

First Presbyterian Church Summer 2023 E-News



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A Note from the Clerk of Session

July is National Ice Cream Month but Congregational Care is treating us to ice cream after worship on June 11th. A Sundae Social sounds like a good time to slow down to share garden tips, talk about upcoming adventures and maybe share thoughts gleaned from Alison's sermon. Besides good ice cream and social time, consider the opportunity to put some money into a collection being taken to help fund the travel of three of our own to the EECB "Togetherness" conference in July. (Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren). We have two members planning to attend and Rev. Peters has been asked to address the assembly.

We staffed a booth at the Pride Festival on the 4th. Our guest for the weekend, Rachael Kurtz (her concert on Saturday evening and worship leader on Sunday morning), was invited to sing to the crowd at Canal Place.

Gary Hartung, a long-time member who found us long ago through Ruth Kaegel, is needing transportation to church services. He moved during the pandemic and is now a much further walking distance from church. He was a very faithful attendee and would very much like to attend regularly. This is an opportunity to help a member attend church. He lives at Willow Valley apartments on Furnace Street. He needs a call prior to Sunday to be aware that someone will pick him up, and he needs a call on Sunday morning when the driver is heading his way. Anyone interested in helping to

bring/return Gary to and from church, please let Brittany know. Additional questions or clarification, please talk to Worship and Music co-chairs Mike Levitas and Sharon Kazary or Carolyn Mathews.

At the spring workday we planted some native shrubs along the front wall and 2 knock-out roses next to the newly refurbished sign. With good watering, we hope to establish the Inkberry and Spirea. Both species are well adapted to the local climate and soils. Non-native species may look showier and have other appealing features, but they take nutrients from the soil, often grow faster and bigger, and reproduce at greater numbers than natives. Many non-natives are a scourge on today's landscapes as invasive species. *Ilex glabra* (inkberry, also known as Appalachian Tea) is a member of the holly family and keeps its leaves all year round. It can grow in full sun (certainly what we have all day at the front of the church) and matures at 5 – 10' in height. *Spirea alba* is a native to Maryland and the surrounding states. Our shrubs will bloom white once established.

The front of the church has been nicely updated with the sign, the plantings and the lit rose window at night. We have improved our curb appeal, so take a few drives down Washington Street, day and night, and pause to admire our beautiful church.

Blessings to all,
Carolyn

Nurture

Joys and Concerns



June Birthdays

Wesley Mason 4-Jun
Kathy Dowell 8-Jun

Ben Fiscus 16-Jun
Judie Brown 17-Jun
Bonnie Martin 23-Jun
Sean Aurigemma 25-Jun
Carolyn Mathews 25-Jun
Miranda Forbes 26-Jun
Jeff Getty 26-Jun
Dave Corley 28-Jun
Julie Courtney 30-Jun
Jim Gill 30-Jun

July Birthdays

Garrett Corley 4-Jul
Bob Martin 14-Jul
Elena Corley 25-Jul
Sylvia Kellermeyer 25-Jul
Brennan Kellermeyer 31-Jul



**We are now in our summer
worship schedule!**

**Worship will begin
at 10:00 AM.**



The Church office will be CLOSED on Tuesday, July 4th in observance of the Fourth of July. Please note that Brittany will be out of the office on Monday, July 3rd in addition to July 4th.

History of the Highlanders

The Highlanders' Club, composed of retired persons from First Presbyterian Church and a few of their close friends, was organized on October 2, 1972. There were twelve members present with the Rev. Peter J. Smyrl as observer. They made plans for different activities and decided on the third Monday of each month for meetings and luncheons. The first luncheon took place November 1972.

The Highlanders have experienced many joys working together. A few highlights of their activities have been making Chrismons for the church Christmas tree, making and selling cookbooks, having the Humble Sales, and sponsoring the community-wide Easter Sunrise Service at Rocky Gap State Park.

The Highlanders have enjoyed many trips, but the outstanding ones include; participating in the Holy Communion on opening day of the General Assembly in Baltimore and the visit to the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. It was here that Norman Scribner played the organ for the group. The many bus trips to plays and the short trips for luncheons all help to keep the Highlanders active and interested in a meaningful Christian life. The success of the organization is due largely to the Nam Livingstone's strong leadership. All retired church members are welcome to join the Highlanders.

Learn and Grow

SUMMER RETREAT

WHAT GIFTS WOULD JESUS
SEE IN YOU?



JULY 22, 2023

11:30AM

AT PENN ALPS IN GRANTSVILLE

Save the date for a SPECIAL GATHERING at PENN ALPS where we will share fun, growth, fellowship all while exploring the spiritual gifts we all have. A buffet lunch will be provided by the Faith Formation Committee. After lunch Katie Ross will present an imaginative retelling of the Mary/Martha story which will include Lazarus.

Please RSVP to let us know you plan to attend by tearing off the slip below or using the QR Code

Name: _____

Number Attending: _____



[Click here to RSVP to attend the Summer Retreat.](#)

Opportunities to Serve

This Child Here





The artist of this painting is Irina Kazarmidis. Her family came from the city of Berdyansk, Zaporozhye region. Her son Sashko (Sasha) is 10 years old, daughter Arish (not pictured) is 18 years old. They arrived in May of 2022. We helped them with food and bought clothes for Sashko. He enjoys English classes, tennis and needlework with Natasha, where he learned how to sew soft toys. Irina is a regular participant in our meetings on Sundays, she always approaches creative tasks very carefully. They are a friendly family, quiet and thoughtful. I took Irina's photo in our Center for Creative Learning and Sashko's picture in a park outside the grocery store where we paid for products they needed.

-Robert Gamble, This Child Here



Worship with Us

Summer Music is Coming Soon!

The Sanctuary Choir takes a summer break from the beginning of June through Labor Day BUT worship and music continues and needs your help! If you are interested in participating in helping to provide music for a summer Sunday, now is the time to make that happen!! Please talk to any choir member or Judie Brown 240-522-5070 or browjuda49@gmail.com.