

Good News

C O N N E L L S V I L L E P R E S B Y T E R I A N C H U R C H

T H E M I N I S T E R ' S M U S I N G S

Matthew 28:18–20 (ESV)

¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

*⁷ Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God’s grace, which was given me by the working of his power. ⁸ To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, **to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, ⁹ and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, ¹⁰ so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹ This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹² in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him. — Ephesians 3:7–12 (ESV)***

*¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. ¹⁸ All this is from God, who through Christ **reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation;** ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and **entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. — 2 Corinthians 5:17–20 (ESV)***

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God established His church to accomplish His mission: to bring people into His Kingdom. We exist to “bring to light for everyone” through God’s plan for salvation: Jesus. We are commissioned to be His hands and feet to go where the hurting are, to be his ambassadors who show them the power and love of Jesus and bring them to a reconciled relationship with God, to be salt and light in this world. A healthy church involved in Christ’s ministry of reconciliation with the world will be making adult converts to Christianity; the love of Christ will flow out of the congregation into the town and draw people to a committed relationship with Christ

Excluding covenant children who were not baptized until adulthood, **Connellsville Presbyterian has had 1 adult baptism in the past 20 years.**

Although we have many programs for members, and even open the church for events, and even though we contribute financially to ministries in the area and around the world; **we are not reaching the unchurched around us with the message of the Gospel.** We have failed to follow Christ’s commission to the church. This is, perhaps in part due to ineffective methods, but more likely from disobedience: we have not *deliberately* sought out those in our community who need to hear the Good News of Jesus. There is a large population of people in

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CHURCH CALENDAR SUMMER 2018 EVENTS

June

- June 2** Ladies' Lunch 12pm at Keedy's
- June 3** CE Meeting following worship
- June 10** Recognition of Graduates
- June 11** Session meeting, 7pm
- June 18-23** EPC General Assembly
- June 24-28** Vacation Bible School

July

- No Ladies Lunch in July**
- No Session meeting in July**
- July 14** Adopt a Block, Yough Park
- July 29** Communion

August

- August 5** Ladies' Lunch noon
- August 13** Session meeting 7pm
- 2nd thru 4th weeks of August** Apple Dumpling Time

Summer Worship Schedule begins June 3

Please note our summer schedule, June 3rd through August 26th:

Sunday School : 9:00 a.m.

Worship: 10:00 a.m.



Birthdays & Anniversaries have been removed for the website edition.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2018 GRADUATES

There are several important rites of passage that we all go through on our journey to becoming adults, and one of the most unforgettable experiences is graduating from high school. We are fortunate to have two young men graduating from Connellsville Senior High School this year, and they are **Ethan Brooks** and **Coalby McNair**.

Ethan has been an outstanding scholar in high school always being on the Highest or High Honor Roll all throughout school. He is an avid reader. (I wonder if there is a connection here?) Ethan is a member of the Connellsville Presbyterian Church, and whenever there are things to do such as setting up for Communion, taking up Offering, carrying out Apple Dumplings for customers, faithfully peeling apples for Apple Dumplings, Ethan is there. In high school, he is a member of National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, mentored during his junior year, and ranks in the top 10% of his class.

Ethan has been accepted at Penn State University and will begin his studies at the Eberly Campus here in Fayette County. His major will be Chemical Engineering leaving him with the option of many areas to pursue such as the field of petroleum and foods. Since he lives close by to campus, he will commute. The family is now looking for a car that he can use to get to class. Erhan is not sure how long he will stay at the Eberly Campus before moving to State College.

This summer, he has a job with Armstrong Cable. He is searching for other grants to help pay for school. He has received a scholarship based on his academic performance from Penn State. Armstrong also has a one time scholarship available.

Our second Connellsville graduate is **Coalby McNair**, Coalby will also be moving on to study at Penn State University, but he will be going directly to the Main Campus at State College. Engineering seems to be a popular concentration for our two young men. Coalby will be concentrating in Mechanical Engineering. He chose Penn State because of the fine reputation the school has in the realm of engineering.

His activities during his high school career include: National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, soccer, and basketball. Community service activities include: Special Olympics, St. Rita's youth basketball as a referee, helping with our church Bible School, and helping with Apple Dumplings.

Academically, Coalby has always been on the Highest Honor Roll and will graduate in the top 5 of his graduating class of 2018.

He has practical work experience also. Coalby is his father, Phil's "right hand man" at the McNair Coal Yard. He does just about any job that needs to be done at the family business.

So both of our young men are off to Penn State which is a good choice, and when they are both at State College, they will be only two hours from home (which makes moms happy). Good Luck and God's Blessings on these two outstanding young men.

*Join us as we celebrate these two in worship on June 10
and with a reception following worship.*

SPRING MEANS MUSICAL PRODUCTIONS

One of the sure signs of Spring in Connellsville is the appearance of multiple school musical productions. Connellsville Presbyterian Church was well represented at the Connellsville Middle School production of "Shreck, Jr., the Musical". **Elle Crislip** was mainly involved in the performance portion of the musical, and **Johnathan Kelley** was involved in the production of props for the performance.

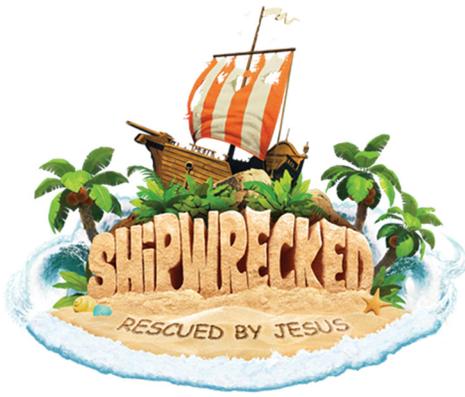
Elle says that she got involved in the school musical to make new friends and just for the experience of being involved. The musical allowed her to sing and dance. Elle says that it is exciting being on stage; you get all pumped up. She appeared as one of the Three Little Pigs and as a bird.; Although, she has performed in 6th and 7th grades in the school musical, she is not sure about performing in 8th grade. Sports may interfere; it is hard to do both, and she really enjoys soccer. With rehearsals going to 5:00 PM, and all day rehearsals close to performances; it is hard to get your school work done.

Johnathan also liked making new friends with students in other grades. His gifted teacher made the construction of the dragon for the production a 7th grade project. The class really likes to build things, and they learned to use equipment available at school. Elle was also involved in the creation of the dragon because she is in this class also. Johnathan was happy to be involved in the musical without having to sing and dance on stage. That's not his thing.

Both Elle and Johnathan recently joined the church. Johnathan serves as an usher each Sunday and helps pack the food for our "Change for Children". They are both involved in Faith Finders. They both help with the Apple Dumpling Project. Also, both young people are excellent students making the Highest Honor Roll at school.



At the senior high level, we were well represented by **Emily Brooks** who is currently completing her sophomore year at Connellsville Senior High School. Emily is also consistently on the Highest Honor Roll. She is an avid reader as well. This year's production of "Phantom of the Opera" was Emily's second involvement in the school musical. She got involved because she has made lots of friends, and she likes to sing. She auditioned last year to see if she would like the experience. She admits that rehearsal can be long and tiring. So students don't let their studies slip, Emily told me that when you are not on the stage rehearsing, there are quiet places where you can do your school work. Hot meals are provided for the students. You bring in \$30 for 10 hot meals. Parents also bring in snacks so the cast and crew don't go hungry. Emily really enjoys being on stage, and she hopes to continue her theatre experience all the way through high school. Emily is very excited because she auditioned and was accepted for next year's Chamber Ensemble. That's quite an honor. Emily is also a member of Connellsville Presbyterian where she helps with Bible School and Apple Dumplings.



Vacation Bible School: *Shipwrecked* June 24-28

This year we are joining with Trinity Lutheran and First Baptist for a joint VBS program. We have also changed the evenings: we will hold VBS Sunday through Thursday. Sunday through Wednesday, the ladies of the churches will serve an evening meal at 5:15.

Opening worship in the sanctuary will begin at 6, children will then rotate through lesson, crafts, snacks, and recreation before reassembling in the sanctuary for closing and dismissal at 8:30.

Friday will be a time for parents, family and friends to join us at 6:00

for a program followed by a picnic and games on the lawn. We need volunteers to help us shepherd the children in groups of five. The shepherds will facilitate discussions and help the children get from point to point. See Debby Mullaney to volunteer.

This year's VBS offering will support children in Haiti who are still struggling for food following the infrastructure collapse from the hurricane in 2016. Money will go to provide appropriate seeds and agricultural training so that families can grow their own vegetables.

Visioning for the future at Connellsville Presbyterian

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Connellsville who do not know Jesus Christ. When we run programs and events that serve primarily members instead of also working to bring people into God's Kingdom, we become a community whose motivation is to make members happy. This is sin. Specifically, it is self-idolatry: putting our comfort and preferences above obedience to God's command to reach the world. There are so many people in this world, and even in our community who need God. How can we hold back from sharing the good news of our savior! But we get so wrapped up in our concerns or our business, and we miss the heart needs of our neighbors. Supporting Change for Children and Community Ministries is wonderful! But it doesn't meet the spiritual need that only Jesus can fill. We can send money to help around the world, but Jesus also calls us each to be his witnesses: to tell others how Christ has made a difference in our lives so that they might come to know that joy.

As we go forward, we will be examining what God is up to in Connellsville and where He is calling us to be in partnership with him to reach the people of this area for Christ. We will be looking at becoming an active outpost of God's Kingdom. This will entail some changes. Everything is on the table. We have frequently been too focused on those inside the church, when our primary mission is to reach those OUTSIDE. This must change if we are to fulfill our mission as a church. The vision team—Karen Hechler, Patty Miller, Susie Husband, and Wayne Wilson—will be examining the mission of the Church universal and the mission of this particular church in order to determine where God is calling us to step into His plan. This is not merely a matter of rearranging programs, this entails a shift in our understanding of church. Please be in prayer for this team: that they will clearly hear the voice of God; for this congregation: that we may have the courage to embrace our God-given purpose to make disciples; and for our community: that the light of Christ may shine, driving out the darkness.

I look forward to seeing us grow in God's Kingdom work!

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.CONNELLSVILLE-EPC.ORG

CONNELLSVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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CONNELLSVILLE PA 15425

Apple Dumpling Time is coming!

Right now it is only June, but before we know it, August will be here, and at the Connellsville Presbyterian Church, August has come to mean "Apple Dumpling Time". Apple Dumpling Time has become a yummy way to celebrate the end of the summer for many, many people in Connellsville, who wait anxiously for our apple dumplings. Although Apple Dumplings have been a tasty way to reach out to the community, these sweet delights have also benefitted others near and far. In addition to helping with building expenses and our own Change for the Children Program, each year we donate apple dumpling proceeds to several local Connellsville missions and also to international groups in need.



Join the Apple Dumpling Gang!



We always need people to come and help us create these delicious treats. Once again, we will be working Monday through Thursday evenings, there will be no morning shift. There is need for all kind of helpers for jobs such as unloading supplies, peeling apples, coring apples, making dough, rolling out dough, making the dumplings, washing the dishes, cleaning the kitchen, getting supplies and answering the phone. No skills are needed and we train you for free! We love to have fun while making dumplings and it's a really great way to embrace fellowship while doing good for our church and others in need. So please set aside some time in August to help with this important project.

SEE YOU IN AUGUST!