



GOOD NEWS

First United Presbyterian Church
40 Institute Street
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Worshiping in the Wyoming Presbyterian Church
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August 2019

Dear Friends,

The Presbytery of Lackawanna has appointed me to serve as the moderator of your Session and congregation. I am glad to do so, and look forward to serving you.

This is a season of transition for your church. After a long and productive pastorate, the Rev. Jim Thyren has begun his retirement. You have blessed Jim and Jan with love and expressions of gratitude. Now we enter a season that your congregation has not encountered for the past 34 years. It may feel awkward or confusing, and those are natural feelings.

Yet I am writing briefly to remind you that you are in good hands. God reigns over all our lives and the future is secure in our Lord's sovereignty. And I can report first-hand that your Session is presiding over the work of your congregation with clarity, concern, and competence.

Your transition team has worked diligently since Jim's announcement last year. After a series of gatherings to study your congregation and its setting, the team presented a thorough report to the Session. The material has shaped the formation of a Ministry Information Form (MIF) which will be submitted to our presbytery's Committee on Ministry for approval. After that action, your church can begin to search for new ministerial leadership.

You will be looking for a Transitional Minister. What's that? In our recently revised Book of Order, there are two categories of pastors: Installed (permanent) and Temporary. A Transitional Minister is a temporary pastor. Years ago, we might have termed it an "interim pastor," and sought someone with skills in leading congregations through a time of transition. That designation would have been subject to rules that prevented such a person from continuing on after the interim term.

These days, the church recognizes that virtually all congregations are in a season of transition. Transitional Ministers are trained to understand the signs of the times and empower congregations as they negotiate changes, while preaching the Gospel and leading the Session and Deacons to care for the flock.

A Transitional Minister makes a lot of sense for your congregation. Since the flood of 2011, your church has been disrupted by change. You've departed from a building and nested in two others. You have faced the change with courage, stayed nimble, and responded by actively caring for the neighborhood where you are now worshipping. Given the transition of the Wyoming church and the real possibility of consolidating and strengthening your ministries, the right Transitional Minister can guide you into whatever God has in store for you next.

Plus, as an added bonus, if the conditions are positive for all concerned, there could be the possibility of petitioning the presbytery to make that temporary Transitional Minister into an Installed Pastor.

I am impressed with your congregation, and believe it will be an attractive place for your Transitional Minister. You are resilient and resourceful. You have a strong core of volunteers who work hard. Your financial base provides fair salaries for your staff and strong support for your mission benevolences. Your hearts are generous. You are long accustomed to excellent preaching and loving care. You know how to laugh. And you've learned a lesson that many other congregations have not yet learned: that ministry in the name of Christ is far more important than merely maintaining a building. These will be attractive traits to your future pastor!

I perceive a bright future for your flock. Presbyterians believe in working together, and I certainly look forward to working with you. Let's pray for God's continuing care and guidance as we move through this season and into the future.

With every good wish,
Rev. Bill Carter

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

August Sundays: 10:00 AM Worship in the Sanctuary
Tuesdays: 6:30 PM Choir Practice in the Sanctuary

Friday, August 2: 7:00 PM @ PNC Field – Presbytery Baseball Night
Saturday, August 3: 6:00 PM @ The Institute – Free Movie Night
Sunday, August 18: 2:00 PM @ Home of Pastor Laura Lewis Emmett – Church Picnic
Wednesday, August 28: 7:00 PM @ The Institute – Session

NORMAL OFFICE HOURS ARE MONDAY – FRIDAY - 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM.

WHO ARE YOU GOING TO CALL?

<i>If there is a death:</i>	Pastor Laura Lewis	570-430-1695
<i>If you are inquiring about a baptism:</i>	Dan Klaproth	570-290-2930
<i>If you have a building and grounds issue:</i>	Tom Ahearn	570-885-1729
<i>If you're wondering about Sunday school or the tutoring table:</i>	Michelle Klaproth	570-299-0603
<i>For just about anything!</i>	John Baer – Administrative Asst.	570-609-5410 (9:30-12:30, M-F)

TRANSITION TEAM UPDATE:

In June and early July, the Transition Team worked on completing the information needed for our Ministry Information Form (MIF), the form by which we advertise within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) for our Transitional Pastor. In addition to numerous statistical questions about the congregation, the form contains the 5 challenging narrative questions listed below:

- What is the congregation's or organization's vision for ministry? Additionally, describe how this vision is lived out.
- How do you feel called to reach out to address the emerging needs of your community or constituency?
- How will this position help you to reach your vision and mission goals?
- Provide a description of the characteristics needed by the person who is open to being called to this congregation and/or organization.
- For what specific tasks, assignments, and program areas will this person have responsibility?

Our recent Mission Study congregational gatherings provided great information for answering these questions, and we were pleased to bring our proposed MIF content before Session in July. Our Session voted to approve the MIF content (with minor revisions) and this form will go to the Presbytery of Lackawanna Committee on Ministry for approval at their August meeting. Once approved, we can begin advertising for a full-time Transitional Pastor. Copies of the MIF will be available for viewing once finalized.

The next work of the Transition Team will be to screen and interview candidates who apply for the Transitional Pastor position, and also to prepare a Mission Study Report that summarizes the findings of our recent Mission Study. Please keep the members of the Transition Team and Session in your prayers as they work to secure pastoral leadership for our future.

CHURCH PICNIC: Pastor Laura Lewis Emmett has again offered to host the church picnic at her home at Harvey's Lake at pole marker 95. The potluck picnic will be on August 18th at 2:00 PM. Drop off your food and chairs, park nearby or someone will follow you over to Alderson Methodist church parking lot and bring you back. More details to follow in the coming weeks in First News.

FREE MOVIE NIGHT: Come see Disney's Descendants at our Deacons' sponsored movie night for the young and young at heart. The event is on Saturday, August 3, at 6:00 PM (doors open at 5:45). Please bring a free will non-perishable item if you are able and a towel or blanket to sit on (Chairs available for the young at heart). All are welcome!

CLEARANCES REQUIRED FOR EVENTS AT FUPCWP:

*The Lackawanna Presbytery's required clearances for **any adult (18 or older) volunteer that may have interaction with children:***

KeepKidsSafe.pa.gov

1. [Act 34 Pennsylvania Criminal History Check](#)
2. [Act 151 Pennsylvania Child Abuse clearance](#)

Identogo.com

3. [Act 114 FBI Criminal History Report](#)

Required for those who became Pennsylvania residents within the past 10 years; information and payment submitted online; registration before onsite fingerprinting required at an assigned location; reimbursement is available if requested in writing when submitting clearances.

When the clearance certifications are received by the individual, he/she should provide them to the church; the church should make a copy of the original document to keep on file, and return the original to the individual. The same clearance may be used for multiple employment/volunteer organizations in the state of Pennsylvania, **providing they are up to date.**

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS:

SAVE THE DATE

SEP 18 First Aid and Bleeding Control

7-8 PM – Learn anyone-can-do-this basics for reacting to an injury in an emergency. BJ Ahearn from the Center for Public Safety will provide instructions and practice for determining the best course of action until professional help is available.

2020 ALL church events that welcome the public can be included on next year's Community Connections calendar! Please start planning now! The deadline to submit events is November 1, so that printed calendars can be available during the December services. ANY SUGGESTIONS for events in 2020 are welcome, provided they come with contact information for a person/organization willing to facilitate the event.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS TEAM: Anyone willing to help with planning and coordinating 2020 events should please see Marge Zeigler. We will meet this fall with representatives of church groups to look ahead to another busy year.



August Birthdays

2 Erica Gravell	7 Jeff Gravell	17 Erik Hensley	26 Anthony Viglione, III
3 Michelle Klapproth	10 Jeremy Yarick	18 Evelynn Viglione	27 Garth Todd
4 Christina Kester	13 Ken Harding	19 John Golecki	Dan Klapproth
Katherine Lavelle	14 Gianna Crisci	20 Judy Malone	29 Marge Zeigler
5 Jakob Tilley	16 Jan Godown	21 Bryn Ciechoski	30 Nolan Hagenbaugh
6 Teresa Darby	Pat O'Donnell	25 Marci Hosier	31 Dottie Rodriguez
Michael Dombroski	Melissa Harding	26 Erin Todd	

MAKE A DIFFERENCE! Al Beech Food Pantry is expanding their hours on one night a month to be available to clients with jobs that still need extra help. Volunteers are needed to staff these new hours! Please call 570-288-0934 to volunteer!

WHEN: Tuesday night, August 27, September 24

TIME: Food pickup is 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM – Call 570-288-0934 to place an order!

WHERE: Al Beech Food Pantry @ Church of Christ Uniting, 190 Sprague St., Kingston, PA

Joys to Celebrate & Burdens to Share

PRESBYTERIANS AT PRAYER

We fulfill scriptural instruction when we pray for those we know and those who are known to others who ask us to lift their concerns to God in prayer, the names below are the most recent additions to our prayer List. We need not know the specifics of their situation, trusting that God will know what is needed. Please let us know when it is time to remove a name thanks to answered prayer, crisis passed, or entry into “the heavenly host.”

Rugh family, Victor Musloski, Guy Fasciana, Mark & Ann Williams, Will Lewis, Val Burke, Kelly Wynder Rodgers, Dakota Segeda, Amy Wiggins, Andy Kuffa, Patricia & Rich Tolladay, Nora Terran, Zack, Marlene, Amy Gromel, Shirley Weber, Linda Houck, Dorothy Rugh, Ann Crawford, Maverick Schwartzburg, Maurice Dionne, Rev. John Markarian, Barry and Grace Hosier, Nance Browdie, Margaret Coolbaugh, Bill Kendall, Di Jolley, Donna Salerno, Kennedy, Andrew Maculloch, USMC, Teresa Stacchiotti, Dolores Martini, Douglas Skene, Joan Tilley, Gloria Green, Judy Argenio, Mary Claire Gallagher, Joan & Jack Finn, Maureen Krokos, Bonnie Houpt, Casen Lear, Jim Coolbaugh, Florence Lombardo, Fulvio Ranalli, Dan Christ, Henrietta Timinski, Jessica Malone, Victoria Everett, Cheryl Scott, Barbara Krohmer, William Sommerville, Sally, Dennis Dalrymple, Jennifer Williams, Julia & Claire Emmert, Michelle Klapproth, Kyle & Corey Loftus, Ron Hagenbaugh, John Jr., Frank, Bernice Ashford, Cassidy Palamieri, Jennifer Beard, Barb & David Fairbrother, Irene Amato, Dennis, Claude Collins, Elaine Evans, Brenda, Raymond & Bonnie Banaszek, Alberta Simonson.

We learn to pray by praying the prayers others have written. These prayers are from *The Book of Common Worship, Pastoral Edition*, published by the Presbyterian Church (USA) in 2018.

For Parents

Almighty God, from whom we receive our life,
you have blessed us with the joy and care of children.
As we bring them up,
give us calm strength and patient wisdom,
that we may teach them to love
whatever is just and true and good,
following the example
of our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

For the Whole Cosmos

God of the cosmos,
your love reaches beyond space and time.
We are astonished at your vast creation –
innumerable galaxies surrounded by dark matter,
elegant structures and staggering variety,
the interplay of matter and energy,
the pull of gravity and the speed of light –
all showing your wisdom and glory, O God!
We are dust and stardust, made in your image.
We are part of the creation you are making new.

Let our awe increase,
like your ever-expanding universe,
until we find ourselves lost in wonder,
love, and praise;
through Jesus Christ, the Alpha and Omega. Amen.

For Caregivers

God, our refuge and strength,
our present help in time of trouble,
care for those who tend the needs of others,
Strengthen them in body and spirit.
Refresh them when weary;
console them when anxious;
comfort them in grief;
and hearten them in discouragement.
Lord of peace, be with us all,
and give us peace at all times
and in every way. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS for July 2019

from The Book of Common Worship, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Aug 1	Psalm 107:1-9, 43	Hosea 8:1-14	Romans 11:33-36	Matthew 5:43-48
Aug 2	Psalm 107:1-9, 43	Hosea 9:1-17	Ephesians 4:17-24	Matthew 5:43-48
Aug 3	Psalm 107:1-9, 43	Hosea 10:1-15		Mark 10:17-22
Aug 4	Psalm 107:1-9, 43	Hosea 11:1-11	Colossians 3:1-11	Luke 12:13-21
Aug 5	Psalm 60	Hosea 11:12-12:14	Colossians 3:18-4:1	Luke 12:13-21
Aug 6	Psalm 60	Hosea 13:1-16	Colossians 4:2-6	Luke 12:13-21
Aug 7	Psalm 60	Ecclesiastes 12:1-8, 13-14		Luke 12:22-31
Aug 8	Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23	Isaiah 9:8-17	Romans 9:1-9	Luke 12:22-31
Aug 9	Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23	Isaiah 9:18-10:4	Acts 7:1-8	Luke 12:22-31
Aug 10	Psalm 34:1-8	1 Kings 2:1-9		Matthew 6:19-24
Aug 11	Psalm 50:1-8, 22-33	Isaiah 1:1, 10-20	Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16	Luke 12:32-40
Aug 12	Psalm 11	Isaiah 2:1-4	Hebrews 11:1-7	Luke 12:32-40
Aug 13	Psalm 11	Isaiah 24:1-13	Hebrews 11:17-28	Luke 12:32-40
Aug 14	Psalm 11	Isaiah 24:14-23		Luke 12:41-48
Aug 15	Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19	Isaiah 2:5-11	Hebrews 10:26-31	Luke 12:41-48
Aug 16	Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19	Isaiah 3:1-17	Hebrews 10:32-39	
Aug 17	Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19	Isaiah 3:18-4:6		Matthew 24:15-27
Aug 18	Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19	Isaiah 5:1-7	Hebrews 11:29-12:2	Luke 12:49-56
Aug 19	Psalm 74	Isaiah 5:8-23	1 John 4:1-6	Luke 12:49-56
Aug 20	Psalm 74	Isaiah 5:24-30	Acts 7:44-53	Luke 12:49-56
Aug 21	Psalm 74	Isaiah 27:1-13		Luke 19:45-48
Aug 22	Psalm 71:1-6	Jeremiah 6:1-9	Hebrews 12:3-17	Luke 19:45-48
Aug 23	Psalm 71:1-6	Jeremiah 6:20-30	Acts 17:1-9	Luke 19:45-48
Aug 24	Psalm 71:1-6	Jeremiah 1:1-3, 11-19		Luke 6:1-5
Aug 25	Psalm 71:1-6	Jeremiah 1:4-10	Hebrews 12:18-29	Luke 13:10-17
Aug 26	Psalm 10	Jeremiah 7:1-15	Hebrews 3:7-4:11	Luke 13:10-17
Aug 27	Psalm 10	Jeremiah 7:16-26	Revelations 3:7-13	Luke 13:10-17
Aug 28	Psalm 10	Jeremiah 7:27-34		Luke 6:6-11
Aug 29	Psalm 81:1, 10-16	Jeremiah 11:1-17	1 Peter 3:8-12	Luke 6:6-11
Aug 30	Psalm 81:1, 10-16	Jeremiah 12:1-13	1 Peter 4:7-11	Luke 6:6-11
Aug 31	Psalm 81:1, 10-16	Jeremiah 2:1-3, 14-22		Matthew 20:20-28
Sept 1	Psalm 81:1, 10-16	Jeremiah 2:4-13	Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16	Luke 14:1, 7-14
Sept 2	Psalm 58	Jeremiah 2:23-37	Hebrews 13:7-21	Luke 14:1, 7-14
Sept 3	Psalm 58	Jeremiah 3:1-14	Titus 1:1-9	Luke 14:1, 7-14
Sept 4	Psalm 58	Jeremiah 3:15-25		Luke 14:15-24
Sept 5	Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18	Jeremiah 15:10-21	Philippians 2:25-30	Luke 14:15-24

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CURRENT RESIDENT OR