



The Presbyter

January 2026

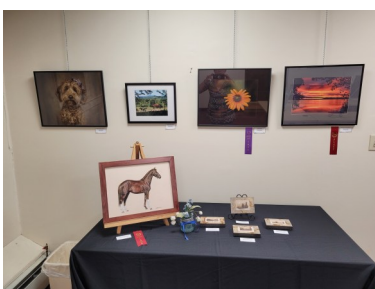
The First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit

Clarks Summit Festival of Ice

Winter weekend of art, music, and food
January 30 through February 1

All Weekend

- Ice Sculpture on display on the corner of School and Stone, outside the sanctuary entrance
- Photography and Art Show in the Session Room. Friday, 4 to 7 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sunday, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. (church members only)



Friday

- Guitarists Roy and Mike Williams perform at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary with violinist Mark Woodyatt



Saturday:

- Chili Café, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Fellowship Hall with entertainment by piano students of Michelle Triaca
- 1 p.m., Drum Circle, 1 p.m.. led by Cheryl Mozdian in the sanctuary

Can you help?

- Karen White is looking for folks to provide chili or work at the Chili Cafe. Call her at 570-575-7005 if you can help.

Our Arts Series is supported by a Lackawanna County Community Arts and Culture Grant and by individual contributions. Thank you for your support!

Deadline for annual reports

Our church's annual meeting will be February 1, 2026. The deadline for Annual reports will be Friday, January 16, 2026 by noon. Please submit a copy by email in a word document. You may also drop off a printed copy on the office.

Bridge Club Come join us every Wednesday and or Friday at 12:15 p.m. all are welcome.

Thank You

Words can't properly express my gratitude and thanks for your well wishes, cards and gifts on my retirement. I didn't know what to expect, but the celebration was beyond my wildest expectations. The refreshments were amazing; the joy and laughter was the best.

Thank you

Nancy Owens

Table of Contents

Page 2 - Session, Deacons, Financial

Page 3 - From the Pastor

Page 4 - Adult CE, Lectionary

Page 5 - Christian Education

Page 6 - Mission & Justice

Page 7 - Volunteer Corner, Generosity Team

Page 8 - Joys, Sorrows, Prayers

Page 8 - Calendar

Special Session Notes

1. Special Session meeting was held on November 2nd to hire a new Administrative Assistant - application received from Joy Albright for the position- Session voted to approve this recommendation from the People in Ministry Committee, Grace Farrell, Chair. Joy Albright joined the staff on November 3rd. Please come and say Hello to her when you have time.

2. Session Meeting - November 11th - Frank Garnecki and Dick White would like to express their thanks to Diane Scheuer for her help and guidance with the Worship Through Service project this year. She gave us some helpful hints to use which were very much appreciated.

3. Session voted to approve the 2026 budget which was submitted by the Finance Committee. for approval. Thanks to Jeff McLaughlin, chair and his committee for their preparation of the budget for the new year.

Beverly Bright, Clerk of Session

The Presbyterian deadline for the February 2026 issue is January 19.

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	Joy Albright
Coordinator of Children & Youth	Jana Schillinger
Editor	Christine Lee
Clerk of Session	Beverly Bright
Director of Music	Frank Jones
Director of Bells	Richard Cochrane
Organist	Kay Ten Eyck
Sexton	Michael Lambert

From Finance Committee

Per capita assessment for 2026 is \$48 per member. We are grateful for all contributions to offset this required payment to the Presbyterian church (USA). It is a “fair share” of administrative costs shared among all the members of the national church.

Offering Envelopes are now available for 2026 in the Narthex. Please pick your box the next time you are in the building. And if you want a box, contact Joy in our church office.

Board of Deacons

Care Team Ministry Coordinators are:

Moderator	Erika Adams
Deacon Meals	Diana Pope-Albright
Ushers	Bette Ellis
Deacon Driver	Jack Pittman

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

January 2026

As the new year begins and I set my schedule for the next twelve months, I will soon reach out to secure some guest preachers for Sundays when I'll be away. We have some favorites whom we'll contact first. But maybe my all-time favorite was the Rev. Harold Mante.

He's been gone for twenty-five years. We met in the Lehigh Valley after he retired, having served a long time in a mythical place called Forty Fort. The spark in his eyes revealed that his spirit was still flourishing after serving for years in pastoral ministry. This alone was a sign – and continues to be a sign – of the kind of preacher that I seek to fill in. Someone alive!

The first time I asked, he said, "I'd be happy to come, unless I'm buying and selling antiques at a show." That was his other passion. He loved old things. In fact, he would often show up in the pulpit with an ancient object – and it would become a prop for that day's sermon. Like the Sunday he appeared with a golf club and built the whole sermon around the benefit of a good nine iron. Folks loved it!

Perhaps the most memorable moment came when he announced he would come to preach the World's Greatest Sermon. "Put that in print," he said. "Advertise this long in advance. Let people know. They really need to hear this one."

The Sunday arrived and Harold appeared without a prop. At the appropriate moment, he said, "And now, it's time to hear the World's Greatest Sermon." Then he began to recite the Sermon on the Mount from memory. The whole thing. All three chapters – five, six, and seven - from the Gospel of Matthew. Wow.

No doubt, there was something even more stunning than that tremendous act of memory. It was the content of, indeed, the World's Greatest Sermon. Jesus lays out the values of God's Dominion. He pushes us to go the extra mile. He exposes the shallowness of what often passes as the spiritual life. Then he challenges us to pursue what he calls "the higher righteousness."

It is the Magna Carta of the Christian Life, a text greater than our ability to embody it. Jesus declares that there is something far greater than living by the flat words of an ancient text. We must embody the character of God in how we live, give, and forgive. We are called to love as God loves.

That wonderful soul Harold Mante has gone on to his heavenly reward. But on Sunday, January 25, we will hear the World's Greatest Sermon. I can't memorize it as Harold did, but with the help of readers and singers, we will put this ancient text into the air to experience it again. Don't miss that worship service. It will be amazing. It will be challenging.

Oh, and if you want to read it ahead of time, open your Bible to Matthew 5, 6, and 7.

See you in church,

Rev. Bill

Wednesday Evening Opportunities

Adult Education meets on Wednesday at 6:00 p.m., Room 206. This winter, the class will explore the beginning of the Gospel of Matthew with Rev. Bill, Michael, and Charlie. All are welcome. Here is the schedule for upcoming weeks:

January 7 - Matthew 2 with Rev. Bill
 January 14 - Matthew 3 with Michael
 January 21 - Matthew 4 with Charlie
 January 28 - Matthew 5 with Rev. Bill

Bell Choir rehearses at 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. On Tuesdays for the months of January and February.

Additional Adult Education Opportunities



Women's Bible Study January 2026

Lesson 5: "The Gift of the Woman Who was Poor," January 20, 10 a.m., Fellowship Hall. Central concept: Christian joy grows from remembering and rejoicing in God's past acts of deliverance and from anticipating God's future deliverance.

In Mark 12:41-44, Jesus shines a light on a poor widow, who "out of her poverty has put in (the temple treasury) everything she had, all she had to live on." Generosity, gratitude, and joy abound!

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.

Volunteer Corner

January is often a time when our thoughts go to staying in the house, putting our feet up in front of a roaring fire and keeping warm under a blanket. Time for a mid-winter's nap? Not at FPC!

The Clarks Summit Ice Festival will once again bring a flurry of activity beginning on January 30. There will be many opportunities to volunteer. If you're interested in assisting with the Chili Café, the art exhibit or any of the musical activities, please get in touch with Dick Cochrane.

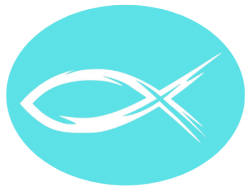
Once we turn the calendar to February, the nominating committee will begin its work. Have you ever considered taking on a more active leadership role in the church? Have you ever thought you'd make a good Elder or Deacon? Do you know another member who you think would be a perfect fit for one of these roles?

Grace Farrell is leading our nominating committee. Please reach out to her if you would like more information about the responsibilities of Elders or Deacons.

Christian Education: Growing in Faith and Love

The Christian Education and Growth committee is pleased to offer a number of opportunities for our children, youth, and adults to explore the Bible, understand our traditions, and experience ways to live in faith. We believe that faith formation is a lifelong practice, so we invite everyone to find a class, opportunity, or practice that will grow YOUR faith this winter and beyond.

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.



Confirmation Class: Confirmation continues for interested youth grade 7 and up. Lessons held most Sundays after worship, 11:15AM to 12:30PM. Confirmation Sunday will be Sunday, May 24 (Pentecost). We invite everyone to join us in celebrating our confirmands on this special day!

LIFT: Living In Faith Together

Shake off the snow and join us after worship on **Sunday, February 22** for a meal and intergenerational program. It's the **first Sunday of Lent**: come hear more about the season and how we can prepare our hearts for Easter. Families with children as well as congregants of all ages are invited. Enjoy a meal, Bible reading and discussion, and activity. It's a great opportunity to share fellowship and faith with our friends and family.

Also, please save the date for our next **LIFT** programs:

Sunday, March 29 (Holy Week) and Sunday, May 17 (Ascension)



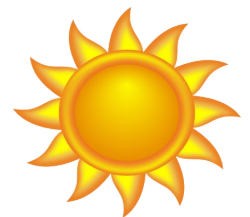
Souper Bowl Sunday

Sunday, February 8th isn't just the Big Game...it's a big opportunity to help hungry neighbors in need!

Remember to bring your donation to church on Souper Bowl Sunday or check fpccs.org for online donation information.



Save the Date!



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

VBS 2026 will be held **July 13 - 17**

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.

Mission and Justice Committee

Give a Gift to A Stranger

Our thanks are abundant for all of you who contributed so generously to our Give A Gift to a Stranger this past Advent season! So many people locally and internationally are benefitting from your generosity and kindness! The following are the final results of our program: Batwa Pygmies in Uganda: \$810 total collected for 6 dozen cups, 2 dozen plates, three boxes of soap, 16 bed frames, and 16 dresses. Appalachian Service Project : \$500 total collected with the sale of peppermint candy, dark or milk chocolate raisin candy, dark or milk chocolate peanut candy.. Haitian tuition for kids in Gwo Jan: \$2,437.00 collected for students' tuition for next year (covers about 7 out of 12 students though we don't yet know costs for next year). We are still collecting throughout the year to cover the rest of the students and to reach our tentative goal of \$5,000.00 (Account # 2037).

Ten Local Immigrant Families (from Peru, Sudan, Puerto Rico, Haiti, Afghanistan, Zimbabwe, and Dominican Republic): 20 children received both pajamas and something other like an art set, soccer ball, doll, or necklace. These were the stars and angels that you bought for and wrapped throughout Advent. The 16 adults received Walmart gift cards (\$50 to the single parents and \$25 to each of the married parents, thanks to the Deacons and M and J Committee). We coordinated our efforts with United Neighborhood Centers who identified the needy families and delivered our gifts (collected in laundry baskets) to the families. Below are pictures of three of the families benefitting from this program. It takes a community and we are surely grateful.



Sanctuary “undecorating”

We will be “undecorating” the church after Epiphany on Saturday, Jan. 10 at 10 a.m. Please come help put our decorations away for another year in nice new storage bins! Snacks will be served, so bring your travel mug of tea or coffee and join the undecorating party.



Attention bell ringers

The bell choir will rehearse each Wednesday beginning at 7 p.m. in Fellowship Hall for January and February. “Bells will Ring”

January 25

March 1

March 15

April 26



Joys Sorrows Prayers



Birthdays & Anniversaries

1 Jessie Davis	16 Kyra Longcor
1 Karen B. White	18 Corey Wall
2 Stephen Hardy	20 Carolyn Lyon
9 Katherine Carter	22 Crystal Longcor
11 Jayne Garnecki	24 Patti Delaney
11 Peggy Lyons	



We are sad to announce the death of John Conklin, who passed away on December 24.

A Deacon and former member of our staff, John was the friend of many, many people in our church family. He was a big man with a big heart and a tireless advocate for Yellowstone National Park (where the picture was taken). A memorial service is being planned in the church for late March. Please keep his wife Diane and their family in your prayers.



Patti Lynn Duncan

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

Board and Committee Meetings

Session - Sunday, Jan. 11, 2026, 11 a.m., Room 206

Deacons - Tuesday, Jan. 28, 7:00 p.m., Room 206

Building and Grounds - January 8, 7 p.m., Room 209

Christian Education - Thursday, January 8, 7 p.m., Room 206

Mission and Justice - Tuesday, January 6, 7 p.m., Room 206

Worship, Music and Arts - Thursday, January 8, 5:30 p.m., Room 206

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

MBK Quilters—Tuesday, January 13 and 27, 10 a.m., Fellowship Hall

Women's Bible Study—Tuesday, January 20, 10:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall

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

Adult Education - Wednesday, 5:45 p.m., 206

Adult Choir - Tuesday, 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary

Bell Choir—Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Support Groups

We welcome members of the following support groups to our building:

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)

- each morning at 7 a.m. in Room 206.

- meets each Tuesday evening, 7 p.m., Room 111.

AlAnon—Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. in room 206.

Overeaters Anonymous (OA) meets in room 210:

Sundays at 3 p.m., Tuesdays at 6 p.m., and

Saturdays at 9:45 a.m.

Deadline for the February, 2026 Presbyter:

Friday, January 19, 2026.

Anticipated mailing date January 28, 2026



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
