



GOOD NEWS

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

Worshipping in the Wyoming Presbyterian Church
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“...let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.” I John 3.18

MAY 2018

As habit dictates, the car in which we drove nestled into a parking space in the section of the lot where we always park when attending church while in Washington State. As my son-in-law put the car in park and shut down our battery driven ride, we noticed the parking spaces next to us. In the first stood a port-o-potty and one of those receptacles specially designed for disposing of cigarette butts. At the end of the other two spaces there wooden stakes pounded into the ground bearing signs of black letters on white backgrounds which read:

**Reserved for our
Overnight Guests
7:00 PM – 7:00 AM**

“I have a question,” announced the six-year-old who is rarely without one. “Why is there a port-o-potty in the church parking lot?”

Her mother answered: “It is for the people who must sleep in their cars because they have no place to live. The church lets them park their cars here in a safe place at night.”

Accustomed to seeing the colonies of domed tents of nestled under overpasses and in the side yards of churches in and around Seattle, our little one didn’t need any further explanation. After church, on the way to brunch near the iconic Pike Place Marketplace, we would pass several encampments. For the moment, as we walked up a slight hill to enter the church, it was enough to conclude the impromptu lesson on living as Jesus commands by noting that this church was doing what it can to live love, “not in word or speech, but in truth and in action.”

Later that day, after brunch in Seattle and a walk down to the waterfront, just passed the Seattle Aquarium there was a crosswalk leading across the street and under the Alaskan Way Viaduct over which busy State Route 99 roars. In the shadow of the overpass a dozen or more tents were pitched, a multi-colored patch-work of temporary housing that for many is all too permanent. Attempting to be polite and respectful, I tried not to stare, but something caught my eye. There, in the midst of the homeless folk in their multi-layered, worn and weary donated outfits, was a family dressed in their Eddy Bauer best: a mom and a dad, and two children. In front of them were an array of brown paper bags with handles, the kind delis and restaurants provide for carry out meals. The woman was reaching into the bags and handing out wrapped sandwiches. The man was breaking bottles of water out of the plastic wrap of the case at his feet. The kids were helping pass out the gifts too.

An act of kindness; an expression of love; another reminder amid all the evidence of selfishness and self-indulgence in the world today, that there are people who are loving, “not in word and speech, but in truth and action;” and a call to continue to do what we can, whenever we can, wherever we are.

Homelessness in our area is not as visible as in other parts of our country, but it is here. We’ve done what we can by making Ugly Quilts, feeding the men of Mother Teresa’s Haven. Our Women’s Association have listened as our own Tara Malampy spoke of her work combatting truancy and the discovery of the astounding number of high school students in our county that are couch-surfing because they have been put out of their homes. On Wednesday, May 16th at 7:00 PM, as part of our Events at the Institute series this year, Janice Oriel of the Luzerne County Intermediate Unit will be speaking on Poverty and Education. She’ll be discussing the cycle of poverty and how it relates to education. She will also address what faith communities like ours can do to help students and their families.

Please join us on May 16th. Bring your neighbors, as we learn what more we can do here, where we are!

*Grace & Peace,
Jim*

During the month of May:

Let us remember in prayer:

May

1. Michael and Melanie Orleski, Michael, Marina
2. Andrea Polak, Avaline Kizis
3. Melinda Prokopchak, Kristina
4. Nicholas and Lauren Prokopchak & family
5. Brian and Shelli Ratchford, Larry & Joseph Bufalino
6. Barbara Regula
7. Kathy Richards
8. Chris and Kelly Rodgers, Kelce & Avery Wynder
9. Rod and Dottie Rodriguez
10. Alfonso and Mary Rodriguez, Kathryn & Sarah Golecki
11. Carl and Marge Rosa
12. Andrew Roxby & family
13. Frank and Jeanine Rugh, Andrew, Ashley
14. Frank and Lisa Rugh, Anna, Isaac
15. Hope Scholz and Duane Marbaker, John, Carleigh, Ben
16. Chris and Katie Schwartzenburg, Addie, Elise
17. Paul and Ruth Scotti
18. Hannah and Sydney Shelley
19. Alberta Simonson
20. Richard Simonson, Jr.
21. Harry Skene, Trevor, Evan, Abby, Claire
22. Inge Skene
23. Linda Slater
24. Gary and Sheri Slusser, Kaitlyn, Morgan
25. Drew and Leeanne Small
26. Joseph and Nora Sofa
27. Joseph and Heidi Stachokus
28. Jim and Jan Thyren
29. Joan Tilley
30. Kasi Tilley and Will Saif
31. David and Shirley Todd, Garth

June

1. Erin Todd
2. Tony and Sharon Traglia, Alexandra, Marissa
- 3.. Tony and Erin Viglione, Anabele, Evelyynn, Anthony, III
4. Joe and Cindy Vullo, Adrianna, Louie
5. Rick and Cheryl Walsh



A WORD ABOUT PARKING IN WYOMING

Parking is available on Wyoming Avenue in front of and beyond the church. Spaces are also available along Institute Street beside the church and down to the Institute. There is a small parking lot directly behind the church, which if used carefully can handle a fair number of cars. There is also space to park behind the Institute with access just to the left of that building. We are asking that we train ourselves so that those who are able bodied park at the greatest distance from the church, thereby allowing those with difficulty walking to have a shorter distance to cover. We will be asking that those who are staying for the morning use the spaces behind the Institute so that those arriving for the 11:00 AM service of the Wyoming congregation may not be inconvenienced.

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. 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.”

Linda Houck, Ken Harding, Barbara Soyka, Sandy Knouse, Dorothy Klaproth, Scholastia O’Hop, Maria Heck, Dorothy Rugh, Bonnie Davis, Ann Crawford, Jessica Cardi, Kerri Buckman, Marverick Schwartzburg, Maurice Dionne, Sharon Weber, Rev. John Markarian, Grace Hosier, Nance Browdie, Margaret Coolbaugh, Bill Kendall, Di Jolley, Natalie Smith, Kelly Wynder Rodgers, Donna Salerno, Amy Gromel, 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, Don Black, Ryan & Ashley Pollard, Barry Hosier, Florence Lombardo, Ann Alaimo, Fulvio Ranalli, Dan Christ, Paul Brace, Jr., Henrietta Timinski, Jessica Malone, Victoria Everett, Cheryl Scott, Barbara Krohmer, William Sommerville, Sally, Dennis Dalrymple, Jennifer Williams, Robert Martini, Julia & Claire Emmert, Michelle Klaproth, 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, Linda Godown Eisele.

We learn to pray by praying the prayers others have written. These prayers are from *The Book of Common Worship*, published by the Presbyterian Church (USA) in 1993.

For Church Secretaries

God of creation,
you bring order out of chaos
and set us in this world to do your will.
Bless those who serve your cause
as secretaries in church offices.
Confirm their dedication,
that their love for you may show in diligence.
Strengthen their compassion
that they may represent your love
to church members and strangers they encounter.
May their work be appreciated by all
as important to the ministry of Christ Jesus
our Lord and Savior. **Amen.**

For Seminaries

Almighty God, in Jesus Christ
you called ordinary people to be disciples
and sent them out to teach and preach your truth.
Bring to seminaries men and women
who are honest and eager to serve you.
Give them tender hearts to care for others,
and tough minds to wrestle with your Word,
so that, as they speak and act for you,
people may repent and return to love,
believing in Jesus Christ,
who is our Lord and Master.
Amen

For Those Who Suffer for the Sake of Conscience

God of love and strength, your Son forgave his enemies
while he was suffering shame and death.
Strengthen those who suffer for the sake of conscience.
When they are accused, save them from speaking in hate;
when they are rejected, save them from bitterness;
when they are imprisoned, save them from despair.
To us, you servants, give grace to respect their witness and to discern the truth,
that our society may be cleansed and strengthened.
This we ask for the sake of our merciful and righteous judge, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Updates and Information

The Wyoming Presbyterian Church, built in 1856, along with the Institute, built in 1847, (located at the end of the Institute Street) will be our home thanks to a shared space agreement with the Wyoming congregation.

If you sleep late some Sunday morning, or are meeting someone for breakfast, remember you now have a second option for Worship, as the Wyoming Presbyterian Church gathers at 11:00 AM.

A unisex restroom is located in the hallway near the front doors. A second restroom is located outside the church office and is accessed through the choir loft.

Parking is available along Wyoming Avenue, on Institute St. and behind the church and the Institute. The nimble of foot are asked to park at a distance to allow others to park closer.

Sunday School

Sunday School continues this morning for all ages at 10:15 in the Institute.

Younger kids in the classroom to the right.

Sixth grade and up in the Upper Room

Adult class in the kitchen by the coffee pot!

DEACON'S

DID YOU KNOW...

That the loose offering on Communion Sundays goes to the Deacon's Fund? Do you know what they do with it? They provide meals for VISION when the homeless shelter visits one of our neighboring churches. They meet emergency needs for food and transportation and shelter. In addition, they host fellowship dinners for the congregation, prepare the elements for Communion, and prepare baskets at Easter and Christmas for members and friends of the congregation on the Deacon's visitation list.

FOOD PANTRY SUPPORT

The Board of Deacons has placed a container by the back table to receive canned goods and non-perishable food items which are distributed through the food pantry's run by The Salvation Army Citadel and First United Methodist Church. Your gifts will help address the needs of hungry families throughout the surrounding communities. The needs of our neighbors are great. One of the food pantries reported a four-fold increase in requests for help.



WOMEN'S NEWS

Morning Circle will be held on Wednesday, May 9th at 9:00 AM in the Institute. Marge Rosa will be the hostess.

First United Presbyterian Church Fun Pasta Fundraising
Online Ordering Instructions To Order Online and have it shipped directly to you:
Go to www.funpastafundraising.com
Click on "Support Your Group".
Type in "First Presbyterian Church of West Pittston".
You can browse all products and place your order, and pay with your credit card,
For orders >\$50.00, shipping is FREE!!



Has Fun Ways to Help us Earn

eScrip helps schools and nonprofit organizations earn thousands of dollars for much needed programs and activities. They've been making a difference since 1999, with over \$420 Million raised for great causes that you care about! We partner with generous merchants in our communities to give back to the causes that matter to their loyal customers. It's good for business and great for our communities. Founded by Electronic Scrip, Inc., the vision was to establish relationships between commerce and community, and to support education and projects that benefit children. Today, that idea has grown to benefit over 45,000 schools and nonprofits across the United States. **Any questions, please contact Walter Harding at troyaspaw@aol.com**

To sign up? Go to escrip.com/signup

It's free. Support us by searching for:

**First Presbyterian Church – West Pittston not First Presbyterian Church of West Pittston
We are the one with the DASH-**

Register your Credit/Debit and ShurSave Gold cards to earn.

Then you can earn money for the church by spending money you are all already spending!

Buying groceries, Dining out using your registered card at restaurants locally such as:

Tipsy Turtle, Johnny Rockets, Goodfellas, Vault Tap & Kitchen, Andy Gavin's

**Shopping online with your registered cards. You just need to go to eScrip.com first
and click on the online mall and then find the online store you wish to use.**

They are associated with hundreds of online stores who give back a % of your purchase to us!

Endowment Commission

Last month I compared how WVIA makes it case for people to invest in their non-profit organization. I would like to consider insurance policies this month. Most all in our membership have some type of insurance policy and possibly more than one, many may not even realize there is a policy on them. Members might have had policies that their parents got for them when they were born. I remember when the insurance agent came to our home as my parents had policies on myself and my brothers. He came every 2 weeks to collect the premium for the policies. When I became an adult, the policy was passed on to me to continue and increase the coverage. The need for these policies was to have burial funds. That philosophy is no longer how insurance in most cases is considered today.

Today you may have a policy which your employer is paying for and it may be for your salary or twice your salary. The employer gives you this because it is a cheap benefit for them as most employees leave their employer several times during their work life and they do not fear that they will pay out a policy. While your employer has no fear of paying it out consider making the church the beneficiary or partial beneficiary even though there is a small chance of a payout as circumstances may change.

Today you may have a Term life policy you are paying for which covers your family with coverage of say \$500,000.00 for 20 years. This type of policy is looking at you and your family if you suddenly died and the family had no income and allows the family to get over your sudden loss and lose their home. These insurance policies are becoming more common and require a physical. The monthly premiums in most instances remain the same during the life of the policy. To continue this type of policy will require a physical and the premium will increase.

There is another type of policy called whole life which invest and the policy has the potential to be used at some time in the future as a loan against its cash value. These policies can be large or small similar to the loan for your burial expense. Again this is a policy you can purchase and make us a partial beneficiary.

In any insurance policy you may purchase you can always make our church a beneficiary.

Anthony Dombroski,
Chairman

SCRIPTURE READINGS for May 2018
from The Book of Common Worship, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

**God of mercy,
grant that the Word you speak this day
may take root in our hearts,
and bear fruit to your honor and glory,
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

5/1	Psalm 98, 146, 66, 116	Leviticus 16.20-34	I Thessalonians 5.1-11	Matthew 6.7-15
5/2	Psalm 99, 147.1-11, 9, 118	Leviticus 19.1-18	I Thessalonians 5.12-28	Matthew 6.19-24
5/3	Psalm 47, 147.12-20, 68, 113	Leviticus 19.26-37	2 Thessalonians 1.1-12	Matthew 6.25-34
5/4	Psalm 96, 148, 49, 138	Leviticus 23.1-22	2 Thessalonians 2.1-17	Matthew 7.1-12
5/5	Psalm 92, 149, 23, 114	Leviticus 23.23-44	2 Thessalonians 3.1-18	Matthew 7.13-21
5/6	Psalm 93, 150, 136, 117	Leviticus 25.1-17	James 1.2-8, 16-18	Luke 12.13-21
5/7	Psalm 97, 145, 124, 115	Leviticus 25.35-55	Colossians 1.9-14	Matthew 13.1-16
5/8	Psalm 98, 146, 66, 116	Leviticus 26.1-20	I Timothy 2.1-6	Matthew 13.18-23
5/9	Psalm 99, 147.1-11, 9, 118	Leviticus 26.27-42	Ephesians 1.1-10	Matthew 22.41-46
5/10	Psalm 47, 147.12-20, 68, 113	Daniel 7.9-14	Hebrews 2.5-18	Matthew 28.16-20
5/11	Psalm 96, 148, 49, 138	I Samuel 2.1-10	Ephesians 2.1-10	Matthew 7.22-27
5/12	Psalm 92, 149, 23, 114	Numbers 1.16-17, 24.29	Ephesians 2.11-22	Matthew 7.28-8.4
5/13	Psalm 93, 150, 136, 117	Exodus 3.1-12	Hebrews 12.18-29	Luke 10.7-24
5/14	Psalm 97, 145, 124, 115	Joshua 1.1-9	Ephesians 3.1-13	Matthew 8.5-17
5/15	Psalm 98, 146, 66, 116	I Samuel 16.1-13a	Ephesians 3.14-21	Matthew 8.18-27
5/16	Psalm 99, 147.1-11, 9, 118	Isaiah 4.2-6	Ephesians 4.1-16	Matthew 8.28-34
5/17	Psalm 47, 147.12-20, 68, 113	Zechariah 4.1-14	Ephesians 4.17-32	Matthew 9.1-8
5/18	Psalm 96, 148, 49, 138	Jeremiah 31.27-34	Ephesians 5.1-32	Matthew 9.9-17
5/19	Psalm 92, 149, 23, 114	Ezekiel 36.22-27	Ephesians 6.1-24	Matthew 9.18-26
5/20	Psalm 104, 150, 29, 33	Deuteronomy 16.9-12	Acts 4.18-21, 23-33	John 4.19-26
5/21	Psalm 5, 145, 82, 29	Proverbs 3.11-20	I John 3.18-4.6	Matthew 11.1-6
5/22	Psalm 42, 146, 102, 133	Proverbs 4.1-27	I John 4.7-21	Matthew 11.7-15
5/23	Psalm 89.1-18, 147.1-11, 1, 33	Proverbs 6.1-19	I John 5.1-12	Matthew 11.16-24
5/24	Psalm 97, 147.12-20, 16, 62	Proverbs 7.1-27	I John 5.13-21	Matthew 11.25-30
5/25	Psalm 51, 148, 142, 65	Proverbs 8.1-21	2 John 1-13	Matthew 12.1-14
5/26	Psalm 104, 149, 138, 98	Proverbs 8.22-36	3 John 1-15	Matthew 12.15-21
5/27	Psalm 103, 150, 117, 139	Job 38.1-11, 42.1-5	Revelations 19.4-16	John 1.29-34
5/28	Psalm 135, 145, 97, 112	Proverbs 10.1-12	I Timothy 1.1-17	Matthew 12.22-32
5/29	Psalm 123, 146, 30, 86	Proverbs 15.16-33	I Timothy 1.18-2.15	Matthew 12.33-42
5/30	Psalm 15, 147.1-11, 48, 4	Proverbs 17.1-20	I Timothy 3.1-16	Matthew 12.43-50
5/31	Psalm 36, 147.12-20, 80, 27	Proverbs 21.30-22.6	I Timothy 4.1-16	Matthew 13.24-30
6/1	Psalm 130, 148, 32, 139	Prov. 23.19-21, 29-24.2	I Tim. 5.17-22 (23-25)	Matthew 13.31-35
6/2	Psalm 56, 149, 118, 111	Proverbs 25.15-28	I Timothy 6.6-21	Matthew 13.36-43
6/3	Psalm 67, 150, 46, 93	Ecclesiastes 1.1-11	Acts 8.26-40	Luke 11.1-13
6/4	Psalm 57, 145, 85, 47	Ecclesiastes 2.1-15	Galatians 1.1-17	Matthew 13.44-52
6/5	Psalm 54, 146, 28, 99	Ecclesiastes 2.16-26	Galatians 1.18-2.10	Matthew 13.53-58

MAY HAPPENINGS & HELP WANTED:

Mini-Flea Market Team – BJ Ahearn and Marge Zeigler are looking for some helpers to serve as the Coordinating Team to oversee the Flea Market on the day of the Strawberry Festival, June 2, 2018.

Institute Flower Gardens

Session Allocated \$300 for those who are interested in helping put plants in the stone planters in front of the Institute wings. Of course, if you would like to donate cash or plants...that would lower the amount we need to take from our funds.

IT'S WELSH COOKIE TIME!!!

The Wyoming Presbyterian Church will be making Welsh Cookies on Saturday, May 12th. If you are able to help please let Betty Lou know. To place your order, please call Betty Lou at 570.693.1118.

May 12 – Meals on Wheels Sort & Stack during Postal Workers Food Drive

Noon – 6 PM

A sign-up sheet is in the hallway by the front door.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS!!

Events at the Institute

Throughout the remainder of the year we will be holding special events monthly at the Institute. Some of them are familiar, like the Strawberry Festival and the Rummage Sale, and a Halloween Party for Children. Others will offer one-hour programs on a variety of topics. We have rack cards (fliers) for you to help spread far and wide throughout the area, as part of our New Beginnings goal of reaching out to our community to invite them into our facilities and our fellowship.

Our next event if going to be held on **Wednesday, May 16 from 7-8 PM** in the Institute.

Poverty and Education – Luzerne County Intermediate Unit Interagency Coordinator Janice Oriel will discuss the cycle of poverty and how it relates to education and our faith communities. She will include an overview of the agencies and services that are available in Luzerne County to help students and their families.

May 19 – Whisper Sabbath at Camp Lackawanna 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Rediscovering the gifts God gives

\$10 Registration fee, lodging for an additional charge

Overnight lodging available upon request

CONFIRMATION NEWS:

-Confirmation will take place on **Pentecost Sunday, May 20, 2018 at 10:30 AM**

Confirmands from WP & Wyoming will be received in a combined Service of Worship

May 24 – Women's Association Covered Dish 6:00 PM

The team from Montrose Presbyterian Church will be here to update on last year's Mission to the Pine Ridge Reservation and this year's upcoming mission trip.

They are collecting clothing for children up to 6 years old. Also, men's coats for the fellas at the Homeless Veterans Shelter.

This is open to all everyone. There will be a sign-up sheet in the entrance.

A Transition on the Horizon

At its meeting on May 24th the Session accepted with regret, and thanks for many years of dedicated service, the resignation of Church Secretary, Sharon Harding, effective May 31, 2018. Having accepted an offer on their house, Sharon and Ken will begin their retirement adventure in their camper. The Personnel Committee is beginning the process of updating a job description and seeking someone to fill the position. (Sharon has agreed to come up to make sure the bulletin and newsletter get done until the position has been filled.)



May Birthdays

2 Florence Coolbaugh	11 Mindy Jenkins	16 Ian Jones	24 Kelly Rodgers
4 Sarah Golecki	13 Joe Francoeur	19 Andrew Rugh	Barry Hosier
6 Louis Bierly	Carter Hagenbaugh	Carrie Thyren	Brian Gromel
8 Ray Crisci, Jr.	15 John Coolbaugh	20 John Janczewski	26 Aiden Hosier
10 Jessica Malone	Kendall Williams	23 Jim Zeigler	27 Joe Argenio
			29. Kenzie Dohman

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR MAY

Sundays:	9:00 AM – Worship at Wyoming Presbyterian Church 10:15 AM – Sunday School for all Ages
Tuesdays:	6:30 PM – Choir

Tuesday, May 8	6:30 PM – Choir 7:15 PM – Deacons
Wednesday, May 9	9:00 AM – Morning Circle
Thursday, May 10	7:00 PM – Session
Saturday, May 12	Noon – 6 PM Postal Food Drive at Meals on Wheels
Wednesday, May 16	7:00 PM - Events at the Institute Poverty and Education
Thursday, May 17	6:30 PM – Chain Gang
Saturday, May 19	9:00 AM – 5:00 PM Whisper Sabbath at Camp Lackawanna
Sunday, May 20	10:30 AM – Worship and Confirmation Joint Service with Wyoming
Thursday, May 24	6:00 PM – Women’s Association Spring Covered Dish

Free Printable Word Search Puzzles

Spring

Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid.
The remaining letters spell a message about Spring.

T L E M W O N S S S A R G L A
G C Y C L A M E N S A L I L P
G N G R O W T H R L L L L R S
O Y I I D L S A R A I E S N N
L A L N K A I E B E R R O H E
F M L O A N F E S G M I P W W
E N A E E E S F I U L R R A L
I O B Q R A L E O E C S A B E
R S T U B E S C D D F O S W A
I A F I G R N N G L I N R H V
S E O N N R A E O N I L C C E
E S S O I D E W W B I R S B S
S I N X R G E E O A A R M E G
A Y F L P R O R N M L W P E O
E T E W S S P I L U T R S S R
R E T S A E P L A N T I N G F

ALLERGIES	FROGS	RAIN
APRIL	GOLF	RENEWAL
BASEBALL	GRASS	ROBINS
BEES	GREEN	SEASON
CROCUSES	GROWTH	SNOWMELT
CYCLAMENS	IRISES	SOFTBALL
DAFFODILS	LILIES	SPRING BREAK
DANDELIONS	MARCH	SPRING CLEANING
EASTER	MAY	TULIPS
EQUINOX	NEW LEAVES	WARMER
FLOWERS	PLANTING	WET

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