First Presbyterian Church
300 School Street
Clarks Summit, PA 18411
570/586-6306
www.fpccs.org

First Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day
14th Sunday after Pentecost

September 14, 2025 10:00 a.m.

In preparation for worship, please turn off all cell phones and electronic devices.

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Gathering Hymn
Words of Welcome
Prelude "Trumpet Processional" Alfred Fedak

Call to Worship

We are here because we have heard the call of Jesus in our lives.
We are here to challenge and support one another to rise up and follow.
We are here because we want to be God's people.
We want to learn more about what it means to be the people of God.
We come, seeking to be changed, moved, and made whole by the Spirit of the Living God.
Let us open our hearts to the moving of the Spirit, and prepare to leave this place as true disciples of Christ.

* Hymn 12 "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

Ushers will collect prayer request cards from the center aisle.

* Call to Confession
* Prayer of Confession

Holy Redeemer, we confess that often we are led astray from your ways. Yet you do not leave us alone; in Christ you come to seek and save the lost. We acknowledge that we need a savior, and rejoice in the sure hope of Christ's saving work. As recipients of your mercy, we offer ourselves as bearers of your mercy. Equip us by your Spirit as your ambassadors, to show the world your healing love in Christ, working faithfully for your Kingdom and righteousness, proclaiming the good news of your love and joy.

* Silent Confession
* Assurance of Pardon
* Passing of the Peace
* Response (598)

Amen, we praise your name, O God!
Amen, we praise your name, O God!
Amen, amen. Amen, amen! Amen, we praise your name, O God.

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination
First Lesson: I Timothy 1:12-17 (NT p. 208)

A Time with Children

Anthem "God So Loved the World" Stainer

Gospel Lesson: Luke 15:1-10 (NT p. 78)

Sermon: "Lovingly Searching" Rev. Samford

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

* Hymn 435 "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

* Affirmation of Faith: Apostles' Creed (Hymnal, p. 35)

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Minute for Peacemaking Tabbi Miller-Scandle
Offering
Offertory "Andante Cantabile" Robert Powell
Response (698)

Take, O take me as I am; summon out what I shall be;
Set your seal upon my heart and live in me.

* Prayer of Dedication

GO IN GOD'S NAME

* Hymn 187 "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"
* Charge and Benediction
* Postlude "Prelude" Robert Powell

If you are leaving before the postlude is finished, please do so quietly.

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* All who are able shall stand.

The flowers are given by Chris & Jodi Cieszkowski to the glory of God in memory of Jodi's brother, Jimmy Carlin.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Guest Preacher	Rev. William Samford
Coordinator of Children and Youth	Jana Schillinger
Director of Music	Frank Jones
Organist	Kay Ten Eyck
Liturgist	Tabbi Miller-Scandle and Ariana

Church Family Announcements

Our congregation worships God, equips God's people for ministry in the world, and serves God in ways that are faithful to the Gospel.

Thank you for joining us for Worship.

- We gather at 10:00 a.m. in person or on our YouTube channel, (or stream the service on YouTube at a later time).
- Please use the red attendance pads to record your presence today.

Old Testament Connections at Wednesday Night Study
On September 10, we will begin our Fall Wednesday night Bible study with "Old Testament Connections." Each week, we will use a different lens to understand how various stories of the Bible connect to one another using maps, timelines, world history, and other tools. We will meet at 6:00 p.m. in the library (Room 206).

The 2025-26 Arts at First Presbyterian concert series will open **Today at 4 p.m.** with the interna-tionally-acclaimed **Bloom/ Funkhouser Duo** (Peter H. Bloom, flute, and John Funkhouser, piano). The duo will be performing **Salute to Duke Ellington** which will celebrate Duke and his esteemed co-composers Billy Strayhorn, Juan Tizol and Mercer Ellington, with classics and rarities like Caravan,

Take the A Train, I'm Beginning to See the Light, East Saint Louis Toodle-Oo, Depk, and Jump for Joy. The concert is open to the public free of charge, with a free-will offering taken to help defray the cost of the event. Meet the artists at a reception held following the concert.

Arts Events scheduled for October are Sunday, October 12 at 4 p.m. - Arcadia Chorale, and Sunday, October 26 at 4 p.m. - Colebrook Road (bluegrass band)**.**

Our LIFT Program resumes today! This program with light meal is held after worship about every 6 weeks for all in the church family.

FPC Young(er) Adult Group - These are great opportunities for new friends and even whole families to meet others in the church. For details and to RSVP, please reach out to Michael Thompson at mkthompson96@gmail.com or 518-577-8691:

- Saturday, September 20 at 1 p.m. - Apple Picking at Lakeland Orchard, 1649 Lakeland Drive, Scott Township. General admission tickets are $22.95.
- Saturday, October 18? - We are working on plans for a campfire night.
- November - let us know your ideas!

Women's Bible Study will begin this Tuesday, September 16, 10 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Our study for 2025-26 is Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity In Jesus Christ. Read John 20:1-18 and John 11:17-27.

ADOPT A HIGHWAY: The first fall Morgan Highway Cleanup is set for Saturday, September 20, meeting at the Clarks Summit United Methodist Church parking lot, 9 a.m. Safety vests, gloves, and garbage bags are provided. Contact Jack Scheuer at john.scheuer123@gmail.com or 570- 362-3275.

Sign up for Worship Through Service projects. A sign-up sheet that includes the list of projects is in this bulletin. You can also sign up in the Narthex or use the link in Wednesday's **Light from the Hill.**

Tell us your prayer concerns. Prayer Request Cards are in the pew racks. Pass them to the center aisle to be collected during the first hymn.
Please pray for: Hall, Mollie, Ellen S., Jeff, Jean, Nancy, Sarah, Carol, Leslie, Kim, Stuart, Kathy, Tim, Claire, Craig K., Gary K., Judy S., AJ, Lee, Sally, Terry, Estelle, Nate, Len, Millie, family and friends, Faith, Erin, Terry B., Katie, Mary, Sue and family, Renee, Wendy.

Hoping to see you at the Celebration for Rev. Bill's anniversaries on October 5. Reservation envelopes, with meal selection and payment may be placed in either the offering plate or the wooden box in the Narthex. **Deadline: September 22.**

Take a Presbyterian trip to Ireland

Registration is now open for our church's journey to the Emerald Isle. Scheduled for April 12-21, 2026, a group of Presbyterians will travel to Dublin, Galway, and all the spots in between. Brochures are available in the narthex. As with the trip to Scotland, Witte Travel of Grand Rapids is organizing an extraordinary trip for us. Reach out to **Rev. Bill Carter** or Jamie Strong with questions.

State Hospital Luncheon: The women of the church will host a fall luncheon for friends from Clarks Summit State Hospital on Oct. 7, noon, in Fellowship Hall. Volunteers are needed to greet our guests, and assist with set-up, serving and clean-up of the meal. **There is a need for several items** at this time: new or used **luggage/ backpacks** (in good condition); **shoes;** (used) **working CD players; leggings** (new)**; baseball caps.** Donation boxes have been placed in the narthex. Any questions, please call Janet Dobson at 570-563-1887.

Copies of September Happenings Magazine can be found in the Narthex.

We are grateful for the many ways that people support our church's ministry to the community and world. If you wish to contribute by cell phone, scan here.

Looking Ahead:

- September 27-28, Worship Through Service Weekend.
- October 5, World Communion Sunday
- October 12, Confirmation begins
- October 12, Arts at FPCCS: Choral Artistry with Arcadia Chorale, 4pm
- October 26, LIFT program (following worship), topic is **Reformation**
- October 26, Arts at FPCCS: Blue Grass with Colebrook Road, 4 p.m.

This Week at a Glance

Sunday, September 14
- 10 a.m., Worship in the sanctuary and online
- 11:15, LIFT program
- 3 p.m., OA, Room 210
- 4 p.m., Arts: Salute to Duke Ellington, Sanctuary

Tuesday, September 16
- 9:30 a.m., Yoga, Room 111
- 10 a.m., Women's Bible Study
- 6 p.m., OA, Room 210
- 7 p.m., AA, Room 111

Wednesday, September 17
- 10:30 a.m., Prayer and Share, Room 209
- 6 p.m., Wednesday Night Bible Study: Old Testament Connections
- 7 p.m., Choir rehearsal, sanctuary
- 7:30 p.m., AlAnon, Room 206

Thursday, September 18
- 9 a.m., Mobile Food Pantry: preparations / 4 p.m., food distribution
- 7 p.m., AA, Room 111

Friday, September 19

Presbyter Deadline: forward articles to office@fpccs.org

Saturday, September 20
- 9 a.m., Highway clean-up, meeting at CS United Methodist Church
- 1p.m. - Apple Picking at Lakeland Orchard, 1649 Lakeland Drive, Scott Twp.

Sunday, September 21
- 10 a.m., Worship in the sanctuary and online
- 11:15 a.m., Confirmation Class family meeting
- 3 p.m., OA, Room 210

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