



The Presbyter

November 2021

The First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit

An Afternoon of Chamber Music

Sunday, November 14 at 4 pm,

The Arts at First Presbyterian concert series will continue with an **Afternoon of Chamber Music** on **Sunday, November 14 at 4 pm**, featuring a trio of Marywood University music faculty members. Pianist Rick Hoffenberg, clarinetist Katie Morell, and cellist Christiane Appenheimer Vaida return to the church to offer two significant pieces for piano, clarinet, and cello including Johannes Brahms' Clarinet Trio in A Minor, Op. 114 and Carl Fruhling's Trio for Clarinet, Cello, and Piano in A Minor, Op. 40.



The concert is open to the public free of charge, but a free-will offering will be taken to help defray the costs of the event. For more information, call the church office at 570-586-6306.



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.

We worship every Sunday in two ways!

Promise to wear a face mask? No covid-related symptoms for the past 14 days? Willing to have your temperature taken at the door? [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.

Masks are necessary for all worship services, meetings, and group events in the church building. Temperature checks will continue at church gatherings, and social distancing will be encouraged. Believing very strongly in the effectiveness of the covid-19 vaccines, we urge everybody to get vaccinated against covid-19.

If all of us can choose restraint and pursue public health, we have a better chance for stopping the spread of the virus and its variants. In the words of St. Paul, "Do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" (Galatians 5:13-14)

**Celebrating Advent: Prepare
the Way of the Lord**

See page 6



Table of Contents

- Page 2 - Session Report, Deacons, Financial
- Page 3 - From the Pastor
- Page 4 - Notes of Gratitude
- Page 5 - Mission and Justice, Adopt a Highway
- Page 6 - Advent, Book Group, Lectionary,
- Page 7 - The Way, Music Notes
- Page 8 - Joys, Sorrows, Prayer and Share
- Page 9 - Calendar
- Page 10 - Poinsettia Order Form

Notes from the Session Meeting October 12, 2021



1. Building & Grounds committee, Jay Clymer & Barry Shepherd would like to thank everyone for their help on Worship Through Service Day. The chairs feel that a good number of members and friends came out to help with necessary improvements that made our church and grounds cleaner and more manicured.
2. Music, Worship & Arts committee visited and sang for our members and friends at two local nursing homes.
3. There are two part-time positions opening at First Presbyterian -- a part-time sexton and a part-time media person.
4. The Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit joins Geisinger in honoring Heather M. Acker as Entrepreneur of the Year.

Beverly Bright
Clerk of Session

The Presbyterian deadline for the December issue is November 12

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	Erika Henderson 570-878-2410
Time of Loss	Anne Rich 570-587-2802
Emergency Home Repairs and Maintenance	Joe Waters 570-351-3620
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 YOUR FINANCE COMMITTEE FOR THE MONTH ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2021

REVENUE

Budget	\$282,150
Actual Received	<u>255,971</u>
Difference	(\$ 26,179)

EXPENSES

Budget	\$289,846
Actual Expenses	<u>272,491</u>
Difference	\$ 17,355

Result of operations (\$ 8,824)

PLEDGE

Budget	\$243,750
Actually received	<u>230,169</u>
	(\$ 13,581)

Per Capita received to date is \$3,569.
2021 Per Capita per member is \$35.

From the Pastor

November 2021



The headline of the online article caught my eye: “A Pastor Embraces Slowness.” It was written by Cal Newport, a college professor who studies the effects of technology on the brain. He has written insightful books about staying focused when working and avoiding distraction. Newport has been helpful for me as I negotiate a dozen emerging concerns in a given day, so I was curious what a “slow pastor” might have to teach me.

He listened to a Lutheran pastor who has made her way through the pandemic. Some of what he learned sounded like his previous discoveries. Turn off the screens when you’re thinking. Build some time margins into your schedule. Schedule your answers to e-mail to a couple of times a day. Breathe before you leap to react to whatever bombards you.

OK, check. I don’t follow his advice perfectly, but I know he’s on to something. If life is pressing in, threatening to consume us, it’s healthy to pause, breathe, and reclaim our identity. Relentless concern is a recipe for burnout. Non-stop motion can propel us into a wall.

In fast-paced times, this is a counter-cultural message. Yet it also sounds wise for the Great Reset that the pandemic has initiated.

For instance, when it became clear in March 2020 that covid-19 put the brakes on human gatherings, I developed a fresh to-do list around the house. My side of the bedroom closet needed to be weeded out. That pile of cast-off junk in the middle of the basement could be sorted and discarded. Perhaps that dead spot in the yard that the dogs visit repeatedly could be dug up and reseeded.

Oh, it’s good to have ideas. Nineteen months later, the misshapen suits are still hanging in the closet. The unnecessary mammon remains on the basement floor. And the yellow spots in the grass are still there.

The difference is that I’m OK with all of that. I will address these things when I can. But I’m not in a race to get everything done. The fact is a lot of other things have been accomplished during that time. Not everything, but the necessary tasks. And the things that replenish my soul.

Welcome to the slow life. It’s not so bad.

See you on Sunday,

Rev. Bill Carter

First Presbyterian Church is **seeking a part-time sexton**, as John Conklin prepares for retirement at the end of the year. Interested? A job description is available on the bulletin board in the main hallway. You can apply by simply sending a letter or e-mail to the church office.

Notes of Gratitude



From the Mission & Justice Committee and the Hickory Street Meals Project.....

Thanks, and kudos to everyone who participated in our August and September contributions to the Community Meals Project of Hickory Street Presbyterian Church. So many helped by making desserts, cooking the entrées, shopping for the grocery bag items, sorting and transporting everything, serving the meals, and providing financial support. We are pleased to report that on August 28th and September 25th, we served a combined total of 271 meals and provided 62 bags of groceries to the project. This was probably one of the largest and most participated-in projects in our church's recent history, reaching many in need while feeding our own spirits of community and service.

Special thanks is extended to David Banks, owner and proprietor of The Jewelry Room, who upon learning about the project, joined with his brother to offer us generous financial support (a large cash donation and the purchase of 45 lbs. of pork tenderloin) as a memorial to their grandmother, June Mahar, a longtime member of the Hickory Street Presbyterian Church. If you visit his shop for some holiday shopping, a watch battery, or some jewelry repair, be sure to give him a word of thanks and our blessings.

Hunger continues to be a major problem for many in our community, and we will continue to support Hickory Street's Meals Project in the coming year. Our next date to assist will be March 26, 2022, again preparing a complete meal with desserts and collecting bags of groceries. If you would like to join the planning committee for that meal and subsequent dates, please contact Alan Baker at abaker2@verizon.net or (570) 362-0382.

From the Mission & Justice Committee



In gratitude to all who helped to make this year's **Peace and Global Witness Special Offering** so successful! We reached our goal of surpassing last year's offering total of \$1300 and reached a grand total of **\$1,958** for this year. As a reminder, 25 % of this offering will be used to pay for the purchase of 15 sets of books and study materials for the local **Scranton Refugee English Conversation Class**. Thanks to all of you, these English speaking classes will surely be enhanced with proper ESL resources. And in the end, the refugee families will surely benefit! Fifty percent 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. Peacemaking in action!

PEACE IS ACTIVE, not passive, PEACE Is DOING, not waiting. Thank you for your support!

From the Women's Association.... Thank you for your generosity with donations of items for the State Hospital as part of September's Service project. These donations are being used as prizes for various games that are held for the patients. Our Women's Association has had a relationship with the State Hospital for decades but has been unable to host the residents at our church since October 2019. We don't know if or when we might be able to have them visit again, but our support will continue to provide items that may be needed.

Janet Dobson

Our “Social Creed,” continued from October...

From the Mission and Justice Committee

Last month, we reminded (or introduced) you to the “Social Creed” of our Presbyterian Church (USA). This important document of applied Christian social ethics, approved in 2008, can 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. Opening and closing paragraphs frame a Trinitarian framework that are essentially pledges of personal, communal, and global responsibility, and in affirming them, we are led by the Spirit who is both “above partisanship and beyond neutrality.”

The second section of the Creed calls us to follow the example Christ in his concern for “the least among us:”

A SOCIAL CREED FOR THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY, part 2

In the love incarnate in Jesus, despite the world’s sufferings and evils, we honor the deep connections within our human family and seek to awaken a new spirit of community, by working for:

- Abatement of hunger and poverty, and enactment of policies benefiting the most vulnerable.
- High quality public education for all and universal, affordable and accessible healthcare.
- An effective program of social security during sickness, disability and old age.
- Tax and budget policies that reduce disparities between rich and poor, strengthen democracy, and provide greater opportunity for everyone within the common good.
- Just immigration policies that protect family unity, safeguard workers’ rights, require employer accountability, and foster international cooperation.
- Sustainable communities marked by affordable housing, access to good jobs, and public safety.
- Public service as a high vocation, with real limits on the power of private interests in politics.

A glass case in the hallway outside the Sanctuary has also been devoted to this "Social Creed." Pause and take a look.

Highway Cleanup



Next Highway Cleanup is Saturday, November 13, 2021. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Clarks Summit Methodist Church. PennDot supplies the trash bags, gloves, safety vests, and caution signs. The walking pace is slow, the road is pretty flat and the fellowship, conversation, and fresh air are good. We are usually done by about 10:00 am.

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

Celebrating Advent: Prepare the Way of the Lord

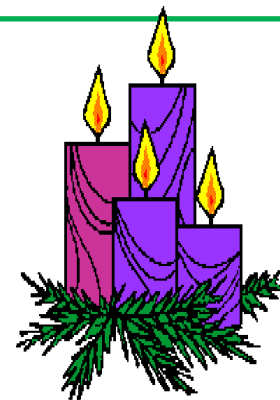
The season of Advent is a time to reflect on our many blessings, remember God's promises, practice patience (hopefully slowing down our busy-ness), and prepare our hearts to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

This year, we have two opportunities for you to experience Advent.

First, we welcome our families to pick up an **Advent Bag** filled with an Advent calendar, devotions, activity suggestions, supplies for a craft, and more. All ages and

everyone in the church is welcome and encouraged to participate, so bags will be available both for families with children and for those without. Advent bags will be available to **pick up at the church beginning the week before Advent (Nov. 21)** or contact Jana to make arrangements for safe drop off at your home.

Second, we encourage everyone to join us for an **Advent Event on Sunday, December 5**, following worship. Enjoy food and fellowship as we celebrate the season with learning and fun for all ages.



Holiday Angel Tree

It's time for our annual Pajama Drive for children in local Head Start programs!

Look for tags on the Christmas tree set up in the Narthex, **OR** visit fpccs.org to find a link to an online sign-up where a limited number of tags will be available.

All PJ's must be returned to the church, wrapped and tagged, by Monday, Dec. 6.



Lectionary Readings

Lectionary Readings for November

November 7

1 Kings 17:8-16; Psalm 146;
Hebrews 9:24-28; Mark 12:38-44

November 14

Daniel 12:1-3; Psalm 16;
Hebrews 10:11-14 (15-18) 19-25;
Mark 13:1-8

November 21

2 Samuel 23:1-7 Psalm 132:1-12
(13-18), Daniel 7:9-10,13-14,
Psalm 93; Revelations 1:4b-8;
John 18:33-37

November 28

Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36

Book Group

With the utmost of caution and care for our members, the Book Group has decided to continue to postpone our meetings at this time. We will reassess the situation after the New Year and decide what we want to do at that time. Hopefully by then the numbers will be coming down and we will have had the opportunity to get our booster shots On the good side, however, we do have an excellent list of potential titles to read. If you would like to have some new suggestions to read at this time, feel free to contact me and I will email the list to you.



jdragonflyc@hotmail.com

Judy Cutler

Christian Education



It's for life!

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

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

Classes 6:15

The WAY continues in November with in-person classes beginning at **6:15pm**. We hope to see you there!

WAY classes will NOT be held on Wednesday, November 24 — Happy Thanksgiving!

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: Jesus and the End of the World: Rev. Bill Carter leads a Bible study on themes and texts related to how the Gospel of Mark (and others) perceive the end of the world. Topics include:

- October 27 - “Watch at all times,” a study of the 13th chapter of Mark’s Gospel
- November 3 - “Farewell to the Rapture: A Video Conversation with N. T. Wright”
- November 10 - “Who Is the Antichrist?”
- November 17 - “Salvation is Not Private: A View from Isaiah”

Music At First Presbyterian

Adult Choir - Wednesdays - 7:15-8:15: Students in 9th Grade to adults 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. We rehearse in the sanctuary, currently with masks and socially distant.

Bell Choir- Wednesday rehearsals are as needed - 8:30-9:15 p.m. Those interested are asked to contact Richard Cochrane, director, for more information

Joys

Sorrows

Prayers



- 2 Ned Connell
- 5 Burton Reese
- 6 Charlie Pinches
Jacklyn Del Prete
- 7 Crosby Selol
Tori Yankow
- 8 Mary C Parry
- 12 Christine Jeske
Inge Mills
- 13 Meg Hatch
- 14 Robin Pinches
- 22 Leelah Farrell
- 24 Cherie Shepherd
Steven Cowgill
- 25 Jane Maurer
Chris Sekol
- 26 Max Earl
- 29 Jennifer Cowgill



Tim & Debbie Shane



The sympathy of the congregation is extended to the family of Fred Campbell, who entered the Church Triumphant October 4, 2021.

Fred is survived by his wife, Marlene; sons Scott, Todd, Andrew and Brad and their families. A memorial service was celebrated on October 23.

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.

Prayer and Share

Please join us. We welcome new members to join us each Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. 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.

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.”*



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Worship every Sunday, 10 a.m., Sanctuary and on-line

Board and Committee Meetings

Session Meeting—Tuesday, November 9, 7 p.m., Room 206

Board of Deacons—Tuesday, November 23, 7 p.m., Room 206

Christian Education—Thursday, November 4, 7 p.m., Room 206

Mission and Justice—Tuesday, November 2, 7 p.m., Room 206

Worship, Music, Arts— - Thursday, November 4, 5:30 p.m., Room 206

Service/Study/Fellowship Gatherings

In November, *The Way* meets the following Wednesdays: Nov. 3, 10, and 17

Classes begin at 6:15 p.m. (see page 7 for details)

Adult Choir—7:15 p.m., Sanctuary;

Bell Choir—8:30 p.m. (next rehearsal date TBA)

Arts at First Presbyterian—November 14, 4 p.m., Sanctuary

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

Friends of Naomi—November 1, 11 a.m.

Men's Breakfast and Bible Study—November 4 and 18, 8:30 a.m., Room 206

My Brother's Keeper Quilters—November 9, 10 a.m., Fellowship Hall

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

Women's Circle Bible Study and FPC Book Group are **not meeting** at this time.

Support Groups

Many of our support groups are resuming 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. (zoom) and Thursdays at 7 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

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

Next Presbyterian Deadline is November 12 for anticipated mailing on **Tuesday, November 23** . . . before Thanksgiving!

Poinsettia Deadline—November 14

Thanksgiving break—November 25 and 26. Church office is closed.

Daylight Saving Time ends on November 7!
Turn those clocks back the first Sunday of November.





FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

300 School Street
Clarks Summit, PA 18411-1536

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

DATED MATERIAL

Return Service Requested



Poinsettia order form

Order Your Poinsettias Now.

Price is \$10.00 per plant.
Checks are payable to First Presbyterian Church
Deadline is November 14



Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Number of Flowers: _____ @\$10.00 each

Total Amount Enclosed: _____

I will pick up my flowers _____

Please give to a shut-in _____

Dedication: In honor/In memory of _____
