



# The Presbyter

November 2022

The First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit

## All Saints' Day Celebration

So...who exactly is a saint? Why do they matter? And how can their lives of faith shape our own? After worship, join us downstairs on **Sunday, November 6** as we learn more about the history and meaning of All Saints' Day. 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 for age-appropriate activities of their own. 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, December 4 — Advent Program (held after worship)

Friday, December 9 — Parents' Night Out (5:30-8:30pm)

Sunday, January 8 — Celebrating Christ's Baptism & Our Own (held after worship)

Sunday, February 19 — Preparing for Lent (held after worship)

Christian Education



It's for life!



## Daylight Saving Time ends—Sunday, November 6.

Be sure to rewind all of your clocks. Oh wait, most of them do that automatically now and many others don't actually "rewind." Either way, be sure you "fall back" an hour so you won't be too *early* for anything on Sunday!

## Poinsettias!



It is time to begin thinking about Advent and Christmas at FPCCS! We have arranged with Corky's Greenhouse to provide poinsettias for the sanctuary. The red poinsettias come in a 6-inch pot and can be noted as a memorial or dedication.

See the order form on page 10 for details—the deadline for orders is November 20.

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## Notes from the Session Meeting October 11, 2022

1. October Session Meeting opened with words of Gratitude led by Elder Chris Norton and followed by Session Members response of "Father We Thank You".
2. Confirmation Sunday will be Sunday November 20th which will be a Church-wide celebration with new young members and dedication of our Stewardship and campaign pledges.
3. Church members and friends are asked to sign up for church committees as your help is needed in Christian Education and Music, Worship & Arts. Just let chairs know of your interest or call the church office

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 December 2022 issue is  
November 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.

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 September 30, 2022

### REVENUE

Budget	\$295,650
Actual Received	- <u>289,752</u>
Difference	(\$ 5,898)

### EXPENSES

Budget	\$300,127
Actual Expenses	- <u>319,995</u>
Difference	(\$ 19,868)

Result of operations (\$ 25,766)

### PLEDGE

Budget	\$ 243,750
Actually Received	- <u>229,103</u>
	(\$ 14,647)

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

## From the Pastor

### November 2022



Years ago, when I was exploring if I wanted to apply to become your pastor, I called the Rev. Connie Steinbrenner, who served as the presbytery executive for this region. I asked, “What could you tell me about the Clarks Summit church?” Connie thought for a minute, then said, “The Clarks Summit church can do whatever it wants to do. It simply needs to decide on what that is.”

He was exactly right. This remarkable congregation is full of positive energy. Whenever we have seen a need - and agreed on its importance - the need has been met. I’ve seen it again and again. This is a time when many churches are struggling – and the Church on the Hill continues to inspire me with its commitment and generosity.

The pandemic disrupted our momentum, yet our sanctuary is refilling. The choir loft was empty, but now the seats are repopulated. We have lost a generation of good souls, yet as is often the case, others are stepping up to provide leadership. Most inspiring has been your financial support, especially over three demanding years and two very good years.

Financially, here is how we have done with pledges over the past five years:

2021 Goal was 325,000.	330,341 received	(5,341 above the goal)
2020 Goal was 325,000.	321,537 received	(3,463 below the goal)
2019 Goal was 325,000.	324,303 received	(697 below the goal)
2018 Goal was 320,000.	321,869 received	(1,869 over the goal)
2017 Goal was 320,000.	327,199 received	(7,199 over the goal)

Clearly, we’ve met our goals – or come within one percent of reaching them. That’s remarkable! However – and you probably expected a “however” – the totals of our pledges have stayed relatively flat over five years while our expenses have increased. We are grateful that we had reserve funds which could fill the gaps. But now it’s time to challenge one another to step up and move ahead. Especially in a year of eight percent inflation and some necessary capital expenses!

To keep our church strong, we are **asking you to consider a ten percent increase in your pledge for 2023**. I have already increased my regular electronic pledge by that amount, and I challenge you to join me. We haven’t given you a good challenge in recent years. Now it’s time. And I know you can help.

Also, as you are able, we **invite you to make an additional pledge to replenish our reserve funds**. It could be a pledge over three years, an outright gift from accumulated assets, or a commitment to our growing church endowment. Together we want our church to flourish as we reach out with the love of Jesus Christ. Watch for the pledge card that will arrive shortly in the mail.

**Our Stewardship Dedication Day is Sunday, November 20**, when we bring our commitments to God in worship. It will be a gala service, as we welcome our confirmation class to the membership and celebrate Christ our King. We will praise our generous God, give thanks for our calling as Christ’s disciples, and offer ourselves to God’s holy purposes.

Thank you for all that you bring to the Lord and his work. It makes a difference.

Rev. Bill

## Mission and Justice Committee:

thank you

Thanks to all of you who contributed to our providing the Hickory Street lunch on September 24th, having served 140 lunches and provided 30 bags of groceries to needy families.

Thanks for your wonderful generosity in donating to our Peace and Global Witness Offering with \$2044.00 total raised. 25 % of this offering will support the hunger, shelter, and security needs of our friend YaYa's fellow Haitian villagers.

Thanks for supporting our committee's disbursements each month. This past month, we supported the efforts of the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to serve the victims of Hurricane Ian in both Puerto Rico and the mainland of the United States. We also used funds to help pay for the groceries and ingredients needed for the Hickory Street lunch.

"Gather us so that we may pour out our lives in Christ's name, as Christ does on behalf of those who hunger. For hope. For justice. For daily bread. So that it will be on earth as it is in heaven."

(from Prayer for World Food Day)

## Presbyter Preparations:

thank you

Thank you. Everyone is putting a great effort into having articles in on or before the deadlines. It makes such a difference.

Thank You! to Amanda Roberts who puts all of the articles together in a pleasant, eye-appealing manner, and to Marie Cochrane who makes the 1800 to 2100 copies for our assembly crew.

Our faithful assembly crew, our Presbyter Mailers! who work their fingers "to the bone" to get the news out include Sandra Bailey, Janet Dobson, Stan Gilbert, Barbara and Jack Pittman, Shakun Shah, Edie Suydam, Al Traettino, and Karen White.

Lastly, thanks to Don Gross for taking those mailing trays to the local post office.

Nancy

thank you

Thank you to all who provided items for The State Hospital. This is our way of supporting them as we are still unable to have them for our luncheons in Fellowship Hall.

Women's Association

## Highway Cleanups

Our next clean-up of our strip of the Morgan Highway (between Winola and Country Club Roads) is Saturday, November 12, 2022. Meet us 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 are** Saturday, April 8, 2023 (day before Easter) and Saturday, June 10, 2023.

## An Afternoon of Chamber Music

Sunday, November 6, 2022  
4:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time!  
The Beverley Trio



We welcome oboist Tom Heinze, cellist Gayle Klaber, and violist Harold Levin for an exciting program of instrumental chamber music. This entertaining and masterful trio will lift your spirits with their virtuosity.

The  
*Arts*  
at First Presbyterian Church

## All-Church Recital

Sunday, November 20, 2022  
4:00 p.m.

Musicians in our church family offer an afternoon of music for choirs, bells, vocalists, and instrumental soloists. It's always a stirring celebration of talent, given as a gift to the community.



## Northeastern Pennsylvania Chamber Music Society

Saturday, November 12, 2022 at 7:00PM

First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit

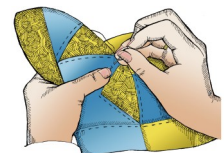


Northeastern Pennsylvania  
Chamber Music Society

We are happy to host an evening of oboe quartets featuring oboist Rong-Huey Liu. The program will showcase elegant oboe quartets by Joseph Fiala and Louis Massonneau, contrasted by the beautifully undulating harmonies in Gordon Jacob's Quartet for Oboe and Strings, and Ernest John Moeran's Fantasy Quartet. Tickets may be purchased at the NEPACMS website: <https://www.nepacms.org>.

## My Brothers' Keeper Quilting Group

During our regular work sessions MBK will also start to make plastic mats which are to be used under sleeping bags to keep bags warmer, dryer, and cleaner than simply laying them down on dirt or concrete. It takes approximately 600-700 clean plastic shopping bags (grocery store bags are best; do not use bags if the plastic is too 'heavy' or 'stiff' or 'slippery') to make a single 3' x 6' mat, so we need LOTS of them. Please bring your extra bags to Church; there is a tub in the Narthax for them. Thank you!!



QUILTING GROUP

Leah-Kay Ducato Rudolph will be at our November 8 work session to help us get started on crocheting. We welcome anyone interested in working on the sleeping bags and/or the mats to join us on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month from 10:00 to Noon in Fellowship Hall.

If you want to start the process at home, please text Marie Cochrane at 570-309-6304 with your e-mail address, and she will send you the instructions for making Plarn (the plastic yarn used for the mats).



Christian Education



It's for life!

## 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.

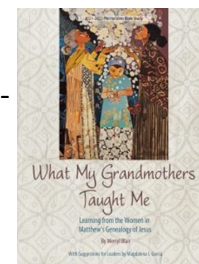
7:00 p.m. **Adult Choir** rehearses each week in the sanctuary

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

## 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.



## Book for November

**Run, Rose, Run: A Novel**

By Dolly Parton and James Patterson

A small but stalwart group met in October to discuss the enlightening book *Remember*, by Lisa Genova. We will meet again on Saturday, November 19 at 1:00 PM in Fellowship Hall and hope you'll consider joining us! Our book for this month is *Run, Rose, Run: A Novel* by Dolly Parton and James Patterson - a thriller about a young singer-songwriter on the rise and on the run, and determined to do whatever it takes to survive.



## Cornucopia

Cornucopia, a Greek word meaning "horn of plenty," has origins in Greek mythology. But the cornucopia became a religious symbol and was even stamped on Jewish coins. Overflowing horns, now common as Thanksgiving centerpieces, came to symbolize abundance and blessings.

## Celebrating Advent: Immanuel, God with Us

The season of Advent is a time to reflect on our many blessings, remember God's promises, practice patience (hopefully slowing down our busy-ness), and prepare our hearts to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Here are two opportunities for that:

First, we welcome our families to pick up an **Advent Bag** filled with an Advent calendar, devotions, activity suggestions, supplies for a craft, and more. All ages



and everyone in the church is welcome and encouraged to participate, so bags will be available both for families with children and for those without. Advent bags will be available to **pick up at the church beginning the week before Advent (Nov. 20)** or contact Jana to make arrangements for safe drop off at your home.

Second, we encourage everyone to join us for an **Advent Event on Sunday, December 4**, following worship. Enjoy food and fellowship as we celebrate the season with learning and fun for all ages.



### Holiday Angel Tree

It's time for our annual Pajama Drive for children in local Head Start programs!

Look for tags and more information on the Christmas tree set up in the Narthex this month.



### Congratulations!

On November 20, we will officially welcome 6 youth into the life of the church as new members. Congratulations to the 2022 Confirmation Class:

Liam Farrell  
Gavin Kareha  
Austin Lyons  
Diann Lyons  
Rebekah Naehar  
Sadie O'Brien



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

Lectionary



- 2 Ned Connell
- 5 Burton Reese
- 6 Charlie Pinches  
Jacklyn DelPrete
- 7 Crosby Sekol  
Tori Yankow
- 8 Mary C. Parry
- 12 Christine Jeske  
Inge Mills
- 13 Meg Hatch
- 14 Robin Pinches
- 22 Leelah Farrell
- 24 Cherie Shepherd  
Steven Cowgill
- 25 Jane Maurer  
Chris Sekol
- 26 Max Earl
- 29 Jennifer Cowgill  
Myrna Diven



- 29 Tim & Debbie Shane

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to ...



Ned Connell and his family upon the passing of his wife, Sherry on October 14;

the Bailey family upon the passing of Sandra Bailey on October 18.

**Lectionary Readings**

**Nov. 6**            **22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
Job 19:23-27a and Psalm 17:1-9;  
2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17; Luke 20:27-38

**Nov. 13**           **23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
Isaiah 65:17-25 and Isaiah 12; Luke 21:5-19

**Nov. 20**           **Christ the King Sunday**  
Jeremiah 23:1-6 and Luke 1:68-79;  
Colossians 1:11-20

**Nov. 27**           **1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent**  
Isaiah 2:1-5 and Psalm 122; Romans 13:11-14;  
Matthew 24:36-44



**November Ushers**

Erika Adams  
Diana Pope-Albright





## *MARK YOUR CALENDAR*

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

**NOTE: Daylight Saving Time ends on Sunday, November 6**

### **Board and Committee Meetings**

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

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

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

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

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

**Worship, Music and Arts** - Thursday, November 10, 5 p.m., Room 206

### **Service/Study/Fellowship Gatherings**

**Men's Breakfast and Bible Study** – Thursday, November 3 and 17, 8:30 a.m., Room 206

**All Saints Day Celebration**—Sunday, November 6, Fellowship Hall following worship

**MBK Quilters**—Tuesday, November 8 and 22, 10 a.m., Fellowship Hall

**Highway Clean-up**—Saturday, November 12, 9 a.m., Clarks Summit UM Church Parking Lot

**Women's Circle Bible Study**—Tuesday, November 15, 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 Rehearsal**—Each Wednesday, 8 p.m., Fellowship Hall

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

**FPCCS Book Group**—Saturday, November 19, 1 p.m., Fellowship Hall

### **Activities**

**The Arts, An Afternoon of Chamber Music** — Sunday, November 6, 4:00 p.m.

**Northeast Pennsylvania Chamber Music Society**—Saturday, November 12, 7:00 p.m.

**All Church Recital** —Sunday, November 20, 4:00

### **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 7:30 p.m. in Room 206 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.



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

300 School Street  
Clarks Summit, PA 18411-1536

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Permit No. 30  
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Clarks Summit PA

**DATED MATERIAL**

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**Poinsettia order form**

**Order Your Poinsettias Now.**

Price is \$9.50 per plant.

**Deadline is November 20**



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Flowers: \_\_\_\_\_ @\$9.50 each

Total Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

I will pick up my flowers \_\_\_\_\_

Please give to a shut-in \_\_\_\_\_

Dedication: In honor/In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

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