

First Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day
29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 18, 2020

10:00 a.m.

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Words of Welcome

Prelude

"The Lord is my Salvation"
Ariana Billiot & Riley Wescott

arr. Katie Houts

Call to Worship

Psalm 24:1-2

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it,
the world, and those who live in it;
for God has founded it on the seas,
and established it on the rivers.

Hymn 714

"God of the Fertile Fields"

1 God of the fertile fields, shaper of earth that yields our daily bread: forth from your bounteous hand
come gifts your love has planned, that all in every land be clothed and fed.

2 We would be stewards true, holding in trust from you all that you give;
help us in love to share, teach us like you to care for people everywhere, that all may live.

3 As grows the hidden seed to fruit that serves our need, so your reign grows.
Let all our toil be used, no gift of yours abused, no humble task refused your love bestows.

4 God of the countryside, dear to the Christ who died to make us one:
we pledge our lives anew in faithful love to you. Guide all we say and do. Your will be done.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

***Merciful God, we confess that we are unworthy servants.
We have broken faith with you in thought and word and deed.
We are ashamed of the evil that dwells within us,
and we confess that our very best falls far short of your vision for us.
Forgive our sin, for Jesus' sake,
and restore us to fellowship with you and all your holy ones. Amen.***

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon and Passing of the Peace

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.

We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake.

And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

A Moment with Our Children

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 22:15-22

Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?” But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, “Whose head is this, and whose title?” They answered, “The emperor’s.” Then he said to them, “Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

Sermon: “Show Me a Quarter”

Rev. Carter

Fall Sermon Series: The Ornery Parables of Christ

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn 708

"We Give Thee But Thine Own"

- 1 We give thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be; all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.
- 2 May we thy bounties thus as stewards true receive, and gladly, as thou blessest us, to thee our firstfruits give.
- 3 The captive to release, to God the lost to bring, to teach the way of life and peace: it is a Christ-like thing.
- 4 And we believe thy word, though dim our faith may be; whate'er we do for thine, O Lord, we do it unto thee.

Affirmation of Faith: Apostles' Creed

***I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell;***

***the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand
of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.***

Minute for Stewardship
Offering
Offertory

“Gigue en Rondeau”

Jean-Philippe Rameau

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

GO IN GOD'S NAME

Hymn 716 "God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending"

1 God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store, nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door: gifted by you, we turn to you, offering up ourselves in praise; thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.

2 Skills and time are ours for pressing toward the goals of Christ, your Son: all at peace in health and freedom, races joined, the church made one. Now direct our daily labor, lest we strive for self alone. Born with talents, make us servants fit to answer at your throne.

3 Treasure, too, you have entrusted, gain through powers your grace conferred: ours to use for home and kindred, and to spread the gospel word. Open wide our hands in sharing, as we heed Christ's ageless call, healing, teaching, and reclaiming, serving you by loving all.

Charge and Benediction
Postlude

“Hornpipe”

George Frideric Handel

The flowers have been given to the glory of God in loving memory of our friend, Jo Conklin, from Sandra and Steuart Bailey.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Pastor	Rev. William Carter
Liturgist	Grant Taylor
Coordinator for Children and Youth Ministries	Jana Schillinger
Director of Music	Frank Jones
Organist	Kay Ten Eyck
Usher	Mick Wirth

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Church Family Announcements

We welcome all to our worship today. **Please sign in at the Welcome Table.** (In the event of an infection, you will be contacted.)

Our congregation intends to worship God, equips God's people for ministry in the world, and serves God in ways that are faithful to the Gospel.

For those of us in the sanctuary today, there are some details to review in the hope that no virus will be spread due to this gathering.

- All are required to wear face masks, sit only in designated pews, and maintain six feet of distance from people of other households.
- You may participate in the spoken segments of the service, but please do not sing.
- If you would like to visit with other worshippers, do so after exiting the building.
- At present, seating is limited to 50 people in the sanctuary, including worship leaders. Notify the church office (office@fpccs.org or 570-586-6306) by Friday noon when you plan to attend.

Tell us your prayer concerns. Prayer Request Cards are available in the pews. They may be dropped in the offering plates as you enter or exit the sanctuary.

Can you help? We have some interest in hosting a Trunk or Treat event for kids on Saturday, October 31, in the afternoon in one of our parking lots. Can you help? We want to offer something safe for local kids in this unusual year. If you can help plan the event, contact us as soon as possible by emailing or calling the church office (office@fpccs.org or 570-586-6306). We can do this event if we have sufficient help. Thanks!

Christian Education for children, youth and adults pushes forward amid the pandemic. See below for offerings. Contact Jana Schillinger for additional information at ce@fpccs.org.

For kids and teens, we offer:

- **Grace & Faith:** children age 4 to grade 5 will have a weekly lesson from our *Growing in Grace & Gratitude* curriculum. We will post a short video, downloadable worksheets, and more at fpccsaway-grace.blogspot.com for you to enjoy whenever fits best in your schedule.
- **We Believe:** youth grade 6 and up can visit fpccsaway-believe.blogspot.com for a weekly post featuring a Bible passage, reflection, and questions to ponder.

For adults, you will find:

- Rev. Carter leading a **Weekly Bible study on Wednesdays**, 6:15-7:15 pm on Zoom. Each week, he will lead an exploration of the text for the upcoming sermon. The Bible study continues through October 28.
- The six-week study on **Spiritual Practices** concludes Monday, October 19 at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom.
- Just in time for the election: Rev. Dr. Brent Eelman will lead a Zoom-based class on **Civility: A Christian Discipline**. It will meet on three Wednesdays (October 21 and 28, November 4) at 7:15 p.m. Here is Brent's description: *Has our society become uncivil? Have we become so polarized that discourse over political, social, economic, and scientific issues quickly become shouting matches and filled with ad hominem attacks? This 3-session discussion will examine the roots of our incivility and ways that the church and its memberships can be advocates for civil discourse and debate.*

Additional information can be found in the monthly newsletter and on our website, fpccs.org

ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET – 2020

The Mission and Justice Committee in past years has sponsored the Alternative Gift Market, usually held on a Sunday in late November. The Alternative Gift Market provides the opportunity for the congregation and the greater community to purchase fair trade items produced internationally, and also to support efforts to assist disadvantaged people throughout the world.

Unfortunately, due to Covid-19, we are unable this year to have the market displays and personal interaction we have previously enjoyed. Nonetheless, we still intend to have the market using a somewhat diminished and different format. Products and services for SERRV International and Heifer International will still be offered for purchase. From November 1 through November 22, catalogs from these entities will be available in the church narthex. You will then be able to purchase your items directly. Please return the catalogs to the narthex upon completion of your order(s).

For those of you who do not plan to be in the church building, on-line catalogs are also available for your benefit as follows:

SERRV International – serrv.org

Heifer International – heifer.org

In addition, as has been done in the past to support more local projects, it will be possible to purchase candy (\$8.00 per 1 lb. box) supporting Appalachian Service Project (ASP). Forms, with ordering directions, will also be available in the church narthex during the above referenced dates, or you may contact Sue Whitman, ASP coordinator, at (570) 510-1356.

Thank you for your continued support of these important missions.

Save the Date: We welcome the Rev. Dr. Joanne Weiss for a talk on **Managing Stress and Cultivating Resilience Through Covid-19**. She will speak in our sanctuary after worship on **Sunday, November 8**. The presentation will be live-streamed on YouTube and recorded for future viewing.

Enjoy the Convenience of Electronic Giving

First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit offers electronic giving as a way to support the church on a regular or one-time basis. You can go to fpccs.org or **scan the QR code** (at right) anytime to set up an automatic donation plan, change your donation plan, make a one-time donation or view your online donation history. Why not give it a try today?



This Week at a Glance

Today

10:00AM * Morning Worship Sanctuary

Monday, October 19

6:00 PM Girl Scouts Fellowship Hall

7:00-8:00 **(Z)** Final week of the study on **Spiritual Practices.** **ZOOM**

Tuesday, October 20

10:00 AM * Women's Circle and Bible Study Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, October 21

5:30 PM **(Z)** BoomWhackers **ZOOM**

6:15-7:15 **(Z)** Rev. Carter will lead an exploration of the text for the upcoming sermon. **ZOOM**

7:00 * Bell choir rehearsal Sanctuary

Thursday, October 22

Friday, October 23

9:30 AM * Immerse Study Group - Poets Room 206

Saturday, October 24

Sunday, October 25

10:00AM * Worship Sanctuary
Ordination and Installation of new Elders and Deacons

Please reserve your seat: office@fpccs.org or 570-586-6306.

3:00pm * Recital Sanctuary

* denotes gathering is face-to-face, with masks and socially-distant seating.

(Z) denotes gathering is online using ZOOM. Check website or call office for the link.

**First Presbyterian Church
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570/586-6306
www.fpccs.org**