



The Presbyter

June 2024

The First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit



Coffee Hour



We are 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 to get on the schedule.

Parking Lot Picnic

Sunday, June 30th following worship
If wonderful aromas are filling the sanctuary during the sermon on Sunday the 30th, you'll know that the grills have been fired up to cook hot dogs and hamburgers for our picnic. Come down after church for a little fun, fellowship and fine food!



Take Me Out to the Ball Game!

We will be going to a Rail Riders game on August 2nd. The game starts at 6:30 and the tickets are \$13. More information will be in the Sunday bulletins and a sign-up sheet will be in the Narthex when we get closer to the event.



Thank You!



We would like to thank everyone who helped make An Evening in Tuscany a major success. Due to the generosity of area restaurants and businesses as well as the generosity of our planning committee and others from the Church Life and Mission & Justice Committees, we were able to provide \$3200 to the NEPA Youth Shelter. This truly was a "fun raiser" as well as a great fundraiser.

If you happen to be dining at Armetta's, the Glider Diner (Classic Catering), Caravia, Dino & Francesco's, or the Crystal Lake Hotel, or if you're at Thirteen Olives or Barbour's Bakery, please let them know much our church appreciates their amazing kindness!

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June Highway Cleanup: New Date, June 15th

We are moving the date for our June Highway Cleanup from June 1st to **June 15th** to accommodate travel plans of some of our regulars.

See page 5 for more information.

Notes from the Session Meeting

May 14, 2024

1. Session held their May Meeting in Fellowship Hall and viewed the new flooring that had just been put down. The "new look" was very welcoming to everyone.
2. Session said Goodbye to Elders Jay Clymer and Ginny O'Brien. Jay for his untiring efforts to the Building and Grounds Committee and Ginny for her work with the Mission & Justice Committee. Much appreciation is given to you both.
3. Our Church Membership roll is being worked on. Further information will be given to our membership in the next couple of months.
4. Session will hold their Summer meeting with the Deacons on Tuesday, July 9th in Fellowship Hall beginning at six o'clock

Beverly Bright
Clerk of Session

The **Presbyter** deadline for the July/August 2024 issue is June 14.

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	Michael Lambert

**FROM YOUR FINANCE COMMITTEE
FOR THE MONTH ENDING
April 30, 2024**

REVENUE	
Budget	\$137,399
Actual Received	<u>143,141</u>
Difference	\$ 5,742

EXPENSES	
Budget	\$137,259
Actual Expenses	<u>132,572</u>
Difference	\$ 4,687

Result of operations \$10,569

PLEDGE	
Budget	\$123,999
Actually received	<u>113,813</u>
	(\$ 10,186)

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

June 2024

When I mentioned to a friend that I would be reaching a summer sermon series on the book of Revelation, he exclaimed, "Isn't the summer hot enough?" He meant well, for he was concerned for you, beloved saints of Clarks Summit.



Yet for all the fire from the bowls of wrath and the flaming lake of sulfur, the final book of the Bible has many jewels worth claiming. All the drastic scenes of judgment are interspersed with hymns of triumph. The technicolor visions of the book are offered in picturesque language, prompting the human imagination to ponder truth in an artful and compelling way. And yes, while I've always believed that Revelation breathed better in the classroom than the pulpit, there are moments when the church, now and then, is addressed in helpful ways.

So, that's what lies behind the first sermon series of the summer, "Seven Stars in the Hand of Christ." The "stars" are the spiritual identities of ancient congregations that were in ancient Turkey (1:20). There were seven of them, with "seven" considered a complete number, as in seven days of a complete week. The inference is there is something here for every church of every age. The good news is that the Risen Christ holds the church's identities and walks among their light.

The harder news is that the Risen Christ is judge as much as Savior. He composes brief letters addressed to each of the seven churches. They are filled with affirmations as well as warnings. Every church is a mixed bag, I suppose. Not a perfect one among them! Our task for the first part of summer is to overhear what Christ says to his ancient churches, learning from his blessings, and discerning what he challenges.

Reflecting on these letters, which are found in chapters two and three of Revelation, Eugene Peterson wrote:

The church is a glorious place: quiet, unnoticed, courageous lives develop out of the affirmations that take place in these communities. Quite apart from the incentives that society supposes are necessary to sustain motivation and enterprise, these people exercise a steadfastness.

But the church is also a distressing place. It is shaped and sustained by the living truth of Christ that is essential for a complete humanity... But there are always some (and often many) who live as parasites on these various truths and fatten on the red blood cells of redemption. Outsiders often see nothing but these parasite persons and suppose that they are characteristic of the church. They are not, any more than barnacles are the hull of a ship. No church has ever existed in a pure state. The church is made up of sinners. The fleas come with the dog. (*Reversed Thunder*, p. 51)

What we have is a Lord who sees us as we are, the good and the ugly. His continuing invitation is to return to him, to move closer to him, to distinguish ourselves from the shallow values of a fallen world and to welcome the grace that purifies and restores. If we take these ancient texts seriously, it will be quite a ride. And we will be better for it.

With you in the journey,

Rev. Bill

Mission and Justice Committee:



Thank you to the congregation for your generosity once again in contributing to the **Pentecost offering**, totaling \$1,191.50. To remind you, 25% of this offering goes to the Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) experience, 25% supports ministries with youth, ages 12-18, and those called to accompany them, and 10% supports the "Educate a Child, Transform the World" national initiative. Finally, 40% of the Pentecost offering remains with our congregation to support local ministries with children and youth. This year's chosen local ministry will be Catholic Social Services Immigration Resettlement, targeted specifically for refugee children and their immediate needs as they arrive in our community. In gratitude for all of you!

"Let us pray: Lord God, we all dream for a world more like your reign of justice, love, and peace. May we work with you to create a world where children have all the tools they need to grow, learn, and lead. Amen"



June Highway Cleanup: New Date, June 15th

We are moving the date for our June Highway Cleanup from June 1st to **June 15th** to accommodate travel plans of some of our regulars. So we will convene at 9:00 a.m. on the morning of Saturday, June 15th in the parking lot of the Methodist Church at corner of the Morgan Highway and Grove Street. Gloves, trash bags, safety vests, and good conversation provided free-of-charge and all are welcome. The work takes about 1 hour. For more information, contact Alan Baker at abaker2@verizon.net.

Don't Have a Plastic Summer

On the heels of our Earth Day exploration of the "Plastic Jesus" educational reading series, we at Earth Care Corner urge you to continue thinking about plastics and how you interact with them across the summer. Summer is prime time for picnics, outdoor time and outdoor dining, eating out, and travel, all which can increase our use of single-use plastic. May we suggest:



First, simply try to increase your awareness of the presence of plastic in your day-to-day and even minute-to-minute living. It's impossible to be plastic-free—even if you went out in the middle of the woods you would be accompanied by plastic in your clothes and shoes—so just take a more active approach to noticing the plastic around you, including a stop at our "Earth Care Corner" info shelf in the narthex. **Increasing awareness of plastic around you can begin to move your use of it from unthinking to intentional.**

Second, try to find some ways to reduce your use of single-use plastic. Get some aluminum straws or re-use some plastic ones, use not only reusable shopping bags but invest in some mesh produce bags, look for local farmers markets or produce stands, and keep some silverware and leftover containers in your car. Get a water bottle or start better using the one(s) you have. Try to cut down on your food waste to use fewer plastic trash bags and get some paper bags for your lawn work. Take a few extra moments when shopping to see if that plastic-packaged product is also available in a can, glass, or paper, or ask yourself if you might find the time to just make it yourself at home. And while recycling is better than the landfill, **re-use is better than recycling!**

June Volunteer Corner



A big THANK YOU to the volunteers who responded to my call to help out in the church office while Nancy Owens was recuperating.

In addition to established office volunteers Bonnie Plantholt, JoAnn Hall, Al Traettino and Stan Gilbert, we have now welcomed the following: Bill and Grace Farrell, Marie and Dick Cochrane, Robin and Charlie Pinches, Jeanette Stauffer, Donna Kepler, Diane Scheuer, Jan Thyren, John Conklin, Diane Cosner, Judy Cutler, Jamie Strong, Jack Pittman, Janet Dobson and Nancy Post.

Going forward, we are continuing to staff the office reception area with our capable volunteers from 9-12 each weekday. Why not think about joining the ranks? You can volunteer once a week, once or twice a month, or put your name on the sub list.....whatever fits into your schedule. After a quick training from Nancy O., you'll be ready to go. In addition to answering the phone, Nancy may have a job or two for you to accomplish. Or you may simply use the time waiting for the phone to ring to read a good book you've been meaning to get to! If you're interested in joining us as one of the office volunteers, please reach out to me.

While summer is often a time to relax and refresh, the work of the church doesn't stop. It's a great time for you to dip your toe into the volunteer waters. Think about some of the opportunities available: Coffee Hour hosts, summer musicians, Vacation Bible School teachers and helpers.

If you'd like to contribute your time and talent somewhere, but aren't sure where you'd fit in, please get in touch with me. We'll talk!

"You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step."

Martin Luther King

Nancy Post

Presbytery Prayers

Earlier this year, our Presbytery (Lackawanna) re-instituted a previous practice of all of our churches praying for each other on a regular basis, this time in conjunction with our neighboring Presbytery, Lehigh. A list of "churches of the month" to pray for is distributed to everyone on the Presbytery distribution list. I'm horrified that it took me six months to consider adding the list to our newsletter! In hopes that late is better than never, here's the list for June:



Bethany Presbyterian Church
 First Welsh Presbyterian Church Edwardsville
 Korean Presbyterian Church of Lehigh Valley
 Pennside Presbyterian Church
 First Presbyterian Church Stroudsburg
 Wyoming United Presbyterian Church

Try adding these churches to your personal and/or group meetings and gatherings prayer time, either rotating one or two a week, all at once, or any grouping that fits into your prayer life. For more information on our Presbytery, or for these individual churches, go to polackawanna.org

Wednesday Evening Opportunities

Adult Education is taking the summer off.

Adult Choir rehearses at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Rehearsals conclude for the summer on June 12.

Bell Choir is taking a break for the summer.

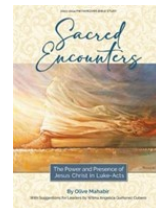
Additional Adult Education Opportunities

Presbyterian Women Bible Study

June 18, 10 a.m.

Lesson 9, People Encounter Jesus Through the Work of the Disciples

Overview: In the final sacred encounter of the study, Tabitha demonstrates the presence of Jesus by creating and supporting a community of widows. Peter demonstrates the power of Jesus by bringing Tabitha back to life.



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.



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, through this link <https://www.fpccs.org/learn/scholarships.html> or downloaded online using the QR code.



Camp Lackawanna is accepting registrations for Summer 2024!

Camp programs are scheduled between June 23 to July 12 with programs planned for children and young people in grades 1 through 12.

Check out the options:
www.camplackawanna.org

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

Congratulations Graduates!

Jeremiah 29:11

" I know what I am doing. I have it all planned out -- plans to take care of you, not abandon you, plans to give you the future you hope for." - The Message



Erin Albright, daughter of Diana Pope and Richard Albright, is graduating from Haverford College in Haverford, Pennsylvania, with a degree in chemistry and a minor in environmental studies. She plans to go to medical school after a two year gap.

Margaret Carter, daughter of Colleen and Reverend William Carter, is graduating with a Master's in Urban Bioethics and a M.D. from Katz Medical School at Temple University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She plans to be an Internal Medicine Resident at Jefferson Hospital in Philadelphia.

Madison Dobson, daughter of Paul Dobson, granddaughter of Janet Dobson, is graduating from Susquehanna University, in Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania, with a BS Degree in Environmental Science and a BA in Environmental Studies. She plans to attend The Law School at Wagner College, in Staten Island, New York.

Megan Kane, daughter of Karen and Michael Kane, granddaughter of Diane and William Keller, will graduate from Temple University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania with a PhD degree in English. She plans to become a college professor.

Mary O'Brien, daughter of Ginny and Joe O'Brien, granddaughter of Kay and Chuck Copley, is graduating from American University in Washington D.C., with BA and BS degrees in International Studies and a minor in French. Mary is receiving an Active Citizen Award for community projects, global initiatives or social change movements. She plans to attend the American University, Washington Law College.

Seth Pinches, son of Robin and Charlie Pinches, is graduating from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. He plans to be a Resident of Internal Medicine at Pennsylvania Hospital in Philadelphia.

Congratulations, 2024 High School Graduates!

Randall Billiot, son of Heather Cole, grandson of Diane Cole, is graduating from Tunkhannock Area High School. He plans to continue working for the Maintenance Department of the school.

Ben Cole, son of Mary and Tracy Cole, grandson of Diane Cole, is graduating from Lackawanna Trail High School with honors.

Leelah Farrell, daughter of Grace and Bill Farrell, is graduating from Abington Heights High School. She plans to attend New York University in a pre-med track, neuroscience major.

Ethan Flynn, son of Sue and Paul Flynn, grandson of Jean and Bill Siebecker, is graduating from Abington Heights High School. He plans to attend the Rochester Institute of Technology, in their honors program, majoring in Information Technology and Computing.

Calyssa Yankow, daughter of Tori and Greg Yankow, granddaughter of Gwynne and Stan Gilbert, is graduating from Abington Heights High School. She plans to attend St. Francis University in Loretto, Pennsylvania, majoring in nursing.

Joys

Sorrows

Lectionary



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



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

Lectionary Readings

June 2: 2nd Sunday after Pentecost

Deuteronomy 5:12-15; Psalm 81:1-10;
2 Corinthians 4:5-12; Mark 2:23-3:6

June 9: 3rd Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 3:8-15; Psalm 130;
2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1; Mark 3:20-35

June 16: 4th Sunday after Pentecost

Ezekiel 17:22-24; Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15;
2 Corinthians 5:6-10 (11-13), 14-17; Mark 4:26-34

June 23: 5th Sunday after Pentecost

Job 38:1-11; Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32;
2 Corinthians 6:1-13; Mark 4:35-41

June 30: 6th Sunday after Pentecost

Lamentations 3:22-33; Psalm 30;
2 Corinthians 8:7-15; Mark 5:21-43



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.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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

Board and Committee Meetings

Session Meeting—Tuesday, June 11, 7 p.m., Room 206

Deacons—Tuesday, June 25, 7 p.m., Room 206

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

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

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

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

Service/Study/Fellowship Gatherings

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

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

Highway Clean-Up—Saturday, June 15, 9:00 a.m., Parking Lot of Methodist Church

Presbyterian Women Bible Study—Tuesday, June 18, 10:00 a.m.

Parking Lot Picnic—Sunday, June 30, following Worship, Parking Lot

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

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

Adult Choir—Concludes June 12. Resumes in late summer. Choir Loft

Bell Choir—Resumes in September, 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, June 14, 2024. Anticipated mailing date June 26, 2024.



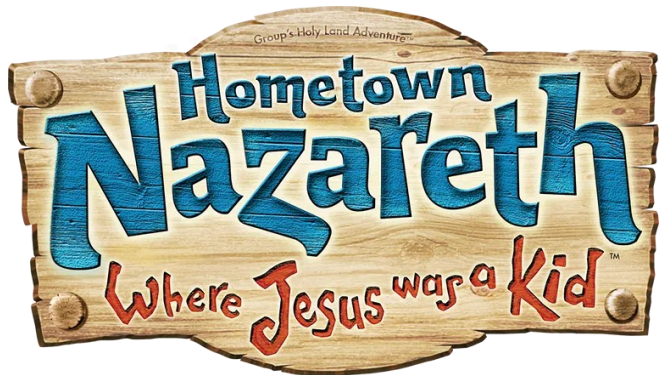
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

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