

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

¹⁹ Yet have regard to the prayer of your servant and to his plea, O LORD my God, listening to the cry and to the prayer that your servant prays before you, ²⁰ that your eyes may be open day and night toward this house, the place where you have promised to set your name, that you may listen to the prayer that your servant offers toward this place. ²¹ And listen to the pleas of your servant and of your people Israel, when they pray toward this place. And listen from heaven your dwelling place, and when you hear, forgive.

Chronicles 6:19-21

Prayer is the only entry way into genuine self-knowledge. It is also the main way we experience deep change—the reordering of our loves. Prayer is how God gives us so many of the unimaginable things he has for us. Indeed, prayer makes it safe for God to give us many of the things we most desire. It is the way we know God, the way we finally treat God as God. Prayer is simply the key to everything we need to do and be in life. We must learn to pray. We have to.— Tim Keller, Prayer

Prayer is a vital part of our individual Christian lives and our corporate life as Christ's body. Our journey as Christians can be a struggle: doubts and questions, physical and emotional battles. Prayer is our lifeline to keep us in touch with the One who watches over us and directs our lives. The struggles we face as Christian include spiritual battles. Paul tells us

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. (Ephesians 6:12)

We are not expected to do spiritual battle on our own. That's why this passage speaks of the armor that God gives us for the battle. Most of that armor is defensive, but one piece is for defense or attack: *the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. (Ephesians 6:17)*. We've spoken of the need to know God's word so that we are armed, but Paul goes on to say: *praying at all times in the Spirit (Ephesians 6:18)*. We are to be in communication with the One who has armed us, the Spirit whose sword we wield. If we try to live a Christian life without being in communication with God, we're going to fail.

Prayer is our connection to seek God's guidance, and to stay focused on Him so we don't wander off. Prayer, coupled with scripture reading, helps us accurately apply God's word to our lives.

Personal prayer is private place where our emotion, our intellect, and our will all come into together to place us in deeper relationship with our heavenly Father. Intercessory prayer makes us mindful of the needs of our brothers and sisters and keeps us from becoming self-centered. Corporate prayer reminds us we journey in community.

Prayer is vital if we are to be a living body of Christ. Without the breath of the Spirit in our prayer lives, we are dead, dry bones.

I challenge you to become more intentional in your prayer life this Lent. In **A**doration to God, **C**onfession of your failings, **T**hanksgiving for what God has given you, as well as **S**upplication for needs. The **ACTS** of prayer of all of us will help us to navigate the time of change we are entering, and will help us stay anchored to the One who gives us all spiritual gifts.

Rev Suzanne

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CHURCH CALENDAR

SPRING 2015 EVENTS

March

- March 7**—Ladies' Lunch at 1pm at Bud Murphy's;
Session Planning Day from 9-1
- March 9**—Session meeting, 7pm
- March 12**—Polishing railings, 7pm
- March 15**—Bowling party, 1pm at Yough Lanes
- March 19**—Polishing silver, 7pm
- March 23**—Committee meetings, 7pm
- March 25**—Faith Finders Dinner
- March 29**—Palm Sunday

April

- April 2**—Maundy Thursday, Potluck Dinner at 6pm; worship and communion at 7pm
- April 4**—Children's Easter Party, 10:00am; Ladies' Lunch at 1pm at Bud Murphy's
- April 5**—Easter
- April 13**—Session meeting, 7pm
- April 19**—Congregational meeting on dismissal to EPC—Tentative date
- April 27**—Committee meetings, 7pm

May

- May 2**—Ladies' Lunch at 1pm at Bud Murphy's
- May 6**—Mother's Day Dinner, 6pm
- May 11**—Session meeting, 7pm
- May 26**—Geranium Festival

MOTHERS DAY DINNER

Wed, May 6 at 6:00pm Everyone is invited to celebrate our mothers.

Lenten Worship at Connellsville Presbyterian

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| February 24: Speaker: Jim Turnbull, Christian Missionary Alliance | Lunch: Presbyterian Church |
| March 3: Speaker: Kerri Clark, Trinity Lutheran | Lunch: Church of God |
| March 10: Speaker: Jeff Tate, Payne AME | Lunch: Assembly of God |
| March 17: Speaker: Fr. Bob Lubic, RC Parish | Lunch: Wesley and Albright UMC |
| March 24: Speaker: Will Hough, 1st Baptist | Lunch: Roman Catholic |

Community Worship Opportunities

- March 29:** Palm Sunday March from churches to Lions' Square
- April 3:** Good Friday Service, Noon to 3pm at Trinity Lutheran

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

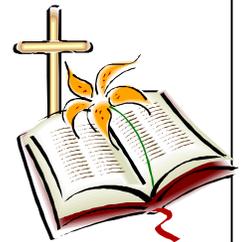


- April 1—Kathe Crislip and Dale Kooser
- April 2—Eleanor Hixenbaugh
- April 3—Emily Brooks
- April 4—Ken Whetsel
- April 9—Nancy Luckey
- April 10—Richard Schmidle
- April 14—Tucker Wilson
- April 21—Stephanie Anderson
- April 22—Cooper Wilson
- April 25—Carter Wilson
- May 1—Cathy McNair
- May 2—Mary Lou Welch
- May 7—Diane Bigham
- May 8—Carol Kelley
- May 11—Melissa Ferencuha,
Clay Anderson

- May 12—Robert Nedley Jr.
- May 15—William Driscoll, IV
- May 16—David Hixenbaugh
- May 17—John Husband
- May 25—Edna Flemming

Anniversaries

- March 9—Jean & Don Whetsel
- March 16—Shirley & Tom Rusnack
- May 2—William & Janet Driscoll
- May 6—Ashleigh & Steve Farrah
- May 7—Estella & Paul Grose



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

Last Faith Finders is March 25th

- all are welcome to join us for join us for our Faith Finders Wrap Up dinner at 6pm.

Sight and Sound Trip to Lancaster

Save the Date: November 7, 2015

You are invited to join our Youth Group to see the Miracle of Christmas in Lancaster, PA. It is a wonderful show that will take you back in time to witness the greatest birth in history. More details will be coming in the next newsletter, but see Nancy Luckey for information.

Church Bowling Party

Sunday March 15th 1:00pm at Yough Lanes

Sunday Schedule

Sunday School: 9:30 am

Worship: 11:00 am



**UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL
SUZANNE AND NEIL ZAMPELLA**

Rev. Suzanne and Neil came to Connellsville Presbyterian five years ago after they had traveled far and wide and been involved in other careers. Suzanne was born in Atlanta, Georgia and raised in Lake City Florida where she was a child of the Presbyterian Church. Neil was born in Elizabeth, New Jersey, and he was raised Roman Catholic.

Neil was educated in Catholic schools his entire education. He then joined the United States Air Force and is a veteran of 23 years. Suzanne is the child of an attorney and retired school teacher. Her undergraduate education was at William and Mary College in Williamsburg, VA. Her best grade for her first semester was in computer science so that became her major. Upon graduation, she embarked on a career as a computer consultant. That career took her many different places.

She met Neil while she was working at Langley Air Force Base when Neil was on active duty. After dating for a year, they were married in the Chapel of the Air at Langley. The romantic date they chose was February 14.

Suzanne feels that she has always had the call to the ministry, but the PCUS did not ordain women until around 1980. But she was always active in the Presbyterian churches that she attended. Neil says that he had lost his faith, but he regained his way upon meeting Suzanne. He says that she has been a blessing to him, and she never steered him wrong.

The couple had settled in a beautiful home in Ashburn, VA when Suzanne felt God reawakening the call for her to enter the ministry. After much prayer and Neil's support, they sold the house and moved to Pittsburgh where Suzanne entered Pittsburgh Theological Seminary from 2006-2009. Upon graduation, Suzanne accepted the call to Connellsville because she believes that God was directing her here. She believes that her skills are a good match for what our church needed. She is currently working on her Doctor of Ministry. Neil is busy as Assistant Clerk of Session here in Connellsville, Administrative Assistant at First Presbyterian Church in Jeannette, and serving as webmaster for 7 churches.

So come and worship with us on Sunday. Rev. Suzanne will be up front preaching the Word, and Neil will be in the back overseeing the sound system. They are a good team.



WE'RE ON THE WEB!

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Shoebox Ministry

For the second year in a row, we are again accepting donations year-round for our annual Christmas Shoebox drive for underprivileged children. Please bring your donations to church or Faith Finders and place them in the basket located in the Narthex.



February: Soap and wash clothes

March: Activity and coloring books and crayons

April: Combs and hair accessories

May: Toothbrushes and toothpaste

June: Small toys and small stuffed animals

July: Pencils, sharpeners and erasers

August: Kids jewelry, Nerf balls

September: Hard single-wrapped candy

October: Tablets and notebooks

The age groups we are collecting for are 2-4; 5-9 and 10-14. Remember these are suggestions and we will accept any donations at any time of year. \$7 is needed for each shoe box to cover shipping, so you can always make a monetary donation.

GERANIUM FESTIVAL

MAY 23rd

Join us on Saturday, May 23rd at our booth at the Connellsville Geranium Festival. 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. As in the past, we will serve 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. If you can spare some time, we would love to have your help! Please check with Karen Hechler for information on this worthwhile community event—and all money we raise will go towards our mission project: clean water wells in South Sudan.