



The Presbyter

April 2024

The First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit

Concert: "Spring Can Really Hang You Up"

Sunday, April 21, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.
Bill Carter and the Presbybop Sextet



April "mixes memory and desire," wrote the poet T.S. Eliot. This poignant springtime theme will be explored by the Presbybop Sextet in a musical celebration for Jazz Appreciation Month. The music will

feature jazz compositions and arrangements of Bill Carter and Bill's mentor, Al Hamme, in memory of Al's passing in September 2023.

The concert is also a launch event for Bill's new book, "Thriving on a Riff: Jazz and the Spiritual Life". The author will sign books at a reception following the concert.

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



Holy Humor Sunday, April 7 at 10 a.m.

We tried to stop this, but joy keeps bursting forth.
So, let's keep celebrating Easter in good fun.
Dress appropriately,
preferably in a Hawaiian shirt.



The Church Life & Mission and Justice Committees present



An Evening in Tuscany

Sunday, April 28 in Fellowship Hall
To benefit the NEPA Youth Shelter

Cocktail Hour at 5 PM.- BYOB
With Charcuterie & Appetizers
Dinner at 6 PM

Full Buffet, Featuring a Sumptuous Variety of Italian Specialties Prepared by Local Italian Restaurants and FPCCS Members

\$25 per person; Tables seat up to 8

First come, first served!

RESERVATIONS ARE LIMITED:

To guarantee your reservation, please RSVP with your check (payable to FPCCS, note "Tuscan Dinner" in check memo) by April 21st: You may drop your check off at the church, or mail to JoAnn Hall, 911 Crystal Park Blvd, Clifford Twp, PA 18407. Sign Up Sheets in the Narthex and Fellowship Hall are to determine "head count" only.



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**Notes from the Session Meeting
March 12, 2024**

1. Session received three new friends requesting membership at First Presbyterian: Richard (Dick) and Cynthia (Cindy) White and Lynne Girard. Rev. Carter will introduce them to the congregation on Palm Sunday.
2. Session recently purchased a system to assist those with hearing difficulties. It's a high quality system that will perfectly interface with our new sound system. You will see members using it in the sanctuary on Sunday mornings. Let us know if this would be helpful for you.
3. The nominating committee, Chris Norton, chair, has started working on finding new officers for First Presbyterian. If anyone is interested or knows of someone who is qualified, please let Chris know.
4. Session wishes members and friends of the congregation a Blessed Easter Holiday. Please remember to attend the Holy Week services.

Beverly Bright, Clerk of Session

The Presbyterian deadline for the May 2024 issue is April 12.

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	Michael Lambert

**FROM YOUR FINANCE COMMITTEE
FOR THE MONTH ENDING
FEBRUARY 29, 2024**

REVENUE	
Budget	\$68,700
Actual Received	<u>86,755</u>
Difference	\$18,056

EXPENSES	
Budget	\$ 68,630
Actual Expenses	<u>66,637</u>
Difference	\$ 1,992

Result of operations	\$ 20,118
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PLEDGE	
Budget	\$ 62,000
Actually received	<u>61,556</u>
	(\$ 443)

2024 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
Ushers	John Conklin
Deacon Driver	Barbara Norton 570-878-8026

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

April 2024

As some of you know, our church building had a small flood on Christmas. The sink drain in the upstairs kitchenette was blocked - and for some reason, the water was running throughout the holiday. Portions of the flooring were damaged. Water ran through the Session Room floor, and took out the ceiling of an under-utilized children's bathroom off the youth room in the lower level.

A good insurance policy is a blessing. Our building will be just fine, and the small crisis has provided an opportunity to replace some flooring, update old linoleum tiles, paint a few walls, and freshen up the finishes. You will be noticing some changes as we continue "under construction."

The Easter church—particularly the original church - was under construction in a far deeper way. Consider the circumstances. The followers of Jesus were hiding from their friend's enemies. Thomas had to have his doubts punctured. Simon Peter needed spiritual rehabilitation, having denied his Lord three times by a charcoal fire. After the demise of Judas Iscariot, the number of disciples shrank from twelve to eleven. And yes, even though the remaining followers of Jesus knew he was alive again, he kept slipping in and out of sight before ascending into heaven. Obviously the church needed more than a new coat of paint. It needed to be rebuilt.



The Easter church was refashioned by the Holy Spirit. The kingdom movement inaugurated by the Jewish Jesus was soon pushed beyond the constraints of Judaism. A self-righteous Pharisee named Saul was knocked off his high horse, his soul soon renovated and his energy redirected. And the movement spread in unexpected directions, unbound by race, nationality, gender, or economic privilege. For those with eyes to see, the church is still under reconstruction. God continues to work on us.

This is a recurring issue through Christian history. Congregations have risen and fallen, occasionally resurging to a former glory, but more commonly finding themselves changed and transformed. The One who trims the vine branches will cut away the branches that withered and prune the remainder for additional growth. This is the way of the Gospel, for Christ keeps speaking. His church is always under repairs. We don't need to be afraid of that.

Drywall can be replaced. Souls can be replenished. If institutions stagnate or implode, the Holy Spirit - the Spirit of the Risen Jesus - will take initiative in making new containers for the Gospel. The church belongs to Christ and ultimately it is Christ's responsibility. Our calling is to take part in his work, welcome his hidden presence, maintain a vitality of spirit, and express his love for all people.

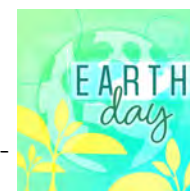
What a rehab project we're on! Stay faithful. The Lord is on the loose.

With you on the journey,

Rev. Bill

Mission and Justice

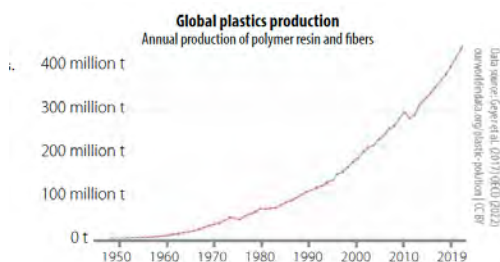
Plastic Jesus: Real Faith in a Synthetic World



As we approach Earth Day 2024 on Monday, April 22nd, the Mission and Justice Committee invites you to explore a new digital publication from Creation Justice Ministries with the provocative title "Plastic Jesus: Real Faith in a Synthetic World". There will be displays in the Narthex and posts in Light from the Hill addressing "...ways that plastics impact our lives and God's creation." You can download your own copy from Creation Justice Ministries (www.creationjustice.org/plasticjesus) or email Meg Hatch (mihatch13@yahoo.com) if you would like to be mailed a hard copy. The issue being addressed is the increase in plastics production and the harm it is causing.

We will be exploring the theological framework, stories of success and actions that can be taken individually and locally. Here are a couple of personal actions listed in Plastic Jesus:

- Try doing a plastic-free Lenten season or another extended season. Simpler ways to reduce single-use plastics are to bring your own reusable bags to stores and swap out plastic straws for metal straws.
- Educate yourself on your personal plastic use. How much plastic do you use on a weekly basis? What happens to your plastic waste after you discard it? What percentage of recycling in your state is actually recycled?



We were recently re-certified as an "Earth Care Congregation" for our work across 2023 to make earth care concerns a part of our thinking and doing in the areas of worship, education, community, and facilities. Congratulations to us!

Thank You for Another Great Hickory Street Meals Project

The Mission and Justice Committee sends a huge "Thank You!" to all who contributed to the grocery collection, prepared entrees or desserts, or helped serve the meal or move things over to Hickory Street in advance. On March 23 we served meals to 171 of our neighbors and distributed an additional 41 bags of groceries. We had enough leftovers to take some to the Community Intervention Center and they were thrilled with the surprise. We also sent leftovers to the Scranton Youth Shelter.



April Volunteer Corner

Have you ever noticed that some monthly calendars note special “national” days of celebration? As I write this column I notice that today is “National Open an Umbrella Indoors Day”. April 3 has been declared as “National Chocolate Mousse Day”; April 6 is “National Caramel Popcorn Day”. It seems as though there’s a day to **celebrate** everyone and everything.



One very important (and more serious) celebration is **National Volunteer Week**. This year, National Volunteer Week is April 21-27. Established in 1974, the week is an opportunity to recognize and thank volunteers who lend their time, talent and voice to meet the critical needs of our communities. The Points of Light Foundation has chosen this year’s theme as “**Celebrate Service**”.

While we really should **celebrate** volunteers and their service every day, it’s nice to have a week set aside to encourage the whole country to appreciate and thank volunteers.

I don’t need to tell you how active our volunteers are here at FPC. You can see it everywhere you look. Volunteers make decisions, keep our members informed, greet visitors, provide opportunities for fellowship, actively participate in community activities, further the arts, raise money, feed the hungry, comfort the lonely, ensure that our building is welcoming and safe, lead worship through word and music, teach the gospel. The list goes on and on.

So many reasons to say thank you.

Let’s **celebrate!**

Nancy Post

The Joy of Jesus

The joy that Jesus offers his disciples is his own joy, which flows from his intimate communion with the One who sent him. It is a joy that does not separate happy days from sad days, successful moments from moments of failure, experiences of honor from experiences of dishonor, passion from resurrection.

This joy is a divine gift that does not leave us during times of illness, poverty, oppression or persecution. It is present even when the world laughs or tortures, robs or maims, fights or kills. It is truly ecstatic, always moving us away from the house of fear into the house of love, and always proclaiming that death no longer has the final say, though its noise remains loud and its devastation visible. The joy of Jesus lifts up life to be celebrated.



—Henri J.M. Nouwen, *Lifesigns*

Highway Cleanup on April 13th

As part of our regular work as a PC-USA "Earth Care Congregation, " we will continue to clean our strip of the Morgan Highway (between Winola and Country Club Roads) on Saturday, April 13th, meeting 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.



Wednesday Evening Opportunities

Adult Education meets on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m., Room 206. Topics in April include:

- April 3 - "Seen and Heard on the Ground" - Our friend Bill Hoyle will report on a recent trip to Palestine.
- April 10 - Dr. Michael Azar (University of Scranton) returns for a conversation on Israel and Gaza
- April 17 and 24 - Rev. Bill and Friends begin a Bible Study series titled "Why Presbyterians Are Like That." We will explore the ways we read the Bible, pray, and serve. All are invited!

Adult Choir rehearses at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Bell Choir rehearses at 8:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Additional Adult Education Opportunities

Presbyterian Women Bible Study

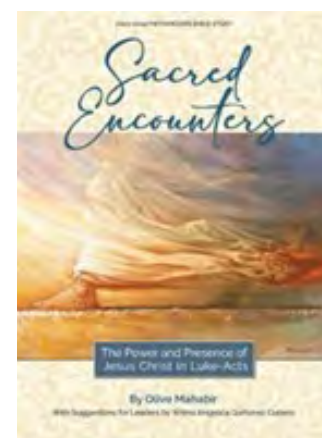
April 16, 10 a.m.

Women's Bible Study Lesson 7

An Ethiopian Eunuch Encounters the Good News of Jesus

Overview: Through the direction of the Holy Spirit, Philip has a sacred encounter with the Ethiopian eunuch and begins to spread the gospel beyond the borders of Judea and Samaria. By baptizing this newcomer, the apostle demonstrates how to share faith with kindness and courage and provides a preview of the diverse and inclusive church that is to come.

The group, including 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 often discuss the scripture text for the following Sunday's sermon. All men in the church family are always welcome.

Hearts and Hands for Camp Lackawanna

Can you help? Camp Lackawanna is organizing **two Hearts and Hands weekends** for April 12-14 and May 17-19. There are many tasks to be done. These include wood splitting, painting, cleaning, minor repairs, spreading woodchips, loading a dumpster, and others. There is something for all ages! You can come for the entire weekend or just one day. Meals and lodging will be provided. Please sign up by April 8 or May 13 by sending an email to Suzanne Bates at suzanne@batesemail.net or calling 248-320-6095.



Save the Date! Parking Lot Picnic. June 30, 2024

Look for more information in upcoming issues of The Presbyterian.

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. In April we will hear stories about the Ascension, the conversion of Paul, and two stories about David as a young boy.



We Worship Together series: Have you ever wondered about our church traditions? Answering questions about the way we worship, our new series for children will last about 30 minutes and will be held after worship; parents will be invited to sign up (so we know to expect your child), and each family will receive a book to take home related to the topic discussed. Our next program will be held on **Sunday, May 12** to hear about **Pentecost**. That will be our last class for now, but the series will return in the fall with topics

including the Apostles' Creed, worship, and Baptism.



LIFT: Living In Faith Together

Join us after worship on **Sunday, April 21** for a meal and intergenerational program. Families with children as well as church friends of all ages are invited. Enjoy a meal, Bible reading and discussion, and activity. It's a great opportunity to share fellowship and faith with our friends and family.



Paul R. Dobson Memorial Scholarship

Graduating High School members of our congregation are invited to apply if you plan to further your education. The application can be downloaded from the church website and mailed by May 8th to 105 Center Lane, N. Abington Twp, 18414. The winner will be announced during Graduate Recognition Sunday.

Janet Dobson

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 picked up in the church office.



Joys

Sorrows

Lectionary



- 1 Anne Rich
Donna Evans
- 2 Colin Shane
- 5 John Diven
- 7 Donald Keen
- 11 John Rich
- 12 Jennifer Sekol
- 19 Mark Kusma
- 23 Nancy London
- 26 Len Ballelli



Sympathy of the congregation is extended to the family of Lonnie Lipscomb, who entered the Church Triumphant March 4, 2024.

Lectionary Readings

April 7, Second of Easter

Acts 4:32-35; Psalm 133; 1 John 1:1-2:2;
John 20:19-31

April 14, Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 3:12-19; Psalm 4; 1 John 3:1-7;
Luke 24:36b-48

April 21, Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:5-12; Psalm 23; 1 John 3:16-24;
John 10:11-18

April 28, Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:25-31; 1 John 4:7-21;
John 15:1-8



- 16 Kevin and Holly Shane



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.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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

Board and Committee Meetings

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

Deacons—Tuesday, April 23, 7 p.m., Room 206

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

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

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

Worship, Music and Arts - Thursday, April 11, 5 p.m., Room 206

Service/Study/Fellowship Gatherings

State Hospital Luncheon —Tuesday, April 2, noon, Fellowship Hall

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

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

Highway Clean-up—Saturday, April 13, 9 a.m., Methodist Church parking lot

Presbyterian Women Bible Study—Tuesday, April 16, 10:00 a.m.

LIFT Lenten program—Sunday, April 21, following worship

The Arts, Presbybop Sextet—Sunday, April 21, 4:00 p.m., Sanctuary

An Evening in Tuscany—Sunday, April 28, 5 p.m., Fellowship Hall

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

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

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.

Presbyter Deadline: Friday, April 12, 2024. Anticipated mailing date April 24, 2024.



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



Save the Date!

VBS 2024 will be held **July 15-19**

Calling all volunteers!

If you'd like to help children explore Nazareth by teaching, leading, or preparing, let us know!

Please contact Jana Schillinger or send an email to

fpccs.vbs@gmail.com

Stay tuned for more details!

