

Good News

CONNELLSVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
THE MINISTER'S MUSINGS

Jeremiah 29:10-14

¹⁰ “For thus says the LORD: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. ¹¹ For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. ¹² Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. ¹³ You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart. ¹⁴ I will be found by you, declares the LORD, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, declares the LORD, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

When a duck glides across the water, it seems so serene, so effortless – but underneath that duck’s feet are paddling like crazy! So it has been the past few months at Connellsville Presbyterian. Your session and I have been paddling like crazy to get things done to make this transition as effortless as possible for the congregation.

Connellsville Presbyterian is now a transitional member of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church!

We’ll spend the next year getting to know the EPC a little better, and your elders will work toward examination by the EPC. The EPC takes Eldership very seriously. Where the PC(USA) tried for a 1:1 ratio of Pastors and Ruling Elders in presbytery and national meetings, the EPC believes that lay leaders, Ruling Elders, should outnumber the Teaching Elders (Ministers) 2:1. This assumes that Ruling Elders are mature in their faith and able to articulate their beliefs within bounds of the historical Reformed faith. They are expected to be familiar with Scriptures, the Reformed faith, and the Westminster Confession so that they can make decisions at Presbytery and GA that reflect these beliefs. This is an important return to the Presbyterianism that existed before the “professional-ization” of the church in the 50s. The Seminary-trained minister and the ruling elders each bring important aspects to the governance of the church as we work together lead the people in following God’s will.

In addition, we will be working to bring Connellsville Presbyterian into a time of new growth and vitality. The EPC has a commitment to the spiritual health of each congregation. As part of this commitment, they are paying for our session to attend a workshop on church revitalization. Session will be looking to leverage the strengths of the congregation, to shore up our weaknesses, and to grow in fulfilling our call to make disciples for Christ.

Also, now that we are free from any possibility of the PC(USA) trying to lay some claim to our property, we will be working to make some much needed repairs on the building.

There will be inconveniences and obstacles as we work to improve and strengthen the church building and the real church, the people of God; but how beautiful this church will be when we’re done! A strong foundation in stone and in the faith of our fathers; beautiful windows and works of love showing Christ to the community; new doors keeping out the storms, while providing access to the community. A building and a congregation ready for another 200 years of service in God’s Glory.

This is an exciting time in the life our church family!

Isaiah 43:19-21

¹⁹ Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.
²⁰ The wild beasts will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches,
²¹ for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself that they might declare my praise.

Rev Suzanne

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CHURCH CALENDAR SUMMER 2015 EVENTS

June

June 6— no Ladies' Lunch
June 8—Session meeting 7pm
June 15-19—Vacation Bible School
June 21—Father's Day Reception
 after church
June 22—Committee Night 7pm

July

**No Ladies Lunch or session in
 July**
July 12—Lord's Supper
July 18—CAMA block party at
 Yough Park

August

August 1—no Ladies' Lunch
August 3—Session meeting 7pm
August 10-28 — Apple Dumplings
August 24—Committee Night 7pm
August 30—Lord's Supper

Congratulations Graduates!

Join us in congratulating our newest graduates:

Audra McFadden—*Graduated from Connellsville High School*

Bobby Groff — *Graduated from Penn State-Fayette, with an
 Associates Degree in Electrical Engineering*



Birthdays

June 1—Bob Groff	July 3—Sophia Franks
June 2—Polly Dye	July 7—Greg Pastors
June 3—Sue Husband	July 14—Kelsey Conn
June 6—Lois Fosselman	July 18—Patty Miller
June 13—Kerry Pastors	July 20—Richard May
June 18—Karen Hechler; Karen Nedley	July 23—JoAnn Schmidt
June 20—Lawrence Schmidle	July 26—Cayden Conn
June 21—Nicole Davis	July 28—Michael McFadden
June 23—Brady Mitchell	July 29—Brian Hann
June 25—Brad Hixenbaugh	August 2—Neil Zampella
June 29—Johnathan Kelley	August 15—Audrey Crislip
June 30—Joan Conn	August 18—Carole Grimm
July 2—Avery Christopher; Shirley Rusnak	August 23—Brandon Conn
	August 27—Sandy Grimaldi
	August 30—Rhiannon Martin



Anniversaries

June 2—Lori and Dan Rosensteel
 June 3—Nancy and Rick Luckey
 June 6—Carole and David Grimm
 June 7—Polly and David Dye
 June 11—Kerry and Greg Pastors
 June 21—JoAnn and Chuck Schmidt
 June 23—Marilyn and Brady Mitchell
 June 25—Carol and Bob Groff
 July 3—Patty and Jack Crislip
 July 12—Mary Lou and Tom Welch
 July 21—Becky and Frank Banko
 July 28—Debbie and Dave Mullaney
 August 28—Alma and Mark Courtley



Members and Loved Ones who have joined the Church Eternal



**Sann Walters
 Paul Grose**



Vacation Bible School—June 15-19



Come to Vacation Bible School and witness the **Amazing Feats of Jesus** during the week of June 15-19, 2015. We will begin with dinner at 5:15 PM, for those who wish to participate, on Monday through Thursday. Dinner is free for the children, and \$3.50 for adults.

Each day, the opening will begin at 6:00 PM, and Bible School will end at 8:00 PM. Our Mission project this year will be providing fresh water wells so people in South Sudan can enjoy safe drinking water.

The final activity will be the Annual Bible School Picnic on Friday. Students and parents are invited to enjoy this event together.

We ask that parents register their children via our website, so we know how many children to expect. For more information and online registration, go to www.connellsvillepresbyterian.org.

Don't forget that Faith Finders starts up again on September 9, 2015

Apple Dumpling Time is coming! August 10-28

Soon it will be August and Apple Dumpling Time! Please consider helping us in this fun fundraising event this year. We always need workers and no skills are needed! We will gladly teach you how to prepare our luscious dumplings! Hope to see you in the kitchen!

Tell your friends to call 724-628-3704 (beginning July 27) to place their orders so they don't miss out!



Summer Sunday Schedule

Sundays in June, July, and August:

Sunday School—9:00 am

Worship—10:00 am

UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL

This family has been especially blessed with the gift of music. Everyone of the family has performed in musical presentations or is currently making a living by spreading the joy of music in our community.

Father, Gene, is a professional musician. He gives private lessons here in Connellsville at Atkin's Music Store and has for 30 years. Gene organized and directs the Del Sol Band which performs frequently throughout the local area. You might hear them play at one of the Lion's Summer Series. And if you are real lucky, Marilee might sing a few numbers.

Mother, Marilee, is a graduate of West Virginia University, and teaches vocal music at Connellsville Junior High School. She assists with the Junior High musical. Tutoring students is also on her list of things to do. She now is active in producing the Thanksgiving Hymn Fest Also, Marilee plays organ on Sunday morning for 2 churches including our own. She is a very busy lady. If you have heard her sing at our Maundy Thursday service, you know that she has a lovely singing voice.

Son, Michael, is a graduate of Connellsville Senior High School, and while a student there was actively involved in the school musicals. We saw him on stage singing and dancing. He has finished his second year at WVU where he is a Business Major.

Daughter, Audra, is a senior at Connellsville Senior High and will be graduating very soon. She will continue her education at WVU. Does this sound like a family tradition? Aunt Nancy also is a WVU alumni. What about Uncle Jack and Penn State? Audra was also very active in the school musicals, and she has sung for us here in church. Working very hard at Subway, Audra is learning to budget her time wisely.



We are thankful for such a talented family!

The Evangelical Presbyterian Church

The EPC is both evangelical and Presbyterian. We are evangelical in our zeal for the gospel, as well as evangelism, missions, and living obediently as followers of Jesus. At the same time, we are rooted deeply in the Protestant Reformation and especially the theological and pastoral work of John Calvin. We embrace the *Westminster Confession of Faith* as our doctrinal standard, and the rule of spiritually mature elders linked together regionally as the best way to guide local congregations.

When the EPC started in 1981, we determined that we would not disagree on the basic essentials of the Christian faith, but on anything that was not essential—such as the issue of ordaining women as officers or practicing charismatic gifts—we would give each other liberty. Above all, we committed ourselves to loving each other and not engaging in quarrels and strife.

The EPC consists of more than 550 churches with nearly 150,000 members. We have a world missions program with a priority on sending missionaries to unreached people groups. We are eager to plant churches across the United States and especially in urban communities and college towns. Our desire is that every one of our congregations will be an outpost of the Kingdom, with every member viewing himself or herself as a missionary on a mission.

Mission: The EPC exists to carry out the Great Commission of Jesus as a denomination of Presbyterian, Reformed, Evangelical, and Missional congregations.

Vision: To the glory of God, the EPC family aspires to be a global movement of congregations engaged together in God's mission through transformation, multiplication, and effective biblical leadership, embodying Jesus' love to our neighbors near and far.

Beliefs: From the beginning, we have been a movement of congregations that takes seriously the Bible, the theology of the historic confessions of the faith, and the evangelical fervor of the founders of American Presbyterianism. We affirm that the Bible is God's inspired and infallible Word, and that it contains eternal truth that speaks with authority to our life, doctrine, and mission (2 Timothy 3:16). To ensure that the ideals of faith are easily understood but remain foundational, our core belief is contained in a concise list of essentials. We are Reformed in our understanding of the Bible, which means we are confessional.

The Constitution of the EPC consists of the *Westminster Confession of Faith* (including the Larger and Shorter Catechisms), the "Essentials of our Faith," and the *Book of Order* (comprised of *The Book of Government*, *The Book of Discipline*, and *The Book of Worship*). All these documents are subordinate to Scripture, which is "the supreme and final authority on all matters on which it speaks."

Structure: The local church is the primary building block in the EPC. We believe ministry and mission begins with the local church. As Presbyterians, our churches intentionally connect and engage together on a regional basis. We believe that we can better fulfill the mission of God by supporting, helping, and being accountable to each other. Finally, we are committed to an overarching authority called the General Assembly that meets annually and assigns responsibilities to committees, ministries, and dedicated staff to serve the needs of the local church.

Some of the local EPC congregations with whom we will work are:

Covenant Presbyterian Church, Ligonier

Peters Creek Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Venetia

St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Somerset

First Presbyterian Church of Bentleyville, Bentleyville

Lebanon Presbyterian Church, West Mifflin

Fort Palmer EPC, Bolivar

Round Hill Presbyterian Church, Elizabeth

New Hope Church, Pittsburgh

Graystone Presbyterian Church, Indiana

Bethel Presbyterian Church, Prosperity

The EPC's Essentials of the Faith

All Scripture is self-attesting and being Truth, requires our unreserved submission in all areas of life. The infallible Word of God, the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments, is a complete and unified witness to God's redemptive acts culminating in the incarnation of the Living Word, the Lord Jesus Christ. The Bible, uniquely and fully inspired by the Holy Spirit, is the supreme and final authority on all matters on which it speaks. On this sure foundation we affirm these Essentials:

1. We believe in one God, the sovereign Creator and Sustainer of all things, infinitely perfect and eternally existing in three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. To Him be all honor, glory and praise forever!
2. Jesus Christ, the living Word, became flesh through His miraculous conception by the Holy Spirit and His virgin birth. He who is true God became true man united in one Person forever. He died on the cross a sacrifice for our sins according to the Scriptures. On the third day He arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven, where, at the right hand of the Majesty on High, He now is our High Priest and Mediator.
3. The Holy Spirit has come to glorify Christ and to apply the saving work of Christ to our hearts. He convicts us of sin and draws us to the Savior. Indwelling our hearts, He gives new life to us, empowers and imparts gifts to us for service. He instructs and guides us into all truth, and seals us for the day of redemption.
4. Being estranged from God and condemned by our sinfulness, our salvation is wholly dependent upon the work of God's free grace. God credits His righteousness to those who put their faith in Christ alone for their salvation, thereby justifies them in His sight. Only such as are born of the Holy Spirit and receive Jesus Christ become children of God and heirs of eternal life.
5. The true Church is composed of all persons who through saving faith in Jesus Christ and the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit are united together in the body of Christ. The Church finds her visible, yet imperfect, expression in local congregations where the Word of God is preached in its purity and the sacraments are administered in their integrity; where scriptural discipline is practiced, and where loving fellowship is maintained. For her perfecting, she awaits the return of her Lord.
6. Jesus Christ will come again to the earth—personally, visibly, and bodily—to judge the living and the dead, and to consummate history and the eternal plan of God. "Even so, come, Lord Jesus" (Revelation 22:20).
7. The Lord Jesus Christ commands all believers to proclaim the Gospel throughout the world and to make disciples of all nations. Obedience to the Great Commission requires total commitment to "Him who loved us and gave Himself for us." He calls us to a life of self-denying love and service. "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them" (Ephesians 2:10).

These Essentials are set forth in greater detail in the *Westminster Confession of Faith*.

"Essentials of Our Faith" is an irenic statement of historic evangelicalism. The purpose of "Essentials of Our Faith" is to define core beliefs of the Christian Faith. It expresses historic Christian beliefs common to all true believers and churches throughout the world. "Essentials of Our Faith" is not intended to be the exclusive test of orthodoxy for ordination. It is not to be construed as a substitute for the Westminster Confession of Faith.

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.CONNELLSVILLEPRESBYTERIAN.ORG

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Geranium Festival

THANKS TO ALL WHO HELPED

We had a very successful day at the May 23, 2015 Geranium Festival. It was a success because so many people helped out. The donations helped to pay for the food we needed for our sandwiches, chips and beverages. The use of John Husband's truck helped get the tables, chairs, coolers, roasters, etc. downtown. Nancy took care of the cookies, and Rev. Suzanne put together a brief statement about church hours and Vacation Bible School. Scott provided a tent so we didn't have to pay extra. People loaded the truck, heated the sandwiches, shopped for supplies, manned the booth, etc. It may look simple when you go downtown, but lots of people and work went on behind the scenes. All the profit will go to building fresh water wells in South Sudan. Some people don't have fresh water close by their homes. What a joy to be of some service to others.



Sight and Sound Trip to Lancaster PA—Saturday, Nov 7, 2015

You are invited to join our Youth Group to go see "Miracle of Christmas". Go back in time and witness the greatest birth in history. Be surrounded by the bustling village of Bethlehem as camels, horses, donkeys and villagers pass by. Be transported to the hillside where angels descended to proclaim great joy to the shepherds. You will feel like you have become part of the manger scene. Start your Christmas with Christ and enjoy the day.

We will leave the church by 6am and return back around 8pm. The show begins at 11am and we will eat dinner at the Hershey Farms Restaurant afterwards. We are raising money to cut the cost of the bus and have raised around \$800 so far. The tickets for the show, dinner, and the bus fare are: Adults (ages 13 and up): \$119; Children (ages 3 to 12): \$64. See Nancy Luckey for details for this wonderful trip.