



# The Presbyter

June 2025

The First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit

## Thank You! Another Great Hickory Street Community Meal

A huge thank you to all who contributed in any way to our April 26<sup>th</sup> Community Meal at Hickory Street. We served 211 meals that day and could have upped that count even higher had we not run out of the entrée. Left-over Rolls and Cole Slaw were delivered to the St. Francis Food Kitchen. We also gave out 46 bags of groceries and were able to leave an additional 9 bags for Hickory Street to distribute at their May Community Breakfast.

Our next assist to this important and ongoing program will be on October 25, 2025.

## Take us out to the Ball Game on August 1.

That's right! The WBS RailRiders will play the Nashville Sounds at PNC Field!

### Let's Go!

Game Time 6:35 p.m.

Tickets \$14

Sign up in the Narthex or church office by

**Sunday, July 20**

Contact Betty Keen with questions.

Checks payable to Betty Keen.

LOVE THOSE



Arts at First Presbyterian concert series came to a successful conclusion

*The Arts*

*at First Presbyterian Church*

with a performance by the Presbybop Quintet on May 18. There were a total of eight events this year, with over 750 people attending our events.

I'd like to express my appreciation to my co-chair Dick Cochrane for facilitating all of the winter and spring events.

Looking forward to the 2025-26 season, tentative events for the fall are:

- Sunday, Sept 14 Bloom/Funkhouser Duo (flute, piano) "Salute to Duke Ellington"
- Sunday, Oct 12 Arcadia Chorale
- Sunday, Oct 26 Colebrook Road-bluegrass band

If you would like to contribute toward next year's season, 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, Co-Chair

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## Notes from the Session Meeting, May 6, 2025

1. Session welcomed Class of 2028 Members to their May meeting: Grace Farrell, who will be chair of People in Ministry, Frank Garnecki, Finance, JoAnn Hall, Church Life, Meg Hatch and Diane Scheuer, Mission & Justice, Peter Moore, Building & Grounds, Richard White, Worship, Music & Arts. Liam Farrell, Class of 2026, Building & Grounds, Jeff McLaughlin, Chair, Finance, Class of 2026.

2. Education with Rev. Carter was Principles of Order and Government. The Foundations of Presbyterian Polity.

3. Rev. Carter attended his 40th reunion at Princeton Theological Seminary on May 12th. Our congregation will celebrate his anniversary on Sunday, October 5th.

Beverly Bright, Clerk of Session

The Presbyterian deadline for the July-August 2025 issue is June 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.

<b>Church Office</b>	<b>(570) 586-6306</b>
<b>Fax</b>	<b>(570) 587-3784</b>
<b>Web Page</b>	<b>www.fpcps.org</b>
<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>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>	Michael Lambert

## 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.

## FROM YOUR FINANCE COMMITTEE FOR THE MONTH ENDING April 30, 2025

### REVENUE

Budget	\$140,061
Actual Received	<u>135,031</u>
Difference	(\$ 5,030)

### EXPENSES

Budget	\$139,726
Actual Expenses	<u>154,715</u>
Difference	(\$14,989)

Result of operations	(\$19,683)
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### PLEDGE

Budget	\$ 123,661
Actually received	<u>(120,470)</u>
	(\$ 3,191)

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

## From the Pastor

June 2025

Summer is nearly here. Soon it will be time to kick back with a root beer and enjoy a good book. I've been building a stack of summer books, and I thought I'd share what is on my list.

**Abundance** is a hot new book by Ezra Klein and Derek Thompson. They draw on their writings for the *Atlantic Monthly* to explore the inequities of employment, affordable housing, and access to power. Described as a “myth busting” work, the authors suggest constructive ways for our society to move forward.

Thomas Cahill wrote **How the Irish Saved Civilization** many years ago. With a congregational pilgrimage schedule to Ireland next year, will be timely to delve into Cahill's study of the demise of the Roman Empire – and learn how the Irish monasteries preserved texts and wisdom when everything else was falling apart.

**How the South Won the Civil War** is a brilliant work by historian Heather Cox Richardson. She traces how our nation has always lived with an internal battle between oligarchy and democracy. We have never quite settled that dispute. It continues to be reflected in our politics.

**Wrestling with Rest** was recommended by Taylor Silvestri, who is now studying at Princeton Theological Seminary. Nate Stucky is the author, a Mennonite, who writes, “Busyness is a sickness of the soul.” Sounds like a perfect read for my Adirondack chair!

Andy Borowitz asks, “Are Ivy-educated politicians really as stupid as they act in public?” Good question, which he addresses in **Profiles in Ignorance**. There's every reason to expect the same satirical wisdom that Borowitz has provided for years. These days we need a good laugh.

Peter Enns, biblical theologian at Eastern University, has written a recent commentary on the book of **Ecclesiastes**. I like Pete's writings and believe he might offer deep insight into the crankiest book of the Bible. Pete has the perfect temperament for that.

Byron Borger, bookseller and buddy, describes **Van Gogh Has a Broken Heart: What Art Teaches Us About the Wonder and Struggle of Being Alive**, as one of the most important books he has ever read – and he reads hundreds of books each year. Russ Ramsey has integrated stories of renowned artists with insights about what it means to be alive.

**Revenge of the Tipping Point: Overstories, Superspreaders, and the Rise of Social Engineering** is the latest book by Malcolm Gladwell. I've been listening to his Revisionist History podcast for years and always learn something by taking a second look at settled truths and assumptions.

**Zero to the Bone: Fifty Entries Against Despair** was a Christmas gift from my friend Jim. Both of us enjoy poet Christian Wiman, and I'm anticipating the fifty entries will provide my daily devotions for the summer.

What are you reading? I'm curious to find out and always looking for recommendations. We are commanded to love God with our minds. A good book can nurture that love!

See you on Sunday,

**Rev. Bill**



## CONGRATULATIONS 2025 GRADUATES

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you." [Deuteronomy 31:6 NIV](#)

*Carter Aidun*, son of Meredith and Norm Aidun, grandson of Janet Dobson, is graduating from Newfield High School in New York. He plans to attend the University of Mississippi, Ole Miss, in Oxford, Mississippi to study Business.

*Jacob Gilbert*, son of Teal and Rachel Gilbert, grandson of Stan and Gwynne Gilbert, graduated from the University of Richmond in Virginia. He is now working at Capital One in Richmond.

*Sadie Gilbert*, daughter of Teal and Rachel Gilbert, granddaughter of Stan and Gwynne Gilbert, will graduate from Abington Heights High School. She plans to attend the University of Scranton majoring in Elementary Education and playing La Crosse.

*Gavin Kareha*, son of Dr. Louis and Lori Kareha, will graduate from Abington Heights High School. He plans to attend the University of Pittsburgh, majoring in Public Health.

*Sadie O'Brien*, daughter of Joseph and Ginny O'Brien, is graduating from Abington Heights High School. She plans to attend Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois to study International Relations and Public Health.

*Riley Wescott*, daughter of Ron and Wendy Wescott and grand daughter of Michele Keen, received a Bachelor's degree in Journalism and Communications from Millersville University. She will be working at Fidelity Bank Call Center.

## Summer Bible Studies

**The Wednesday night Bible study** will continue through the Summer. We will start each week at 5:45 in the library (room 206). We will look at some of the stories in the Old Testament, some of which will be familiar (or so you think) and others which you might be reading for the first time. More details to come!

**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

#### June 1: 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

Acts 16:16-34; Psalm 97; Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21; John 17: 20-26

#### June 8: Day of Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21; Genesis 11:1-9; Psalm 104: 24-34, 35b; Romans 8:14-17; John 14: 8-17 (25-27)

#### June 15: Trinity Sunday

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31; Psalm 8; Romans 5:1-5; John 16: 12-15

#### June 22: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 19:1-4 (5-7) 8-15a; Psalm 42 and 43

#### June 29: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14; Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20

## Christian Education: Growing in Faith and Love

**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 final meeting is June 22 after worship. Current assignments can be found on our class website: <https://sites.google.com/view/fpccs-we-believe/>



### 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.

### FPC Young(er) Adult Group

This summer, the Christian Education committee is sponsoring new opportunities for building relationships and nurturing faith for anyone in the 20-50 year old range. (We won't ask your age.) We are looking to create fun events and fresh learning opportunities. To start, we are planning the following events:

- ♦ **Sunday, June 1 at 1pm** - Rail Trail Hike starting at Church of the Epiphany in Glenburn. We will meet at our church. If it rains, the alternate plan will be Board games at the church.
- ♦ **Sunday, June 29 at 12 noon** - Trolley/Railriders Game. We will join the larger church outing on this day.
- ♦ **Saturday, July 26** - Pool Party at the Farrells. (Time TBD)

More events to come. Children are welcome to join these early events. If you have any questions or wish to join the group, please reach out to Michael Thompson at [mkthompson96@gmail.com](mailto:mkthompson96@gmail.com) or 518-577-8691.

### LIFT: Living In Faith Together

Join us after worship 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

**The Mission & Justice Committee is planning 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. This workday would entail packing monthly food boxes for qualifying senior citizens in an assembly line manner. Diane will form the list as she is contacted. Carpooling will be available, leaving the church's side parking lot at 8:30 a.m. If you are interested in participating, please contact Diane Scheuer or the church office. It is always a fun and rewarding experience.**

## HELP NEEDED: Coordinator for our Highway Cleanups

Our Earth Care Program is seeking a new coordinator for our Highway Cleanup Project. We pick up the litter on a stretch of the Morgan Highway between Country Club and Winola Road 3-4 times each year on Saturday mornings. We have a good corps of volunteers but need someone to organize them. The work includes:

- \* Going to the PennDOT website to schedule the cleanup dates and request supplies and safety signs
- \* Emailing the volunteer list to announce the cleanup dates and advertising them in the church bulletins, newsletters, and *Light from the Hill*
- \* Going to the PennDOT facility (Morgan Highway and Grove Street) the day before to pick up the supplies (trash bags, safety vests, gloves) and safety signs
- \* Putting up the "Litter Crew Ahead" signs (at the Country Club and Winola intersections) on the morning of the cleanups, then taking them down and returning them (outdoor drop-off) to the PennDOT facility afterward
- \* Meeting the volunteers on the morning of the cleanup in the parking lot of Clarks Summit Methodist (Morgan Highway and Grove Street) to distribute the supplies
- \* Going to the PennDOT website afterward to report the results of the cleanup

If anyone would like to volunteer to lead this project so we can continue to provide service to our community, please speak with Alan Baker at 570-362-0382 or [abaker2@verizon.net](mailto:abaker2@verizon.net).



## Monthly Church Prayer List



Korean Church of the Lehigh Valley | Whitehall, PA  
 First Presbytertarian Church of Wilkes-Barre | Wilkes-Barre, PA  
 Wysox Presbyterian Church | Wysox, PA  
 Ashley Presbyterian Church | Ashley, PA  
 Pleasant Valley Presbyterian Church | Brodheadsville, PA  
 Coryland Community Church | Columbia Cross Roads, PA

Dear First Presbyterian Church members,

I'm honored to write one last note to you before I retire. Your stalwart support for us these past years has been a life saver more than you know. We are indebted to you for the ways you supported us.

We look forward to a new future with a new Exec. Director.

Thanks!

Maureen Maher-Gray  
Executive Director and Founder, NEPA Youth Shelter



## CALLING FOR VBS 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](mailto:fpccs.vbs@gmail.com)**

## Volunteer Corner

The second Thursday of each month is Food Pantry Day. (Work is from 9-11am and 4-6pm)

Thanks to 8-10 reliable morning volunteers, food (both perishable and non-perishable, and some pretty heavy cases!) is unloaded from the Weinberg truck, organized, and, in assembly line fashion, is packed into individual family units. The afternoon crew of 4-6 volunteers delivers the food to the recipients' cars and completes necessary paperwork.

Things have been going well under the leadership of Jack and Diane Scheuer, Patti McGonagle and Jamie Strong. Jack and Diane handle logistics and communication with Weinberg Food Bank, Patti (who is experienced in food pantry operations) is now our data entry expert, and Jamie registers and communicates with clients.

But we need help with a few things:

1. **Most important**, we don't want to keep the FPC food pantry a secret! Please help us spread the word to families who would benefit from this monthly nutrition. Anyone interested in registering can call the church office or email [fpccsfoodpantry@gmail.com](mailto:fpccsfoodpantry@gmail.com)
2. On occasion, when a family is unable to pick up food, we need to deliver these leftovers to a social service agency in South Scranton the next morning (Friday). If you can take this food to Scranton, it can be put to good use.
3. And we are happy to welcome volunteers to join us on second Thursdays....to carry, to pack, just to see how it all works. It takes no more than an hour and is time well spent!



## Joys

## Prayers



On May 18th, 2025, it was our joy to witness the baptism of Paige Marie Parmakis.

Paige is the daughter of Peter and Stephanie (Muraca) Parmakis. Her extended family includes grandmother, Teri Lyon, and aunts, Jessica Hitchcock and Carolyn Lyon.

Blessings to this young family.



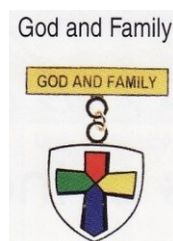
JUNE  
BIRTHDAYS

3	Karis Naeher	22	Jacob Cole
5	Ron Wescott		Kim Rich
8	Debbie Miller	23	Jay Clymer
9	Deb Traettino	24	Ran Billiot
10	Hadley Gilbert	25	Jacki Bailey
	Drew Taylor		Brooklyn Yankow
17	Al Traettino	28	Tom Decker
21	Jacob Wescott	30	Janet Dobson
	Calyssa Yankow		Brady Kareha

## Congratulations

## to Dean Shane

on the completion of the  
"God and Family"  
Scout badge!



Dean is the son of  
Holly and Kevin Shane.  
He's also the grandson of  
Debbie and Tim Shane  
and  
Linda and Chris Woodley.



On April 6, 2025, 5 adults joined  
our Church Family.

We're so glad to have you here!

Chris and Jodi Cieszkowski

Pat Henneforth

Lauren Loftus

Marjorie Solsman

We would love to include **YOUR** birthdate and wedding anniversary in the newsletter. If that is **OK** with you, please send a note or email to the church office ([office@fpccs.org](mailto:office@fpccs.org)) with the correct information. (Of course, *no years!*)



4	Jay & Liz Clymer
5	John & Myrna Diven
8	Al & Deb Traettino
11	David & Donna Porter
26	Ron & Wendy Wescott



## *MARK YOUR CALENDAR*

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

### Board and Committee Meetings

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

**Board of Deacons**—Tuesday, June 24, 7 p.m., Room 206

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

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

**Finance**— TBA

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

**Worship, Music and Arts**— June 12, 5:30 p.m.

### Service/Study/Fellowship Gatherings

**Adult Education**—Each Wednesday during the summer, 6 p.m., Room 206

**Adult Choir**—Last rehearsal for this season is Wednesday, June 8, 7 p.m., Sanctuary

**Bell Choir**—will resume Wednesdays in the fall

**FPC Young(er) Adult Group**—Sunday, June 1, 1 p.m., Rail Trail Hike (See page 5 middle)

**LIFT program**, Sunday, June 8, 11:15 a.m., Fellowship Hall (See page 5 bottom)

**Men's Breakfast and Bible Study**—Thursdays, June 5 and 19, 8:30 a.m., Room 206

**Mobile Food Pantry**—Thursday, June 12, 9 a.m., Pack food / 4-6 p.m., Distribute food, Fellowship Hall

**MBK Quilters**—Tuesday, June 10, 10 a.m., Fellowship Hall

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

**Senior Game Day**—Thursday, June 19, 2 p.m., Fellowship Hall

**Trolley Ride and RailRiders Game**—June 29, carpooling from church right after worship

**We Believe pre-confirmation class**—June 22, after worship

**Weinberg food packing service project**—June 21, 8:30 a.m., carpooling from church (See page 6)

### 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
- AlAnon meets on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. in room 206
- Alcoholics Anonymous also meets each Thursday evening, 7 p.m., Room 111
- Overeaters Anonymous (OA) meets in room 210: Sundays at 3 p.m., Tuesdays at 6 p.m., and Saturdays at 9:45 a.m.

**Deadline for the July/August Presbyterian is Friday, June 13,  
with an anticipated mailing date of Wednesday, June 25.**



**We have a Nursery** that is staffed regularly on Sunday mornings from 9:40 to 11:10 a.m. Located in room 208 (sanctuary level), it has a changing table, and age-appropriate toys and books 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](http://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](mailto:fpccs.vbs@gmail.com)**