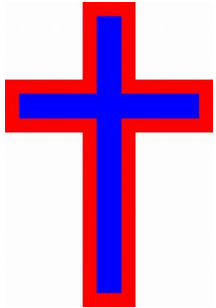


Community Presbyterian Church

1100 College Avenue

July/August 2022



Pastor's Corner

As I write this, I am participating (virtually, at the moment, in person at the end of the month) as a Commissioner to the 225th Presbyterian Church (USA) General Assembly, representing the Presbytery of the Inland Northwest. GA is the biennial denomination-wide gathering in which business is conducted that directs and guides our church into the future.

This is the third GA I've been a part of in some form. As a high school student, our pastor took our youth group to see the General Assembly in action for a day, and I remember feeling excited and energized by what I experienced. While in seminary I attended GA, where I gained a deeper appreciation for what it means to be a connectional church. Now I am not simply attending, but I am serving as a Teaching Elder Commissioner, and my votes will help determine the direction of our denomination into a challenging and uncertain future. And once again, I am grateful for and energized by the thoughtfulness, faithfulness and diversity of those who, like me, consider the Presbyterian Church (USA) my church home.

It's hard to explain the experience, so I simply encourage all of you to experience it yourselves, whether by watching some of it online, or—even better—making yourself available at some point in the future to serve as a Commissioner representing our Presbytery. By doing so, you will exemplify one of the most powerful characteristics of our Presbyterian form of government: a Commissioner from a small

church like St Maries Community Presbyterian has equal say, equal vote, and equal opportunity to determine the direction of our denomination as any Pastor or member of any PCUSA church, large or small.

In these difficult and uncertain times, spending the day in the presence of our Presbyterian brothers and sisters served as a balm to the anxiety I've been feeling regarding the state of the world. I am reminded that there is goodness and joy in the world, there is love overflowing, God is at work even now, and we are a part of it.

If you'd like to follow the work of GA, you can learn more at www.oga.pcusa.org

Pastor John



Liz Hughes	07/05
Charlie Treloar	07/06
Crys Harpole	07/09
Eric Besaw	07/11
Carrie Scott	07/11
Chandler Wheeler	07/11
Angela Chandler	07/15
Shirley Williams	07/16
Stacie Lamb	07/19
Tei'Anna Osborn	07/22
Kathleen Cook	07/23
John Hughes	07/28





Ayana Spier	08/03
Margie Gannon	08/06
Jim Scourey	08/06
Jane Thornes	08/07
Alan Daniels	08/09
Donna Spier	08/10
Lana Schumacker	08/14
Marianne Besaw	08/22
Ginny Oakes	08/23
Enola Turner	08/23



The first 4th of July

Things didn't happen overnight. It took years for the final draft of the Declaration to be written. At the same time, the American Revolution was taking place. The draft was finally accepted on July 4, 1776. Over the next month, the document was read to the public and people celebrated whenever they heard it. In 1783 the war finally ended and Independence Day was made an official holiday.



God is
Still writing
your story.
Quit trying to
steal the pen.
Trust the author.



Three Pastors in the south were having lunch in a diner. One of them said, "You know, since



summer started I've been having trouble with them flying bats in my loft and attic at church. I've tried everything, but nothing seems to scare them off.

Another pastor said "Yes, me too. I've got hundreds living in my belfry and in the narthex attic. I've even had the place fumigated, and they won't go away!"



The third pastor said, "I baptized all mine, made them members of the church, and I haven't seen one back since!"



VBS is here!
"God's Wonder Lab"
July 11-14.
9:00-11:30 a.m.
Monday - Thursday



Open to all children K - 6th
Registration is available online or in person.



THE BIG CALENDAR



As most of you know, there is a big calendar on the bulletin board near the office. It is where upcoming meetings and special events are written so scheduling conflicts don't occur...and where everyone can see what's coming up

or if a date is free. It's also where Marjorie can find the information for each week's bulletin. We need to try to keep it updated.

Case in point: we usually have the 3rd Sunday of the month set aside for potlucks after church. There was a notation "Potluck?" on the sign-up sheet for June 19th - the 3rd Sunday.

However, because it was Father's Day, the decision had been made to move the potluck to June 26th. **BUT**, it wasn't clarified on the calendar or the sign-up sheet, and this created confusion.

There will be **NO** potluck July or August.



WHAT?!?!? You jest!

No! It will be here sooner than you think! Let's start preparing for our 41st Annual Bazaar.



GRACE

Part 1

Grace to You

By Ethan Raath

(PCUSA.ORG)

One day a young mother wanted to talk about her reawakening faith. In the course of the conversation, I suggested that God's Spirit was at work in her life, trying to get her attention, trying to "woo" her.

Reflecting on this image later, she said, "I was really tickled by the idea of God courting me. I have this image of God sitting patiently on the swing bench on the porch, while I'm upstairs trying to fix my hair and finish my makeup. I guess it's time I came downstairs and invited God in."

Grace is God's goodwill and favor reaching out to redeem us.

God's grace is like that — God "woos" us, calls us into a relationship of love. God's grace draws us to God, justifies us by faith in Jesus Christ, and sanctifies and empowers us by the Holy Spirit.

Grace is defined as favor, blessing, or goodwill offered by one who does not need to do so. It is unearned and undeserved favor. In our sinful condition as humans, undeserving as we are of God's love, it is God's goodwill and favor reaching out to redeem us.

Covenant grace — God's pursuing love

Covenant grace is God's love pursuing us and calling us into a relationship of love. The early Reformers spoke of predestination as God's grace selecting those who would be saved. But predestination in this sense does not take into account our free will, our freedom to accept or reject God's offer of a relationship, or the fact that grace is freely offered to all. Scripture must be interpreted in the overall light of God's love, and we affirm that "the Lord is not slow about his promise, ... but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9).

The Westminster Confession of Faith also affirms this:

Concerning those who are saved in Christ, the doctrine of God's eternal decree is held in harmony with the doctrine of [God's] love for all [humankind], [God's] gift of [God's] Son to be the propitiation for the sins of the whole world, and [God's] readiness to bestow [God's] saving grace on all who seek it; that concerning those who perish, the doctrine of God's eternal decree is held in harmony with the doctrine that God desires not the death of any sinner, but has provided in Christ a salvation sufficient for all, adapted to all, and freely offered in the gospel to all; that men [and women] are fully responsible for their treatment of God's gracious offer; that [God's] decree hinders no [one] from accepting that offer; and that no [one] is condemned except on the ground of his [or her] sin.

With this understanding of grace, we are all predestined to be saved if we repent of our sins and accept by faith the relationship of love that God offers to us.

BIBLE WORD SEARCH - FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT

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

All the words are in the puzzle - left, right, down or diagonally. Find each word and circle its first and last letter, drawing a line between. After you have found all the words, take the leftover letters in the correct order to form the mystery answer.

BLAMELESS
 CONSIDERATE
 GENTLENESS
 GRATEFUL
 LEARN
 MEEKNESS
 SUBMISSIVE
 VIRTUES

CHRIST-LIKE
 COURAGEOUS
 GIFTS
 HEALTHY
 LOVE
 OBEDIENCE
 SURRENDER
 WISDOM

COMPASSION
 FORGIVING
 GOODNESS
 HUMILITY
 LOYALTY
 PRAYERFUL
 TOLERANCE

CONFIDENT
 FRUIT
 GRACIOUS
 JOY
 MEDITATION
 RESPECT
 TRUSTWORTHY

— — — — —

June mystery word - FELLOWSHIP

Tahini Halva

A vegan dessert that requires 4-5 ingredients and 15 minutes to make. So easy and delicious and it keeps fresh for months. You can't beat that. Make some tahini halva for your family today.

Ingredients

1½ cups tahini paste

1 tsp. vanilla

¼ tsp. salt

1½ cups granulated sugar

½ cup water

Optional: ¼ cup chopped nuts (pistachios, almonds, or your favorite nuts) or chocolate chips

Heat sugar and water to 240 degrees. Use a candy thermometer.....don't guess!

Remove from heat.

Mix tahini, vanilla and salt in large bowl.

Drizzle the sugar water into the tahini mixture very slowly and stir as you drizzle.

Do NOT over-mix or it will become very dry and hard.

Tahini Halva #2

Ingredients

2 cups honey 1½ cups tahini, well stirred to combine

Up to 2 cups toasted slice almonds or other nuts (optional)

Heat honey on medium heat until your candy or instant read thermometer reads 240° F, or indicates the "soft ball" stage of candy making. To confirm that you are at the "soft ball" stage, drop a bit of honey into a cup of cold water. It should form a sticky and soft ball that flattens when removed from the water.

Have the tahini ready to heat in a separate small pot, and once the honey is at the appropriate temperature, set the honey aside and heat the tahini to 120° F.

Add the warmed tahini to the honey and mix with a wooden spoon to combine. At first it will look separated but after a few minutes, the mixture will come together smoothly.

Add the nuts, if using. Continue to mix until the mixture to stiffen, for a good 6-8 minutes. Pour mixture into well-greased loaf pan or into a greased cake pan with a removable bottom.

Let cool to room temperature and wrap tightly with plastic wrap. Leave in the refrigerator for up to 36 hours. This will allow the sugar crystals to form, which will give the halvah its distinctive texture.

Invert to remove from pan and cut into pieces with a sharp knife.

Will keep for months in the refrigerator, tightly wrapped in plastic – if you don't eat it all first!

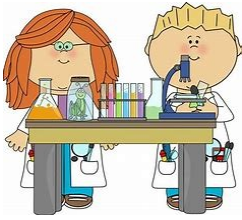
Community Presbyterian Church

VBS Registration Form

Theme: God's Wonder Lab

July 11-14, 2022

9-11:30 am



Child's Name _____

Parent/Guardian's name _____

Address _____

Phone Numbers

Home _____

Cell _____

Work _____

Email _____

Birth Date _____

Age _____

Grade entering in the fall _____ (Open to children entering K through grade 6 in fall)

Allergies/Medical/other information we need to know:

Emergency Contacts (Other than listed above)

Name _____

Phone _____

Name _____

Phone _____

Who may pick up your child at the end of each VBS day? _____

Home Church _____

May we have permission to photograph your child? YES NO

May we have permission to use your child's photograph for the purpose of promotion, on Facebook and in the newspaper? YES NO

Program for families on Thursday at 11:00. Free lunch for kids and families following.

Number of family members expected to attend? _____

Parent Signature: _____