



The Presbyter

September 2016

The First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit

Swinging strong at 25 years

Jazz Communion slated for Sunday, September 4

We are excited to announce our 25th annual Jazz Communion service on **Sunday, September 4, at 10:00 a.m.** This year, the Presbybop Sextet will feature the music of Charles Mingus, a renowned composer and bassist.

It will be a very special celebration featuring Jeff Stockham on trumpet and valve trombone, Al Hamme and Mike Carbone on saxophone, Tyler Dempsey on drums, and Rev. Bill Carter on piano. The featured soloist is bassist Tony Marino.



Don't miss this extraordinary event, which is offered as a gift to our community!



The W.A.Y. Kick-Off

Fishing for Jesus? Come find the WAY!

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11
Following worship in Fellowship Hall

There will be food, fun activities,
and details about The W.A.Y.,
our Wednesday evening program
for all ages.

Table of Contents

Page 2	- Notes from Session, Financial Info, Per Capita, Bell Choir, Prayer & Share
Page 3	- From The Pastor
Page 4	- Worship Through Service
Page 5	- Mission and Justice
Page 6	- The Way
Page 7	- Chapel Choir, Adventures in The Bible, Confirmation, Youth Group, 3rd Grade Bible Presentation
Page 8	- Book Review, Seasonal Farm Workers, Stephen Ministry, Clothing Donations, Relax-Relate-Renew
Page 9	- Arts At First Presbyterian Schedule
Page 10	- Joys & Sorrows, Lectionary Readings, Ushers, Welcomers, Thank You Notes
Page 11	- Calendar
Page 12	- Teachers Needed, The Way Dinner Volunteers

Notes from the Session Meeting, August 9, 2016

1. Budgets for the 2017 year were given to committee chairs from Finance.
2. If the church is locked during normal office hours, please ring the doorbell for assistance. Thank you.
3. Our church is currently in need of a child worker for our nursery, please contact Nancy Post, Chair of Worship, Music and Arts if you know anyone who can serve in that capacity
4. If anyone is interested in serving communion during the year, please let Nancy Post or Beverly Bright know your availability. New lists for the upcoming year are being prepared.

**The Presbyterian deadline for
The October issue is
September 16, 2016**

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.fpccs.org
Pastor	William G. Carter
Administrative Assistant	Nancy Owens
Treasurer	Wayne Griffiths
Editor	Lindsey Hardy
Clerk of Session	Beverly Bright
Director of Music	Frank Jones
Director of Bells	Richard Cochrane
Director of Chapel Choir	Kay Ten Eyck
Organist	Kay Ten Eyck
Sexton	John Conklin

Can you read music?

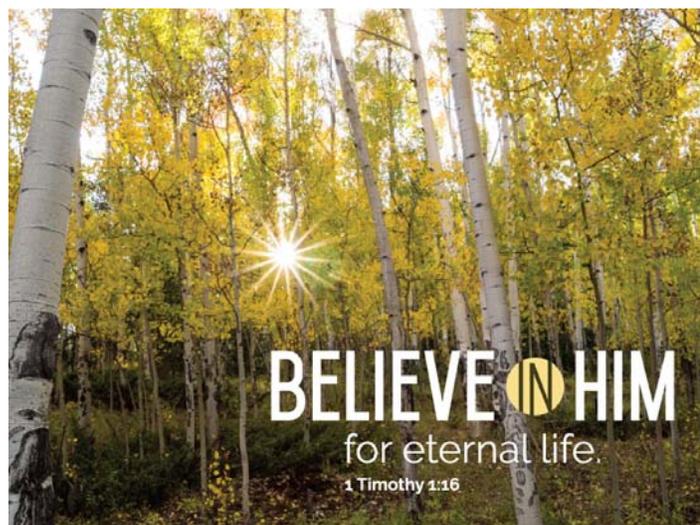
Can you count to four (and occasionally six)?

If so, then the bell choir has a place for you. Join us every Wednesday evening at 8:30 for fellowship, fun, and a bit of rehearsal. We practice almost every week and play in Sunday worship about once a month from September to May. Rehearsals begin on September 7.

Contact director Dick Cochrane at 570-587-3970 or call the church office at 570-586-6306 to sign up.



PRAYER AND SHARE: Join us Wednesdays at 11:00 AM to pray for others in room 209.



**FINANCIAL INFORMATION
FROM YOUR FINANCE COMMITTEE
FOR THE MONTH ENDING July 31, 2016**

REVENUE

Budget	\$ 206,150
Actual Received	<u>190,768</u>
Difference	\$ (15,382)
	=====

EXPENSES

Budget	\$ 205,570
Actual Expenses	<u>192,613</u>
Difference	\$ (12,957)
	=====

BUDGET VARIANCE \$ (2,425)

PLEDGE INCOME

Budget	\$ 186,667
Received	<u>171,155</u>
Difference	\$ (15,512)

Per Capita 2016 total Received to date - \$3,814
The 2016 Church Per Capita due to the Presbytery of Lackawanna, General Assembly, and The Synod = \$16,500.



Dear Friends,

I am excited about the direction of our congregation! At a recent meeting, our Session set three goals to guide us into the next few years. Over the next three issues of this newsletter, I will use this space to write about each one.

Here is the first:

- **Loving Our Neighbors** -- To reach into the community through specific acts of service, improving the neighborhood, and inviting people to experience the love and service of this congregation.

No doubt you will remember that this theme comes from the mouth of Jesus (Luke 10:27), and that he lifted it from the book of Leviticus (19:18). It reaches back as early as Cain's defiant cry, "Am I my brother's keeper?" (Genesis 4:9). It speaks the church's ongoing conscience: "How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses to help?" (1 John 3:17)

The love for your neighbor is not a warm, gushy emotion that comes out of a faucet on demand. It is action for their benefit and well-being. Such love steps over the invisible walls that we construct to insulate and isolate. This is love that refuses to let strangers be strangers. Love is not "envious, boastful, arrogant, or rude." Like Jesus, love comes down from any presumption of superiority and comes alongside others who have been equally created in the image of God.

This kind of love is the essential move of a living Christian community. The consultant Thom Rainer has worked with thousands of congregations, many of them in decline and trouble. When asked about the most common reason for their difficulty, he replied clearly, "The surest indicator of decline is a persistent inward focus." As he observed in a recent article,

"The ministries are only for the members. The budgetary funds are used almost exclusively to meet the needs of the members. The times of worship and worship styles are geared primarily for the members. Conflict takes place when members don't get their way. You get the picture."

So what's the antidote? Looking beyond ourselves and loving our neighbors. That is our goal. You may have noticed that this theme has been seeping into some of my sermons this summer. And it's about to get very specific! On the very next page of this newsletter, you will see a full-page description of nine projects that our church will undertake at the end of September. We will do these projects, not as some kind of marketing ploy, but because we want to actively help other people in ways that are helpful for them. This is what Christian people do, and this is your invitation to jump in and take part.

Let me mention other opportunities for us. We can't effectively serve our neighbors if we don't know who they are. To that end, we have asked the Rev. Virginia Miner, our acting General Presbyterian, to lead a three week adult class for our WAY program. At 6:15 pm on September 14, 21, and 28, Virginia will guide us through the demographic information about our immediate community. It is eye-opening material, and necessarily so; we can't truly love our neighbors if we don't see them.

So let us love, not in platitudes nor empty speech, but specific acts of service. In so doing, we honor Jesus Christ, who has come down from heaven and alongside us to redeem the world.

With you on the journey,

Rev. Bill Carter



Worship through Service Day, September 25

We have dedicated the last weekend of September as a time of service. As we reach out to the needs of our neighborhood, here is what you can do to help. Sign up on Sundays or online at www.fpccs.org:

- The Fellowship Committee's project will **paint two rooms and a bathroom on Sunday, September 25**, at United Cerebral Palsy of Northeastern Pennsylvania's facility at 423 Center Street in Clarks Summit. UCP will supply all materials. They could use 10 - 12 people for two to three hours. (Contact Adrienne Horger with questions.)
- The Finance Committee is **collecting and distributing items for the Women's Resource Center in Scranton**. The Center provides services for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking in Lackawanna and Susquehanna Counties. (Contact David Naeher with questions.)
- The Mission and Justice Committee invites you to help **clean up Hemlock Park**, located on Hemlock Street right behind Moe's. We will be power washing the composite picnic tables and garbage cans, removing graffiti from the gazebo, painting the park's sign, and weeding the gardens and playground areas. (Contact: Melba Fialko with questions.)
- The Deacons will ask members of the congregation to **donate new or gently used books** during the last two weeks of August, which will be **distributed on September 25** to various facilities. There will be specially marked boxes in Fellowship Hall where donations can be made. (Contact Gwynne Gilbert with questions.)
- My Brother's Keeper group will make a number of **Ugly Quilts**, sleeping bags from recycled materials to prevent hypothermia, for the homeless. On September 25, we invite you to join us in Fellowship Hall right after worship, where we will make as many quilts as possible. If you can make a knot, you can help! (Contact Marie Cochrane and Linda Schuller with questions.)
- The Building and Grounds committee will make **small repairs and assist with yard work at homes of our church members**. (Contact Frank Garnecki with questions.)
- The People in Ministry committee is contacting **neighbors** within a three block radius of the church building to **make small repairs and assist with yard work**. This project will happen on Saturday, September 24. (Contact Bill Davis with questions.)
- The Christian Education Committee invites you to spend Saturday morning, September 24, **cleaning up the yard of The Children's Advocacy Center**. It is located on Mulberry Street in Scranton. The garden beds need to be cleaned out and weeded. We will also rake the yard and plant bulbs and flowers. (Contact Nancy Dennen with questions.)
- The Worship, Music, and Arts Committee will present a **concert and sing-along at the Allied Rehabilitation Center** on Sunday, September 25, at 2:00 p.m. The concert will include members of our choirs, members of the bell choir, and anybody in the church family who likes to sing and make music. (Contact Nancy Post with questions.)

MISSION AND JUSTICE

Bread for the World

One of the memberships that FPCCS carries is that of Bread for the World. As Christians, we are called to be good stewards personally and collectively. BFW is a **non-partisan collective Christian voice** that advocates for responsible public policy decisions addressing hunger here and abroad. Below are examples of two recent legislative victories, which involved years of effort by BFW.

1. Global Food Security Act-This bill strengthens food production by focusing assistance on smallholder farmers and emphasizes improved nutrition for mothers and children in the 1,000 days of a child's life between pregnancy and age two. It will benefit many of the more than 795 million chronically malnourished people, including nearly 160 million children. It supports more flexibility in disaster assistance and enabled emergency food assistance to reach Syrian refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey.
2. Foreign Aid and Transparency Act- This act requires US government agencies to consistently and rigorously monitor and evaluate assistance programs.

My Brothers' Keeper Quilting Group

September will soon be here, and My Brothers' Keeper quilting group will have its first session on September 13, 10:00 AM to Noon.

We mix and match fabric into two 7' x 7' squares, fill them with those "what do I do with these old blankets, afghans, scrap material, etc." and lovingly knot them, sew around the edges, and add two neckties for a handle, to create a warm and somewhat comfortable place for someone to crawl into for a night.

We want to thank everyone who has donated items to our group. The sheets, towels, blankets, personal items, scarves, hats, mittens, ties, etc. are what allows us to do this ministry for the homeless. Please continue to think of us. Bless you for your gifts.

Earth Care

The next date for the **Adopt-a-Highway clean-up is Saturday, September 10th beginning at 9 AM**. We will meet at the Clarks Summit United Methodist Church parking lot across from the library. All individuals, 16 years and older, are invited. Contact Donna Porter for more information 570-585-4006.

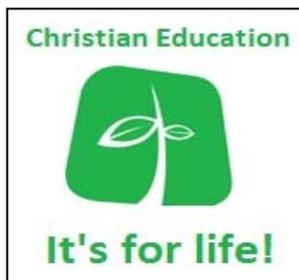
Peace and Global Witness Offering

The Peace and Global Witness Offering, formerly the Peacemaking Offering, exists to ignite Presbyterians in their Christian response to violence in our world toward making a more peaceful world. On October 2nd, "World Communion Sunday," we will bless our Peace and Global Witness offering [formerly titled The Peacemaking Offering]. Your Mission and Justice Committee has determined that 25% of this offering will go to The Catharine MacAuley Center, a local organization that directly ministers "to women and to the economically poor; to provide temporary shelter for women and children in crisis; to assist women in attaining safe, affordable, permanent housing; to provide women support services leading to self-reliance; and to help individuals and families access medical and community resources."

http://www.catherinemcauleycenter.org/about_us.aspx

From now until October 2, please reflect on this very important offering and plan ahead to contribute to the Presbyterian Church's work toward peace locally, nationally, and in deepening our commitment to the transforming work of the Spirit toward a more peaceful world. <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/>

Envelopes are available in the pew racks, your Offering Envelope Box, or you can donate online at <http://fpccs.org/pledge.html>



THE W.A.Y.

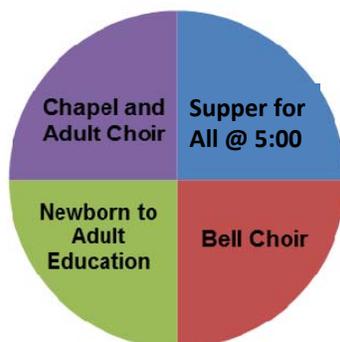
The Wednesday Adulds and Youth Christian Education

“I am the WAY, the TRUTH, and the LIFE”

Supper, 5:00 * Classes for all ages, 6:15



Welcome to Wednesdays



Beginning September 14th

W.A.Y. Kick-off - Sunday September 11, following service!**The W.A.Y. begins Wednesday, September 14!**

Spark (Newborn - 3 year old) enjoy Bible stories, songs and games in the nursery. In September these kids will be learning about Adam and Eve, the First Sin, and Joseph and his brothers.

Power Xpress (4 year old - Grade 5) Are divided into two ages groups and experience Bible stories through interactive rotation classes. September's units will be Adam and Eve and Jacob.

We Believe (Grades 6-8) This fall, students will explore a unit called *Knowing God*, answering questions about who God is and who we are as Christians. In September, we will answer: What do Christians believe in? Is it okay to have doubts about God? Who Can be Saved?

PresbyYouth (Grades 9-12 and college-age adults) are encouraged to either join an adult class or participate in the middle school class.

Adults: There will be two classes offered. Reverend Carter will be teaching “Simply Christian-Justice and Spirituality”. “Who are our Neighbors: 18411 as Our Mission Field” will be taught by Rev. Virginia Miner.

Wednesday Supper Reservations



Light Supper is served before The Way classes from 5:00-6:10 for those with **reservations**. Suggested donation: \$3 per person.

Please return reservation slips no later than **Monday**. Slips can be placed in the **basket near the phone in the kitchen** or in the **offering plate**. You may also **call the church office** to make reservations.

Reservations slips can be found in the church office, in the kitchen, or in pews.



Chapel Choir for Children and Youth

"The only thing better than singing is more singing." - Ella Fitzgerald

Our first fall Chapel Choir rehearsal will be Wednesday, September 14th at 5:30 pm. We are looking forward to having our previous singers return and welcoming new singers!



Kay Ten Eyck and Frank Jones have planned an exciting year of music for all of our children regardless of age or ability. Singers will start and end rehearsal in the choir room. Our choir is growing in numbers and in age range. We need to balance challenging our experienced members without overwhelming our newer singers. To that end, there may be times when the singers are divided into smaller groups to facilitate learning a special vocal or instrumental part. The Choir members will also continue to be liturgists throughout the year.

We are blessed to have so many young voices to praise God through music!

Adventures in the Bible



We want your children to join us for a new adventure!

Adventures in the Bible, a Sunday morning gathering for children ages 2-7 and their parent(s) or grandparent(s), will begin on September 18, 2016. Together, we will explore a Bible story, bring the story to life with an activity or craft, and sing songs of praise.

Join us to prepare for the next part of the journey . . . worship!

Keep watching for more details!



We will be offering a confirmation class this year for any student in grades 7-12 who is ready to dig deeper in their faith and learn what it means to belong to the church.

Confirmation will meet on Sundays at 11:30. There will a meeting on Sunday, September 18 at 11:30 for all parents and youth who are interested in confirmation.

If you have any questions or concerns prior to this meeting, please contact Nancy Dennen.



All youth grades 4-12 are invited to join us on

September 23rd

6:30-8:30pm

Bring a friend! New faces always welcome.

3rd Grade Bible Presentation

Sunday, September 11

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

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





We are resuming our get togethers on September 22nd at Char Lyon's home at 7:00. Please come join us. We always love new members. For September we will be discussing: **Behind the Beautiful Forevers** by Katherine Boo. In this brilliant, breathtaking book by Pulitzer Prize winner Katherine Boo, a bewildering age of global change and inequality is made human through the dramatic story of families striving toward a better life in Annawadi, a makeshift settlement in the shadow of luxury hotels near the Mumbai airport. As India starts to prosper, the residents of Annawadi are electric with hope. Abdul, an enterprising teenager, sees "a fortune beyond counting" in the recyclable garbage that richer people throw away. Meanwhile Asha, a woman of formidable ambition, has identified a shadier route to the middle class. With a little luck, her beautiful daughter, Annawadi's "most-everything girl," might become its first female college graduate. And even the poorest children, like the young thief Kalu, feel themselves inching closer to their dreams. But then Abdul is falsely accused in a shocking tragedy; terror and global recession rock the city; and suppressed tensions over religion, caste, sex, power, and economic envy turn brutal. With intelligence, humor, and deep insight into what connects people to one another in an era of tumultuous change, *Behind the Beautiful Forevers*, based on years of uncompromising reporting, carries the reader headlong into one of the twenty-first century's hidden worlds—and into the hearts of families impossible to forget.

Seasonal Farm Workers

The seasonal farm workers have arrived in Newton Township. As you may know, our church has been reaching out in friendship and solidarity for over twenty years. Our men's breakfast group will begin to provide a simple weekly breakfast on Wednesdays. If you would like to take part, contact Jack Pittman. We will let you know of other activities as they are planned.

STEPHEN MINISTRY



What Is Stephen Ministry?

Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ (Galatians 6:2, NRSV).

Stephen Ministry is the one-to-one lay caring ministry that takes place in congregations that use the Stephen Series system.

Stephen Ministry congregations equip and empower lay caregivers—called Stephen Ministers—to provide high-quality, confidential, Christ-centered care to people who are hurting.

Talk to one of our Stephen Leaders, John Conklin, Judy Cutler, or Rev. Bill Carter if you want more information.

Clothing Donations

St. Francis clothing center is in need of clean, gently used lightweight clothing for men and women. They are looking particularly for men's shorts, t-shirts, jeans. They can be delivered to the box in Fellowship Hall.

RELAX, RELATE, RENEW

Presbyterian Women have scheduled their annual Relax, Relate, Renew for Tuesday evening, September 13 at 6:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall of the church. We will begin with a covered dish/potluck supper. For our program, Rev. Rebecca Tanner will give us an overview of the upcoming Bible Study, "Who Is Jesus?" This study will take us on a journey that will expand our understanding of who Jesus was and is. There is no simple answer that we will agree upon. It is a journey of our hearts and our minds, a journey that we will take together.

Please join us, and bring a friend.





2016-2017 Arts at First Presbyterian concert series



Jenn Cowgill

The 2016-2017 Arts at First Presbyterian concert series starts off with a bang when a pair of outstanding Marywood music faculty members entertain us on October 16, 2016. Soprano Jennifer Cowgill will perform in the first half of the program with flutist Diane Schultz and pianist Rick Hoffenberg, while violinist Sophie Till will highlight the second half of the program. For our all-church recital in November, we have invited Monsignor Quinn and a choir from Our Lady of Snows Church to join us. Ice Festival activities in February, 2017 will have a Broadway theme, and we will have a Broadway revue of our own. The Presbybop Quartet returns to the series in April, 2017. After Bill's visit to the Brubeck musical library, I bet we'll hear a little Brubeck!



Sophie Till

Please mark these dates on your calendar:

Sunday, October 16, 2016 4:00 pm	Jennifer Cowgill, Sophie Till
Sunday, November 20, 2016 4:00 pm	All-church recital
Friday thru Sunday, February 10-12, 2017	Ice Festival activities
Sunday, March 12, 2017 4:00 pm	Collegiate choir
Sunday, April 23, 2017 4:00 pm	Presbybop Jazz Quartet

All concerts and events will be held at the church. They are open to the public, free of charge, but a free-will offering is taken to help defray the costs of the events. We receive some financial support from state and county grants, but rely heavily on the support of individual donors to produce the series.

Please consider supporting the Arts Series at First Presbyterian Church. Donations may be made payable to:

First Presbyterian Church
 300 School Street
 Clarks Summit, PA 18411

Donors will be recognized in the concert programs.



Joys and Sorrows



Sympathy of the congregation is extended to the family and friends of Janice Liddic, who passed away August 8.



We extend our most heartfelt thanks for the many comforting thoughts, cards, memories and prayers received by us after Paul/Dad's death. He often commented on the kindness and numerous good deeds rendered within the church and our community by FPCCS members. We share those sentiments and are quite grateful.

Nancy Ford and Barb Wadsworth

To my wonderful church family,

It's hard to find the right words to say how I feel about the support you gave my family during my difficult ordeal. Thank you does not seem to be enough for all your prayers, thoughts, cards, flowers, and food you showered upon me, Brian, Jana, and Laura. We all appreciate your kindness and I was especially overwhelmed by the outpouring of love and best wishes. It is nice to know that so many people had us in their hearts and minds. May the good Lord bless all of you.

Sincerely,
Nina Schillinger

Lectionary Readings

September 4

Jeremiah 18:1-11
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
Philemon 1-21
Luke 14:25-33

September 11

Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28
Psalm 14
I Timothy 1:12-17
Luke 15:1-10

September 18

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1
Psalm 79:1-9
I Timothy 2:1-7
Luke 16:1-13

September 25

Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15
Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16
1 Timothy 6:6-19
Luke 16:19-31



Ushers For September

Meg Hatch and Jack Pittman

Welcomers:

September 4 - John Conklin
September 11 - Jean & Bill Siebecker
September 18 - Sandra & Steuart Bailey
September 25 - Janet Stansbury

THANK YOU!

VBS is only possible because of our incredible volunteer staff.

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





FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

300 School Street
Clarks Summit, PA 18411-1536

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
Permit No. 30
P A I D
Clarks Summit PA

DATED MATERIAL

Return Service Requested



Calling all teachers!

The Wednesday Adulthood and Youth Christian Education Program (the WAY), offers classes for all ages every week. Christian Education is an important part of who we are and what we do — and you can be a part of it! Help us all to grow in Christ by volunteering to teach...at any grade level for any amount of time, you can lead our children and adults in learning and growth. Please prayerfully consider helping with this important ministry.

Contact Nancy Dennen at (570) 407-1037 for more information.



Helpers Needed!

The W.A.Y. is looking for people to help with our meals. You are welcome to help once in a while, once a month, or whenever you are able!

You can help by:

Cooking or helping to cook a main dish, providing a salad, providing a dessert, helping with setup, or helping with cleanup.

If so, contact Nancy Dennen at (570) 407-1037.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
				7am - AA Meeting 8:30am - Men's 4:30pm - Staff 5pm - Counseling 7pm - Building and 7pm - Christian Ed	7am - AA Meeting	7am - AA Meeting 4pm - 5th Quarter
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Jazz Communion 7am - AA Meeting	Labor Day	7am - AA Meeting 10am - PW 7pm - Big Book	7am - AA Meeting 11am - Prayer and 6pm - Child Safety	7am - AA Meeting 5pm - Counseling	7am - AA Meeting	7am - AA Meeting 9am - Adopt-A-
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
7am - AA Meeting 10am - Worship 11am - WAY rollout	7am - AA Meeting 12pm - Weight 6:30pm - Worship,	7am - AA Meeting 10am - MBK Quilts 6pm - Relax, Relate, 7pm - Big Book 7pm - Session	7am - AA Meeting 11am - Prayer and 1pm - LP COM 5pm - WAY program	7am - AA Meeting 8:30am - Men's 5pm - Counseling 6:30pm - Fellowship	Presbyter Deadline 7am - AA Meeting	Wilkes Retreat 7am - AA Meeting 4pm - 5th Quarter
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Wilkes Retreat 7am - AA Meeting 10am - Worship 11:15am - Confirmat	7am - AA Meeting 12pm - Weight	7am - AA Meeting 10am - PW Dorcas 1:30pm - PW 7pm - Big Book 7pm - PW Eunice	7am - AA Meeting 11am - Prayer and 5pm - WAY program	7am - AA Meeting 5pm - Counseling 7pm - FPC Book	7am - AA Meeting	7am - AA Meeting 4pm - 5th Quarter
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
Worship Through 7am - AA Meeting 10am - Worship	7am - AA Meeting 12pm - Weight	7am - AA Meeting 10am - MBK Quilts 7pm - Big Book 7pm - Deacons	7am - AA Meeting 9am - Presbyter 11am - Prayer and 5pm - WAY program	7am - AA Meeting 5pm - Counseling	7am - AA Meeting	