

# Good News

CONNELLSVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
THE MINISTER'S MUSINGS  
REFORMATION SUNDAY

### Bible Verse

2 Timothy 3:16–17 (NRSV) <sup>16</sup> All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

On October 31, 1517 Martin Luther posted his 95 theses on the church door. In that day, the church door was the bulletin board of the community, so it wasn't the posting on the door that caused problems. It was the fact that he publically called into question several lucrative practices of the church, especially the sale of indulgences which Martin Luther saw as the church *selling* Christ's forgiveness, forgiveness which Christ had freely given.

This led to the beginning of the Protestant Reformation. Luther had no intention of starting another church. He intended to reform the Roman church – cleaning out extra-Biblical practices – returning it to sound doctrine based in Scripture. His famous quote, at his trial for heresy says it all: "Unless I am convinced by the testimony of the Scriptures or by clear reason, I am bound by the Scriptures I have quoted and my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and will not recant anything, since it is neither safe nor right to go against conscience. Here I stand. I can do no other. May God help me. Amen."

We Presbyterians (Calvinists) stand in the stream of the reformation. We, together with all protestants, teach the five *solas* of the reformation (*sola* is a Latin word for "alone"). We believe **Scripture** alone is the authority of God's revelation and teaches us that salvation is by **grace** alone, through **faith** alone, in **Jesus Christ** alone; to the **glory of God** alone.

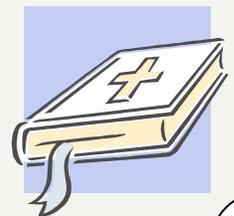
The protestant reformation renounced those teachings of the Roman Catholic church which were not supported by scripture. The reformation hinges on **Sola Scriptura**. It is through scripture that God has chosen to reveal Himself to us. Although the Holy Spirit may bring understanding to us as we study scripture; the Holy Spirit who inspired and preserved God's revelation in scripture will not – cannot – contradict scripture. God: Father, Son and Holy Ghost, does not change. Civilizations and culture change; mankind's understanding and morals change. God is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow.

It is for this reason I so strongly emphasize knowledge of the scriptures. God has given us everything we need to know about Him and His will for the world in those scriptures. How can we not study them?

But the enemy has convinced many well-meaning Christians that the Bible is not God's Word. That it is merely a collection of human opinions. That we must discern what of scripture is valid and what is not; throwing out large portions of scripture with no reason other than our opinion. As if the Holy Spirit were not capable of protecting God's Word! As St Augustine said, "If you believe what you like in the gospels, and reject what you don't like, it is not the gospel you believe, but yourself."

The Bible is God's reliable word to us. So go, celebrate the reformation, read your Bible!

Rev Suzanne



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# CHURCH CALENDAR

## WINTER 2014, 2015 EVENTS

### December

- Dec 6-7**— Nativity display  
Sat: 12-4; Sun 12-2.
- Dec 8**— Session meeting, 7pm
- Dec 13**— Children's Christmas Party,  
10am
- Dec 14**— Children's Christmas Pageant  
during worship; light lunch  
following worship and Christ-  
mas caroling to shut-ins after  
lunch
- Dec 24**—Christmas Eve Service
- Dec. 25**— Christmas Day



### January

- Jan. 4**— Communion
- Jan 7**— Faith Finders resumes
- Jan 12**—Session meeting
- Jan 25**—Committee meetings
- \* No Ladies Lunches in Decem-  
ber, January and February.  
They will resume in March
- Jan 26**—Committee meetings—  
7pm

*God sent a star to light the night for  
The Way, The Truth, The Life--His Son.  
He sent the Light of Life to prove His heart  
so we would invite His Son into our own.  
God has given us all the light we'll ever  
need to find peace on earth,  
goodwill to men.*

*-Pamela F. Dowd*

### February

- Feb. 7**— Indoor Yard Sale, 9-1pm
- Feb. 9**—Session meeting, 7pm
- Feb 18**—Ash Wednesday:  
Pot luck dinner at 6pm,  
Worship at 7pm
- Feb 22**—Communion
- Feb 23**—Committee meetings
- Feb 24**—1st Lenten Luncheon

## Birthdays and Anniversaries

### Birthdays

- Dec. 1—Chuck Schmidt
- Dec.16 —Scott Whetsel
- Dec. 19—Dylan Martin
- Dec. 23—Marilyn Mitchell
- Dec. 24—Janet Driscoll
- Dec. 27—Ashleigh Farrah
- Dec. 28—Estella Grose
- Jan. 2—Tommy Christopher,  
Haleigh Ferencuha
- Jan. 3 -Mason O'Casek
- Jan. 4—Danny Rosensteel
- Jan. 7—Jackie Miller
- Jan. 9—Carol Groff, Rachel Pastors



### Birthdays

- Jan. 12—Audra McFadden
- Jan. 15—Bill Driscoll
- Jan. 21—Stacie Tarr
- Jan. 30—Nick Tarr
- Feb. 3—Paul Grose
- Feb. 4 —Tom Welch
- Feb. 5—Winifred Dilworth
- Feb. 11—Scott Brooks,  
Addison Farrah
- Feb. 13—Jean Whetsel
- Feb. 19—Nancy Henry,  
Shawn Grimm
- Feb. 27—Sandy Brooks
- Feb. 28—Bailey Rosensteel

### Anniversaries

- Dec. 6—Shelly and Brian Hann
- Feb. 5—Jenny and David O'Casek
- Feb. 14—Suzanne and Neil Zampella
- Feb. 22—Pat and John Arzbacher
- Feb. 24—Sue and John Husband

### Wedding Congratulations



Stacie Kerns and Nick Tarr  
October 11, 2014  
and  
Courtney Wilttrout and Eric Luckey  
October 11, 2014



## YOUTH ACTIVITIES

### Faith Finders Starts Again January 17th

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 begin with singing, learning about people in the bibles, games snack. Faith Finders is over at **7:15 pm**.

Please bring your children to help strengthen their faith and make lasting friendships.



### Lancaster Trip

**Lancaster Trip** is now being planned for November 7, 2015 to see the original "Miracle of Christmas". The show begins at 11 am and then we will have lunch at the Hershey Farm Restaurant after the show. We will most likely make a stop somewhere else on the trip. If you are interested in going, please see Nancy. There are only 45 available spots for the trip.

### Children's Christmas Party

**Saturday Dec. 13th**

**10 am —Noon**

## UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL SUSIE AND JOHN HUSBAND

Every church needs and wants a couple like Susie and John Husband. Whatever church projects are being discussed and volunteers are called for, you can be assured that John and Susie will be there to assist in whatever capacity they can. John is important with finance and building concerns, and Susie is involved in the truly Deacon services like caring for the congregation with cards and chairing funeral dinners and coffee hours. What would we do without Susie's ham? We thank John for cutting the ham into serving pieces to enjoy.

This special couple was raised in the Presbyterian church; Susie in Connellsville and John in Scottdale. Susie often tells our Fellowship Class about the wonderful experiences that she had as a young girl involved in the many activities this church offered under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Stewart. Susie graduated from the Connellsville Joint High School, now Connellsville Junior High, in 1964. John went to school in the same building for 12 years. He went to elementary school at the Trotter School, and when he was ready for high school, the school district had built Dunbar High School connected to the elementary building. He also graduated in 1964. Big Year for 50<sup>th</sup> class reunions!



John went to work at age 10 for his dad, Bill, at the family Husband Atlantic Service Station. Susie worked as a teen at Murphy's Five and Ten. They never dated in high school. But after graduation, they met at Harden's, a teen hang out where they had curb service. John showed good sense and asked Susie for a date. Best thing he ever did!

Susie went to Durbin's Secretarial school, and John went to Bale Tech for auto repairs. Jon enlisted in the service in 1965, but his heart condition was discovered shortly, and he was honorably discharged.

The couple got married on February 24, 1967 here in this church. They were married by a pulpit exchange minister from Australia. They were only 20 years old. They have been happy together because they took the vows of "the good and the bad" and "in sickness and health" seriously. Also add a large amount of love. They started married life on Morrell Avenue and eventually moved to Vine Street. Now they live in Bessie and Bill's house on Jean Street. They were blessed with three daughters: Mary Lou, Joanie, and Carol. They are extremely blessed with three fine grandchildren.

The couple decided that Susie should be a stay at home mother, and by carefully budgeting, they could live comfortably on one income. Everyone knows that Susie is the best bargain shopper there is! John retired after 32 years at Anchor Hocking. They have traveled some in the United States visiting family, Now John says he likes to "sit on the back porch and watch the grass grow". Being together as a family is the most important thing, fortunately their immediate family is all close by. They love to be together with friends also. So we are surely glad to be numbered among their friends.

**“Oh Come Let Us Adore Him” : December 7 and 8**

Oh Come Let Us Adore Him nativity and angel display. If you are interested in displaying your Nativity or Angels, your displays and a form of the description of your displays or the history behind the pieces, they must be turned into the church office by **November 23**. The display of the Nativity and Angels will be showed on the Weekend of Saturday, December 6 from Noon to 4 pm and Sunday, December 7 from Noon to 2 pm. We are in need of helpers both days. We will be serving punch and cookies. If you would like to make cookies please contact the Office. We are in need of male or female hostess to help tour the displays. We are in need of your help to put up and take down and place them in their boxes. Help is really needed. Please contact Teri Montgomery or Nancy Luckey or call the church office 724-628-4401 if you can volunteer this week-end. Our donation will benefit the “Alternatives Yes Pregnancy Support Center”.

**Children's Christmas Party: Saturday, December 13 10:00am to noon**

Join us for a fun morning to celebrate Christmas with our youth.

**Children’s Christmas Pageant, Christmas Coffee Hour and Christmas Caroling: Sunday December 14th**

Join us for the annual Children’s Christmas Pageant at 11:00 am during worship. This annual pageant is a heart-warming and meaningful way to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas with our kids. Immediately after, join us for a Christmas Coffee hour at noon. Then, once you are fortified with cookies and light snacks, join us for Christmas Caroling to our shut ins.

**Mitten Tree**- At the end of November, an undecorated Christmas Tree will appear in the Narthex. This is to remind us to reach out to others in need as we celebrate the coming of the birth of Jesus Christ. Many of our school children will go to school without adequate clothing. We would like to give them, a warm gift in the name of Jesus by filling up the Christmas Tree with mittens, hats, gloves and socks. In the past we have supplied local schools with these items so help the Faith Finders continue this tradition of helping others in need. Thank you.

**Apple Dumplings** — We will sell Apple Dumplings some time in December. Watch the web page and bulletins for specific dates.



**December Office Hours**

**Monday through Thursday 8:00am to 2:00 pm**

**Office closed on Fridays**

**Office closed on December 25 and 26**

**CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS**

(Turn in the office with payment by Sunday December 7)

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

In (circle one) memory/honor of  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Flowers will be in a 6 ½ inch pot                      Circle the color    Red            Pink            White

Total number: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$9.00 = \_\_\_\_\_



## SESSION NEWS

### A note from Session on our move between denominations:

As you know by now, Connellsville Presbyterian has begun the process of moving from our current denomination, the PC(USA), to the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC). This is motivated by Session's belief that the PC(USA) has made decisions which no longer reflect our understanding of what scripture teaches us to believe. Redstone presbytery's process for dismissal of churches is a multi-step process and will take several months.



1. **Getting ready:** We notified presbytery one month before session voted, sending them our rationale for wanting to leave the PC(USA). We also sent each family a letter with a copy of the rationale, asking you to contact any session member with questions or concerns. We have also begun to contact each family to make sure you got the letter and understand what's going on. If you have not received a letter, or misplaced it, or otherwise want another copy, just call the church office and we'll send you a new one.
2. **Session Vote:** Session met with the presbytery listening team on Oct 13 and voted to begin the process for leaving the PC(USA) for the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.
3. **Six months of Discernment:** The presbytery's process requires six months between the session vote and the congregational vote. During that time we will work out specifics of our agreement. The presbytery wants to hear from the congregation and let the congregation hear their reasons for us to stay. They are concerned that this be a decision of the whole congregation, not something that is being pushed by only a few. They also want to make sure that the decision is based on truth, not on misrepresentations of the PC(USA). We will schedule a **luncheon** on a January or February Sunday after worship for the presbytery team to meet with members of the congregation. This is your opportunity to ask questions of the presbytery team and for them to understand our congregation's position on the direction of the PC(USA). It is important that we have a good turnout for this meeting and that we speak up.
4. **Congregational Meeting and Vote:** If all goes as expected, the congregational meeting to request dismissal will be in **April, 2015**
5. **Presbytery meeting:** Our request will be heard and voted on at the **May 2015** meeting of Redstone Presbytery.

If you have any questions on why we are making this move, or how the process works, please contact any elder.



### LENTEN LUNCHEONS

The Connellsville Area Ministerial Association is once again sponsoring the Lenten Luncheon Services. We have hosted these luncheons in our building for the last several years. Each week, different churches of the community will be providing a wonderful lunch and a message from different Pastors. The first luncheon will be Tuesday, February 24, from Noon to 1pm. Come and join our fellow Connellsville Christians for a time of unity, challenge and friendship as we enter into the Lenten Season.

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.CONNELLSVILLEPRESBYTERIAN.ORG

Connellsville Presbyterian Church  
711 S. Pittsburgh St.  
Connellsville PA, 15425



## THE OPPORTUNITY OF YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL IN OUR CHURCH

### Sunday Schedule

Adult Sunday School—9:30 am

Youth Sunday School—10:00am

Worship—11:00am

PARENTS – Our church offers dedicated and willing teachers who want to teach children and an excellent curriculum that starts with a general meeting of all children and then divides them into age appropriate groups. The only thing missing is the children. The greatest dedication and program can only work when you have children to participate in the lessons. We have two or three dedicated children who come faithfully, but we need a variety of ages to make the program work. The few times that the Sunday School program has a larger variety of children is a blessing for the children and teachers alike.

The children need a strong foundation in the importance of being Christians in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We need to know who we are as Christians and how Christians are to live their lives in a secular world.

It is good to be part of Faith Finders and Wee Worship but these two do not replace the importance of Sunday School. We have carefully selected a Sunday School curriculum that offers the complete program that the children need.

Parents, we need to know how Sunday School can accommodate your schedule so your children will be able to participate in our Sunday School program. A growing church needs children and children's programs. We all know what a joy we experience when Rev. Suzanne has 8 to 10 children with her during the Children's Chat. The Sunday School teachers ask to have those 8 to 10 children available to begin an effective Sunday School program in our church. How can we make this happen?