

Good News

CONNELLSVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



THE MINISTER'S MUSINGS

And they were bringing children to him that he might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God." And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands on them. —Mark 10:13–14, 16 (ESV)

Galatians 4:4–7 (ESV)

⁴ But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶ And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

As we prepare for Vacation Bible School and the Faith Finders' picnic and session develops plans to reach out to needy students at South Side Elementary, my mind is on the children in our congregation and in our community. Many of the children surrounding us are without sufficient food, the security of loving adults, or even physical safety. There are so many children within a mile of the church building, many of whom have never heard that someone loves them, much less that they are loved by their Creator or that each precious one of them is made in God's image and deserves dignity, love, and respect. It is a sad statement on our society that this is unknown to so many – children and adults.

Please join me in praying for these children: that God will bring them to VBS, that we will be able to minister to them – through the simple dinner and snacks, by showing them God's love, giving them an example of caring relationships – and that we might plant the seeds of an eternal loving relationship with their Creator – the best gift we can give anyone! Also pray that we at CPC will see how we can effectively reach out to these children, to meet physical and spiritual needs, to be God's agents of healing love to the children and to the families.

In addition to the needs we see, the Penn State abuse scandal showed that many children bear scars we don't see. Abuse (physical, sexual, mental, and neglect) happens everywhere, even here in Connellsville. The Penn State scandal resulted in new laws: the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has passed strict child protection policies that require all who work with children to have background checks; this includes all the volunteers at the church who work with children. As a first line of defense for the children, we need to be able to recognize the signs of abuse to help protect the children in our community. With the new laws, all (even volunteers) who have direct contact with children in a church program are required by law to report suspected abuse.

To meet the requirements of these laws to protect the children placed in our care, we are instituting a policy that meets the requirements of Pennsylvania using the infrastructure of our denomination. **All of our adult workers who have direct contact with the children will be required to be trained on the PA and CPC requirements.** This policy will include how we would handle accusations against our own people. This is required by PA law and our insurance, but mostly by our desire to protect the children.

Thanks for your cooperation in protecting the children.

Rev Suzanne

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CHURCH CALENDAR SUMMER 2016 EVENTS

June

- June 1** Faith Finder's Picnic, 6:00-7:30 pm
- June 4** Ladies' Lunch 1pm at Bud Murphy's
- June 13** Session meeting, 7pm
- June 13-17** Vacation Bible School
- June 19** Father's Day Breakfast
- June 21-25** EPC General Assembly
- June 26** Communion

July

- No Ladies Lunch in July**
- No Session meeting in July**



August

- August 6** Ladies' Lunch 1pm at Bud Murphy's
- August 8** Session meeting 7pm
- August 28** Communion
- 2nd and 3rd weeks of August** Apple Dumpling Time



Summer Sunday Schedule

Sundays in June, July, and August:
 Sunday School—9:00 am
 Worship—10:00 am

***Faith Finders Picnic—
 Wednesday June 1 6:00-7:30 pm***



We welcome our congregational family and Faith Finder families for a fun night of eating hot dogs and hamburgers, face painting, and lots of games. Come rain or shine!

Birthdays



- June 1 Bob Groff
- June 2 Polly Dye
- June 3 Sue Husband
- June 6 Lois Fosselman
- June 13 Kerry Pastors
- June 18 Karen Hechler; Karen Nedley
- June 21 Nicole Davis and Aiden Lindstrom
- June 23 Brady Mitchell
- June 25 Brad Hixenbaugh
- June 29 Johnathan Kelley
- June 30 Joan Conn
- July 2 Avery Christopher; Shirley Rusnak

- July 3 Sophia Franks
- July 7 Greg Pastors
- July 14 Kelsey Conn
- July 18 Patty Miller
- July 20 Richard May
- July 23 JoAnn Schmidt
- July 26 Cayden Conn
- July 28 Michael McFadden
- July 29 Brian Hann
- August 2 Neil Zampella
- August 15 Audrey Crislip
- August 18 Carole Grimm
- 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



Dow Carnahan



A Note from the Finance Committee

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The Finance committee has been looking over our church books. As a congregation, we have been generous whenever we have had special appeals for repairs for the building, and for purchase of supplies for VBS or the Geranium Festival. When asked for donations toward our door replacement, many stepped up to donate so that we could take less from savings. However, over the years these 'special appeals' seem to have been made at the expense of contributions to our basic operational needs.



Over the past 10 years or more, we have seen a deficit in our operational fund most years. While we have tried to keep day-to-day expenses low, the requirements for insurance, curriculum, salaries, and utilities have stayed the same or gone up. At the end of the year, in order to make up the deficit, we have had to access our savings for the shortfall. Those savings are limited.

So far this year, our contributions total \$23,225.00 and our expenses total \$46,962.00. The major part of our expenses are from salaries, utilities, and property taxes/insurance. Our insurance bill alone is budgeted at \$12,200.00 per year.

So what does this mean? What is the reason for this article? The Finance Committee is keeping the congregation informed, but also wants to ask you to think about how you give.

Donations of food, supplies, even items for the Christmas Child gift boxes should not replace your giving toward the day-to-day operations of the church. These items should be *in addition to*, not a replacement for, your Sunday tithe. Those donations are important, but without heat and lights, without a building that is sturdy and weatherproof, without a pastor to teach and guide, we won't be able to do the mission work that the other donations fund. On the other hand, if all those auxiliary donations ceased, and each family tithed to the church, Session would allocate funding for the missions from the general budget.

As mentioned, this congregation has been generous when asked; so we're asking. Please keep up your giving, including the weeks you're not here during the summer months. Prayerfully consider increasing the amount you give to our general operations and remember that your gifts of funds, time, and talents continue the mission of Connellsville Presbyterian to be Christ's witnesses in Connellsville, in the surrounding area, and around the world.

U P C L O S E A N D P E R S O N A L

CONGRATULATIONS TO COLLEEN KOOSER!

Best wishes go out to Colleen Kooser who retired from the Excelsior System at Frick Hospital in Mt. Pleasant. Colleen graduated from Mercy Hospital and spent her first two years nursing at West Virginia University Hospital now Ruby Hospital. Then she moved to Frick where she spent 40 years nursing. The official retirement date was March 18, 2016. Colleen spent many of her years nursing in the Intensive Care Unit.



She and Dale are anticipating more time to travel and vacation at the beach. Colleen is also hoping to spend some of her time watching sports, as she is an avid fan of all sports! Colleen also cares for her mother, Jackie Miller, a resident at Harmon House in Mt. Pleasant. At this time, Dale and Colleen are enjoying day trips and week-end excursions. The church wishes Colleen a long and healthy retirement.

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.CONNELLSVILLE-EPC.ORG

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

Vacation Bible School—June 13-17

Grow With Jesus

Come to Vacation Bible School and enrich your faith as we **GROW WITH JESUS** during the week of June 13-17, 2016. We will begin with dinner at 5:15 PM, for those who wish to participate, on Monday through Thursday.



Each day, the opening will begin at 6:00 PM, and Bible School will end at 8:00 PM.

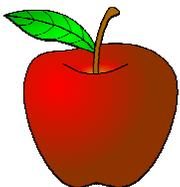
Our Mission project this year will be to help fund a Bible School for the children of Sierra Leone

The final activity will be the Annual Bible School Picnic on Friday. Students and families 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.connellsville-epc.org.

Remember Faith Finders will resume on Wednesday September 7th!

Apple Dumpling Time is coming!



Soon it will be August and Apple Dumpling Time! Although this year's date has not been set, we normally make and sell dumplings the second and third week of August. 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 18) to place their orders so they don't miss out!