



# The Presbyter

October 2022

The First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit

The Arts  
at First Presbyterian Church

**The Arts at First Presbyterian** concert series opens with a concert by the **Arcadia Chorale on Sunday, October 16 at 4 pm.** The Chorale will present a stunning program focusing on the natural landscape around us, using themes of air, water, land, and stars. Come out and celebrate the beauty of NEPA through song with this special concert.

The Chorale, directed by Matthew Rupcich and celebrating its 40th season of choral excellence, is one of Northeast Pennsylvania’s premier musical performing groups. In addition to its fall, Christmas and Pops concerts, the Chorale has been associated with two long-standing local traditions: the annual Messiah Sing-Along and the annual NEPA Bach Festival.



This 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 concert 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; by the members and staff of the First Presbyterian Church; and by individual contributions.

We have a very ambitious program planned for this season, 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

## Table of Contents

- Page 2 - Session, Deacons, Financial
- Page 3 - From the Pastor
- Page 4 - Mission and Justice, Highway Cleanup
- Page 5 - Chamber Concert, Book Group, MBK
- Page 6 - Faith Formation, Communion Program
- Page 7 - Learning Opportunities, Book Group
- Page 8 - Joys, Sorrows, Lectionary
- Page 9 - Calendar
- Page 10 - Trunk or Treat

### Northeastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic Chamber Concert

**Thursday, October 13, 2022 at 7:00 PM**  
First Presbyterian Church, Clarks Summit  
**See page 5** for full information on the first chamber concert of this *Season of Discovery* .

## Notes from the Session Meeting September 13, 2022

1. Session thanks Austin Lyons for working on a Pollinator Garden as his Eagle Scout Project this past summer and thanks Dave Porter who compiled an excellent report of our Mission Projects for our congregation that was our Moment for Mission (Elder Meg Hatch) on Sunday, September 11th. Our Mission and Justice committee is working very hard with our church members on the 2022 Worship Through Service weekend.
2. Session congratulates Ann Chamberlin on her 100th Birthday that she celebrated on September 22nd. Best wishes from all of us.
3. Session hopes that church members and friends will support the 2022-2023 Arts at First Presbyterian Series and also the NEPA Philharmonic chamber concert to be held on Thursday, October 13th at 7 p.m.

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 November 2022 issue is  
October 14

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 Cochran
<b>Organist</b>	Kay Ten Eyck
<b>Sexton</b>	Don Gross

## FROM YOUR FINANCE COMMITTEE FOR THE MONTH ENDING August 31, 2022

### REVENUE

Budget	\$262,800
Actual Received	- <u>248,551</u>
Difference	(\$ 14,289)

### EXPENSES

Budget	\$266,779
Actual Expenses	- <u>272,739</u>
Difference	(\$ 5,960)

Result of operations (\$ 20,249)

### PLEDGE

Budget	\$ 216,667
Actually Received	- <u>210,670</u>
	(\$ 5,997)

-----  
2022 Per Capita assessment is  
\$35 per member.  
Per Capita received to date = \$2,194.

## From the Pastor

### October 2022



Can anybody tell me what the big deal is with Halloween? I don't want to be a curmudgeon, but I'm truly curious.

The man around the corner from me has decked his house with decorations. There are skeletons on the front porch, spider webs in his maple tree, and a dozen grave markers in his front yard. At dusk, there's a light show with a hundred purple and orange bulbs. All of this was set up by September 15. I didn't know Halloween had its own season of Advent.

In recent years, holiday spending for Halloween has eclipsed all other holidays except Christmas. Some of the cash is spent on candy, although our household buys the kind of goodies we'll enjoy later if we don't have a lot of costumed visitors at our door. A good bit more is spent on decorations. Porcelain pumpkins are replacing the organic ones. Cornstalks from an abundant harvest have been bumped by monsters and witches. Expensive costumes have been on sale since Labor Day.

And why? What are we celebrating? I really have no idea. Do you?

The Mexicans celebrate "Dia de los Muertos" (the Day of the Dead) around the same time of year. It can seem similarly gruesome but for a greater purpose. Those who mark that day are remembering those who have passed away. The Mexican holiday marks the thin veil between earth and heaven, affirming that those we've lost are now cheering us on from wherever they've gone.

And before Halloween became a Hallmark holiday, now with its own "Spirit" stores with overpriced merchandise, it was "All Hallow's Eve," the Eve of All Saints Day. The holy day marked the Christian remembrance of those who gave their lives for the sake of their faith in Jesus. That's quite different from the ghouls and goblins who now haunt us.

So I wonder if the craze for Halloween may serve a purpose like the fairy tales of northern Europe. Those stories provided a way for people to work through the themes of darkness and violence without giving in to them. If this has become the reason for Halloween, it's OK with me. There are so many dark shadows in our common life; it's ultimately best to acknowledge them and declare they will not win over us. We are saved by the grace of Jesus Christ, whose light shall scatter the shadows.

Have fun. Be safe. Use some imagination in designing your costumes. Don't waste toilet paper by throwing it in your neighbor's trees. And save the leftover Reese's peanut butter cups for me!

With a pumpkin spice latte in my hand,

*Rev. Bill*

## Mission and Justice

Thanks to all of you and your generosity, our committee continues to support worthy local and international causes in need of financial help. The following are those organizations that received our help this past month:

- Reaching the Pygmies** (Uganda)
- Weinberg NE Regional Food Bank** (Scranton)
- St Francis of Assisi Kitchen** (Scranton)
- United Neighborhood Centers Refugee Program** (Scranton)
- Presbyterian Disaster Relief USA** (Pakistan floods)
- Presbyterian Hunger Program USA** (World)



*“Enslaving poverty in a world of abundance is an intolerable violation of God’s good creation.”*

—*Book of Confessions, 9.46*

## Highway Cleanups scheduled for 2022-2023

### Plan ahead.....



We will continue to clean our strip of the Morgan Highway (between Winola and Country Club Roads) throughout 2022-2023. We 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."

### **Remaining dates for 2022-2023**

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](mailto:abaker2@verizon.net) or 570-362-0382.

## Northeastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic Chamber Concert



Join us for our first chamber concert of this *Season of Discovery* with an exploration of the rich and unique timbre of the oboe along with the velvety sound of its cousin, the English horn. NEPP oboist Karen Blundell is joined by violist David Creswell and pianist Matthew Graybill in a program of works genuinely blending these instruments, including 2 *Rhapsodies*, by impressionist composer Charles Martin Loeffler.

**Thursday, October 13, 2022 at 7:00 PM**

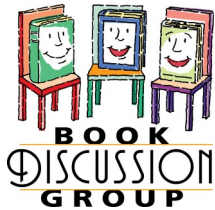
First Presbyterian Church, Clarks Summit

Meet and greet with light refreshments immediately following the performance.

Full price tickets (\$35) are available at [www.nepaphil.org](http://www.nepaphil.org).

The Orchestra is offering a 15% discount to members of the FPCCS family. Call the Philharmonic office at 570-270-4444 to purchase discounted tickets (\$29.75).

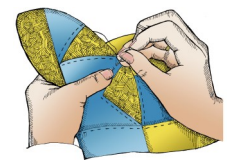
## Book Group



After a lovely summer of meeting outside at Hillside Park, the Book Group is now moving inside for the fall and will meet at the church at noon on Saturday, October 22. Our book for October is *Remember: The Science of Memory and the Art of Forgetting* by Lisa Genova. It is a fascinating exploration of the intricacies of how we remember, why we forget, and what we can do to protect our memories, by the Harvard-trained neuroscientist and bestselling author of *Still Alice*. Don't *forget* to come join the discussion!

## My Brothers' Keeper Quilting Group

Just a reminder that MBK will meet on Tuesday, October 11 and 25 at 10 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. We hope you will join us.



QUILTING GROUP

## Christian Education: Faith Formation and Growth

Feeling busy? Overscheduled? Always on the go? We've noticed. From sports teams to civic groups, children's activities to work schedules, it's become increasingly difficult to find Christian education time that works for everyone. The busier we get, the more we could use an opportunity to "rest in the Lord" (a spiritual call, not just physical!) – but the harder it is to make it happen.

As a congregation, we promise at baptism to teach the faith to all the church's children; for those who've been confirmed or joined the church as adults, we similarly promise to continue to grow in our own faith. To that end, for many years, we've followed the model of weekly classes for all...but even pre-pandemic, we'd noticed attendance dropping or becoming inconsistent. Now, as we restart and return, we're rethinking our programming to better meet your needs.

In early September, a group of us gathered for a Welcome Back dinner. While enjoying pancakes and fellowship, a discussion began about our early memories of church, what memorable faith moments stick with us, and how we can show our children that faith is important. That conversation was just the beginning of our shift away from the old model of education ("teach Bible stories") to formation ("grow and journey in faith"). Basic Biblical literacy helps us to understand God and lays the foundation of faith, but we can't stop there. Learning how we can live out our faith, stay deeply rooted in God, experience sabbath and reflection time amidst our busyness, raise faithful children, and more – these are steps along our spiritual journey that we hope to encourage and support for congregants of all ages.

Join us for our scheduled intergenerational programs throughout the fall, and be on the lookout for more information and new opportunities for faith growth as we head into next year.

Christian Education



It's for life!

Christian Education



It's for life!

### World Communion Sunday Program

After we celebrate World Communion together in worship, join us downstairs on **Sunday, October 2** as we learn more about the Lord's Supper and break bread together. Families with children as well as congregants of all ages are invited to come for a light lunch. Adults will then enjoy a discussion with Charlie Pinches while our children will gather to explore the meaning and significance of communion. It will be a great opportunity to share fellowship and faith with our friends and family, so be sure to mark your calendars!

Also, please note other upcoming CE events:

Sunday, November 6 — All Saints Celebration (held after worship)

Sunday, December 4 — Advent Program (held after worship)

Friday, December 9 — Parents' Night Out (time TBA)



## Wednesdays at First Presbyterian Church

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

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

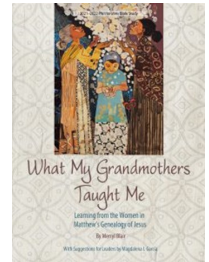
7:00 p.m. **Adult Choir** rehearses each week in the sanctuary

8:00 p.m. The **Bell Choir** will rehearse weekly in Fellowship Hall (beginning October 5)

## 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 leads the Horizons Bible study, entitled "What My Grandmothers Taught Me: Learning from the Women in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus." This group takes COVID-19 precautions when they meet. To reserve a study book, please contact Barbara Pittman ([peachyphace@gmail.com](mailto:peachyphace@gmail.com) or 570-587-2050.)



### The Bell Choir.....

....begins its new season with the first rehearsal on October 5, at 8:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. The choir rehearses every Wednesday through May. Adults and older high school musicians are welcome to join. Contact the office for additional information, or to reserve your spot.



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.

Joys

Sorrows

Thank You Notes



- 4 Riley Wescott
- 5 Tim Shane
- 6 Barry Shepherd
- 9 Sadie O'Brien
- 10 Tracy Smith
- 14 Barbara Decker
- 19 Nancy Owens
- 20 Darlene Scappatura  
Bill Taylor
- 21 Ryan Flynn  
Colin Jeschke
- 22 Frank Jones
- 23 Kim Barrows
- 27 Linda Weaver
- 28 Linda Schuller  
Jeanette Stauffer
- 30 Clyde Ellsworth



28 Anne and John Rich



Hannah Gilbert and Ron Chase are the proud parents of Kennedy Avia Chase.

Kennedi was born July 18, 2022 and is the granddaughter of Teal and Rachel Gilbert and the first great-grandchild of Stan and Gwynne Gilbert. Blessings to all.



Recently celebrated baptisms:

- Christopher Paul DelPrete, August 28
- Parker Charles Wall, September 11
- Naomi Harris Keller, September 18

**Lectionary Readings**

**October 2**

Lamentations 3:9-26; Psalm 137; Luke 17:1-10

**October 9**

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7; Psalm 66:1-12; Luke 17:11-19

**October 16**

Jeremiah 31:27-34; Psalm 119:97-104; Luke 18:1-8

**October 23**

Joel 2:23-32; Psalm 65; Luke 18:9-14

**October 30**

Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4; Psalm 119:137-144; Luke 19:1-10



The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Alan Baker and Susan Kelly on the recent passing of Alan's mother, Jo.

Condolences are extended to Alice Broxton and her family upon the passing of her husband, Dick on September 22.



## *MARK YOUR CALENDAR*

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

### Board and Committee Meetings

**Session Meeting**— Tuesday, October 11, 7 p.m., Room 206

**Board of Deacons**— Tuesday, October 25, 7 p.m., Room 206

**Building and Grounds**— Thursday, October 13, 7 p.m., Room 209 (note change)

**Christian Education**—Thursday, October 6, 7 p.m., Room 206

**Mission and Justice**—Tuesday, October 4, 7 p.m., Room 206

**Worship, Music and Arts** - Thursday, October 13, 5 p.m., Room 206

### Service/Study/Fellowship Gatherings

**World Communion Sunday Program** - October 2, Fellowship Hall following worship (see page 6, bottom)

**Men's Breakfast and Bible Study** – October 6 and 20, 8:30 a.m., Room 206

**MBK Quilters**—Tuesday, October 11 and 25, 10 a.m., Fellowship Hall

**Women's Circle Bible Study**—Tuesday, October 18, 10 a.m., Fellowship Hall

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

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

**Bell Choir** - Each Wednesday, 8 p.m., Fellowship Hall

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

**FPCCS Book Group**— Saturday, October 22, noon, at church, room TBD

### Activities

**Northeastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic Chamber Music Concert**— Thursday, October 13, 7:00 p.m.

**The Arts, Arcadia Chorale Concert**— Sunday October 16, 4:00 p.m.

**Trunk and Treat**—Sunday, October 30, 3:00 to 4:30 p.m., Parking Lot

### 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, 7:30 p.m. in room 206 (*note change*) and Thursdays, 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.

**Deadline for the next Presbyter** is Friday, October 14 with anticipated mailing date of October 26.



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

300 School Street

Clarks Summit, PA 18411-1536

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
Permit No. 30  
**P A I D**  
Clarks Summit PA

**DATED MATERIAL**

**Return Service Requested**



---

# Trunk OR Treat

## Pop-up Trunk or Treat!

Sunday, October 30 from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Parking lot of Clarks Summit Presbyterian Church

300 School Street

Bring your car. Bring some candy. Bring your children!

The community is warmly invited.

---

---