



The Presbyter

October 2021

The First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit

The Arts

at First Presbyterian Church

Music for Consolation: The Lyric Consort and the Presbybop Quintet

Jazz requiem premieres October 17

Our first Arts at First Presbyterian concert features two well-known ensembles. The Presbybop Quintet and the Lyric Consort will premiere "Lux Aeterna" ("Eternal Light"), a new jazz requiem completed by Rev. Bill Carter during his recent sabbatical.

"The pandemic has taken so much from us," he notes, "touching all other losses we have known. Drawing upon texts from scripture and the church's prayer book, I wanted to create music of comfort and beauty to lift us through this season of our lives."

The concert begins at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 17, in the church sanctuary. Dr. Alan Baker will conduct the Lyric Consort in selected pieces, and the Presbybop Quintet joins them for the rest of the program for the requiem and other new compositions.



The Lyric Consort

Offered as a gift to the community, the concert will be presented in person and live-streamed on YouTube (accessed through our website). It promises to be a moving afternoon and a stirring beginning to our new Arts at First Presbyterian season.



With Halloween on a Sunday, we offer a **Trunk or Treat** event for the children of our community. It will take place on **Sunday, October 31, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.** in the upper parking lot on School Street. We want to offer a safe event for kids during the ongoing pandemic. Here is how you can help:

- **Spread the word!** We look forward to seeing all kids in their Halloween costumes.
- Can you **donate candy?** Last year, over 300 children showed up on short notice. We want to be ready. It will help if **all candy is sorted in individual goodie bags** (think "grab and go").
- Can you help **distribute candy?** Or **serve as a greeter?** If so, please arrive in the upper parking lot by 12:30 p.m. so we can set up together. We encourage you to decorate the back of your car (that's the "trunk" part). By all means, **dress up in a costume** - it's Halloween!

A team of our Deacons is heading up the event. If you can help in any way, send an e-mail to Katie Carter at kacarter10@gmail.com or leave a message at the church office (570-586-6306).

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Notes from Session Meeting September 14, 2021

1. A baptism of Bodhi Dempsey, infant son of Tyler and Kim Dempsey, will take place on Sunday, September 26th and new members will be taken into church on Sunday, October 3.

2. People in Ministry committee will update the child safety policy.

3. Committees are planning for Worship Through Service Weekend.

Beverly Bright
Clerk of Session



The Presbyterian deadline for the November issue is October 15.

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
Organist	Richard Cochran
Sexton	Kay Ten Eyck John Conklin

FROM YOUR FINANCE COMMITTEE FOR THE MONTH ENDING AUGUST 31, 2021

REVENUE	
Budget	\$250,800
Actual Received	<u>231,716</u>
Difference	(\$ 19,084)

EXPENSES	
Budget	\$257,641
Actual Expenses	<u>238,311</u>
Difference	\$ 19,330

Result of operations \$ 246

PLEDGE	
Budget	\$216,667
Actually received	<u>208,133</u>
	(\$ 8,534)

Per Capita received to date is \$3,499.
2021 Per Capita per member is \$35.

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 and Maintenance	TBD
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.

From the Pastor

October 2021

Dear Friends,

We continue to make our way through uncertain times, with no clarity yet about when the pandemic will conclude or how life will look when it does. No doubt, this is unsettling to you as it is to me. The biblical cry becomes our own: "How long, O Lord?"



It's no help, either, that we are surrounded by "experts" who predict or prognosticate. Each week, my e-mail is flooded with articles on "the post-pandemic church," "re-engaging the dispersed congregation," and "where do we go from here if we're not done getting there?" A quick summary of this wisdom: nobody knows. Not yet.

There are lessons to learn from the past. The Spanish Flu took two full years (1918-1920) to play itself out. Not only did that pandemic take the helium out of the celebratory balloons after the First World War, it took more lives than First and Second World Wars combined. It's sobering to note that many Americans were suspicious of the best medical science of that time and the virus spread wildly. Foolishness has no expiration date.

Yet people in that era were sustained by the same gifts that make our lives worth living: tenacious faith, the enjoyment of nature, good friendships, finding purpose by serving others despite all constrictions, and developing habits of heart and mind that allow for creative expression. If you're reading this article, no doubt you are enjoying some of these blessings. And you know which of them are life-giving for you.

And yet, the uncertainty. So let me say something about moving ahead when we don't yet know where we are going. It is a situation ripe for improvisation. Take it from a part-time jazz musician: all of us can improvise.

Contrary to popular opinion, improvisation is not pulling magic out of thin air. Rather it's more like digging deeply from the compost pile. All of us have a fertile reservoir of memory, experience, and ability. When we improvise, we draw from these resources. The inventive saxophonist doesn't play merely *anything*; she reaches for the next right note, builds the next swinging phrase, all the while paying attention to what is happening around her. Her music is rooted in her foundation - the history, the tradition, the previous situations.

Yet, although the improvised music is shaped by what is known, it is not bound by the past. The true improviser takes risks as an expression of courage. She moves ahead, always assuming, "There is more available to me than what I have already known." There is a God-shaped future. All of us will move into the unknown by taking provisional steps, pursuing truth, reaching for beauty, and persistently swinging along.

Will mistakes be made? Certainly. But as trumpeter Miles Davis once noted, every mistake can be corrected in the next good note. We move ahead by courage, not by fear, always improving as we proceed. We drop the baggage of guilt, forgiving ourselves and one another. And we keep moving.

Am I speaking of life? Or church? Both. Improvisation is a deep engagement with our present situation, rooted in what we've learned, and always risking a future. God's Spirit is with us in the thick of it all, sometimes palpable in the creative bursts and breakthroughs, other times quietly in the shadows. By grace, we get through.

I believe these things. And I stay by your side as we continue this journey.

Be of good cheer,

Rev. Bill

A Season of Peace



With September being the Season of Peace, we are still collecting our **Peace and Global Witness Special Offering** up until Sunday October 3rd. Last year, we raised \$1300 for this offering, so our goal this year is to reach a total greater than last year. Importantly 25 % of this offering will be designated by our congregation this year 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. The other 50% of this offering will be used to advocate for peace and justice in cultures of violence, including our own, through education and Christian witness and 25% will be used by mid councils for ministries of peace and reconciliation.

Please consider giving generously. 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), by sending 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 offerings 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>

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.”*

Our “Social Creed”

From the Mission and Justice Committee

Each Sunday, we stand as individuals, a congregation, and part of the larger Presbyterian Church (USA) to “say what we believe,” usually using the Apostle’s Creed. Many have these words committed to memory in both mind and heart. But did you know that we as Presbyterians also have a “Social Creed?” If you didn’t know this or have not paused lately to read it, we encourage you to explore this important document, intended to give people of faith a “short punchy statement of what we stand for in the world today.” It is applied Christian social ethics, meant to help us practice what we preach in our daily interactions with others and the physical world, our personal lifestyles, and even at the ballot box. In this and the next two issues of our “Presbyter” we will share the words and some of the history behind this important document. A glass case in the hallway outside the Sanctuary will also be devoted to this topic.

Appearing in 2007 as a “Social Creed for the 21st Century, the statement was adopted by the National Council of Churches, encompassing a wide spectrum of American Christianity across more than 100,000 local congregations and 45 million persons. Our Presbyterian Church USA approved it the following year. Opening and closing paragraphs frame a Trinitarian framework that are essentially pledges of personal, communal, and global responsibility. In affirming them, we are led by the Spirit who is both “above partisanship and beyond neutrality.”

A SOCIAL CREED FOR THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY, PART I

In faith, responding to our Creator, we celebrate the full humanity of each woman, man, and child, all created in the divine image as individuals of infinite worth, by working for:

- Full civil, political, and economic rights for women and men of all races.
- Abolition of forced labor, human trafficking, and the exploitation of children.
- Employment for all, at a family-sustaining living wage, with equal pay for comparable work.
- The rights of workers to organize, and to share in workplace decisions and productivity growth.
- Protection from dangerous working conditions, with time and benefits to enable full family life.
- A system of criminal rehabilitation, based on restorative justice and an end to the death penalty.

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.

Remaining dates for 2021-2022 are:

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



There's still time to join us! If you are (or know of) a student in grades 7-12 who is ready to dig deeper in their faith and learn what it means to belong to the church, you can join our confirmation class held on Sundays after worship, beginning October 3 at 11:15 a.m.

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

A prayer for peace St. Francis of Assisi

Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace;
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is error, truth;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
And where there is sadness, joy.

O, Divine Master,
Grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console;
To be understood as to understand;
To be loved as to love;

For it is in giving that we receive;
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
And it is in dying to ourselves
that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

Music At First Presbyterian



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

Frank will be offering 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. Meets in Room 108.

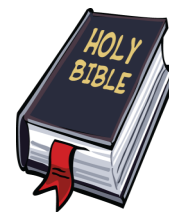
Adult Choir - Wednesdays - 7:15-8:15: Our adult choir program has resumed. This fall we will begin by singing easy hymns and work toward more challenging music as the year progresses. Students in 9th Grade to adults 99+ are welcome. Don't have much of a music reading ability? Don't worry; our singers 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 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.

Bibles for Children

Congratulations to Ariana Scandle, Crosby Sekol, Jillian Shane, Cora Shane, and Taylor Shane, who received Bibles from the church on Sunday, September 12. We hope that they will read God's word and continue to grow in faith as they learn the story of God's people and of our savior, Jesus Christ.

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. —Psalm 119:105



Christian Education



It's for life!

THE W.A.Y.The Wednesday Addults and Youth Christian Education

“I am the WAY, the TRUTH, and the LIFE”

Classes 6:15

The WAY continues in October with in-person classes beginning at 6:15pm.

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 continue to explore faith questions, learning more about God and our own faith. Meets in Room 209.

Adults: The concluding weeks of **Mark’s Clueless Disciples**. Continue to learn more about the disciples’ foibles and follies sequentially through Mark’s 16 chapters, hoping to get to know them, ourselves, and Jesus all the better. This class ties in with our Fall sermon series on Mark, as preached by Rev. Carter. Meets in Room 206.



Lectionary Readings

October 3 Genesis 2:18-24; Psalm 8;
Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12; Mark 10:13-16

October 10 Amos 5:6-7, 10-15;
Psalm 90:12-17; Hebrews 4:12-16,
Mark 10:17-31

October 17 Isaiah 53:4-12; Psalm 91:9-16;
Hebrews 5:1-10, Mark 10:35-45

October 24 Jeremiah 31:7-9; Psalm 126;
Hebrews 7:23-28; Mark 10:46-52

October 31 Deuteronomy 6:1-9;
Psalm 119:1-8; Hebrews 9:11-14; Mark 12:28-34

Joys

Sorrows

Thank You Notes

OCTOBER



- 1 George Harris
- 4 Riley Wescott
- 5 Tim Shane
- 6 Barry Shepherd
- 9 Sadie O'Brien
- 10 Tracy Smith
- 14 Barbara Decker
- 19 Nancy Owens
- 20 Darlene Scappatura
Charles Taylor
- 21 Ryan Flynn
Colin Jeschke
- 23 Kim Barrows
- 27 Linda Weaver
- 28 Linda Schuller
Jeanette Stauffer
- 30 Clyde Ellsworth

OCTOBER



- 28 Anne & John Rich



A memorial service celebrating the life of **Fred Lyon** will be held on Friday, October 8 at the church. The family will receive guests in Fellowship Hall from 3-4:30 p.m. The service will begin at 5 p.m. in the sanctuary. Masks are required.



The sympathy of the congregation is extended to the family of **Warren L. Grill**, who entered the Church Triumphant September 10.

A service celebrating Warren's life took place September 16 in our sanctuary.



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.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Worship, each Sunday, 10 a.m., Sanctuary and on line

Board and Committee Meetings

Session Meeting – Tuesday, October 12, 7 p.m., Room 206

Board of Deacons - Tuesday, October 26, 7 p.m., Room 206

Building and Grounds - Thursday, October 7, 7 p.m., Room 209

Christian Education - Thursday, October 7, 7 p.m., Room 210

Mission and Justice - Tuesday, October 5, 7:30 p.m., Room 206

Worship, Music, Arts – Thursday, October 7, 5:30 p.m., Room 206

Service/Study/Fellowship Gatherings

The Way meets each Wednesday.

Classes begin at 6:15 p.m. - see page 7 for classes.

Adult Choir - 7:15 p.m., Sanctuary; Bell Choir - 8:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Confirmation - each Sunday, 11:15 a.m., Room 206

Friends of Naomi - October 4, 11 a.m., Fellowship Hall

Men's Breakfast and Bible Study - October 7 and 21, 8:30 a.m., Room 206

My Brother's Keeper Quilters - October 12 and 26, 10 a.m., Fellowship Hall

Prayer and Share - each Wednesday, 10:30 a.m., Room 209

Presbyter Deadline is October 15; **Presbyter Mailing** is October 27, 9 a.m., Room 206

Special programs

Music for Consolation: A Jazz Requiem - Sunday, October 17, 4 p.m. Sanctuary - see page 1

Trunk or Treat: Sunday, October 31, 1-3 p.m. - a safe alternative for neighborhood children to enjoy Trick or Treat - see page 1

Support Groups

Many of our support groups are resuming in-person meetings. The schedule is below.

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) meets each morning, 7 a.m., Room 206.

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

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



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

300 School Street
Clarks Summit, PA 18411-1536

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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.

