE ASSISTANCE