



# The Presbyter

January 2023

The First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit

## About The Per Capita

“Per capita is a set amount of money — sometimes referred to as ‘apportionment’ — per member that congregations pay to the larger Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Said another way, it is like a Presbyterian community fund — part of the glue that holds Presbyterians together”.

The per capita for 2023 is \$42 per every church member. Our church is required to pay that per capita for everyone who is on our church rolls...even if that person has moved from the area with no plans of returning to our church. Perhaps that person has even joined another church but has not notified us.

If you have a family member who is no longer active in the life of the church and would like to have that member's name removed from the rolls to eliminate the need to pay the per capita for that person, please contact the church office.



2023 Offering Envelopes have been labeled and placed in the hallway alongside of the Sanctuary. If a box wasn't prepared for you, and you would like one, please contact the church office (570-586-6306 or [office@fpccs.org](mailto:office@fpccs.org)).



The Annual Meeting will take place on Sunday, February 5, 2023. Session Committee Chairpersons and group leaders are asked to prepare a report that summarizes your committee's activities for 2022. Please forward your report to the church office at [office@fpccs.org](mailto:office@fpccs.org) by January 16, 4 p.m.

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## Notes from the Special Session Meeting

### Sunday, December 11, 2022

1. Session held a special meeting to act on the church budget for the 2023 year. The Finance Committee, Tabbi Miller-Scandle, Chair met and submitted their committee budget for next year to Session for consideration. Session members passed the budget as submitted. Members expressed thanks to the committee for their time and work.
2. Members are reminded that each member has an obligation to pay per capita each year. Session Member JoAnne Hall has written an explanation for the *Presbyter* (see page 1) of how important this is to the work of our denomination. I would like to thank her for her writing.
3. Session sends to all of the members and friends of the congregation many blessings for 2023 and wishes each one of them good health and much happiness as we continue God's work together.

Beverly Bright

## 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 February 2023 issue is January 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.

<b>Church Office</b>	<b>(570) 586-6306</b>
<b>Fax</b>	<b>(570) 587-3784</b>
<b>Web Page</b>	<b>www.fpcs.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 Cochrane
<b>Organist</b>	Kay Ten Eyck
<b>Sexton</b>	Don Gross

## FROM YOUR FINANCE COMMITTEE FOR THE MONTH ENDING November 30, 2022

### REVENUE

Budget	\$361,350
Actual Received	<u>366,277</u>
Difference	4,927

### EXPENSES

Budget	\$366,822
Actual Expenses	<u>385,772</u>
Difference	(\$ 18,951)

Result of operations (\$19,495)

### PLEDGE

Budget	\$297,917
Actually received	<u>287,493</u>
	(\$ 10,424)

2023 Per Capita assessment is  
\$42 per member.

## From the Pastor

January is a great time to start new practices that can become healthy habits. There are many habits to strengthen our faith formation. Why not start a new faith habit this year to learn more about God, draw closer to Jesus, and be guided by the Holy Spirit? Here's my invitation for you to take up one of the following practices:



- **Use a daily Bible reading plan.** Reading the Bible in a year is a daunting task, but there are lots of plans available to do so. We've put copies of one plan in the Narthex – and I would be happy to e-mail it to you. If that seems like a lot to begin, how about devoting a month to read through the Psalms and Proverbs? Printed resources are available on the shelf of the Narthex.
- **Begin writing in a journal.** Journaling is an opportunity to be honest about what's going on in your life. What are the challenges? Where have you seen the signs of grace? For what are you grateful? A journal is a time-honored way to document your life. Take ten minutes a day and put your thoughts on paper.
- **Join a study group for adults.** We have two. The Men's Breakfast group meets normally on the first and third Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. The Presbyterian Women's Study meets on the third Tuesday at 10 a.m. Both groups meet at the church and are led by the pastor.
- **Join our mid-week Bible Study** on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. We begin a study on the Lord's Prayer in January that will take us to the beginning of Lent. It's open to all.
- **Read a book that nurtures your spirit.** Our church library is full of them. And we have a new book cart that appears in the Narthex with some suggested favorites. All of these are free for you to borrow, read, and share. What a wonderful thing to do in winter!
- **Join our Wednesday Prayer and Share group.** They meet in Room 209 on Wednesday mornings from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. The group shares confidential concerns from the church family and beyond – and prays for them.
- **Participate in a mission activity.** Opportunities are regularly shared by our Mission and Justice committee (see page 4, for example). We want our faith to be embodied, not merely thought about, so we invite you to help us enact the Gospel in acts of compassion.

It is one of the greatest joys of my life to serve as your pastor. As January dawns, I am grateful that we step into the future together. May God grant us grace, peace, and a vibrant faith.

See you on Sunday!

*Rev. Bill Carter*

## Mission and Justice



You are cordially invited to join us! A few upcoming opportunities to roll up your sleeves and jump in are:

1. The Weinberg Food Bank in Pittston, Saturday 1/14/2023 (9am-12pm). Here we will be packing boxes of food to be distributed to people in need. Please RSVP Diane Scheuer at [divinends@gmail.com](mailto:divinends@gmail.com) if you wish to participate.
2. Hickory Street lunch 3/25/2023. Pencil it in and look for more information forthcoming. We will be preparing a meal, serving it, and collecting pantry items to be distributed.
3. Highway Clean up on 4/8/2023 & 6/10/2023. We will meet at 9am in the parking lot of the Methodist Church on the Morgan Highway & Grove St. Dress weather appropriate and PennDot will supply us with everything else we need. The clean up will last about an hour.

## Mission and Justice Committee:

*thank you*

Our final thanks of the year to you and your generosity for helping our committee support so many worthy causes throughout the year. The following are the organizations and causes to which we made disbursements this past month, with a concentration on environmental protection efforts and our national church's human rights advocacy work:

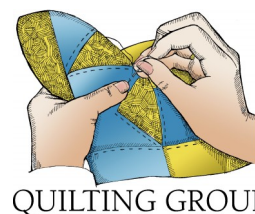
Countryside Conservancy  
 Lackawanna River Conservation Association  
 Presbyterian Office of Public Witness

"Enslaving poverty in a world of abundance is an intolerable violation of God's good creation."

Book of Confessions, The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A., Part 1)  
 The Confession of 1967, 9.46

## MBK Quilters

Thank you so much to everyone who brought in plastic grocery bags to be made into mats for the homeless to use beneath the sleeping bags. We have been overwhelmed with the response and now have more bags than we can use at this time! So please continue to save them at home, but do not bring them to the church until further notice. We'll let you know as soon as we're ready for more!



QUILTING GROUP

## Ice Festival Art Show At First Presbyterian



Yes Virginia, there is an Art Show! First Presbyterian is happy to once again host a juried photographic exhibit, as well as the fine artwork of its talented parishioners at the 2023 Clarks Summit Ice Festival, which will be held on January 27-29, 2023. If you want to be a part of the event, here's what you need to know.

Elaine Tweedy will coordinate the Art Show. If you are interested in participating, you will need to let her know by January 9. You can contact Elaine via her cell at 570-575-1705 or email: [elainetweedy@gmail.com](mailto:elainetweedy@gmail.com).

Drop off of artwork and photography will be Thursday, January 26 between 4:00 and 5:30 p.m. Pick up of your work will be Sunday, January 29 between Noon and 1:30 p.m. There will be a People's Choice Award as part of the show! For more information and a schedule of the event, contact Elaine.

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## Clarks Summit Festival of Ice

**January 27-29 Winter weekend of art, music, and fun**

The church will again host a variety of activities during the Clarks Summit Festival of Ice, including music, an art show, a Chili Café, activities for children, and an ice sculpture. Elaine Tweedy will again organize an art show, with violinist Mark Woodyatt providing entertainment on Friday from 5:30 to 7:00 pm. In addition to the Art Show, Saturday's activities will include a Chili Cafe, where piano students of Michelle Triaca will entertain. Faith Bennett will do face painting from 11:30 to 1:00 pm, and Cheryl Mozdian will lead a drum circle at 1 pm. The Art Show will be open before and after the worship service on Sunday, for those who couldn't attend on Friday and Saturday.

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## Northeastern PA Chamber Music Society

**Sunday, January 8, 2023 4:00 pm**



Northeastern Pennsylvania  
Chamber Music Society

The Arts at First Presbyterian concert series will continue with a concert by the NEPA Chamber Music Society on Sunday, January 8 at 4 pm. Featured on the program will be Mozart's G Minor Piano Quartet and R. Strauss's Piano Quartet, Op. 13. The musicians include Brian Farrell, piano, John Vaida, violin, Amy Iwazumi, viola, and Bryan Hayslett, cello.

The Northeastern Pennsylvania Chamber Music Society (NEPACMS) is dedicated to fostering the growth and awareness of chamber music in the Northeastern Pennsylvania region. Vaida and Iwasumi are the co-founders of the group, and recruit outstanding instrumentalists from all over the country to perform in the ensemble. The concert is open to the public free of charge, with a free-will offering taken to help defray the costs of the event. For more information, please call the church at 570-586-6306 or check the website @ [www.fpccs.org](http://www.fpccs.org).

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## Program for Baptism of the Lord

Each year, we celebrate Jesus' baptism and remember our own. Join us after worship on **Sunday, January 8th**, for a time of food, fellowship, and learning. Families with children as well as congregants of all ages are invited to come for a light lunch. Adults will then explore the topic with Rev. Carter, while our children will gather with Jana to explore the meaning and significance of baptism. It will be a great opportunity to share fellowship and faith with our friends and family, so be sure to mark your calendars!

Christian Education



It's for life!

Also, please note other **upcoming CE events**:

Sunday, February 19 — Preparing for Lent

Sunday, March 12 — Exploring Faith Practices

Sunday, April 2 — Holy Week program

## Souper Bowl Sunday

Sunday, February 12 isn't just the Big Game...it's a big opportunity to help those in need!

Remember to bring your donation to church on Souper Bowl Sunday or check [fpccs.org](http://fpccs.org) for online donation information.

All proceeds will benefit the AEM Food Pantry.



## Food for Sunday Fellowship

Starting in January, we are happy to once again accept food items for our fellowship time following church on Sunday mornings. COVID put a stop to that practice. If you would like to bring a baked product or other type of goodies to share, please notify Karen White at 570-575-7005.

Thanks!

*thank you*

Huge thanks to everyone who participated in our **Holiday PJ tree**. I was amazed that after the Sunday service before Thanksgiving the tree was almost bare of the tags and two days later they were all gone!!! 53 pairs of pajamas were collected and distributed to 4 Head Start Centers. A special Thanks to my elves, Zach, Patti and the confirmation class for help with this project.

Janet Dobson for the Christian Education and Growth Committee



The Nursery is located in room 208 on the sanctuary level of the building, and open Sunday mornings from 9:40—11:10 a.m. for children ages 3 and younger. Our nursery caregiver is Heather Lyons, a member of this congregation.



## Wednesdays at First Presbyterian Church

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

Our next Adult Study “The Lord’s Prayer” will begin on January 4.

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

Christian Education

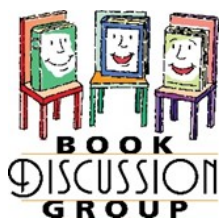
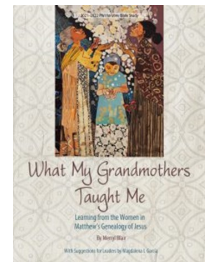


It's for life!

## 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** continue to 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 January**—*The Personal Librarian*

by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray.

The Book Group will meet again at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 14, 2023 when our book will be *The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray. This is the remarkable, little-known story of Belle da Costa Greene, J. P. Morgan's personal librarian who became one of the most powerful women in New York despite the dangerous secret she kept in order to make her dreams come true. Plan to join us at the church on January 14.

## Joys

## Sorrows

## Lectionary



- 1 – Jessie Davis
- 5 – Rylee Yankow
- 9 – Katie Carter
- 11 – Peggy Lyons
- 16 – Dana Miller
- 17 – Margaret Reese  
John Weiss
- 21 – Connie Weiss
- 26 – Char Lyon
- 28 – Briar Woodley
- 29 – Greg Yankow



Sympathy of the congregation is extended to Richard Maurer and his family upon the passing of his wife, Jane.

## Lectionary Readings



John and GerdeMaria Young.

I suppose when we wake on January 1 the world will look the same. But there is a reminder of the Resurrection at the start of each new year, each new decade. That's why I also like sunrises, Mondays and new seasons. God seems to be saying,

“With me you can always start afresh.”

—Ada Lum



### January 1, 2023

Isaiah 63:7-9; Psalm 148; Hebrews 2:10-18;  
Matthew 2:13-23

### January 8

Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29; Acts 10:34-43;  
Matthew 3:13-17

### January 15

Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11; 1 Corinthians 1:1-9;  
John 1:29-42

### January 22

Isaiah 9:1-4; Psalm 27:1, 4-9; 1 Corinthians 1:10-18;  
Matthew 4:12-23

### January 29

Micah 6:1-8; Psalm 15; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31;  
Matthew 5:1-12



## *MARK YOUR CALENDAR*

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

### **Board and Committee Meetings**

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

**Board of Deacons**— Tuesday, January 24, p.m., Room 206

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

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

**Mission and Justice**—Tuesday, January 3, 7 p.m., Room 206

**Worship, Music and Arts** - Thursday, January 12, 5 p.m., Room 206

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

**Men's Breakfast and Bible Study** – Thursday, January 5 and 19, 8:30 a.m., Room 206

**Program for Baptism of the Lord**—Sunday, January 8, following worship

**MBK Quilters**—Tuesday, January 10 and 24, 10 a.m., Fellowship Hall

**The Weinberg Food Bank**—Saturday January 14, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

**Book Group**—Saturday, January 14, 1:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

**Women's Circle Bible Study**—Tuesday, January 17, 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

### **Activities**

**Northeastern PA Chamber Music Society**—Sunday, January 8, 4:00 p.m.

**Clarks Summit Festival of Ice** - January 27-29

### **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.

**Save the Date:** Annual Meeting, Sunday February 5, 2023

**Deadline for the next Presbyter** is Friday, January 13 with anticipated mailing date of January 25.


**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

300 School Street

Clarks Summit, PA 18411-1536

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**A Prayer For The New Year**

Howard Thurman

God, grant that I may pass through the coming year with a faithful heart.

There will be much to test me and make weak my strength before the year ends.  
In my confusion I shall often say the word that is not true  
and do the thing of which I am ashamed.

There will be errors in the mind and great inaccuracies of judgment.

In seeking the light,

I shall again and again find myself walking in the darkness.

I shall mistake my light for Your light

and I shall drink from the responsibility of the choices I make.

Though my days be marked with failures, stumblings, fallings,

let my spirit be free so that You may take it

and redeem my moments in all the ways my needs reveal.

Give me the quiet assurance of Your Love and Presence.

Grant that I may pass through the coming year with a faithful heart.

Amen.

