



The Presbyter

December 2019

The First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit

Church Family Advent Celebration

Please join us on the first Sunday of Advent, **December 1**, as we deck the halls, enjoy fellowship and song, and begin the season with giving.

Following worship with communion, come downstairs for:

- Lunch (provided by the church)
- Fun, friendship, and fellowship around the tables
- Advent hymn sing
- Advent Mission Project: Bags of Hope for Kids in Foster Care (see page 9 for details)

To prepare for the Bags of Hope, we are collecting the following items: soap, shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, hairbrushes, feminine hygiene products, and blankets.



December Dates to Note

Sunday, December 1 11:15 a.m.

- Advent Celebration (see above)

Sunday, December 8 11:15 a.m.

- Yaya's Graduation Party (see page 5)

Monday, December 16 7:00 p.m.

- Blue Christmas Vespers (see page 3)

Monday, December 24 Christmas Eve
(take note of our new worship times!)

- Family Service at 4:00 p.m.
- Lessons and Carols at 8:00 p.m.
- Jazz Communion at 11:00 p.m.
- **Weekly worship services** at 10:00 a.m.
- **Weekly Bible study** for Advent at 6:15 pm on Wednesday nights (until December 18)
- The Church Office closes at noon on December 24 and 31, and will be closed December 25 and January 1, 2019.

Read "**Watching for the Light**," our online Advent Devotional Blog, with daily reflections on scripture from our church family. You can find it at www.adventfpccs.blogspot.com

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The Presbyterian deadline for
the January issue is
December 20

Notes from Session Meeting November 12, 2019

1. Session is finalizing work on the 2020 budget and will meet at a special meeting on Sunday, December 15th immediately after the 10:00 a.m. service. The finance committee will meet prior to the Session Meeting to submit their budget proposal.
2. Session would like to thank the Deacons for their work in collecting food and then delivering it to the Dalton Food Pantry this Fall.
3. Mission & Justice committee would like to invite everyone to a farewell reception for YaYa on December 8th in Fellowship Hall immediately after service.
4. Session wishes church members and friends a Blessed Holiday Season and good health and happiness in 2020. Many thanks to everyone for continued faithfulness in their attendance, support with contributions and volunteer help at First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit.

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 Cochrane
Director of Chapel Choir	Kay Ten Eyck
Organist	Kay Ten Eyck
Sexton	John Conklin

Board of Deacons

Care Team Ministry **Coordinators are:**

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

October 31, 2019

REVENUE

Budget	\$311,258
Actual Received	<u>290,947</u>
Difference	(\$ 20,311)
	=====

EXPENSES

Budget	\$320,043
Actual Expenses	<u>326,172</u>
Difference	(\$ 6,129)
	=====

BUDGET VARIANCE (\$ 26,440)

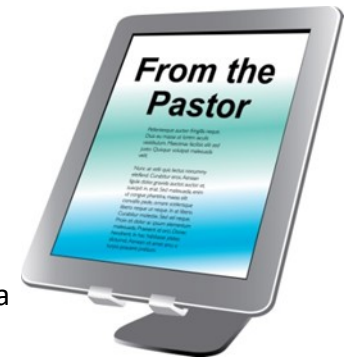
PLEDGE INCOME

Budget	\$ 270,833
Received	<u>259,268</u>
Difference	(\$ 11,566)
	=====

At the end of October, contributions for Per Capita 2019 (which is \$34.50 per member) were \$3,237.

From the Pastor

December 2019



As a kid, I waited for the Sears Wish Book to arrive. That thick, glossy full-color catalog was chock-full of things that I hadn't realized that I wanted. It appeared in the mailbox many months early, providing plenty of time to prepare a list for Santa Claus. *Here's what I want* - with page numbers and sizes noted, just in case the Jolly Old Elf needed help in satisfying my childish greed.

That was a long time ago. The Sears folks downsized the Wish Book in 1993. I don't believe it is printed any more. Most of the Sears operation has left the mall-sized stores and moved online. But my childhood wishes prepared my spirit for the season of Advent. It's a time of hope, a promise of things to come. While the merchandise in the Wish Book satisfied me for only a few hours on Christmas morning, the greater longings of Advent are for the gifts of God that sustain us for a lifetime - and beyond.

Are you looking for hope? By all means, make this a season for worship and study. Our December worship services will focus on the theme of hope, as we reflect together on texts from the Gospel of Matthew. We will discover that hope is not merely a human trait that lies latent in our hearts; it is a surprising gift from God that disrupts, deepens, and redirects the shadows of gloom that surround us.

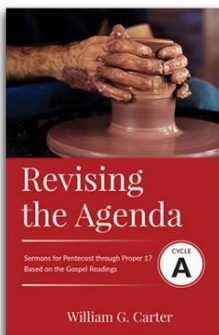
Are you looking for consolation? Please join us on Monday, December 16 at 7:00 p.m. for our Blue Christmas Vespers. This quiet, reflective worship service offers an opportunity to be together in the face of the losses and difficulties that we experience. We will light memorial candles for our loved ones, offer our prayers for peace and restoration, and take part in a delicious reception following the service.

Are you looking for purpose? As you scan the pages of this newsletter, there is no shortage of invitations to reach out to others, assist the afflicted, lift up the downtrodden, and celebrate our common humanity. What do you do to show the love of Christ to others? Find something to serve somebody else!

Are you looking for joy? Joy begins to invade the shadows of Advent by the third week, as we begin to sing Christmas carols and welcome the coming light of Jesus Christ. By the time we get to Christmas Eve, it will be full-throttle joy as we celebrate the birth of our Savior. Take note that we have readjusted our service times to better accommodate our families. We will be looking for you among a sea of illumined candles.

Wishing you a hope-filled Advent and a joyful Christmas,

Rev. Bill Carter



We are please to announce the release of *Revising the Agenda*, Rev. Bill Carter's new book of sermons. It is available in the church office for \$20, with all proceeds going to support the NEPA Youth Shelter.

A limited supply of some of Rev. Carter's previous books are also available from the church office for \$10, with the proceeds also going to the NEPA Youth Shelter.

New Church Directory -

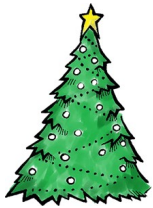
It's been five years since our last church directory was printed... and we're trying something new where we have a choice of an Online Photo Directory or a Printed Photo Directory through a company called Instant Church Directory. Photos will be taken during Hanging of the Greens on Sunday, December 1 and on Sundays throughout December as needed. Or you may provide your own photo.



Advantages of Instant Church Directory:

- Church members will take the photos and no pushy salespeople will try to sell you prints.
- We can update member information instantly.
- You can have your directory on your iPhone or iPad, Android device or Kindle Fire; or, if you'd prefer, you can have a printed directory.
- Accessing information in Online Directory is password protected, safe and secure.

There will be a flyer in the church bulletin asking for information you would like included in the directory. **For more information, check out the website for Instant Church Directory.**



HOLIDAY ANGEL TREE

All pajamas must be returned to the church wrapped or in a gift bag by December 8. Please make sure your gift tag is attached as it contains important information as to what Head Start Location it should go.



Race and The American Church: Where do we go from here?

Whether or not you participated in this fall series of The Way, it's never too late to join the conversation. Ask around and you'll probably find someone who was at many of these sessions and would be happy to share their experience.



Or, start by checking out (yes, actually checking out, not just "checking out") one of the new books on racism in our library. They are all displayed on one fairly easily visible shelf. And easily borrowed! Just take the card out of the inside pocket, sign your name and the date you are taking it, and leave the card in the wooden box on the same shelf. When you've finished reading it, just leave the book back on the lower shelf to the right labeled "Return books here."

However, whenever, and wherever,
give some good consideration to joining and continuing the conversation.

Mission and Justice Committee

Give to the Christmas Joy Offering December 1 - 22, 2019



CHRISTMAS JOY
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

Christmas Joy is one of four PCUSA church-wide special offerings that help share Christ's love with millions of people around the world. This December offering specifically honors God's gift of Jesus Christ by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and

colleges equipping communities of color.

A few Christmas ideas from Mission and Justice:

Still looking for gifts that give more? Perhaps you will find something in the Presbyterian Gift Catalog (<https://presbyteriangifts.org>). Even if you do all your shopping through Amazon, consider smile.amazon.com where Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization. And here are some tips from PRC (<https://prc.org/green-gift-giving/>) to make your holiday a little greener:

1. Reuse or make your own holiday decorations! They often produce less waste and are more cherished by family members! (Bonus tip: Compost any natural decorations, such as wreaths or gingerbread houses.)
2. Reuse packaging materials from your online orders when sending gifts to faraway friends and relatives.
3. Purchase holiday cards printed on recycled paper, send-e-cards, or craft your own greeting cards.
4. Make your holiday snacks and food local and organic to cut down on waste and environmental impact.
5. Houseplants make great gifts as they filter the air and make you feel better.
6. Recycle broken string lights at a number of local home improvement stores – be sure to call ahead.

Celebrate Yaya!

Four years ago we began our relationship with Williamson Jacques, Yaya, a Haitian student at Keystone College. Donna and Dave Porter have been Yaya's sponsors for his international education experience. He will complete his bachelor's degree in Child and Family Studies Education at the end of this Fall 2019 semester.

The Mission & Justice Committee plans to celebrate his graduation on Sunday, December 8, with a reception/program following the morning worship service in Fellowship Hall. Please come to honor him and wish him well in his future endeavors.

Yaya is putting together a PowerPoint photo presentation for us and would like the opportunity to express his appreciation for all our church has done for him during his time here in Clarks Summit/Factoryville. Please plan to attend and help celebrate his accomplishments.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN CIRCLE BIBLE STUDIES



Love Carved in Stone: A Fresh Look at the 10 Words

“Words of Love: Honor the Life-Givers” will be our Fifth Word. Observe the two versions of the same Word: “Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you” (Exo. 20:12) and “Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God commanded you, so that your days may be long and that it may go well with you in the land that the LORD your God is giving you” (Deut. 5:16). Isn’t it interesting that even in a patriarchal society honor was to be shown to the mother as well as to the father?

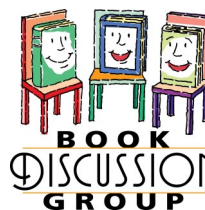
Our author, Eugenia Gamble, wants us “to consider life itself as God’s fundamental gift, the most basic blessing that God gives to us, and think about how we are to honor those whom God uses to bring us to life.”

We look forward to your joining us for our Christmas luncheon or dinner as well. The Dorcas and Priscilla Circles will meet for the lesson at 10:00 a.m. at the church on December 17 and then go for our luncheon. The place will be announced after our November meeting.

The Eunice Circle will meet at 6:00 p.m. at Gwynne Gilbert’s home at 221 Alan’s Drive, Clarks Summit on December 17 for dinner. More will be announced at the November meeting. 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 for 6:00 p.m.

Our Presbyterian Women wish all a Merry Christmas!

All are welcome! FPC Book Group December 5 @ Connie Weiss’s home, 7pm



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

Why would a cow lick a tractor? Why are collies getting dumber? Why do dolphins sometimes kill for fun? How can a parrot learn to spell? How did wolves teach man to evolve? Temple Grandin draws upon a long, distinguished career as an animal scientist and her own experiences with autism to deliver an extraordinary message about how animals act, think, and feel. She has a perspective like that of no other expert in the field, which allows her to offer unparalleled observations and groundbreaking ideas. People with autism can often think the way animals think, putting them in the perfect position to translate "animal talk." Grandin is a faithful guide into their world, exploring animal pain, fear, aggression, love, friendship, communication, learning, and, yes, even animal genius. The sweep of *Animals in Translation* is immense and will forever change the way we think about animals..

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 DATES:**Sunday, December 1** - Advent program for all ages following worship, lunch provided. Celebrate the season!**Wednesday, December 25** - No WAY classes. Merry Christmas!**Wednesday, January 1** - No WAY classes. Happy New Year!**Classes for Children and Youth:**

Spark Nursery (up to age 4): A nurturing class for our youngest learners, our nursery class will hear Bible stories, sing songs, play, and participate in activities appropriate to their age.

Grace & Faith (4 years old - Grade 5) experience Bible stories through our curriculum *Growing in Grace & Gratitude*. This winter we will hear messages of hope and comfort as we welcome Jesus — first as a baby, then as teacher and savior. In December, we will learn that *A Child Will Be Born, to Prepare the Road*, and about *Jesus' Family Tree*.

We Believe (Grades 6 and up): This winter, students will go back to the beginning by exploring the Old Testament. We'll continue to discover the history and richness of the Bible as we discuss, ask questions, and dig deeper into familiar stories. In December, we'll explore the Law and Judges.

Class for Adults:

Advent Study — We are pleased Charlie Pinches will lead a Bible study in Room 206 for the three Wednesdays before Christmas (December 4, 11, 18). Come and prepare for the birth of Christ by reflecting on the promises of scripture with church friends. In Room 206.

Coming for Adults in January, there will be two classes on Wednesdays: "Can We Talk About Gun Violence?" with Melba Fialko and friends, and "How to Spell Presbyterian" with Rev. Carter and friends.

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.

We welcome our newest members

On Sunday, November 24, we welcomed seven new members in our church family. Please greet them and let them know how glad we are to have them among us.



Dr. Clyde Ellsworth



Jerry and Joan Miller



Clint Sekol



Steve and Kathy Sloneker



Jan Thyren and husband, the Rev. Jim Thyren (recently retired from West Pittston)

From the Deacons

We are currently updating our listing of dates for birthdays and anniversaries. If you would like to have your special date(s) included in this list, please send the information to Gwynne Gilbert at ggilbert221@gmail.com, by text to 570-764-5425, or call 570-586-9317.

Please include your name, the date (not including year) of the occasion, and whether it is an anniversary or birthday. All of your family members can be included.

Advent Mission Project: Bags of Hope

The Christian Education and Growth Committee is assisting the Lackawanna County Youth Advisory Board (YAB) in collecting new or gently used duffel bags and toiletry items for young people going into foster care. Many times, young people in foster care only have trash bags to move their belongings from home to home, and YAB wants to change this.

On **Sunday, December 1**, church youth and a local Girl Scout troop will be packing the duffel bags after the Hanging of the Greens. Items listed below and duffel bags (or backpacks) will be collected in the church narthex until the event. What we need:

- Soap
- Shampoo
- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste
- Deodorant
- Feminine hygiene products
- Hairbrushes
- Blankets

Is the Lord calling you to teach?

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!

Welcome to Our Adventures in the Bible Group



Families with children ages 2 and older are welcome, and parents of younger children are invited to stay in the class to enjoy the lesson and craft or activity with their little ones. We look forward to seeing your family downstairs on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m.

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

Join us for this year's Adventure in the Bible!



You're never too young or too old...

To Tell the Story.

Oh God, you have taught me from my earliest childhood,

and I constantly tell others about the wonderful things you do.

Now that I am old and gray,
do not abandon me, O God.

Let me proclaim your power to this new generation,

Your mighty miracles to all who come after me.

Psalm 71:18-19

New Living Translation

Joys

Sorrows

Thank You Notes



Lectionary Readings

- 1 Maggie Woolever
- 7 Dylan Farrell
- 8 Ginny O'Brien
- 9 Betty Keen
- 14 Linda Young
- 18 Kevin Shane
- 19 Aaron Cole
- 20 Brian Schillinger
- 21 Fred Campbell
- 22 Jeanne Comley
- 23 Denise Reinhart
- 24 Joanie Garnecki
- 28 Shirley McLaughlin
- 30 Liam Farrell

Bill and Jessie
Davis on
December 23

December 1
Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122; Romans 13:11-14, Matthew 24:36-44

December 8
Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12

December 15
Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 146:5-10 or Luke 1:46b-55; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

December 22
Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 18-25

December 24
Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

December 25
Dawn: Isaiah 62:6-12; Psalm 97; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2 (1-7) 8-20
Day: Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98; Hebrews 1:1-4 (5-12); John 1:1-4

December 29
Isaiah 63:7-9; Psalm 148; Hebrews 2:10-18; Matthew 2:13-23

Greeters for December

- December 1 Al and Deb Traettino
- December 8 Mick and Lee Wirth
- December 15 Mick and Lee Wirth
- December 22 Jack and Barbara Pittman
- December 29 John Conklin

Ushers


Betty Keen and Jim McLaughlin

December 1 Communion Team

Connie Weiss, captain; John Weiss, Dave Porter, Donna Porter, Sue Flynn, JoAnn Hall



We extend our sympathy and prayers to Frank Garnecki, Jayne Brabrooke, and their families, on the death of Frank and Jayne's mother, Johanna "Jane" Garnecki, who passed away on November 19, 2019.

Sunday 1	Monday 2	Tuesday 3	Wednesday 4	Thursday 5	Friday 6	Saturday 7
7am-AA 9am-Adventures in the Bible 10am-Worship 11am-Advent Program 3pm-OA	7am-AA 6pm-Girl Scouts 7pm-Mission	7am-AA 10am-PW Exec. Board 6pm-OA 5:30-Choral Society 7pm-Big Book	7am-AA 11am-Prayer/Share 5pm-The W.A.Y. Light supper 5:30-Chapel Ch. 6:15-Christian Ed. 7:15-Adult Choir 8pm-AIAnon 8:30-Bell Choir	7am-AA 8:30-Men's Breakfast 4:30-Staff 7pm-AIAnon 7pm-Christian Ed. 7pm-Building & Grounds	7am-AA	7am-AA
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
7am-AA 9am-Adventures in the Bible 10am-Worship 3pm-OA	7am-AA 6pm-Girl Scouts	7am-AA 10am-MBK Quilts 5:30-Choral Soc. 6pm-OA 7pm-Big Book	7am-AA 11am-Prayer/Share 5pm-The W.A.Y. Light supper 5:30-Chapel Ch. 6:15-Christian Ed. 7:15-Adult Choir 8pm-AIAnon 8:30-Bell Choir	7am-AA 7pm-AIAnon	7am-AA	7am-AA Recital Rehearsal
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
7am-AA 9am-Adventures in the Bible 10am-Worship 11:15-Special Session Mtg 3pm-OA Recital	7am-AA 6pm-Girl Scouts 7pm-Blue Christmas Service	7am-AA 10am-Dorcas & Priscilla Circle Study & Lunch 5:30-Choral Soc. 6pm-OA 6pm-Eunice Circle Christmas Party 7pm-Big Book	7am-AA 11am-Prayer/Share 5pm-The W.A.Y. Light supper 5:30-Chapel Ch. 6:15-Christian Ed. 7:15-Adult Choir 8pm-AIAnon 8:30-Bell Choir	7am-AA 8:30-Men's Breakfast 7pm AIAnon	7am-AA	7am-AA
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
7am-AA 9am-Adventures in the Bible 10am-Worship 3pm-OA	7am-AA 6pm-Girl Scouts	7am-AA 12 noon—Church Office closes. 4pm, 8pm, 11pm Christmas Eve Services (See page 1.) Christmas Eve	7am-AA  Christmas Day	7am-AA 7pm-AIAnon	7am-AA	7am-AA
29	30	31	 DECEMBER			
7am-AA 9am-Adventures in the Bible 10am-Worship 3pm-OA	7am-AA	12 noon-Church Office closes. New Years Eve 				



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

300 School Street
Clarks Summit, PA 18411-1536

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
Permit No. 30
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Clarks Summit PA

DATED MATERIAL

Return Service Requested



Looking Ahead.....

Sunday, January 12, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.

Bohemian Winter with John M Vaida Trio

Friday - Sunday, February 14-16

Clarks Summit Ice Festival of Ice

Sunday, February 23 - Mardi Gras Jazz Service

Wednesday, February 26 - Ash Wednesday

