

Community Presbyterian Church

1100 College Avenue

July/August

Pastor's Corner



I write this last Pastor's Corner newsletter article with mixed emotions.

This newsletter was an unexpected gift when God touched Sandy and Charlie's heart to start it in March 2020. Looking back, God had already provided an additional way for us to stay in touch when we closed the building and met virtually. God is so good by providing us with a new thing right in the middle of a very uncertain time.

God is like that, always doing something new. God says "See I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?" And too often our answer is no, God, we don't see it! We aren't aware of it. And we can't understand it! But God says to us..."I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. God makes a path and a way forward into what appears to be a desert. I will make streams of water in the dry and empty land". (Is 43:19)

Where there was desolation and despair, God brings living water. Like the unexpected water that springs from the rocky cliffs up the Joe, God will make a way. Remember, the Joe has been flowing for over a 1000 years and God is even more dependable.

I trust this about God in the middle of my transition to retirement and a new location. My

eyes will be looking for unexpected paths when the way seems rocky and dry. And I will keep my eyes on Jesus.

I shared this thought with Session. In 2 Chronicles Chapter 20, a great force is coming against the Israelites. They are scared. They feel powerless and helpless. They are sure they do not have enough strength to face this enemy. Then they pray Lord, "We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on You." They were facing a massive army but we can substitute the great enemy forces of doubt, division and discouragement. When encountering those forces, pray as they did: Lord, we do not know what to do, but our eyes are on You." (2 Chron. 20:12)

I so am grateful God called Leo and I here. I thank God for the opportunity to be in ministry with you. Together, we have worshiped, prayed, served and loved Jesus. Together we have laughed, cried, debated, hugged, shared meals, set up events, comforted the grieving, the homeless, the hopeless the hungry and above all, been faithful to God.

I love you and will miss each of you and this amazing, loving, compassionate congregation. You are in my prayers.

In Christ,
Pastor Janet

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all, now and forever more. (2 Chronicles 13:14)



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



Ayana Spier	08/03
Margie Gannon	08/06
Jane Thornes	08/07
Donna Spier	08/10
Lana Schumacker	08/14
Emma Fitzgerald	08/19
Marianne Beshaw	08/22
Ginny Oakes	08/23
Enola Spier	08/23

July 11
Celebrations for
Pastor Janet and Leo



Retirement Celebration meal for the congregation after worship.

12:30 Farewell Reception open to the community.

What's next?

The Session is already working on hiring an Interim pastor. After the Interim is in place, there will normally be a Mission Study. This is a process of asking Who is God calling us to be? How are we to prepare for that? It involves taking a Look at our vision,



mission, values, goals, strengths, and the needs around us, and discern God's purpose for this congregation.

While that is going on, the Session will assess finances, a Pastor Nominating Committee will be formed and voted on by the congregation.

How can I help?

*** Pray for the Session:**

Mike, Penny, Rayna, John, Jane, Linda



*** The pastor that God is calling**
 (The Lord already knows who they will be!)

*** The congregation**

**** Offer resources** you have- for example an apartment or home for the interim to live in, additional finances, hospitality, faithfulness.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take. Proverbs 3:5-6 NLT

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A Brief History of the Presbyterian Church

The Christian church's birth was at Pentecost, as described in the Book of Acts. At Pentecost the Jewish disciples of Jesus proclaimed the Gospel to people of many cultures and languages. By the middle of the first century, the church was made up of Jewish and Gentile



believers who worshiped God, in the name of Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit. The church began to grow rapidly throughout the region we now know as the Middle East, even through hardship and persecution from the Roman Empire.

During the fourth century, after more than 300 years of persecution under various Roman emperors, the church became established as a political as well as a spiritual power under the



Emperor Constantine. The church became strong in the east (Greek-speaking) and the west (Latin-Speaking) regions of the Roman Empire and beyond. Among the greats of the east was Athanasius and among the greats of the west was Augustine. Eventually the western portions of Europe came under the religious and political authority of the Roman Catholic Church. Eastern Europe and parts of Asia came under the authority of the Eastern Orthodox Church.

During the Middle Ages a number of mystics emerged, including Julian of Norwich, who have shaped the spirituality of many Christians.



In western Europe, the authority of the Roman Catholic Church remained largely unquestioned until the Renaissance in the 15th century. The invention of the printing press in Germany around 1440 made it possible for common people to have access to printed materials including the Bible. This, in turn, enabled many to discover religious thinkers who had begun to question the authority of the Roman Catholic Church. One such figure, Martin Luther, a German priest and professor, started the movement known as the Protestant Reformation when he posted a list of 95 grievances against the Roman Catholic Church on a church door in Wittenberg, Germany, in 1517. Some 20 years later, a French/Swiss theologian, John Calvin, further refined the reformers' new way of thinking about the nature of God and God's relationship with humanity in what came to be known as Reformed theology. John Knox, a Scotsman who studied with Calvin in Geneva, Switzerland, took Calvin's teachings back to Scotland. Other Reformed communities developed in England, Holland and France. The Presbyterian church traces its ancestry back primarily to Scotland and England.

Presbyterians have featured prominently in United States history. The Rev. Francis Makemie, who arrived in the United States from Ireland in 1683, helped to organize the first American Presbytery at Philadelphia in 1706. In 1726, the Rev. William Tennent founded a ministerial "log college" in Pennsylvania. Twenty years later, the College of New Jersey (now known as Princeton University) was established. Other Presbyterian ministers, such as the Rev. Jonathan Edwards and the Rev. Gilbert Tennent, were driving forces in the so-called "Great Awakening," a revivalist movement in the early 18th century. One of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, the Rev. John Witherspoon, was a

Presbyterian minister and the president of Princeton University from 1768-1793.

In the early years of the 19th century, the movement known as the Second Great Awakening began around the celebration of Presbyterian communion services. This movement spread rapidly and gave birth to the camp meeting movement in the United States. Presbyterians became more of a town church in this period as small towns began to grow in the previously rural areas.

Continued September

Sunday, July 4



Potluck at
Dennis &
Pinky Humphrey's

Sunday,

1 AUG

Potluck at
Jim &
Jane Thornes'

The Old Coot On The Moped

An elderly man on a Moped, looking about 100 years old, pulls up next to a doctor at a street light. The old man looks over at the sleek shiny car and asks, 'What kind of car ya got there, sonny?' The doctor replies, 'A Ferrari GTO. It cost half a million dollars!' 'That's a lot of money,' says the old man. 'Why does it cost so much?' 'Because this car can do up to 320 miles an hour!' states the doctor proudly. The Moped driver asks, 'Mind if I take a look inside?' 'No problem,' replies the doctor. So the old man pokes his head in the window and looks around. Then, sitting back on his Moped, the old man says, 'That's a pretty nice car, all right... But I'll stick with my Moped!'



Just then the light changes, so the doctor decides to show the old man just what his car can do. He floors it, and within 30 seconds the speedometer reads 160 mph. Suddenly, he notices a dot in his rear view mirror. It seems to be getting closer!

He slows down to see what it could be and suddenly WHOOOSSSHHH! Something whips by him going much faster! 'What on earth could be going faster than my Ferrari?' the doctor asks himself. He presses harder on the accelerator and takes the Ferrari up to 250 mph. Then, up ahead of him, he sees that it's the old man on the Moped! Amazed that the Moped could pass his Ferrari, he gives it more gas and passes the Moped at 275 mph. He's feeling pretty good until he looks in his mirror and sees the old man gaining on him AGAIN!

Astounded by the speed of this old guy, he floors the gas pedal and takes the Ferrari all the way up to 320 mph. Not ten seconds later, he sees the Moped bearing down on him again! The Ferrari is flat out, and there's nothing he can do! Suddenly, the Moped plows into the back of his Ferrari, demolishing the rear end.

The doctor stops and jumps out and, unbelievably, the old man is still alive. He runs up to the banged-up old guy and says, 'I'm a doctor.... Is there anything I can do for you?' The old man whispers, 'Unhook my suspenders from your side view mirror'



NO COFFEE HOURS JULY AND AUGUST



A decision was made at the June 13th Deacons Meeting that there will be **no Coffee Hours for the months of July and August.** After a number of requests for "Host Sign-ups", we were getting **NONE.**

A new sign-up sheet for Coffee Hour Hosts beginning in September will be posted on the bulletin board by the offices.

from Ellen Hinton....."Author Unknown"

Today, dear Lord, I'm 80, and there's much I haven't done. I hope, dear Lord, you'll let me live until I'm 81.

But then, if I haven't finished all I want to do, would you please let stay a while until I'm 82?

So many places I want to go, so very much to see. Do you think that I could manage to make it to 83?

The world is changing very fast, there is so much in store. I'd like it very much to live until I'm 84.

And if by then I'm still alive, I'd like to stay 'til 85!

More planes will be in the air, so I would like to stick and see what happens to the world when I turn 86.

I know, dear Lord, it's much to ask (and it must be nice in Heaven). But I'd really like to stay here until I'm 87.

I know by then I won't be fast, and sometimes I'll be late. But it would be so pleasant to be here at 88.

I will have seen so many things and had a wonderful time, so I'm sure that I'd be willing to leave when I'm 89.

Just one more thing I'd like to say: Dear Lord, I thank You kindly, but if it's okay with You, I'd love to live past 90!


 For I am the
LORD
 your God,
 Who holds your
 right hand, and says
Don't ^{be} afraid
I will help you.

ISAIAH 41:13