



The Presbyter

March 2024

The First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit

Worship Schedule for Holy Week



- Palm Sunday** March 24 at 10:00 a.m.
- Maundy Thursday** March 28 at 7:30 p.m.
- Good Friday** March 29 from 12 to 1 p.m.
- Easter Sunday** March 31 at 10:00 a.m.



One Great Hour of Sharing.

This annual Lenten appeal addresses world hunger, assists those who suffer from disasters, and lifts up those who wish to improve the circumstances of their lives. Please give generously! Our goal is \$5,500.

Easter Egg Hunt

Following worship on Easter Sunday, March 31

Come join in the fun!

Sponsored by the Church Life Committee



LIFT: Living In Faith Together



Join us after worship on **Sunday, March 24** for a meal and intergenerational program. Families with children as well as congregants of all ages are invited.

Enjoy a meal, Bible reading, discussion, and activity as we finish the season of **Lent** with a program on **Holy Week**. It's a great opportunity to share fellowship and faith with our friends and family.

Save the date for our next **LIFT** program: **Sunday, April 21**



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Notes from the Session

No Session Meeting in February

A Report from Session will return in April

The Presbyterian deadline for the April 2024 issue is March 15.

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	Michael Lambert

FROM YOUR FINANCE COMMITTEE FOR THE MONTH ENDING JANUARY 31, 2024

REVENUE

Budget	\$ 34,350
Actual Received	<u>43,804</u>
Difference	\$ 9,454

EXPENSES

Budget	\$ 34,315
Actual Expenses	<u>30,852</u>
Difference	\$ 3,463

Result of operations \$ 12,952

PLEDGE

Budget	\$ 31,000
Actually received	<u>38,351</u>
	\$ 7,351

2024 Per Capita assessment is \$42 per member.

Board of Deacons

Care Team Ministry Coordinators are:

Moderator	Barbara Norton 570-878-8026
Deacon Meals	Erika Adams 570-878-2410
Ushers	John Conklin
Deacon Driver	Barbara Norton 570-878-8026

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

March 2024



"Go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." – Mark 16:7

Easter comes early this year, so it's best to get ready. As we prepare to hear the story of Christ's resurrection, we are told when we shall see him. According to Mark's account, after Easter comes, Jesus does not go up into heaven. He does not extract revenge on Pontius Pilate. He does not return to the Temple to straighten out the clergy. No, Christ goes to Galilee – ahead of the women, ahead of the disciples, ahead of the rest of us. The Easter promise is that we will see him when we go to the places where he continues his work. And where might that be?

A college student volunteers at a hotline for women who have been abused. Every Friday night, she answers the phone whenever it rings. "The fraternity party scene was lame," she said, "and this is a lot more important." Was she doing this for college credit or as a part-time job? "Oh no," she said, "I think Jesus wants me to help anybody who is in trouble. He says to all of us, 'Don't be afraid.'" That is what she said. She speaks of Jesus in the present tense.

Or there's that couple that works every Thursday night in their local food pantry. She said, "At first we did it because there was nothing on TV and someone from the church's mission committee asked us to fill in." Her husband adds, "We started talking with the people at the pantry. They are hungry for something more than food. They feel alone and want human contact." So, they have kept going back. These days, they pay more attention to sermons than they ever did. They sense a connection between the living Word of Christ and human compassion.

Or there's that woman who answered a friend's invitation to volunteer for an agency. "I help senior citizens get the health care that they need," she said. "Some feel vulnerable, or afraid to stand up for what they need. I stand with them and together we find the answers." She paused and added, "I always zoned out as sermons about justice. Now I understand exactly why justice is so important."

Helping the abused, feeding the hungry, standing up for the vulnerable -- do you know where these people live? *Galilee*. Galilee, Pennsylvania. All of them are testifying in their words and deeds that love is stronger than death, that God is stronger than evil, and that the Risen Christ is ahead of us, inviting us to join in the life and work of God's new dominion.

This is Mark's profound invitation for Easter. What if resurrection happens, not just in the tomb, but in the places where Christ shows compassion and builds faith? What if the Risen Lord is ahead of us, beckoning us to join him in his work and share in his life? What if there are places we can go where life is stronger than death, where we can trust that this is the way of the kingdom?

The address: Galilee. Can we go together?

See you in church,

Rev. Bill

Mission and Justice

Call for Volunteers and Giving: Our Next Hickory Street Meal



We will take our next turn helping Hickory Street Presbyterian Church with their community meals program on Saturday, March 23. We will again be seeking volunteers to prepare the entrée (still TBA), to make or purchase an easy to serve dessert (your choice), and to help serve the meal that day. Sign-Up sheets and additional info will soon be found in the narthex. The program continues to serve 175+ meals each time they are offered. We are also collecting bags of groceries to give away that day and history tells us we will need at least 35 of these, each containing the following items:

- 1 box of breakfast cereal
- 1 box of pasta
- 1 can or plastic jar of spaghetti sauce
- 1 box of Mac n Cheese
- 2 cans of vegetables,
- 1 can of fruit,
- 1 can of tuna
- 1 four-pack of pudding or jello cups,
- 1 box of Pop Tarts
- 1 plastic jar of peanut butter
- 1 plastic jar of jelly
- 1 bag of candy

You can shop for the complete list (printed shopping lists will also be found in the narthex) or just selected items and bring them to the narthex.

Due to some conflicts, some of our regular meal-day help will not be there to assist this time around, so if you've never worked with us on the meal day, this would be a great time to give that a try. It is a real blessing and excellent reminder that even here in NEPA, hunger is a real and ever-present problem for many of our neighbors.

If you have questions or would like additional information, please see Alan Baker or email him at abaker2@verizon.net.

Highway Cleanup on April 13



As part of our regular work as a PC-USA "Earth Care Congregation," we will continue to clean our strip of the Morgan Highway (between Winola and Country Club Roads) on Saturday, April 13th, meeting at 9:00 am in the parking lot of the Methodist Church (Morgan and Grove). PennDOT supplies us with garbage bags, gloves, and safety vests, and we put up warning signs to alert traffic from both directions. The work usually takes about an hour. Please consider joining.

For additional information, contact Alan Baker at abaker2@verizon.net.



We were recently re-certified as an "Earth Care Congregation" for our work across 2023 to make earth care concerns a part of our thinking and doing in the areas of worship, education, community, and facilities. Congratulations to us!



The Church Life Committee and Mission & Justice Committee

present

An Evening in Tuscany

Sunday, April 28

A Fun Raiser and Fund Raiser to benefit the NEPA Youth Shelter

Save the date and watch for details in the April newsletter,
the weekly bulletin and Rev. Bill's weekly email.

Contact JoAnn at jodihall@nep.net or 570-806-1591 if you are interested.



The Church Life Committee sponsored a First Aid Course in the fall. Some people had shown some interest in having us repeat that class in the spring. We would be happy to do so if there is enough interest.

Please contact JoAnn at jodihall@nep.net or 570-806-1591 if you are interested

March Volunteer Corner

As promised, Adrienne Horger is sharing her thoughts as she begins her FPC Library volunteering:

“A few years ago, I had the good fortune to be part of an Immerse group reading the Bible. There were eight of us, all bright, loquacious, and interesting. Those happy memories came flooding back as I took my first step in trying to organize First Presby's library in Room 206, the Session Room.

As you enter the room, the library greets you on the right, and the first section you'll see has to do with the Bible. I was overwhelmed by the number of Bibles and books about the Bible like The Reader's Digest Bible, Reader's Digest Family Guide to the Bible, All the Plants of the Bible, Nelson's Complete Book of Bible Maps and Charts. I was overwhelmed since I won't live long enough to read them all.

I need to confess up front that my favorite version of the Bible is the King James because of its unavoidable rhythms of good English. Geoffrey Chaucer and William Shakespeare elevated the English language leading to the eloquence of John Milton. Unfortunately, in our fast paced world where screens and phone dominate, emojis replace vocabulary. Though I accept the reality of this, I am grateful for books of all sorts and the thoughtful eloquent sermons of Bill Carter.”

Thank you, Adrienne for sharing your initial thoughts about the library!

I continue to be touched by the kindness and generosity of FPC members who have responded to recent requests for volunteers for special projects. From chili and soup chefs to office receptionists....you are appreciated!

Nancy Post



Next Arts Series Event

Marywood Music Showcase

Sunday, March 3, 2024 4:00 p.m.

Faculty from Marywood University



Rick Hoffenberg, Co-Chair of the Department of Music, Theatre, and Dance at Marywood University, has organized a **Marywood Music Showcase** to be held on **Sunday, March 3 at 4 p.m.** Members of the music faculty at Marywood University will present an afternoon recital of music by Piazzolla, Faure, Schubert, with some extraordinary surprises! Featured musicians will include Samantha Guevrekian, soprano, Elise Bond, clarinet, Diogo Carvalho, guitar, and Rick Hoffenberg, piano.

Dr Hoffenberg is currently Associate Professor and Director of Choral Activities at Marywood. He is also Music Director of the Wyoming Seminary Civic Orchestra, based in Kingston, PA. As a pianist, he has performed at Orchestra Hall in Chicago; the Music Institute of Chicago; Rockefeller Chapel in New York City; and Richardson Auditorium, Taplin Auditorium, and Bristol Chapel, all in Princeton, New Jersey. He was the state winner, division winner, and national finalist in the 1994 MTNA Wurlitzer Piano Competition. He holds degrees from Princeton University, Yale University, and Westminster Choir College.

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

State Hospital Luncheon

April 2 @ Noon

If interested. in joining us please give me a call @ 570-563-1887 so I have enough food prepared. We also will be collecting NEW socks for male/female. More information will follow in bulletins.

Janet Dobson



Souper Bowl Sunday

Thank You!

This year we collected

\$494

for the AEM Food Pantry through the
Souper Bowl of Caring.



Save the Date!

Attention all children, families, and
volunteers! Mark your calendars...



VBS 2024 will be held **July 15 - 19**

Join us this summer for an amazing Bible adventure
filled with laughter, learning, and fun times with
friends new and old!

Look for more information this spring.

Christian Education: Growing in Faith and Love

Bible Time: An opportunity for our **young children** (age 4 to approx. grade 4) to hear Bible stories told in a fun and engaging way, weekly **Bible Time** will happen during worship, for about 20 minutes. Children will be invited to attend after the anthem and will return for prayers and the end of the service.



In March we will hear stories about Jesus' last week (including the Last Supper and His arrest in the garden), death, and resurrection (Easter!).



We Worship Together series: Have you ever wondered about our church traditions?

Answering questions about the way we worship, our new series for children will last about 30 minutes and will be held after worship; parents will be invited to sign up (so we know to expect your child), and each family will receive a book to take home related to the topic discussed. Our next program

will be held on **Sunday, March 3 & Sunday, March 10** on the topic of **the Lord's Prayer**. The series will conclude with a lesson on **Sunday, May 12** to hear about **Pentecost**, but will return in the fall.

SIGN UP
HERE:



Wednesday Evening Opportunities

Adult Education meets on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m., Room 206. During Lent, Rev. Carter will lead "Singing the Blues," a weekly Lenten study of Ecclesiastes. Drawing on study materials produced by Presbyterian Men, the group will explore life's persistent questions: Why are we here? What is the "good life"? What matters most? All are welcome as we explore one of the most enigmatic books of the Bible.

Adult Choir rehearses at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Bell Choir rehearses at 8:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Additional Adult Education Opportunities

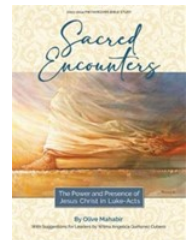
Presbyterian Women Bible Study

March 19, 2024 10 a.m.

Women's Bible Study Lesson 6

Presbyterian Women / Horizons Bible Study

Lesson 6: A Person with a Physical Disability Encounters Jesus



Overview: In this lesson's sacred encounter, the power of Jesus, through actions of Peter and John, heals a man who is paralyzed, giving him access to worship in the temple. Peter and John carry on Jesus' mission to help people who are marginalized and rejected by society and challenge belief systems that disable, degrade, and dehumanize those who already struggle.

Join us on March 19 at 10 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.

The group, including Rev. Carter, gathers on the third Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. All women are welcome!

Joys

Sorrows

Lectionary



- 7 Nina Schillinger
- 11 Sue Sill
- 12 Jim Thyren
- 16 Candy Ferrese
- 20 Chuck Woolever
- 23 Jacob Gilbert
- 27 Bonnie Plantholt
- 29 Nancy Post
Bill Davis
- 31 Beverly Bright

Flower Sign Up

Start the new year by honoring loved ones, celebrations, and family events with a special floral arrangement to mark the occasion.

The 2024 Flower Calendar is now hanging on the bulletin board next to Rev. Carter's office.



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.



Joan Miller and Mollie Woehling entered the Church Triumphant in early February.

The sympathy of the Congregation is extended to their families.

Lectionary Readings

March 3: 3rd Sunday in Lent

Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22

March 10: 4th Sunday in Lent

Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21

March 17: 5th Sunday in Lent

Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-12 or Psalm 119:9-16; Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33

March 24: 6th Sunday in Lent

Liturgy of the Palms

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Mark 11:1-11 or John 12:12-16

March 24: 6th Sunday in Lent

Liturgy of the Passion

Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Mark 14:1-15:47 or Mark 15:1-39, (40-47)

March 25: Easter Sunday

Isaiah 7:10-14; Psalm 45 or Psalm 40:5-10; Hebrews 10:4-10; Luke 1:26-38

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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

Daylight Saving Time Begins on March 10



Board and Committee Meetings

Session Meeting—Tuesday, March 12, 7 p.m., Room 206

Deacons—Tuesday, March 26, 7 p.m., Room 206

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

Christian Education—Thursday, March 7, 7 p.m., Room 206

Mission and Justice—Tuesday, March 5, 7 p.m., Room 206

Worship, Music and Arts - Thursday, March 7, 5 p.m., Room 206

Service/Study/Fellowship Gatherings

Marywood Music Showcase—Sunday, March 3, 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Men's Breakfast and Bible Study – Thursday, March 7 and 21, 8:30 a.m., Room 206

MBK Quilters—Tuesday, March 12 and 26, 10 a.m., Fellowship Hall

Presbyterian Women Bible study—Tuesday, March 19, 10:00 a.m.

Hickory Street Meal—Saturday, March 23

LIFT Lenten program—Sunday, March 24, following worship

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

Adult Education—Each Wednesday, 6:00 p.m., Room 206

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

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

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. in room 206 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.

Presbyter Deadline: Friday, March 15, 2024. Anticipated mailing date March 27, 2024.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

300 School Street
Clarks Summit, PA 18411-1536

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

DATED MATERIAL

Return Service Requested



6½” Pots of Tulips will be ordered for Easter Morning.

----- **Easter Tulip order form** -----

Price is \$9.00 per pot. **Deadline is March 4**

Checks are payable to “First Presbyterian Church”

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Number of tulip pots : _____ @\$9.00 each

Total Amount Enclosed: _____

Dedication: In honor/In memory of

I will pick up my flowers _____

