



The Presbyter

October 2023

The First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit

The Arts

at First Presbyterian Church

The Bill Mays Trio will perform a concert "Autumn Serenade" at FPC on Sunday, October 15 at 4 pm.

The Bill Mays Jazz Trio consists of Bill Mays on piano, Dean Johnson on bass, and Ron Vincent on drums. The concert will feature original music by Mays, including music from their latest CD. With a top-shelf career spanning sixty years, Mays has performed with the likes of Frank Sinatra, Phil Woods, and Gerry Mulligan. A prolific composer, and heard on countless movie scores, Bill's trio will dazzle us with its artistry.

The concert will be held in the sanctuary. The concert is open to the public free of charge, with a free-will offering taken to help defray the costs of the event.

The concert is the second event of the Arts at First Presbyterian 2023-24 season following the August 11 appearance of the King's Brass who played to a full house. The series is supported by a grant from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a Lackawanna County Community Arts and Culture Grant, and by individual contributions. A brochure is included in this mailing outlining our remaining concerts.



If you would like to make a contribution to the series, 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

Immigration Resettlement Volunteer Opportunity



Catholic Social Services Immigration Resettlement could really use some help coordinating new refugee needs with services and volunteers. There are volunteers and case workers to pick up at the airport, furnish apartments, take food shopping, schedule and take to doctor appointments or social services appointments. But the current coordinator could really use some help lining everything up. If you think you might like to help out with this, or any other part of welcoming our newest neighbors, please email Ginny at ginny8149@gmail.com.

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Notes from the Session Meeting

September 12, 2023

1. Church members are asked to be a part of Worship Through Service Weekend. Dates are September 30th and October 1. Our event is a reminder that praise begins inside the church and moves outside to love our neighbors and serve our community.

2, Will Cosnett, our former church educator, was ordained as a minister in August, 2023. Session sends their congratulations to him.

3. Session approved a new team which will be chaired by David Naehar. The Generosity Team members will be: Heather Acker, Beverly Bright, Kay Fenner Copley, Jack Pittman and Michael Thompson.

Beverly Bright, Clerk of Session

The Presbyterian deadline for the November 2023 issue is October 13.

The Presbyterian 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	Vacant

FROM YOUR FINANCE COMMITTEE FOR THE MONTH ENDING August 31, 2023

REVENUE	
Budget	\$267,646
Actual Received	<u>262,164</u>
Difference	\$ (5,482)

EXPENSES	
Budget	\$267,395
Actual Expenses	<u>272,349</u>
Difference	\$ (4,954)

Result of operations \$ (10,185)

PLEDGE	
Budget	\$ 234,958
Actually received	<u>244,789</u>
Difference	\$ 9,831

2023 Per Capita assessment is
\$42 per member.

Board of Deacons

Care Team Ministry Coordinators are:

Moderator	Barbara Norton 570-878-8026
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

October 2023



A retired professor from a university was lamenting about faculty meetings, which he does not miss in his retirement. “I left frustrated every time,” he said. “Small and inconsequential matters were magnified. Excess energy was burned over nothing. Most of the arguments were about the egos of the faculty members, who gave speeches about their expertise and obliterated their ‘opponents’ through clenched teeth. And I kept wondering: What would it take for those people to agree on anything?”

Good question, and an indication of the times we are in.

Forceful opinions are stated everywhere, fueled by the information bubbles where most of us reside. We are so accustomed to surrounding ourselves with voices of agreement that we don’t know how to find common ground with our perceived enemies. And we have been so conditioned by the battles, either personal or social, that we have descended into the posture of winning by all means necessary. The result? Fractures, emotional and otherwise, with precious little agreement.

The church of Jesus Christ does not stand above the fray. I’ve heard about down-in-the-mud arguments about the color of a new sanctuary carpet. Members of the same church staff pounce on one another over turf battles. A good pastoral friend thought he was called to serve a “purple” church, politically neither red nor blue; he was shown the exit door because one faction perceived he was a little too blue. Ah, we are merely the world...under the sign of the cross.

The apostle Paul, no stranger to his own skirmishes, gets wind that the folks in his beloved congregation in Philippi were griping and sniping. Quite early in his letter to the congregation, he exhorts them to be “standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents.” (Philippians 1:27-28). It is good advice, if not a bit euphemistic.

So, he digs in with more specificity: “Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit,” he says, “and in humility, count others as better than yourselves.” Most of all, “Have the same mind that was in Christ Jesus, who emptied himself...”

This is one of the most remarkable invitations of the Christian Bible. It’s the voluntary setting-aside of all privilege and power. It’s the intentional refusal to insist on our own way. It is the choice to be in communion with others, rather than claiming to be “right” on all matters. It’s the kneeling to wash the feet of those around you, choosing to serve them rather than dominate them. Just like Jesus. Which is to say, it is truly to live under the sign of the cross.

A world that feeds on competition and dominance cannot understand this. Not yet. But let the church of Christ Jesus lead the way if it is able. As a secular observer marveled at an early Christian community, “See how they love another.”

With you in the service of Jesus our Lord,
Rev. Bill

Volunteer Corner

October 2023



Our Worship through Service is an annual event involving members in a one-day project. Members choose a project that most interests them, a project that fits into their busy schedules. In past years we have volunteered our time for such locations as the Ronald McDonald House, Abington Library, Weinberg Food Bank, Safety Net, the Pines and Clarks Summit State Hospital. Volunteers also were busy within our walls, handling church clean-ups, creating quilts, collecting food and personal care items.

If you have participated in this event you know that these few hours of volunteering make each of us feel better about ourselves and our contribution, but more importantly, the recipients of our service are extremely grateful that we have shared out time and talents with them. A definite win-win.

Let's strive to make this service component part of our daily lives – it doesn't have to be an annual event only. There is still so much to be done. The Mission and Justice Committee welcomes participation in their projects. Need other suggestions where you might be most needed? I am happy to offer some.

A special note to our young members: Are you interested in music...all kinds of music? Arts @ First Presbyterian invites you to help out as an usher/greeter during the 2023/2024 concert series. It's easy. Join us about 45 minutes before the concert starts, cheerfully greet attendees and distribute programs, join us as we collect a free will offering at intermission and at the conclusion, thank the audience for coming and help them out the door. There's nothing to it. The first concert is on Sunday, October 15 at 4 p.m. If you'd like to help, email John Weiss (jaweiss@epix.net) or me (npost329@gmail.com).

Nancy Post

Call for Grocery Donations: Hickory Street Meals

We will take our next turn helping Hickory Street Presbyterian Church with their community meals program on Saturday, October 28th. We will again be seeking volunteers to prepare the entrée (ground beef stroganoff), a vegetable side (broccoli supreme), bake or purchase the desert (pumpkin pie), and help serve the meal that day. Sign-Up sheets and additional info will soon be found in the narthex. We are also collecting bags of groceries to give away that day and history tells us we will need at least 35 of these, each containing the following items:

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1 box of breakfast cereal | 1 can of tuna |
| 1 box of pasta | 1 four-pack of pudding or jello cups, |
| 1 can or plastic jar of spaghetti sauce | 1 box of Pop Tarts |
| 1 box of Mac n Cheese | 1 plastic jar of peanut butter |
| 2 cans of vegetables, | 1 plastic jar of jelly |
| 1 can of fruit | 1 bag of candy |



You can shop for the complete list (printed shopping lists will also be found in the narthex) or just selected items and bring them to the narthex. If you have questions or would like additional information, please see Alan Baker or email him at abaker2@verizon.net.

News from your Mission & Justice Committee

Hope for Haiti

Our decades-long connection to the Haitian village of Gwo-Jan continues. At the point of this connection stands our friend Yaya, who lived among us while achieving his college degree and then returned to attempt good work amid the despair, frustrations, and very real dangers of his home. He persists in his work and dream to build a better Haiti for himself, his family and friends, and the future. Most of the time, the odds of success appear slim at best. Haiti is the poster child for a failed state, with a long history of inept, ineffective, and corrupt leaders, governed now in the day-to-day as much by gangs as by its broken political system.

A story that is often remembered and referenced by the Mission and Justice Committee is that of a man walking down the beach that comes across a scene of thousands of starfish washed up on the sand and dying. The man begins to toss them one-by-one back into the ocean. A passerby notes the futility of his effort, commenting that he cannot possibly save them all. The man simply responds by picking up another starfish and replying, "Yes, but I can save this one."

We recently received from Yaya the names of 13 Gwo-Jan children, ranging in age from 4-19 and ready for school grades K-7th. They lack the required tuition to attend, which ranges from \$ 115.00 - \$ 375.00 per student. They are a snapshot of Gwo-Jan's future, destined to be recruited by the local gangs but possibly--through this schooling--to find a way to avoid that fate, perhaps even to follow in Yaya's footsteps and someday join him in the difficult work of building a safer and better-functioning community. Please take a moment to read their names and offer a prayer for them:

Saïsha, age 7
 Annie, age 7
 Redashkaina
 Bechaëlle, age 6
 Marvens, age 11
 Naira, age 4
 Soraya, age 4
 Rosalanda, age 7
 Ovensly, age 11
 Bifendel, age 13
 Jonas, age 19
 Anne Rose, age 12
 Gavenchy, age 12



Their schools are mostly in the main city of Petion Ville or the local town of Pernier. Most of the children will probably walk for about 30 minutes to get there. Taking a tap tap (small trucks that provide public transportation) would cost about \$ 1.50 each day and take even longer due to the road traffic. The families will also need to buy school supplies, uniforms, and books that further cost around \$ 150.00 each year.

After much discussion, we are determined to help them in the present even while not knowing if or how we can continue to assist them in the coming years. But for today we have stepped forward in faith to support these "Gwo-Jan 13," though doing so essentially emptied our special fund for National and International Relief. So, if you would like to be a part of our shepherding of these 13 children, watch at this year's Advent "Gifts for Strangers" event for the opportunity to make a gift of education for the children of Gwo-Jan, those gifts to replenish the fund and ensure our continuing help. If you would like to direct help sooner or later, you can at any time direct a donation to account #2037 and specify its use for "Haiti Tuitions." The average annual tuition per child is about \$170.00.

Christian Education: Growing in Faith and Love

Bible Time: An opportunity for our **young children** (age 4 to approx. grade 4) to hear Bible stories told in a fun and engaging way, weekly **Bible Time** will happen during worship, for about 20 minutes. Children will be invited to attend after the anthem and will return for prayers and the end of the service.

October stories will include: Jesus teaching the disciples how to pray, the creation story, Adam and Eve, Noah's Ark, and God's promise to Abraham.



We Worship Together series: Why do we say the Lord's Prayer? What is communion all about? What are we waiting for during Advent? These questions and more will be answered in a new series for children. The program will last about 30 minutes and will be held after worship; parents will be invited to sign up, and each family will receive a book to take home related to the topic discussed.

Our first program will be held on **Sunday, October 8** on the topic of **Communion**. The next class in the series will be held on **Sunday, November 19** to learn about the upcoming season of **Advent**. Later topics will include Baptism, the Lord's Prayer, and Pentecost.

SIGN UP
HERE:



New this year: We will host a **Blessing of the Animals** on Saturday, October 7, at 11:00 a.m. in the lower parking lot (adjacent to Fellowship Hall). All are invited to bring their pets for a brief liturgy and a blessing. Cats, lizards, birds, and dogs on a leash are all cordially invited.



LIFT: Living In Faith Together

Join us after worship on **Sunday, October 22** for a meal and intergenerational program. Families with children as well as congregants of all ages are invited to come for a **potluck lunch**. Enjoy a Bible reading and discussion as we hear some family stories and memories. What a great opportunity to share fellowship and faith with our friends and family, and get to know new friends as well!



Have a family favorite recipe (new or old)? A traditional family dish? Or just something yummy to share with others? Our lunch will be a **potluck**, so we invite each family to bring a hot or cold dish to share. From entrées to side dishes to casseroles and beyond, help us to break bread together on **Sunday, October 22**.

Also, please save the date for our next LIFT program:

Sunday, December 3 — Advent (held after worship)

Wednesday Evening Opportunities

Adult Education meets on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. Dr. Charlie Pinches offers the first series, titled, "The Apostle Paul and the Called Life."

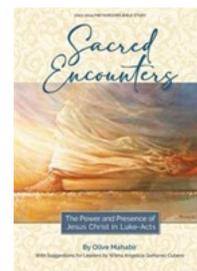
Adult Choir rehearses at 7:00 p.m. beginning Wednesday, August 30.

Bell Choir rehearses at 8:00 p.m. starting Wednesday, September 13

Additional Adult Education Opportunities

Women's Bible Study Lesson 2: October 17, 2023, 10 a.m., Fellowship Hall
Sacred Encounters: The Exorcism in Gerasa

Overview: The second encounter reveals to us the ways in which Jesus is present with people who live without the support of their communities due to rejection, confusion, and fear. Despite our society's tendency to isolate people who are struggling, lesson two challenges us to trust that no illness -- physical, spiritual, or mental -- has the power to exclude anyone from the saving grace of Jesus. The group, led by Rev. Carter, gathers on the third Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. All women are welcome!



Men's Breakfast and Bible Study meets for donuts and Bible study on the first and third Thursday 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.

Want to read through the Bible with friends?

An Immerse Bible Reading Group will meet at 1:30 p.m. on Monday, October 9, at 152 Edgewood Drive, South Abington Township. This introductory gathering will set the group's meeting schedule. If there is sufficient interest, we will create more than one group. To save a seat, contact Jamie Strong at (570) 586-6776 or email at jstrong@hotmail.com. To find out more about Immerse, visit <https://www.immersebible.com>.

CPR Class/Defibrillator Training

The Church Life/Fellowship Committee will be holding a CPR Class on Saturday morning, October 28th at 10:30 in Fellowship Hall. There will also be a demonstration for using the defibrillator which the church is purchasing. There will not be a charge for the general class which will last approximately an hour. However, those who want to receive their certification will be charged \$35 and will be required to stay a little longer.



The class is limited to twenty people so you must make a commitment by October 23rd. If needed, we will schedule another class in the spring. Please contact JoAnn at jodihall@nep.net or 570-806-1591 or Chris at judge622@gmail.com or 570-877-8157 to have a spot reserved for the class. Also please let us know if you wish to receive your certification.

Joys

Sorrows

Thank-yous



4	Riley Wescott
5	Tim Shane
6	Barry Shepherd
9	Sadie O'Brien
10	Tracy Smith
14	Barbara Decker
20	Darlene Scappatura Charles 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
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Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for your outpouring of support and encouragement after my accident. The cards, calls, flowers, and food brightened some of the more difficult moments. I am also grateful for your prayers and kind words. Thank you for supporting our family over the past few months!

In Christ,
Karis Nacher.



The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Olympia Cianfichi upon the passing of her mother, Marta Allen, on September 5.



Sofie Kozlowski was baptized during the morning worship service on September 10, 2023. Sofie is the daughter of Erin and Michael Kozlowski, and granddaughter of Carol LaCoe. Blessings and best wishes to all.

Lectionary Readings

October 1, 18th Sunday after Pentecost
Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32, Psalm 25:1-9;
Philippians 2:1-13, Matthew 21: 23-32.

October 8, 19th Sunday after Pentecost
Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalm 80:7-15; Philippians 3:4b-14;
Matthew 21:33-46.

October 15, 20th Sunday after Pentecost
Isaiah 25:1-9; Psalm 23; Philippians 4:1-9;
Matthew 22:1-14.

October 22, 21st Sunday after Pentecost
Isaiah 45:1-7; Psalm 96:1-9, 10-13;
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22.

October 29, 22nd Sunday after Pentecost
Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18; Psalm 1;
1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Matthew 22:34-46.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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

Board and Committee Meetings

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

Deacons—Tuesday, October 24, 7 p.m., Room 206

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

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

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

Worship, Music and Arts—Thursday, October 5, 5 p.m., Room 206

Service/Study/Fellowship Gatherings

State Hospital Party —Tuesday, October 3, 11:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall

Men's Breakfast and Bible Study—Thursday, October 5 and 19, 8:30 a.m., Room 206

We Worship Together—Sunday, October 8, after Worship

Immerse Bible Reading Group - Monday, October 9, 1:30 p.m., 152 Edgewood Dr., S. Abington Twp. (page 7)

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

The Arts Concert—Sunday, October 15, 4:00 p.m., Sanctuary

Presbyterian Women's Bible study—Tuesday, October 17, 10:00 a.m.

LIFT Living In Faith Together—Sunday, October 22, after Worship (page 6)

Hickory Street Meal—Saturday, October 28 (page 4)

CPR Class—Saturday, October 28, 10:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall (page 7)

Trunk or Treat—Sunday, October 29, 2-3:30 p.m., church upper parking lot on School Street (page 10)

Adult Education—Each Wednesday, 6:00 p.m., Room 206

Adult Choir—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

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 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.



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


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

Sunday, October 29 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

With Halloween on a Sunday, we offer a **Trunk or Treat** event for the children of our community. It will take place on **Sunday, October 29, from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m.** in the upper parking lot on School Street. We want to offer a safe event for kids. Here is how you can help:

Spread the word! We look forward to seeing all kids in their Halloween costumes.

Can you **donate candy**? Last year, over 300 children showed up. We want to be ready. It will help if **all candy is sorted in individual goodie bags** (think "grab and go").

Can you help **distribute candy**? Or **serve as a greeter**? If so, please arrive in the upper parking lot by 1:30 p.m. so we can set up together. We encourage you to decorate the back of your car (that's the "trunk" part). By all means, **dress up in a costume** - it's Halloween!

A team of our Deacons is heading up the event. If you can help in any way, send an e-mail to Erika Adams at eadams@wglaw.com or leave a message at the church office (570-586-6306).