



The Presbyter

June 2023

The First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit

Our Church Officers

Elders

Rev. William Carter, moderator

Beverly Bright, clerk

Class of 2024

Brad Campbell
Jay Clymer
JoAnn Hall
Ginny O'Brien
Robin Pinches

Class of 2025

Barbara Decker
Jeff McLaughlin
Patti McGonagle
Chris Norton
Briar Woodley

Class of 2026

Kim Barrows
David Naehar
Jan Thyren
John Young

Deacons

Class of 2024

Bill Farrell
Leelah Farrell
Kate Hopkins
Bill Keller
Peter Moore
Diana Pope-Albright

Class of 2025

Katie Carter
John Conklin
Grace Farrell
Jamie Strong

Class of 2026

Erika Adams
Judy Cutler
Betsy Ellis
Susan Flynn
Gwynne Gilbert
Chris Jeske



Welcome to our New Members!!

We are pleased to announce that on May 14, 2023,
Diane Cosner and Christine Lee
joined our church family.

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Session Notes

May 9, 2023

1. Session welcomed John Young, Kim Barrows and Dave Naeher to the Session Meeting on May 9th and said Good-bye to Session Members Alan Baker, Tabbi-Miller-Scandle and Karen White.
2. Elder Jay Clymer will complete the third year of his second term, Class of 2024.
3. Session congratulates and thanks Richard Cochrane for twenty-years as a volunteer Bell Choir Director. Session appreciates his musical talents and hopes he continues to serve for many years to come.

Beverly Bright
Clerk of Session

**The Presbyterian deadline for
the July/August 2023 issue is
June 16**

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
Organist	Kay Ten Eyck
Sexton	Don Gross

**FROM YOUR FINANCE COMMITTEE
FOR THE MONTH ENDING
April 30, 2023**

REVENUE	
Budget	\$133,823
Actual Received	<u>140,204</u>
Difference	\$ 6,381

EXPENSES	
Budget	\$133,697
Actual Expenses	<u>131,987</u>
Difference	\$ 1,710

Result of operations	\$ 8,217
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PLEDGE	
Budget	\$ 117,479
Actually received	<u>125,997</u>
Difference	\$ 8,518

2023 Per Capita assessment is
\$42 per member.

Board of Deacons

Care Team Ministry Coordinators are:

Deacon Meals	Erika Adams 570-878-2410
Time of Loss	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

June 2023



Once in a while, you hear something that prompts you to sit up and take notice. Here's the last time it happened to me.

The speaker was Jim Kitchens, a friend who had flown in from California to speak to our presbytery meeting. We hoped he could offer some perspective on the profound cultural changes that have rocked the North American church, and he did that. We asked if he could challenge our congregations to try "holy experiments" in programing and outreach, and he did that too.

But then he spoke an offhand comment that got to the core issue: "If you want to grow your church, don't focus on numbers or external activities. Focus instead on increasing the fruit of the Spirit. You know, love, joy, peace, and all the rest."

He was referring to a memorable line from Paul's letter to the Galatians: "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." (Galatians 5:21-22). The point was simply that a church flourishes by the character of its relationships - and these relationships are shaped by God's activity in our lives.

All these traits are a singular "fruit" (and not individual "fruits"), suggesting they are interconnected and emerge from the same source. From the context, Paul states that love, joy, peace, and all the rest are not inherent virtues in the human being. They do not come naturally to us. Rather, they bubble up as the Holy Spirit converts us away from our natural inclinations and transforms us into a new creation in Christ. Thanks to God, we become more like Jesus.

That's a compelling invitation for growth, and I'm going to take it on in a summer sermon series. I'm preaching nine times this summer, an identical number to Paul's fruit tree. And the weekly topics? Love, joy, peace, and all the rest. Each word gets a sermon. And there's plenty to talk about.

The cover of our summer worship bulletins will be a painting by the Mexican artist Ivan Guaderrama. He writes:

A tree doesn't try hard to make its fruit to come out; the fruit only comes out naturally and healthily if there is enough water, nutrients, sun, and proper conditions for the fruit to grow. Just as the believer who receives sound teaching, has fellowship with Jesus, prays, and obeys in faith - from the believer will grow love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, faith, gentleness, goodness, and self-control. The fruit of the Spirit.



I hope you can join us for this very special sermon series, whether in person or as broadcast and recorded on YouTube. And if you're interested in going deeper, I commend a wonderful book by Christopher J.H. Wright, titled, Cultivating the Fruit of the Spirit: Growing in Christlikeness (IVP Books, 2017).

See you on Sunday!

Rev. Bill



Church Life

Thanks to all of you who filled out the survey we had in the bulletin for several weeks. We were pleased with the response with many people showing an interest in a First Aid Course.

We are hoping to have someone from the Center for Public Safety do a CPR/DEA class on an upcoming Saturday morning. The DEA part of the class is on learning how to use a defibrillator. The church plans to purchase a defibrillator in the near future so the class will be scheduled once we have made that purchase.

There are two options for the class: those who want to receive a certification and those who just want to have basic knowledge on how to handle an emergency situation. The class with the certification costs \$52 and the non-certified class costs \$25. They will be held at the same time but the class for those who don't wish to be certified will last for 2 to 2 ½ hours and those getting certified will have to stay approximately an hour longer to take a test assuring the instructor that they fully understand everything that was taught.

We need to know who is definitely interested in pursuing this and which class you would be interested in so we can proceed. Please call me at 570-806-1591, email me at jodihall@nep.net or chat with me after church as to your intentions so we can get the class scheduled.

Thank you,
JoAnn Hall

Summer Fellowship

From June through August, the Fellowship Committee is looking for families and church groups who would like to provide refreshments after church. A sign-up sheet has been placed in Fellowship Hall. Call Karen White 570-575-7005 with any questions.



June Highway Cleanup Day Rescheduled

Please note that we are moving our June Highway Cleanup Day to Saturday, June 17th due to conflicts. Otherwise, same details: meet at 9:00 am at the Methodist Church, corner of Morgan Highway and Grove Street. Alan Baker would appreciate hearing in advance (abaker2@verizon.net) from all who plan to help that day. First-timers are welcome!



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. Contact Richard Cochrane at RNC803@gmail.com, or just show up at the trailhead in White Haven at 10:00 am.



Mission and Justice Committee
Pentecost Offering
 investing in our greatest resource
Help youth begin life with a solid foundation of faith.



Psalm 71 testifies that a foundation of faith established during childhood helps ensure lifelong faith and service. The patterns and lessons established during these formative years continue to bear fruit throughout a person's life. By contributing to the Pentecost Offering, you are nurturing the faith of those who are the church to come — children, youth, and young adults.

Please consider donating to The Pentecost Offering, which breaks down in the following way: 25% goes to the Young Adult Volunteer experience, 25% supports ministries with youth, ages 12-18, and those called to accompany them, 10% supports the "Educate a Child, Transform the World", and 40% remains with our congregation to support ministries with children and youth in our local community.

This year, we will use the 40% to support our local NEPA Youth Shelter, which offers an after-school drop in center for high school students and facilitates a Rapid Rehousing Program for homeless teens aged 18-21. In order to protect the safety of the drop-in center and its teen participants from local gang members, the Youth Shelter has had to incur unexpected expenses of hiring security during the hours of operation. We are hoping our donation will help with these expenses.

In gratitude for your generosity in supporting this special offering!
 Mission and Justice Committee

Note: we are running the Pentecost special offering a few weeks longer into June.

Volunteer Corner

We know that members of First Presbyterian Church have a vast variety of skills and talents that you have been sharing both within our walls, in our community, and even further. We also know that as our lives and circumstances change, our talents and skills may change, as does our ability to share them. Thus, we have been asking you to give us an update by completing the "Talents Survey 2023".



As we receive your completed surveys we will pass along any new information to our church staff and leadership so that they, in turn, can reach out to you to explore your willingness to share your time. If you would like to simply sit and chat about volunteering before or after you complete your survey, I'd be more than happy to join you for a cup of coffee and talk about some ideas for you to be involved in the life of the church. Just call (570-878-2769) or email me (npost329@gmail.com).

JUNE VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT:

Attention Student Musicians!

Kay is looking for some young instrumentalists who would like to contribute their talent by joining with her to provide accompaniment for a choir anthem. She is happy to mold this opportunity to various skill levels. This is a great way to broaden your personal musical experience while enhancing our morning worship service.

If you are interested in this opportunity, speak to Kay after church or email her at kayt1085@gmail.com.

Nancy Post

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

*“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD,
“plans to prosper you and not to harm you,
plans to give you hope and a future.”
Jeremiah 29:11*

**Class of
2023**

Jack Cowgill, son of Steven and Jennifer Cowgill, a graduate of Abington Heights High School, plans to major in Economics at the University of Scranton and has chosen the Honors College, Pre-Law Track.

Aiden Gilbert, son of Teal and Rachel Gilbert, grandson of Stan and Gwynne Gilbert, a graduate of Wyoming Seminary High School, plans to major in Business at Penn State University.

Brady Kareha, son of Dr. Louis and Lori Kareha, a graduate of Abington Heights High School, plans to major in Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware.

John Rich, son of Dr. John and Anne Rich, a graduate of Abington Heights High School, plans to major in Computer Science Engineering at Bucknell University.

Riley Wescott, daughter of Ronald and Wendy Wescott, granddaughter of Michele Keen, a graduate of Abington Heights High School, with honors, and receiving an Associates Degree from Lackawanna College, with honors, plans to major in Journalism at Millersville University.

Hadley Gilbert, daughter of Christopher and Renee Gilbert, granddaughter of Stan and Gwynne Gilbert, is a graduate of Marywood University with a degree in Early Childhood Education.

Amber Kusma, daughter of Mark and Heather Kusma, granddaughter of Janet Dobson, is a graduate of Quinnipiac University with a degree in Computer Science.

Ryan Siebecker, son of Kevin and Dana Siebecker, grandson of Bill and Jean Siebecker, is a graduate of Georgetown University with a degree in Technology and employed by a Credit Unions Technology Company.

Jake Wescott, son of Ronald and Wendy Wescott, grandson of Michele Keen, is serving his third year in the Air Force at Patrick Space Force Base in Brevard County, Florida as an Air Traffic Controller.



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 or picked up in the church office.

Wednesdays at First Presbyterian Church

Adult Ed is winding up for the season. We invite all to come on Wednesday, June 7, at 6:00 p.m. for a planning session, open to all. We will review the past year's offerings and look to chart out plans for adult education for the fall and beyond.



Adult Choir and **Bell Choir** will soon take a summer break. Check with Frank Jones and Dick Cochrane concerning the last rehearsal of this season.

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.



Thank you to all our audience members and donors for your support of our 2022-23 Arts at First Presbyterian concert series. This year was one of our most active and successful seasons, with a variety of performers and repertoire.

We are in the planning stages for next season, and welcome your input for any performers you might want to see. We will be having a planning session on **Thursday, June 1 at 1 pm** in the church library. You are welcome to join us. If you can't attend, but have some thoughts, please send them to me at jaweiss@epix.net.

We already have two acts planned. We've lined up a concert for Friday, Aug 11 at 7 pm with the **King's Brass**, a 9-piece brass band based in Fort Wayne, Ind. We will need 9 host families for dinner and overnight accommodations. If you are interested, please contact me. On October 15, 2023, we will again be privileged to hear the **Bill Mays Jazz Trio**. They performed at the church in 2010 to great acclaim, and we look forward to their return.

John Weiss, Co-Chair
Arts at First Presbyterian

Camp Lackawanna is accepting registrations for Summer 2023!

Camp programs are scheduled between June 23 and July 21. Check out the options: www.camplackawanna.org

Camping scholarships are available from our Christian Education Committee. Applications are available at www.fpccs.org or check with Jana Schillinger for details.

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



Joys

Sorrows

Lectionary



3	Karis Naeher
5	Ron Wescott
8	Debbie Miller
9	Deb Traettino
10	Hadley Gilbert Drew Taylor
17	Al Traettino
21	Jacob Wescott Caly Yankow
22	Jacob Cole Kim Rich
23	Jay Clymer
24	Ran Billiot
25	Jacki Bailey Brooklyn Yankow
28	Tom Decker
30	Janet Dobson Brady Kareha

Thank you from Mary Parry and Leonard Ballelli:



We would like to thank everyone who participated in our wedding luncheon and made it so special. Thank you again. Leonard and Mary Ballelli



Blessings and best wishes to the Scheuer family. Arthur Russell Scheuer, son of Brad and Katie Scheuer, was born May 16, 2023. Grandparents Diane and Jack Scheuer are thrilled with the new addition to their family.!



Mary Parry and Leonard Ballelli were united in marriage on April 29, 2023, with Rev. Carter officiating. Mary and Len, we wish you much joy and happiness!



We were recently notified of the passing of Rinell Vincent, husband of Mary Edna Vincent, on April 20, 2023. In recent years they have been living in Indianapolis, Indiana.



4	Jay & Liz Clymer
5	John & Myrna Diven
8	Al & Deb Traettino
11	David & Donna Porter
26	Wendy & Ron Wescott

Lectionary Readings

June 4, Trinity Sunday

Genesis 1:1-2:4a; Psalm 8; 2 Corinthians 13:11-13;
Matthew 28:16-20

June 11, 2nd Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 12:1-9; Psalm 33:1-12; Hosea 5:15-6:6;
Psalm 50:7-15; Romans 4:13-25;
Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

June 18, 3rd Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 18:1-15 (21:1-7); Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19;
Exodus 19:2-8a; Psalm 100; Romans 5:1-8;
Matthew 9:35-10:8 (9-23)

June 25, 4th Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 21:8-21; Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17;
Jeremiah 20:7-13; Psalm 69:7-10 (11-15), 16-18;
Romans 6:1b-11; Matthew 10:24-39

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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

Board and Committee Meetings

Session Meeting— Tuesday, June 13, 7 p.m., Room 206

Board of Deacons— Tuesday, June 27, 7 p.m., Room 206

Christian Education—Thursday, June 1, 7 p.m., Room 206

Mission and Justice—Tuesday, June 6, 7 p.m., Room 206

Worship, Music and Arts - Thursday, June 8, 5 p.m., Room 206

Service/Study/Fellowship Gatherings

The Arts at First PC planning session—Thursday, June 1, 1 p.m., in the library

Men's Breakfast and Bible Study – Thursday, June 1 and 15, 8:30 a.m., Room 206

MBK Quilters—Tuesday, June 13, 10 a.m., Fellowship Hall

Highway Clean-up—Saturday, June 17, 9 a.m., Clarks Summit Methodist Church

Bike Hike— Saturday, June 24, 10 a.m., White Haven trailhead

Adult Bible Study planning session— Wednesday, June 7, 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

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 8 p.m. and Thursdays at 7 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
- 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.

Deadline for the July/August Presbyter is Friday, June 16 with anticipated mailing date of June 28.



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.



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



WHAT: VBS 2023

WHEN: Monday, July 17 to Friday, July 21, 9am-12pm

WHERE: First Presbyterian Church
300 School Street, Clarks Summit

WHO'S INVITED: all children age 4 to completed
grade 5

TO REGISTER, VISIT: myvbs.org/fpcs



Want to volunteer? You can help children explore Babylon by teaching, leading, or preparing. One day or the whole week, we need YOU to make it possible! Please contact Jana Schillinger or send an email to fpcs.vbs@gmail.com