



# The Presbyter

May 2024

The First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit



## Pentecost Special Offering

Each year on Pentecost Sunday we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of our church. We celebrate this with a special Pentecost offering, now through May 19. This offering will go to support children, the Holy Spirit's future. 40% of this offering stays locally. We have chosen to give this special offering to Catholic Social Services Immigration Resettlement specifically for refugee children's immediate needs, as they arrive here.

“I am coming to you.” John 14:18b

Jesus' words, “I am coming to you,” means Jesus will always be at our side. This is the hope and inspiration that carries us forward and is fundamental to our faith. Your gifts help instill in our youth a heartfelt understanding of the ways God comes to them every single day.

**Join with the worldwide church in building for our future.**

Thank you for your support of young people. Please look for the Pentecost envelopes in the pews and/or donate online. Text PENTECOST at 91999 or online at [pcusa.org/give/pentecost](https://pcusa.org/give/pentecost).



## WHEN WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT!



Contrary to common perception, Jesus' disciples weren't frightened and hiding during the 10 days between Ascension and Pentecost. Instead, they were actively preparing for the promised gift of the Holy Spirit. They “all joined together constantly in prayer” (Acts 1:14, NIV) and took steps to replace Judas. After that inward focus, the disciples were ready to boldly burst forth on Pentecost, empowered and “enabled” (Acts 2:4) by the Spirit. They proclaimed Christ's death and resurrection, leading 3,000 people to faith that day, now known as the church's birthday.

“A great wave of faith and love swept through this newborn community,” writes Suzanne de Dietrich in *Free Men*. “These Christians could not keep silent. Their joyful liberty had broken down all the walls behind which people would like to keep them; no prison could silence them.”

## Table of Contents

- Page 2 - Session, Deacons, Financial
- Page 3 - From the Pastor
- Page 4 - The Arts, Bike Hike, Church Life
- Page 5 - Mission and Justice, Volunteer Corner
- Page 6 - Christian Education, Camp Lackawanna, Scholarship Fund
- Page 7 - Wednesday Evening Opportunities, Adult Ed, Class of 2024, Scholarship
- Page 8 - Joys, Sorrows, Lectionary
- Page 9 - Calendar
- Page 10 - Vacation Bible School



**State Hospital Luncheon**

Huge thanks to everyone who helped with last month's luncheon, along with all the donated socks that our guests received.

Janet Dobson

**A Congregational Meeting** has been called for Sunday, **May 12**, 11 a.m., for the purpose of electing elders and deacons, class of 2027.

**Graduate recognition** is set for **May 19** during worship. Please see page 7, bottom, for information.

**Ordination and Installation** of incoming elders and deacons will take place during worship on **May 26**.



**The Presbyterian deadline for the June 2024 issue is May 17.**

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.

- |  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| <b>Church Office</b>                       | <b>(570) 586-6306</b> |
| <b>Fax</b>                                 | <b>(570) 587-3784</b> |
| <b>Web Page</b>                            | <b>www.fpccs.org</b>  |
| <b>Pastor</b>                              | William G. Carter     |
| <b>Administrative Assistant</b>            | Nancy Owens           |
| <b>Coordinator of Children &amp; Youth</b> | Jana Schillinger      |
| <b>Treasurer</b>                           | Wayne Griffiths       |
| <b>Editor</b>                              | Amanda Roberts        |
| <b>Clerk of Session</b>                    | Beverly Bright        |
| <b>Director of Music</b>                   | Frank Jones           |
| <b>Director of Bells</b>                   | Richard Cochrane      |
| <b>Organist</b>                            | Kay Ten Eyck          |
| <b>Sexton</b>                              | Michael Lambert       |

**FROM YOUR FINANCE COMMITTEE  
FOR THE MONTH ENDING  
MARCH 31, 2024**

<b>REVENUE</b>	
Budget	\$103,049
Actual Received	<u>116,616</u>
Difference	\$ 13,567

<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Budget	\$102,945
Actual Expenses	<u>100,455</u>
Difference	\$ 2,490

Result of operations \$16,162

<b>PLEDGE</b>	
Budget	\$ 92,999
Actually received	<u>89,573</u>
	(\$ 3,427)

2024 Per Capita assessment is \$42 per member.

*All are invited to a special presbytery event*

**Tuning Up for Church Vitality**

Sunday, June 2, 2:30 p.m.—7:00 p.m.

Mountain Top Presbyterian Church

Workshops:

- Raising Your Church's Hospitality Game
- Educational Resources for Congregations
- Making Community Connections
- Music for the Benefit of the Community
- Unexpected Partners
- Outreach through Media (and Technology)

Dinner at 5:00 p.m. (\$10 donation)

Jazz Vespers at 6:00 p.m. with the Presbybop Quartet

More information is available on the church bulletin board.

## From the Pastor

May 2024

She said, “I was going to stop by and talk to you, but I knew you were busy.” It was a well-intentioned comment, and I didn’t take it the way that she intended.



Sometimes my calendar is full. March and October seem to be the most congested months, at least as far as my teaching schedule and special events. My December is crazy for the same reason it’s crazy for you: family connections, holiday shopping, and the emotional congestion of “too much going on.” Weekly schedules rise and fall; some are fuller than others.

But I must say busyness is a different matter altogether. A “busy pastor” is an unavailable pastor. Eugene Peterson, mentor to a previous generation of ministers, wrote that pastors get busy for two ignoble reasons. Either they are vain, wanting to look significant or important (e.g. “Wish I could help you, but I’m too busy”). Or the busy pastor is lazy, letting others fill up the schedule rather than having the clarity to say “no” to distractions. As Peterson writes to pastors,

It was a favorite theme of C.S. Lewis that only lazy people work hard. By lazily abdicating the essential work of deciding and directing, establishing values and setting goals, other people do it for us; then we find ourselves frantically, at the last minute, trying to satisfy a half dozen different demands on our time, none of which is essential to our vocation, to stave off the disaster of disappointing someone.

But if I vainly crowd my day with conspicuous activity or let others fill my day with imperious demands, I don’t have time to do my proper work, the work to which I’ve been called. How can I lead people into the quiet place beside the still waters if I am in perpetual motion? How can I persuade a person to live by faith and not by works if I have to juggle my schedule constantly to make everything fit into place? (from *The Contemplative Pastor*, pp. 28-29)

*Touche!* What is a pastor’s work anyway? The essential tasks are to pray, to study, to preach and teach, and to spend time with people. These are the holy matters, central to the pastor’s vocation. As time, interest, and ability allow, other tasks can be taken up and shared. Yet the peculiar calling of a pastor is to avoid “busyness” for the sake of being available to both God and people.

I’m here for you. Unless I’m praying, studying, preaching, or teaching – in which case, I’m also here for you – but just in a different way.

With you in the journey,

*Rev. Bill*

P.S. – With a commitment to teach pastors for a week with the Board of Pensions, a daughter’s grad school graduation, and a family wedding, my calendar for May is a little nutty. Especially around the weekends. But I’m around more than you might think. I love to drink coffee and I’m always happy to buy you a cup.

**Meet Me at the Fair**  
**Paragon Ragtime Orchestra**  
**Friday, May 10 at 7 p.m.**



The Paragon Ragtime Orchestra (PRO) will bring its touring performance of "Meet Me at the Fair" to the church on Friday, May 10 at 7 p.m. The Paragon Ragtime Orchestra is the world's only year-round, professional ensemble re-creating "America's Original Music" – the exciting sounds of early musical theater, silent cinema, and vintage dance. This program features music from the Philadelphia, Chicago, Buffalo, and St. Louis world's fairs of the early 1900s and includes video clips of those fairs to go along with the music. It's a multimedia show you won't want to miss!

The PRO came into being as the result of conductor Rick Benjamin's 1985 discovery of thousands of turn-of-the-century orchestra scores once belonging to Victrola recording star Arthur Pryor. In 1988 the Orchestra made its formal debut at Alice Tully Hall – the first concert ever presented at Lincoln Center by such an ensemble. Since then PRO has appeared at hundreds of leading arts venues, including the Ravinia Festival, the Smithsonian Institution, Chautauqua, the Brucknerhaus (Austria), the New York 92nd Street Y, and the American Dance Festival.

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

**Bike Hike June 1**



Please join us for this year's bike ride through the Lehigh Gorge. It's a 26 mile all downhill ride from White Haven to Jim Thorpe, with a shuttle back to White Haven. The ride is free, but the shuttle is provided by Pocono Biking for \$24.99. No reservations needed.

Meet at the new White Haven Trailhead at 10:00 a.m. on June 1.

**Church Life Committee**

Please mark your calendars for our Parking Lot Picnic which will be held on June 30<sup>th</sup> and a trip to see the Rail Riders' game on August 2<sup>nd</sup>. More details will be available in the June newsletter.



We are also looking for families and church groups who would like to host the coffee hour during the summer months. Watch for a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall or contact Karen White at 570-575-7005 if you would like to get on the schedule.

We held a CPR class and defibrillator training in the fall of 2023. Some people expressed an interest in repeating that class for those who were unable to attend. Please contact JoAnn at [jodihall@nep.net](mailto:jodihall@nep.net) or 570-806-1591 if you would be interested.



## Mission and Justice Committee

So grateful for your generosity in raising a total of \$4,960.88 for this year's **One Great Hour of Sharing** special offering! As a reminder, the breakdown of this offering is: 32% to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), 36% to Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP), and 32% to Self-Development of People (SDOP). With hunger, food insecurity, and natural and man-made disasters on the rise, these allocations are so very pertinent! Thank you!

"God of mercy and compassion, we remember all those around the world who face dire living consequences each day. Be with them and allow our gifts to strengthen and support them in all ways, so that they might live in safety and security. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen"



## Food Drive Planned for May

The Deacons will be having a food drive in May to benefit both The Gathering Place and The Dalton Food Pantry.

Details to come.

## May Volunteer Corner

This month the Volunteer Corner shines the spotlight on our Deacons.

For some inside information, I turned to Barbara Norton, the current Moderator. Her description: "Deacons are privileged to serve any member of our church family who is in distress or need. In practical terms, that means works of caring for those who are grieving, ill or in crisis. We also make modest gifts on FPCCS' behalf to charitable organizations that help our neighbors in need."

You see our Deacons in the Narthex and rear of the sanctuary each Sunday, greeting members and visitors and collecting the offering during worship. They also coordinate and serve funeral meals, home meals and may provide transportation to church services and activities.

While there are 17 elected Deacons, their work is supplemented by 55 non-Deacon volunteers. The number of volunteer hours they contribute is probably well over 1,000 per year.



## 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

And what does the Moderator do? In part, Barbara facilitates monthly meetings, participates in all service activities and events, ensures coordination of Deacons' mission activities with other FPCCS committees and leaders and prepares the annual report to the congregation.

When asked what the best part of serving as Moderator is, Barbara replied "It's been my great privilege to serve as Moderator this year. I'm constantly reminded of the compassion, caring and faithful service of our Deacons and countless volunteers from our church family. It's a privilege and a blessing!"

Thank you to this amazing group of volunteers for the gifts and service they provide to all of us.

Nancy Post

## 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 May, we will hear stories about the Good Shepherd, God's messenger, and the church's birthday (Pentecost).



SIGN UP  
HERE:



**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, May 12** to hear about **Pentecost**. That will be our last class for now, but the series will return in the fall with topics including the Apostles' Creed, worship, and Baptism.



## Hearts and Hands for Camp Lackawanna

Can you help? Camp Lackawanna is preparing for the next **Hearts and Hands weekend** of May 17-19. There are many tasks to be done. These include wood splitting, painting, cleaning, minor repairs, spreading woodchips, loading a dumpster, and others. There is something for all ages! You can come for the entire weekend or just one day. Meals and lodging will be provided. Please sign up by May 13 by sending an email to Suzanne Bates at [suzanne@batesemail.net](mailto:suzanne@batesemail.net) or calling 248-320-6095.



## 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 picked up in the church office.

<https://www.fpccs.org/learn/scholarships.html>

## Wednesday Evening Opportunities

**Adult Education** meets on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m., Room 206. Join us for a Bible study called, “Why Presbyterians Are Like That.” It’s a fun and fascinating exploration of central themes: how we read the Bible, the centrality of grace, responding to God’s love, and using our brains. All are welcome as we continue the class through May.

On May 29, we conclude the spring semester with an Adult Education planning meeting at 6:00 p.m. All are welcome to join the conversation. What would you like to learn?

**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

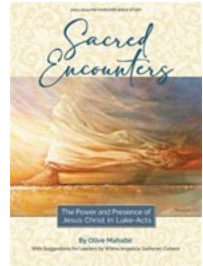
May 21, 10 a.m.

Women’s Bible Study Lesson 8

Lydia Encounters Jesus in Worship

Overview: This lesson’s sacred encounter amazes us with the ways Jesus’ love takes up residence in Lydia’s heart and inspires her to dedicate her family, time, business, home, and leadership talents to further God’s Kingdom. Lydia’s story demonstrates that prayer groups and Bible studies are spiritual disciplines that help us mature in the faith and care for each other.

**Men’s Breakfast and Bible Study** meets for donuts and Bible study on the first and third Thursday 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. All men in the church family are always welcome.



**Class of  
2024**

### Calling all graduates!

If you are graduating this year (or know someone who is) we want to know. Whether it’s a high school, college, or post-college graduation, we want to recognize your accomplishments...but we need to be sure you’re on our list!

Please contact Myrna Diven at 570-586-8821 with information. Thank you.

**Reminder!**  
**Deadline is May 8!**  
**Paul R. Dobson**  
**Memorial Scholarship**



Graduating High School members of our congregation are invited to apply if you plan to further your education. The application can be downloaded from the church website

**(<https://www.fpccs.org/learn/scholarships.html>)**

and mailed by May 8th to 105 Center Lane, N. Abington Twp, 18414. The winner will be announced during Graduate Recognition Sunday.

Janet Dobson

## Joys

## Sorrows

## Lectionary



- 2 Gary Wadsworth
- 5 Alan Baker
- 8 Patti Anne McGonagle
- 11 Wally Longcor
- 21 Jeanne DeVirgilis  
David Naehar
- 22 Jana Schillinger
- 23 Jillian Shane
- 24 Sue Flynn
- 28 Kate O'Brien
- 29 Kathy Sloneker
- 30 Bethany Koltis



- 11 Joanie and Frank Garnecki will celebrate 50 years of marriage!
- 24 Nina & Brian Schillinger

**Congratulations to all!**



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 sympathy of the congregation is extended to the Hosier family and Clyde Ellsworth on the loss of SaraAnn Hosier.

She entered the Church Triumphant April 6, 2024.



Thank you for the prayers, cards and well-wishes related to my recent surgery and recovery time. I am blessed to be surrounded by such wonderful people.

--Nancy Owens

## Lectionary Readings

### May 5: 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98 or Genesis 35:9-15 and Psalm 101; 1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17

### May 12: 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; Psalm 1 or Jeremiah 10: 1-10a and Psalm 108; 1 John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19

### May 19: Day of Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21 or Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Romans 8:22-26 or Acts 2:1-21; John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

### May 26: Trinity Sunday

Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 29; Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-17



## *MARK YOUR CALENDAR*

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

**Congregational Meeting** for the Election of Elders and Deacons  
Sunday, May 12 following Worship

**Graduate Recognition** is set for Sunday, May 19 during Worship

**Ordination and Installation** of incoming Elders and Deacons  
Sunday, May 26 during Worship

### **Board and Committee Meetings**

**Session Meeting**—Tuesday, May 14, 7 p.m., Room 206

**Deacons**—Tuesday, May 28, 7 p.m., Room 206

**Building and Grounds**— Thursday, May 2, 7 p.m., Room 209

**Christian Education**—Thursday, May 2, 7 p.m., Room 206

**Mission and Justice**—Tuesday, May 7, 7 p.m., Room 206

**Worship, Music and Arts** - Thursday, May 2, 5 p.m., **ZOOM** only

### **Service/Study/Fellowship Gatherings**

**Men's Breakfast and Bible Study** – Thursday, May 2 and 16, 8:30 a.m., Room 206

**The Arts, Paragon Ragtime**—Friday, May 10, 7:00 p.m.

**MBK Quilters**—Tuesday, May 14 and 28, 10 a.m., Fellowship Hall

**Senior Game Day** - Thursday, May 16, 2 p.m., Fellowship Hall

**Presbyterian Women Bible Study**—Tuesday, May 21, 10:00 a.m.

**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**—May 1 and May 8, 8 p.m., Fellowship Hall (May 8 is the final rehearsal of the season)

### **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, May 17, 2024. Anticipated mailing date May 29, 2024.**



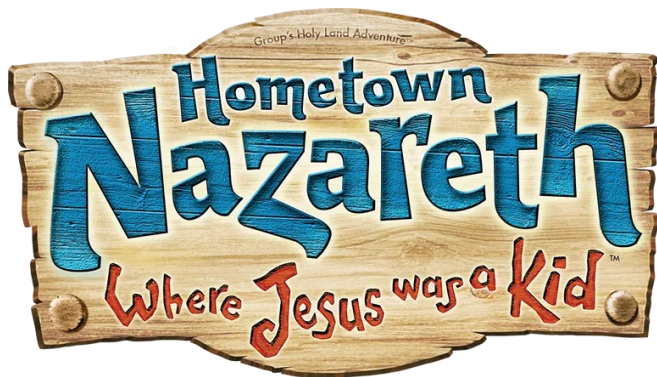
**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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**



**Vacation Bible School 2024**

July 15-19, 9am-12pm

Age 4 through completed Grade 5



for more information and to register, visit:

**[myvbs.org/fpccs](http://myvbs.org/fpccs)**

**Calling all volunteers!**

**We need YOU to make VBS happen!**



**If you'd like to help children explore Nazareth 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)**