



GOOD NEWS

First United Presbyterian Church
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Worshiping in the Wyoming Presbyterian Church
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SEPTEMBER 2020

Dear Friends,

Right now, it is August and I have spent a little time wondering what to write about for this newsletter article. I keep thinking about highlighting something that is coming up or helping to encourage you to think about the future. Yet all I keep thinking about is that we are in uncharted territory as a church.

What will the fall look like? I do not know. Will we have Sunday School in person on Sunday morning? I do not know. Will we have tutoring table on Wednesday nights? I do not know. What I do know right now, is that we are definitely called as a church to be open to where God is leading us.

Faith is a journey that we go on, it is not a destination that we reach. On this journey, we have different events that help shape us, for some it maybe a worship service, for others it maybe an experience, or it maybe an opportunity to serve the church and community.

We trust that God is leading us on the path of this journey. We are called to live as faithful followers whether we worship in the sanctuary, or in our living room. We are called to be the church –although it may look different as a small group less than 25 socially separate with masks.

While there is a lot I do not know, one thing I do know is that God loves us and is in charge. I remember as a child learning “Jesus Loves Me.” The simple message is still true today. We are called to be examples in the world to this simple but essential message.

We live in a world where people are hurting and some are scared and need to be reminded that God loves them and God is in charge. Hopefully we can be the place that offers hope to a world that needs it right now.

I also want to say that I have heard from some people who apologize about not coming back to worship when we started. Please don't apologize—every person has a right to decide for themselves if it is safe to come to worship. We currently are limiting attendance because we care about each of you. We want people to be safe, so we have people sitting 6 feet apart, in order to socially distance. We have hand sanitizer as you enter the sanctuary in order to encourage good hygiene. We also ask people to RSVP so we know how many to expect each Sunday. Our seating capacity in the sanctuary is not the same as it was a year ago. Hopefully at some point in the future, we can go back to that capacity, but at the moment, we are limiting the number of households. We do continue to offer over-flow in the Institute on Sunday morning as well as worship online.

As we prepare for the fall, and the uncertainty of what it will look like, remember to pray for Gods' wisdom and to be open to the variety of places people are feeling comfortable. We need to be a church that seeks to share the love, joy and compassion with one another and our community. Be open to how you can help us minister to our community.

Blessings,
Pastor Martha

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Sundays:	11:00 AM in the Sanctuary and on YouTube live – Worship
Tuesday, Sept 1:	7:00 PM @ the Institute – Wyoming Session
Wednesday, Sept 2:	7:00 PM via Zoom – Devotion and Prayer Time
Tuesday, Sept 8:	7:00 PM @ the Institute - Deacons
Wednesday, Sept 9:	9:00 AM @ the Institute – Women’s Association Morning Circle 7:00 PM via Zoom – Devotion and Prayer Time
Wednesday, Sept 16:	7:00 PM @ The Institute – (on hold) Community Connections event 7:00 PM via Zoom – Devotion and Prayer Time
Saturday, Sept 19:	4:00 PM – 7:00 PM – Deacons’ Spaghetti Dinner
Tuesday, Sept 22:	7:30 PM @ the Institute – W. Pittston Session Meeting
Wednesday, Sept 23:	7:00 PM via Zoom – Devotion and Prayer Time
Friday, Sept 25:	Women’s Association Speaker – no dinner at the event
Wednesday, Sept 30:	7:00 PM via Zoom – Devotion and Prayer Time

NORMAL OFFICE HOURS ARE MONDAY – FRIDAY 12:30 PM – 3:30 PM

Please contact the church office by 3:00 PM Friday if you plan to worship in the sanctuary on Sunday.

John will no longer be at the office on Thursday while Dallas schools run on a hybrid schedule, but he will be checking and answering phone calls and emails. Please call before you come on Thursdays as Pastor Martha may not be at her office and the building may be locked.



September Birthdays

1	Shirley Todd	9	Kellie Terlesky	19	Thomas Darby
2	Brendon O'Donnell	10	Emerson Gromel	21	Tom Dohman
3	Ryleigh Malampy	12	Deb Malone		Annette Cheskiewicz
4	Kelce Wynder	13	Jillian Lavelle	26	Elise Schwartzenburg
5	Tom Ahearn	14	Alysia Jones	30	Carol Golecki
6	Erin Viglione	15	Jack Butts		Brian Ratchford
	Ethan Hosier	18	Sharon Harding		
			Claudia Malone		
			Donna Fortuna		

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL!

You can subscribe either by searching “First United Presbyterian Church” and looking for the familiar steeple, or follow the link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0rXFSLgCZvfu4y-C-olPw>

We are currently at 31 subscribers. When we reach 100, we can customize the channel name to something a little easier to remember! Worship services will livestream on YouTube, with a direct link available to it on the website and Facebook.

WORSHIP @ HOME

Join us for worship online! Each week at 11am, the service will be livestreamed on YouTube. Worship information is emailed out each week and available on Facebook. Please contact the church office if you want to be added to the email list.

ONLINE GIVING IS AVAILABLE!

The church has set up electronic giving through the Presbyterian Foundation, which will allow people to give online by electronic funds transfer from their bank account, or by debit or credit card. There are different ways to do this.

- **You can set up a one-time or recurring donation through our [donation page](#)** (link will also be available through our website) or
- **Download the GivePlus phone app from the App Store or Google Play** and match with First Presbyterian Church at our current address in Wyoming, PA to schedule your offering electronically with the church.

If you are unable to set up electronic giving, another way is to send a check to the church office at 40 Institute Street, Wyoming, PA 18644. The ministry and mission of our church continues, and your financial support is greatly appreciated during this time.

SUNDAY HELP

We are looking for a few volunteers who are willing to help with worship on Sunday mornings. We need volunteers to help lead worship as liturgists. We need volunteers to be ushers and escort people to their seats. We need volunteers to work the camera so we can stream the service on the internet. We need volunteers to help with projecting the worship order on the wall of the sanctuary. If you are able to assist, please let Pastor Martha know.

NEWS FROM THE TUTORING TABLE

Tutoring Table program wants to hear from you. If you are interested in helping this year, we need to know your ability to commit and what it might look like. Plans are being made, but it will not look like it has in the past. Since students will be in front of a computer screen all day, we may explore a meeting on a different day of the week. Please speak with anyone on the Tutoring Table team: Michelle Klaproth, Marge Zeigler, Erin Viglione, or BJ Ahearn.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS IN SEPTEMBER ON HOLD!

Smokey the Bear and a ranger from the Forestry Service have planned a presentation on forest fire prevention on Wednesday, September 16, 7-8 PM at the Institute. The September status for forestry service presentations has not been determined, so we are keeping it on the calendar for now, with a plan to move it to sometime in 2021 if needed. Watch our website and Facebook page for updates!

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS T-SHIRTS

A new Community Connections t-shirt has been created for our churches! It is available in all sizes and colors, and the proceeds will help to pay for giveaway shirts for kids at our Back-to-School Fair. Get yours today at: presbyterian-church-2020.itemorder.com/sale



DEACONS SPAGHETTI DINNER

Save the date! The deacons are holding a fall fundraiser Grab and Go Spaghetti Dinner: spaghetti, salad, bread, and dessert served from 4-7 PM Saturday, September 19th. Tickets sales will be available online and can be purchased in advance from the church office or any deacon for \$8/adult and \$6/child. If you are able to purchase tickets online, follow the link on the [church website](#) or follow [this direct link](#), so you can purchase your tickets in advance and schedule your pickup time. Your ticket is for a specific time to pick up your food.

If you'd like to help the deacons by making chocolate chip or sugar cookies RSVP with John in the church office so the deacons can plan for how many cookies are coming. The deacons are also looking for a few volunteers to help on Saturday, Sept 19.

WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION NEWS

The Women's Morning Circle will meet on Wednesday, September 9, at 9:00 AM with masks and social distancing. Instead of a Hostess, it will be BYOB - Bring Your Own Breakfast.

Save the date! The Women's Association will host a speaker from Operation Honduras on the evening of Friday, September 25, but without the dinner preceding it. More information will come in First News.

DEVOTIONS AND PRAYER

In an effort to stay connected, Pastor Martha will be hosting a reflection on Scripture and prayer on Wednesday at 7pm. You may join via zoom. You can log in from a computer or call in on the phone.

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us>
Meeting ID: check weekly email for meeting ID
Dial by your location
+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

JOIN TEAM SHAWN MALONE IN THE GREATER NORTHEAST PA WALK EVENT

When you walk in the Out of the Darkness Walks, you join the effort with hundreds of thousands of people to raise awareness and funds that allow the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) to invest in new research, create educational programs, advocate for public policy, and support survivors of suicide loss.

We are asking you to join Team Shawn Malone. It would be great to have you by our side as we walk to fight suicide, the 10th leading cause of death.

Please join us on this very special day and together we have a chance to make a real difference!

The NEPA Out of the Darkness Walk will take place as planned. Although things may be different pending our current circumstances, we still have a great event planned!

Event Details

Walk Date: 09/13/2020

Walk Location: Kirby Park

Check-in/Registration Time: 11:30 am

Walk Begins: 1:00 pm - Walk Ends: 3:00 pm

Online registration closes at noon (local time) the Friday before the walk. However, anyone who would like to participate can register in person at the walk from the time check-in begins until the walk starts.

If you would like to walk with us go to <http://afsp.donordrive.com> or click on the link and you can register through the team page! You can also register to be a virtual walker. If you know anyone who would be interested in joining or supporting us with a donation please share this information.

Team Shawn Malone T-Shirts are available at a cost of \$15.00 each.

Proceeds from sale of T-Shirts and/or donations will go to:

THE SHAWN C. MALONE MEMORIAL FUND

MANAGED BY THE LUZERNE FOUNDATION

<http://luzfdn.org/funds/shawn-c-malone-memorial-fund/>

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.”

Irene Amato, Bernice Ashford, Raymond & Bonnie Banaszek, Jennifer Beard, Judy Black, Nance Browdie, Judy Burke, Val Burke, Bill and Susan Butcher, Claude Collins, Florence & John Coolbaugh, Jim Coolbaugh, Dennis Dalrymple, Liza DeBlis, Maurice Dionne, Julia & Claire Emmert, Victoria Everett, Barb & David Fairbrother, Guy Fasciana, Robert Fellows, Joan & Jack Finn, Mary Claire Gallagher, Gloria Green, Amy Gromel, Ron Hagenbaugh, Linda Houck, Bonnie Hought, Barry and Grace Hosier, Di Jolley, Bill Kendall, Michelle Klaproth, Sandy Knouse, Barbara Krohmer, Maureen Krokos, Andy Kuffa, Bill Lawler, Casen Lear, Kyle & Corey Loftus, Florence Lombardo, Jessica Malone-Ciechoski, Rev. John Markarian, Dolores Martini, Cassidy Palamieri, Fulvio Ranalli, Kelly Wynder Rodgers, the Rugh family, Dorothy Rugh, Donna Salerno, Maverick Schwartzenburg, Cheryl Scott, Dakota Segeda, Alberta Simonson, Douglas Skene, William Sommerville, Teresa Stacchiotti, Joan Tilley, Nora Terran, Patricia & Rich Tolladay, Henrietta Timinski, Mark and Sharon Weber, Shirley Weber, Amy Wiggins, Jennifer Williams, Jim Williams, Mark & Ann Williams, Aiden Williamson, April Williamson, Donna Wolicki, Adelaide, Brenda, Dennis, Frank, John Jr., Kennedy, Marlene, Sally, Zack.

Let Us Also Pray for our servicemen and women, for peace in the Middle East, for victims of the storms, for the worldwide church and for members and friends of our church in need of our prayers and concern – Shirley Butler, Rev. Carol Coleman, Duane Dicker, Darren Michael Eaton, Ruth Eaton, Cathy Fleming, Jennifer Helfrich, Edie Kanaske, Thad Kanaske, Matt Ross, Mary Williams, Anita Yurek.

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 2018:

For Just Work

*God, who labored creation into being,
we give thanks for this day
and the opportunity to work in your world.
Grant us the strength of labor
for what is right, just, and fair.
Grant us the wisdom to speak out
for those who are enslaved,
oppressed, and exploited.
Grant us the ability to break
the chains of injustice
and hear the voices of people long silenced.
As we seek to work in your world this day,
help us make it a better place for all.
In Jesus' name we pray. AMEN.*

For Students

*Eternal God,
your wisdom is greater
than our minds can attain,
and your truth confounds our learning.
To those who study,
give curiosity, imagination,
and patience enough to wait
and work for insight.
Help them to doubt with courage,
but to hold all their doubts
in the larger faith
of Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.*

SCRIPTURE READINGS for SEPT. 2020

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

Tuesday, Sept 1:	Psalm 83:1-4	Exodus 5:1-6:13	Revelation 3:7-13	
Wednesday, Sept 2:	Psalm 83:13-18	Exodus 7:14-25		Matthew 12:22-32
Thursday, Sept 3:	Psalm 149	Exodus 9:1-7	2 Corinthians 12:11-21	
Friday, Sept 4:	Psalm 119:25-32	Exodus 10:21-29	Romans 10:15b-21	
Saturday, Sept 5:	Psalm 119:33-40	Exodus 11:1-10		Matthew 23:29-36
Sunday, Sept 6:	Psalm 149	Exodus 12:1-14	Romans 13:8-14	Matthew 18:15-20
Monday, Sept 7:	Psalm 121:1-4	Exodus 12:14-28	1 Peter 2:11-17	
Tuesday, Sept 8:	Psalm 121:5-8	Exodus 12:29-42	Romans 13:1-7	
Wednesday, Sept 9:	Psalm 103:8-13	Exodus 13:1-10		Matthew 21:18-22
Thursday, Sept 10:	Psalm 114:1-4	Exodus 13:17-22	1 John 3:11-16	
Friday, Sept 11:	Psalm 114:5-8	Exodus 14:1-18	Acts 7:9-16	
Saturday, Sept 12:	Psalm 103:13-22	Exodus 15:19-21		Matthew 6:7-15
Sunday, Sept 13:	Psalm 103:(1-7), 8-13	Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21	Romans 14:1-12	Matthew 18:21-35
Monday, Sept 14:	Psalm 77	Joshua 3:1-17	Hebrews 11:23-29	
Tuesday, Sept 15:	Psalm 77	Nehemiah 9:9-15	Romans 14:13-15:2	
Wednesday, Sept 16:	Psalm 77		2 Kings 2:1-18	Mark 11:20-25
Thursday, Sept 17:	Psalm 145:1-3	Exodus 15:22-27	2 Corinthians 13:1-4	
Friday, Sept 18:	Psalm 145:4-8	Exodus 16:1-21	2 Corinthians 13:5-10	
Saturday, Sept 19:	Psalm 105:1-6	Exodus 16:22-30		Matthew 19:23-30
Sunday, Sept 20:	Psalm 105:37-45	Exodus 16:2-15	Philippians 1:21-30	Matthew 20:1-16
Monday, Sept 21:	Psalm 106:1-5	Exodus 16:31-35	Romans 16:1-16	
Tuesday, Sept 22:	Psalm 106:6-12	Numbers 11:1-9	Romans 16:17-20	
Wednesday, Sept 23:	Psalm 119:97-104	Numbers 11:18-23, 31-32;		Matthew 18:1-5
Thursday, Sept 24:	Psalm 78:1-4	Isaiah 48:17-21	James 4:11-16	
Friday, Sept 25:	Psalm 78:8-11	Numbers 20:1-13	Acts 13:32-41	
Saturday, Sept 26:	Psalm 78:12-16	Numbers 27:12-14		Mark 11:27-33
Sunday, Sept 27:	Psalm 25:1-9	Exodus 17:1-7	Philippians 2:1-13	Matthew 31:23-32
Monday, Sept 28:	Psalm 28:1-5	Exodus 18:1-12	Philippians 1:3-14	
Tuesday, Sept 29:	Psalm 28:6-9	Exodus 18:13-27	Philippians 1:15-21	
Wednesday, Sept 30:	Psalm 42	Exodus 19:9b-25		Matthew 9:2-8
Thursday, Oct 1:	Psalm 19:1-6	Exodus 23:1-9	Colossians 2:16-23	
Friday, Oct 2:	Psalm 19:7-14	Exodus 23:14-19	Philippians 2:14-18; 3:1-4a	
Saturday, Oct 3:	Psalm 144	Exodus 23:10-13		John 7:40-52
Sunday, Oct 4:	Psalm 80:7-15	Exodus 20:1-4,7-9,12-20	Philippians 3:4b-14	Matthew 21:33-46
Monday, Oct 5:	Psalm 119:49-56	Deuteronomy 5:1-21	1 Peter 2:4-10	

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CURRENT RESIDENT OR