



The *Presbyter*

July/August 2024

The First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit

Our Church Officers June 2024 - May 2025

Elders

Rev. William Carter, moderator

Beverly Bright, clerk

Class of 2025

Barbara Decker
Patti McGonagle
Jeff McLaughlin
Chris Norton
Briar Woodley

Class of 2026

Kim Barrows
David Naeher
Jan Thyren
John Young

Class of 2027

Bradley Campbell
Robin Pinches
Michael Thompson
Alan Baker
Karen White

Deacons

Class of 2025

John Conklin
Grace Farrell
Liam Farrell
Bill Keller
Jamie Strong

Class of 2026

Erika Adams
Judy Cutler
Betsy Ellis
Susan Flynn
Gwynne Gilbert
Chris Jeske
Debbie Miller
Barbara Norton

Class of 2027

Diane Cosner
Bill Farrell
Jack Pittman
Diana Pope-Allbright
Debbie Shane

Summer Singing Opportunities



Our Adult Choir is taking a summer break. However, there are opportunities to sing, and no choir experience is necessary! Check your calendar for July 28 and/or August 25. Rehearsals are scheduled for July 24 and August 21 at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary. All are invited to rehearse on those Wednesdays and sing during the service on the following Sunday.

Also, there's an opportunity exclusively for **Youth** to sing on July 14. Rehearsal TBD. All ages are welcome. For more information contact Connie Weiss at 570-466-4520.

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**Notes from the Session Meeting
June 11, 2024**

1. Session Chairs were announced for the 2024-2025 Year: Building & Grounds - John Young; Christian Education - Patti McGonagle; Fellowship - Briar Woodley; Generosity - David Naeher; Mission & Justice - Barbara Decker & Alan Baker - Co chairs; People in Ministry - Chris Norton; Worship/Music/Arts - Robin Pinches & Jan Thyren, Co-chairs;
2. Session congratulates Patti McGonagle, Women's Civic League, 2024, Person of the Year.
3. Session congratulates and thanks JoAnn Hall for her work on Fellowship and on our church membership. Much appreciation for your time.
4. The summer meeting of the Deacons and Elders will be on Tuesday, July 9 at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.
5. Please call Nancy Owens if you plan to use any of the rooms at the church. It is important that she be made aware not only of meeting dates and times, but also of pre-event set up times. Thanking you in advance.

Beverly Bright, Clerk of Session

The Presbyter deadline for the September 2024 issue is August 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.fpcs.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
MAY 31, 2024**

REVENUE	
Budget	\$171,749
Actual Received	<u>147,654</u>
Difference	\$(24,095)

EXPENSES	
Budget	\$171,574
Actual Expenses	<u>165,845</u>
Difference	\$ 5,729

Result of operations (\$18,191)

PLEDGE	
Budget	\$ 154,999
Actually received	<u>136,027</u>
	(\$ 18,972)

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

Summer 2024



It was a quiet Wednesday on my schedule. The only appointment was a 10:15 a.m. Zoom meeting with a group of pastors. Admittedly, I was ten minutes early, which was a bit close to the margin. Arriving in my study, I hit the power button on the computer, then got a cup of coffee as the machine powered up. Then I typed my password, clicked the Zoom link, and waited some more.

And waited. Nothing happened.

From the adjoining office, Nancy said, “The internet isn’t working,” so I went into action. I clicked the link again to no avail. Tried to connect through another portal, and that didn’t work. In a desperate move, I re-booted the power for the internet by hitting a top secret switch in our building. Still dead. All I could do was fume – then mutter - and then I tapped a text message to a colleague’s cell phone: “Sorry, computer system is not connecting.”

My soul began to gyrate. How am I going to do my work if the internet is down? Can we do ministry if we can’t depend on technology?

Well, of course we can. Yet it’s sobering how much we depend on wires and wireless. It’s not only the computers that cannot talk with one another when the internet connections aren’t working. It’s that mammoth copy machine, too, which is configured as our wireless printer. Nothing can get printed. When our cell phones are inside the building, they also rely on the internet for making and receiving calls.

Fortunately, the phone system – now an antique at 25+ years old - still works. We’ve begun to talk about its replacement. That might be expensive. And that wired connection on dial-up phones still works fine. It will be a good idea to keep it as is for a while.

As it turns out, the service provider was down the street, purporting to upgrade the system, and neglecting to tell us that we’d be unable to reply to e-mails for a while. With a full briefcase of office work to finish, I decided to go home and work from there. When I phoned the office a few hours later, Nancy said, “Here’s a funny thing: as soon as you drove off, the internet returned.” And when I apologized later to the members of the Zoom meeting, the leader replied, “You didn’t miss much. No decisions were made, not much to talk about.” Hmm. Imagine that – an unnecessary meeting!

All of this is an affirmation of how good it is to unplug for a brief breather. As the Presbyterian sage Anne Lamott once quipped, “Almost everything will work again if you unplug it for a few minutes, including you.”

Good words for the summer, my friends. And somehow, Christ’s ministry continues.

With you in the journey,
Rev. Bill

Volunteer Corner for July and August

Coffee hours, pot lucks, church picnics, chili cafés...what do they all have in common? The guiding hand of Karen White!

Karen, a FPC member since the late 80's, began her church volunteering as a Sunday School Teacher with the 3 and 4 year olds. She became a Deacon, then an Elder, then found her niche with the Fellowship Committee.

She stops in the church during the week, dropping off refreshments and necessary kitchen supplies. She is often the first one at the church on Sunday mornings, setting up the fellowship room, setting attractive tables and starting the coffee pot. You will find her making announcements from the pulpit as she recruits volunteers for Summer Coffee Hours and the Chili Café, at Fellowship Committee meetings helping to plan special events, and even planning and hosting receptions for the Arts at First Presbyterian.

When asked about her experiences she says that there is NO least favorite part of this volunteer experience. "I enjoy it all!"

Thank you, Karen, for all your dedication!

Did you know that we have volunteer teams who are involved in monthly Communion preparation? We are hoping to include additional volunteers to our ranks! If you want to learn more, please contact me at npost329@gmail.com

Nancy Post



My Brother's Keeper Quilting Group

During the 2023-24 season, My Brother's Keeper Quilting Group has been pretty busy, completing 99 sleeping bags and sending them to Keystone Mission to be distributed to the homeless. We are able to do this ministry thanks to the donations from our Church members and the Community. Thank you all for your support.



QUILTING GROUP

In appreciation, on **July 14** MBK will provide refreshments for the after service Fellowship. Please join us.

Presbytery Churches

There are probably several things we take a break from, or at least try to, during the summer. One thing that should not be on that list..... Prayer.

So here is the list from Presbytery of churches to pray for during July and August.

July

FPC Bethlehem
FPC Elmhurst
FUPC Lackawanna Valley
SPC Pittston
Sugar Run PC
Wyoming Valley PC

August

Camptown PC
Faith PC of Emmaus
Lanesboro Community PC
Pleasant Valley PC
Trinity PC
Wysox PC



For more information on our Presbytery, or for these individual churches, go to polackawanna.org

Spiritual Formation and Questions for the Journey

Some time ago, I served in campus ministry with InterVarsity for about twelve years. Throughout, I mentored hundreds of students on multiple college campuses. Before and after that experience, I also served two “tours of duty” assisting with high school youth groups. Many young adults are starting to form their own independent thoughts at these stages of life, providing a special perspective on spiritual formation.

In my meetings with students, I would start by asking them how they were doing. Actually, I would ask them that question three different ways in hopes of understanding more deeply the state of their soul that day. How are you? But how are you doing? No, really, how are you doing?

After an hour of conversation, I would often leave them with one more question. Each time, I would preface it with the statement, “You don’t have to answer this now. This is a question for the journey over the next few weeks.” Here are a few of my takeaways from that experience, and some of the questions that followed:

We all need to show up for each other. First and foremost, spiritual formation is about becoming more like Jesus. And Jesus says, “Where two or three are gathered in my name, I will be there.” There are two different contexts joined by this statement. One is the agreement on community standards to live by and the other is gathering in prayer (see Matthew 18). Both cases anticipate a positive result, because Jesus has promised to show up as well. *Are we spending sufficient time with one another joined in the Spirit of Christ to experience deep transformation?*

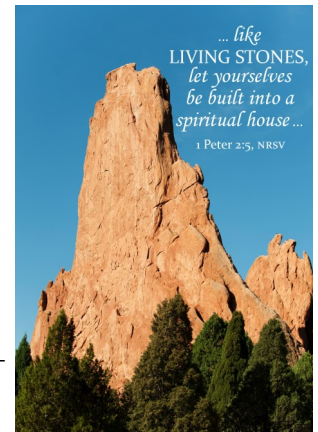
We should be the same people every day of the week. A classic question we would ask students and alumni is this, “Where is the church on Monday?” Many people live their “church lives” on Sundays and maybe Wednesdays. But in truth, the Christian life is meant to be lived every day of the week. When God goes with us into new contexts, we bring that spirit of transformation with us, wherever we are. *How might it change things at home and at work and in the community for Christ to go with us everywhere?*

We can’t answer college level questions with middle school answers. Every stage of life brings with it new questions. This is true of college students who need more thoughtful answers for their life questions than what they learned in youth group. It’s also true as we approach middle age and become senior citizens, that we need experience and perspective beyond what was available in our younger years. *Are we leaning into all the wisdom available to us for the moment we are living now?*

Where one stands depends on where one sits. This is a maxim from the business world. It suggests that your position on an issue is conditioned by the role you play in the organization, or where (or even if) you sit at the Board table. The issues you touch personally are what matter to you most, defining your personal mission. I have long been an advocate for mental health, because so many of my folks I know have suffered through major diagnoses. *Are we putting ourselves in places where we can see the world’s hurt and be witnesses of God’s healing?*

As we move through summer in anticipation for fall, we are planning opportunities for people of all ages to grow together in Christ. We want to be a place of true spiritual formation. We will be sharing more ideas about books to read, habits to try, and eventually some events where we can support one another. We hope you’ll join us!

Michael Thompson, elder for Christian Education



Congratulations

to Patti McGonagle, Women's Civic League 2024, Person of the Year.



New Officers

On May 26, a new class of church officers was ordained and installed. New Elders include Michael Thompson, Alan Baker and Karen White. Our new Deacons are Diane Cosner, Jack Pittman, Liam Farrell and Debbie Shane.

Looking Ahead to Fall!



Christian Education Fall Kick-off

We can learn and grow in faith at any age! Join us in Fellowship Hall on **Sunday, September 1st** after worship to hear about our new and returning classes and programs for children, youth, and adults.



Bibles for Children

Each **September**, we present our new **3rd grade** and **Kindergarten** students with Bibles. It is important to us as a church that we encourage our children to hear God's story and to begin reading it for themselves. Are you on the list? If you have a kindergartener or third grade student, contact Jana Schillinger to ensure that we present your child with a Bible.



The Church Life Committee

.....will be holding a second CPR class and defibrillator training late in **September**. We currently have about 10 people who have signed up. If you are interested in taking the class, please contact JoAnn Hall at jodihall@nep.net or 570-806-1591.



Mission and Justice: Important upcoming dates for Fall 2024:
Peace and Global Witness Offering: **Sunday September 8-to Sunday October 6**
Highway Cleanup: Saturday **September 14th and November 2nd**
Hickory Street lunch: **Saturday October 26th**



And even further ahead: State Hospital Luncheon **October 2nd...**

Take Me Out to the Ball Game!

A sign up sheet is in the narthex for those of you who would like to go see a Rail Riders game on **August 2**. Tickets are \$13. Deadline to sign up is July 21. Please pay Betty Keen.



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 obtained three ways: picked up in the church office, accessed through link <https://www.fpccs.org/learn/scholarships.html> or downloaded online using the QR code at right.



Camp Lackawanna is accepting registrations for Summer 2024!

Camp programs will continue through July 12. Check out the options at www.camplackawanna.org. Camping scholarships are available from our Christian Education and Growth Committee. See announcement above or check with Jana Schillinger for details.

Paul R. Dobson Memorial Scholarship

Congratulation to Leelah Farrell, this year's winner. We wish her well as she heads off to NYU on the pre-med track, majoring in Neuroscience.



Janet Dobson and Family

Lectionary Readings

July 7: 7th Sunday after Pentecost

Ezekiel 2:1-5; Psalm 123; 2 Cor. 12:2-10;
Mark 6:1-13

July 14: 8th Sunday after Pentecost

Amos 7:7-15; Psalm 85:8-13; Ephesians 1:3-14;
Mark 6:14-29

July 21: 9th Sunday after Pentecost

Jer. 23:1-6; Psalm 23; Ephesians 2:11-22; Mark
6:30-34, 53-56

July 28: 10th Sunday after Pentecost

2 Kings 4:42-44; Psalm 145:10-18;
Ephesians 3:14-21; John 6:1-21

August 4: 11th Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15; Psalm 78:23-29;
Ephesians 4:1-16; John 6:24-35

August 11: 12th Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 19:4-8; Psalm 34:1-8; Ephesians 4:25-5:2;
John 6:35,41-51

August 18: 13th Sunday after Pentecost

Proverbs 9:1-6, Psalm 34:9-14; Ephesians 5:15-20;
John 6:51-58

August 25: 14th Sunday after Pentecost

Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18; Psalm 34:15-22;
Ephesians 6:56-69

Joys

Sorrows

Thank yous



Hallie Spurkeland, daughter of Nils and Katie Manley Spurkeland, was baptized by Rev. Carter on June 2, 2024.

Katie Manley was confirmed in this church in the early 2000's. Many blessings to Hallie and her parents, Katie and Nils on the baptism of their daughter.



Margaret (Meg) Carter and Alex Schuster were married on May 18, 2024 in Chestnut Hill Presbyterian Church. Congratulations to Meg and Alex!

In recent weeks, memorial services were held for members Judy Keiser, Lonnie Lipscomb, and Mollie Woehling, as well as a former member, Barbara Platt.



Thank you to those who have hosted Summer Fellowship Time, so far:

- June 2, Diane Cosner
- June 9, Myrna Diven and Dana Miller
- June 16, Dick and Cindy White
- June 23, Lynne Girard and Olympia Cianfichi

Thank you for all the cards, visits, prayers, and meals I received after my recent injury. I appreciate all the care I received from the Deacons and our congregation. - Jamie Strong

AUGUST Birthdays

- 1 Jamie Strong
- 2 Alice Broxton
Joe O'Brien
Johnny Rich
- 3 Wesley Moore
- 5 Jenn Rich
Barbara Brown
- 11 Jack Pittman
- 12 Gwynne Gilbert
- 13 Diana Pope Albright
- 17 Ariana Billiot
- 19 Peter Moore
- 23 Betsy Ellis
Heather Lyons
- 30 Olympia Cianfichi

JULY Birthdays

- 3 Heather Cole
Vi Dygert
- 8 Rebekah Naehar
- 15 Chris Gilbert
- 18 Jeff Leas
- 21 Bob Sproul
- 25 Janet Stansbury
- 30 Clint Sekol
Pauline Heckman

AUGUST Anniversaries

- 7 John & Connie Weiss
- 23 Jan & Jim Thyren
Lori & Lou Kareha
- 26 Charlie & Robin Pinches

JULY Anniversaries

- 19 Grace & Bill Farrell
- 22 Don & Betty Keen
David & Karis Naehar
- 28 Tom & Barb Decker

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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

Board and Committee Meetings

Joint meeting of Session and Deacons—Tuesday, July 9, 6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Building and Grounds— August 1, 7 p.m., Room 209

Christian Education—Thursday, July 11 and August 1, 7 p.m., Room 206

Mission and Justice—Tuesday, July 2 and August 6, 7 p.m., Room 206

Worship, Music and Arts - Thursday, July 11 and August 14, 5 p.m., Room 206

Service/Study/Fellowship Gatherings

Men's Breakfast and Bible Study – Will take off July, but meet on August 1 and 15, 8:30 a.m., Room 206

MBK Quilters is taking the summer off. Check the *September Presbyter* for start-up date.

Vacation Bible School—July 15-19, 9 a.m.—12 p.m.

Rail Riders baseball game—August 2, 6:30 p.m. game (see page 7, top, for sign-up, cost, deadline)

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

Adult Education, Adult Choir, and Bell Choir will all resume in September

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; Sunday at 3 p.m., Tuesday at 6 p.m., Saturday at 9:45 a.m.

September Presbyter Deadline: Friday, August 16, 2024. Anticipated mailing date August 28, 2024.



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.



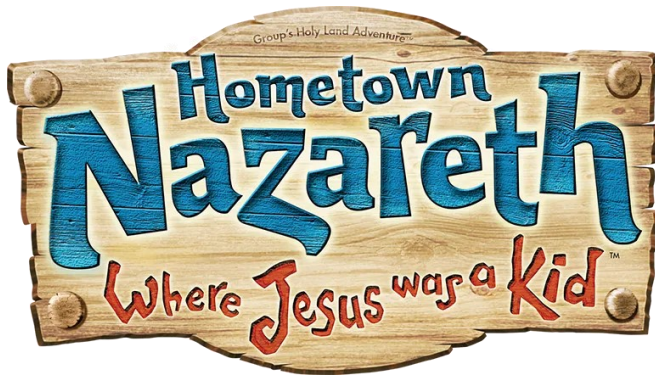
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

300 School Street
Clarks Summit, PA 18411-1536

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
Permit No. 30
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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