



The Presbyter

July/August 2019

The First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit



Gayle Hamilton returning from her very first Motorcycle ride. What's next, Gayle?



WHAT: VBS 2019

WHEN: Monday, July 8 to Friday, July 12
9am-12pm

WHERE: First Presbyterian Church
300 School St, Clarks Summit

WHO'S INVITED: all children age 4 to completed grade 5

TO REGISTER, VISIT: myvbs.org/fpccs

Want to volunteer? You can help bring ancient Athens to life by teaching, leading, or preparing.

Please contact Jana Schillinger, or send an email to fpccs.vbs@gmail.com

The Church Office will enjoy summer hours from June 2 through August 30. The building will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



July 8-12
Vacation Bible School

August 2—Presbytery Night at the Rail Riders Game

September 1—Annual Jazz Communion

September 10— Presbyterian Women Circle Relate/Relax/Renew

September 17—Presbyterian Women Circle Bible Studies Begin

September 22—Worship Through Service

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The Presbyterian deadline for
the September issue is
August 16, 2019

Notes from the Session Meeting June 11, 2019

1. Session welcomed Barbara Decker and Chris Norton to the meeting and are very grateful for their commitment to working with other members to continue to work for the Glory of God. Briar Woodley joined us at the May meeting.
2. Committees for the 2019-2020 year – see listing below.
3. When attending services at First Presbyterian, please notice in the book racks with the hymnals and Bibles that there is a laminated emergency evacuation map. Please go to the closest exit from where you are.

Beverly Bright
Clerk of Session

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
Director of Music	Frank Jones
Director of Bells	Richard Cochran
Director of Chapel Choir	Kay Ten Eyck
Organist	Kay Ten Eyck
Sexton	John Conklin

Session Committees for 2019-2020

Building & Grounds: Jay Clymer, Andy Kepler,
Frank Garnecki

Mission & Justice: Diane Scheuer and
Barbara Decker

Fellowship: JoAnn Hall, Karen White and
Briar Woodley

Worship, Music & Arts: Alan Baker and
Judy Cutler

Finance: David Naeher and Grant Taylor

Christian Education: Tabbi Miller-Scandle and
Nancy Dennen

People in Ministry: Craig Smith and Chris Norton

FROM YOUR FINANCE COMMITTEE FOR THE MONTH ENDING May 31, 2019

REVENUE

Budget	\$155,629
Actual Received	145,618
Difference	(\$ 10,011)
	=====

EXPENSES

Budget	\$160,022
Actual Expenses	161,992
Difference	(\$ 1,970)
	=====

BUDGET VARIANCE (\$ 11,981)

PLEDGE INCOME

Budget	\$ 135,417
Received	130,346
Difference	(\$ 5,071)
	=====

At the end of May, contributions for:
Per Capita 2019 (which is \$34.50 per
member) was \$3,054.

One Great Hour of Sharing totaled
\$5,968.

From the Pastor Summer 2019

Our church belongs to Lackawanna Presbytery, a regional governing body that covers seven counties in northeastern Pennsylvania. Like every other church body in our part of the world, it is going through dramatic changes.

There are 46 churches in the presbytery. At the start of this year, there were 16 fulltime pastors to serve these congregations. By the end of next year, it is projected that 7 of them will have retired. One pastor relocated out of the area. Another pastor recently went on disability. A couple of others are worried that their congregations will not be able to afford to pay them a living wage.



Perhaps you read recently about the Presbyterian saints of Jessup, who concluded their congregation's ministry on June 9. That church began over a hundred years ago to reach out to Eastern European immigrants and coal miners in the neighborhood. Membership had dwindled to 23, with less than 10 folks showing up for worship each week. When it became apparent that building repairs were necessary, they decided it was not a good stewardship of resources to continue meeting as a congregation.

Here's the thing: a quick informal count reveals at least 15 congregations are dealing with the same issues.

No one should ever discount the survival instincts of a congregation. There are some churches that will do anything to postpone their expiration date. They will sell Welsh cookies or rent out the facilities to people they do not know. One small church has millions invested in a bank and wants to seek a fulltime minister to serve their twenty-some members. They tried that recently, and mostly watched as a young pastor did a lot until he relocated in frustration. They watched. Now they want to repeat what they did before.

It is presumptuous for someone like me, in a church like ours, to tell another congregation what to do. A church is a network of relationships, some tightly knit as with bands of steel. If one generation has inherited a building from previous generations, they often feel a sacred trust to maintain the facility at all costs. I recall a meeting some years ago when a nearby church was faced with the decision to repair their building or fund a fulltime pastorate. They decided for the building. Their ministry has never been the same.

For some, it may be tempting to watch from a distance, or to critique, or to murmur "glad that isn't us" or "glad that isn't us yet." But that's not our calling. To be a Presbyterian is to be in covenantal relationship with all other Presbyterians. Our way of doing things is to do them together. Part of my pastoral calling is to assist our neighbors as I am able. With a declining number of professional clergy in our region, the remaining pastors will have to shoulder some of the necessary work, which I will do gladly. I took vows to do so.

The genius of the Presbyterian way is that ordained elders are called to shoulder this work too. If a congregation or presbytery relies solely on the ministers as the ones who labor for the Gospel, shrinkage is inevitable. If it's true that "many hands make light work," the elders of our Presbyterian congregations are called to step up to their biblical role, providing wisdom and leadership to the people entrusted to their care. It's really the way forward. Our regional presbytery needs more elders to serve the needs of our churches.

One more observation: imagine a congregation that formed a hundred years ago to welcome and serve the new immigrants in its community. Imagine that. Could that happen again?



The Mission & Justice Committee would like to thank the congregation for their generous support of the Pentecost Offering this year. As of June 18, we have received \$840 for this Special Offering. This gift will help the church encourage, develop, and support its young people, and also address the needs of at-risk children.

Our church retains 40% of the total given for a local worthy youth-focused organization. As previously announced, the M&J Committee voted to send our portion to support the NEPA Youth Shelter. We will add the 40% of the Offering (\$336) to \$664 from the M&J budget to be able to present \$1000 to the Youth Shelter. The remaining \$504 of the Offering will be sent to the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

On **Sunday, August 18**, we will introduce the community projects that our congregation will undertake for **Mission Through Service weekend**, scheduled for September 21-22. Now in its fourth year, Mission Through Service is a weekend for expressing the love of Christ through hands-on projects that benefit the people of our community. Have an idea? Share it with one of our leaders. There is something that each one of us can do to love our neighbors.

Thank you again for your ongoing support!

Book Group Schedule 2019-2020



September 26
Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens (496 pages)

October 24
Rules of Civility by Amor Towles (368 pages)

December 5
Animals in Translation: Using the Mysteries of Autism to Decode Animal Behavior by Temple Grandin (358 pages)

January 23
The Library Book by Susan Orlean (337 pages)

February 27
Becoming Michelle Obama (400 pages)

March 26
How Not to Die Alone by Richard Roper (334 pages)

April 23
We Were the Lucky Ones by Georgia Hunter (416 pages)

May 28
Movie Night. Title to be determined.

Table Talk on Sunday, August 11

Introducing the "Legacy Society"

Our Session has begun the process of creating an endowment for First Presbyterian Church. As a first step, we will have a Table Talk after worship on August 11 to introduce the concept of a Legacy Society. The group consists of all who will make provisions for the church in their estate planning. It is open to all!

We warmly invite all to attend this information meeting at 11:15 am. and to enjoy tasty food and good fellowship.

To learn more, contact the members of our Endowment Team: Bill Davis, Beverly Bright, Barbara Norton, Heather Acker, Rev. Brent Eelman, and Rev. Bill Carter.

Lectionary Readings

July 7

2 Kings 5:1-14; Psalm 30;
Galatians 6:(1-6) 7-16; Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

July 14

Amos 7:7-17; Psalm 82;
Colossians 1:1-14; Luke 10:25-37

July 21

Amos 8:1-12; Psalm 52;
Colossians 1:15-28; Luke 10:38-42

July 28

Hosea 1:2-10; Psalm 85;
Colossians 2:6-15 (16-19); Luke 11:1-13

August 4

Hosea 1:1-11; Psalm 107:1-9,43;
Colossians 3:1-11; Luke 12:13-21

August 11

Isaiah 1:1, 10-20; Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23;
Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16; Luke 12:32-40

August 18

Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19;
Hebrews 11:29-12:2; Luke 12:49-56

August 25

Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6;
Hebrews 12:18-29; Luke 13:10-17

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.

Communion Servers

July: Connie Weiss, captain
John Weiss, Dave and Donna Porter, Olympia
Cianfichi, Ryan Flynn, Sue Flynn

August: Myrna Diven, captain
John Diven, Ginny O'Brien, Nancy Dennen,
Nancy Post, Phil Muntzel

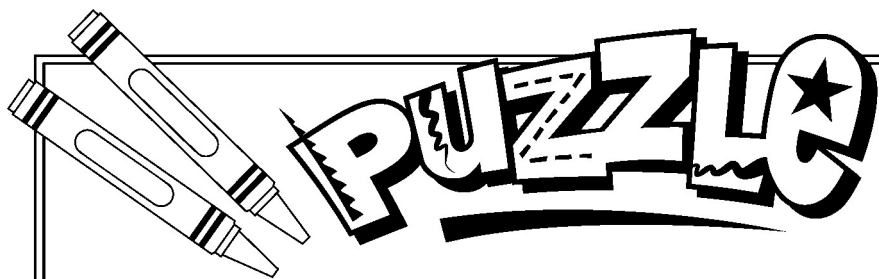
Greeters

July 7 - Lee Wirth and Sandra Bailey
July 14 - John and Myrna Diven
July 21 - Maggie and Chuck Woolever
July 28 - Lee Wirth

August 4 - John Conklin
August 11 - Janet Stansbury
August 18 - TBD
August 25 - TBD

Ushers






July—Bill Farrell
August—Gwynne Gilbert



"IN DEPENDENCE" DAY!

Always live "in dependence" on God.

Directions: Use the vowel code to complete Psalm 16:8, NIV.

A= 	E= 	I= 	O= 	U= 
--	--	--	--	--

k _ _ p my _ y _ s
 I w _ y s _ n th _ L _ RD.
 W _ th h _ m _ t my
 r _ ght h _ nd,
 w _ ll n _ t b _ sh _ k _ n.
 Ps _ lm 16:8, N _ V

Answer: I keep my eyes always on the LORD. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken. Psalm 16:8, NIV

PATRIOTIC PINWHEEL

Create this colorful July 4th craft.

What you need:

- Decorated card stock square (5" x 5")
- Scissors
- Hole punch
- 2 one-inch circles of card stock
- Glue
- Pipe cleaner (3 inches)
- Drinking straw



What you do:

1. Fold the square corner to corner to form an X. Unfold.
2. To make spokes, cut the four creases until an inch from the center.
3. Punch a hole in the middle of the square, near the tips of each spoke, and in the middle of each circle.
4. Fold each spoke toward the center, lining up the holes. Glue in place.
5. Wrap one end of the pipe cleaner around the top of the straw. Thread a circle, the pinwheel, and the remaining circle onto the pipe cleaner.
6. Roll the pipe cleaner end into a ball. Then spin!



Congratulations to Ryan Flynn, this year's winner of the Paul R. Dobson Scholarship. Best wishes as he heads off to PA College of Technology.

Janet Dobson

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 Jana Schillinger for more information.

Robert London Scholarship Fund

The Christian Education and Growth Committee is pleased to award scholarships to any child, teen or young adult who wishes to go to a church camp, church leadership conference, church national event, or other Christian Education event.



The amount given to each student is considered on an individual basis.

Applications can be picked up in the church office.

Summer camp at Camp Lackawanna is the adventure that your child is looking for. There are a variety of programs and options for campers from first through twelfth grade. Campers all enjoy swimming, crafts, canoeing, games, and studying the word of God, making new friends and worshipping.



Camp Lackawanna hosts a special **Family Camp Weekend** on June 27-30. It's really affordable for families of all shapes and sizes.

Go to CampLackawannafirst.com for more information and a complete schedule.

Joys

Sorrows

Thank You Notes



- July 2 Barbara Mellander
- July 3 Heather Cole
Vi Dygert
- July 8 Rebekah Naeher
- July 15 Chris Gilbert
- July 25 Janet Stansbury



Sympathy of the congregation is extended to the family of Joyce Janson, who entered the church triumphant June 9, 2019. A private memorial service was held at Indian Town Gap National Cemetery.



- July 5 Sandra and Steuart Bailey
- July 19 Grace and Bill Farrell
- July 22 Betty and Don Keen
Karis and David Naeher
- July 28 Barbara and Tom Decker



Congratulations to Robin and Charlie Pinches on the birth of a grandson, Logan John Loveo on April 7, 2019.



- August 1 Jamie Strong
- August 2 Alice Broxton
Joe O'Brien
Johnny Rich
- August 4 Barbara Pittman
- August 5 Jenn Rich
- August 8 Kate Hopkins
- August 11 Jack Pittman
- August 12 Gwynne Gilbert,
Gail Van Horn
- August 15 Fred Lyon
- August 17 Ariana Billiot
- August 19 Peter Moore
- August 23 Betsy Ellis
Heather Lyons
- August 24 Isaac Diaz
- August 29 Mick Wirth



Best wishes to Kim Rich and Matt Mosquera on their wedding on June 8, 2019 at the Rooke Chapel at Bucknell University. Blessings, Kim and Matt, for a joyous life together.



- August 2 Alice and Dick Broxton
- August 5 Lee and Mick Wirth
- August 7 John and Connie Weiss
- August 26 Robin and Charlie Pinches
- August 29 Barbara and Jack Pittman

* AA meets each morning at 7AM
including holidays. *

* Reminder: summer church office hours are 9AM-
4PM through August 29. *

July Calendar

- 2 5PM-OA
7PM-Big Book
- 3 11AM-Prayer and Share
8PM-AIAnon
- 4 Independence Day-Office is closed.
- 7 **9:45AM-Hymn Sing; 10AM-Worship**
3PM-OA
- 8 **9AM to Noon – Vacation Bible School**
- 9 **9AM to Noon – Vacation Bible School**
5PM-OA
7PM-Big Book AA
- 10 **9AM to Noon – Vacation Bible School**
8PM-AIAnon
- 11 **9AM to Noon – Vacation Bible School**
7PM - AIAnon
- 12 **9AM to Noon – Vacation Bible School**
- 14 **9:45AM-Hymn Sing; 10AM-Worship**
3PM-OA
- 16 5PM-OA
7PM-Big Book
- 17 11AM-Prayer and Share
8PM-AIAnon
- 18 8:30AM- Men's Breakfast
7PM-AIAnon
- 21 **9:45AM-Hymn Sing; 10AM-Worship**
11:15am-Worship, Music, Arts
3PM-OA
- 23 5PM-OA
6PM-Combined Session and Deacons mtg.
7PM-Big Book
- 24 11AM-Prayer and Share
8PM-AIAnon
- 25 7PM-AIAnon
- 28 **9:45AM-Hymn Sing; 10AM-Worship**
3PM-OA
- 30 6PM-OA
7PM-Big Book
- 31 11AM-Prayer and Share
8PM-AIAnon

August Calendar

- 1 8:30AM-Men's Breakfast
7PM-Building and Grounds
7PM-Christian Education
7PM-AIAnon
- 4 **9:45AM-Hymn Sing; 10AM-Worship**
3PM-OA
- 6 5PM-OA
7PM-Big Book AA
- 7 11AM-Prayer and Share
8PM-AIAnon
- 8 7PM-AIAnon
- 11 **9:45AM-Hymn Sing; 10AM-Worship**
11:15-Table Talk: Legacy Society
3PM-OA
- 12 7PM-Mission & Justice
- 13 5PM-OA
7PM-Big Book AA
- 14 11AM-Prayer and Share
8PM-AIAnon
- 15 8:30AM-Men's Breakfast
7PM-AIAnon
- 16 Presbyterian Deadline for September
- 18 **9:45AM-Hymn Sing; 10AM-Worship**
11:15-Fellowship Mtg.
3PM-OA
- 20 5PM-OA
7PM-Big Book AA
- 21 11AM-Prayer and Share
8PM-AIAnon
- 22 7PM-AIAnon
- 25 **9:45AM-Hymn Sing; 10AM-Worship**
3PM-OA
- 27 5PM-OA
7PM-Big Book AA
7PM-Deacons
- 28 9AM-Presbyter mailing
11AM-Prayer and Share
8PM-AIAnon
- 29 7PM-AIAnon



September 1, 9:45AM
Annual Jazz Communion Service

Jazz
belongs in
Church



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



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WHEN: Monday, July 8 to Friday, July 12, 9am-12pm

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