



# The Presbyter

January 2018

The First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit



**MARTIN  
LUTHER  
KING JR.  
★ DAY ★**

January 15

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."

—Martin Luther King Jr.

Resolve to Be There!

Let our New Year's resolution be this: We will be there for one another as fellow members of humanity, in the finest sense of the word. —Goran Persson

**It's a Holy Hootenanny!**

**Sunday, January 21, 2:00 p.m.**

**During the Week of  
Prayer for Christian Unity 2018**

**Featuring the Choirs and Voices of the  
Abington Ecumenical Ministerium**

**St. Benedict's Church**

**1849 Newton Ransom Blvd, Clarks Summit**

## **THANK YOU! From the Mission and Justice Committee**

Robin Pinches

Your Mission and Justice committee would like to thank you for your generous support that enables us to assist many people in need in our community and around the world.

Locally, our 2017 end of year support included Catherine McAuley Center, Children's Advocacy Center, United Neighborhood's Post Foster Care program, Catholic Social Services refugee program, Countryside Conservancy, Infant Care program at Covenant Presbyterian, Friends of the Poor, and the Weinberg Food Bank.

Internationally, we supported Groundswell International in Haiti and the Reaching the Pygmies Ministry in Uganda.

We are grateful that we can offer donations on your behalf due to the generosity and giving spirit of First Presbyterian Church CS.

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## Notes from Special Session Meeting Held on Sunday, December 10, 2017

Beverly Bright, clerk

1. Session passed the 2018 budget as presented from the Finance committee. Session would like to thank members and friends for their on-going support of our work.
2. The Northeast Philharmonic accepted an invitation by the Session of First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit to perform a fundraising concert in our sanctuary. This concert will be held on Friday, May 25, 2018. Further information will be forthcoming.



It's time to write our annual reports.

All committee chairpersons, Board Moderators, and program leaders are encouraged to share the good news of your committee's activities

for 2017 and goals for 2018.

Please forward your report (electronically if possible) to the church office by January 12, 2018.

The Presbyterian deadline for  
the January issue is  
January 19, 2018

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.

|  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| <b>Church Office</b>                       | <b>(570) 586-6306</b> |
| <b>Fax</b>                                 | <b>(570) 587-3784</b> |
| <b>Web Page</b>                            | <b>www.fpccs.org</b>  |
| <b>Pastor</b>                              | William G. Carter     |
| <b>Administrative Assistant</b>            | Nancy Owens           |
| <b>Coordinator of Children &amp; Youth</b> | Jana Schillinger      |
| <b>Treasurer</b>                           | Wayne Griffiths       |
| <b>Editor</b>                              |                       |
| <b>Clerk of Session</b>                    | Beverly Bright        |
| <b>Director of Music</b>                   | Frank Jones           |
| <b>Director of Bells</b>                   | Richard Cochrane      |
| <b>Director of Chapel Choir</b>            | Kay Ten Eyck          |
| <b>Organist</b>                            | Kay Ten Eyck          |
| <b>Sexton</b>                              | John Conklin          |

## This church has a wish list . . .

Ever wonder what our church needs? Here is our end of the year wish list.

- Bench for the new Clavinova keyboard (\$70)
- Anthem for the children's choir (\$30)
- Anthem for the adult choir (\$75)
- ~~Music folders for the adult choir (\$200)~~
- Padding for the Baldwin piano (\$70)
- ~~Cover for the Baldwin piano, custom made (\$200)~~
- Help us hire an instrumentalist (\$125 to \$200)
- Scholarships for camps and conferences (any amount)

Feel free to claim any of these extra-commitment items, especially by the end of the year. Simply notify the church office of your desire (office@fpccs.org) and make a check payable to First Presbyterian Church.

Thank you for assisting us in praising, teaching, and serving Jesus Christ!

## FROM YOUR FINANCE COMMITTEE for the month ending November 30, 2017

### REVENUE

|                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Budget          | \$323,125      |
| Actual Received | <u>306,574</u> |
| Difference      | \$ 16,551      |

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### EXPENSES

|                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Budget          | \$336,002      |
| Actual Expenses | <u>327,262</u> |
| Difference      | \$ 8,740       |

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BUDGET VARIANCE \$ (7,811)

### PLEDGE INCOME

|            |                |
|------------|----------------|
| Budget     | \$293,333      |
| Received   | <u>282,212</u> |
| Difference | (\$ 11,121 )   |

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Per Capita 2017 is \$32 per member. As of the end of November \$3,512 has been contributed to per capita.

## From the Pastor

### January 2018

Winter is often a season of reflection for me. The pace of December slows down dramatically. Unpredicted snow days offer the opportunity to catch up on my reading. Reminders of life's slippery nature provide frequent moments for prayer.

It is a time for deepening our spiritual life. In the Epiphany light that follows Christmas, I hope you make the most of the quiet, engaging in whatever practices will nourish your soul and sustain your spirit. There is light to be found in the shadows of January.

As nature prepares to nestle down for a long winter's nap, my heart turns to poetry, that condensed habit of communicating deep wisdom through a few words. Here are two post-Christmas poems by Madeleine L'Engle which are percolating up in my imagination:

### The glory

Without any rhyme  
Without any reason  
My heart lifts to light  
In this bleak season

Believer and wanderer  
Caught by salvation  
Stumbler and blunderer  
Into Creation

In this cold blight  
Where marrow is frozen  
It is God's time  
My heart has chosen

In paradox and story  
Parable and laughter  
Find I the glory  
Here in hereafter

With you in the journey,

*Rev. Bill*

### Into the darkest hour

It was a time like this,  
War and tumult of war,  
A horror in the air.  
Hungry yawned the abyss –  
And yet there came the star  
And the child most wonderfully there.

It was a time like this  
Of fear and lust for power,  
License and greed and blight –  
And yet the Prince of bliss  
Came into the darkest hour  
In quiet and silent light.

And in a time like this  
How celebrate his birth  
When all things fall apart?  
Ah! Wonderful it is  
With no room on the earth  
The stable is our heart.



**Check out our pastor's online sermon blog at [www.billcartersermons.blogspot.com](http://www.billcartersermons.blogspot.com)**

## Christian Education



It's for life!

## THE W.A.Y.

The Wednesday Aadults and Youth Christian Education

"I am the WAY, the TRUTH, and the LIFE"

## Classes for Children and Youth

**Spark (Newborn - 3 year old)** enjoy Bible stories, songs and games in the nursery. Wise Men, Jesus' Baptism, the Disciples, and the Lord's Prayer.

**Power Xpress (4 year old - Grade 5)** experience Bible stories through interactive rotation classes. January's units will focus on Jesus' baptism, feeding the 5,000, and parables of lost and found.

**We Believe (Grades 6-8)** Using *We Believe: The Story of God's Faithfulness*, the class will spend the year digging deeper into the Old Testament, learning and experiencing how God revealed himself to the Hebrew people. In January we'll learn about the call of Moses, how the Hebrews were freed from slavery, and wandering in the desert.

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

## Our Wednesday Evening Schedule

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| 5:00-6:10 pm | Light supper begins                      |
| 5:30-6:10    | Chapel Choir Rehearsal                   |
| 6:15-7:10    | Christian Education classes for All Ages |
| 7:15-8:25    | Adult Choir                              |
| 8:30-9:15    | Bell Choir                               |

## Wednesday Classes for Adults

Beginning on January 3, we welcome Dr. Marwan Wafa, Chancellor of the Penn State Worthington campus. A practicing Muslim, Dr. Wafa will make a presentation with Rev. Carter on "Understanding Islam." The class may be extended if there is sufficient interest.

In following weeks, Tabbi Miller Scandle, Phil Muntzel, and Charlie Pinches will lead classes on various dimensions of Christian ethics.

And on January 24, Rev. Carter will lead a two-week conversation on "What is Spiritual?"

Come to grow your brain and enlarge your heart!



## 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.



**Adventures in the Bible** meets each **Sunday at 9:00 a.m.** for children ages 2 to 7 and parent(s) in room 110. The children will hear a story from the

Bible, then participate in activities that will reinforce the story.

Don't miss out on all the fun! Contact Karis Naeher at [klnaeher@outlook.com](mailto:klnaeher@outlook.com) or Tabbi Miller-Scandle at [tabbi.miller-scandle@scranton.edu](mailto:tabbi.miller-scandle@scranton.edu)

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All youth grades 4-12 are invited to join us  
 Sunday, January 14th  
 12:00-2:00pm  
 and  
 Sunday, January 28th  
 12:00-2:00pm

Bring a friend!  
 New faces always welcome.

**Calling all teachers!**

The Wednesday Adults 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 / assisting with a main dish
- \* Providing a salad or dessert
- \* Setting up or cleaning up

Contact Karen White or Nancy Dennen to volunteer!



**Board of Deacons**

Care Team Ministry **Coordinators are:**

|  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| Independent & Assisted Living:             | Sara Ann Hosier 587-0371 |
| Deacon Meals:                              | Donna Kepler 587-2729    |
| Time of Loss:                              | Anne Rich 587-2802       |
| Emergency Home Repairs<br>And Maintenance: | Joe Waters 586-7233      |

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.

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN CIRCLE BIBLE STUDIES

Mary Ellen Lawlor

Maybe one of your new goals for 2018 is to spend more time reading and studying God's Word.

Our Bible Study in Hebrews can help you achieve that goal. We meet the 3rd Tuesday of each month at the church. The Dorcas and Priscilla Circles meet together at 10:00 a.m. and the Eunice Circle meets at 7:00 p.m. on January 16.

All women are invited. We have studied about four foundation stones for our Wall of Faith and Cloud of Witnesses— Jesus Christ, the Living God, the Living Word and God's Messengers, the Angels.

Our lesson for January by Melissa Sevier will be In Community with the Tradition of the Past. "We will examine the tradition from which Hebrews draws and our own faith tradition. We don't exist to serve the past but we do learn from it, its successes and its errors; it informs our present and our future." We look forward to starting the New Year studying God's Word together.



### Pillars of the Earth

by Ken Follett

A radical departure from Follett's novels of international suspense and intrigue, this chronicles the vicissitudes of a prior, his master builder, and their community as they struggle to build a cathedral and protect themselves during the tumultuous 12<sup>th</sup> century when the empress Maud and Stephen are fighting for the crown of England after the death of Henry I. The plot is less tightly controlled than those in Follett's contemporary works, and despite the wealth of historical detail, especially concerning architecture and construction, much of the language as well as the psychology of the characters and their relationships remains firmly rooted in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. This will appeal more to lovers of exciting adventure stories than true devotees of historical fiction.

We will meet on January 25, 7:00 p.m., at Nancy London's home.

### Check Out The Library!

Amanda Roberts

Or, better yet,  
check out a book  
from the library!

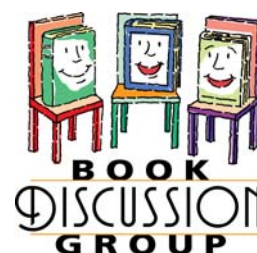


I know, many of you may think that "books" are something that come through an app on your phone or tablet. But for those of you who value the feeling of holding a printed hard copy, we still have some.

It's an interesting collection at that - some old, some new, maybe something of interest to you.

We've created a few new categories, rearranged others, and made some signs to help you find what you're looking for.

*So check it out - and check out a book!*




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**Light bulbs are no longer being accepted for recycling at First Presbyterian Church.** Bulbs can be recycled at Lowe's in Dickson City.

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# NEW YEAR'S NOISE-MAKERS

Ring in the New Year with these fun noisemakers!

**What you need:**

- Wooden craft sticks
- Metallic paint (gold and silver)
- Paint brushes
- Jingle bells (gold and silver)
- Hot glue gun
- Metallic ribbon
- Scissors
- Adult help

**What you do:**

1. Paint half the sticks gold and half silver. Let dry.
2. Glue three bells to each stick.
3. Cut a six-inch piece of ribbon for each stick. Tie a bow and glue it to the noisemaker. Celebrate!



# A NEW CREATION

The apostle Paul says everyone who believes in Jesus becomes brand new.

*Directions: Cross out every third letter. Then write the remaining letters in the blanks to complete 2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV.*

T H I E R O E F Q O R X E I D F A M N Y A O N  
 S E I L S I T N C V H R K I S D T T B H E W N E  
 Q W C D R E Y A T M I O C N H F A S W C O R  
 M E G T H W E O F L D X H A S S G Z O N L  
 E T J H E W N E Q W I D S H R E R O E

-----, -----

-----, -----

-----:

-----, -----

----- ! 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17, NIV

Answer: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! 2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV

Joys

Sorrows

Thank You

# Baptism

Henry Allen Taylor, son of Grant and Allyson Taylor, was baptized on December 31, 2017 by Rev. Carter. Assisting with the baptism was elder Bob Taylor, Henry's grandfather. Blessings and best wishes to all!



We have received word of the passing of Marilyn Roth on December 1, 2017. A long-time member here, she had relocated several years ago to be closer to family. Those who knew her will remember her fondly.

## Lectionary Readings

### January 7

Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29;  
Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11

### January 14

1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20);  
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18;  
1 Corinthians 6:12-20; John 1:43-51

### January 21

Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 62:5-12;  
1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20

### January 28

Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111;  
1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28

## HOLIDAY PAJAMA DRIVE

A huge **THANK YOU** to everyone who purchased pajamas for 91 children that are participants in 4 area Head Start Centers.

A special thanks also to the elves that helped out with cutting out and labeling all the gift tags.

Christian Education and Growth Committee



|            |                              |
|------------|------------------------------|
| January 1  | Jessie Davis                 |
| January 10 | Warren L. Grill              |
| January 16 | Dana Miller                  |
| January 17 | Margaret Reese<br>John Weiss |
| January 21 | Connie Weiss                 |
| January 26 | Char Lyon                    |
| January 28 | Briar Woodley                |
| January 30 | Lucy Earl                    |

## January Ushers

Gayle Hamilton, SaraAnn Hosier

## Communion Servers

January 7

Diana Scheuer, Captain

Betsy Ellis, Robin Pinches

Steve Selige, Gayle Hamilton



| Sunday  | Monday  | Tuesday   | Wednesday  | Thursday   | Friday                                | Saturday |
|---|---|---|--|--|---------------------------------------|----------|
|   | 1   | 2   | 3  | 4  | 5                                     | 6        |
|   | 7am-AA<br><br>HAPPY NEW YEAR!   | 7am-AA<br>10am-PW Board Mtg.<br>6pm-OA<br>7pm-Big Book                                  | 7am-AA<br>11am-Prayer/Share<br>5pm-The W.A.Y. Light supper<br>6:15-Christian Ed.<br>7:15-Adult Choir<br>8:00-AlAnon<br>8:30-Bell Choir   | 7am-AA<br>6pm-Alleluia Choir<br>7pm-Building & Grounds<br>7pm-Christian Ed.<br>7pm-Finance | 7am-AA                                | 7am-AA   |
| 7   | 8   | 9   | 10   | 11   | 12                                    | 13       |
| 7am-AA<br>9am-Adventures in the Bible<br>10am-Worship<br>3pm-OA   | 7am-AA<br>6pm-Weight Watchers   | 7am-AA<br>10am-MBK Quilts<br>6pm-OA<br>7pm-Session<br>7pm-Big Book                      | 7am-AA<br>11am-Prayer/Share<br>5pm-The W.A.Y. Light supper<br>5:30-Chapel Ch.<br>6:15-Christian Ed.<br>7:15-Adult Choir<br>8:00-Alanon<br>8:30-Bell Choir                          | 7am-AA<br>8:30-Men's Breakfast<br>4:30-Staff<br>6pm-Alleluia Choir                         | 7am-AA<br>Deadline for Annual Reports | 7am-AA   |
| 14  | 15  | 16  | 17   | 18   | 19                                    | 20       |
| 7am-AA<br>9am-Adventures in the Bible<br>10am-Worship<br>11:15-Worship, Music, & Arts<br>12pm-Youth Fellowship<br>3pm-OA        | 7am-AA<br>6pm-Weight Watchers<br><br>Observance of Birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.<br><br>Church Office is closed. | 7am-AA<br>10am-Dorcas & Priscilla Circle<br>6pm-OA<br>7pm-Eunice Circle<br>7pm-Big Book | 7am-AA<br>11am-Prayer/Share<br>5pm-The W.A.Y. Light supper<br>5:30-Chapel Ch.<br>6:15-Christian Ed.<br>7:15-Adult Choir<br>8:00-Alanon<br>8:30-Bell Choir                          | 7am-AA   | 7am-AA<br>Presbyter Deadline          | 7am-AA   |
| 21  | 22  | 23  | 24   | 25   | 26                                    | 27       |
| 7am-AA<br>9am-Adventures in the Bible<br>10am-Worship<br>11:15-Fellowship Committee<br>3pm-OA                                   | 7am-AA<br>6pm-Weight Watchers   | 7am-AA<br>10am-MBK Quilts<br>6pm-OA<br>6:30pm-Deacons<br>7pm-Big Book                   | 7am-AA<br>11am-Prayer/Share<br>5pm-The W.A.Y. Light supper<br>5:30-Chapel Ch.<br>6:15-Christian Ed.<br>7:15-Adult Choir<br>8:00-Alanon<br>8:30-Bell Choir                          | 7am-AA<br>8:30-Men's Breakfast<br>7pm-FPC Book Group                                       | 7am-AA                                | 7am-AA   |
| 28  | 29  | 30  | 31   | <p><b>First Presbyterian Church</b><br/><b>January 2018</b></p>                            |                                       |          |
| 7am-AA<br>9am-Adventures in the Bible<br>10am-Worship<br>11am-Table Talk: Weinberg Food Bank<br>12pm-Youth Fellowship<br>3pm-OA | 7am-AA<br>6pm-Weight Watchers   | 7am-AA<br>6pm-OA<br>7pm-Big Book  | 7am-AA<br>9am-Presbyter Mailing<br>11am-Prayer/Share<br>5pm-The W.A.Y. Light supper<br>5:30-Chapel Ch.<br>6:15-Christian Ed.<br>7:15-Adult Choir<br>8:00-Alanon<br>8:30-Bell Choir |  |                                       |          |



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
300 School Street  
Clarks Summit, PA 18411-1536

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Clarks Summit PA

**DATED MATERIAL**

**Return Service Requested**



**Attention Men’s Breakfast Group:** The January meeting dates have been changed. **Please come for breakfast and Bible study on January 11 and January 25.** The regular schedule (of first and third Thursdays) will resume in February

**The Annual Meeting** of the congregation and corporation of First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit has been called for Sunday, February 4, 2018 at 11:45 a.m., following our morning worship service and a potluck luncheon.

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**Per Capita assessment** for 2018 is \$33 per member. The money will be distributed as follows:

|                             |             |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| To Lackawanna Presbytery    | \$22.97     |
| To Synod of the Trinity     | 2.30        |
| General Assembly of PC(USA) | <u>7.73</u> |
|                             | \$33.00     |

**The Clarks Summit Festival of Ice** will take place Friday thru Sunday, **February 16-18, 2018.**

The theme is *“The Wizarding World of Ice”* and in keeping with the theme, we will host a visit from **Eddy Ray**, “Pennsylvania’s Busiest Magician”.

Check February’s newsletter for more details.