


**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

300 School Street

Clarks Summit, PA 18411-1536

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# The Presbyter

May 2023

The First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit

**Tongues of Fire!**

*"When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them." Acts 2:1-3*



Sunday, May 28th, we will celebrate Pentecost. As part of that celebration, we would like to have our children carry streamers representing "tongues of fire" through the sanctuary during the prelude. Please be sure to help your child pick up a streamer at the back of the sanctuary before the service from one of our youth leaders and help us celebrate the day with a parade of tongues of fire!

**Pentecost Celebration**

Join us after worship on **Sunday, May 28**, 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 followed by a discussion of the Church's "birthday" and the Holy Spirit.

What gifts are we given, and how can we use them to God's glory?

**Christian Education** Let's find out together, then make a fun memento to keep the Spirit in our lives every day.


**Save the Date!**
**VBS 2023** will be held **July 17-21**
**Calling all volunteers!**

If you'd like to help children explore Babylon by teaching, leading, or preparing, let us know!  
 Please contact Jana Schillinger or send an email to [fpccs.vbs@gmail.com](mailto:fpccs.vbs@gmail.com)

Stay tuned for more details!


**One Great Hour of Sharing**


We give thanks to all of you for your generous contributions to the special offering of this year's One Great Hour of Sharing! We successfully reached our goal of \$5,000 and in fact surpassed it, with our grand total being \$5,772.00.

Because of your generosity, we are helping our national Presbyterian Church serve individuals and communities in need due to disasters, hunger, lack of educational opportunities, and more. Important work, and we are grateful!

Mission and Justice

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**Session Notes**

1. The Session would like to thank congregation members and friends for their generous support of all of our Easter Services and contributions that they have made to One Great Hour of Sharing and to the General Operating Budget.
2. Congratulations to Ginny O'Brien who was named Northeast Woman on Easter Sunday, April 9th. She welcomes refugees with helping hand and has been a friend of theirs for many years. Ginny is a member of Session on the Mission & Justice committee.
3. Many thanks to Elder Alan Baker for the wonderful performance of Considering Matthew Shepard that was presented at First Presbyterian CS on Saturday, April 15th. It was a wonderful concert with Choral Society of NEPA and the Bloomsburg University Choirs participating in the regional premiere. Much appreciation to everyone who helped in any way.

Beverly Briight  
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 June 2023 issue is  
May 19**

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  
March 31, 2023**

**REVENUE**

Budget	\$100,367
Actual Received	<u>109,173</u>
Difference	\$ 8,806

**EXPENSES**

Budget	\$100,273
Actual Expenses	<u>96,629</u>
Difference	\$ 3,644

**Result of operations**      \$ 12,450

**PLEDGE**

Budget	\$ 88,109
Actually received	<u>99,832</u>
Difference	\$ 11,723

2023 Per Capita assessment is  
\$42 per member.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

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

**Board and Committee Meetings**

**Congregational Meeting**— Sunday, May 7, 11 a.m., Sanctuary, for the purpose of hearing and acting on the report of the Nominating Committee.

**Session Meeting**— Tuesday, May 9, 7 p.m., Room 206

**Board of Deacons**— Tuesday, May 23, 7 p.m., Room 206

**Building and Grounds**— Thursday, May 4, 7 p.m., Room 209

**Christian Education**—Thursday, May 4, 7 p.m., Room 206

**Mission and Justice**—Tuesday, May 2, 7 p.m., Room 206

**Worship, Music and Arts** - Thursday, May 4, 5 p.m., Room 206

**Service/Study/Fellowship Gatherings**

**Inquirer's Class**— Sundays, April 30 and May 7, 11 a.m., Room 206

**Men's Breakfast and Bible Study** – Thursday, May 4 and 18, 8:30 a.m., Room 206

**MBK Quilters**—Tuesday, May 9 and 23, 10 a.m., Fellowship Hall

**Women's Circle Bible Study**—Tuesday, May 16, 10 a.m., Fellowship Hall

**Church Spring Clean up**— Saturday, May 20, 9 a.m., 300 School Street

**Ordination and Installation of Officers**— Sunday, May 21, 10 a.m., Sanctuary

**Pentecost Celebration**—Sunday May 28, during and following worship, Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall

**Presbyter mailing**— Wednesday, May 31, 9 a.m., Room 206

**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

**Support Groups**

We welcome members of the following support groups to our building on a regular basis, as scheduled:

- 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.

**Deadline for the next Presbyter** is Friday, May 19 with anticipated mailing date of May 31.



Joys

Sorrows

Lectionary



- 2 - Gary Wadsworth
- 5 - Alan Baker
- 8 - Pattie Anne McGonagle
- 11 - Wally Longcor
- 21 - Jeanne DeVirigilis  
David Naecher
- 22 - Jana Schillinger
- 24 - Jillian Shane
- 24 - Sue Flynn
- 28 - Kate O'Brien
- 29 - Kathy Sloneker
- 30 - Bethany Koltis



24 - Nina & Brian Schillinger



**Saturday, May 20**

**9:00 a.m.**

**Please come.**

**Many hands are needed to clean  
up our church property for  
Spring!**

**Thank you:  
from Jack Pittman**



I would like to thank everyone for your love, and prayers and support during Barbara's year-long medical journey. Your cards, food, telephone calls and hugs of support were greatly appreciated. I would be remiss if I didn't mention the numerous volunteers that made Barbara's funeral luncheon such a wonderful, joyous opportunity to share personal memories.

"When someone is in your heart, they're never truly gone. They can come back to you, even at unlikely times." Mitch Albon, *For One More Day*

### Lectionary Readings

**May 7, 5th Sunday of Easter**

1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14 and Psalm 31:1-5,15-16

**May 14, 6th Sunday of Easter**

1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21 and Psalm 66:8-20

**May 21, 7th Sunday of Easter**

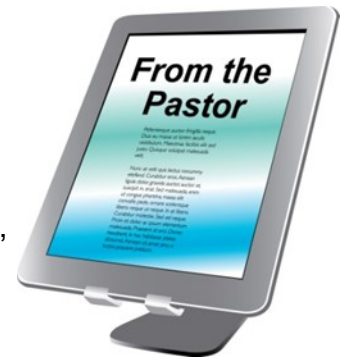
1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11; John 17:1-11 and  
Psalm 68 1-10, 32-35

**May 28, Day of Pentecost**

1 Corinthians 12:3b-13; John 7:37-39 and  
Psalm 104:24-35b

## From the Pastor

May 2023



Back when I was a student assistant pastor for a congregation in New Jersey, we learned the preacher was leaving. After thanking the congregation for their partnership in the Gospel, he told us that he had perceived the Lord's call to a larger church in the Midwest. (Does God ever call a preacher to a smaller church?)

The congregation turned to me and asked if I'd like to preach regularly to fill the gap. I gulped, but said I'd give it a try. It was my senior year. Everybody knew I was looking for a job elsewhere. There would be a few Sunday mornings when I would travel for interviews. "Not to worry," one church leader replied. "If you're absent, we could buy a book of sermons and take turns reading them."

Was he serious? Don't know, but I was horrified. My education had shaped me to do my own work, and to expect others to do the same. Using another preacher's material was a form of theft, especially if due credit was not given. Plagiarism was an expression of laziness and grounds for dismissal. Use the sermons of others? Never!

That was long before the first contract to publish a book of my own sermons. I confess my pride in getting my stuff in print, although I grumbled that the paltry paycheck didn't reflect the hard labor of cranking out a book manuscript after hours. Publishing sermons has been a mixed experience for me, especially when I discovered they were sold as downloadable files. Unscrupulous pulpiteers could buy a sermon, change the name at the top of the page, and offer my work as their own. Ouch.

"Think of your writing as an effort to raise the bar," advised a published friend. Appealing to my vanity, she tempted me to think I was offering gold to those who had only copper. When I stepped through that smugness, I began to regard my sermon collections as professional contributions. They offered my nominal insight and a barrel full of stories that could help preachers who had a busy week. Other colleagues have offered last minute help to me, and this is my opportunity to return the favor. It was payback time.

After decades of preaching, I see something hollow about my old fears. The best sermons are not found in a book but heard in real time. They are released into the air. They can never be confined to a page. The good sermon bridges the gap between "Then" and "Now," offering evidence that the preacher has been dwelling in both sides of that pregnant space. And if a sermon ever does fly, it's largely due to the setting, for it has been surrounded by prayer, sung and spoken.

In a day of mindless show biz, there is always a place for one human being to stand before others and announce what is true. Most of us are hungry for an authentic and helpful Word from God. For the preacher, it takes time, study, and discernment to get the story straight. And if others find hope and encouragement in a preacher's limited efforts, God be praised.

There's nothing quite like hearing the Good News in person.

See you on Sunday,

*Rev. Bill*

## Thank You For Another Successful Hickory Street Lunch

On March 25th, we served 154 meals and distributed 35 bags of groceries at Hickory Street Presbyterian. Thanks to all who prepared the entree and desserts, donated or transported groceries, and came that day to serve the lunch. Our next installment of this continuing project is planned for October 28, 2023.



## Help for the Community Intervention Center

On two recent Sundays after church, we made 48 bagged lunches to donate to the Community Intervention Center of Scranton. This center operates as a daycare center for those who are displaced and/or homeless. It is open daily from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and provides many important services. While they do not serve meals, they are appreciative of grab and go type food. That's where we can help out. If your committee or organization within the church would like to sponsor or take responsibility for creating the bagged lunches on a Sunday, please contact Melba Fialko. When lunches were delivered at the end of March, the Center shared a need for hotel type soaps, shampoo, hair conditioner, and lotion. Contributions can be placed in a container located in Fellowship Hall. The Mission and Justice Committee, on behalf of FPCCS, addressed another of their needs by purchasing and donating 25 daily bus passes. A special thanks for helping our brothers and sisters in need.

## Bike Hike—Save the Date

Hard to believe, but summer is just around the corner.

Mark your calendars for the Lehigh Gorge Trail Ride on **June 24, 2023**. Join us on a bike ride on the Lehigh Gorge Trail. The construction on the trail is complete, so enjoy an all-downhill ride along the Lehigh River from White Haven to Jim Thorpe with a shuttle back to White Haven.



The Nursery, located in room 208 on the sanctuary level of our building, is open Sunday mornings from 9:40—11:10 a.m. for children ages 3 and younger.

## Class of 2023

### 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.

## Wednesdays at First Presbyterian Church

6:00 p.m. **Mission & Justice** is running an educational series on immigration: **Challenges of Immigration Reform**. Feel free to jump in. Session Room at 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, May 3 - Proposed Immigration Legislation - Reaching Across the Aisle  
Facilitated by Immigration Attorney Tracey Hubbard

Wednesday, May 10 - Comprehensive Immigration Reform – Challenges and Solutions  
Facilitated by Immigration Attorney Tracey Hubbard

Wednesday, May 17 - Immigrants' stories: Film & Discussion

Wednesday, May 24 - Immigration, A New Personal Perspective  
Facilitated by United Neighborhood Centers' case worker Audrey Golosky

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



## Other Opportunities for Learning

**An Inquirer's Class** will be offered after church on April 30 and May 7 in room 206 for anyone wishing to find out more about our congregation.

**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."



## 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 downloaded at [www.fpccs.org](http://www.fpccs.org) or picked up in the church office.



## Camp Lackawanna is accepting registrations for the Summer 2023 Season!

Camp programs are scheduled between June 23 and July 21

Check out the options  
[www.camlackawanna.org](http://www.camlackawanna.org)

Camping scholarships are available from our Christian Education Committee. Applications are available at [www.fpccs.org](http://www.fpccs.org), or check with Jana Schillinger for details.

Programs are planned for children and young people in grades 1 through 12.

