



The Presbyter

November 2018

The First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit

The Rafters will be Ringing with Song!

Come to the All-Church Recital

Sunday, November 11, 2018 4:00 p.m.

The
Arts
at First Presbyterian Church

The second concert in the 2018-2019 Arts at First Presbyterian concert series will be held on Sunday, November 11 at 4 p.m. This event will feature all the musical ensembles at the church along with vocal and instrumental soloists and ensembles. In honor of Veterans' Day, the FPC Adult Choir will perform "Song for the Unsung Hero" and a variety of other selections under the direction of Frank Jones, Director of Music at the church. Frank is an elementary music teacher in the Dallas School District, and director of children's and youth programs for the Choral Society of Northeast Pennsylvania. Other participants in the concert include the Bell Choir, directed by Richard Cochrane, and the Children's and Youth Choirs, led by Kay Ten Eyck, who is church organist and accompanist for the choirs.

This event is open to the public, free of charge, but a free-will offering will be taken. The concert series receives support from the Pennsylvania Partners in the Arts Program (administered by the Pocono Arts Council), a Lackawanna County Arts & Cultural Grant, and numerous individual donors. If you would like to support the series, please write a check with "Arts Series" in the memo block and deposit in the offering plate or mail to the church.



For more information, please call the church at 570-586-6306 or visit www.fpccs.org.

First Presbyterian Church
300 School Street
Clarks Summit, PA 18411

Donors will be recognized in the concert programs.

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Notes from the Session Meeting on October 8, 2018

1. Session would like to thank members and friends of the congregation for their participation in our Worship Through Service Day in September.
2. Our Education piece for October was a discussion on the Traditional and the Missional congregations.
3. The Northeastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic thanked First Presbyterian Church for working for them. Another concert is planned for January 17, 2019. Further information will be forthcoming.

Beverly Bright, Clerk of Session

The Presbyterian deadline for the December issue is November 16.

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
Coordinator of Children & Youth	Jana Schillinger
Treasurer	Wayne Griffiths
Editor	Amanda Roberts
Clerk of Session	Beverly Bright

The Norton Fund

The Norton Fund was established to minister to the special needs of church members and attending non-members by providing financial aid with Christian love.

On Sunday, November 18, the loose-plate offering will be added to the Norton Fund. Please contribute to it as you are able.

Board of Deacons

Care Team Ministry **Coordinators are:**

Independent & Assisted Living:	Donna Kepler 587-2729
Deacon Meals:	Donna Kepler 587-2729
Time of Loss:	Anne Rich 587-2802
Emergency Home Repairs 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.

FROM YOUR FINANCE COMMITTEE FOR THE MONTH ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2018

REVENUE

Budget	\$ 275,501
Actual Received	- <u>243,769</u>
Difference	\$ (31,732)
	=====

EXPENSES

Budget	\$ 284,780
Actual Expenses	- <u>268,520</u>
Difference	\$ 16,260
	=====

BUDGET VARIANCE \$ (15,472)

PLEDGE INCOME

Budget	\$ 240,000
Received	- <u>225,161</u>
Difference	\$ (14,839)

Per Capita 2018 is \$33 per member. As of the end of September, \$3,255 has been contributed.

From the Pastor November 2018

I am at the point of life when I begin to think about a legacy. Someday, when I'm gone, what will I leave behind?

A recent visit with the lawyer provided the opportunity to update my will. He had told me it's a good idea to update it every five years or so. So I reviewed a previous version and decided to delete a few bequests. Having acquired a large collection of jazz LP's, I once thought of leaving them to my college library. But they are LP records – who listens to them? And upon sampling a few recently, I was reminded of how many scratches were on them. No need to give to somebody else a gift that has no value!



What about my books? Not much better, I'm afraid. Over thirty five years of acquisition, there are some gems. But I spent four summer days in Virginia Miner's attic, boxing up the library that she left behind after her passing last winter. I discovered the bitter truth: her books are now worth pennies on the dollar. Nobody is buying that thick Bible commentary that cost \$65 per volume, which was a hard word to share with Virginia's family. When I reflect on it, it is her lessons of courage, clarity, and fierce friendship which are her legacy to me.

What will we leave behind? Plenty, I'm sure. When my mother-in-law passed away last month, she left some exquisite glassware. It's tinted red, and has been a family treasure for many years. As we quickly discovered, we have lots of glassware in the cupboard and little room for any more. Our kids don't value it, the antique dealers wouldn't take it. For the time being, it is a reminder of Loraine's life and love. Yet the truth is, her life and love have shaped our family in more dramatic and less tangible ways, creating in our family the ability to love without hesitation. She would be proud of that legacy.

What will I leave behind? Fragments of used sermons may linger in the air, but not for long. They evaporate like perfume or other odors. I have two cabinets full of old manuscripts (and three CD-R's), yet there are no requests for back copies. Sermons are situational engagements with scripture, set in a time and place. The old sermon with the Pee Wee Herman illustration wouldn't work so well these days. The Murphy Brown anecdote doesn't hold up to a reprise.

We hang onto our worldly goods a lot longer than they are useful. Our work has been useful in its time, but the legacy will be in the impact our work has made on others. That is difficult to measure. But it is the desire to make a contribution, somehow, that will be our lasting legacy. So I'm giving some thought about what kind of contribution I might make to this church that I love. Believe me, I have no intent of checking out early, but I want to ensure that my wishes will continue. So I've made a provision for our congregation in my will: ten percent of my residual estate. I believe in this church and want its future to be strong. I can't think of a better legacy.

Like I said, at 58, I'm thinking about these things. I want to do something about them while I can. How about you?

With you in the journey,

Rev. Bill Carter

Book Group: Nov. 29 @ Gilbert home**Stay: Lessons My Dog Taught Me About Life, Loss, and Grace**

by Dave Burchett



Dave Burchett has written a truly wonderful book. I don't know when I've shed so many tears, laughed so much, and been moved as deeply. It's not just because I'm a lover of dogs (I am), but because this book is profound, refreshing, biblical, and true. It "smells like Jesus!" Read it and give it to everyone you know. They will rise up and call you blessed. (Steve Brown, Founder of Key Life Network)

When you're in a fierce battle against breast cancer, be on the lookout for people—or pets—through whom God delivers His most heartwarming encouragement. My friend Joni Burchett was in the cancer battle for her life, but God blessed her with His warm, personal touch through the pawprints of her Labrador retriever, Hannah. But this isn't any "dog story." This is a book filled with courage, yet tenderness; bravery, yet gentleness. I highly recommend *Stay* to anyone who is looking for a fresh and unusual touch from the Lord! (Joni Eareckson Tada, Founder of Joni and Friends International Disability Center)

You can count on one opposable thumb how many books hold my interest. But Dave Burchett has written an incredible piece that describes what we've been trying to model to you all about God's grace, His astonishing love, and what life feels like when humans discover who He's remade them to be, even on their worst day. And the pages smell like a freshly cut lawn. I gotta get my master to read this!

If you would like more information about the group or up-coming titles, contact Judy Cutler at 570-446-9310 or jdragonflyc@hotmail.com

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN CIRCLE BIBLE STUDIES

Do you get discouraged, at times, while living for God? We will read in Deuteronomy 31:6-8, Joshua 1:9 and Haggai 2:4 how God helped His OT people. These texts remind us that He will help us also.

In our November Bible Study "God with us in Our Discouragement," we will focus on God's promise "I am with you," to give us courage, strength, boldness and hope, when on our own we would lose heart. Along with Moses, Aaron, Caleb, and Joshua we will discuss our woman of interest, Miriam.

You definitely won't want to miss the story of the Arlington Presbyterian Church in Arlington, VA. and you certainly will be thinking and singing "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah" for weeks to come afterwards. We will look forward to seeing you again at our November 20 Circle Bible Study at the church. The times are still 10:00 a.m. for Dorcas and Priscilla Circles and 7:00 p.m. for Eunice Circle.

If you need a ride please call Barbara Pittman at 570-587-2050 and Bonnie Plantholt at 570-212-1566 for 10:00 a.m. and Kate Hopkins at 570-587-2390 and Barbara Mellander at 570-587-5236 for 7:00 p.m.

Mary Ellen Lawlor

National Donor Sabbath 2018 will be celebrated on November 9 – 11. It seeks to educate faith-based communities about the need for organ and tissue donors. This national initiative partners with houses of worship to educate congregations about the critical need for donors and to dispel myths about the donation process. All major religions support organ and tissue donation.

The 201st Presbyterian General Assembly in 1989 approved the Overture presented by the Presbytery of Grace to endorse the donation of organs and tissues in keeping with Christian faith and stewardship and as a part of our ministry to others in the name of Christ, who gave His life for us. You can read the complete Overture on the November Mission & Justice bulletin board in the narthex.

The need for organ and tissue donation remains enormous. In Gift of Life's service area – eastern Pennsylvania, southern New Jersey, and Delaware – 5,400 men, women, and children are waiting for life-saving organ transplants. Just one organ donor can give the gift of life to up to eight people, and one tissue donor can benefit as many as 75 others.

There is no set age limit for organ and tissue donation. At the time of death, trained medical professionals will evaluate patients on a case-by-case basis to determine if a donor is medically suitable for donation. Therefore, people of any age wishing to become a donor should indicate it on their driver's license and inform their family of their wishes.

Mission and Justice

On November 11 we will be having our annual **Alternative Gift Market** after the Worship Service at 10 a.m., and after the All Church Choir Concert at 4 p.m. Please join us for a creative and meaningful shopping experience that will help a variety of people both in our country and around the world.

Whether you buy paintings from Haiti, fair trade coffee, crafts or jewelry from distant countries, a heifer to assist a needy family, a bed for a Ugandan Pygmy family, or delicious candy that contributes to Appalachian Service Project, there will be plenty of choices for gifts for your loved ones. Consider giving a gift this year that is more than "stuff", and help make a difference in someone's life.

Thanks to the generosity of this congregation, \$1,410 has been donated toward the **Peace & Global Witness Offering, 2018.**



That means that \$352, or ¼ of the total will be sent to the Florence Immigrant & Refugee Rights Project, while the remainder will be sent to the Presbyterian Mission Agency for peacemaking efforts in the US and around the world.

Thank you again for your participation in this important mission as we strive to offer the peace of Christ at all times and in all ways.

The Mission & Justice Committee is sponsoring another trip to help **CEO Weinberg NE Regional Food Bank** distribute Thanksgiving meals to hungry families in Northeast PA. Last year they distributed Thanksgiving meals to over 9,000 families between their Wilkes-Barre, Hazelton, and Tunkhannock sites. We will volunteer from 9 A.M. – 12 P.M. on **Saturday, November 17, 2018** at the old Sears location at the Wyoming Valley Mall. We will meet at the church at 8 A.M. to carpool to Wilkes-Barre. If interested in participating, please call Diane Scheuer at 570-362-3276 or email divinends@gmail.com.



All youth grades 6-12
are invited to join us
on

Saturday, November 17th , 7-10pm
for Games in the Dark.

Bring a friend! New faces always welcome.

Helpers Needed!

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



Cook or help to cook a main dish; Provide a salad or a
dessert; Help with setup; Help with cleanup.

Contact Karen White or

Tabbi Miller-Scandle to volunteer!



The Wednesday Addults 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 Tabbi Miller-Scandle at (570)562-6118
for more information.

Wednesday Evening Schedule

5:00-6:10 pm	Light supper *
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

*Please make a reservation for supper by filling out a slip found in the church office, the kitchen, or in pews and returning it in the offering plate or in the basket near the phone in the kitchen. You may also call the church office to make a reservation. Suggested donation is \$3 per person.

Join us on Sundays as we continue another series of Adventures in the Bible! We're learning about the Bible, preparing for worship, building friendships, and exploring different ways to express our faith through arts, crafts, and music.



Classes begin at 9:00 a.m., and we welcome children age 2 and older as well as a parent(s) or grandparent(s). Older siblings who would like to help are also encouraged to join us. There is room for everyone. If you have any questions, please contact Karis Naeher (klnaeher@outlook.com) or Tabbi Miller-Scandle (tabbi.miller-scandle@uofs.edu) for information. We look forward to seeing you during November!

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"

Supper 5:00 Classes 6:15

IMPORTANT DATE:**Wednesday, November 21** - No WAY Classes. Have a great Thanksgiving!**Classes for Children and Youth:**

Grace & Faith (4 years old - Grade 5) experience Bible stories through our new curriculum *Growing in Grace & Gratitude*. This fall is all about action verbs — God is at work in the world, and children will learn about the amazing things He has done. In November, we will learn how God Speaks in Stillness, God Calls Jeremiah, and God hears Daniel's Prayer.

We Believe (Grades 6 and up): This fall, students will explore a unit called *Knowing God*, answering questions about who God is and who we are as Christians. In November, we will answer: How can God be known? Does God love everyone — even the devil? And, Does God ever get angry?

Wednesday Classes for Adults**October 31, November 7, 14: Alive to Beauty: A Summons**

God is constantly seeking to be in touch with us. He speaks to us through beauty. We will reflect on paintings that call us to a sense of awe and wonder, awakening us to prayer, reverence, transcendence. We will be guided by Sister Cor Immaculatum Heffernan, Professor Emerita of Art at Marywood University.

November 7, 14: Ministry Entrusted to Us: 2 Corinthians**Bill Carter**

Why is serving God such difficult work? Not for you, perhaps, but it was for the apostle Paul. We will explore some painful correspondence that he had with one of his churches and explore why he never "lost heart."

November 28, December 5, 12, 19: Advent Parables**Brent Eelman, Charlie Pinches, Bill Carter**

In our Advent Bible study, we will encounter four of Jesus' parables on the surprising arrival of God's kingdom. What is it like when God "breaks into" our world?

Note: This weekly program will not meet on November 21 (Thanksgiving Eve) or December 26 (Christmas break).



Holiday Pajama Drive

We will again be working with several local Head Start Centers to provide PJ's for approximately 90 children. Kick off will be in November.... Look for our tree with tag information in the Narthex

Christian Education and Growth Committee

FALL SCAVENGER HUNT

Enjoy searching for seasonal aspects of God's creation!



What you need:

- Family members and friends, divided into groups if desired
- Maps of local areas
- Lists of fall-related items (one per person or group)
- Digital cameras or smartphones
- Prizes

What you do:

1. Hand out maps and lists of items (scarecrow, pumpkin, red leaf, squirrel, apple tree, pine cone, acorn, bug, bird, sunflower, etc.)
2. Instruct participants to walk through their assigned area, find and take photos of the items, and report back at a specific time.
3. When everyone returns, share your photos. Award prizes for the most items found, the most unusual item and so on.



HARVEST OF GOODNESS

God always provides, no matter the season.

Directions: Match the shapes in order to write the words in the correct places below.



“The  will   what is , and   will  its .”

  : , NIV



Chapel and Alleluia Choir Notes

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being. Psalm 104:33

Crisp air, warm jackets, falling leaves, and lots of singing!

Both the Alleluia Choir and the Chapel Choir will participate in our annual All Church Concert on November 11th at 4:00 p.m. We have music planned for each choir as well as an intergenerational song of praise. Our Sunday for singing in worship this month is November 18th. We will not meet for rehearsal Wednesday, November 21st. See you in church!

Kay Ten Eyck

Thanksgiving is approaching.

Would you invite a refugee family to your Thanksgiving table?

Share your home, your love and your table for a single meal with a family that has need of all of these.

If you are interested, contact Sonya Sarner at Catholic Social Services (570) 207-2283 Ext. 2121 or ssarner@cssscranton.org

New To Our Library!

“Let’s All Be Brave: Living Life with Everything You Have”

by Annie F. Downs



When I began to read this book, I was concerned that it was not going to be for me. First, the author is younger and our lives are very dissimilar. Secondly, I worried that her idea of bravery might be too intense for me. I am not contemplating skydiving any time soon, nor will I be moving to another country. I have too many responsibilities for that kind of “bravery” to make any sense. I soon found, that Ms. Downs is not talking about those types of risks. Honestly, she was at one time even more averse to risk than I am. What she is talking about is the type of bravery that allows us to make necessary changes in our lives, and to fulfill our purpose through our passions.

Too often we listen to the dialog (internal and external) that reminds us of all the things we cannot do and be. Those are not God’s words, though, as Ms. Downs reminds us. This book is a good reminder that we have all the support we need to do what we need to do.

Tabbi Miller-Scandle



Thank you to everyone who attended our fall luncheon with our guests from the Clarks Summit State Hospital.

Fellowship, food, and entertainment by Steve Kurilla’s ukulele group, The Kennedy Creek Strummers, was enjoyed by all.

Special thanks to those who provided all the apple pies!

Janet Dobson,
Presbyterian Women’s Association



Next Adopt-a-Highway clean-up will be Saturday, November 10th.

Meet at the parking lot of the Clarks Summit Methodist Church at 9:00 a.m.

This is the last pick-up before next spring!

Joys

Sorrows

Thank You Notes



- November 2nd Ned Connell
- November 6th Charlie Pinches
- November 7th Crosby Sekol
- November 8th Mary C. Parry
- November 12th Christine Jeske
- November 13th Meg Hatch
- November 14th Robin Pinches
- November 22nd Leelah Farrell
- November 25th Jane Maurer
Chris Sekol

Sympathy of the congregation is extended to

- Jamie Strong and her family upon the recent passing of her mother, Loraine Laubach on September 26, 2018;
- Family and friends of Carol Shamonsky, who passed away Sunday, September 30, 2018.
- Family and friends of Barbara Grote, who passed away on October 8, 2018.

Lectionary Readings

Greeters for November

- November 4 Lee Wirth
- November 11 Lee Wirth
- November 18 Chuck and Maggie Woolever
- November 25 Betty Keen

Ushers

Marsha Parrish and Anne Rich

November 4

Communion Servers

Laura Moore, Captain

Jana Schillinger, Wayne Griffiths, Nancy London, Dave Brown, Gayle Hamilton

November 4

Ruth 1:1-18; Psalm 146; Hebrews 9:11-14; Mark 12:28-34

November 11

Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17; Psalm 127; Hebrews 9:24-28; Mark 12:38-44

November 18

1 Samuel 1:4-20; 1 Samuel 2:1-10; Hebrews 10:11-14 (15-18)19-25; Mark 13:1-8

November 25

2 Samuel 23:1-7; Psalm 132:1-12(13-18); Revelations 1:4b-8; John 18:33-37

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>November 2018</p>						
				1	2	3
				7am-AA 8:30-Men's Breakfast 4:30-Staff 6pm-AIAnon 7pm-Christian Ed. 7pm-Building and Grounds	7am-AA	7am-AA
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
7am-AA 9am-Adventures in the Bible 10am-Worship 11:15-Confirmation 11:15-Finance 3pm-OA 	7am-AA 7pm-Mission & Justice	7am-AA 10am-PW Board Meeting 6pm-OA 7pm-Big Book	7am-AA 10am-Welcoming Comm. 11am-Prayer/Share 5pm-The W.A.Y. Light supper 5:30-Chapel / Alleluia Choirs 6:15-Christian Ed. 7:15-Adult Choir 8:00-AIAnon 8:30-Bell Choir	7am-AA 7pm-Building & Grounds	7am-AA	7am-AA 9am-Earth Care: Highway Clean up
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
7am-AA 9am-Adventures in the Bible 10am-Worship 11am-Alt Gift Mkt 11:15-Confirmation 3pm-OA 4pm-Arts at FPCS: All Church Recital 5pm-Alt Gift Mkt 	7am-AA 6pm-Girl Scouts	7am-AA 10am-MBK Quilts 6pm-OA 7pm-Session 7pm-Big Book	7am-AA 11am-Prayer/Share 5pm-The W.A.Y. Light supper 5:30-Chapel / Alleluia Choirs 6:15-Christian Ed. 7:15-Adult Choir 8:00-AIAnon 8:30-Bell Choir	7am-AA 8:30-Men's Breakfast 6pm-AIAnon	7am-AA 4pm-Recital Rehearsal Presbyterian Deadline	7am-AA 9am-work group to Weinburg Food Bank 10:30-Presbytery Meeting at Hawley 5pm-Recital 7pm-Youth Fellowship
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
7am-AA 9am-Adventures in the Bible 10am-Worship 11am-Fellowship 11:15-Confirmation 11:15-Fellowship mtg 3pm-OA 	7am-AA	7am-AA 10am-Dorcas and Priscilla Circles 6pm-OA 7pm-Eunice Circle 7pm-Big Book	7am-AA 11am-Prayer/Share 7:15-Adult Choir 8:00-AIAnon	7am-AA 6pm-AIAnon  Church Office is closed.	7am-AA	7am-AA
25	26	27	28	29	30	
7am-AA 9am-Adventures in the Bible 10am-Worship 11:15-Confirmation 	7am-AA	7am-AA 10am-MBK Quilts 6pm-OA 6:30-Deacons 7pm-Big Book	7am-AA 9am-Presbyter 11am-Prayer/Share 5pm-The W.A.Y. Light supper 5:30-Chapel Ch. 6:15-Christian Ed. 7:15-Adult Choir 8:00-AIAnon 8:30-Bell Choir	7am-AA 6pm-Alanon 7pm-FPC Book Group	7am-AA	



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



Poinsettia order form
Order Your Poinsettias Now.

Price is \$8.00 per plant.
Deadline is November 16

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Number of Flowers: _____ @\$8.00 each

Total Amount Enclosed: _____

I will pick up my flowers _____

Please give to a shut-in _____

Dedication: In honor/In memory of

