



# The Presbyter

October 2024

The First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit

## The Arts

at First Presbyterian Church

Arts at First Presbyterian welcomes the return of **Paul Lyon and the Merchants of Groove** for a concert at the church on **Sunday, October 27 at 4 p.m.** NEPA's premier blues band returns to rock the house and stir the spirit.

Featuring Teddy Young on guitar, this band showcases the music of BB King, Buddy Guy, and other blues greats. Last time, it was standing room only!

The concert is open to the public free of charge, with a free-will offering taken to help defray the costs of the event. If you would like to make a contribution to the Arts Series, donations may be made payable to:

First Presbyterian Church  
300 School Street  
Clarks Summit, PA 18411

Please write "Arts Series" in the memo block. Thank you for your support!

John Weiss and Richard Cochrane, Co-Chairs



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### Reminder! Please join us for the 2024 Worship Through Service Weekend October 5 & October 6!

Our annual Worship Through Service event is a reminder that praise begins inside the church and moves outside to love our neighbors and serve our community. There are many service activities scheduled throughout Saturday and Sunday, October 5th and 6th..

Check the bulletin board in the narthex for opportunities to serve! If you have any questions or need a ride to an event, please contact Tabbi Miller-Scandle at (570) 470-9762.

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### Notes from the Session Meeting

September 3, 2024

1. Building & Grounds Report centered around the tasks the committee has completed. The Upper parking lot repaired and repaved with margins sealed. Emergency lighting has been inspected, repaired as necessary, and new signage installed. New throw rugs and carpeting purchased and placed on new hallway tiling. Kitchen floor has been installed. Committee is getting bids on snow removal and also on Insurance costs.
2. Committees are planning their Worship Through Service Weekend projects.
3. Generosity Committee is planning a seminar on Planned Giving and Stewardship along with the upcoming Stewardship Campaign.

Beverly Bright  
Clerk of Session

The Presbyterian deadline for the November 2024 issue is October 18.

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.

<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 August 31, 2024

<b>REVENUE</b>	
Budget	\$274,798
Actual Received	<u>253,349</u>
Difference	\$ (21,449)

<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Budget	\$274,519
Actual Expenses	<u>268,796</u>
Difference	\$ 5,723

Result of operations (\$15,447)

<b>PLEDGE</b>	
Budget	\$ 247,998
Actually received	<u>232,602</u>
	(\$ 15,396)

2024 Per Capita assessment is \$42 per member.  
To date, \$5,834 has been received.

### 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

October 2024

On the brink of celebrating World Communion, we ask the question again: What does it mean, in this place, in this time, that God rules over human lives? What would it look like for us to build the love of God? To welcome the justice of God? To do the work of God?

When churches stop asking these questions, they go askew. Perhaps they get tangled in personality disputes, just like in the Bible: the “Sons of Thunder” start mouthing off rather than taking care of the neighborhood, or Matthew the tax-collector and Simon the revolutionary start plotting harm to one another in the parking lot after dark. If a church is merely a human organization, like any other organization, it can go off the rails in a hundred different ways. And it will need a Book of Order to keep Christian disciples from beating up on one another.

But the true church of Jesus is always more than a human organization. It is a holy fellowship, commissioned by Jesus to do the work of God. We welcome God’s Breath to fill our lungs, we pray for God’s Power to push us into action, and we know God’s Spirit will fill our spirits. Christ infuses his people with his own presence. When we put a bridle on our own whims, when we submit our willfulness to God’s greater will, the Gospel Message takes on skin and bones – and the world’s demons can be chased away.

That is why we are here, my friends. That is why he chooses us. We are part of a world-wide movement to en flesh the life of Jesus Christ. We are here to love all the people that Jesus loves. We are here to do the work that Jesus inaugurated. And to every destructive power that threatens God’s children, we say, “Christ is risen! Get you gone!”

Back in the year 1912, a lady named Mrs. William Gibbons moved into the little railroad town where I live. (That was her name: Mrs. William!) She was the wife of a missionary on furlough, and she discerned that God wanted Presbyterian Christians in her little town. She prayed, and then she gathered a dozen women. She sent them out to invite others to join them. She did that because God’s work is never restricted by who we are; it is only restricted by our unwillingness to do the work.

We don’t have to have faith figured out in advance. We don’t have to be correct about everything. We need not compel everybody else to agree with us. We can’t worry about who is on the list and who is not, because it is not our list. It is Christ’s list.

On World Communion, we gather to declare Jesus our Lord is at the center of it all. His steady work of salvaging the world is the most important work of all. We do this work together, and we do it with him. It isn’t easy. Crosses may be handed to us. Betrayers will appear from time to time. Faith will be tested. Even strong Simon Peter will have moments when he thinks he is unworthy.

But here we are, “chosen of the Lord and precious.” We are the church that Christ chooses. We are the ones who bear his love to the world.

And I’m glad to be part of the church with all of you!

With you in the journey,

*Rev. Bill*

## October Volunteer Corner

Behind the Scenes....

A few weeks ago, as I was leaving the church after a volunteer shift in the office, I came upon Betty Keen pulling weeds near the upper parking lot (I told her she was the best dressed gardener I had ever seen!)

I have seen Betty Keen singing in the choir every week but had no idea she was also spending time beautifying our building and grounds. Turns out she also plants many of the beautiful seasonal flowers we admire around our building. The floral centerpieces that grace the tables at after-funeral meals are also Betty's creations.

A member of FPC since 1972, Betty is also a long-time member of the Fellowship Committee.

Thank you to Betty for making our corner of Clarks Summit a little bit prettier.

**Another thank you** goes to the volunteers (both new and established) who stepped in to keep the office manned while some of our staff was traveling.

"We all get the exact 365 days each year. The only difference is what we do with them."

Hillary DePiano

Nancy Post




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## Hickory Street Community Meal

Our next Hickory Street Community Meal will be on Saturday, October 26th and as usual we are seeking volunteers to prepare the entrée (ham & cheese delight) and vegetable (candied sweet potatoes), serve the meal, and transport food and supplies to Hickory Street. We're also asking for your help in again creating 35 bags of food that will be given away that day to families dealing with food insecurity. The "shopping list" will be available in the narthex and is also listed below. If you can't help in any of those ways, financial support is also much needed: just note "Hickory Street" on your donation. For more information, contact Alan Baker at [abaker2@verizon.net](mailto:abaker2@verizon.net) or (570) 362-0382.

### Shopping List for Hickory Street Food Bags

- 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



Community Meal

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## FPCCS Food Pantry In Partnership With CEO Weinberg Food Bank



Our initial Food Pantry was held on Thursday, September 12, 2024. Ten families were provided fresh vegetables/fruit, canned goods, and perishables, such as milk, meat, and frozen strawberries. The food recipients warmly expressed their gratitude for the food items they received during these trying times. Nine church volunteers contributed their time to package the food in the morning and distribute the items at pick up time, which was between 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. The volunteer process was a smooth and efficient effort enjoyed by all who were involved.

We hope to expand the number of food recipients in the future, and we look to the congregation to spread the word regarding this food opportunity. The Food Pantry will be held the second Thursday of each month, with our next pantry scheduled for October 10, 2024. Pre-registration is required by emailing [fpccsfoodpantry@gmail.com](mailto:fpccsfoodpantry@gmail.com) or calling the church at 570 586-6306. Our appreciation is extended to the volunteers, and we look forward to other participants joining in this worthwhile endeavor.

-Food Pantry Leadership Team



On Sunday, September 22, the Generosity Committee held a seminar on Planned Giving and Stewardship. Left to right: Atty. David Brown, Presenter, Heather Acker, Committee, Kim Barrows, Presenter, Rev. Bill Carter, and Chelsea Barrows.



A Guest Preacher in the pulpit of St. John's Kirk, Perth, Scotland.

## Highway Cleanup: October 5th

We will be picking up litter along a stretch of the Morgan Highway on Saturday, October 5th as an earth-care component of our Worship Through Service Weekend. Anyone interested in helping please meet at 9:00 a.m. that morning 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. The work takes about 1 hour. To ensure that we have enough supplies, please email Alan Baker at [abaker2@verizon.net](mailto:abaker2@verizon.net) and let him know you plan to participate.



## Wednesday Evening Opportunities

**Adult Education** meets on Wednesdays at 5:45 p.m., Room 206 starting on September 4. Throughout this fall we will study *Discipleship: The Way of Jesus* by John P. Burgess. Read the article on Spiritual Formation on page 7 for more information. → → →

**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 – 2024-25 Horizon Bible Study*

*Let Justice Roll Down: God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation*

by Patricia K. Tull



#### Lesson Two: Land Justice

As we all know, European American settlers displaced a vast number of Indigenous inhabitants of the New World over the course of about three centuries. Estimates of the pre-European North American native population range widely – from a million to twelve million, according to one study.

Why should Christians care about this? For many reasons. Simple humanity, for one. For another, because this wholesale, often violent, displacement was sometimes justified by appeals to the Christian faith, to Christian morality. And because, even though the original players are all dead now, both the victims and their victors, the effects of this history live on in racism and impoverishment. And because, as we are now learning, the land ethics by which many tribes lived over the centuries were replaced by diminished understanding.

Join us for Bible Study in Fellowship Hall. **The date is October 22 at 9:00 a.m.** Note that this day and time are different from our regular schedule. Our meeting dates will become normal in November.

**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.

## Lectionary Readings

#### October 6: 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 2:18-24; Psalm 8; Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12;  
Mark 10:2-16

#### October 13: 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Amos 5:6-7, 10-15; Psalm 90:12-17;  
Hebrews 4:12-16; 2:5-12; Mark 10:17-31

#### October 20: 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 53:4-12; Psalm 91:9-16; Hebrews 5:1-10; 2:5-12; Mark 10:35-45

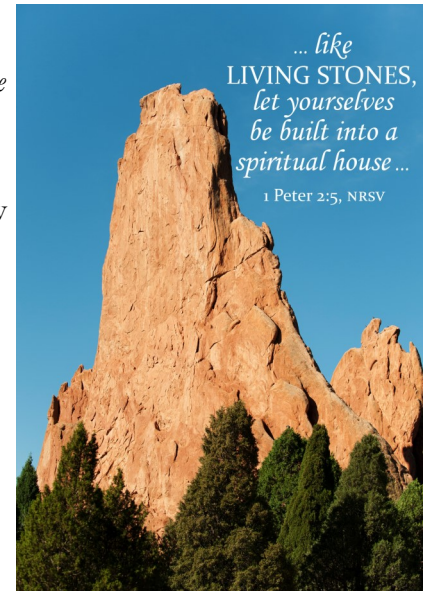
#### October 27: 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 31:7-9; Psalm 126; Hebrews 7:23-28;  
Mark 10:46-52

## Spiritual Formation From the Beginning - Part 1

By Michael Thompson, elder for Christian Education

In his series, *The Chronicles of Narnia*, C.S. Lewis makes repeated mention of the “deep magic” which culminates in the “deeper magic” of the stone table. In *The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe*, Aslan draws on this, offering himself for sacrifice only to rise again. But long before that, Aslan invests magic into creating Narnia in *The Magician’s Nephew*. As we reflect on our world, are we able to draw from such “magic” in our lives? *How do we access spiritual formation at its very foundations?*



### Breathe

As in *The Chronicles of Narnia*, the answer lies in the story of Creation in Genesis 1 & 2: “When God began to create the heavens and the earth, the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.” The story unfolds with movements of God’s “expiration” in the form of words and breaths leading to the creative “inspiration” of every facet of Creation. Breathing is fundamental to our existence, and yet under stress we instinctively hold our breath. *In those critical moments, it is important that we slow down and breathe most deeply.*

### Rest

Another feature of the Creation story is the repetition of the phrase “And there was evening and there was morning, the [first, second, third...] day.” Eugene Peterson, a well known author for matters of spiritual formation, notes that the Hebrew day always starts with evening. Before any mention of God’s Sabbath rest, the daily rhythms of night and day provide structure. Sleep is a sacred act where we entrust our whole selves to God’s protection and provision for a new day. *God’s design is not that we should rest from our work, but that we should work from our rest.*

While at first glance, breathing and resting are simple basics of life, it is striking that a certain “magic” is uncovered when we engage them intentionally. Everyday activities can find meaning in our moments of inactivity, because we ultimately rely on God’s Spirit. We were created to be embodied souls. A mindful approach to breathing and resting enlarges our view of life enough to make room for a God who is already there, eager to meet with us. *How might we pause at different times each day to take notice?*

In part 2, we will explore Creation notes about working and relating with one another. And our upcoming series for Wednesday night Bible study will be Creation Psalms. Come explore the “magic” with us:

October 30: Psalm 8 - The Majesty of God: Extending His Name and Image

November 6: Psalm 33 - The Worship of God: His Power and Purposes in Creation

November 13: Psalm 65 - The Farmer's Psalm: God's Care and Maintenance of Creation

November 20: Psalm 104 - Lord of All Creation: From God, For God and To God

## Deacons Worship Through Service Activity

Wreaths on the doors of people in nursing homes are an important and special thing to have. The Deacons Care and Concern committee will be making wreaths as part of Worship through Service.

If anyone would like to donate materials for making wreaths including fall ribbon and decorations, wreaths, wire, etc., or if you would like to help make wreaths (no previous skills needed), please contact Debbie Shane at 570-587-5314. We will be making the wreaths in the Session Room on October 6, 2024 after worship.



## Thank-you from the Deacons

Our heartfelt **THANKS** to everyone who donated to the August food drive for Abington area pantries. Several carloads of supplies—baby food, diapers, pantry staples, hygiene items and other essentials—were delivered to the Dalton United Methodist Church and The Gathering Place pantries in early September. We're very grateful for your generous gifts to our neighbors in need!



*"If you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noon-day." (Isaiah 58: 10)*



## The heart of a volunteer

A daughter had just helped her 90-year-old mother through the complex process of moving from and selling the family home. Now in a senior living center, the once-active woman was adjusting to her new surroundings and lifestyle.

As the daughter finalized arrangements, she tactfully brought up matters of nutrition. Hoping her mom would accept some help, she asked, "What about Meals on Wheels?"

Mom replied, "No, dear. I don't think I can volunteer for them anymore."



## 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.

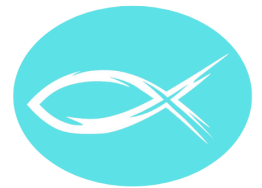


October stories will include how God provides, celebrating our gifts, and stories about Deborah and Elijah.



**We Worship Together series:** A 30-minute program held after worship for children through grade 6. We Worship Together examines questions we have about church practices and traditions, such as Baptism, Lent, and the Apostles' Creed. Parents will be invited to sign up, and each family will receive a book to take home related to the topic discussed. Have you ever wondered why the worship service follows a certain order? Our first program this year will be a 2-Sunday discussion of **worship**: what it is, why we do it, and more. Join us on **Sunday, November 3** and **Sunday, November 10**. The next class in the series will be held on **January 12** to learn about **baptism**.

**We Believe:** Faith foundations for our pre-confirmation age youth. A mix of Bible 101, faith questions, and church basics will help prepare children in grade 6 and up for their confirmation journey. **We Believe** will be a combination of discussions, activities, and self-study. Meeting date TBD. Parents may contact Jana Schillinger with questions.



### LIFT: Living In Faith Together

Join us after worship on **Sunday, October 13** for a meal and intergenerational program. Families with children as well as congregants of all ages are invited to come for a **potluck lunch**. Enjoy a Bible reading and discussion as we hear about the body of Christ and think about our role within it. What a great opportunity to share fellowship and faith with our friends and family, and get to know new friends as well!



Have a family favorite recipe (new or old)? A traditional family dish? Or just something yummy to share with others? Our lunch will be a **potluck**, so we invite each family to bring a hot or cold dish to share. From entrées to side dishes to casseroles and beyond, help us to break bread together on **Sunday, October 13**. (Drinks and dessert provided)

Also, please save the date for our next LIFT program:

Sunday, December 8 — Advent (held after worship)

## Joys

## Sorrows

## Prayers



- 4 Riley Wescott  
 5 Tim Shane  
 6 Barry Shepherd  
 9 Sadie O'Brien  
 10 Tracy Smith  
 14 Barbara Decker  
 19 Nancy Owens  
 20 Darlene Hurd  
 21 Ryan Flynn  
 Colin Jeschke  
 22 Frank Jones  
 23 Kim Barrows  
 27 Linda Weaver  
 28 Linda Schuller  
 Jeanette Stauffer  
 30 Clyde Ellsworth



- 28 Anne & John Rich

## Pastor Appreciation Month

October is Pastor Appreciation Month, an observance that some clergy don't publicize. It's an ideal time to thank pastors for their dedication to God's people and the ministry. A written note, a card or even a free meal is a nice gesture of appreciation. But if you were to ask pastors what they'd like or what they need, most would probably reply, "Pray for me."



That's what the apostle Paul requested throughout his letters. To the church at Rome, he urged, "Join me in earnest prayer to God on my behalf, that I may be rescued from the unbelievers in Judea and that my ministry to Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints, so that by God's will I may come to you with joy and be refreshed in your company" (Romans 15:30-32, NRSV).

As you appreciate and encourage your pastor, remember them in your prayers. Then let them know you're doing so!

### October Prayer List for soon to be united Lackawanna and Lehigh Presbyteries

Presbyterian Church of Catasauqua  
 Freeland Presbyterian Church  
 First Presbyterian Church Leighton  
 United Presbyterian Church of Pottsville  
 Tunkhannock Presbyterian Church



For more information on our Presbyteries, or for these individual churches, go to [polackawanna.org](http://polackawanna.org) or [lehighpresbytery.org](http://lehighpresbytery.org)

## *MARK YOUR CALENDAR*

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

### **Board and Committee Meetings**

**Session Meeting**— Tuesday, October 8, 7 p.m., Room 206

**Board of Deacons**—Tuesday, October 22, 7 p.m., Room 206

**Building and Grounds**— Thursday, October 3, 7 p.m., Room 209

**Christian Education**—Thursday, October 3, 7 p.m., Room 206

**Mission and Justice**—Tuesday, October 1, 7 p.m., Room 206

**Worship, Music and Arts** - Thursday, November 7, 5:30 p.m., Room 206

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

**State Hospital Luncheon**—Tuesday, October 1, 12 noon, Fellowship Hall

**Men's Breakfast and Bible Study**—Thursday, October 3 and 17, 8:30 a.m., Room 206

**Worship through Service Weekend**—Saturday and Sunday, October 5 and 6, many times, many places

**MBK Quilters**—Tuesday, October 8 and 22, 10 a.m., Fellowship Hall

**FPCCS Food Pantry**—Thursday, October 10, 4:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall (entry through back parking lot)

**LIFT Program**—Sunday, October 13, 11:15 a.m., Fellowship Hall

**Grief Support Group**—Gathering Place, 6 p.m.

**Presbyterian Women's Bible Study**—Tuesday, October 22, 9:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall

**Hickory Street Community Meal**—Saturday, October 26

**The Arts**—Sunday, October 27, 4:00 p.m., Sanctuary

**Prayer and Share**—Wednesday, 10:30 a.m., Room 209

**Adult Education**—Wednesday, 5:45 p.m., Room 206

**Adult Choir**—Wednesday, 7:00 p.m., in the Sanctuary

**Bell Choir**—Wednesday, 8:00 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 room 111
- Overeaters Anonymous meets in room 210: Sundays at 3 p.m., Tuesdays at 6 p.m., Saturdays at 9:45 a.m.

**November Presbyterian Deadline: Friday, October 18, 2024. Anticipated mailing date October 30.**



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

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**October 2024**

**Worship Through Service Saturday and Sunday, October 5 & 6,  
LIFT Potluck Lunch Sunday, October 13,  
October is Pastor Appreciation Month!  
and so much more throughout the whole issue.**

