

The Presbyter

September 2021

The First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit

Jazz Communion service on Sunday, September 5



Join us at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday as we kick off the fall with our annual Jazz Communion service. This year, the service features the music of John Birks "Dizzy" Gillespie. Dizzy was an extraordinary trumpeter, a remarkable composer, and a true innovator in the jazz tradition. We welcome a stellar cast of musicians to lead our praises. Our featured trumpet soloist will be Jeff Stockham from Syracuse. He will be joined by Mike Carbone on saxophone and flute, Tony Marino on bass, and Tyler Dempsey on drums.

Rev. Bill will play piano and preach. It's his first official day back in the pulpit after a summer-long sabbatical. He claims he has spent the summer practicing the piano. (We will see about that.)

We will be looking for you as the fall program year begins!

A Hymn Sing and Picnic are planned!

Are there hymns that you've been missing? Or some favorite ones you'd really love to sing? Sunday, August 29 is YOUR DAY! We will have a HYMN SING in the sanctuary which will play a large part in our morning worship.

And after the Hymn Sing...

It's a Parking Lot Picnic!

That's right. I've heard *rumors* of burgers and 'dogs, and other picnic fare. Please come to enjoy the food and, more importantly, the friends. (Care will be taken regarding food handling.)



So clear your calendar for August 29 and plan to join your church family for a long-overdue reunion!

Worship Through Service

Sunday, September 26 See all activities on pages 6 & 7



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Notes from the combined Session & Deacon Meeting on Tuesday, July 27, 2021

- Session requests that members and friends continue to wear masks to services and meetings at First Presbyterian, CS
- Session thanks anyone who has ministered to church members during Rev. William Carter's sabbatical.
- Many members and friends are working hard on Worship Through Service projects which include two Hickory Street Presbyterian Church Community Meal projects.
- 4. Next meeting of Session will be Tuesday, September 14, 2021.

Beverly Bright
Clerk of Session



Board of Deacons

Care Team Ministry Coordinators are:

Deacon Meals Erika Henderson

570-878-2410

Time of Loss Anne Rich 570-587-2802

Emergency Home Repairs TBD

and Maintenance

Deacon Driver TBD

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 October issue is September 17.

<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 Wayne Griffiths Treasurer Editor Amanda Roberts Clerk of Session Beverly Bright **Director of Music** Frank Jones Director of Bells Richard Cochrane **Organist** Kav Ten Evck Sexton John Conklin

FROM YOUR FINANCE COMMITTEE FOR THE MONTH ENDING JUNE 30, 2021

REVENUE

Budget	\$188,100
Actual Received	179,053
Difference	(\$ 9,047)

EXPENSES

Budget	\$193,231
Actual Expenses	<u>177,239</u>
Difference	\$ 15,992

Result of operations \$ 6,945

PLEDGE

Budget	\$162,500
Actually received	<u>157,017</u>
	(\$ 5,483)

Per Capita received to date is \$3,394. 2021 Per Capita per member is \$35.

From the Pastor September 2021

Hi! My name is Bill. Remember me?

I'm writing from my final days in Sabbatical Land. It has been a refreshing and restorative summer. I am deeply grateful that you have granted this time for me to rest, repair, and create. There's a new spark in my spirit and I am ready to return and get back to work.



As you know, the focal project for my summer has been to write a new book on the interplay of jazz and the spiritual life. The first draft was completed in late July. Since then, I have been working with a professional editor to polish, trim, reorganize, amend, and clarify the fifteen chapters of the manuscript. That has taken as much energy as writing the book. The good news is the editor's work might have unexpected consequences. I can't promise my sermons will be any shorter, but they might be clearer. You'll have to let me know.

The gift of a sabbatical has given me the freedom to slow down and breathe. Jamie and I have had lots of great time together. We've enjoyed spending time with our adult children. We have visited mountain cabins and seaside bungalows. It's been a summer for physical exercise and intellectual stimulation. And I think I have caught up on my sleep.

The past eighteen months have demanded a great deal from all of us. The pandemic has challenged us to be physically and emotionally healthy. We have had to figure out new ways to communicate and to be present with one another. Established routines have been disrupted. The status quo has been torn to shreds. It has been a difficult season. I hope you have taken the necessary time to take care of yourselves, to rest and reevaluate priorities, and to be good stewards of your minds, bodies, and souls.

And I perceive the pandemic's disruptions have given us a fresh opportunity to be the church of Jesus Christ. My reading of the circumstances is that we are called upon to deal with things that matter. To focus on the essentials. To build and enrich our relationships. To draw deeply from the gifts of God's Spirit. To work side by side to show the world what God's Dominion looks like. To become more like Christ.

So I'm ready to jump back in. I'm ready to preach a fall sermon series on the Gospel of Mark. I'm ready to teach Bible studies. I'm ready to catch up with what's been happening in your life. I'm ready to listen and pray for you. I'm ready to come alongside the Session and Deacons and cheer on the good work they have been doing as they lead our church.

Thanks again for the gift of this sabbatical summer. It has been a generous gift, and it energizes me to engage with you in the work that God has called us to do together.

See you soon,

Rev. Bill Carter

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PRAYER AND SHARE

Please join us. We welcome new members to join us each Wednesday at 10:30 AM room 209 to read a devotion from Upper Room, share concerns, and pray together for those who serve others, the aging, those with illnesses, those experiencing loss and for world problems.

Pauline Heckman and Carol Norton started Prayer and Share in 1973. Since then our church has continued to have a group praying together each week to give thanks and praise and remembering those in need of prayer in our families, community, government and world. Each week the prayer requests are written down so that they may be remembered during the week.

Matthew 18:19, "Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."

Arts at First Presbyterian

has planned another full season of concerts at the church, starting with a performance of an original composition by Bill Carter by the Lyric Consort and the Presbybop Quintet in October and ending with the music of the 1920's as performed by Drew Nugent & The Midnight Society. The tentative lineup of events is as follows:

The Arts
at First Presbyterian Church

October 17, 2021 - Music of Consolation - Lyric Consort and Presbybop Quintet

November 14, 2021 - Chamber Music-Pianist Rick Hoffenberg, clarinetist Katie Morrell, and others

January 2022 - Nate Worrell on piano / Steel drum band

February 18-20, 2022 - Clarks Summit Festival of Ice activities including student musicians, a drum circle, art show, Chili Cafe, and participatory activities for children

March 20, 2022 - Merchants of Groove- blues band for Lent led by Paul Lyon

April 24, 2022 - All-church concert

May 15, 2022 - Drew Nugent & The Midnight Society- jazz ensemble based out of the Philadelphia area led by pianist, trumpeter, and vocalist, Drew Nugent

These events are offered as a gift to the community. There is no admission charge for these events, but free-will offerings are generally taken.

The Arts at First Presbyterian series is supported by county and state grants, but relies heavily on private contributions. Patrons can contribute by dropping a check in the weekly offering, by sending a check to the church office, or making a donation on the church's website. Be sure to specify "Arts Series" in the memo area.

Look forward to seeing you at a concert! John Weiss, Chair Arts at First Presbyterian



A Season of Peace

will be observed for four weeks from Sunday September 5th until World Communion Sunday on October 3rd. Presbyterian Church (USA) is empowering congrega-

tions and individuals to become peacemakers as we address conflict and injustice personally, locally, nationally, and across the world. Personally, should you decide to take part in this peace pilgrimage as an individual or with your family, you can visit this offering's website (listed below). There, you will find curriculum resources such as At Home Resources, Children's Message, and Multi-Age Children's Lesson along with sermons. You can also visit the season of peace website where you will find daily reflections, an adult book study, a coloring poster, and more. Also, free for you to take and use throughout September will be peace cards in an envelope attached to our bulletin board in our church's narthex.

During this Season of Peace, we will be collecting our **Peace and Global Witness Special Offering**. 50% of this offering will be used by the Presbyterian Mission Agency to advocate for peace and justice in cultures of violence, including our own, through collaborative projects of education and Christian witness. 25% will be used by mid councils for ministries of peace and reconciliation. The final 25% is designated for congregations to continue with peacemaking efforts locally. This year, we will be donating our 25% congregational portion to the Scranton Refugee English Conservation Class for the purchase of 15 sets of books and study materials. This will be an invaluable gift to the volunteers who have been working with our local Congolese refugee families in teaching them English with limited resources thus far.

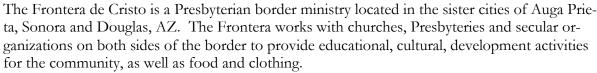
Please consider giving generously as we promote peacemaking through our offering. You can make your donations on line via our church's website (follow the "Give Here" green button and designate your gift to this offering), send the church a check through the mail noting the offering on your check, or using the special offering envelope found in the pews at church or in your box of weekly offering envelopes.

PEACE IS ACTIVE, not passive, PEACE Is DOING, not waiting. IF WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO ALOT! Thank you for your support!

https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/peace-global-witness/#resources

In Memory.....

A gift of \$1,000 has been made in memory of Fred C. Lyon to the Presbyterian Mission Agency for the Frontera de Cristo Ministry. This gift was contributed by many members of our church and other friends and designated by the Mission and Justice Committee.





Fred would have been pleased to see the money used for so great a need! We, his family, thank you, church family, for honoring Fred and his memory.

Love and blessings, Char and all in the Lyon's Den

Time surely passes, But the need of care remains. Loving hands help heal. Page 6 The Presbyter

Highway Cleanup

The Highway Cleanup Crew is always looking for helping hands. On four Saturdays across the year, we pick up litter along a stretch of the Morgan Highway between Country Club Road and Winola Road. PennDot supplies the trash bags, gloves, safety vests, and caution signs to alert drivers of our presence. The walking pace is slow, the road is pretty flat and the fellowship, conversation, and fresh air are good. We meet at 9:00 am those mornings at Clarks Summit Methodist Church on the Morgan highway, group-up, and are usually done by about 10:00 am.

Our dates for 2021-2022 are:

Saturday, September 11, 2021 Saturday, November 13, 2021 Saturday, April 9, 2022 Saturday, June 11, 2022



For more information, talk to Alan Baker at 570-362-0382 or abaker2@verizon.net



Shoppers Wanted

Hickory Street Community Meals Program

Update from the Mission and Justice Committee on the Hickory Street Project.

Thank you to the many who have already signed up to serve, cook the entrée, or make desserts for our upcoming Community Meal at Hickory Street Presbyterian Church on

August 28th. But we are still lacking lots of food pantry items as we prepare to hand out bags of groceries. We need to be prepared to distribute as many as 40 such bags...and then to do the same a month later on September 24th. Please find below a list of items in a typical bag. If you can bring any of these items to church, please place them in the big box in the foyer. You can also support this project financially and we will find someone else to do the shopping. Mark cash or checks to be directed to the "Hickory Street Meals."

SHOPPING LIST

1 box of Cereal	1 box of Pasta
1 can or plastic jar of Spaghetti Sauce	1 bag of Candy
1 box of Mac n Cheese	1-2 cans of Vegetables
1 can of Fruit	1 can of Tuna
1 4-pack of Jello Pudding cups	1 box Pop Tarts
1 plastic jar of Peanut Butter	1 plastic jar or squeeze bottle of Jelly

To volunteer, or for more information, contact Alan Baker at <u>abaker2@verizon.net</u> or speak with Jack and Diane Scheuer, Melba Fialko, and Ginny O'Brien. Sign-up and information sheets are located on the table in the church foyer.

"For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in." (Matthew 25:35)



Please join us for the 2021 Worship Through Service!

Our annual Worship Through Service event is a reminder that praise begins inside the church and moves outside to love our neighbors and serve our community. Our service activities will take place on Saturday, September 25, 2021 and Sunday, September 26, 2021. A sign-up sheet can be found on the bulletin board in the church narthex.

No T-shirts will be required this year. If you have any questions or need a ride to an event, please contact Tabbi Miller-Scandle at (570) 470-9762 or tabbi.miller-scandle@scranton.edu.

Hickory Street Presbyterian Church Community Meal – See page 6 for details - Saturday, September 25 - Alan Baker (abaker2@verizon.net)

Hymn Sing at Gardens of Green Ridge – Sunday, September 26 at 2:00pm - Jan Thyren (jthyren@aol.com)

Tree Removal and Cleanup (upper parking lot of church) – Sunday, September 26 - Jay Clymer (buckwheat11@earthlink.net)

Card Writing and Assembly of "Thinking of You" Packages for Homebound Members – Sunday, September 26 - Jana Schillinger (ce@FPCCS.org)

My Brothers Keeper Quilting - Sunday, September 26 - Janet Dobson (570-563-1887)

Collection of bingo prizes for State Hospital - as residents are unable to come to lunch here, items will be collected until Sunday September 26 and taken to the State Hospital for residents' enjoyment. Suggestions include art supplies, make-up, nail polish, coloring books, easy word find tablets, puzzles, blank stationary card packets, small stuffed animals (no buttons please). The Dollar Store is a great source for these items. Janet Dobson (570-563-1887)

Collection of Personal Items for SafetyNet – items (see list below**) will be collected through Sunday, September 26 - David Naeher (dnaehercpa@outlook.com)

**Personal Items for SafetyNet: diapers (all sizes), baby powder, baby formula, toothbrushes, toothpaste, bar soap, shampoo, conditioner, men's and women's disposable razors, shaving cream, men's and women's deodorant, toilet tissue, facial tissue, feminine hygiene products, dish soap, and liquid laundry detergent.

[All items for above projects are being collected in the Narthex.]

My Brothers Keeper Quilting



Unlike most years, My Brothers Keeper quilting group has worked through the summer making sleeping bags for the homeless. We meet the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month in Fellowship Hall at 10:00 AM.

We have received many donations this spring and summer. Thank you for your generosity which allows us to continue this ministry.

September work sessions will be Tuesday the 14th and Sunday the 26th as part of Worship through Service. We hope to see you there!

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We will be offering a confirmation class this year for any student in grades 7-12 who is ready to dig deeper in their faith and learn what it means to belong to the church.

Please contact the church office or Jana Schillinger to let us know if you'd like to participate.

An informational meeting with parents and young people will be held Sunday, September 19 at 11 a.m.

Music at First Presbyterian

I hope everyone had a nice and relaxing summer. We've missed making music and look forward to coming back together in person to continue our strong tradition in music.

Are you new? Looking to join an ensemble? Here are the details for the return of our music programs at First Presbyterian.

Vocal choirs begin September 15.

Children's Music - Wednesdays - 6:15-7:15:

Frank will offer music in conjunction with our Christian Education folks. We will be singing and making music along with learning about important Bible stories and messages. Children of all ages are welcome to join us each week. The children's music program typically participates in worship once a month. Children will sing, play instruments, lead worship, and much more.

Adult Choir - Wednesdays - 7:15-8:15:

Our adult choir program will resume this fall as we work toward being together again. We will begin singing easy hymns and work toward our tradition of choral music at First Presbyterian. Students in 9th Grade to adults 99+ are welcome to join us. Don't have much of a music reading ability? Don't worry; our singers support one another in and out of the church.

Bell Choir- Wednesdays- 8:30-9:15: The Bell Choir is always looking for new members to ring throughout the year. **Rehearsals will begin on October 6.** Students in 9th Grade to adults 99+ are welcome to join this ensemble. Some music reading ability is recommended as the bell choir performs some challenging music. The bell choir typically performs once a month in service but rehearses weekly.

Lectionary Readings

September 5 – 15th Sunday after Pentecost

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23; Psalm 125 Isaiah 35:4-7a; Psalm 146 James 2:1-10 (11-13) 14-17; Mark 7:24-37

September 12 – 16th Sunday after Pentecost

Proverbs 1:20-33; Psalm 19 Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 116:1-9 James 3:1-12; Mark 8:27-38

September 19 – 17th Sunday after Pentecost

Proverbs 31:10-31; Psalm 1 Jeremiah 11:18-20; Psalm 54 James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a; Mark 9:30-37

September 26 – 18th Sunday after Pentecost

Esther 7:1-6,9-10; 9:20-22; Psalm124 Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29: Psalm 19:7-14 James 5:13-20; Mark 9:38-50

Book Group

After a long hiatus because of the pandemic, the book group is looking forward to resuming our meetings in



September. The general consensus from members is that since we have been vaccinated, we will go back to meeting in each other's homes. I am putting together a reading list and am always welcoming new titles for our list. If you would like to join our group or have suggestions of books you would like to discuss, please let me know.

Judy Cutler 570-446-9310 or jdragonflyc@hotmail.com.



THE W.A.Y.

The \underline{W} ednesday \underline{A} dults and \underline{Y} outh Christian Education "I am the WAY, the TRUTH, and the LIFE"

Classes 6:15

The W.A.Y. begins Wednesday, September 15!

The Christian Education committee is excited to offer **in person classes** for the WAY this fall. As we continue to find "normal" and with caution regarding continuing COVID concerns, we will hold a simplified, 1-hour program through September. While we hope to return to our full WAY programming soon, for now we will meet at 6:15 each Wednesday for classes. We hope to see you there!

Classes Offered:

Grace & Faith (4 years old - Grade 5) Join us for a combined music and CE class! Children will hear stories from the Bible and learn about God's amazing love for them while also singing classic children's Bible songs. Make a joyful noise to the Lord as you grow in grace and faith! Meets in Room 108.

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 September, we will answer: What do Christians believe in? Is it okay to have doubts about God? Who Can be Saved? Meets in Room 209.

Adults: Mark's Clueless Disciples Does it ever feel like we are just stumbling around in our attempts to follow Jesus? If so, it might be consoling to know that that's how the disciples appear in the Gospel of Mark. They just don't get it! Mark's Gospel warns us that it isn't easy to follow Jesus. We will make mistakes. This gospel is meant to encourage us by showing us what being a disciple of Jesus really means.

In this 5-week study we'll follow Peter's and the other 11 disciples' foibles and follies sequentially through Mark's 16 chapters, hoping to get to know them, ourselves, and Jesus all the better. And, Rev. Carter will be preaching on Mark, so Wednesday and Sunday will relate. Meets in Room 206.

Bibles for Children

On September 12th, we will present our new **3rd grade** and **Kindergarten** students with Bibles. It is important to us as a church that we encourage our children to hear God's story and to begin reading it for themselves.

Are you on the list? If you have a kindergartener or third grade student, contact Jana Schillinger to ensure that we present your child with a Bible.



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Joys

Sorrows

Thank You Notes



- 6 Natalie Woronchuk
- 7 Mary O'Brien Bryan Shane Frank Garnecki Amy Berry
- 8 Dean Shane Tony Scandle
- Judy CutlerLaura Moore
- 12 Sandra Bailey
 Don Gross
- 14 Dick Broxton
- 16 Hoyt Keyser
- 20 Lee Wirth
- Nancy Dennen
- Ann Chamberlin
- 24 Tyler KusmaLinda Orcutt
- 27 Ethan Flynn Stan Gilbert
- 29 Richard Maurer Wendy Wescott
- 30 Andrew Taylor



- 10 Maggie & Chuck Woolever
- 19 Shirley & Jim McLaughlin



The Sympathy of the congregation is extended to Hadley Gilbert upon the passing of her maternal grandmother, Nadine Kucharyk, on July 31, 2021;

the family and friends of Ray Slack, who passed away Sunday, August 1, 2021. His family includes his wife, Jackie, as well as his daughter and son-inlaw, Lynne and Bob Shedlock and daughters Elizabeth and Kathleen;

the family of Hugh MacDerment who passed away August 11, 2021. His wife is Joan MacDerment;

Shirley McLaughlin on the recent passing of her brother;

Barbara Conrad and family on the loss of her husband, Howard, last weekend.



Upcoming Memorial Services:

September 11 Charles (Mick) Wirth

September 18 Tinka Zenke
October 8 Fred Lyon

THANK YOU!

We had an amazing week at VBS because of our incredible volunteer staff.

A huge thank you to all those who gave their time and talents this year!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Worship Services

Each Sunday morning at 10 a.m. - in person and Youtube/Facebook

Upcoming Memorial Services: September 11 for Mick Wirth; September 18 for Tinka Zenke; October 8 for Fred Lyon

Board and Committee Meetings

Board of Deacons - Tuesday, September 28, 7 p.m.

Building and Grounds - Thursday, September 2, 7 p.m.

Christian Education - Thursday, September 2, 7 p.m.

Mission and Justice - Tuesday, September 7, 7 p.m.

Session – Tuesday, September 14, 7 p.m.

Mission / Study / Social Gatherings

Adult Choir, Wednesdays, 7:15 p.m. beginning September 15

Bible distribution to children in Third Grade and Kindergarten, September 12

Confirmation organizational meeting for adults and students, September 19, 11 a.m.

Friends of Naomi - September 13, 11 a.m.

Highway Clean-up - September 11, 9 a.m.

Men's Breakfast and Bible Study - Thursdays, September 2 and 16, 8:30 a.m.

My Brother's Keeper Quilters will meet in Fellowship Hall on the following dates: Tuesday,

September 14, 10 a.m. and Sunday, September 26 after worship (Worship/Service Day)

Prayer and Share - each Wednesday at 10:30 a.m.

The Way classes for all ages: Wednesdays, 6:15 p.m. beginning September 15

Next Presbyter Deadline is September 17.

Support Groups

Many of our support groups have resumed in-person meetings. The schedule is below.

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) meets each morning at 7 AM in Room 206.

AlAnon meets on Wednesdays at 8 p.m. and Thursdays at 7 p.m. in Room 206.

Overeaters Anonymous (OA) meets in room 210, Tuesdays, 7 p.m.; Thursdays, 9:30 a.m.; Saturdays, 9:45 a.m.; Sundays, 3 p.m.

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Nonprofit Org. U.S. Postage Permit No. 30 P A I D Clarks Summit PA

DATED MATERIAL

Return Service Requested



We worship every Sunday in two ways!

If you have received the appropriate vaccines and wish to return to the sanctuary for worship, we cordially invite you to contact our office and make a reservation. We also welcome children who have returned to school.

Because the corona virus continues to be contagious, we ask all who attend to wear masks and keep appropriate distances. We look forward to the day when ALL of us can be back together. That day is coming. In the meantime, we will respect one another and do what is safe for all.

Have your vaccines? Make a reservation with our office (570-586-6306) and join us in person at 10:00 am.

Tune in online for our weekly service, which is broadcast live on **our video page on YouTube** and archived for later viewing on the same site.

Flower Sign Up

As we are returning to more regular services and attendance at church, please consider honoring loved ones, celebrations, and family events with a special floral arrangement to mark the occasion.

A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the narthex.

