



The Presbyter

September 2025

The First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit

Join us for Jazz Sunday

Combined choir of 30+ voices

Our annual Jazz Communion returns on Sunday, August 31, at 10 a.m. We are thrilled to present the Vince Guaraldi Mass.

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

As a special treat, we welcome Derrick Bang, Mr. Guaraldi's biographer, to talk about the work before the service at 9:30 a.m. in the sanctuary.

Our choir will be joined by the choir of Our Lady of the Snows, accompanied by the Presbybop Quartet. Don't miss this amazing worship service, followed by a gala reception in Fellowship Hall!



Peter H. Bloom, flute, and John Funkhouser, piano.

Arts at First Presbyterian: Season Opening

The 2025-26 Arts at First Presbyterian concert series begins on Sunday, September 14 at 4 p.m. with the Bloom/Funkhouser Duo presenting an afternoon of music by Duke Ellington.

Worship Through Service

The congregation is invited to provide aid, assistance, comfort and joy to our neighbors on September 27 and 28. You can participate in:

- Pack food boxes at the McGowan Center (Pittston) on Saturday, September 27 at 9 am.
- Making quilts for the homeless
- Making sandwiches for the NEPA Youth Center
- Assembling personal care items for the Community Intervention Center
- Light cleaning and general help at the NEPA Youth Center's new location
- Join a Hymn Sing at The Pines at 2 p.m. on Sunday
- If you like to weed whack, bring your weedwhacker to Abington Hills Cemetery
- Participate in a Carnival for the patients at Clarks Summit State Hospital on the hospital grounds on Wednesday Sept. 24 and Thursday, Sept. 25 from 1 to 3 p.m., (one or both days)
- Some light cleaning at The Gathering Place
- Spruce up the Pocket Park on Depot Street – some weeding and fence cleanup

You can sign up by completing the bulletin insert in the next few weeks, sign up online, or on signup sheets in the Narthex. Thank you for your participation. A few T-shirts are still available

Table of Contents

- Page 2 - Deacons, Financial, Thank you
- Page 3 - From the Pastor
- Page 4 - Adult CE, Lectionary
- Page 5 - Christian Education, Confirmation, LIFT
- Page 6 - Mission & Justice
- Page 7 - Volunteer Corner, Generosity Team
- Page 8 - Joys, Sorrows, Prayers
- Page 9 - Young(er) Adult Group
- Page 10 - Oct. 5 celebration, Bells, State Hospital Luncheon
- Page 11 - Calendar



Just a Little THANK YOU

Dear Friends at First Presbyterian Church,

I wanted to personally thank you deeply for the recent donation you made to the NEPA Youth Shelter. Your generosity will be felt throughout our organization by impacting our ability to fulfill our mission within the Teen Center and our Housing Program.

On behalf of our staff, volunteers, board of Directors, and especially our teens, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

Sincerely,

John Rosengrant, Executive director
NEPA Youth Shelter

The **Presbyter** deadline for
the **October 2025** issue is
September 12.

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.fpcps.org
Pastor	William G. Carter
Administrative Assistant	Nancy Owens
Coordinator of Children & Youth	Jana Schillinger
Editor	Christine Lee
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 July 31, 2025

REVENUE

Budget	\$245,107
Actual Received	<u>243,793</u>
Difference	(\$ 1,314)

EXPENSES

Budget	\$244,521
Actual Expenses	<u>254,192</u>
Difference	(\$ 9,671)

Result of operations	(\$10,400)
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PLEDGE

Budget	\$216,407
Received	<u>211,022</u>
Difference	(\$ 5,385)

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

Board of Deacons

Care Team Ministry Coordinators are:

Moderator Erika Adams Henderson

Deacon Meals Diana Pope-Albright

Ushers TBD

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 the Pastor

September 2025

Dear Friends,

Thirty-six years ago, a young mother began a part-time position on our church staff. Nancy Owens worked for our Christian Education program, scheduling events and ordering curriculum. When we began to search for a full-time administrative assistant in the fall of 1991, she was clearly the best and only choice. Ever since, we have been blessed by her competence, knowledge, and grace. What an extraordinary gift she has been to our church!

As you probably know, Nancy has announced her retirement, to commence after November 15. This will be a significant transition for all of us. For over half her life, she has been our “go to” person on all church matters. She has kept the office humming with complete efficiency, offering vital connections between all the members of the church family. When the radiator leaks, she knows who to call. When the copier jams, she pulls out the clog. When an elder doesn’t check his mailbox, she sends out the material. When the pastor forgets to pick all the hymns, she finishes the job. And she also knows how to encourage people to do their own work.

Nancy has grown exponentially in the position. Always one to take the initiative, she pursued training in the Administrative Personnel Association of the Presbyterian Church, attaining the highest certification in that national organization. She knows the PC(USA) Book of Order better than most of us. The former chair of the presbytery’s Budget and Finance committee, she has been a mentor and friend to colleagues in similar positions around the region.

Let me tell you what a joy it has been to work beside her. Nancy and I can read one another’s minds, anticipate one another’s schedules, and finish one another’s work. It has been a complete collaboration in ministry. That’s rare. And I will say this as clearly as I can: I could never have stayed so long without her partnership and help.



Nancy Owens has been a blessing to us. Fortunately, she plans to stick around town for the foreseeable future and take part in the life of our congregation. As we prepare to say farewell to her as our administrator – and as we try to learn as much of her knowledge as possible - please let her know how much she is valued and loved.

With deep gratitude,

Rev. Bill

Wednesday Evening Opportunities

Old Testament Connections at Wednesday Night Study

Starting Sept. 10, interested adults will begin our Fall Wednesday night Bible study with "Old Testament Connections." Each week, we will use a different lens to understand how various stories of the Bible connect to one another: timelines, maps, world history, and other tools. We will meet at 6 p.m. in the library (Room 206).



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

Bell Choir rehearses at 8:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall (Begins Sept. 24).



Additional Adult Education Opportunities

All Women of the church are invited to study the Bible using the new 2025-2026 Horizons Bible Study, titled "Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ." Authored by Rhashell D. Hunter, the study focuses on understanding resilience in the face of adversity, finding joy amidst challenges, and rediscovering our identity as Christians. It emphasizes that true identity is rooted in Jesus Christ rather than external factors.



We will meet in Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, September 16 at 10 a.m.



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 with Rev. Bill from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. All men in the church family are always welcome.

Lectionary Readings

September 7: 13th Sunday after Pentecost
Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 1; Philemon 1:1-21;
Luke 14:25-33

September 14: 14th Sunday after Pentecost
Exodus 32:7-14; Psalm 51:1-10; 1 Timothy 1:12-17;
Luke 15:1-10

September 21: 15th Sunday after Pentecost
Amos 8:4-7; Psalm 113; 1 Timothy 2:1-7;
Luke 16:1-13

September 28: 16th Sunday after Pentecost
Amos 6:1a, 4-7; Psalm 146; 1 Timothy 6:6-19;
Luke 16:19-31

Christian Education: Growing in Faith and Love

The Christian Education and Growth committee is pleased to offer a number of opportunities for our children, youth, and adults to explore the Bible, understand our traditions, and experience ways to live in faith. We believe that faith formation is a lifelong practice, so we invite everyone to find a class, opportunity, or practice that will grow YOUR faith this fall and beyond.

Christian Education



It's for life!



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.

LIFT (Living in Faith Together): A regularly occurring **intergenerational program and meal** held after worship. We welcome families of all sizes and ages to break bread together as we hear God's word and engage with one another in discussion and activities. Our first program will happen on **Sunday, September 14**. We also invite you to a LIFT program recognizing Reformation Sunday on **October 26** and a celebration of Advent on **December 7**, so mark your calendars for these events and spend time in fellowship with us!



Confirmation Class returns for youth grade 7 and up who are interested in affirming their faith and becoming a bigger part of church life. Using the **Big God, Big Questions** curriculum, Rev. Carter and Jana Schillinger will lead Bible discussions and faith exploration as we look at what it means to be a Presbyterian. A family meeting will be held after worship on **September 21**, with classes beginning **October 12** and running weekly through May. Families of eligible children should have received a letter in the mail; if you did not receive a letter, or have any other questions regarding confirmation, please contact Jana Schillinger.

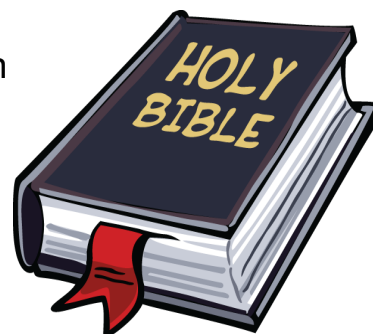
...and more! Be on the lookout for more opportunities to grow in faith throughout the fall. Families with children will receive more information by mail; if you aren't sure you're on the list, please contact Jana to let her know you're interested in hearing about our programs.

Bible Presentation

Sunday, Sept. 14

Come celebrate with us as we present Bibles to our children in kindergarten and third grade.

If you have a kindergartener or third grade student, be sure he or she is present to receive a Bible.





Mission and Justice Committee

Mission & Justice Committee Project – Packing Food Boxes at CEO/ Weinberg Northeast Regional Food Bank in Pittston

What better way to show love for our neighbor than to help feed the hungry? We plan to pack food boxes for qualifying senior citizens in our community from 9 a.m. to 12 PM on Saturday, Sept. 27 at CEO/Weinberg Northeast Regional Food Bank in Pittston. We will carpool from the church side parking lot at 8:30 a.m. Contact Diane Scheuer or Meg Hatch with questions.

Hickory Street Meal Program

Our fall Hickory Street Meal Program is scheduled for Oct. 25. There are many opportunities to participate in this program prior to that date, as well as the day itself. We are always in need for the cooks in our congregation to join in preparing the main dish. More detailed information, including menu, recipes, sign-up sheets, etc. will be forthcoming. Please refer to the church narthex for this information as the meal program date approaches.

Adopt A Highway

The first fall Morgan Highway Cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 20, 2025. We will meet at the parking lot of the Clarks Summit United Methodist Church at 9 a.m. Safety vests, gloves, and garbage bags will be provided. If you have never participated in this activity and would like to join the group, please contact Jack Scheuer at 570-362-3275 or john.scheuer123@gmail.com for more details.

My Brothers' Keeper Quilts

It's time once again to start our My Brothers' Keeper work sessions to make sleeping bags for the homeless. We will start Sept. 23, at 10 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Our focus that day will be to prepare bags to be sown during the Worship through Service session on Sunday, Sept. 28, right after Church service.

After that work sessions will continue on the usual second and fourth Tuesday of the month.

Any donations of blankets, sheets, mattress pads, comforters, wash cloths and towels are much appreciated.

See you soon!



Volunteer Corner

It is almost time for our annual Worship through Service Weekend.

Why do YOU volunteer?

I suspect that many of us have different motivations behind our church and community volunteering. Throughout the years I have heard many:

- It's a great way to get to know people.
 - I don't want to be a spectator; I want to be an active part of something.
 - I'm addressing a need.
 - I'm learning new skills.
 - It's fun and a simple way for me to help.
 - I'm supporting the organization's mission.
 - Service is a way to deepen my faith and practice my beliefs.
- No matter why you volunteer at First Presbyterian or through its many mission projects, we want you to know that we appreciate each and every one of you.

Perhaps we don't say it enough:

THANK YOU!!

This month we extend our thanks to retiring Communion preparation team leaders

Briar Woodley and Lori Kareha.

And a welcome to new team leaders Jodi and Christopher Cieszkowski.

Deacons' Project - Summer Safety for Homeless Adults

As part of FPCCS' Worship through Service program, the Deacons are collecting personal care and food items for the Community Intervention Center (CIC) day shelter in Scranton. Please consider contributing items from the "wish list" (below) and dropping them in the Narthex before Sept. 7. Your gift will help homeless adults stay safe and comfortable this summer. Questions? Please contact Barb Norton at 570-878-8026. Thank you!

First aid supplies—Band-aids, gauze, antiseptic, wound cream, Ace bandages

Insect repellent

Sunscreen

Wash cloths

Disposable razors

Deodorant

Small bars of soap

Travel size shampoo, conditioner

Brushes, combs

Snack bars (soft varieties preferred)

Snack cracker packs

Note: toothpaste, toothbrushes and socks are not needed at this time!

Joys

Sorrows

Prayers



7	Mary O'Brien	21	Nancy Dennen
	Bryan Shane	23	Ann Chamberlin
	Frank Garnecki	24	Tyler Kusma
	Amy Berry		Linda Orcutt
8	Dean Shane	27	Ethan Flynn
	Tony Scandle		Stan Gilbert
11	Judy Cutler	29	Richard Maurer
	Laura Moore		
16	Hoyt Keiser		
20	Lee Wirth		



10	Chuck & Maggie Woolever
23	Peter & Laura Moore

Congratulations are in order for the following young people in our church:

1. **Sadie Elizabeth Gilbert** - Times-Tribune - Player of the week for Abington Heights High School Girls Lacrosse Team
2. **Liam Farrell** - Times-Tribune All Region Boys Tennis Team
3. **Dean Shane** - Waverly Elementary
Citizen of the Year Award
Citizen of the year is defined by honesty, responsibility, leadership, respectfulness, trustworthiness, kindness towards others, consistent effort and being a team player.



On July 20 we welcomed a new member to our church family.

Be sure to introduce yourself to William (Bill) Miller.

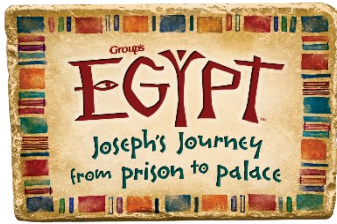
We would love to include **YOUR** birthdate and wedding anniversary in the newsletter. If that is **OK** with you, please send a note or email to the church office (office@fpccs.org) with the correct information. (Of course, *no years!*)

Thank You!

from Community Intervention Center, Scranton:

"First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit, thank you for the incredible gift of 2 pallets of water. In this intense summer heat, your kindness is more than a donation---it's a lifeline. For those living without shelter, staying hydrated can mean the difference between life and death. Your generosity brings relief, safety, and a reminder that they are not forgotten. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you."





**THANK
YOU!**

We had an amazing week at VBS
because of our incredible
volunteer staff.

A huge thank you to all those who
gave their time and talents this year!

FPC Young(er) Adult Group

These are great opportunities for new friends and even whole families to meet others in the church. For details and to RSVP, please reach out to Michael Thompson at mkthompson96@gmail.com or 518-577-8691:

- Saturday, September 20 at 1pm - Apple Picking at Lakeland Orchard, 1649 Lakeland Drive, Scott Township. General admission tickets are \$22.95.
- Saturday, October 18? - We are working on plans for a campfire night.
- November - let us know your ideas!



Monthly Church Prayer List



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

Come Celebrate with us!

This year marks the 35th anniversary of Rev. Carter's service to our church and his 40th anniversary in the ministry. Come join us as we celebrate this event on Sunday, October 5th, which is World Communion Sunday.

The celebration will begin at the church with our regular 10:00 service, followed by a time of hospitality at noon and a luncheon at 1 p.m. at Montdale Country Club.

Invitations will be in the mail for this event by the end of August. The cost of the luncheon is \$25. If you can join us, please return your reservation form listing your luncheon preference(s) along with your check to the church by Sept. 22.

Please note that contributions to commemorate this anniversary can be made to the First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit Endowment Fund. Hope you can join us!



Did you ever wonder how our handbells work?

Are you a musician looking for a new and different musical challenge?

Do you enjoy listening and watching our handbell choir in worship?

The handbell choir is looking for a few new ringers to fill vacancies. If you can read music and can count to six, then we can use you in the choir. No prior handbell experience is necessary. Older youth and adults of all ages are welcome.

Rehearsals are every Wednesday evening 8 to 8:45 p.m., beginning on Sept. 24. Contact the office or just show up and see what we are all about.

State Hospital Luncheon

Our fall luncheon with our quests is scheduled for Oct. 7 at noon in Fellowship Hall. There is a need for several items at this time:

Any **luggage/backpacks** you no longer use (in good condition) are helpful when someone transitions out of their current building

Shoes and used, **working CD players**

They love **leggings** (new) as well as **baseball caps**.
(The staff can't keep these two items in stock!)

Any questions, please do not hesitate in calling Janet Dobson at 570-563-1887.



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.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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

Board and Committee Meetings

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

Board of Deacons— Tuesday, Sept. 23, 7 p.m., Room 206

Building and Grounds - Thursday, Sept. 4, 7 p.m., Room 209

Christian Education - Thursday, Sept. 4, 7 p.m., Room 206

Mission and Justice - Tuesday, Sept. 2, 7 p.m., Room 206

Worship, Music and Arts - Thursday, Sept. 4, 5:30 p.m., Room 206

Service/Study/Fellowship Gatherings

Adopt A Highway – Saturday, Sept. 20, 9 a.m., meet at CS Methodist Church parking lot

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

Adult Choir - Each Wednesday, 7 p.m., Sanctuary

Arts Series – Sept. 14, 4 p.m., Sanctuary, Peter Bloom (flute)/John Funkhouser (piano)

Bell Choir – Each Wednesday, 8 p.m., Fellowship Hall, beginning Sept. 24

Confirmation Class Family Meeting – Sept. 21, 11:15, Room 206

Drive-Through Food Pantry - Sept. 11, 4 p.m., food distribution in back parking lot

LIFT Intergenerational program and meal – September 14, 11:15 a.m., Fellowship Hall

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

MBK Quilters - Tuesday, Sept. 23, 10 a.m., and Sunday Sept. 28, 11 a.m., Fellowship Hall

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

Presbyterian Women's Bible Study - Sept. 16, 10 a.m., Fellowship Hall

Senior Game Day— Sept. 18, 2 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Trip Meeting: Ireland – Friday, Sept. 5, 7 p.m., Room 206

Yoga – Each Tuesday 9:30 a.m., Room 111

Young(er) Adult Group – Saturday, Sept. 20, 1 p.m., Apple Picking, Lakeland Orchard

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 Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m., Room 206

· Overeaters Anonymous (OA) meets in Room 210: Sundays, 3 p.m.; Tuesdays, 6 p.m.; Saturdays, 9:45 a.m.

Church Office is closed Monday, Sept. 1 in observance of Labor Day.

Deadline for the October Presbyterian is Sept. 12, with anticipated mailing date of Sept. 24.

Regular office hours of Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. resume Tuesday, September 2.

**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****Take a Presbyterian trip to Ireland**

We are sponsoring a journey to the Emerald Isle. Scheduled for April 12-21, 2026, a group of Presbyterians will travel to Dublin, Galway, and spots in between. [You can pick up a brochure in the church narthex.](#)

Our tour company is Witte Travel from Grand Rapids. **An information session will be offered on Friday, September 5, at 7:00 p.m. in Room 206.**