



The Presbyter

July—August 2025

The First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit

Committee Leadership 2025-2026

At the June meeting of Session, the Elders reorganized for the coming year. We welcome the following leaders to these committee roles:

Buildings and Grounds

John Young, chair
Peter Moore
Liam Farrell

Christian Education

Michael Thompson, chair
Brad Campbell

Fellowship

JoAnn Hall, chair
Karen White

Finance

Jeff McLaughlin, chair
Kim Barrows
Frank Garnecki

Generosity

David Naeher, chair

Mission and Justice

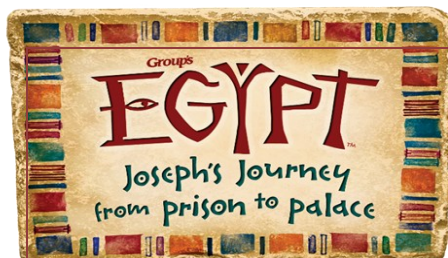
Diane Scheuer, co-chair
Meg Hatch, co-chair

People in Ministry

Grace Farrell, chair

Worship/Music/Arts

Robin Pinches, co-chair
Jan Thyren, co-chair
Dick White



Vacation Bible School 2025

July 14-18, 9am-12pm

Age 4 thru completed Grade 5



For more information
and to register your child,
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



Table of Contents

Page 2 -	Session, Deacons, Financial
Page 3 -	From the Pastor
Page 4 -	Adult CE, Lectionary
Page 5 -	Christian Education
Page 6 -	Mission & Justice
Page 7 -	Volunteer Corner, Generosity Team
Page 8 -	Joys, Sorrows, Prayers
Page 9 -	Calendar
Page 10 -	Vacation Bible School

Notes from the Session Meeting, June 10, 2025

1. Thank you to Jack Scheuer for writing a grant for a commercial freezer for our Food Pantry. It was approved recently from the Synod of the Trinity.
2. Session Meeting dates for the 2025-2026 year and Committee Leadership were approved at the Meeting. The next meeting will be a combined meeting of the Session and Deacons on July 29th in Fellowship Hall beginning at 6 pm.
3. Fellowship Committee will sponsor a Night at the RailRiders game on August 1st. The cost will be \$14. Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex.
4. Our Parking Lot Picnic will be on August 10th sponsored by the Fellowship Committee. Be sure to Save the Date.
5. Worship Through Service weekend will be September 27-28 and will be chaired by Frank Garnecki and Dick White.

Beverly Bright, Clerk of Session

The Presbyterian deadline for
the September 2025 issue is
Friday, August 8.

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.fpcps.org
Pastor	William G. Carter
Administrative Assistant	Nancy Owens
Coordinator of Children & Youth	Jana Schillinger
Clerk of Session	Beverly Bright
Director of Music	Frank Jones
Director of Bells	Richard Cochrane
Organist	Kay Ten Eyck
Sexton	Michael Lambert
Media Technician	Andrew Barren

FROM YOUR FINANCE COMMITTEE FOR THE MONTH ENDING May 31, 2025

REVENUE

Budget	\$175,077
Actual Received	<u>160,126</u>
Difference	(\$ 14,951)

EXPENSES

Budget	\$174,658
Actual Expenses	<u>186,572</u>
Difference	(\$ 11,914)

Result of operations	(\$26,445)
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PLEDGE

Budget	\$ 154,577
Actually received	<u>142,758</u>
	(\$ 11,819)

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

Board of Deacons

Our Deacons are:

Class of 2026	Class of 2027	Class of 2028
Erika Adams	Diane Cosner	Myrna Diven
Judy Cutler	Bill Farrell	Cass Morgan
Betsy Ellis	Jack Pittman	Jamie Strong
Susan Flynn	Diana Pope-	Cindy White
Gwynne Gilbert	Albright	
Chris Jeske	Debbie Shane	
Debbie Miller		

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 2025



"When the days drew near for him to be taken up, Jesus set his face to go to Jerusalem."
These words from the Gospel of Luke begin our summer together. Jesus is on the road – and so are we. In our summer worship, we begin a sermon series called, "Taking a Road Trip with Jesus." The Sunday texts offer a travelogue of discipleship. As Jesus makes his way to Jerusalem, we will follow in his steps.

The Christian life is a journey. Our destination is our origin. As the poet T. S. Eliot quipped, "Our end is in our beginning." We travel toward the God who made us. The good news is that Christ is our traveling companion. And his Spirit prompts us, provokes us, surrounds us, and protects us. That is the spiritual journey we begin this summer, as we reflect on God's presence in the midst of all the travels we make each day.

As with any road trip, there are potholes and other obstacles, delays and detours, opportunities to stop for refreshment and rest, and the occasional traveling hazard. A broken chunk of truck tire may suddenly appear on the highway. We dodge it to protect ourselves and those who travel with us. If traveling by night, we flicker the headlights to ensure that no deer have wandered onto the pavement.

And we pay attention. Without warning, an oversized truck could sway into our path; the driver's attempt to save himself could put our lives at risk. So, we hit the brakes, consider the alternatives, give the trucker plenty of room, and zip by when the way is clear.

The traveler has warnings along the way. The construction flag-waver motions for us to slow down. The police officer pulls us over for our own safety. A construction site puts up road signs announcing fines if we put the rebuilders at risk. The blinking sign reveals our speed. Even if it looks like the road is clear for open sailing, cruise control can lull us to sleep and we might veer off the highway in a stupor.

All of this is a metaphor for traveling the Christian life. The signs are posted. The heavy load may shift and spill over. Mile markers notate our progress. Sometimes, a big blue sign may reveal there is nourishment at the next exit and fuel to keep us going. The hungry soul will stop and fill up. Along the way, we pass other roads stretched in other directions, some of them promising other destinations – but we never lose sight of where we are going. Or Who is traveling with us.

For here is his blessing on all our travels:

The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.

The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.
(from Psalm 121)

See you on the Way!

Rev. Bill

Christian Education is for ALL AGES

Summer Bible Study for Adults

Children's Bible Stories - But Not the Way You Remember Them

We will continue our Wednesday night Bible study through the Summer, beginning at 6:00 pm in the library (room 206). We will look at some of the most beloved Bible characters and stories in the Old Testament, like Noah, Moses, David, and Elijah. Some of these will be familiar (or so you think) and others you may be reading for the first time.

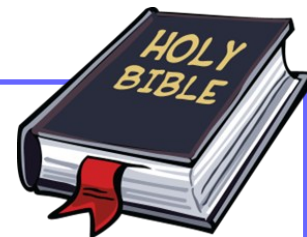
Men's Breakfast and Bible Study

Men of the church meet 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.

Rev. Bill is usually on hand to shed some light on Bible texts for upcoming sermons. All men in the church family are always welcome.

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.



Robert London Scholarship

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.

Lectionary Readings

July 6: Luke 10: 1-12; 2 Kings 5: 1-14; Psalm 30

July 13: Luke 10: 25-37; Amos 7: 7-17; Psalm 82

July 20: Luke 10: 38-42; Amos 8: 1-12; Psalm 52

July 27: Luke:11:1-13; Hosea 1:2-10; Psalm 85

August 3: Luke 12:13-21; Hosea 1:2-10; Ps. 107

August 10: Luke 12:32-40; Hosea 11:1-11; Ps. 50

August 17: Luke 12:49-56; Isaiah 1:1, 10-20; Ps. 80

August 24: Luke 13:10-17; Isaiah 5:1-7; Ps. 71:1-6

August 31: JAZZ COMMUNION

Summer Singing Opportunities



Do you enjoy singing, but can't commit to weekly rehearsals? Come and sing with the choir in worship on June 29, July 6 and August 24. Rehearsals at 7pm on Thursday June 26 and August 21. For more information contact Connie Weiss at 570-466-4520.

No experience necessary!

Jazz Communion Special Music

Our Jazz Communion service will be held on **August 31** this year. We are thrilled to announce the service will feature the **Vince Guaraldi Mass.**

Created for the inaugural year of Grace Cathedral in San Francisco, Guaraldi presented this jazz mass six months before he received international fame as the composer of "A Charlie Brown Christmas."

As a special treat, we have invited **Derrick Bang**, Mr. Guaraldi's biographer, to talk about the mass before the service at 9:30 in the sanctuary.

Our choir will be joined by the choir of Our Lady of the Snows - and all are invited to sing with them. Choir rehearsals will be held on August 6, 13, and 27, from 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm in our sanctuary. We ask that all singers attend at least two rehearsals.



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



If you haven't heard, there's a celebration being planned for Sunday, October 5 in recognition of Rev. Carter's 35th anniversary of serving here at FPCCS, and his 40th anniversary of ordination to the ministry!

Following worship for World Communion Sunday, we'll travel to the Montdale Country Club in Scott Township. A time of hospitality will be held at noon followed by a luncheon and program at 1:00.

More information will come to your mailboxes soon.

Correction: The June Presbyterian mentioned future plans for our graduates. Sadie O'Brien will attend Northeastern University in Boston this fall.

Sorry for this error!

The Arts

at First Presbyterian Church

We are looking forward to the 2025-26 season of Arts at First Presbyterian Church! September and October have a lot to offer!

Sunday, Sept 14 Bloom/Funkhouser Duo
(flute, piano) "Salute to Duke Ellington"

Sunday, Oct 12 Arcadia Chorale

Sunday, Oct 26 Colebrook Road, a bluegrass band
Each of these programs is scheduled for 4 p.m.

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



My Brother's Keeper Quilting Group

[My Brother's Keeper Quilting Group](#) has had a busy season since September, 2024. We produced 82 sleeping bags for the homeless which were sent to Keystone Mission* in Scranton for distribution. We meet from September to June on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month from 10:00 AM to Noon in Fellowship Hall. Anyone interested in doing this project for the homeless is welcome to join us – no experience necessary!

Our sleeping bags are made from donated materials, so if you have sheets, blankets, mattress pads, comforters, towels, wash cloths you no longer need, please think of us – your gift allows us to do this ministry. Thank you for your support.

Marie Cochrane

*Even though the Keystone Mission is closing, we will continue to make sleeping bags for the homeless as there are many other outlets for distribution.

Looking Ahead

Local mission opportunities

July 10 and August 14—Mobile Food Pantry:

Workers are needed here at **9 a.m.** to carry food from the back parking lot into Fellowship Hall and sort into boxes and bags. Workers are needed again from **4-6 p.m.** to assist clients in taking those bags and boxes to their cars.

September 27 and 28—

Worship Thru Service Weekend: Our annual Worship Through Service event is a reminder that praise begins inside the church and moves outside to love our neighbors and serve our community. Projects will be selected by committees and sign up sheets will appear in September.

October 25 is our next service day for Hickory Street Community Meal. Keep that date open and watch for sign-up sheets to assist with cooking and/or serving the meals. A shopping list will become available by mid September.

A group just returned from packing food at **CEO Weinberg, Northeast Regional Food Bank** on June 21. Watch for additional service dates in bulletins and Wednesday emails as, sadly, the food insufficiency in NEPA continues.

July-August 2025 Volunteer Corner

Did you know...

that the members of the Music and Worship Committee do NOT prepare Communion each month? That task is accomplished by our **Communion Preparation Teams**. These behind-the-scenes volunteers jump into action the day before Communion, filling the cups and cubing the bread. Then, on Communion Sunday morning, they assemble everything on the Communion table in the sanctuary.

We currently have seven teams, but would like to have one or two more. Why not get your family or a few church friends together and form a team? It's a great project for our youth members, too. The Music and Worship Committee has prepared detailed instructions that make the task easy and will be happy to provide orientation to new teams.

If this is something you might be interested in, please get in touch with me or Jan Thyren.

Another note to our youth: If you have some free time this summer on the second Thursday of the month from 4 p.m. - 6 p.m., our Food Pantry volunteers would be happy to have your help carrying groceries to the recipients' cars.

Summer is a great time to volunteer!

Nancy Post



VOLUNTEER CORNER (REVISITED)

Every month in the Presbyterian, Nancy Post highlights certain volunteers from our congregation who contribute their time and talents to make our church the wonderful entity it is. In the June Presbyterian, she referenced several volunteers who function to manage and oversee our Food Pantry. Unfortunately, in that report she omitted one name—her own.

Nancy is an integral part of the Food Pantry operation, coordinating all the volunteers who work on food delivery days, as well as volunteering many hours on those days herself. This is in addition to her volunteer coordination efforts she performs with respect to other aspects of our church operation, such as recruiting secretarial assistance for the church office.

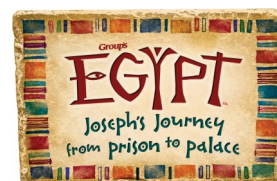
Thank you, Nancy, for your dedicated service.

Jack Scheuer

Egypt: land of pharaohs, pyramids... and Vacation Bible School!

From July 14-18, the church will be transformed into ancient Egypt, where we'll hear from Joseph about his time in prison and rise to trusted palace advisor. But we need **YOUR HELP** to make it happen!

Vacation Bible School is a fun-filled, faith-filled week for the children of our church and community, and we're looking for a few more volunteers to round out our crew. If you're a bit crafty, a bit musically inclined, an energetic games enthusiast, or a behind-the-scenes builder, we've got a job for you! Please contact Jana at fpccs.vbs@gmail.com or call the church office at (570)586-6306 to let us know you can help bring Egypt to life.



Joys

Sorrows

Prayers



Sandy and Glenn Skivington
joined our congregation on
June 8, 2025.



Sympathy of the congregation is extended to the
Dave Naeher and family on the passing of David's
father, Donald Naeher, on June 13, 2025.

Our sympathy is also sent to **Jeff Leas** at the loss of
his father, Ronald Leas on June 16, 2025.

Birthdays

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



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) with the correct information. (Of course, *no years!*)

Anniversaries

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

Anniversaries

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

Birthdays

- 1 Jamie Strong
- 2 Joe O'Brien
Johnny Rich
- 3 Wesley Moore
- 5 Barbara Brown
Jenn Rich
- 11 Jack Pittman
- 12 Gwynne Gilbert
- 13 Diana Pope Albright
- 17 Ariana Billiot
- 19 Peter Moore
- 23 Betsy Ellis
Heather Lyons
- 30 Olympia Cianfichi

July Prayer List for soon to be united Lackawanna and Lehigh Presbyteries

College Hill Presbyterian Church
Second Presbyterian Church of Pittston
Bethania Presbyterian Church
Summit Hill Hope of Christ Church
Valley United Presbyterian Church
Hokendauqua Presbyterian Church



For more information on our Presbyteries, or for these individual churches, go to
polackawanna.org or lehighpresbytery.org

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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

Board and Committee Meetings

Session Meeting— Tuesday, July 29, 6 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Board of Deacons—Tuesday, July 29, 6 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Building and Grounds— TBD

Christian Education— TBD

Mission and Justice—Tuesday, July 1, 7 p.m., Room 206

Worship, Music and Arts - Thursday, July 10, 5:30 p.m., Room 206

Service/Study/Fellowship Gatherings

Men's Breakfast and Bible Study – Thursday, July 3 & 17, August 7 & 21, 8:30 a.m., Room 206

MBK Quilters—Taking the summer off. See you in September!

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

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

Adult Choir and Bell Choir—Taking the Summer off. Watch for fall start-up date.

Parking Lot Picnic—August 10, after church, back parking lot

RailRiders Game—August 1. Game time is 6:45 p.m. See page 5 for information.

Senior Game Day—July 17 and August 21, 2:00 p.m.

Young(er) Adult Pool Party—July 26

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, 7 p.m., and Thursday at 7 p.m., Room 111

- ALAnon meets on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m., Room 206 and • Overeaters Anonymous (OA) meets in Room 210: Sundays at 3 p.m., Tuesdays at 6 p.m., and Saturdays at 9:45 a.m.

Church Office is closed Friday, July 4 and Monday, September 1.

Deadline for the September Presbyterian is Friday, August 8.

Anticipated mailing date is Wednesday, August 20.



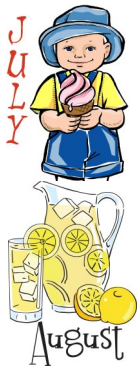
The Nursery, located in room 208 on the sanctuary level of the building, is open Sunday mornings from 9:40—11:10 a.m. for children ages 3 and younger.

**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



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