

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

Bible Verse

Colossians 1:9–12 (ESV)

⁹And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. ¹¹May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, ¹²giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

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

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."
Matthew 28:18–20 (ESV)

Is it back to school *already*? Soon it will be lessons and homework!

Some of you are thankful that your household has moved past the rhythm of the school year; but you're not past homework! In worship we've been talking about God's homework assignment to each of us in this time between the ascension and the second coming: to be His witnesses and to make disciples.

Making disciples is more than getting people baptized – it's not less; but it is so much more! Making disciples is teaching our children so that when they reach their early teens they are ready to make a commitment to God; it's about reaching out to people in the community and helping them to get to know God; it's about helping our adults grow in their faith and following Christ; it's about making all of us more like Christ.

As we move into the school year there are many ways we're trying to build disciples. Some are programs like *Christianity Explored*, and we'll begin the fall Sunday School program for all ages on Sept 8. But we're also looking deeper. Session is examining what it means to be a member and how that comes with the obligation for each person to grow as a disciple. We're also looking at what it means for the whole church body to be faithfully following Christ – being disciples *together*. Together is important, because God doesn't call us separately. Christianity is not an individual sport. We are called into the body of Christ, each of us with different skills and characteristics that the body needs and we are called to work together to fulfill God's mission. (1 Corinthians 12:12-27) You can't be on a team if you don't consistently join in the training and scrimmage!

As we examine discipleship at Connellsville Presbyterian, I challenge each of you to examine how your life reflects Christ. The Apostle Paul commands each Christian to "work out your own salvation with fear and trembling" (Philippians 2:12) How are you working out? Are you being a witness? How are you growing as a disciple? Are you joining with the body in study and in the sacraments?

Join with us as we examine together how to be a disciple and put that into practice.

Rev Suzanne



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CHURCH CALENDAR

GOOD NEWS

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FALL 2013 EVENTS



September

- Tues. Sept. 3**—Christianity Explored begins. 7pm
- Sat. Sept. 7**—Ladies Lunch, 1:00 pm at Bud Murphy's
- Mon. Sept. 9**—Session meeting
- Wed. Sept. 11**—Faith Finders begins
- Sun. Sept. 22**—Service of Prayer and Healing, 4pm @ New Hope Presbyterian Church—Norwin

October

- Thurs. Oct. 3**—Apple Dumpling Festival
- Sat. Oct. 5**—Ladies Lunch, 1:00 pm at Bud Murphy's
- Sun. Oct. 13—Communion**—Covered dish dinner, 6:00; Fighting Slavery, speaker, 7:00
- Thurs. Oct. 17**—Christian Discipleship meeting
- Sat. Oct. 30**—Halloween Party

November

- Sat. Nov. 2**—Ladies Luncheon, 1:00 pm at Bud Murphy's
- Sun. Nov. 3**—Harvest Home dedication
- Mon. Nov. 11**—Session meeting
- Sun. Nov. 17**—Shoe Box dedication
- Nov. 20**—Faith Finders Thanksgiving Dinner
- Nov. 17 and 24**—bring nativity sets and angels for Dec. 7 & 8 Nativity Display

Fighting Slavery – Alda Dogani

Oct. 13—Pot Luck Dinner at 6pm
Speaker at 7pm

Alda Dogani will speak at Connellsville Presbyterian on Oct 13th. Alda is a missionary in Albania, working with teenagers who are at risk of being lured or sold into slavery because they have aged out of the foster/orphanage system at 14 or because their families can't support them. *On Eagles Wings* seeks to put these children in a home situation and get them through high school so that they can support themselves. For more information see www.eagleswingsalbania.org

APPLE DUMPLING RAMBLINGS

As our deadline for this issue of GOOD NEWS looms, we are about to begin our third and last week of Apple Dumplings. (Hallelujah) How long has this project been going on? Well, it must be about thirty years. Sandi Grimaldi had two of her granddaughters making dumplings last week, and those of us who were here from the beginning, remember those little girls' mother, Ashleigh, making dumplings when she was just a little girl. We are passing our traditions on to the next generation.

How much does the money our dumplings generate help the church? We have lots of reminders in the church like the remodeled basement women's restroom, the first floor adult restroom, and the kitchenette on the first floor, etc. Nancy told me that when we apply the thousands of dollars that we make on dumplings to the principal on the roof loan, we cutback big time on the amount of interest that we have to pay. Thanks to all of you who have helped with the Apple Dumpling project, past and present. You are appreciated.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

- Sept. 9—Kayla Hann
- Sept. 12—Rose Towzey
- Sept. 13—Doris Nedley
- Sept. 15—Bobby Groff
- Sept. 16—April Shultz, Barbara Shultz and Mark Courtley
- Sept. 25—Barbara Ramsey
- Sept. 29—Dustyn Pastors
- Oct. 3—Nicoal McNair
- Oct. 8—Jack Crislip
- Oct. 9—Shelly Hann



Birthdays

- Oct. 15—Jackson Johnson
- Oct. 19—Debbie Mullaney
- Oct. 26—Suzanne Zampella
- Oct. 28—Caitlyn Anderson
- Oct. 29—Deanna Brooks
- Nov. 1—Olivia Christopher
- Nov. 9—Elle Crislip
- Nov. 19—Marilee McFadden and Scott Driscoll
- Nov. 26—Alma Courtley
- Nov. 28—Rylee Johnson and John Arzbacher

Anniversaries

- Sept. 2—Deanna and Scott Brooks
- Oct. 12—Melissa and Jon Ferencuha
- Oct. 29—Marilee and Gene McFadden
- Nov. 14—Joan and Chris Conn



YOUTH ACTIVITIES



Faith Finders Starts September 11th

Faith Finders is our mid-week youth program for school aged children. We meet every Wednesday evening for fellowship, food and fun.

5:30 pm—Dinner

6:00 pm—Programs

Please bring your children to help strengthen their faith and make lasting friendships. The last Faith Finders for the Fall session will be Wednesday November 20th and be celebrated with a dinner for Faith Finders, their families and our Church Family.

Christianity Explored Tuesday evenings September 3 to October 15



Christianity Explored is an informal 7-week course for people who'd like to investigate Christianity, or just brush up on the basics. Looking at Mark's gospel, it explores who Jesus is, why he came, and what it means to follow him.

The course is for anyone who wants to investigate Christianity informally with a group of other people. Whether you have previous experience of Church, Christians and the Bible, or none at all, this course is for you. Everyone is welcome - from the most knowledgeable Sunday schooler to the convinced atheist. Invite a friend and join us on Tuesday evenings at 7 for a simple dinner, a video and conversation.

UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL THE KELLEY FAMILY

Do you know the family in our congregation who lives in a 1802 farmhouse with limited closet space and electrical outlets? That would be the Jeff, Carol and Johnathan Kelley family. Jeff and Carol want a modern house; Johnathan loves the old farm house.

Jeff, who is a graduate of the Mt. Carmel Church School, is an Operating Engineer for Lane Construction Corp. He operates earth moving equipment. In his spare time, Jeff is a volunteer at the Bullskin Twp. Fire Company where he serves as Fire Assistant Chief. He is also a Deputy EMA Coordinator for Bullskin Twp. Hunting, especially for antelope in Wyoming, is big on his list of fun activities.

Carol is a 6th grade teacher at Springfield Elementary School. She is starting her 14th year of teaching this year. Some of Carol's favorite activities are gardening, reading and spending time with her son and husband. As service projects, Carol is involved with Finley's Fighters and the Connellsville Patriots. Carol was raised in the Connellsville Presbyterian Church.

Johnathan will begin this year as a 3rd grade student at Springfield where he is a honor student. Johnathan has the advantage of going to school with his mother. He doesn't have to catch the bus. He really likes to play with Legos. Being involved with Faith Finders is one of his afterschool activities.

We love to see this fine family in church, and we especially enjoy Johnathan during the Children's Chat.



Shoe Box Ministry



We will again be collecting items for our annual shoe box ministry, *Operation Christmas Child*. So now is the time to start collecting your gift items. School supplies, toys, hygiene items or whatever you fancy can be included. A donation of \$7 for each shoe box is also requested to cover shipping. This is a great way to help less fortunate children around the holidays. Shoe boxes will be dedicated on Sunday, Nov. 17th.

Sunday Schedule

Back to regular hours on Sunday, Sept 1st

Sunday School—9:30 am

Worship—11:00 am

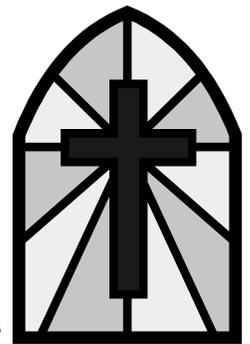
Don't forget that Sunday Sept. 8th is the kick-off for the Fall Sunday School Program. We have an excellent program for our youth. Please make every effort to attend. Our youth are the future of our church. We all need to study the Bible together.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

WWW.CONNELLSVILLEPRESBYTERIAN.ORG

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S T E W A R D S H I P



Why do you give to your church?

We each have different motivations and capacities for giving, and every gift and pledge is gratefully received. Your finance committee's one hope is that your support for our ministries comes from a profound sense of gratitude and joy for all you receive through your relationship with God and the members of our church.

We are blessed. We share a strong faith with each other. We celebrate the joyful events in each other's lives and comfort each other in times of trial and sorrow. We welcome everyone and anyone to join us, and we work to change the lives of people in our community – people who may never set foot in our church – simply because they have no one else to turn to, and we are here, and we count ourselves blessed.

Our church has ministered faithfully for more than 180 years – not because members have given year after year out of duty, obligation, guilt or fear. Such motivations can't sustain an institution for nearly two centuries. No, our church is still here, still strong and vibrant, because generations and generations of members have counted themselves blessed and have therefore supported its mission with generous gifts of gratitude and joy. Now it's up to us.

In worship, fellowship, study and faith-sharing groups, service opportunities and more, we're looking to grow as an extended family. Your generous gift will continue to build the web of caring and community for all. As you "count yourself blessed," please consider increasing your pledge for 2014 and beyond.

This fall you'll be hearing from the Finance committee and some special, deeply personal messages from members of our church family who feel blessed to be among us. Please use this time to reflect on the many ways you can count yourself blessed and then give gratefully, generously, and joyfully in support of our ministries in 2014.