



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

300 School Street

Clarks Summit, PA 18411-1536

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*The Presbyter*

April 2023

**The First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit**

### Holy Week and Easter Worship

**Palm Sunday** April 2 Service 10 a.m.  
**Maundy Thursday** April 6 Service 7:30 p.m.  
**Good Friday** April 7 Service at Noon  
**Easter Sunday** April 9 Service 10:00 a.m.  
**Holy Humor Sunday** April 16 Service 10:00 a.m.



**Holy Week,  
Risen Savior**

Join us after  
worship on

**Sunday, April 2**, for a time of food, fellowship, and learning. Families with children as well as congregants of all ages are invited to come for a light lunch followed by a discussion of the events and meaning of the holiest week of the Christian year. From the parade of Palm Sunday to the empty tomb at Easter, adults will engage in discussion with Rev. Carter while children will explore the events of Holy Week with Jana.



### One Great Hour of Sharing



A final reminder that our annual Special Offering for ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING ends on Easter Sunday.

The three programs supported by your gifts - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways around the world to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

Our traditional goal for this offering is \$5,000; as of March 26th we had collected \$3,294.

### Save the Date!

**VBS 2023** will be held **July 17-21**

#### **Calling all volunteers!**

If you'd like to help children explore Babylon by teaching, leading, or preparing, let us know!

Please contact Jana Schillinger or send an email to [fpccs.vbs@gmail.com](mailto:fpccs.vbs@gmail.com)

**Stay tuned for more details!**



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Notes from the Session Meeting, March 26, 2023

1. Session accepted the resignation from Barry Shepherd and wishes Cherie and Barry the best of everything in Colorado. Thank them for their service.
2. Many thanks to all of the volunteers that helped to make our Hickory Street dinner so successful on Saturday, March 25th. 154 dinners and many bags of groceries were given to people in need. Many questions were answered as to when we were coming again and the answer is September. This is an important project that Mission & Justice takes charge of, and to you as a congregation member or friend, thank you for your donation of food, groceries, or as volunteer that day. It is very much appreciated.
3. Thank you to Melba Fialko for taking charge of the sandwich project for the less fortunate. All of our children and teens, thank you also for helping with this endeavor. Session appreciates all you do for us.
4. Thank you to everyone who paid their per capita for 2023. Your response has been outstanding, and if you haven't responded as yet, think about it when you can.

Beverly Bright  
Clerk of Session

Board of Deacons

Care Team Ministry Coordinators are:

Deacon Meals	Erika Adams 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.

The Presbyterian deadline for  
the May 2023 issue is  
April 14

The Presbyterian 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
Organist	Kay Ten Eyck
Sexton	Don Gross

FROM YOUR FINANCE COMMITTEE  
FOR THE MONTH ENDING  
February 28, 2023

REVENUE

Budget	\$ 66,912
Actual Received	<u>80,422</u>
Difference	\$ 13,510

EXPENSES

Budget	\$ 66,849
Actual Expenses	<u>64,250</u>
Difference	\$ 2,599

Result of operations           \$ 16,172

PLEDGE

Budget	\$ 58,740
Actually received	<u>71,870</u>
	\$ 13,130

2023 Per Capita assessment is  
\$42 per member.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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

Board and Committee Meetings

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

Board of Deacons— Tuesday, April 25, 7 p.m., Room 206

Building and Grounds— Thursday, April 6, 7 p.m., Room 209

Christian Education—Thursday, April 6, 7 p.m., Room 206

Mission and Justice—Tuesday, April 4, 7 p.m., Room 206

Worship, Music and Arts - Thursday, April 13, 5 p.m., Room 206

Service/Study/Fellowship Gatherings

Holy Week CE Event —Sunday, April 2, following worship, Fellowship Hall

Men’s Breakfast and Bible Study – Thursday, April 6 and 20, 8:30 a.m., Room 206

Highway Clean Up—Saturday, April 8, 9 a.m., meeting at Clarks Summit Methodist Church, corner of Morgan Highway and Grove Street

MBK Quilters—Tuesday, April 11 and 25, 10 a.m., Fellowship Hall

Women’s Circle Bible Study—Tuesday, April 18, 10 a.m., Fellowship Hall

Adult Bible Study— Each Wednesday, 6 p.m., Room 206

Adult Choir Rehearsal—Each Wednesday, 7 p.m., Choir Loft

Bell Choir Rehearsal—Each Wednesday, 8 p.m., Fellowship Hall

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

Activities and Concerts

The Arts Concert— Saturday, April 15, 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary

The Arts Concert— Sunday, April 30, 4:00 p.m., Sanctuary

Community Support Groups

We welcome members of the following support groups to our building on a regular basis, as scheduled:

- Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) meets each morning at 7 AM in Room 206;
- AlAnon meets on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. and Thursdays at 7 p.m. in Fellowship Hall; and
- Overeaters Anonymous (OA) meets in room 210: Sundays at 3 p.m., Tuesdays at 6 p.m., Thursdays at 9:30 a.m., Saturdays at 9:45 a.m.

Church Office closes at noon on Good Friday, April 7, and is closed on Monday, April 10.

Deadline for the next Presbyterian is Friday, April 14 with anticipated mailing date of April 26.



Joys

Sorrows

Lectionary



- 1
- Anne Rich
- Donna Evans
- 2
- Colin Shane
- 5
- John Diven
- 7
- Donald Keen
- 11
- John Rich
- 12
- Jennifer Sekol
- 16
- Gerald Miller
- 19
- Mark Kusma
- 23
- Nancy London
- 26
- Len Ballelli



April 16 Kevin and Holly Shane

Flower Sign Up



You are welcome to contribute flowers for Sunday mornings, 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 hall next to Rev. Carter’s office. There are still some weeks available.



The sympathy of the congregation is sent to Jack Pittman and his family upon the passing of his wife, Barbara, on March 7, 2023. A memorial service will be held Saturday, April 1, 2023, 11 a.m. in our church sanctuary.

Lectionary Readings

**April 2**  
Matthew 21:1-11 and Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Isaiah 50:4-9a and Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 26:14-27:66 or Matthew 27:11-54

**April 9**  
Acts 10:34-43 or Jeremiah 31:1-6 and Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Colossians 3:1-4; Matthew 28:1-10

**April 16**  
Acts 2:14a, 22-32 and Psalm 16; Exodus 15:1-11 and Psalm 111; 1Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31

**April 23**  
Acts 2: 14a, 36-41 and Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; Isaiah 51: 1-6 and Psalm 34:1-10; 1Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35

**April 30**  
Acts 2:42-47 and Psalm 23; Ezekiel 34:7-15 and Psalm 100; 1Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10

From the Pastor

The roadside bulletin board announced an intriguing sermon title: “Live the Easter Life!!!” (exclamation points included). I nodded in agreement and drove on to ponder what the Easter Life!!! might be.

Caricatures persist: a life filled with trumpets blasting out Good News, shouting down the opposition, loudly insisting everything always turns out well. If only that were true.

Or the preacher in the white suit, shaking a glistening Bible in his white shoes, shouting how we can triumph over all our troubles. With his private jet and expensive haircut, has he sat recently with anybody with actual difficulties?

Or the Persistence Optimist who advises us to turn those frowns upside down, “for Easter returns every year as the robins return and the daffodils bloom.” I admit my own complicity in that false advertising earlier in my ministry, until I discovered that hype and press releases don’t make it so.

What is the Easter Life, with or without the exclamation points?

As we spend time with the Gospel of John this spring, a number of insights emerge. John pens his work sixty years after the resurrection of Jesus. He’s had plenty of time and lived experience to shake away the manufactured plaudits of the superficial sermons. Here are a handful of his observations:

- The Easter Life is presided over by a Scarred Savior (John 20:26-27). The wounds of a violent world are real. Jesus was vulnerable enough to receive them. Easter confirms Jesus was nailed to a cross and pierced in his side. In no way are we magically protected from pain. Jesus has drawn near to share our lives.
- Yet He lives. This extraordinary resurrection reveals that the Life of God, literally “the life of eternity” continues in Jesus and through us. It’s revealed to us in the resurrection and his returns to his friends (20:11-19). There is nothing the world can do to us to separate us from the fullness of God’s abundant life. If there is an Easter victory, this is it.
- He continues with us, just as he promised. John understands this through the elusive presence of the Holy Spirit, perceived as the very Breath of Jesus (14:18-19). His Spirit reminds us of his Word, animates us to live as he lives, comforts us in his physical absence, and holds us until we will greet Jesus face to face.
- The fundamental expression of this Easter Life is mercy (20:23). Ever notice that Jesus never retaliates against those who killed him? Never! Rather his resurrection invitation is to release others from their sins. Answering this invitation will shape who we are and how we live with others. Mercy rebuilds relationships and keeps us connected to the One who gives us life.

It’s often the church’s bad habit to say more than it needs to. The truth is that Easter is, at heart, a Mystery. It is not a manufactured product but a gift. The joyful hymns do lift our spirits, as they must, for they sing us beyond ourselves, carrying us into the reality of an abundant life which we can only receive in gratitude.

So come and sing with us, my friends. Come with your scars. Come with your hopes. Come with your heart open to the possibility of grace, truth, and love. For Jesus Christ is risen. He lives, that we might live.

See you in church,

Rev. Bill



### Reimagining Church Fellowship

Although our church hosts several "happenings" throughout the year (Church Picnic, Chili Cafe, Ice Cream Social, Trunk or Treat), the Church Life/Fellowship Committee has been "brainstorming" to explore new ideas for group events. The goal is not only to welcome new members and friends but also to rekindle active fellowship that our church family has missed during the last few years. We need your help and feedback!



For several weeks we have had a survey in the bulletin, but we realize that some of you are not there to see it and we'd really like to know what kind of events you might feel comfortable attending. The survey contains many options - ranging from dinner at a restaurant or game night at the church to attending a baseball game or taking a bus trip. Plus, we'd love to know what other ideas you might have for gathering together.

To receive the whole survey, please email JoAnn Hall at [jodihall@nep.net](mailto:jodihall@nep.net) or simply send her an email with your own thoughts on ways to rekindle our fellowship.

For more information, contact JoAnn at 570-806-1591, Jeanne at 570-479-7960 or Gwynne at 570-764-5425.



### We Are an Earth-Care Congregation

We are still seeking volunteers for our newly forming Earth Care Corner, which will seek ways to grow our attention and action on behalf of Mother Earth. This will launch as an email group for sharing ideas, news, questions, and concerns.

If you would like to join this group, please email your interest to Alan Baker at [abaker2@verizon.net](mailto:abaker2@verizon.net).

### Highway Cleanup, April 8th

Our next highway cleanup will be held on Saturday morning, April 8th. We'll meet in the parking lot of the Methodist Church at the corner of the Morgan Highway and Grove Street at 9:00 am. Gloves, trash bags and safety vests will be supplied.

A great chance to see all of the daffodils and tulips coming up just in time for Easter. For more information, contact Alan Baker at [abaker2@verizon.net](mailto:abaker2@verizon.net).



### Wednesdays at First Presbyterian Church

6:00 p.m.      **Lenten study** with Rev. Carter and Friends

**For the first three weeks in April we will continue our adult education series on "Exclusion and Embrace."** Each week the class will discuss a brief video that explores our relationship to those who have frequently been excluded from our circle of faith. These include gays and lesbians, the Jews, those who practice other religions, and people of other nations. Some of these videos are already posted online, so we will share those links in our weekly emails.

**Starting on April 26 and throughout May Mission & Justice will lead a series on Challenges of Immigration Reform.** See the listing below for details.

7:00 p.m.      **Adult Choir** rehearses each week in the sanctuary  
8:00 p.m.      The **Bell Choir** will rehearse weekly in Fellowship Hall



### Other Opportunities for Learning

**The Men's Breakfast group** meets for donuts and Bible study on the first and third Thursdays of every month. They gather for conversation at 8:30 a.m. in the Session Room (206) and have their study from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. They normally discuss the scripture text for the following Sunday's sermon.

The **Presbyterian Women** continue to meet monthly for a Bible study on the third Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Rev. Carter leads the Horizons Bible study, entitled "What My Grandmothers Taught Me: Learning from the Women in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus."



### Mission & Justice

Mission & Justice is thrilled to announce an educational series this spring called Challenges of Immigration Reform. This will be a six-part series kicking off with a table talk. The Wednesday classes will meet at 6:00 p.m. in the Session Room.

- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| Sunday April 23 -    | Table Talk - Myths, Misconceptions, and the Facts<br><b>11:15 a.m.</b> , Fellowship Hall, Facilitated by Immigration Attorney Tracey Hubbard |
| Wednesday April 26 - | Immigration: The Path to Citizenship<br>Facilitated by Immigration Attorney Tracey Hubbard   |
| Wednesday, May 3 -   | Proposed Immigration Legislation - Reaching Across the Aisle<br>Facilitated by Immigration Attorney Tracey Hubbard                           |
| Wednesday, May 10 -  | Comprehensive Immigration Reform – Challenges and Solutions<br>Facilitated by Immigration Attorney Tracey Hubbard                            |
| Wednesday, May 17 -  | Immigrants' stories<br>Film & Discussion   |
| Wednesday, May 24 -  | Immigration, A New Personal Perspective<br>Facilitated by United Neighborhood Centers' case worker Audrey Golosky                            |



## Let's Shake Things Up On Holy Humor

Our Boomwhackers will make an appearance on April 16th as the accompaniment to our Holy Humor Sunday prelude.

You heard it first here! Riley Wescott will lead the congregation in singing "If You're Happy and You Know It" accompanied by our older children/youth playing Boomwhackers while our younger children shake things up with eggs!

Would you like to try your hand at playing Boomwhackers or Egg-shaking? Join us in the **Sanctuary Sunday morning April 16<sup>th</sup>** so we can get it all together!

- \* The Boomwackers will meet at **9:30 a.m.** with Kay Ten Eyck, and
- \* The Egg shakers will Shake Things Up at **9:45 a.m.** with Judy Cutler.



On another note, we'd like to thank Jack Cowgill for sharing music that morning from *"a long time ago from a galaxy far, far away . . ."*



### Paul R. Dobson Memorial Scholarship

ATTN: Graduating high school members of the church who plan to further their education are eligible to apply. The winner is announced during Graduate Recognition Sunday. Download the application from the church's website ([www.fpccs.org](http://www.fpccs.org)) and mail by May 1st to Janet Dobson, 105 Center Lane, North Abington Twp, PA 18414



### Robert London Scholarship Fund

The Christian Education and Growth Committee is pleased to award scholarships to any child, teen or young adult who wishes to go to a church camp, church leadership conference, church national event, or other Christian Education event. The amount given to each student is considered on an individual basis. Applications can be downloaded at

[www.fpccs.org](http://www.fpccs.org)

or picked up in the church office.



### Camp Lackawanna is accepting registrations for the Summer 2023 Season!

Camp programs are scheduled between June 23 and July 21

Check out the options  
[www.camplackawanna.org](http://www.camplackawanna.org)

Camping scholarships are available from our Christian Education Committee. Applications are available at [www.fpccs.org](http://www.fpccs.org) or check with Jana Schillinger for details.

Programs are planned for children and young people in grades 1 through 12.



The Nursery, located in room 208 on the sanctuary level of the building, is open Sunday mornings from 9:40—11:10 a.m. for children ages 3 and younger.



## The Arts at First Presbyterian 2022-2023 concert series will conclude with two blockbuster events in April.

### "Considering Matthew Shepard"

Saturday, April 15, 2023, 7:00 pm  
Choral Society of NEPA / Bloomburg University Choir



Dr. Alan Baker directs a combined choir and orchestra for a Grammy-nominated oratorio by Craig Hella Johnson. The work tells the perhaps forgotten story of the 1988 hate-crime murder (25 years ago now) of a gay college student in Wyoming, an "ordinary boy" who "never could imagine his life could be this story" yet became a modern-day martyr with federal hate-crime legislation named for him. The large scale production is based on spiritual texts, Shepard's journal, and news reports. This beautiful piece is haunting and truthful. Join us for a soul-stirring evening unlike any other!

### Big Band Jazz: Basie, Buddy, and Ella

Sunday, April 30, 2023, 4:00 pm

We close our season with the NEPA Repertory Orchestra, a 16-piece jazz band under the direction of saxophonist Tom Heinze and pianist Bill Carter. They will gather the region's finest musicians to offer a toe tapping afternoon of classic big band music.

Both events are open to the public free of charge, with a free-will offering taken to help defray the costs of the event. For more information, please call the church at 570-586-6306 or visit our website at [www.fpccs.org](http://www.fpccs.org).



### Pentecost Party—Save the Date

The Christian Education committee invites you to join us after worship on **Sunday, May 28th** as we enjoy a light lunch and celebrate the birthday of the Christian church, learning more about what it means to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

### Bike Hike—Save the Date



Hard to believe, but summer is just around the corner. Mark your calendars for the Lehigh Gorge Trail Ride on **June 24, 2023**. Join us on a bike ride on the Lehigh Gorge Trail. The construction on the trail is complete, so enjoy an all-downhill ride along the Lehigh River from White Haven to Jim Thorpe with a shuttle back to White Haven.