



The Presbyter

July/August 2023

The First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit

Vacation Bible School Is ALMOST HERE!

July 17 to 21, 9am to noon

Bring your children. Tell your neighbors.

All children age 4 to completed grade 5 are welcome.

There will be CRAFTS, STORIES, SONGS, SNACKS, GAMES!

LOTS OF FUN!

TO REGISTER, VISIT: myvbs.org/fpccs

(More information is on the back page.)



Come to the Church Family Parking Lot Picnic

Sunday, July 30th following worship

Food will be provided by the Fellowship Committee.

Plan on staying after church and joining us for fine food, fun and fellowship!!!



Take us out to the Ball Game!

The Fellowship Committee has planned a trip to see the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Rail Riders play the Rochester Red Wings on August 4. Game time is 6:35 p.m. The cost is \$12 per ticket. A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex. **The deadline to order tickets is July 18.** For those needing a ride, a car pool will be organized to leave from the church parking lot. Contact Betty Keen (570-587-0217) to request a ride, or ask further questions.

Table of Contents

- Page 2 - Session, Deacons, Financial
- Page 3 - From the Pastor
- Page 4 - Arts, Church Life, My Brother's Keeper
- Page 5 - Pentecost Offering, Immigrant Resettlement, Volunteer Corner
- Page 6 - Bibles for Children, Camp, London Scholarship
- Page 7 - Lectionary
- Page 8 - Joys, Sorrows, Deacon Officers
- Page 9 - Calendar
- Page 1,10 - Vacation Bible School

The Presbyterian deadline for
the September 2023 issue is
August 11

Notes from the Session Meeting

June 13, 2023

1. Committee Leadership, 2023-2024: Building and Grounds - Jay Clymer and John Young, Co-chairs; Christian Education - Patti McGonagle, Chair, Brad Campbell; Fellowship - JoAnn Hall, Chair, Briar Woodley; Finance - Jeff McLaughlin, Chair, Kim Barrows; Generosity - David Naeher, Chair; Mission & Justice - Barbara Decker and Ginny O'Brien, Co-chairs; People in Ministry - Chris Norton, Chair; Worship/Music/Arts - Robin Pinches & Jan Thyren, Co-chairs.
2. David Naeher and John Young were installed as Elders, Class of 2026.
3. Next meeting is a joint meeting with the Deacons on July 25, 2023. Potluck at 5:30 p.m. joint meeting over dinner, separate meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Beverly Bright, Clerk of Session

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 May 30, 2023

REVENUE	
Budget	\$167,279
Actual Received	<u>167,816</u>
Difference	\$ 537
EXPENSES	
Budget	\$167,122
Actual Expenses	<u>168,608</u>
Difference	\$ (1,486)
Result of operations	\$ (792)
PLEDGE	
Budget	\$ 146,849
Actually received	<u>153,053</u>
Difference	\$ 6,204

2023 Per Capita assessment is
\$42 per member.

Board of Deacons

Care Team Ministry Coordinators are:

Deacon Meals	Erika Adams 570-878-2410
Time of Loss	TBD
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.

From the Pastor

Summer 2023

Even as a veteran of summer conferences, I wasn't ready for this prayer:

O God, in the course of this busy life, give us times of refreshment and peace; and grant that we may so use our leisure to rebuild our bodies and renew our minds, that our spirits may be opened to the goodness of your creation. Amen.



Perhaps I should have expected the Episcopalian priest who led us in the prayer to offer it from his church family's Book of Common Prayer. Perhaps I could presume the prayer would speak what I find hard to vocalize. This time, it struck a deep chord in my soul. Maybe it resonates with you.

Summer has returned, and our church flock is already scattering for hills, beaches, resorts, campgrounds, and cabins. We have a peripatetic congregation. Any fears of traveling during a pandemic have largely been relieved. Airports are full. Highways are more congested. Everywhere the leisure industry has raised its prices.

But is anybody returning refreshed?

Many of my "vacations" have been breathless. I tend to run from one location to another, speeding by beautiful vistas as I hoof it to the next destination. The camera on my cell phone takes great photos, and quickly. I can shoot four or five pictures in under thirty seconds. Surely one of them will provide a future reminder that I passed through a notable spot without inhabiting it. I confess I return from some vacations needing a vacation. How about you?

The Episcopalian prayer provided a necessary pause. What do we need? "Refreshment and peace." How do we attain such gifts? "Using our leisure" – that is, being a good steward of times that must be planned without being stuffed full. And what must be refreshed? The prayer names the necessary trinity: bodies, minds, spirits, all kept in creative balance.

Leisure may now be a big business, especially among the affluent, but refreshment and peace remain elusive for too many of us. I've chased after refreshment and peace so many times that I've slowly discovered a few tips for cultivating these gifts. Pause, don't hurry. Savor, don't consume. Subtract, don't add. Reach for what's real, don't settle for what's artificial.

With such an outlook, the truth becomes clear. That Episcopalian prayer is for every day, not merely for brief respites from daily drudgery. So I'm going to print it out and carry it with me wherever I go.

How about you?

Pausing along the journey,

Rev. Bill

Church Life

Summer Fellowship

The Fellowship Committee is looking for families and church groups who would like to host refreshments after church during the summer months. A sign-up sheet has been placed in Fellowship Hall. Call Karen White, 570-575-7005 with any questions..



First Aid Course

In last month's newsletter we shared some information about a First Aid Course. We are still pursuing this with the possibility of being able to provide the class at no charge unless you want to be certified. In that case, there would be a nominal charge. We will let you know when we have anything definitive. We will plan on doing the class on a Saturday morning in the fall. Stay tuned!

My Brother's Keeper

The quilting group has been busy the first half of 2023. Since January first we have completed 63 sleeping bags for Keystone Mission to deliver to the homeless. These were completed by 22 individuals from our community and have been possible because of your donations. Thank you!



The need is great, so please continue bringing us your surplus sheets, blankets, mattress pads, comforters, towels, wash cloths, socks, hats, scarves, and gloves.

Our group will be hosting Fellowship after the July 16 service. Please join us for refreshments and a display of MBK through the years at First Presbyterian Church.



The Arts at First Presbyterian committee has come up with a terrific plan for our 2023-24 concert series. Here's the schedule through the end of 2023:

Friday, August 11 at 7 pm - Kings Brass

This 9-piece brass band from Fort Wayne, Indiana, consists of three trumpets, three trombones, one tuba, keyboards, and percussion, all excellent musicians from across the country. It is said of 'The King's Brass' that they are a fine group of dedicated folks who take their music (but not themselves!) seriously. Their performance is a delightful blend of tasteful variety, light-hearted fun, and musical excellence. You won't want to miss it!



Nine host families are needed to house the band members overnight and give them breakfast. If you would be able to do this, please contact John Weiss at 570-586-0434.

And looking ahead:

- Sunday, October 15 at 4 pm- **Bill Mays Trio**- a jazz trio who performed to great acclaim at FPC in 2010.
- Sunday, November 19 at 4 pm-**All-church recital**- Adult choir, bell choir and other FPC musicians.

It's another ambitious season, and we'd love to have support from church members.

Donations may be made payable to:

First Presbyterian Church
300 School Street,
Clarks Summit, PA 18411

Please write "Arts Series" in the memo block.
Thank you for your support!

John Weiss and Richard Cochrane
Co-Chairs



Mission and Justice Committee!

Pentecost Offering



So much thanks to all of you for your generosity in gifting the Pentecost Offering! This year, as of June 6th, our grand total was \$1,373.00. To remind you, 40% of this offering remains with our congregation to support local ministries that serve children and youth. This year, our chosen local agency that provides a drop-in center for high school students and a rapid rehousing for homeless youth is the NEPA Youth Shelter. We sent to the Shelter a donation of \$600 (40% of the offering \$549.20 plus M & J addition \$50.80), which should help them in the expenses of hiring security during their hours of operation.

In gratitude for supporting this special offering!

Immigration Resettlement

We have new neighbors arriving every week from all over the world. This process relies heavily on volunteers. If you would like to help with a new neighbor, please reach out to Amy Fleming at fleminga00@yahoo.com. She is Catholic Social Services Immigration Resettlement volunteer coordinator. Some examples of ways to help are:



- Obtaining furniture and household items
- Moving new items into and setting up an apartment
- Greeting at the airport
- Helping with transportation to appointments
- Teaching English

Volunteer Corner

Many thanks to the group of cleaners/tossers/organizers who helped the Christian Ed Committee with their cleaning project on June 14. A big job was made more manageable with all the helpful hands!



Did you know that there are church members who will provide you with transportation to Sunday worship services, weekday appointments or special activities at the church? Don't let lack of transportation keep you at home. A willing volunteer may be able to give you a lift. Please call the church office or Nancy Post (570-878-2769) a few days prior to your need.

Hats off to the reliable group of office volunteers who volunteer for Nancy Owens in the church office. What do they do? Well, there is always something that needs to be done: answering phones, addressing envelopes, helping prepare the Presbyterian and Sunday bulletins, data entry.... If you indicated on your skills survey that this is something that interests you, expect a call from Nancy Owens in the coming weeks.

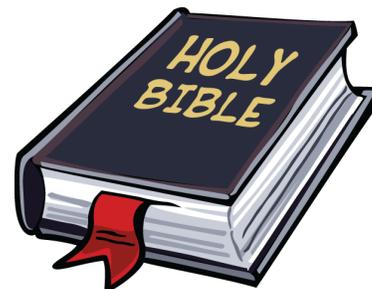
While many of us are slowing down a bit for those lazy, hazy days of summer, church life goes on! The music staff is still looking for musicians to provide special summer music, and coffee hour volunteers are always appreciated. Vacation Bible School is right around the corner. Let us know if you are able and willing!

Nancy Post

Bibles for Children

Each September, we 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.



Camp Lackawanna is accepting registrations for Summer 2023!



Camp programs will continue through July 21.
Check out the options: www.camlackawanna.org

Camping scholarships are available from our Christian Education Committee. Applications are available at www.fpccs.org or check with Jana Schillinger for details.

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

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 or picked up in the church office.



Nursery

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

Lectionary Readings

July 2, 5th Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 28:5-9; Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18;
Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42

July 9, 6th Sunday after Pentecost

Zechariah 9:9-12; Psalm 145:8-14;
Romans 7:15-25a; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

July 16, 7th Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 55:10-13; Psalm 65:(1-8) 9-13;
Romans 8:1-11; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

July 23, 8th Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 44:6-8; Psalm 86:11-17; Romans 8:12-25;
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

July 30, 9th Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 3:5-12; Psalm 119:129-136;
Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

August 6, 10th Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 55:1-5; Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21;
Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21

August 13, 11th Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 19:9-18; Psalm 85:8-13; Romans 10:5-15;
Matthew 14:22-33

August 20, 12th Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8; Psalm 67; Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
Matthew 15: (10-20) 21-28

August 27, 13th Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 51:1-6; Psalm 138; Romans 12:1-8;
Matthew 16: 13-20

Daily reasons to celebrate

Poor August, the only month without holidays! Still, there's lots to celebrate these final weeks of summer. Enjoy some summer flavors: August 1 is National Raspberry Cream Pie Day; August 2, National Ice Cream Sandwich Day; August 3, National Watermelon Day; August 10, National S'mores Day (have a bonfire!); and August 24 is National Peach Day.

If you share life with young kids, have a water balloon fight on — you guessed it — National Water Balloon Day, August 6! Head out for a final (National) Beach Day on August 30. Or head out for an intergenerational hike on National Trail Mix Day, August 31.

And don't forget to celebrate God's precious gifts of friends — National Friendship Day is the first Sunday in August; creation — Global Sleep Under the Stars Night is August 8 (prime time for meteor showers!); laughter — National Tell a Joke Day is August 16; and the opportunity to put God's love into action by serving others — on August 22, National Be an Angel Day, or August 28, National Thoughtful Day, and, for that matter, every day of the year — holiday or not.



Joys

Sorrows

Thank-yous



- 3 Heather Cole
Vi Dygert
- 8 Rebekah Naehner
- 15 Chris Gilbert
- 18 Jeff Leas
- 21 Bob Sproul
- 25 Janet Stansbury
- 30 Clint Sekol
Pauline Heckman



- 19 Grace & Bill Farrell
- 22 Don & Betty Keen
David & Karis Naehner
- 28 Tom & Barb Decker



- 1 Jamie Strong
Joan Miller
- 2 Alice Broxton
Joe O'Brien
Johnny Rich
- 5 Jenn Rich
Barbara Brown
- 8 Kate Hopkins
- 11 Jack Pittman
- 12 Gwynne Gilbert
- 13 Diana Pope Albright
- 17 Ariana Billiot
- 19 Peter Moore
- 22 Judith Keiser
- 23 Betsy Ellis
Heather Lyons
- 30 Olympia Cianfichi



- 7 John & Connie Weiss
- 23 Jan & Jim Thyren
Lou & Lori Kareha
- 26 Charlie & Robin Pinches

Summer growth

July is often a “slow” month in many churches. But it’s a good time to seek avenues for spiritual growth, either on your own or in a small group. Study a specific book of the Bible, the history of Christianity, an area of Christian theology, or learn more about other religions such as Hinduism or Islam. Volunteer to do mission work in your local community or in other cities, states or countries.



Deacon Officers

Barbara Norton, Moderator
Bill Farrell, Treasurer
Grace Farrell, Vice Moderator

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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

Board and Committee Meetings

Joint meeting of Session and Deacons—Tuesday, July 25, 2023. Potluck at 5:30 p.m. joint meeting over dinner; Separate meetings at 6:30 p.m.

Building and Grounds— Thursday, July 6 and Thursday, August 3, 7 p.m., Room 209

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

Worship, Music and Arts - Thursday, August 17, 5 p.m., Room 206

Service/Study/Fellowship Gatherings

Vacation Bible School Training - Saturday, July 1, 9 a.m., Room 206

Men's Breakfast and Bible Study – Dates will be in the weekly bulletin, 8:30 a.m., Room 206

MBK Quilters—Tuesday, July 11 and Tuesday, August 8, 10 a.m., Fellowship Hall

Vacation Bible School - July 17-21, 9 a.m. to noon

All Church Picnic—Sunday, July 30, church parking lot, following worship

Rail Riders baseball game— Friday, August 4, Game time is 6:35 p.m.

The Arts Concert—Friday, August 11, 7:00 p.m.

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 7:30 p.m. in Room 206, 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 September Presbyter

Friday, August 11
anticipated mailing date
Wednesday, August 23





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



WHAT: VBS 2023

WHEN: Monday, July 17 to Friday, July 21, 9am-12pm

WHERE: First Presbyterian Church

300 School Street, Clarks Summit

WHO'S INVITED: all children age 4 to completed grade 5

TO REGISTER, VISIT: myvbs.org/fpccs



Want to volunteer? You can help children explore Babylon by teaching, leading, or preparing. One day or the whole week, we need YOU to make it possible!

Please contact Jana Schillinger or send an email to fpccs.vbs@gmail.com