

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

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:14-17

As Neil begins his preparation to serve as a Ruling Elder Commissioner to the General Assembly (GA) this June, we've been talking about what is coming. The GA sets the direction and policy for our entire denomination. As Presbyterians, this representative form of government is what sets us apart from other denominations. We don't have a Bishop, we have a council of Teaching and Ruling Elders elected by Presbyteries across the USA who make these decisions for the denomination as a whole. We believe that seeking the will of God as a group, as the Apostles did in Acts, is a more Biblical method than investing too much power in a single person. However, every form of government has weaknesses. The Church is Christ's Bride, but it is also a human institution subject to human errors.

After the GA in Pittsburgh 2 years ago, we had a congregational gathering to discuss what happened. (I still have handouts from that discussion if anyone wants a copy). The one thing that worries me most from that GA is the decision that the Book of Order (equivalent to by-laws) sits above the Book of Confessions (and therefore scripture) in our policies. This contradicts the Book of Order itself which defines our constitution as the Book of Order and the Confessions. Our ordination vows for Elders and Ministers requires us to "sincerely receive and adopt the essential tenets of the Reformed faith as expressed in the confessions of our church as authentic and reliable expositions of what Scripture leads us to believe and do". How can we believe the confessions are "reliable expositions of what Scripture leads us to believe and do" AND say that the confessions do not bind our policies? Unless we believe that obedience to God's Word is not important to our denominational life. It is at this GA that we will see how this paradox impacts our future.

As we look at proposals for modifications to our Book of Order and changes to our denomination, it is clear that many of these proposals are NOT consistent with the historic faith of the Church and confessions. Principles that focus on the good news of God's grace to His children such as sin, repentance, and salvation are being replaced by a focus on acts of men such as "rights" and "works" and "programs".

Beloved, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints. For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ. Jude 3,4

Please pray for the upcoming GA and the representatives from Redstone Presbytery: Neil, Rev. Alice Tondora, Rev. Barry Young, and an elder from Vandergrift. They will be reading volumes of proposed changes and statements between now and June. Pray for wisdom and God's guidance on them and all the commissioners making decisions for our denomination; that they might contend for the faith delivered by God to the church in scripture.

Rev Suzanne

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Church Event Calendar	2
Lenten Lunch Schedule	2
Birthdays and Anniversaries	2
Youth Activities	3
Geranium Festival—volunteers needed	3
Up Close and Personal	3
Shoebox Ministry & Financial Peace Uni.	4

CHURCH CALENDAR SPRING 2014 EVENTS

March

- March 1**—Ladies’ Lunch at 1pm at Bud Murphy’s;
Session Planning Day from 9-3
- March 5**—Ash Wednesday, 7pm worship
- March 10**—Session meeting, 7pm
- March 16**—Bowling party, 1pm at Yough Lanes
- March 24**—Ministry night meeting, 7pm

April

- April 5**— Ladies’ Lunch at 1pm at Bud Murphy’s
- April 13**—Palm Sunday
- April 14**—Session meeting, 7pm
- April 17**— Maundy Thursday, dinner at 6pm, worship and communion at 7pm
- April 20** — Easter Sunday
- April 28**— Ministry night meeting, 7pm

May

- May 3**—Ladies’ Lunch at 1pm at Bud Murphy’s
- May 7**—Mothers’ Day Dinner, 6pm
- May 26**— Ministry night meeting, 7pm

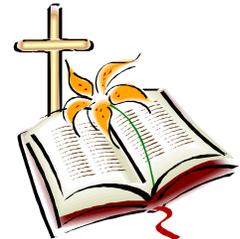


Lenten Worship at Connellsville Presbyterian

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| March 11: Speaker: Chip Rowan, Community Ministries | Lunch: Connellsville Presbyterian & Otterbein Churches |
| March 18: Speaker: Andy Spore , Otterbein UMC | Lunch: TBD |
| March 25: Speaker: Matt Goldsberry, Assembly of God | Lunch: Catholic Churches |
| April 1: Speaker: Fr. Bob Lubic, RC Parish | Lunch: Church of God |
| April 8: Speaker: Will Hough, 1st Baptist | Lunch: Assembly of God |

Community Worship Opportunities

- March 5:** Ash Wednesday Service. Noon. Location To Be Announced
- April 13:** Palm Sunday March and Praise at Lions’ Square following worship
- April 20:** Good Friday Service. Location To Be Announced



Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

- March 6—Michael Schmidle
- March 8—Teri Montgomery
- March 9—Bill Kalb
- March 10—Don Whetsel
- March 15—Colleen Kooser, Saan Walters
- March 16—Tim Whetsel
- March 20—Dolores Avery
- March 24—Gail Schmidle



- March 25—Pat Arzbacher
- March 29—Ethan Brooks
- April 1 —Kathe Crislip and Dale Kooser
- April 2—Eleanor Hixenbaugh
- April 3—Emily Brooks
- April 4—Ken Whetsel
- April 9—Nancy Luckey
- April 10—Richard Schmidle
- April 14—Tucker Wilson
- April 21—Stephanie Anderson
- April 22—Cooper Wilson
- April 25—Carter Wilson
- May 1—Cathy McNair

- May 7—Diane Bigham
- May 11—Melissa Ferencuha, Clay Anderson
- May 12—Robert Nedley, Jr
- May 15—William Driscoll, Jr.
- May 17—John Husband

Anniversaries

- May 2—William and Janet Driscoll
- May 6—Ashleigh and Steve Farrah
- May 7—Estella and Paul Grose



YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Faith Finders

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. Last day and Faith Finders dinner on Wednesday, April 2—all are welcome!



Church Bowling Party

Sunday March 16th

1:00pm at Yough Lanes

GERANIUM FESTIVAL - MAY 24

We missed being part of the Connellsville Annual Geranium Festival last year. That's a shame. It is such a great opportunity to reach out to the local community and invite people to join us in worship at the Connellsville Presbyterian Church, and for children to join us during Bible School. So this year let's make plans to participate in this wonderful Connellsville event. In the past, we have served ham barbeque sandwiches, potato chips, and soft drinks along with cookies. We need people to agree to help set up, man the booth, make the food, and clean up and return things to church. There is a cost to set up on the street also. If you can spare some time, check with the Outreach Committee and volunteer to be of service to the church. The money we raise will go to a mission project.

Sunday Schedule

Sunday School: 9:30 am

Worship: 11:00 am



UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL PATTY AND JOHN ARZBACHER

The couple from our church who would make a poster couple for Physically Fit Americans would be John and Patty Arzbacher. Both John and Patty love to play tennis and golf. They spend several nights a week with friends engaging in these sports. John says that his goal is to remain physically active especially now that he is retired. John also loves to walk at least 3 or 4 times a week, which we understand is one of the best physical activities of all.

John graduated from Connellsville High School and has always been a Connellsville guy. Eventually John graduated from California University of PA, and he taught physical science for 32 years in the Southmoreland School District. John likes to read, but he doesn't care for fiction. He really enjoys the newspaper, and spends about 1 ½ hours a day on the computer. He has always been active in our church serving both as a Deacon and on Session. When Apple Dumpling Time rolls around, John does his share to help in this important church fund raiser.

Patty is also a Connellsville native graduating from Connellsville High School. She also graduated from the Uniontown Beauty Academy. Patty has had a variety of careers in her lifetime. She spent 26 years with Montgomery Ward in management. Most of that time was spent at the Laurel Mall Store. She did hair for 7 years. Serving as a hostess at Linden Hall is also on her resume. She has stocked greeting cards at different locations, and she even gave pedicures. So Patty has had many jobs. At church, she is also active with the Apple Dumpling Project. Currently, she is busy with Faith Finders and Junior Church. Patty has served as a Deacon, on the Session, and as Clerk of Session for years. She loves to read especially fiction.



Patty and John have small families, but they stay very close to Patty's nephew Terry and Mary, Terry's wife. Very special to Patty and John is great-nephew, Brandon. They have played a big part in his life. We enjoy the time that Brandon spends with our congregation. Patty says that her church family is very important to her. John loves retirement. Patty is now officially retired also. And they love going out to eat.

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.CONNELLSVILLEPRESBYTERIAN.ORG

CONNELLSVILLE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
711 S. PITTSBURGH ST.
CONNELLSVILLE PA 15425

Shoebox Ministry: An all-year round event!

In order to make things a little easier for you, we are now accepting donations year-round for our annual Christmas Shoebox drive for underprivileged children. Each month, we will be focusing on a different type of item to include in these boxes of treasures for the less-fortunate kids. Please bring your donations to church or Faith Finders and place them in the box located in the Narthex. Shoe boxes will be dedicated in November.

March: Coloring books and crayons

April: Tablets and pencils

May: Toys, balls, stuffed animals, dolls

June: Toothpaste/brushes; tissues

July: Hair items

August: Toys, balls, stuffed animals, dolls

September: Hard single-wrapped candy

October: Socks, jewelry

Remember these are suggestions and we will accept any donations at any time of year. A donation of \$7 for each shoe box is needed to cover shipping, so you can always make a monetary donation. Please contact Pat Arzbacher or Nancy Luckey with any questions and thank you for your generosity!



Financial Peace University

Even if you missed the first class, you can still participate in the *Financial Peace* University class that started on Sunday, February 23. We will meet at 6-7:30 pm on Sunday evenings. We'll learn what the Bible says about how to handle money and debt. Financial Peace University will teach you how to *control your spending*, enable you to *pay off debt*, and to finally *put some money into savings*. Questions? Visit the CPC website at www.conellsvillepresbyterian.org

*Have a Blessed
Easter*