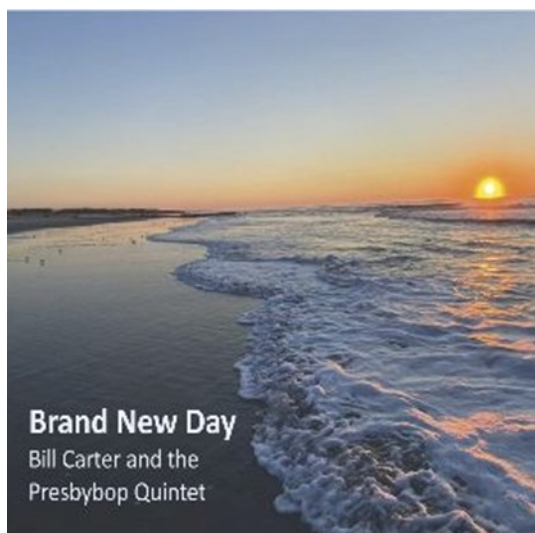




The Presbyter

May 2025

The First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit



Our Final Arts Event for the season is May 18 at 4 p.m.

We will feature Bill Carter and the Presbybop Quintet as they celebrate a new recording of original jazz music, called "Brand New Day." Featured musicians are Mike Carbone on sax, Jeff Stockham on trumpet and French horn, Tony Marino on bass, and Ron Vincent on drums. Location: Our sanctuary.

Hey kids and families! Want to join us for a RailRiders baseball game? Want to ride a trolley car from Scranton to get there? Our Christian Education committee is sponsoring a trip on Sunday, June 29. Come to worship at 10 a.m. (dressed for the game) and we will carpool to the Trolley Museum to catch the trolley at 12:15 p.m. The cost will be \$25 for a combined ticket for the game and the round-trip ride. Reserve your spot soon by calling the church (570-586-6306) or emailing the office (office@fpccs.org). But hurry: there are only fifty-six seats available on the trolley!



Looking for a new Camping Experience this Summer?

Johnsonburg Camp and Retreat Center in NW New Jersey offers programming for children and youth, Grades 1-12. Brochures are available in the church narthex. It's 72 miles and (roughly) 1 1/4 hrs away.

Check their website for more information.

www.johnsonburg.org

(Scholarships are available. See page 7.)

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Notes from Session

Have you noticed that there has been some tree work done in the upper parking lot? If you haven't, please look to see how many trees and branches are missing along with many that have been cut down or cut back. This work was done by a very reputable company but was a bigger project than originally thought. All air conditioning units were inspected. To the best of the committee's knowledge, they haven't had maintenance in years but only needed a few adjustments and are now hopefully good for our warm days. Roof work is scheduled to begin around the third week in May, with weather permitting. The cost is expected to be around \$13,500. Furnace will be inspected soon. Committee will be looking at estimates for the kitchen ceiling and framing the emergency kitchen door.

Session has applied to the Synod of the Trinity for a grant of \$768 to purchase a new freezer for our mobile food pantry program. The program has grown to the point of needing more freezer space.

If anyone would like to donate to any of the Building & Grounds projects please talk to chair, John Young or simply put your envelope in the offering plate.

Beverly Bright, Clerk of Session

Board of Deacons

Care Team Ministry Coordinators are:

Moderator	Grace Farrell
Deacon Meals	Diana Pope-Albright
Ushers	John Conklin
Deacon Driver	Jack Pittman

Church phone number is 570-586-6306

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 June 2025 issue is May 16.

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.fpcs.org
Pastor	William G. Carter
Administrative Assistant	Nancy Owens
Coordinator of Children & Youth	Jana Schillinger
Treasurer	Wayne Griffiths
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 March 31, 2025

REVENUE

Budget	\$105,046
Actual Received	<u>101,983</u>
Difference	(\$ 3,063)

EXPENSES

Budget	\$104,795
Actual Expenses	<u>116,457</u>
Difference	(\$ 11,662)

Result of operations (\$14,474)

PLEDGE

Budget	\$ 92,746
Received	<u>91,553</u>
Difference	(\$ 1,193)

Per capita assessment for 2025 is \$46.10 per member.

From the Pastor

As I mentioned in my Maundy Thursday sermon, I got through the season of Lent with a Puritan prayer book. It was a hard slog. In Calvinist fashion, those prayers were daily reminders of my unworthiness. The anonymous authors rubbed my nose in my spiritual limitations as I sipped my morning coffee. This has kept me humble.

Yet one of those daily prayers surprised me. To my complete astonishment, I turned the page and found these words:

“You have taught me that faith is nothing else than receiving your kindness,
that it is an adherence to Christ, a resting on him,
love clinging to him as a branch to the tree,
to seek life and vigor from him”

Oh my. Was I being told, once again, that my faith is a gift from God? That it is the fruit of God’s Holy Spirit working in me? That Christ’s kindness is the very thing that gives me life, hope, and peace? That it was God’s work in me that counted, and not my own haphazard spiritual habits. If so, I believe it.

That phrase, “love clinging to him as a branch to the tree” reminds me of the “I am the Vine, you are the branches” text from the 15th chapter of John. Jesus spoke to frightened disciples about his departure from them. He called them to a continuing relationship with him, a firm yet invisible relationship marked by words and deeds of love. It withers if we stop loving God and one another. It flourishes through prayer and working for the benefit of those around us.

The Puritan approach to Lent prepared me for understanding this. It felt like the Vinedresser’s knife, trimming away some spiritual presumption, cutting away dead baggage, and making room for what was able to rejuvenate. We need that, lest we think that no corrections are necessary in our relationships to God and others.

I think of this as I pick up dead sticks in my backyard. Once hosting leaves and processing oxygen, now they are merely useful for kindling their own destruction. That, too, is the Word from the Vinedresser.

Now it’s time to flourish. To stretch toward the sun. To open the windows and be refreshed. To bear fruit. God bless you, friends, in these days after Easter. Make the most of the time!

See you in church,

Rev. Bill

Wednesday Evening Opportunities

Adult Education meets on Wednesdays at 5:45 p.m., Room 206.

How should Christians respond in politically turbulent times? Listening to Jesus and the Prophets.

From any vantage point, politics in our country have recently been turbulent. The reminder that much of the Bible was written to and in politically turbulent times can bring Christians perspective. The Old Testament prophets found faithful and innovative ways to speak and act within the turbulence—and Jesus carried this further, reminding his disciples of their citizenship in the Kingdom of God, which began in him. This series will explore this biblical perspective on political life, inviting thoughtful discussion and reflection. This series continues through May 14.

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

Bible Study for Presbyterian Women Tuesday, May 20, 10 a.m., Fellowship Hall

Let Justice Roll Down: God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation by Patricia K. Tull

Lesson 9, Sustaining Creation's Health for All

Main Idea: Scripture and modern science help us see nature's wisdom more clearly and lead us to seek just ways to care for the earth and one another. "Many in our generation think the natural world is somehow 'out there,' rather than everywhere. The western world has increasingly viewed human culture as separate from nature." However, the writers of scripture made no such distinction. To them, human culture was embedded in the natural world. We are part of it. Whatever happens to nature, happens to us."

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 are working through the Acts of the Apostles with Rev. Bill. All men in the church family are always welcome.

Lectionary Readings

May 4 3rd Sunday of Easter
Acts 9:1-6 (7-20); Psalm 30; Isaiah 61:1-3;
Psalm 90:13-17; 5:11-14; John 21:1-19

May 11 4th Sunday of Easter
Acts 9:36-43; Psalm 23; Isaiah 53:1-6;
Psalm 114; Revelation 7:9-17; John 10:22-30

May 18 5th Sunday of Easter
Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148; Leviticus 19:9-18;
Psalm 24:1-6; Revelation 21:1-6; John 13:31-35

May 25 6th Sunday of Easter
Acts 16:9-15; Psalm 67; Deuteronomy 34:1-12;
Psalm 109:21-31; Revelation 21:10, 22-22:25;
John 14:23-29; John 5:1-9

Christian Education: Growing in Faith and Love

Bible Time: Hear Bible stories told just for our young children during worship. We invite any kids age 4 to approx. grade 4 to join us after the anthem for learning and fun; we will return for prayers and the conclusion of service. **May stories** will include learning about forgiveness, Mary and Martha, gratitude, and Zacchaeus.



We Worship Together series: A 30-minute program held after worship for children through grade 6. “We Worship Together” examines questions we have about church practices and traditions. Each family receives a book related to the topic discussed. What is a creed and why do we say it together during worship? What do the phrases in the Apostles’ Creed mean? Our next program in the series will be held in two parts on **May 4 and 11** to learn about the Apostles’ Creed. Please plan to attend both classes.

We Believe: Faith foundations for our pre-confirmation age youth is a mix of Bible 101, faith questions, and church basics to help prepare children in grade 6 and up for their confirmation journey. This curriculum, “We Believe” is a combination of discussions, activities, and self-study.

Our next meeting is **May 18** after worship. More information and current assignments can be found on our class website: <https://sites.google.com/view/fpccs-we-believe/>



LIFT: Living In Faith Together

Join us after worship on **Sunday, May 4** for a special LIFT program called **A Wee Bit of Scotland**. Everyone is invited to hear members of our church share highlights from their pilgrimage to Scotland last fall. Not only will they share what they saw, but what they learned about our Presbyterian history and faith along the way. New details about an upcoming pilgrimage to Ireland in April 2026 will also be discussed. A light lunch of ham and turkey sliders will be served. Participants are welcome to bring something to complement the meal.



And for our final LIFT of the season, join us on **Sunday, June 8** to celebrate **Pentecost** with a meal and intergenerational program. Families with children as well as congregants of all ages are invited. Learn about



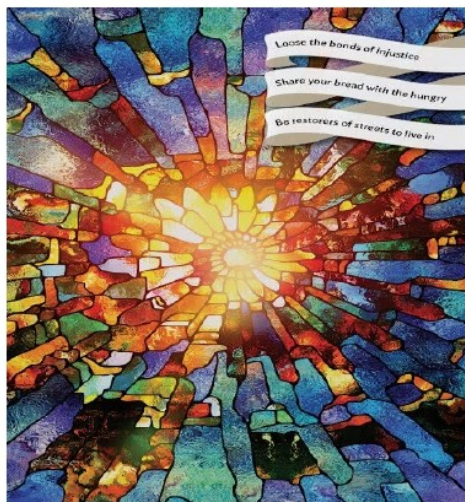
the Holy Spirit at work in ourselves and the world as we enjoy a meal, Bible reading and discussion, and activity. It’s a great opportunity to share fellowship and faith with our friends and family.

Our lunch will be a **potluck of salads**. From potato to tuna to fruit to leafy green, **bring us your favorite salad to enjoy together**. Rolls, drinks, and dessert provided.

Thank you to all who have participated in our LIFT programs this year! We hope you’ll join us again in the fall.



Mission and Justice Committee



Thanks to all of you for rallying behind our One Great Hour of Sharing special offering during Lent! Your generosity far exceeded our goal of \$5,500 with a grand total of \$7,193. Your donations to this offering will support efforts to relieve hunger through the Presbyterian Hunger Program, promote development through the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People, and assist in areas of disaster through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. We so appreciate your giving hearts! **Blessings to all.**

CEO WEINBERG FOOD BANK

SERVICE DAY – SPRING 2025

The Mission & Justice Committee will hold a morning of service at Monsignor McGowan Center for Healthy Living (CEO Weinberg, Northeast Regional Food Bank) in Pittston on June 21 from 9 a.m. to noon. The morning will entail packing monthly food boxes for qualifying senior citizens in an assembly line manner. Carpooling will be available, leaving the church's side parking lot at 8:30 a.m. If interested, contact Diane Scheuer or the church office. It is always a fun and rewarding experience.

Pentecost Offering

Every year we celebrate Pentecost, which falls 50 days after Easter and 10 days after the ascension of Jesus into heaven. Jesus ascends and the church is born, and to keep the ministry of Jesus going, we have the Holy Spirit guiding us. In the weeks leading up to Pentecost Sunday, June 8, we will have a special offering. The Pentecost offering is dedicated to youth and the church of the future. Our gifts to this offering connect God's hope and future, supporting ministries with children, youth and young adults by building a life of faith. 60% of the offering goes to support Young Adult volunteers, Youth Ministries, and Child Advocacy. 40% of our total Pentecost offering stays in our area, with NEPA Youth Shelter chosen as the recipient of our 40% this year. NEPA Youth Shelter offers teens in Scranton a place to gather, receive educational support and counseling, receive food, clothing and other essentials. The shelter has been a lifeline to many teens who need assistance. Please consider donating to this worthy offering that supports young people, especially those in our community.





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 call Myrna Diven or the church office
(570-586-6306 or office@fpccs.org)
with information. Thank you.

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.



Save the Date!

Attention all children, families, and volunteers!
 Mark your calendars...

VBS 2025 will be held **July 14 - 18**

VOLUNTEER CORNER

Young People!

Summer is coming. If you are looking for some worthwhile ways to spend your out-of-school time, we can offer some suggestions:

1. Join the Food Pantry Volunteers on the second Thursday of each month. We'd be happy to have some young muscles in the morning to unload the truck, or in the afternoon to load up the recipients' cars.
2. Volunteer at Vacation Bible School.
3. Host a coffee hour after church.



Volunteer Needs

This month, a few thank you's are in order:



- to Adrienne Horger who has been spending time organizing our church library. Adrienne is moving on to some other projects. We appreciate the time she has contributed to keep things straight for us!
- to Tabbi Miller-Scandle and Ariana who have volunteered to change the pulpit linens as the church seasons change.
- to two prospective volunteers who have expressed interest in the church library and the newsletter. They're learning a bit more about these positions and we are grateful for their consideration!
- to the members who have said "yes" to the Nominating Committee calls.

Joys

Sorrows

Prayers



Dear Friends,

Thank you for all the kindness shown to me during my recovery. The thoughtfulness was heartwarming and helped to bolster my spirit. I am blessed to be a member of this congregation.

Thanks
Many Thanks
Thanks
Thanks

Gwynne Gilbert

May Birthdays

May 2	Gary Wadsworth
May 5	Alan Baker
May 8	Patti Anne McGonagle
May 11	Wally Longcor
May 21	Jeanne DeVirgilis
May 21	David Naeher
May 22	Jana Schillinger
May 23	Jillian Shane
May 24	Sue Flynn
May 28	Kate O'Brien
May 29	Kathy Sloneker
May 30	Bethany Koltis

STATE HOSPITAL LUNCHEON - HUGE THANKS TO ALL!

Last month's luncheon with our guests would not have happened without the volunteers that helped that day from serving, to clean up and providing the delicious desserts. Musical entertainment was provide by the Bell Choir. The generosity of our congregation was overwhelming with the donations that were collected for them. The two biggest items collected from the wish list were the socks and the journals. There were enough left over even after our guests left with their picks to distribute to everyone at the facility (175 current residents) and then some!

May Anniversary

May 24 Nina & Brian Schillinger

Janet Dobson



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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

Board and Committee Meetings

Session Meeting— Tuesday, May 6, 7 p.m., Room 206

Board of Deacons—Tuesday, May 27, 7:00 p.m., Room 206

Building and Grounds— Thursday, May 1, 7 p.m., Room 209

Christian Education—Thursday, May 1, 7 p.m., Room 206

Mission and Justice—Tuesday, May 13, 7 p.m., Room 206

Worship, Music and Arts - Thursday, May 15, 5:30 p.m., Room 206

Service/Study/Fellowship Gatherings

Arts at First Presbyterian: Presbybop Quintet concert—Sunday, May 18, 4 p.m., Sanctuary

Men's Breakfast and Bible Study – Thursday, May 1 and 15, 8:30 a.m., Room 206

Mobile Food Pantry Food Distribution—Thursday, May 8, 4 p.m., Fellowship Hall

MBK Quilters—Tuesday, May 13 and 27, 10 a.m., Fellowship Hall

Presbyterian Women's Bible Study—Tuesday, May 20, 10:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall

Senior Game Day—Thursday, May 15, 2 p.m., Fellowship Hall

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

Adult Education—Each Wednesday, 5:45 p.m., Room 206

Adult Choir—Each Wednesday, 7:00 p.m., in the Sanctuary

Bell Choir—Most Wednesdays, 8:00 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 a.m. in Room 206.
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) also meets each Tuesday evening, 7 p.m., Room 111.
- **AIAnon** meets on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. in room 206.
- **Overeaters Anonymous (OA)** meets in room 210: Sunday at 3 p.m., Tuesday at 6 p.m., Saturday at 9:45 a.m.

Deadline for the June Presbyterian: Friday, May 16. Anticipated mailing date: May 28.



NURSERY is OPEN!

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
PAID
Clarks Summit PA

DATED MATERIAL**Return Service Requested****Vacation Bible School 2025**

July 14-18, 9am-12pm

Age 4 through completed Grade 5



for more information and to register,
please visit: **myvbs.org/fpccs**

Calling all volunteers!**We need YOU to make VBS happen!****If you'd like to help children explore Egypt by teaching, leading, or preparing, let us know!****Please contact Jana Schillinger or send an email to fpccs.vbs@gmail.com**