



# The Presbyter

October 2025

The First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit

## World Communion Sunday

The key word for World Communion Sunday is communion, or unity. It is a day when we mark the almost universal Christian practice of breaking bread with one another and remembering both the night of Jesus' betrayal—when Jesus instituted what we now call the Lord's Supper as a lasting remembrance—and of Jesus' sacrifice. So accounts of the last supper feature prominently, by virtue of World Communion Sunday being a celebration of the Eucharist. But there is a flavor of the Christian celebration of Pentecost as well, when people from around the Mediterranean world came together in mutual understanding and inspiration, by the power of the Holy Spirit. World Communion Sunday is a time for remembering that around the globe—in different languages, with different traditions and customs, and in various forms of liturgy—the Lord's Supper is celebrated throughout Christendom. At its best, therefore, World Communion Sunday serves two purposes: it is both a joyous and meaningful partaking in Jesus' sacred meal with his friends and a mind-opening exposure to different Christian traditions from around the world.

**World Communion Sunday is Sunday, Oct. 5.**



## Arts at First Presbyterian

This month's concerts include a performance by the Arcadia Chorale performing "Echoes from the Cathedrals" on Sunday, Oct. 12 at 4 p.m., followed by a performance by bluegrass band Colebrook Road two weeks later. See page 10 for details.

## Old Testament Connections at Wednesday Night Bible Study

Our Fall Wednesday night Bible study is titled "Old Testament Connections." Each week, we 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).

**For our discussion on Oct. 22 and 29:** For 12 years Pope Francis stirred the world with his open smile, as well as his honesty and candor about what faithfulness to Jesus Christ really means. Now that it has ended, how should we understand the effects of his papacy, not only for Catholics but for all of us? As his successor Leo, the first American pope, begins his reign, what might we expect he will do with this legacy from Francis and other recent popes? In our current times, when we long for a strong voice for peace and justice, how will he speak? Dr. Will Cohen, Professor of Theology at the University of Scranton, will help us consider these questions.

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## Notes from the September 9 Session Meeting

1. The Generosity Team outlined plans for the upcoming Stewardship campaign to Session. The 2026 goal is \$400,000 and also to increase the number of units pledging. The campaign will begin on October 12th and Stewardship Sunday is scheduled for November 2. Plans will be announced about our Stewardship Sunday celebration soon.
2. Rev. Carter and Grace Farrell People in Ministry Chair presented the Job Description for our Administrative Assistant position that Session accepted. Plans will be made for the job search soon.
3. Worship Through Service plans were announced with 44 people that had already signed for the projects listed. Frank Garnecki and Dick White are co-chairing this project.
4. Plans were also discussed for the upcoming dinner for Rev. Carter on October 5th.

Beverly Bright, Clerk of Session

The Presbyterian deadline for the November 2025 issue is October 17.

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>Editor</b>	Christine Lee
<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

## FROM YOUR FINANCE COMMITTEE FOR THE MONTH ENDING Aug. 31, 2025

### REVENUE

Budget	\$280,123
Actual Received	<u>268,957</u>
Difference	(\$ 11,165)

### EXPENSES

Budget	\$279,452
Actual Expenses	<u>291,465</u>
Difference	(\$ 12,013)

Result of operations (\$ 22,508)

### PLEDGE

Budget	\$ 247,323
Actually received	<u>235,514</u>
	(\$ 11,809)

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

## Board of Deacons

Care Team Ministry Coordinators are:

Moderator	Erika Adams
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

“These forty years the Lord your God has been with you; you have lacked nothing.”  
*Deuteronomy 2:7*

It’s not my custom to take a Bible verse out of context. In this case, I’ll make an exception. For forty years, I have been sustained by the God who called me into pastoral ministry. And through your love, support, and generosity, I have lacked nothing.

Biblically speaking, “forty years” is a euphemism for a good, long time. Israel spent forty years in the wilderness, dining on manna and relying on God. Their faith was tested. Many times, they stumbled. Occasionally, they got it right. This, too, is a metaphor for my work as a minister. We pastors are at our best when we trust in God and get out of his way.

I remember the first Sunday of October 1985. With an invitation in hand to begin my pastoral work, I was insistent that I would be ordained in my home church, among my Sunday School teachers, neighbors, and family. I also asked the presbytery to ordain me at 10:45 in the morning when the congregation was actually present, and not as a special service at 4:00 p.m. when a mere handful might show up. This made for a few logistical issues – we needed a quorum of available ministers, for instance. So, we pressed the chaplain at Cornell into service, as well as a retired pastor or two.

What’s more it was World Communion Sunday, so a few grumbled that it was “inappropriate.” I asked my minister if we should shorten anything (i.e., the sermon). He wisely declared, “It will go as long as it needs to go,” advice that I still heed. When the moment came, I kneeled on the floor of the sanctuary as the elders and pastors put their hands on my shoulders. They prayed that the Holy Spirit would continue to instruct me in the same faith that they lived and taught. All this happened in the church where I took communion for the first time, where I was instructed in the faith and confirmed as a member, and where I was previously ordained as a teenage deacon. I was ordained in the place where I learned the Good News of Jesus and first trusted it.

Ordination is a mystery. No doubt some of the church members who wrangled me as a youngster were scratching their heads. My grandmothers, Isabella Stewart and Margaret Carter, were present, no doubt marveling at the possibility of my eventual maturity. Two of those elders praying for me were my parents, Elizabeth Ann and Glenn, both of whom had served multiple terms on the Session and had a good idea what I was getting myself into. The only thing any of us knew for sure was that it was the commencement of a long journey. And we trusted that the God who initiated the journey would see it through. Like the Bible verse says above, I have “lacked nothing.”

Forty years later, I can testify to God’s faithfulness. And yours, too. We will take the opportunity to mark the anniversary, then we will keep going -- for we still have a lot of work to do. Together. Always together.

Thank you for that. I could never have gotten this far without you. So, let’s keep going.

With you on the journey,

*Rev. Bill*

## Wednesday Evening Opportunities

**Adult Education** class meets on Wednesdays at 5:45 p.m. Room 206.  
See page 1 for additional information.

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

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

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## Additional Adult Studies

### **Women's Bible Study: Finding Our Resilience – Lesson 2 Mary “of a Certain Village”**

Tuesday, Oct. 21, 10 a.m. All women are invited!

The story of Mary and Martha in Luke 10:38-42 draws a clear contrast between Mary's choice – taking the opportunity to listen attentively to Jesus, and Martha's action – being worried and distracted by many things,” in Jesus' words. Jesus keeps the focus on Mary's transformational choice of the role of a disciple. The author helps us explore the resilience that requires and connects that resilience to Mary's choosing “the better part,” namely, finding her identity in Jesus.

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**Men's Breakfast** meets the first and third Thursday of each month at 8:30 a.m., room 206. All men are invited and welcome!

## Lectionary Readings

Oct. 5: 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4; Psalm 37:1-9;  
2 Timothy 1:1-14; Luke 17:5-10

Oct. 12: 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c; Psalm 111; 2 Timothy 2:8-15;  
Luke 17:11-19

Oct. 19: 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
Jeremiah 31:27-34; Genesis 32:22-31; Psalm 121;  
2 Timothy 3:14-4: 5; Luke 18:1-8

Oct. 20: 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
Joel 2:23-32; Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22;  
Psalm 84:1-7; 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18; Luke 18:9-14

## 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 next LIFT program recognizes Reformation Sunday on **Oct. 26** and introduces us to the Barmen Declaration, part of the PC(USA) Book of Confessions. We will also host a LIFT program celebrating Advent on **Dec. 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. Classes begin **Oct. 12** and run weekly through May. If you have any questions regarding confirmation, please contact Jana Schillinger.



**The Nursery** is located on the sanctuary level of this building, room 208, and is regularly staffed Sunday mornings from 9:40-11:10 a.m. for children ages 3 and younger. The room is very infant/toddler friendly with a changing table and age-appropriate toys and books.

### HICKORY STREET MEAL PROGRAM

As the food insecurity issue in our community becomes more prominent, our congregation's participation in the Hickory Street Presbyterian Church Meal Program becomes more essential. With our last program in April, we provided 210 meals until our food supply was depleted, and distributed 40 bags of groceries. Experience tells us, we can anticipate this level of need going forward, if not greater. Our next meal event at Hickory Street Presbyterian Church is scheduled for Oct. 25. Your help in this endeavor is vital, as we continue to support this important program. Preparation of the main dish, providing desserts, assistance at Hickory Street on meal day, and food transport from our church to Hickory Street are some of the tasks where volunteers are needed. Donation of food for grocery bags is also an integral part of our commitment. If you want to support our church's efforts financially, please make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit, and indicate "Account No. 2041, Community Meals" in the check memo line. Similarly, if you donate on line, please indicate the same notation in the note line under Other Donations. The menu, recipes, sign-up sheets, and other information will be available in the narthex starting on Oct. 5. We look forward to your ongoing support.

### State Hospital Luncheon

The women of the church will host a fall luncheon for friends from Clarks Summit State Hospital on Oct. 7 at noon in Fellowship Hall. Volunteers are needed to greet our guests, and assist with set-up, serving and clean-up of the meal. **There is a need for several items** at this time: new or used **luggage/ backpacks (in good condition); shoes; (used) working CD players; leggings (new); baseball caps**. Donation boxes have been placed in the narthex. Any questions, please call Janet Dobson at 570-563-1887.

### Per Capita Update

**Have you contributed for your household's Per Capita?** Each year, our congregation is responsible for a fair share of the administrative costs of our national denomination. We ask for your help in contributing toward this cost, which our church is obligated to pay. For 2025, our **Per Capita cost is \$46.10 for each church member**. Can you contribute your household's share today?

As of August 31, over \$7,000 has been contributed directly to per capita. **Thank you!** Our bill for this year is \$19,000+. Your contributions toward per capita for your family will be greatly appreciated.



Lee Wirth passed away September 13, 2025.

A celebration of her life will be held at 1 pm on October 2nd at First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit, 300 School Street. Friends may pay their respects on

October 1st from 4 pm to 7 pm at Lawrence E. Young Funeral Home and Cremation Services, 418 S. State Street, Clarks Summit.

Sympathy of the congregation is extended to her children, Bill and Kristen, and their families.



## From the Generosity Team

This year's stewardship campaign reminds us of the ways in which we are called to support the ministry of First Presbyterian Church. During this season, our attention turns to pledges of financial support. Your gifts enable us to compensate our dedicated and loyal staff, provide meaningful worship experiences, offer rich and varied opportunities for Christian education, sponsor a variety of fellowship activities and community events, help those in need, and maintain our building. For 2026, the Generosity Team has established a goal of \$400,000 in pledges, representing an increase of approximately 8% over the total for 2025.



Our annual Worship Through Service weekend consists of an enormously successful series of projects that benefit so many people throughout our area. We like the title of that event because it mentions two of the most important things that we do as a church community: worship and service. Through the spoken word and music, we worship and praise God for who He is: the timeless one who created the universe, sustains us in this earthly life, and offers the promise of eternal life through belief in the resurrection power of His Son, Jesus Christ. Through our service, we express our gratitude to God by helping those in need to know a better life.

During the upcoming campaign, which will run for four weeks beginning on Oct. 12, we ask that members and friends of First Presbyterian Church carefully consider their gifts--not only of money, but also of time and special skills--for the year ahead. All that we have is not ours; it is the Lord's. On Stewardship Sunday, Nov. 2, let us pledge to return to God a generous portion of the great bounty that He, out of His love, has shared with us.



### Volunteer Corner by Nancy Post

#### Spotlight on.....Christine Lee

A few months ago I contacted Christine to ask her if she might be interested in taking on the editorship of the *Presbyter*. Happily, she immediately said yes!

Christine was born and raised in New Jersey. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in communications from Wilkes University in 2014. While at Wilkes, she sang with the university chorus, and through it, learned about FPC and Rev. Carter's jazz music, and even attended a Lyric Consort concert at the church. Since graduation, Christine has spent her career as an editor and reporter at weekly and daily newspapers in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. She moved to Scranton in 2022 and is currently a reporter and news clerk at the Times-Tribune. She officially joined with us in 2023.

Christine continues her interest in music as she sings with the adult choir each Sunday. She tells me that she enjoys the music the choir performs and that she loves the fellowship of being with others - "it's a very fun, lively bunch of people."

Christine enjoys reading and spending time with her cat Oscar and her family's four dogs.

We are so grateful that Christine is sharing her experience and talents with us!

## Joys

## Sorrows

## Prayers

**October Birthdays**

- 4 Riley Wescott  
 5 Tim Shane  
 9 Sadie O'Brien  
 14 Barbara Decker  
 19 Nancy Owens  
 Darlene Hurd  
 21 Ryan Flynn  
 Colin Jeschke  
 22 Frank Jones  
 23 Kim Barrows  
 27 Linda Weaver  
 28 Jeanette Stauffer  
 30 Clyde Ellsworth

**October Anniversary**

- 28 John & Anne Rich

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**Robin and Charlie Pinches** are celebrating the arrival of two granddaughters over the summer.

**Mary Catherine Pinches**

was born May 14, 2025.

**Madilyn Rose Lovero**

was soon to follow,

being born on June 11, 2025.

Blessings and best wishes to Charlie and Robin, as well as the parents of these baby girls.

**Congratulations  
on Your  
New Baby!**



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——- **Prayer List for soon to be united Lackawanna and Lehigh Presbyteries**

Please pray this month for:

Washington Presbyterian Church

Slatington Presbyterian Church

Tunkhannock Presbyterian Church

Wyoming Valley Presbyterian Church

Wind Gap Presbyterian Church

**PRAYER**  
list

For more information on our Presbyteries, or for these individual churches, go to  
[www.polackawanna.org](http://www.polackawanna.org) or [lehighpresbytery.org](http://lehighpresbytery.org)



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

*Worship every Sunday, 10 a.m., Sanctuary and online*

### Board and Committee Meetings

**Session Meeting** — Tuesday, Oct. 14, 7 p.m., Room 206

**Board of Deacons** — Tuesday, Oct. 28, 7 p.m., Room 206

**Building and Grounds** — Thursday, Oct. 2, 7 p.m., Room 209

**Christian Education** — Thursday, Oct. 2, 7 p.m., Room 206

**Finance** — Thursday, Oct. 2, 4 p.m., Room 210

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

**Worship, Music and Arts** — Thursday, Oct. 9, 5:30 p.m., Room 206

### Service/Study/Fellowship Gatherings

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

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

**Arts at First Presbyterian:**

*Choral Artistry with the Arcadia Chorale* — Sunday, Oct. 12, 4 p.m., Sanctuary

*Bluegrass with Colebrook Road* — Sunday, Oct. 26, 4 p.m., Sanctuary

**Bell Choir** — Most Wednesdays, 8 p.m., Fellowship Hall

**Confirmation** — Each Sunday after worship, Room 206, **beginning Oct. 12.**

**Hickory Street Community Meal** — Oct. 25

**Lift Program** — Sunday, Oct. 26, 11:15 a.m., Fellowship Hall

**Men's Breakfast** — Thursday, Oct. 2 and 16, 8:30 a.m., Room 206

**Mobile Food Pantry Food Distribution** — Thursday, Oct. 9, 4 p.m., Fellowship Hall

**MBK Quilters** — Tuesday, Oct. 14 and 28, 10 a.m., Fellowship Hall

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

**Presbyterian Women's Bible Study** — Tuesday, Oct. 21, 10 a.m., Fellowship Hall

**Senior Game Day** — Thursday, Oct. 16, 2 p.m., Fellowship Hall

**State Hospital Luncheon** — Tuesday, Oct. 7, noon, 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.
- **AlAnon** meets on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. in room 206.
- **Overeaters Anonymous (OA)** meets in room 210: Sunday, 3 p.m.; Tuesday, 6 p.m.; Saturday, 9:45 a.m.

**Deadline for the November Presbyterian: Friday, Oct. 17.**

**Anticipated mailing date: Oct. 29.**

## Arts At First Presbyterian

October is a special month for the Arts Series as we feature two concerts. On Sunday, Oct. 12 at 4 p.m. we present the Arcadia Chorale doing a concert "Echoes from the Cathedrals," followed two weeks later by a performance by Colebrook Road, a bluegrass band. Both concerts are open to the public free of charge, with a free-will offering taken to help defray the cost of the event. You can meet the artists at a reception held following the concert.

The Arcadia Chorale is a professional chamber choir of 24 voices which has been putting on concerts since 1983. This concert will feature the soaring choral and organ music of England, France, Italy, Spain, and Germany inspired by the great cathedrals of Western Europe, with guest organist Christopher Johnson, who was featured on last year's Arts Series. The group performs under the direction of Matthew Rupcich.

From Harrisburg to the national stage, the award-winning Colebrook Road brings fiery picking, heartfelt harmonies, and pure joy to every note. This summer they appeared on the Wildflower Concert Series at the Dorflinger-Suydam Wildlife Sanctuary in White Mills to great acclaim.

The concert series is supported by a Lackawanna County Community Arts and Culture grant, a program of Lackawanna County Commissioners Bill Gaughan and Chris Chermak, along with individual contributions.



## FPC Young(er) Adult Group - Saturday, Oct. 18: Campfire Night at the Pinches

Join the FPC Young(er) Adult Group for this family friendly event on Saturday, Oct. 18 at 6 p.m. We will meet at Charlie and Robin Pinches' home. Bring a snack or beverage to share. To RSVP and get the address, please reach out to Michael at [mkthompson96@gmail.com](mailto:mkthompson96@gmail.com) or 518-577-8691.

And let us know your ideas for November!



### 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.

## The Sounds of Worship

Have you ever paused to listen — really listen — to the world around you?

*“Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!” (Psalm 98:4, ESV)*

The hum of morning birdsong. The laughter of children. The comforting voice of a friend. Even the quiet moments of stillness. These aren’t just background noise — they’re invitations to worship.

God designed a world that sings. Worship isn’t limited to Sunday mornings or formal songs; it’s woven into the everyday moments that tune our hearts to Him. And when we pause to truly hear it, we are drawn into praise, right where we are.

What sound lifts your heart toward God today? Take a moment to listen. Let it remind you of His love and nearness.



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

300 School Street

Clarks Summit, PA 18411-1536

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