

February 2019

The First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit



2019 Prayers for The First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit

The Session shares with the congregation these prayers offered by David Naeher at their first meeting of the year.

Opening Prayer

We thank you, great God, for this first time together as a Session in the new year. We are grateful for the ability to do the work to which you have called us, whether it is at home with our families, in a place of employment, or as a volunteer in your service. Help us to count each blessing as special, not small; as significant, not superficial.

We ask your blessings upon the First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit. Inspire us, by your Holy Spirit, to discern the mission to which you call us. Ministering in the name of your Son Jesus, may we faithfully proclaim the good news of salvation through Christ, aid those in need, and inspire spiritual renewal among your people. Help us to work together in harmony as a people who are grounded in your Word and always faithful to you.

Lastly, living Father, we ask your blessings upon those in our church family who are experiencing illness, physical pain, emotional distress, or spiritual unrest. Soothe them with the balm of your love and, if it would be your will, bring them the gift of healing. Comfort them and keep them always in your care. May we never forget them, Lord, just as you never forget us. We ask these things in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Details and schedule on Page 5.



Closing Prayer

Lord, our God, you share our joys and sorrows, shield us in your arms, and love us despite our weaknesses. With hearts open to that friendship—to that love—may we in this new year have the courage to follow where you lead us and a desire to share the Gospel of Christ. Standing together at the dawn of 2019, help us to leave behind the excess baggage of 2018: old fears, old doubts, old guilt, old pain and old sins. May we instead receive and share the gifts of love, forgiveness, healing, and peace. For a new year, for new life through Jesus Christ, we give you thanks, eternal God. It is in your Son's name that we pray. Amen.

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Page 2 The Presbyter

Notes from the Session Meeting on Sunday, January 13, 2019

Session approved the following as presented in the Omnibus Bill

- 1. The "Souper Bowl" Offering will be held on Sunday, February 3, 2019 to benefit the Abington Food Pantry.
- 2. Elected Barbara Brown as the president of the corporation of First Presbyterian Church, Clarks Summit.
- 3. Re-elected Beverly Bright as the clerk of session and secretary of the corporation of FPCCS.
- 4. Re-elect Wayne Griffiths as the church treasurer and treasurer of the corporation of FPCCS.

Beverly Bright

Clerk of Session

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 Joe Waters

And Maintenance: 351-3620

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.

The Presbyter deadline for the March issue is February 15, 2019

<u>The Presbyter</u> 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 (570) 587-3784 Fax 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 Director of Music Frank Jones Richard Cochrane Director of Bells **Director of Chapel Choir** Kay Ten Eyck Kay Ten Eyck **Organist** Sexton John Conklin

FROM YOUR FINANCE COMMITTEE

FOR THE MONTH ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2018

REVENUE

Budget \$ 379,706 Actual Received <u>366,587</u> Difference (\$ 13,119)

EXPENSES

Budget \$ 379,706 Actual Expenses 369,215 Difference \$ 10,491

BUDGET VARIANCE (\$ 2,628)

PLEDGE INCOME

 Budget
 \$ 320,000

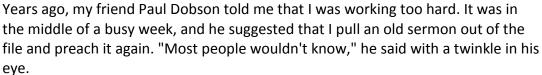
 Received
 321,869

 Difference
 \$ 1,869

Per Capita 2018 is \$34.50 per member.

From the Pastor

February 2019
On Preaching Old Sermons Again





Some might say he was right. Change the title, tell a new opening story, and most folks would not be able to tell. Those who missed it the first time would think it was new. Those who snored through it the first time would snore again. But I would be able to tell. And that's why I have hardly ever preached a sermon a second time.

For one thing, I am the inveterate tinkerer. Give me old material and I can't stop messing with it. I edit my own meandering sentences and replace lazy verbs. Foggy words are replaced by clear ones. Dusty ideas are brought into the sunlight. Even if I were to find an old sermon worth preaching, it would not resemble itself when the editing was done. Indeed it would take just as long to compose a new sermon as it would to clean up an old one. Not worth the effort!

For another thing, I am not the same person that I was ten years ago, much less last week. Preaching is situational, affected by mood swings, new thoughts, deeper research, fresh newspaper headlines, and changes in congregational atmosphere. The Bible text is the same but the context for the sermon does shift. I recall hearing the ancient wisdom of Heraclitus in a college philosophy course: "No one can step into the same river twice." That's true. The river rolls along even if the preacher stands still.

Nevertheless, I'm glad to tell you that I'll be preaching two old sermons in February. Neither will be heard here. Day 1, the venerable radio ministry formerly known as "The Protestant Hour," has invited me back to preach two sermons to be broadcast in May. They are getting a couple of sermons on the psalms. I will record these in Atlanta during a layover on my way to a second week of study leave. As the broadcast dates are announced, I'll be sure to let you know.

I have preached on that national show nine previous times. Maybe you heard those sermons in our pulpit before, or maybe not. Or maybe you heard and forgot. It doesn't matter. It is a great privilege to proclaim the Gospel, here or anywhere else, and I do not take it for granted. Thanks as always for your encouragement.

Despite my misgivings, my friend Paul's wisdom may be on target: "If it's worth preaching once, it's worth preaching again." We will see about that. Every week I would like to preach a sermon that's worth hearing once.

With you in the journey, Rev. Bill Carter Page 4 The Presbyter

HAVE YOU IMMERESED THIS MONTH?

From Nancy London

If not, consider this an invitation to join one of the groups in the church meeting regularly to participate in a unique Bible reading experience. *Immerse: The Reading Bible* presents each book of the Bible without the distractions of chapter and verse markers, making the reading flow, much like a novel. This design enhances the opportunity for the readers to engage in questions and discussion.

The current study, called *Kingdoms*, includes the reading and study of Joshua, Judges, Ruth, Samuel and Kings. This group experience is an invitation to discover God's story and step into it.

Contact Robin Pinches (crpinches@gmail.com) for information regarding the various groups.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN CIRCLE BIBLE STUDIES

Mary Ellen Lawlor

God With Us Through Our Trials

Does the promise by God "I will be with you" give you hope and reassurance when you are going through difficult times? Isaiah 41:8-13, Isaiah 43:1-7, and Psalm 46:1-11 will help us see how that promise helped the Israelites when they were in exile in Babylonia. That same promise can still encourage the people of God today. The parable of the Lost Coin [Luke 15] will also be part of our conversation.

We had a good time together in our Circles in January and hope we have good weather for February. Thanks so much for your faithfulness.

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

Feb. 28 @ Nancy London's home - The News of the World by Paulette Jiles (229 pages)

In the aftermath of the Civil War, Captain Jefferson Kyle Kidd, an aging itinerant news reader, agrees to transport a young captive of the Kiowa back to her people. Their 400-mile journey from Wichita Falls to San Antonio, through unsettled territory and unforgiving terrain, proves difficult and at times dangerous. Yet as the miles pass, the two lonely survivors tentatively begin to trust each other, forming a bond that marks the difference between life and death in this treacherous land.

Arriving in San Antonio, the reunion is neither happy nor welcome. The captain must hand Johanna over to an aunt and uncle she <u>does</u> not remember—strangers who regard her as an unwanted burden. Captain Kidd is faced with a terrible choice: abandon the girl to her fate or become—in the eyes of the law—a kidnapper himself.

For more info contact Judy Cutler, 570-446-9310 or jdragonflyc@hotmail.com.



Clarks Summit Festival of Ice February 15—17, 2019



The First Presbyterian Church is a vital part of the Festival of Ice—from an ice sculpture outside to a variety of activities and a warm bowl of chili on the inside.

Elaine Tweedy will organize an exhibit of artwork from local artists and congregation members, with a juried photography show sponsored by the Northeast Photography Club on Friday night. The exhibit will be open to the public on Friday from 6:00 to 7:30 pm and on Saturday from 11 am to 4 pm. Violinist Mark Woodyatt will entertain on Friday from 6:00 to 7:30 pm.

From 11 am to 2 pm on Saturday, our Chili Café will provide a place to warm up, grab a bite to eat, and listen to student musicians perform. Singers from the Jessica Hitchcock Vocal Studio will be some of the featured performers, along with the children and youth choirs from the church.

Activities on Saturday include a performance at 2 pm of "Cinderella, Kids" by The Creative and Performing Arts Academy's Playhouse division (2nd-5th grade). The Creative and Performing Arts Academy, located at The Ritz Theater in Scranton, is a vibrant program for kids Pk-12th grade- offering classes, lessons and performance opportunities throughout the year. CaPAA's Summer Camp camp program has been recognized as The Best Day Camp & Theatre Program in NEPA by NEPA Family Magazine.

These activities are part of the Arts at First Presbyterian program which 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.

Activities Around Town

- Over 50 ice sculptures!
- * Festival of Ice Parade Friday night February 15th with a costume contest for our Star Wars characters, the Abington Band and much more.
- * Comic Con at Clarks Summit Elementary School Saturday and Sunday Feb 16th & 17th.
- * NEW this year ICE Carving competition Sunday- Feb 17th, location TBD.

Ice Festival Chili Café

Are you feeling the chill? Do you have a good recipe for chili? Cook up a batch and bring it (in your own crock pot) to our Chili Café on Saturday, February 16. We will be serving chili and other refreshments from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Contribute your chili and/or volunteer to help on that day as we warm up the whole town with both food and fellowship!

See or call either Karen White (570-945-0169) or Barbara Pittman (570-587-2050) to let us know how you will help or if you have any questions. Thank you in advance!



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Alleluia Choir and Chapel Choir Notes

Submitted by Kay Ten Eyck

As a society, we want what is best for our children. We study how they learn and develop. Our children should be happy, healthy, and well educated. We give them spaces to play and do what we can to make them happy. We enroll them in sports to help keep them healthy. We create educational television shows, educational games for electronic devices, and educational toys. What more can we do to make sure our children are happy, healthy, and well educated? I have one more item for your list . . . MUSIC! Singing creates happiness. Watch children as they sing. Their eyes light up with joy, they express emotion, and they are taking part in a community that is bigger than just themselves. Singing is healthy. Did you know that singing creates calmness and reduces stress? We also use action songs during rehearsals which improves coordination and helps children become self-aware. Singing is educational. It improves memory, helps with language skills and math.

Need one more benefit of singing in a choir? It's FUN!

Yes, singing with our friends is just plain fun.

Our choirs are free and open to children and youth regardless of whether or not they are church members. No singing or musical experience is necessary; we will help your child find their best singing voice! Our Chapel Choir is for grades K through 5th and our Alleluia Choir is for grades 6th through 12th. We meet Wednesday evenings from 5:30 to 6:10. Our plans for the spring include participating in the Ice Festival by singing for the Chili Cafe, attending a choir festival in March and participating in the Music in the Parks program in May as well as singing about once a month for worship. Questions? Contact our Director of Music, Frank Jones at 570-906-1830, our organist, Kay Ten Eyck at 570-313-0146 or call the church office at 570-586-6306.

We are growing in our faith and as a group. It is a joy to welcome families with children of all ages as we learn, laugh, sing, and grow together. We are now learning about Jesus'



life and ministry on earth. We look forward to the lessons to come. Join us on the adventure!

If you have any questions, please contact Karis Naeher at klnaeher@outlook.com or Tabbi Miller-Scandle at tabbi.miller-scandle@scranton.edu.

Classes begin at 9:00, and we welcome children age 2 and older as well as a parent(s) or grandparent(s). Older siblings are also invited to join us. There is room for everyone.

Calling All Teachers

The <u>W</u>ednesday <u>A</u>dults and <u>Y</u>outh 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.

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
- * Helping with cleanup

Contact Karen White or Tabbi Miller-Scandle to volunteer!

THE W.A.Y.



The Wednesday Adults and Youth Christian Education

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

Supper 5:00 Classes 6:15

Classes Offered:

Grace & Faith (4 years old - Grade 5) experience Bible stories through our new curriculum *Growing in Grace* & *Gratitude*. Promises, challenges, and blessings: this winter we'll explore them all. In February, we will learn about Spreading the Good News, Jesus' command to "Follow Me", who in God's kingdom is blessed, and God's Way to Live.

We Believe (Grades 6 and up): This winter, students will begin exploring a unit called *The Bible and Prayer*. In February, we will consider: Knock, Knock...Who's There? (Does God answer prayers? All of them? All at once?), What Would Jesus Pray? (How do I learn prayer language?), God's Answers (Why, at times, does God not answer our most faithful prayers? Why does God answer prayers in ways that are so hard to understand?) and God Speaks (How do we know when God is telling us something? How do we know when God is speaking to us and leading us?).

Wednesday Classes for Adults

The Beatitudes of Jesus is a winter study that will meet in Room 210. In his teaching, Jesus challenges our expectations and invites us to look anew at our lives. The eight pillars of the Beatitudes—meekness, empathy, righteousness, peace, persecution, purity, poverty and simplicity—are valuable codes of value and conduct. With Rev. Carter and friends.

Understanding Race in Scranton and Scripture - In February, as we affirm the history of African Americans, we have two invited guests to explore dimensions of that history. Glynis Johns is the director of Black Scranton (www.blackscranton.org) and will share her research on the untold stories of African Americans in our area. Dr. Joel Kemp, new religion faculty at the University of Scranton, will help us understand the many ways that race (and racism) affect our understanding of the Bible. In Room 206.

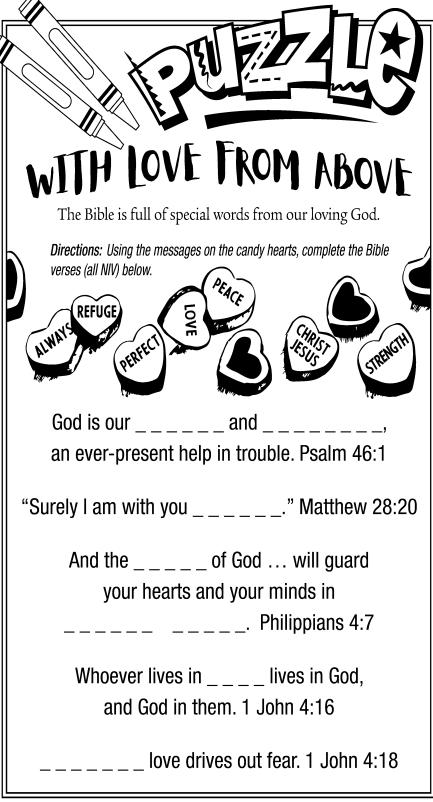
Wednesday Evening Schedule

| 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 \$3 per person.

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Answer: retuge, strength, always, peace, Christ Jesus, love, Perfect

A MESSAGE OF

Make this valentine for a family member or friend.



What you need:

- 10 wooden craft sticks
- Painter's tape
- Markers
- A photo and glue (optional)
- Craft knife (and adult help)
- Ribbon or a rubber band

What you do:

- Set the sticks side by side. Secure with two tape strips.
- Flip the sticks over. Draw (or glue on) a picture or write a message or Bible verse. If using glue, let dry.
- Flip the sticks again and remove tape. If you glued on a photo, have an adult help cut the sticks (and photo) apart.
- Secure the sticks with ribbon or a rubber band.
- Deliver the gift and invite the recipient to assemble the puzzle.

A famine is coming...



Poor nutrition causes nearly half of all deaths in children under 5. Every day, over 7,000 kids die from hunger-related causes.

Together, we can make an impact:

February 22-23

World Vision's 30 Hour Famine

How can you help?

- Participate! Youth grades 6-12 are encouraged to take a stand against world hunger as we spend some eye-opening time together in fellowship and fun.
- Volunteer! Adult chaperones are needed...spend a few hours with us as we starve our bellies and feed our souls.
- Give! Every \$40 raised feeds a child for a month.
 Look for ways to give in upcoming weekly bulletins or on our website fpccs.org.

Need more info? Contact Jana Schillinger at (570)586-6306 or by e-mail at ce@fpccs.org.

Per Capita assessment for 2019 is \$34.50 per member. The money will be distributed as follows:

To Lackawanna Presbytery \$23.25
To Synod of the Trinity 2.30
General Assembly of PC(USA) 8.95
\$34.50

Souper Bowl Sunday

Sunday, February 3 isn't just the Big Game...it's a big opportunity to help those in need!

As you leave worship, our youth will be standing by with soup pots to collect money to combat hunger.

All proceeds will benefit the AEM Food Pantry.



Save the Date!

Attention all children, families, and volunteers!

Mark your calendars...



VBS 2019

will be held

July 8-12, 9AM-12PM

Join us for an amazing Bible adventure filled with laughter, learning, and fun times with friends new and old!

Look for more information this spring.

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Joys

Sorrows

Thank You Notes



February 2 Jeff McLaughlin

February 4 JoAnn Hall

February 7 Jonathan Schillinger

February 10 SaraAnn Hosier

February 17 Holly Shane

February 19 Melba Fialko

February 21 Rev. Bill Carter

February 28 Diane Cole

Gayle Hamilton

Lectionary Readings

February 3:

Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30

February 10:

Isaiah 6:1-9 (9-13); Psalm 138; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11

February 17:

Jeremiah 17:5-10; Psalm 1; 1 Corinthians 15:12-20; Luke 6:17-26

February 24:

Genesis 45:3-11, 15; Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40; 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50; Luke



The sympathy of the congregation is extended to the family of James 'Jim' Wells, who entered the Church Triumphant January 14, 2019. His family

consists of a son, 2 daughters, and their families, a brother and three sisters, including Alice Williams and Vi Dygert who are members of this congregation.

Sympathy of the congregation is extended to Heidi Matthews and her family on the passing of her mother, Joan Belin on January 1, 2019.



"Jean Brown sends heartfelt thanks for all of the cards, flowers and visits."

Greeters

February 3 – Janet Dobson

February 10 – Ed and Diane Cole

February 17 – Jack and Barbara Pittman

February 24 – Fred Campbell

Ushers

Ginny O'Brien
Peter Moore

Communion Servers

Heather Acker, captain; Adrienne Horger Gwynne Gilbert, Warren Acker Barbara Brown, Tabbi Miller-Scandle

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|--|---|-----------------------|---|
| First Presbyterian Church | | | | | 7am—AA | 7am—AA |
| February 2019 | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| 7am—AA 9 am-Adventures In the Bible 10 am-Worship Souper Bowl of Caring 11 am-Potluck Lunch 11:15-Confirmation 11:45— Annual Mtg. 3:00pm-OA | 7am—AA 6pm—Girl Scouts 7pm-Mission & Justice | 7am—AA 10am-PW Exec. Board 5pm-OA 7pm-Big Book | 7am—AA 11am-Prayer & Share 5pm—THE WAY Supper 5:30-Alleluia & Chapel Choirs 6:15-Christian Ed 7:15-Adult Choir 8pm-AlAnon 8:30-Bell Choir | 7 7am—AA 8:30am-Men's Breakfast 7pm-Building & Grounds 7pm-Christian Ed. 7pm-AlAnon | 7am—AA | 9 7am—AA |
| 7am-AA 9 am-Adventures In the Bible 10 am-Worship 11:15-Confirmation 11:15-Worship, Music, Arts 3:00pm-OA | 7am-AA | | 7am—AA 11am-Prayer & Share 5pm—THE WAY Supper 5:30-Alleluia & Chapel Choirs 6:15-Christian Ed 7:15-Adult Choir 8pm-AlAnon 8:30-Bell Choir | 7am-AA 4:30pm-Staff 7pm-AlAnon | 15 7am-AA | 16 7am-AA |
| | | | | | Ice Festival | |
| | | | | | Presbyter Deadline | 2 pm— Cinderella, Kids program here |
| 17 7am-AA | 18 7am-AA | 19 7am-AA | 20 7am-AA | 21 7am—AA | 22 7am—AA | 23 7am-AA |
| 9am-Adventures in the Bible 10am-Worship 11:15-Confirmation 11:15-Fellowship 3pm-OA | 6pm-Girl Scouts Presidents' Day Church Office is closed. | 10–Morning Circle 5pm-OA 7pm—Eunice Circle 7pm-Big Book | 11am-Prayer & Share 5pm-The Way Light Supper 5:30-Alleluia & Chapel Choirs 6:15-Christian Ed. for all ages 7:15-Adult Choir 8pm-AlAnon 8:30-Bell Choir | 8:30am-Men's Breakfast 7pm-AlAnon | 30-hour | |
| 7am-AA 9am-Adventures in the Bible 10am-Worship 11:15-Confirmation 3pm-OA | 25 7am-AA | 7am-AA 10am-MBK Quilts 5pm-OA 7pm-Deacons 7pm-Big Book | 7am-AA 9am-Presbyter 11am-Prayer/Share 5pm-The Way 5:30-Alleluia & Chapel Choirs 6:15-Christian Ed. for all ages 7:15-Adult Choir 8pm-AlAnon 8:30-Bell Choir | 28 7am-AA 7pm-FPC Book Group 7pm-Big Book | | |



Mardi Gras Celebration is March 3.

Come for Pancakes after church that day!

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

300 School Street Clarks Summit, PA 18411-1536 Nonprofit Org. U.S. Postage Permit No. 30 PAID Clarks Summit PA

DATED MATERIAL

Return Service Requested



Mark Your Calendars! Save the Dates!



The Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation of First Presbyterian Church

of Clarks Summit has been called for Sunday, February 3, 2019 at 11:45 a.m., following our morning worship and a potluck luncheon.

Sunday, February 3
Potluck luncheon 11:00 AM
Annual Meeting 11:45 AM
Souper Bowl Sunday

February 15-16
Festival of Ice

February 22-23 World Vision's 30-Hour Famine

Sunday, March 10

Daylight Savings Time begins Celtic Music with Poor Man's Gambit, 4:00 PM

Wednesday, March 6 Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, March 20 First day of Spring

Sunday, April 14Palm Sunday

Holy Week Maundy Thursday Good Friday

Sunday, April 21 Easter Sunday