



PRESBY BEACON



"Shining the Light of Christ in the Mon Valley"

September/October 2020

From the Pastor:

Summer is over, and we have returned to our regular worship time of 10:45. Kids are in school, at least part of the time, and attending from home the other days. You would think things are getting back to normal, and they are, but it is the *new* normal, the *adjusted* normal, thanks to COVID-19. At times it seems like things will never get back to the way they were, and maybe that would be a good thing. We've taken a lot for granted in the past. This season of change has made us look at a lot of things with a much closer eye: how we interact with others, how much we appreciate time with our friends and families, how tentative life can really be, among others.

This season has also made us look at how we do worship and church. We've had to "social distance" in the sanctuary—when we were finally able to come back—and to be sure everything is cleaned and sanitized each week. We have explored and somewhat conquered online worship, even though we're still trying to get the parking lot and telephone access resolved. The growth and change we have experienced hasn't always be comfortable, or even welcome, but it is good. God is blessing our congregation and drawing us deeper into faith and service.

Recently, some have proposed that, rather than changing our worship time at the beginning and end of summer, we move to a worship time of 10 a.m. year around. Questions we are asking include these.

- How will this change enhance and move forward the mission of our church?
- How would this change affect individuals, either positively or negatively?

- How will this affect the activities of our congregation, including after church fellowship (when we can resume the same), and other programs, such as Christian education?
- You may have other questions or comments. You are invited to participate this discussion because, although this is the Lord's Church, it is made up of all of us.

Watch your messages for opportunities to sit down together with others and join in the conversation. You can also feel free to email or write me or a session member with your thoughts and questions.

Change is RARELY easy, but change is a part of life and brings growth. Change can be beneficial when we work together and communicate. Let's continue to work together toward the goal, as stated in our mission statement, *to live and share the gospel of Jesus Christ through worship, service, and witness, seeking, through the empowerment of the Spirit, God's plan for each and all of us.*

Blessings.

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

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2020 PEACH PIE SALE

Because of the Pandemic we were not able to hold our annual Peach Festival, but the virus did not stop the baking of our delicious peach pies. The making of the pies began with picking up the peaches at Sleeks Orchard in New Paris (near Shawnee State Park). After delivery, those peaches continued to ripen in Fellowship Hall until the dedicated “peach peelers” arrived. There were 6 bushels of peaches to peel, and the group did a wonderful job, even with juice running down their arms! On Friday morning, the skilled pie makers started rolling dough to make 111 pies (made possible from the wonderful donations of Crisco and flour from members and friends of First Presbyterian Church BV). Many hours later, clean up began and the pies were placed in boxes ready to be picked up Saturday morning. As you know, part of our festival has been Fellowship with the many people who attend. Picking up the pies also gave the opportunity to interact with members of our community and surrounding areas. If you made a donation of flour & Crisco or a monetary donation, picked up peaches, peeled peaches, made dough, provided our wonderful lunch, rolled dough, filled pies, baked pies, cleaned up, or purchased a pie, we thank you. The profit for our sale was \$1,237!

Missed a Message?

It has happened to all of us. The phone rings and it’s a message from the church, but we can’t get to it in time or can’t answer, and our answering machine doesn’t record it. You sit there wondering, *What did I just miss?* Well, you don’t have to wonder anymore. Did you know that you can call the One Call Now system to hear the latest message? Here’s the way:

1. Call 877-698-3261 from the number where you received the call.
2. Press 1 to hear the recent message.
3. The system will tell you when the message was sent and ask you if you want to hear it. Press 1 to listen.

That’s it!

Upcoming Events:

Sept. 13 th :	Worship returns to 10:45 AM
Sept. 20 th :	Worship and church picnic combined here at the church
Sept: 29 th - October 6 th	Pastor Mary Kay vacation time
October 4 th :	Worldwide Communion Sunday, Peace & Global Witness Offering
October 16 th -	Apple Pie Baking
October 17 th -	Pie pickup from 9 am till 12
October 25 th -	Baptism of Amelia McWreath

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!

Log in using your regular Amazon account



Choir Notes

Here we are, September and October already. Usually this is the month that the choir returns, and things get “back to normal”. But this September is different, no live choir and no “back to normal”. Until there is a proven vaccine for the COVID 19 virus, the choir decided not to return to worship services. So, I will continue to use our anthems from the previously recorded services that were found. A lot were discarded not knowing how useful they would be. Several of you have said that you like to hear the piano, so to help spread out the available pre-recorded anthems, I will play the piano once a month during the anthem time. Yes, we are living in some really different times but remember the words from a favorite hymn of mine – “Many things about tomorrow I don’t seem to understand. But I know who holds tomorrow and I know who holds my hand”. We will get through this.

Yours in Christ,
Donna
Organist and Choir Director



Once again, this holiday season, we will be working with the Westmoreland County Children's Bureau, collecting coats and heavy weight hoodies. These will be given by the counselors to the families with need as well as taken off the rack for the mothers who arrive with their children seeking a safe shelter. They prefer new coats but will accept "like new" children's coats and heavy-weight hoodies for toddlers/boys/girls. Starting now until November 1st, we will accept items. Items can be placed in a plastic bag and put it in the cry room where they will be collected each week. As always, the Mission Committee appreciates the kindness and love you all continue to give to help us do God's work.

September Chicken Pie Sale

Thanks to everyone who worked, bought, sold, donated, or cleaned up afterward for the chicken pie sale. We had a great time and made 186 pies with a profit of more than \$900.00 for the church. We were able to have this much of a profit because of the many donations of time, talent, and supplies. We plan on doing another chicken pie sale again soon! The October apple pie sale is next. The pies should be delicious as the apples we will be using will be in season at that time.

Janie Bonari

Homemade Apple Pies



With the crisp Fall air coming, what would be better than a homemade apple pie for dessert! On Friday, October 16th, we will be baking fresh, homemade apple pies. The cost of the pies will be \$10 each. Forms are available in the church or please call the church office at 724-929-7616. Pick-up for the pies will be Saturday, October 17th from 9 am till 12.

Note from the Membership Committee

The Membership Committee met last week and set the following objectives:

1. Update and put together visitor packets and church brochures.
2. Schedule “Getting to Know Us,” a three-week luncheon series for individuals and families wanting to learn more about joining us on our journey. These are open to anyone wanting to learn more about being a Christian, being Presbyterian, and being a part of the ministries of FPC. See the article in this newsletter for details.
3. Work together to update our PowerChurch database to include



September Birthdays



- Sept.1- Kerry McCorkle
- Sept. 4- Tessa Rodriguez
- Sept. 7- Tiffany Fitzwater
- Sept. 13- Robert Fox
- Sept.17- Kathy Bevan
- Sept.19- Tatum Rodriguez
- Sept. 20- Cicely Rutherford,
Raelyn Weightman
- Sept.29- Kody Callaway

pertinent information, including birthdays, anniversaries, membership date, etc., with an eye toward a new directory and better communication within the congregation. We need your involvement! Committees of the church aren't made up of leaders alone; we need anyone interested in helping out to contact Ray Helster, chair of the committee. You can also call the church office, and Natalie will give the information to Ray. Thank you for helping us support and strengthen the membership of First PC.

September Anniversaries

- Sept.7- Bill & Eileen Kunca
Jeffrey & Jennifer Orr
- Sept.13- Duane & Kay Nelson
- Sept.15- Scott & Janice Jupin
- Sept.17- Robert & Sharon Roskovich
- Sept.18- Bob & Nora Gibson
- Sept.22- Tom & Elaine Bair
Dennis & Barbara Peters
- Sept.30- Michael & Nancy Komlos



**Rehoboth Deacons
Vendor & Craft show**

**Saturday, October 17
10:00 am to 2:00 pm**

The Deacons will hold a Vendor and Craft Show to help support their many mission projects within our church, community, disasters in the world and our soldiers stationed around the world!

There will be a Chinese Auction
& Great Food from the kitchen

Please come out to see our show and enjoy the fun and fellowship!

You must wear a mask!

REHOBOTH
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

442 REHOBOTH ROAD
ROSTRAVER TWP
PA 15020

"There is room and
a home for all"

Tables are \$15
For more information or to make a reservation contact

Carolyn Clark
724-355-2518
carolynclark52@yahoo.com

Jannine Blacka
724-929-4922
camry42@comcast.net



October Birthdays



- Oct. 3- Tyler Koons
- Oct. 6- Lindsey McNeil
Sharon Zunic
- Oct. 8- Karen Lynn
- Oct.10- Jean Patterson
Bill Weightman
- Oct.11- Mary Kay Glunt
- Oct.14- Joelle McWreath
- Oct.15- John Koons, Patty Gillon
- Oct.16- Francis Garlits
- Oct.20- Michael Moravec
- Oct.23- Ian Metikosh

October Anniversaries

- Oct.2- Curtis & Kathy Rice

YOUTH NEWS FOR ALL OF US



We continue to meet each Wednesday at 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall—social distanced with masks, for games, music, lessons, and planning. We will be using a movie-based study on the movie ***Soul Surfer***, a true story about a young woman and her community facing a tremendous injury with faith and perseverance. All middle- and high-school youth are encouraged to attend.

Our second **Youth Sunday** was August 30th, with the youth delivering a dramatized version of Moses and the burning bush, as well as leading the entire service. We are including a few pictures from that day here.



Kelsey Roskovich



Emma Burkley



Joselynn Wray



Clip from video with Emma as Moses, Kelsey as the Lord, and Joselynn as the burning bush!

Peace and Global Witness Offering Sharing the Peace of Christ with the World

September 9, 2020 by Bryce Wiebe

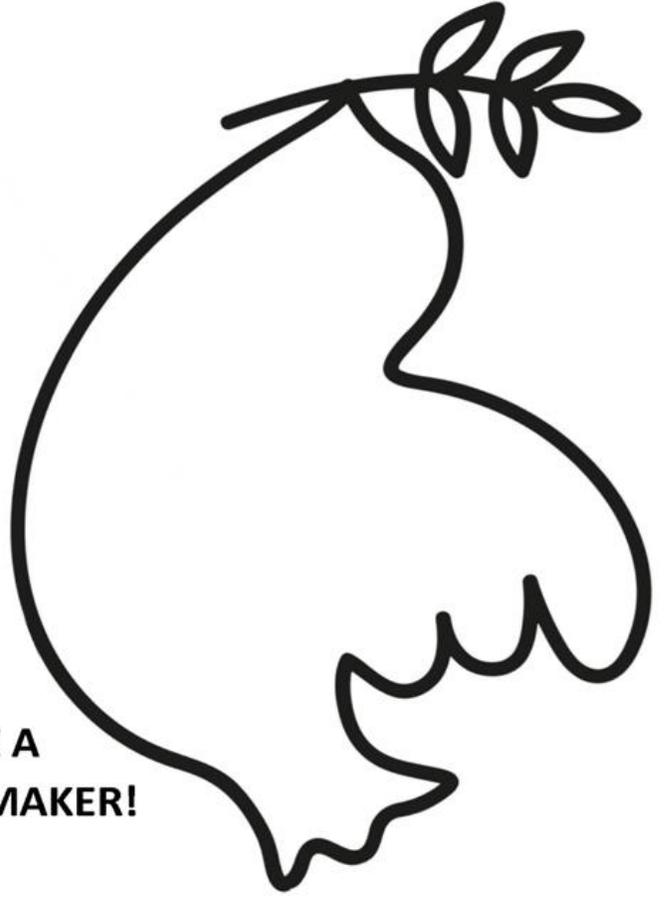
War, disease, and imprisonment: These words have the power to fill the heart with pain, fear and hopelessness. They often make the lips of those witnessing such strife ask, “Surely, this is not where God lives?”

Presbyterians working for peace and justice would beg to differ though, saying that it’s exactly in such strife where God’s love should shine the brightest. And through their gifts to the Peace & Global Witness Offering—which congregations traditionally collect on World Communion Sunday, the first Sunday in October—they are supporting peacemaking initiatives that ease pain through action, provide comfort in the face of fear and show love to the hopeless.

Every gift to the Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the Church to promote the peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice worldwide. Out of the money collected, individual congregations are encouraged to use 25% of the offering to connect with the global witness of Christ’s peace. Mid councils retain an additional 25% for ministries of peace and reconciliation. The remaining 50% is used by the Presbyterian Mission Agency to advocate for peace and justice through collaborative projects of education and Christian witness.

From an article originally published in the September/October 2020 issue of Presbyterians Today. It appeared in the Presbyterian News Service on September 8, 2020.

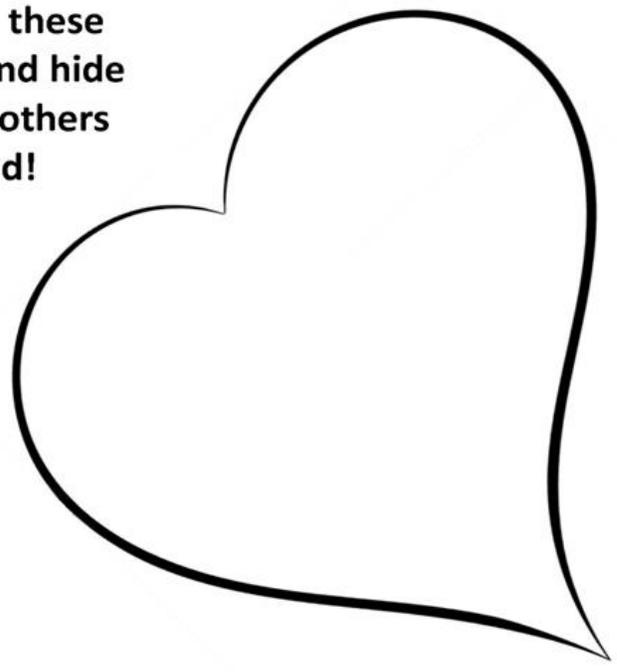
Note: Our Peace and Global Witness Offering will be collected this Sunday, October 4, 2020; however, we will receive these offerings until October 18th before sending them in. Session has designated our 25% to hunger ministries in our community.



**PEACEMAKER
NOTES**

**BE A
PEACEMAKER!**

Write messages of
peace on these
cut-outs and hide
them for others
to find!



All Church Yard Sale

The session decided at its August meeting to reschedule our annual yard sale in October with a few changes. Tentative date is the weekend of October 18-19, ***if we can get enough workers to participate***. Please contact the church office as soon as possible to let us know if you will be able to help with sorting, pricing, setting up tents, working the sale, or cleaning up afterward.

1. Because of social distancing guidelines, we will be using outdoor tents as much as possible and limiting indoor access. Guests will be ***required*** to wear masks when interacting with staff outside and when entering the fellowship hall. We will have hand sanitizer at each table and will provide gloves for our workers, if needed.
2. Please donate ***only*** usable and saleable items. ***Also, we will not be accepting large furniture for this sale.*** This will prevent our having to have someone haul away items that cannot be sold.
3. We would love to have a bake sale booth on the day of the sale, as well. More information to come.

If you are willing to help coordinate this event and fundraiser for our church and community, please contact Pastor Mary Kay.



In coordination with the North Belle Vernon event, we will be having a safe and distanced Trunk or Treat outreach on Saturday, October 31, from 3-5 p.m. Pastor Mary Kay has issued a call for those who can help coordinate.

To participate in the Trunk or Treat:

- We will set up a hand sanitizer table at each end of the parking lot for kids and parents.
- Buy some candy or giveaways and come to the parking lot by 2:30 p.m. to set up. Please bring only pre-packaged candy. If you cannot attend and you want to donate some candy or giveaways, drop them off at the parish house or at church the Sunday before.
- You are invited to wear costumes and decorate your vehicle—or not. Bring a chair to sit next to your vehicle or sit in the back.
- We will distance our vehicles by parking in every THIRD parking space.
- Everyone will be required to wear a mask and gloves for passing out candy

If you have any questions, call the church office.

First Presbyterian Church
501 Fayette Avenue
Rostraver Twp. PA 15012

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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

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Worship with us live or in person on

Facebook: First Presbyterian Church Belle Vernon

You Tube: First Pres BV

Copy of bulletin available on our website www.fpresbv.org