



# PRESBY BEACON



*"Shining the Light of Christ in the Mon Valley"*

July 2020

## From the Pastor:

We are all tired. We are tired of hearing about COVID-19, about unrest, about violence; tired of being separated from those we love, of being fearful of getting sick. We are tired of arguing and politics and everything else that divides us. But most of all, I know that I am tired of letting the powers of this world affect me and those around me. You see, viruses are real—exaggerated or not. Politics are a fact of life. Fear surrounds and tries to control us. And there are days when we just drop out of fatigue and exhaustion. I hope you aren't there. I have been a few times in the past few months.

The Early Church had its own version of what's happening today. The Greeks didn't like the Jews and the Jews didn't like the Greeks. About the only thing they agreed on was persecuting the followers of Jesus! And above all of that, the believers had to deal with Rome, which ruled them all. Just as we experience the uncertainty around us, they had to deal with uncertainty in their lives. Just as we see unrest and lives torn apart, they, too, saw the same. If things have not changed that greatly, I have to ask: How did they get through?

First, the Apostle Paul said that *"I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength"* (Philippians 4:11-13). He learned the aspect of resting in God's hands and learning to live in the moment, knowing that God is with us.

Earlier in the chapter he says: "Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (vv. 5-7).

Paul exhorted them to rest in God's care, to do all they could and then wait for God to move. But he also encouraged them to make a difference for others. In Galatians 6:2 he said: "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ," and in Philippians 2:4 he said, "Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others."

We at FPC have a history of relying on God and caring for one another and the community. Even if it seems that everything around you is falling apart, remember that your Foundation—Jesus Christ—can never crumble or fail. Rest in God and continue the work of the Gospel in God's power and strength.

*Mary Kay*

The Presby Beacon is a monthly newsletter publication of the  
First Presbyterian Church

501 Fayette Street, Rostraver Twp., PA 15012

Phone: 724-929-7616 Fax: 724-929-0209

Email: [office@fpresbv.org](mailto:office@fpresbv.org) Website: [www.fpresbv.org](http://www.fpresbv.org)

Pastor: Mary Kay Glunt Editor: Natalie Brewer

 *July Birthdays* 

- 1- Dan Burkley, Rachelle Day
- 2- Chemen Callaway
- 5- Pam Applegate
- 6- Patricia Bell, Jeff Lexie
- 8- Curtis Rice
- 12- Linda Aten
- 13- Scott Jupin, Jr
- 14- William Callaway Jr., John Zunic Jr.
- 16- Lucille Rapchak, John Amoroso
- 17- Chuck Harvey, Melanie Bryner
- 20- Sherry Strenske
- 21- Terri Rodriguez, Jamie Fitzwater
- 24- Janet Deliere
- 27- Dorothy Helster
- 28- Matthew Cook
- 29- Keri Merklin, Joan Fontanelli

*Anniversaries*

- 7 Jeffrey & Jennifer Orr
- 12 Michael & Susan McElvenny
- 15 Don & Melanie Bryner
- 20 John & Lucille Rapchak
- 23 Ray & Carin Rudolph
- 30 Tanny & Janet Deliere

Pastor Mary Kay has a new  
local mobile number:  
724-243-2871  
The old one works, too!

**LITTLE THINGS  
FOR LITTLE PEOPLE**

The program is continuing to help families in need in Belle Vernon and the surrounding areas. It was closed during the pandemic, and arrangements were made to take orders from families and deliver to their cars during the June distribution day. It will start up again on September 24, and our church will send the volunteers to help. Currently, they are in need of the following items to restock the shelves: baby hygiene items (such as soap, lotion, wipes, shampoo) and diapers of all sizes, as well as infant clothing. There is a box in the Narthex to collect items for this program. For more information, contact Diane Boatman. Thank you to everyone who contributes.

**Communion Offerings for July and August:**

July: Running for Ryan 5K Walk/ Run  
Scholarship Program  
(even though the race had to be canceled, we are still donating to the program)  
August: S.T.A.N.D. Cal University Ministry



On Sunday, September 13th, at 10:45 AM, we will meet for worship at the Activity Center at Cedar Creek Park. We will have worship with communion followed by the church picnic. Please bring a covered a dish. The Activity Center is air-conditioned and has restrooms, and there is a large porch for those who want to eat outside. The church in biblical times always worshipped and celebrated communion as part of a meal. Table fellowship is an important part of our Christian heritage. Please come if you can.

## Worship In or Out? That Is the Question!

We have resumed live services. Three weeks in and things are going well. Some have expressed concerns about being back in church before the whole COVID-19 thing is wrapped up, and that is understandable. We do not want you to put yourself in danger or to risk heightened anxiety about being in a group. Let me describe some of the measures we are taking to ensure everyone's safety.

1. Only the rear (parking lot) door will be open.
2. A greeter will meet you at the door, so you don't have to touch a door handle that someone else has touched.
3. Everyone is required to wear a mask or a face shield to enter the building.
4. You will receive hand sanitizer as you enter.
5. Greeters will ask you to sign the friendship pad. Take a pencil from the "clean" basket, sign in, then put your pencil in the "used" basket. This helps us know who is attending and, also, provides a "tracer" element if we find that someone has gotten sick.
6. Greeters wearing gloves will give you a clean bulletin. On Communion Sundays you will receive prefilled communion cups with wafers before you go to your seat.
7. \_\_\_\_\_

Pews are marked with blue painting tape. **Every other pew is closed, and blue tape is a "no parking" zone.** Household groups or individual can sit where there is NO blue tape on the back of the pew.

8. If you choose to sing, we ask that you keep your mask or face shield on, or use your open bulletin as a shield, to prevent "spray" to others. Even though you will be approximately 12 feet apart, we want to be safe. You can also hum or just say the words to the songs aloud or to yourself. It's all worship, and God hears all of it!
9. We are not using hymnals or Bibles. Bible verses, responses, and hymns with music will appear on the screen at the front of the chancel.

If you aren't comfortable coming out to worship yet, services are still being live-streamed on Facebook and on YouTube. Videos are available on these venues after the live stream, as well. Also, we are still trying to have telephone access on Zoom and working on a different phone call program that will allow you to call in and listen to the worship service later.

Feel free to call the office with questions!

### Custodian Position

First Presbyterian Church is hiring a custodian. This is a paid, part-time position, ten (10) hours per week, with occasional extra hours preparing for and cleaning up after special events. Requires some lifting, stairs, and use of cleaning products. Confidentiality and discretion are a must. A background check and all state requirements must be met, as children may be present from time to time. References are required. Call the church office with questions. An application can be found by going to our website: [www.fpresbv.org](http://www.fpresbv.org).

### **Great News!**

If you shop online at Amazon.com, you can get those same great deals AND support the church! Simply go to this link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/25-0974301>, or go to Smile.Amazon.com and select our church as your charity. Every time you purchase through Amazon Smile, Amazon will donate 0.5% of eligible purchases back to our church! An easy way to give!





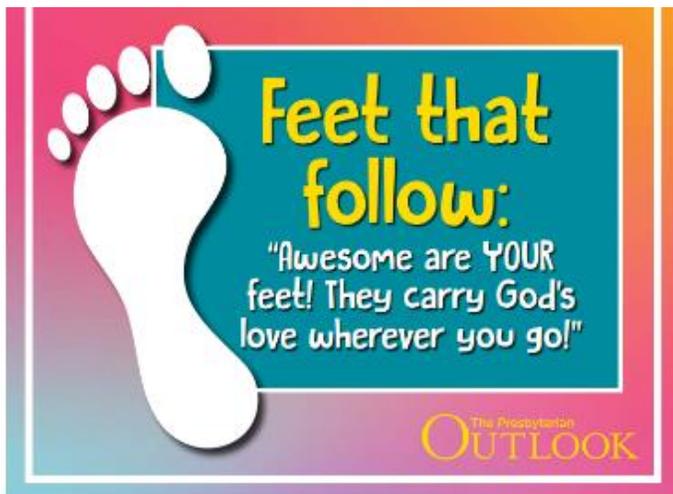
## Peach Pies



Due to COVID 19 and for the safety of everyone, we made the decision to cancel our annual Peach Festival.

**HOWEVER**, we are still planning to **sell** peach pies, and they are \$10 each. Please pick up an order form in the church or call the church office at 724-929-7616 to place an order.

***If you are willing to help bake peach pies on August 14th and/ 21st, please call the church office to let us know. This would include peeling peaches, making dough, cleaning up, boxing pies, etc. We will also need people to be on site on the two Saturdays for pickups.***



While we're not having an onsite Vacation Bible School this summer, we are having a *Staycation Bible School, July 27-31!*

This program will include video, Zoom and or Google meetings, and handouts for kids who want to participate.

**PARENTS AND HELPERS:** We will meet to plan on Tuesday, July 14th, at 7 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall. The meeting will be available on Zoom, as well. A link to the curriculum will be available on the website.

## **A message from Pine Springs Camp Family Camp(ground) Weekends**

\* July 10-12 \* July 17-19 \* July 24-26 \*  
\* July 31-August 2 \*

We understand that NOTHING can take the place of the 2020 Summer Camp season. BUT we also want to do our best to give families an opportunity to spend a weekend at PSC. With that in mind, Pine Springs Camp is offering four weekends in July and August for families to come and rent out one of our Creekside Cabins. Activities that are available for the weekend will be a balance between some Pine Springs Camp favorites—like the Bubble Slip N Slide and some Adventure options—to independent activities like hiking, creek walks and games as a family. Of course, there will be campfires and an outdoor Sunday morning worship service! Unfortunately, the pool will not be open.



Check in will be between 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. on Friday. Check out will be at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday. Meals will be provided by Pine Springs Camp and will include three meals on Saturday and one meal (brunch) on Sunday.

Cost: \$70 per person  
\$50 for 8 and Under  
Includes 4 Meals and Activities.

We will utilize relevant information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the ACA (American Camping Association) and/or other accredited health agencies for the safe operation of Family Camps, disinfecting and cleaning procedures and running our food service in a safe manner. Further health and safety information will be sent upon registering.

If you have questions, please call Mike Hurley at the camp office or email him at [mike@pinesprings.org](mailto:mike@pinesprings.org)

# Stewardship Notes

Each year the session sets a budget and presents it to the congregation. Members, then, determine what they can do to fund that budget throughout the year with their tithes and special offerings.

In recent years our budget has been pared down, but the expenses of maintaining and building a congregation continue on. In the past few months, with the #StayHome guidelines and other challenges, our donations have dropped greatly.

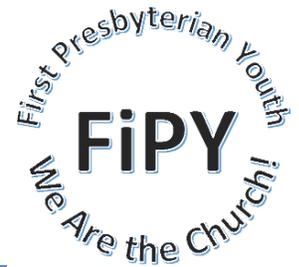
To fully fund the budget, we need \$3,086 per week (1/52 of the annual budget). Unfortunately, we haven't received that amount on any week since the beginning of the year.

To help fund our ministries, activities, and expenses, the session is planning several fundraising opportunities that will be socially distance friendly and help us continue to reach our community. We are considering reinstating our chicken pies sale, on a smaller basis and more often through the year.

Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians: <sup>6</sup> *Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.* <sup>7</sup> *Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.* <sup>8</sup> *And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.*

Thank you for your commitment to our Lord and to our congregation through your giving and through your involvement in our fundraisers and ministry outreach.

# Youth News



## The garden at the Belle Vernon Library

is growing! Our youth are taking turns watering and weeding, and soon you will be able to pick tomatoes, zucchini, cantaloupe, pole beans, green peppers, kale, bush beans (just planted), and a variety of herbs including mint, rosemary, basil, and others.



The signs at the garden say: "Take what you need" and "Share the Harvest." We hope you will enjoy this harvest or share its fruit with someone you know who needs the food.



With the resumption of sports activities, we are trying to find a time when we can all meet together. Parents and youth, let Pastor Mary Kay know what your schedules look like. Perhaps we could start a Sunday school class before worship, in person and on Zoom? Let's work on it!

## Our Next Youth Sunday is August 30, 2020

Our next youth-led worship service is Sunday, August 30th, the next Fifth Sunday. Put on your thinking caps for our next meeting, Wednesday, July 15th, so we can start planning.

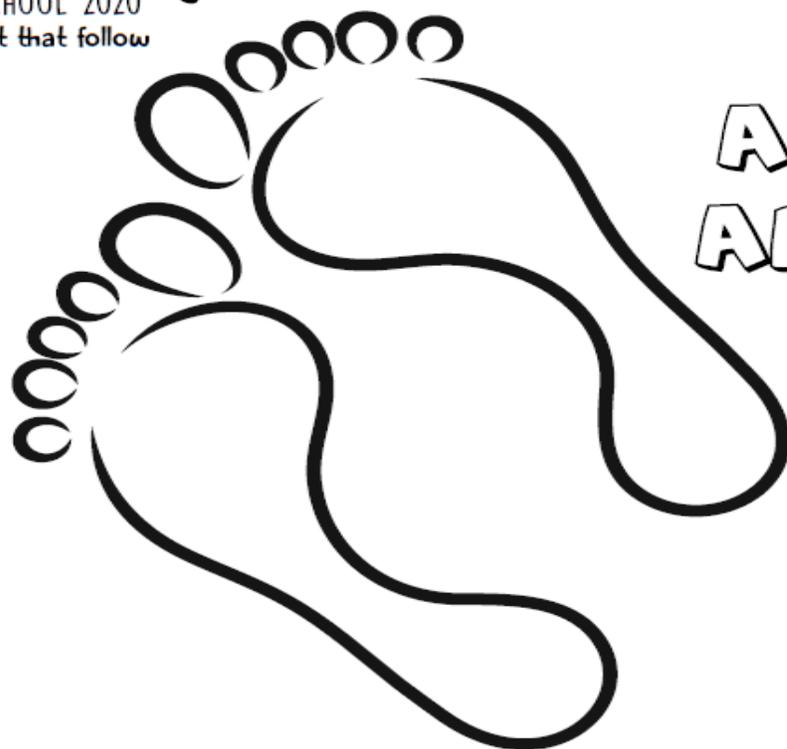


It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. Galatians 5:1

## Happy Independence Day

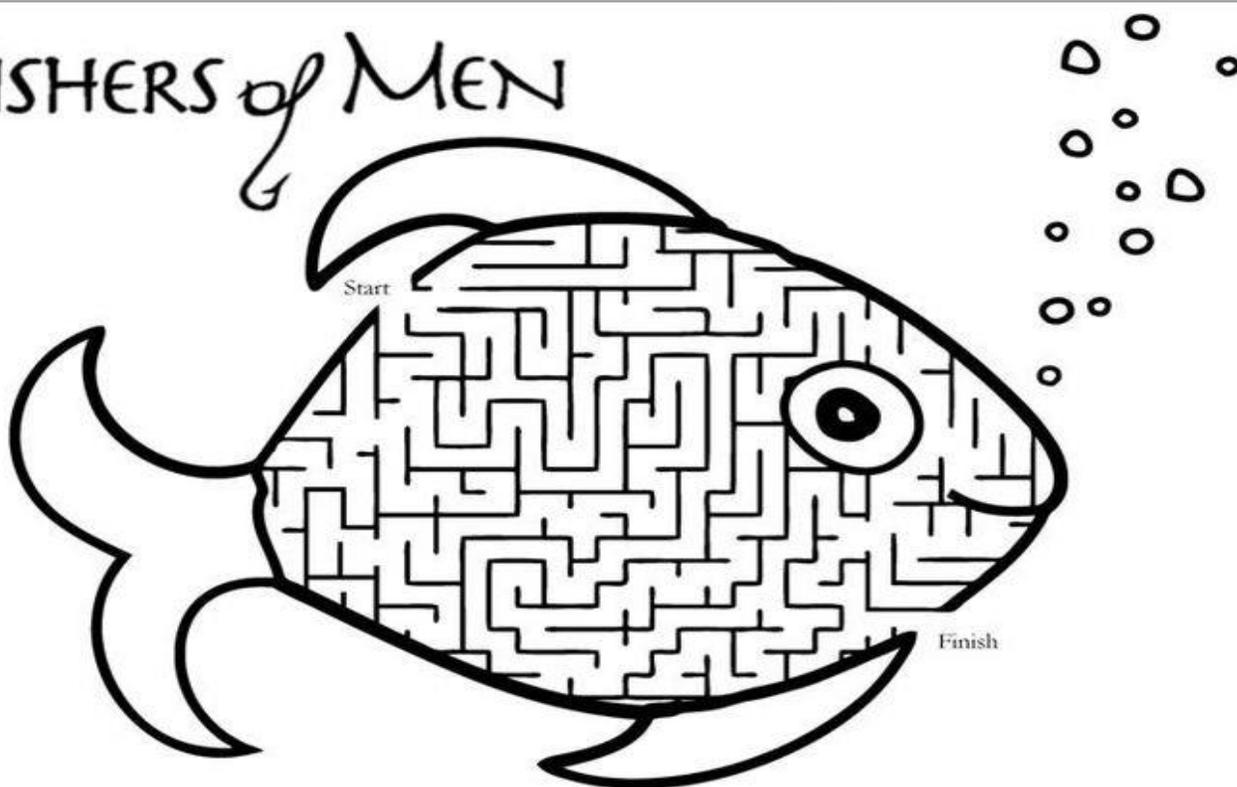
# FPC Kids!

STAYCATION BIBLE  
SCHOOL 2020  
feet that follow



**AWESOME  
ARE YOUR  
FEET...  
THEY  
FOLLOW  
JESUS!**

## FISHERS of MEN



And Jesus said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men." **Mark 1:17**

| Sunday                    | Monday | Tuesday   | Wednesday                    | Thursday                                   | Friday | Saturday  |
|---------------------------|--------|---|------------------------------|--|--------|---|
| <b>JULY 2020</b>          |        |   | 1                            | 2  | 3      | 4<br>4 <sup>th</sup> of July<br> |
| 5<br>Communion<br>Sunday  | 6      | 7   | 8                            | 9  | 10     | 11  |
| Pastor Mary Kay Vacation  |        |   |                              |  |        |   |
| 12<br>Rev. Marnie Silbert | 13     | 14<br>VBS planning<br>meeting at 7 PM in<br>the FH and Zoom | 15                           | 16<br>Food Bank at FMC;<br>Session at 7 PM | 17     | 18  |
| Pastor Mary Kay Vacation  |        |   |                              |  |        |   |
| 19                        | 20     | 21<br>Bible Study at<br>2 PM                                | 22<br>Youth group at<br>7 PM | 23   | 24     | 25  |
| 26                        | 27     | 28<br>Bible Study at<br>2 PM                                | 29<br>Youth group at<br>7 PM | 30   | 31     |   |
| Stavcation Bible School   |        |   |                              |  |        |   |
|                           |        |   |                              |  |        |   |

**UPCOMING EVENTS: Peach Pie Baking, Friday, August 14<sup>th</sup>, and Friday August 21st! All help is needed!**

First Presbyterian Church  
501 Fayette Avenue  
Rostraver Twp. PA 15012

Return Service Requested

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*We live and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ through worship, service, and witness. As a Christ-centered church empowered by the Holy Spirit, we seek God's plan for each of us and all of us. We welcome everyone to journey with us as we strive to grow in love, faith, trust, and discipleship.*



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

501 Fayette Avenue, Rostraver Twp., PA 15012

**Church Offices:** 511 Fayette Avenue

**Office Hours:** M - F: 9 am to 1 pm

**Church Phone:** 724- 929-7616    **Fax:** 724-929-0209

**e-mail:** [office@fpresbv.org](mailto:office@fpresbv.org)

**Web:** [www.fpresbv.org](http://www.fpresbv.org)

Worship with us live or online at:

**Facebook:** First Presbyterian Church Belle Vernon

**You Tube:** First Pres BV