

Community Presbyterian Church

1100 College Avenue

June 2022

Pastor's Corner



I've found myself lately pondering the difference between "transformation" and "change."

In my mind, the basic difference is this: "change" refers to differences that appear in something (a person, a situation, a thing), but the thing itself remains basically the same. A cottonwood or aspen tree changes significantly throughout the seasons, but it remains a cottonwood or aspen tree.

"Transformation" denotes something more essential. When something is transformed, it essentially becomes something else. Imagine a grove of cotton or aspen trees. In the winter it can be a bleak and skeletal landscape, but in the spring and summer it comes to life, and is transformed into a beautiful and verdant scene.

More concretely, perhaps it can be thought of as the difference between an update to a computer program, which introduces some improvements but looks and works pretty much the same, and an upgrade to a new version, which may look and run very differently—it is essentially a new program.

Historically, interim ministry has been considered to be primarily a "placeholder" between the departure of a pastor and the calling of a new one. A congregation continues to look and act pretty much the same, and in interim pastor who tried to introduce too many changes did so at his or her peril!

In the PCUSA (and many other churches, businesses and organizations) there is a shift underway to explore how these "in-between times" might be seen not just in terms of a change in pastors, but as opportunities to examine, reflect and engage in how God might be calling a congregation to be transformed into something new.

In Romans 12:2 Paul writes, "Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what

is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect." What Paul is saying, I think, is that as individuals and as congregations, we should not limit ourselves to reflecting changing times or circumstances that occur around us, but rather open ourselves to the possibility that God is calling us to be and act in fundamentally different ways. God, after all, is always creating something new, and calls us to be partners in bringing about God's Kingdom on earth.

We recently celebrated this congregation's rich and vibrant 110 year history. Celebrating and honoring our past, however, does not mean remaining conformed to it. As the Pastor Nominating Committee carries out its charge to discern who God is calling to guide and walk alongside this congregation as its Pastor, all of us—including me!—are called to open ourselves up to what *new and transformative* ways of being Christ's church in St. Mary's God might be leading us to.

Being part of God's ongoing process of creation and transformation...what could be more exciting, fulfilling, and important than that as people seeking to be faithful to Jesus Christ?

— Pastor John



Mick Weinmann	6/02
Mark Harpole	6/03
Stanley Cook	6/11
Leon Esmay	6/15
Jim Martin	6/15
Boni Schueller	6/16
Ryan Barbour	6/18



PENTECOST JUNE 5

Wear red!

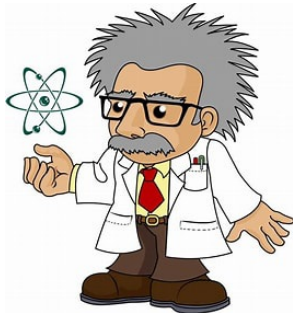
On the Day of Pentecost we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit descending in a mighty rush of wind and flame to inspire the church's proclamation of Christ's rising and to empower its mission and ministry to the world. (See Acts 2:1-13; see also Joel 2:28-32.)

The notion of Easter as a season of 50 days ending at Pentecost is patterned after the ancient Jewish festival of seven weeks that extended from the beginning of the barley harvest (on the second day after the beginning of Passover) to the end of the wheat harvest at the Festival of Weeks or Shavuot (see Deuteronomy 16:9-12). The Festival of Weeks later came to be called Pentecost ("50th day") by Greek speaking Jews. In Jewish tradition, Shavuot also marks the giving of the law to Moses at Sinai; this liturgical link may inform Paul's discussions of the law and the Spirit (see Romans 8, 2 Corinthians 3 and Galatians 3).

—pcusa.org

Better Than Einstein

At the conclusion of the sermon, the worshipers filed out of the sanctuary to greet the minister. As one of them left, he shook the minister's hand, thanked him for the sermon and said, "Thanks for the message, Reverend. You know, you must be smarter than Einstein." Beaming with pride, the minister said, "Why, thank you, brother!"



As the week went by, the minister began to think about the man's compliment. The more he thought, the more he became baffled as to why anyone would deem him smarter than Einstein. So he decided to ask the man the following Sunday.

The next Sunday he asked the parishioner if he remembered the previous Sunday's comment about the sermon. The parishioner replied that he did. The minister asked: "Exactly what did you mean that I must be smarter than Einstein?"

The man replied, "Well, Reverend, they say that Einstein was so smart that only ten people in the entire world could understand him. But Reverend, no one can understand you."



Leon (the Younger) Armstrong &
Bill (the Caregiver) Cowin
with birthday flowers, 5/22/22

MORE CHRISMONS

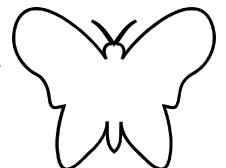


Both of these symbols represent the Christian 'Trinity' of God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. **The Triquetra** is made of three loops making a triangle representing the three parts of the trinity. **The Trefoil** is three equal circles intertwined to form a whole.



The Dove is the symbol of peace and the Holy Spirit. It is shown pointing down to represent the Holy Spirit that appeared as a Dove when Jesus was baptised.

The Butterfly is a symbol for transformation and the immortal soul.



Session Highlights from May Meeting

We will be posting highlights from session meetings and financial statements in a binder in the church narthex for you to peruse and be aware of what is going on in Community Presbyterian Church here in St. Maries.

- We will return to passing the communion elements down the pews beginning in June.
- The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) has been working diligently. They have been reading dossiers of applicants. Please pray for the PNC.
- Pinky Humphrey is organizing a Women's Tea for the fall. More information will be coming on that..
- The video from the 110th anniversary celebration will be available soon for you to see at church and maybe at home. Thank you, Nisha, for putting that together.
- Building & Grounds will continue to brainstorm ways to replace money being used for church exterior painting and replacing the front walkway to the front doors.(If you have ideas contact Bill Cowin or John Hughes.)
- Building and Grounds committee will consider options for the lot across the street.
- Worship committee will be encouraging our young people to participate during worship services.
- We will be collecting a special Pentecost Offering in June. Our 40% will be sent to Samaritan's Purse to be used with refugee relief for Ukrainians.
- Sunday School will run through the end of May. After School Programs are finished for this school year.
- Vacation Bible School is planned for July 11-14. Theme is: God's Wonder Lab. If you would like to help, contact Jane Thornes.
- Do we want to sponsor a rummage sale this summer? If so, contact Jane.

– Jane Thornes

From Charlie and Sandy's Housemate

Note: In 2020, the church donated \$100 and the Wednesday Bible Study also donated \$100 to Dawn to help with her airfare to Georgia. Then COVID stopped that in its tracks. Following is a message from Dawn:

"I want to give all of you my deepest thanks for your support and prayers in what has been a most difficult time. Due to your kindness and support, I was finally able to go to Georgia to visit with my father this past February. It was a short but wonderful visit.

I also want to thank all of you for keeping my family in your prayers. My Dad passed away peacefully on 05/06/22 at approximately 4 am EST. I was very fortunate to have been able to speak and video chat with him almost daily during his last days. All of which is providing me some comfort.

Sincerely,

Dawn de Bruyn"



* * * * *

Vacation Bible School

VBS is coming soon!



"God's Wonder Lab" will be held at CPC July 11-14. Hours will be 9:00-11:30 a.m., Monday - Thursday.

Children in small groups will be led through Bible lessons and challenges, crafts, games, science experiments, and a snack time. There will be opening and closing assemblies for the entire group each day. On Thursday at 11:30, parents are invited to attend the final closing assembly, then stay for fellowship and a free meal with their children.

This event will be open to all children entering grades kindergarten through grade 6 in the fall. Children will be learning Bible verses and stories and **"God Does the Impossible."**

Registration will be available online or in person.
More details coming soon.

Adults and older youth-- if you would like to volunteer
to help, contact Jane Thornes.

JUNE 19



Mission Committee



Check out the mission bulletin board for current news from our sponsored Compassion child Joenel, our sister church in Yakutat Alaska, Presbyterian sponsored missionaries to Guatemala - Betsey and Eric Moe, and other groups we sponsor. We try to keep

our current correspondence there for all to see. Please remember to sign up to support a month or his birthday for Joenel. The sign-up is on the mission bulletin board outside the sanctuary door. It costs just \$38 a month to send to Compassion. Also remember to pay if you sign up.

It is not too soon to start collecting items for the Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes. We will be ordering our supply soon so you can pick up yours early. The cost to send each box has gone up a dollar this year to \$10 to cover increased costs to ship, train volunteers in over 100 countries, to purchase Bibles and materials for the children (in their own languages), and the 2 week long lessons after they receive the boxes.

We will be collecting a special Pentecost Offering in June. The church keeps 40% of the offering and that

will be going to Samaritan's Purse to be used for Ukrainian refugee relief.

JUNE 14

In the United States, Flag Day is celebrated on June 14. It commemorates the adoption of the flag of the United States on June 14, 1777, by resolution of the Second Continental Congress. The Flag Resolution, passed on June 14, 1777, stated: "Resolved, That the flag of the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation."[



The United States Army also celebrates the U.S. Army birthday on this date; Congress adopted "the American continental army" after reaching a consensus position in the Committee of the Whole on June 14, 1775.

CRAFTY LADY

I cancelled out the paper.
I stopped the milkman, too.
I fired my trusty gardener.
My own hair I now do.
The only thing I buy now
Each time the eagle flies,
Are the necessary groceries
And a ton of craft supplies!
– Gail Brown



\$\$\$ Finances at a Glance \$\$\$

	April 2022	YTD
Operating Income	\$7,887	\$33,368
Operating Expenses	<u>7,820</u>	<u>29,070</u>
Income (Loss)	<u>\$ 67</u>	<u>\$ 4,298</u>

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The Worship Committee

is reminding everyone be sure to sign-up on the bulletin board to participate in our Sunday services: giving flowers; hosting coffee hour; being candle lighters or reading Scripture.

Our Youth are invited to be greeters at the front door; assist with collecting the offering; and singing. We will be having a class on how to tend to the oil candles, trimming wicks, cleaning the lighting holders, etc soon....as we get older, we are needing some more helpers to know how. Contact Pastor John, or Penny if you might be interested in learning!



Panhandle Health

Isaiah 44:22

I have swept away your offenses like a cloud, your sins like the morning mist. Return to me, for I have redeemed you."



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Ephesians 2:8-9

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast.

ACCEPT THE GIFT

Little Bobby was spending the weekend with his grandmother. His grandmother decided to take him to the park on Saturday morning. It had been snowing all night and everything was beautiful.

His grandmother remarked... "doesn't it look like an artist painted this scenery? Did you know God painted this just for you?"

Bobby said, "Yes, God did it and he did it left handed."

This confused his grandmother a bit, and she asked him "What makes you say God did this with his left hand?"

"Well," said Bobby, "we learned at Sunday School last week that Jesus sits on God's right hand!"

BIBLE WORD SEARCH - PENTECOST & THE EARLY CHURCH

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

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.

AMAZED
BREAD
DEVOTION
FIRE
LANGUAGE
POWER
SERMON
THOUSANDS
WITNESS

ANOINTED
BRETHREN
ENDOWED
GALILEANS
MIRACLES
PREACHING
SIGNS
THOUSANDS

BAPTIZED
CROWD
FAITHFUL
HEALING
MULTITUDE
PROPHECY
SINS
TOGETHER

BELIEVERS
DETERMINED
FILLED
JERUSALEM
PERPLEXED
SALVATION
TEACHINGS
UPPER ROOM

MYSTERY WORD

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MAY MYSTERY WORD: CALVARY

Israel Food Recipes

Compliments of the Carpenters and Besaws

Nummy Israeli Hummus

2 cups	garbanzo beans, drained and rinsed. (reserve the liquid)
2 cloves	garlic, minced
1/3 cup	tahini
1/4 cup	lemon juice (fresh if you have lemons)
1 tsp	sea salt
1 Tbsp	olive oil

Place all ingredients into food processor and blend until smooth (add small amounts of garbanzo liquid if needed). I also added a little more olive oil until it was just right.

Scrape hummus out of processor into dish, you may sprinkle paprika on top if desired.

Israeli Couscous with Spinach & Mushrooms

2 Tablespoons olive oil	6 cups spinach
1 cup yellow onion, sliced	1/2 tsp sea salt
2 cloves garlic, minced	1/2 tsp black pepper
1 1/2 cups baby portobello mushrooms	1/4 cup vegetable broth

Couscous: 1 Tablespoon olive oil; 1cup Israeli couscous; 2 cups water

In a large pot, bring 2 Tbsp of oil to medium heat. Add onion and saute for 3-5 minutes. Add garlic, saute 2 minutes.

Add mushrooms and saute for 5 minutes.

Add spinach, salt and pepper, and broth and stir to combine. Cover and cook till spinach is wilted..about 5 minutes. Remove from heat and set aside.

Couscous: put 2 Tsp olive oil in fry pan and heat. Add couscous and stir till all is coated and starts to smell toasted. Then add the 2 cups water and bring to boil. Once boiling, decrease heat to a simmer and cover, cook for about 10 minutes. Drain off liquid. Combine couscous with spinach/mushroom mixture and stir to combine.