

The Pastor's Pen – July 2023

Dear Church Family,

I do pray that this finds you all well. We've had what seems to me to be a pretty nice start to summer. Yes, there was and continues to be the issue of Canadian wildfire smoke, but all in all, I don't think there's too much to complain about.

I wanted to begin this note to you all by expressing a word of amazement; that is, my amazement on how you all have come together around the organizing and carrying out of the Annual Rummage Sale. I can easily say that I've never seen anything like it. And not just the stuff that's been sorted and priced and organized quite amazingly, but more than all of that, the dedication by so many of you to pull this off. I know that you've been doing this for years now and have a system down that really doesn't seem to be able to be beaten, but nonetheless, as your new pastor, I'm impressed. It shows me that you know what it means to be a church, which I can honestly tell you has often been the focus of half of my days with previous congregations, and I don't write this lightly. On behalf of the entire congregation, I thank you for your service!!!

And, now this month, we start joint services at 10 am with our brothers and sisters from Oak Ridge in the West Milford sanctuary. The folks of Oak Ridge have been having joint worship services with Berkshire Valley for the last six years, so have really gotten down something of a system that's worked well when together. And about the services themselves, I'm sure that they will feel like a great joy when seeing the church suddenly fuller and livelier. Just that alone can be an incredible source of inspiration and hope for what the church can be. But then too, these joint services are also an opportunity to get to know your neighbors, neighbors that you actually already have a great amount in common with. Bridges can be built, relationships formed and then ministry can be done by helping each other out, or by doing actual joint ministry. The possibilities can be endless.

So, in an effort at celebrating this new relationship with Oak Ridge Presbyterian, as well as to just have some fun together, the sessions of both churches have approved a picnic for both congregations after worship service on July 30th. (Don't worry, there's a system for organizing these joint picnics.) There's a good

possibility that we'll have live music and a spectacular possibility of having The First Annual WM/OR Croquet Tournament! Croquet is a great game that EVERYONE can play, and what's more, many of us have croquet sets in our garages or sheds. Let me know if you have one so that we can determine how many courses to set up. So, put July 30th on your calendars and invite your family, friends and neighbors to church.

I also want to put in a word for bible study. On Wednesday mornings at 11 am in the church library, we gather and read through the passages that will be the focus for our learning on Sunday, and then we have open discussion about the passages, what they mean to us and how they speak to our lives. We have some really wonderful conversations, and we all walk away having learned something new. I invite folks, if your able, to drop by one Wednesday morning and join in on the conversation in the library. If Wednesday at 11 am is impossible for you, of course, virtual bible study is also most every Monday evening at 7:30. Just keep an eye on your email for the verses which often come with some topic questions on Monday afternoon.

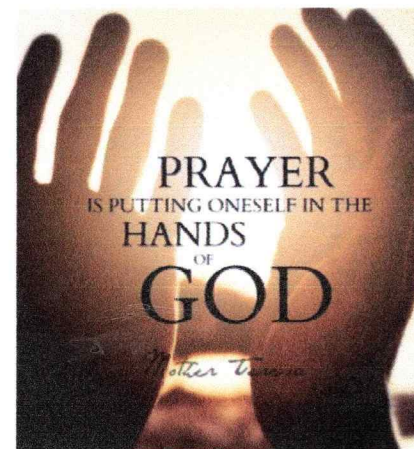
And then there's also our Book Group. We tried to plow through "The Divine Dance" which talks about the Trinity, but after about 60 pages, we all decided that this was not a book that was doing much for us. So, we decided to put "The Divine Dance" aside, and choose something that would be more of just a good summer read. A final decision has not been made just yet as I write this, but you'll be sure to know by the time you see this and will have hopefully decided to join us. That too is another group that has great conversations about what it is that we're reading, whether the subject be difficult to wrap your head around, or just a light-hearted read, which we also have done. This group started at the beginning of the Covid 19 pandemic and has been continuously reading together since.

And finally, I wanted to be sure that folks have my contact information. Email is always good, I seem to be checking it continuously, and that address is nadeeb2@yahoo.com. If you need to get in touch with me more urgently, my cell number is (856) 345-3261. I'm pretty good about always answering my phone, unless it's a spam call, but if I can't answer for some reason, by all means, please leave a message and I'll get back to you as soon as I can.

See you at church!

Pastor Chris

Joys & Concerns



JOYS

- * Pastor Chris- today is the 40th birthday of the PCUSA.
- * Sarah Gibson- joy that her dad is in church.
- * Don- Joy for new roof.
- * Rich-Thanks to WA for \$ to pay for new roof, gutters and windows.
- * Linda -Grateful for all the Senior Saints do to help the WA with all their events.
- * Marty- went to see Julia and happy she has family with her.
- * Congratulations to Sarah Gibson for being awarded the Darlene Witham Scholarship.
- * Many thanks and a joy for Aksel Malatak for playing for our Church School service.
- * Joy for Sophie and Irene as they head off to Scout Camp Turrell.
- * Tom and Isabelle welcomed baby Theo to their family.
- * Pastor Chris has joys for our successful rummage sale. It benefits us and our church and brings our community together.

Prayers

- * Linda Asking for lots of prayers for Judy Mazur since she is not doing well.
- * Concerns for the many wild fires in Canada and the world.
- * Julia was really appreciative of her prayer shawl.
She was in fine spirits when Gene and Marty visited her on Saturday.
Julia is aware of her future but it isn't stopping her from enjoying her today time.
Joy for her! that her two daughters are with her.
- * Continued prayers for Judy Mazur.
- * Prayers for Diane as she awaits word on her job application.
- * Myrtle is asking for prayers for Manny as he continues to battle cancer.
- * Prayers for Ken Dykstra as he receives a pace maker this week.
- * Walt Matterson is not doing well. He has many medical issues.

Again, we had a very successful and enjoyable picnic to celebrate the ending of a happy Church School year. Many people were involved in preparing, serving, cleaning up. A person from another church said, again, that she is amazed at how our church family pulls together for many occasions. Our love and devotion to our church is seen by many others.

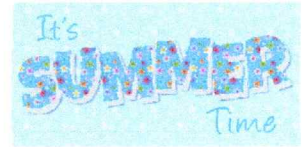




SESSION'S REFLECTIONS

JULY / AUGUST 2023

SUBMITTED BY BETSY ENGELHARDT, CLERK OF SESSION



Session was happy to start the month of June off by installing 5 new Deacons. Deacons perform many behind the scenes functions, much of which may be invisible to the average worshipper. Many hands help to make light work and a full slate of Deacons helps to distribute all the workload more evenly. A special report was submitted by our Community Food Pantry Committee highlighting the hard work being done, but also focusing on sustaining this important outreach program with consistent and ongoing support and donations. They are working on reaching out to an extensive list of agencies and local organizations to help in this effort. They are always grateful for any support our congregation can provide.

Don Wright was happy to report the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall has new roofing. Replacement windows are on order for Fellowship Hall and upstairs classrooms. Thanks to Wm. Association funding, we have been able to fund these expensive repairs – the Finance Committee absolved the Wm. Association from safeguarding monies for our Pastor's benefit package freeing up funds for these projects. We have a new fire and waterproof safe for the church office to store important documents. Our boiler was found pumping out heat even though the thermostats and boiler switch were turned off – a service call will hopefully find an easy fix to the problem.

Pastor Chris has arranged a monthly worship service to be conducted at Chelsea Assisted Living on the last Thursday of each month. He has found a baptismal font looking for a new home from a church that is closing in our area and Session voted to replace our plastic clam shell. He confirmed he will be conducting training for Deacons in July and plans to coordinate a joint planning meeting with both Deacons & Session in the Fall. We also hope to take advantage of a \$2000 grant to upgrade our streaming capabilities in the Fall.

Summer worship will be reduced to one service at 10 AM throughout July and August. West Milford will host worship throughout the month of July – Oak Ridge will host throughout the month of August. Pastor Chris suggested a joint church picnic be planned for Sunday, July 30 at West Milford to celebrate our shared relationship with Oak Ridge. Immediately following worship, food would be served, and a croquet tournament scheduled. Great way to celebrate Summer with our sister church!!!!

10 Non-Religious Reasons For Going To Church

Not to minimize for one second the value of the religious reasons to attend and participate in the life of the church, there are many non-religious benefits as well. While all of these may apply to other organizations, or could be done on one's own, the church is just about the only entity which can provide all of these benefits below.

1. **Being Part of a Community** : People are joining organizations far less in the past and losing out on the fellowship they provide. Church activities provide a community not only of the local congregation, but also the wider community of believers in your area and around the world.
2. **Consistency In An Inconsistent World** : Whether you had a great week or a terrible week, the church is a constant positive, always there to show that there will be a tomorrow and a reason to just keep moving forward on this journey of life that we're all on.
3. **A Sore Set Of Values** : The basic values of the church have served the world well for many centuries. Core values are essential in our lives, and the more that we grasp these, the better.
4. **The Value of Ritual** : Church provides a variety of rituals, and we know that rituals can be very important in many aspects of our lives and well being. Here below are a couple internet links to studies that show just this.

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/why-rituals-work>

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/anthropology-in-mind/202005/the-importance-ritual>

5. **A Respite From Your Hurried Life** : Sunday services provide a couple of hours once a week to get your mind off of the job, the bills and the problems of life that we all face.
6. **An Opportunity For Meditation** : Church services provide a weekly opportunity for meditation, and a variety of materials for meditation on your own.
7. **Opportunities to Serve Others** : Whether it is an annual event like Faith In Action, weekly service at the food pantry, or giving someone a ride to the grocery store that needs it, the church provides many opportunities to help others.
8. **Music Program** : Church music programs provide an opportunity to enjoy (and expose children to) classical and other types of music, and an opportunity for people who sing and/or play musical instruments.
9. **Lessons Learned** : Church services offer lessons in history and philosophy which are, and have been, relevant for many centuries.
10. **Something To Believe In** : This may be considered a religious reason, but there is great value in having something to believe in, and that there is a much larger world (and larger 'power') than yourself or any one person or group.



SUMMER WORSHIP HOURS ONE SERVICE AT 10 AM

Beginning Sunday, July 2 and continuing through Sunday, August 27, Pastor Chris will be conducting only one weekly Sunday worship service at 10 AM. West Milford will host throughout the month of July and Oak Ridge will host the month of August. Mark your calendars for a joint church picnic with our sister church in West Milford on July 30 immediately following worship. Practice your croquet skills – a tournament will be planned for this special celebration of our shared relationship.





New Member Class

If you would like to join our church family, now is your chance. I'm looking at getting together a new member class and would like to know what day & time would work for folks to hold it. If you are interested, PLEASE send a note to me with your name and contact information. And, even if you are already a member but would like a refresher of what it means to be Presbyterian know you're encourage to come!



HANDBELLS

We are hoping to start up our Handbell Choir and would love to know if you would like to join. Please let Pastor Chris know if this is something that you might be interested in, or if you have any questions.





DEACON DOINGS

June 2023

Deacons held their reorganization meeting on June 7. Pastor Chris and Jan Halverson, past moderator, joined us. We now have a complete group of eight Deacons. Each member chose a role.

Marty Tappan, Moderator

Audrey Van Koy, Flowers

Pam McGlashen, Secretary

Carol Stanhope, Greeters

Pat Wright, Treasurer

Myrtle Teichmann, Memorial Fund

Karen Willmott, Liaison to Christian Ed.

Dawn Syversten, Fund Raiser

On Father's Day, June 18, Sophie Ferris and Jnr Mac handed out Hershey bars to the men in the congregation. The saying on them was "The Lord Makes His Face to Shine Upon You and Give You Peace." Pat Wright prepared them.

A Prayer Shawl was blessed and prayed over by Pastor Chris and the rummage sale people. Gene and I delivered it to Julia Held. She was very moved by our delivery and deeply feels the prayers and messages from the congregation. I remember when Julia was a Deacon. It was her personal mission to visit members of our congregation, and others, who need comfort, prayers, and, just a visit. We must consider resuming these visits.

We discussed the topic of locking doors of the church for security during the service.

Karen was in charge of Children's Day Sunday, June 11. Promotion and recognition certificates were handed out to the children. Teachers were recognized with baskets of flowers. Helpers were recognized. The Darlene Witham Scholarship was presented by Kathi Endering to Sarah Gibson.

Rummage sale is fast approaching. The Deacons will sell refreshments. We reached out to Kathryn Dillon, the Shop Rite representative. The store is very generously donating food for our sale. Jan Halverson will write a "Thank you" letter to Kathryn.

On July 27, Pastor Chris will lead the Deacons in a training session. He is certainly anxious to work with us and share his own ideas.

Deacons, Women's Association, and the whole congregation, are recognized by others as a group that works and comes together when there is a need. At the repast for James Ester, many of his friends came from a distance and would leave soon. The repast gave them a chance to gather. We received many thanks from his family for our service. Our congregation is again alive and looking toward our future.

Marty Tappan, Moderator



Thoughts From the Pantry

When I encounter people for the first time many things go through my head...do they seem friendly or not, are they smiling or look as if they're mad at the world. I'm sorry to admit I'm subconsciously judging them and many times I'm wrong. The next time I talk with them they seem to be entirely different people. In the Food Pantry our mantra is "no judgement" for those who seek our help. During our brief time on the phone with them we might sense an attitude or they might seem demanding. We might see their car or clothing and cynicism could creep in as to the strength of their need. New families are constantly being added to the number we help while at the same time others have blessedly found a way out of their situations and no longer need assistance. But then there are those who have been with us for years and the nagging question could be- why. We in the Pantry realize that unless one really gets to hear their story, any judgement one might make has no basis in fact. As the people have given us their trust and shared, we hear from:

The woman whose husband owns his own business and pours all their money into it to keep it afloat. It's draining their funds but to do any less would mean failure.

A husband who gets a construction job one day only to be laid off again when it's done

A mother so depressed by circumstances she can't leave her house

A mother whose home has gone into foreclosure twice and electricity turned off because of business downturns

People without methods to cook other than a hotplate

A man that rides his bike from UGL to the Pantry and back, carrying his food from handlebars because he has no other means of transportation

Folks with mental and/or physical illnesses that take away their choices for making ends meet

Women whose husbands have left them to raise their families alone because they see no other way out of their circumstances.

There's so many more but you get the idea. These are actual people. I've only given snippets of their lives to ensure their privacy. They are our neighbors. They may keep on a good game face but inwardly they are hurting and can use help. The plastic jar to remind our congregation of the need has been moved from the sanctuary to the hallway where it is basically out of sight but prayerfully, we all remember how blessed we are in many ways and leave coins or a bill or two or maybe even a food, toiletry or paper etc. donation. The Food Pantry is grateful that our church has allowed this mission and supports it. Thank you from all of us.

WA NEWS JULY & AUGUST

The Women's Association would like to give a big shout out to everyone that contributed to the success of our rummage sale including people who don't even attend our church but like to work with us. Whether you came everyday to unpack, sort, organize, price and clean up or could only come for the sale days-thank you.

Plus a very special thank you to our wonderful Senior Saints who work all year on organizing the donations and delivering them to the proper buildings. They also set up the tables and put up the tents and take them all down again. We couldn't do without them!

Our rummage sale has been going on for 69 years and is something the public looks forward to. Lots of work but also lots of fun and fellowship.

We look forward to next years 70th anniversary.

Blessings. Linda and Pam



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

June



The message and celebration of Pentecost continued on the first Sunday in June. The children learned that the Holy Spirit, sent to them from God, will always be with, love them, and protect them. We are grateful to Pastor Chris for his Children's Sermon each Sunday. It is the perfect way for the children to get to know our new Pastor. This first Sunday in June was also the time for the children to practice the program, planned for them by Ms. Dale and Ms. Kathi, that they presented to the Congregation on June 11, Sunday School's Children's Day. Indeed, the review of their year.... from the Creation to Jesus' Ascension, to Pentecost, was masterfully presented by our children via costumes, props, and song. The children received promotional certificates, welcome certificates for our new students, and Bibles. It has been brought to our attention that some of our children have not yet received their Bibles because of our closure during Covid. Please let us know if your child was one who did not receive a bible at that time (second graders). We are sorry for the oversight and will be addressing it soon. Our children were wonderful in their presentation.... warm, willing, knowledgeable, and cute! Their praying of the Lord's Prayer, and their singing of 'Jesus Loves Me' warmed our hearts and touched our souls. Our two little fishermen added to the wonder of the day.



This year we were thrilled to present the Darlene Witham Scholarship to Sarah Gibson. Sarah has been part of our Sunday School for twelve years and has participated in everything from Friday Night Specials, to VBS, to reading in church and playing the flute for the congregation. As she got older, she joined us in many church fundraisers and became an assistant teacher with Ms. Kathi and Ms. Dale. She is truly deserving of this award. Appreciation also goes to the Deacons for honoring our teachers for their commitment to our church children. After Service, the congregation partook in our first Sunday School "Brunch." Happily, the weather was pleasant, the food was plentiful, and our whole church family enjoyed this fellowship. Thank you, again, to Ms. Dale and Ms. Kathi for arranging games ranging from water balloon toss to an obstacle course with games and activities at each stop for our youngsters. Also, many

thanks to the volunteers who set up the tables and chairs, (and took down the tables and chairs), made and brought delicious “brunch” delights, French toast, salads, fruit, desserts, and helped to clean up. Everyone’s efforts were most appreciated.

If your children attend church with you during the summer, please remember to take a packet from the greeter that will keep your child learning about God.

Wishing all the children a wonderful summer vacation and looking forward to seeing you in September!



Christian Education Committee

**2022-2023 CHURCH
SCHOOL CHILDREN**

Lucas Smart
Emersyn Smart
Amelia Michelotti
Isabella Bolton

Landon Michelotti
Riley Brand
Mirelle Perez
Sunny Florey

Sage Florey
Magarly Shanise
Jed Ethan
Jnr Mac

2022- 2023 Church School Teachers

Ms. Dale Hamilton
Ms. Kathi Enering

Ms. Ashlee Smart (Substitute Teacher)
Ms. Bonnie Seufert (Substitute Teacher)
Ms. Carol Stanhope (Substitute Teacher)
Ms. Sandy Smidt (Confirmation Instructor)
Ms. Bonnie Rogers (CE Curriculum Coordinator)
Sarah Gibson & Sophie Ferris (Assistants)

Christian Education Committee

<i>Roberta Schmidt</i>	<i>Dale Hamilton</i>
<i>Karen Wilmott</i>	<i>Bonnie Rogers</i>
<i>Fran Ehrhardt</i>	<i>Sandy Smidt</i>

Gravestone Preservation Workshop

Thursday, July 27, 2023, 9AM— 3PM



Location: The Historic Burying Ground of The Presbyterian Church in Morristown, 57 East Park Place, Morristown.

Who should attend: All who are interested in gravestone preservation and repair are welcome. There is no charge.

Hosted by: the Morristown Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (<https://morristownnjdar.org/>) and The Presbyterian Church in Morristown (<https://pcmorristown.org/>).

The Workshop will be led by expert preservationist Jonathan Appell of Atlas Preservation, as a stop on their 2023 *48 State Tour for Restoring America's Cemeteries*.

The Workshop will focus on:

- Gravestone cleaning: proper techniques and chemicals
- Gravestone repair: joining fractured tablets, raising and leveling leaning or sunken or fallen tablet stones, and resetting or joining pieces of fractured monuments.

What to expect:

- The day will include hands-on segments.
- Wear comfortable work clothes and closed-toe footwear that you do not mind getting dirty, especially if you plan to participate in hands-on segments. Bring rubber gloves (optional), sunscreen, hat, folding chair, water, snacks.
- Parking is limited in the church parking lot. Two nearby parking lots are 1) a large city lot with metered spaces at 12 Wilmot Street, Morristown and 2) a large parking garage underneath a large office building next door called Headquarters Plaza.
- There will be a lunch break. You can bring your own lunch, or there are many restaurants within easy walking distance or for delivery.

For more information on Jonathan Appell, Atlas Preservation, and the 48 State Tour, see <https://48statetour.com/>.

Please email preservationworkshop@pcmorristown.org with your contact information, organization, and how many people will be coming so that we can plan and so that we can contact you with updates or in case of inclement weather.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
10am - Worship 6pm - Scouts		Independence Day 9am - Community Food	3pm - Farmers Market	9am - Community Food 9am - Sr. Saints		9am - Community Food
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10am - Worship 6pm - Scouts	7:30pm - Session	9am - Community Food	3pm - Farmers Market	9am - Community Food 9am - Sr. Saints		NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
10am - Worship 6pm - Scouts		9am - Community Food	3pm - Farmers Market	9am - Community Food 9am - Sr. Saints		9am - Community Food
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
10am - Worship 6pm - Scouts		9am - Community Food	3pm - Farmers Market	9am - Community Food 9am - Sr. Saints		9am - Community Food
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
10am - Worship 6pm - Scouts		9am - Community Food	3pm - Farmers Market	9am - Community Food 9am - Sr. Saints 10pm - Chelsea Service		
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
10am - Worship 6pm - Scouts						

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	31	1 9am - Community Food	2 3pm - Farmers Market	3 9am - Community Food 9am - Sr. Saints	4	5
6 10am - Worship @ Oak 6pm - Scouts	7	8 9am - Community Food	9 3pm - Farmers Market	10 9am - Community Food 9am - Sr. Saints	11	12 9am - Community Food
13 10am - Worship @ Oak 6pm - Scouts	14 7:30pm - Session	15 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 9am - Community Food	16 3pm - Farmers Market	17 9am - Community Food 9am - Sr. Saints	18	19
20 10am - Worship @ Oak 6pm - Scouts	21	22 9am - Community Food	23 3pm - Farmers Market	24 9am - Community Food 9am - Sr. Saints	25	26 9am - Community Food
27 10am - Worship @ Oak 6pm - Scouts	28	29 9am - Community Food	30 3pm - Farmers Market	31 9am - Community Food 9am - Sr. Saints 10pm - Chelsea Service	1	2