



## GOOD NEWS

First United Presbyterian Church  
40 Institute Street  
Wyoming, PA 18644  
Rev. James E. Thyren, Pastor

Worshiping in the Wyoming Presbyterian Church

Office: 570.609.5410      Manse: 570.654.4961

Email Address: [presbywp@aol.com](mailto:presbywp@aol.com)

Website: [www.presbywp.org](http://www.presbywp.org)



### Parting Words

June 2019

“Change is hard.

Embracing new ways is not easy.

Life is full of changes and new ways.”

One Sunday in May I shared those words several times as part of the Sermon. They represent the reality we are living as the date of my retirement looms. *Change is hard.* Having begun the process of changing our address, I’ve had to learn a new zip code to use when I pop my credit card into the gas pump. *Embracing new ways is not easy.* Thirty-three and a half years of refining the rhythms and routines of daily life are being replaced as we shift some furniture from the manse to Paddleberry Farm and sell and give way the rest. The little oak roll top desk I sat at as a kid, which became the table beside my chair in the family room is gone, so I can’t automatically reach to the right and grab the cold drink from its accustomed place. *Life is full of changes and new ways.* At every turn, in each house, in my study at the Institute, and in the course of each day there are changes and new ways. I reach for a book and it has been moved or given away. At a meeting, the discussion turns to an event planned for August, and it is none of my concern. And so it goes...

We leave West Pittston with thankful hearts. We are grateful to God for the privilege of living and serving alongside you and those who have come and gone during our time together. We are thankful for the gift of allowing our girls to spend most of their formative years in one house, going to one church, in one school system. The variety of ways we have served Christ together has been a blessing, and now that I think about it those ways have changed with time as some needs were met and new opportunities presented themselves. And so it goes...

There will be new voices speaking from the pulpit. There will be new hands and feet making music from the organ bench. For 108 years before January of 1985 there were many other voices who preached and prayed from the pulpit, and many pairs of hands and feet who shared their musical gifts with the people of God who filled the choir loft and the pews. They did things in different ways. Over the course of 34 years we have done things that had not been done before. Those who follow us will do things in different ways, too. That is okay. That is as it should be. That is how God will move this congregation in the way it needs to go in keeping with changing times.

Along the way one of the new things we introduced was to sing what we labeled as a “Hymn of Mutual Blessing,” between the Charge and Benediction and the Postlude. Sung to the familiar tune of Tallis’ Canon, the last words we sing and hear on Sunday morning have been both a prayer and a promise to remind each other of God’s presence, the Spirit’s guidance and kind of living to which Christ has called us all.

As our paths go separate ways on June 30<sup>th</sup>, we will sing it one last time, grateful that God brought us together and allowed us to worship, study and serve for a time as followers of the Way, seekers of the Truth, and recipients of the abundant Life with which we have been blessed.

***Go with us Lord, and guide the way  
Through this and every coming day,  
That in Your Spirit strong and true  
Our lives may be our gift to you.***

(Mary Jackson Cathey, 1986)

Grace & Peace,

*Jim,*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

June Sundays:	10:00 AM	Worship in the Sanctuary (Outdoor worship on June 2 <sup>nd</sup> )
	11:15 AM	Sunday School for all @ the Institute
Tuesdays:	6:30 PM	Choir Practice in the Sanctuary
Saturday, June 1:	9:00 AM	@ The Grove – Strawberry Festival and Flea Market
Sunday, June 2:	10:00 AM	@ The Grove – Outdoor Worship
Sunday, June 9:	12:00 PM	@ The Institute – Congregational Transitional Workshop
Tuesday, June 11:	7:00 PM	@ The Institute – Session
Thursday, June 13:	7:15 PM	@ The Institute – Deacons
Saturday, June 29:	2:00 PM	@ The Grove – Community Carnival
Sunday, June 30:	11:15 AM	@ The Institute – Farewell luncheon for the Thyrens

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

**TRANSITION TEAM UPDATE:** We have one more Congregational Workshops scheduled for all at the Institute to prepare for our future. A light lunch will be served, after which we will begin working toward our future!  
**June 9 from 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM**

**WELCOME ABOARD!** The Session is pleased to announce that beginning July 1, 2019 David Hunisch will become our Organist/Choir Director. David is a graduate of the University of Scranton, where he now provides Digital Services at the Weinberg Memorial Library. He has served as part-time Organist/Choir Director since 2003 at churches in Avoca, Dalton, and Dupont.

### **STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL AND NEIGHBORHOOD MINI FLEA MARKET – SATURDAY, JUNE 1**

There will be tables where the church can sell our members' GENTLY used items to raise money for our missions. Articles can be dropped off at the Institute week during office hours, as well as on Thursday evening, 5/30/19, from 5 – 7 PM or Friday, 5/31/19 from 9 AM – 1 PM. **WE WILL NEED HELP** on Friday 5/31/19 to set up, as well as on 6/1/19 during the event to set up, assist customers, and clean up. Deacons will be selling food to eat in or take out from within the Institute. And, of course, Strawberry Shortcake, Sundaes, and Cake! Please sign up in the narthex, or call the church office at 570-609-5410 to offer your help!!!

### **FREE COMMUNITY CARNIVAL – SATURDAY, JUNE 29**

We need everyone to help us host the community for this second-annual event. Get together and sign up for a day of rewarding fun! See Michelle Klapproth or Marge Zeigler if you have any questions. We need folks to

**Coordinate** (*purchase reimbursable items and arrange for helpers*): Water-ice and snack table 2-5 PM, Craft Table 2-7 PM, Hot dogs and fixin's for 5 PM picnic, Campfire and marshmallows 5 PM

**Other help needed:** Set-up 12 PM, Greet Visitors 2-7 PM, Supervise yard games 2-7 PM, Clean-up 7 PM

### **FAREWELL LUNCHEON FOR THE THYRENS – SUNDAY, JUNE 30**

The Deacons will host a casual farewell luncheon for the Thyrens on Sunday, June 30, at 11:15 AM after the 10:00 AM worship. Please plan to join Jim and Jan for one last celebration of their time with us.



### June Birthdays

3 Richard Simonson, Jr.	11 Ella Kester	16 Max Getzie	21 Leeanne Small
Anne Crisci	12 Connie Malone	Landon Walsh	24 Sheri Slusser
5 Joseph Kuchta	John Getzie, IV	17 Ashley Rugh	25 John Getzie
9 Trevor Skene	14 Frank Rugh, Jr.	18 Avaline Kizis	28 Anabele Viglione
11 Drew Whyte	15 Cindy Vullo	20 Emily Christ	29 Ray Crisci, III

**DO YOU HAVE A NEW CELL PHONE?** We are collecting old cell phones to donate to the Domestic Violence Agency. We have a bin in the church narthex to collect used cell phones.

**NOTES FROM TUTORING TABLE** – There are two analogies that I often use to describe Tutoring Table - the first is that of a newborn giraffe. The kind that is just born and trying hard to walk but looks like it may fall over at any moment. Tutoring Table was born in the fall of 2018 around a kitchen table, where 4 women with a deep love for God, our community, and our church asked God and each other if there was more we could do for our neighbors. In the midst of upcoming transition (a beloved retiring pastor, among others) and ongoing budgetary concerns, we asked the session for their blessing to start a new program where we would reach out to families in our community to offer free tutoring for their children, with a free dinner beforehand, and to be open to meeting other needs as we got to know them. There was a lot of “we don’t know” at the beginning. We didn’t know for sure if families would come. We didn’t know if we would get enough people to volunteer. We didn’t know how much it would cost. We came up with a list of things we thought we needed and needed to do and got started - which leads to my second favorite analogy to describe Tutoring Table - “we are building this plane while we are flying it.” There were even a lot of things we didn’t know that we didn’t know - like what we need to make the kitchen more usable for cooking for a crowd or how to help every child and every family get at least a little bit of what they needed. We just started flying and kept building.

Tutoring Table has now been going for 7 months with 10 successful sessions. In November, we started with 2 children from 2 families and grew to average about 13 students at each gathering. In all, we have seen 28 children from 20 families. We have had almost 50 volunteers from our church and the community to cook, clean up, teach, flip flashcards, watch little ones, and host our tutoring families. We have truly sent a message that there is room for everyone at our table. Apart from the numbers, there has been tremendous growth in our tutoring students. The families have reported that grades have improved and held steady throughout the year. The children have more confidence in school. Their teachers report that reading and math have improved for our tutoring kids. There have been connections made between the families and among our members. We have also assembled a small children’s clothes closet and a shelf of food to give to families who need help. We ARE making a difference in our community... and we are also making a difference in ourselves. Within our members, I notice a deeper desire to be “God’s hands and feet.” I see a greater willingness to use our different gifts for the good of our neighbors. After 7 months, I truly believe that GOD is flying this plane and helping us learn to walk in spite of our own weaknesses. Where we are weak, HE is strong.

Now a word of thanks - THANK YOU for helping with this program. From the donations to cooking and cleaning to childcare and teaching, we are truly stronger together. Thank you for believing in us when we wanted to try something new and enthusiastically investing in reaching out to our neighbors. Thank you to the school staff that helped bring the families to us and to the Primary Center students who donated non perishable food items to start our mini food pantry. Special thanks also goes to the Synod who believed in Tutoring Table enough to grant us over \$16,000 to help with building upgrades. This summer, watch for improvements at the Institute to help us further serve our community. We are blessed to be a blessing and look forward to continued growth.

With Gratitude,  
Michelle Klapproth (with Marge Zeigler, Erin Viglione, and BJ Ahearn)

**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, June 25, July 30, 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**

**Summer Cottage for Sale: #19 Patterson Grove Campground. Patterson Grove is a Methodist Campground located off Bethel Hill Rd in Fairmount Township. Please call Donna Kovalick at 570-574-5228 for more information.**

**MOVIE NIGHT – SATURDAY, AUGUST 3**

Save the date Saturday, August 3, at 6:00 PM at the Institute for a movie night sponsored by the deacons. Bring family and friends to enjoy a movie to be announced. All are welcome!

# **Joys to Celebrate & Burdens to Share**

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. 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.”

Will Lewis, Nancy Smith, Bill Griffin, Val Burke, Joann Zeigler, Kelly Wynder Rodgers, Bob Glasgow, Jack Ford, Dakota Segeda, Alvin Ortiz, Amy Wiggins, Andy Kuffa, Patricia & Rich Tolladay, Nora Terran, Zack, Marlene, Amy Gromel, Shirley Weber, Linda Houck, Dorothy Rugh, Ann Crawford, Jessica Cardi, Kerri Buckman, Maverick Schwartzenburg, Maurice Dionne, Rev. John Markarian, Barry and Grace Hosier, Nance Browdie, Margaret Coolbaugh, Bill Kendall, Di Jolley, Natalie Smith, 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 Hout, Casen Lear, Jim Coolbaugh, Don Black, Ryan & Ashley Pollard, 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 Travelers***

The world is yours, mighty God,  
and all people live by your faithfulness.  
Watch over those who are traveling.  
May they be careful, but not afraid,  
and safely reach their destinations.  
Wherever we wander in your spacious world  
teach us that we never journey beyond your  
loving care, revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

## ***For Children***

Great God,  
guard the laughter of children.  
Bring them safely through injury and illness,  
so they may live the promises you give.  
Do not let us be so preoccupied with our  
purposes that we fail to hear their voices,  
or pay attention to their special vision of the truth;  
but keep us ready to listen and to love,  
even as in Jesus Christ you have first loved us.  
Amen.

## ***For Nature***

We give you thanks, most gracious God,  
for the beauty of earth and sky and sea;  
for the richness of mountains, plains and rivers;  
for the songs of birds  
and the loveliness of flowers.  
We praise you for these good gifts,  
and pray that we may safeguard them for posterity.  
Grant that we may continue to grow  
in our enjoyment of your abundant creation,  
to the honor and glory of your name,  
now and forever. Amen.

## ***For an Inclusive Church***

How great is your love, Lord God,  
how wide is your mercy!  
Never let us board up the narrow gate that leads to  
life with rules or doctrines that you dismiss;  
but give us a Spirit to welcome all people with  
affection so that your church may never exclude  
secret friends of yours,  
who are included in the love of Jesus Christ,  
who came to save us all. Amen

# SCRIPTURE READINGS for June 2019

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

June 1	Psalm 97	Exodus 33:18-23		John 1:14-18
June 2	Psalm 97		Acts 16:16-34	John 17:20-26
June 3	Psalm 29	Exodus 40:16-38	Acts 16:35-40	John 17:20-26
June 4	Psalm 29	2 Chronicles 5:2-14	Acts 26:19-29	John 17:20-26
June 5	Psalm 29	Ezekiel 3:12-21		Luke 9:18-27
June 6	Ps. 104:24-34, 35b	Isaiah 32:11-17	Galatians 5:16-25	Luke 9:18-27
June 7	Ps. 104:24-34, 35b	Isaiah 44:1-4	Galatians 6:7-10	Luke 9:18-27
June 8	Ps. 104:23-34, 35b	2 Kings 2:1-15a		Luke 1:5-17
June 9	Ps. 104:24-34, 35b	Gen. 11:1-9	Acts 2:1-21	John 14:8-17 (25-27)
June 10	Psalm 48	Joel 2:18-29	1 Corinthians 2:1-11	John 14:8-17 (25-27)
June 11	Psalm 48	Ezekiel 11:14-25	1 Corinthians 2:12-16	John 14:8-17 (25-27)
June 12	Psalm 48	Numbers 24:1-14		Luke 1:26-38
June 13	Psalm 8	Proverbs 3:13-18	Ephesians 1:17-19	Luke 1:26-38
June 14	Psalm 8	Proverbs 3:19-26	Ephesians 4:1-6	Luke 1:26-38
June 15	Psalm 8	Proverbs 4:1-9		Luke 2:41-52
June 16	Psalm 8	Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31	Romans 5:1-5	John 16:12-15
June 17	Psalm 124	Proverbs 7:1-4	Ephesians 4:7-16	John 16:12-15
June 18	Psalm 124	Proverbs 8:4-21	Ephesians 5:15-20	John 16:12-15
June 19	Psalm 124	Daniel 1:1-21		Luke 1:46b-55
June 20	Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15	Proverbs 13:1-12	Romans 5:12-6:2	Luke 1:46b-55
June 21	Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15	Proverbs 15:1-9	1 Thess. 4:13-18	Luke 1:46b-55
June 22	Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15	Isaiah 30:8-17		John 16:1-4a
June 23	Psalm 42 and 43	1 Kings 19:1-4(5-7) 8-15a	Galatians 3:23-29	Luke 8:26-39
June 24	Psalm 59	2 Kings 9:1-13	1 Corinthians 1:18-31	Luke 8:26-39
June 25	Psalm 59	2 Kings 9:14-26	Ephesians 2:11-22	Luke 8:26-39
June 26	Psalm 59	2 Kings 9:30-37		Luke 9:37-43a
June 27	Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20	1 Kings 22:29-40, 51-53	2 Corinthians 13:5-10	Luke 9:37-43a
June 28	Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20	2 Kings 1:1-12	Galatians 4:8-20	Luke 9:37-43a
June 29	Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20	2 Kings 1:13-18; 2:3-5		Luke 9:21-27
June 30	Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20	2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14	Galatians 5:1, 13-25	Luke 9:51-62
July 1	Psalm 75	2 Kings 2:15-22	1 John 2:7-11	Luke 9:51-62
July 2	Psalm 75	2 Kings 3:4-20	Ephesians 5:6-20	Luke 9:51-62
July 3	Psalm 75	2 Kings 4:1-7		Matthew 10:16-25
July 4	Psalm 30	2 Kings 4:8-17	Romans 7:14-25	Matthew 10:16-25
July 5	Psalm 30	2 Kings 4:18-31	2 Corinthians 8:1-7	Matthew 10:16-25

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CURRENT RESIDENT OR