
~FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE~

Volume 12 Issue 7

September 2021

Greetings Church Families,

Here we are, ready to get back into full church mode. The choir will begin rehearsing, Sunday School will begin, and vacationers are coming back. It is great to see all the rested and smiling faces returning to church.

God is always with us. When we allow ourselves to know God, life gets better, not always easier, but better. Attending worship is a great place to start. Listening to the Word of God from the scripture, praying for God's forgiveness with a community of believers, thanking God for all of our many blessings and finding a common mission of reaching out to help others in need. These are all part of meaningful worship.

I don't expect anyone attending the worship of God for the first time to understand any of what worshipping God can do for them. It takes time and effort to find our loving God within us. We, Christians, are able to see God through the lens of Christ ... what a blessing we have been given! We all have been given much and we need to go out of the four walls of our church to tell others of our abundance of God's love.

Being a Christian is not easy. I know we are easy targets for the many who don't believe. Today's culture seems harsh towards Christians. The reality is, this is nothing new. We are the current Christians who need to tell others of the joy and peace Christ provides for our daily living. We have all the same good and bad happening in our lives as those who choose not to believe. The difference is, we have an inner peace knowing Christ promised us eternal life.

I would love to be able to stop placing band-aids on our ongoing issues in our lives and change the root of the problem; finding God to allow an inner peace from within. I understand this is a huge task and it is a very difficult subject to discuss with others; even other Christians. Jesus told us that following him was not going to be easy, but in the end, it will be well worth our efforts. Go tell your story to others, show your love to others, and allow yourself to grow so others may too. Be a positive force for God. Worship with church members, listen for God's word, share together in Holy Communion and Baptism, experience God's loving grace, and then share the Good News of Christ's love with others.

Be fruitful to live in God's amazing grace in this fall season.

In His Grace,
Pastor Justin

Joys & Concerns



Joys

- *Kathy Holley- Had a nice trip to NC
- *Phyllis Van Hooker got a new great granddaughter thanks to grandson Steven
- *Bonnie Rodgers- thanks for beautiful baptism
- *Lisa Choi- brother David here for holiday weekend
- *Debbie and Casey came to church after going to Rummage sale
- *Special thanks to Senior Saints who work all year on our Rummage sale.
- * Joy to have Julia's son, Rich Held playing bass guitar and singing for our service with Lee.
- * Julia Held Joy to have her son and granddaughter here to visit her from Pittsburgh
- *Karen Shumpert-Thank you for a nice dinner at the Stanhope's, purchased at the auction. It was a fun evening.
- *Cathy and Allan Holley celebrating 51 years of marriage.
- *Thanks to Sandy Zimmer for the making the lovely alter flower arrangements and prayer for her upcoming cataract surgery.
- * Joy for birthdays of Ruth Allen and Don Wright
- *Phyllis Van Hooker celebrated her birthday , August 17th
- *Lisa Choi- Joy that her daughter Samatha is moving into her college dorm this week but concerns too with being away and Covid.
- *Kathy Holley-Joy that Helen Kershaw and Audrey Van Kooy Birthday's .

Concerns

- * Hans Harder to have treatment for lump on head
- * Prayers for the Burns Family on the loss of Lisa .
- *Mary Macheska-Thanks for all the prayers and support for her husband Lenny. He had a broken femur bone and is home recovering after surgery this week.
- *Audrey Van Kool- Prayer for Susan Spinelli's husband who is quite ill. Susan is his main caretaker so both need our prayers.
- *Kathy Holley- Prayers for the family of Ruth Adams who passed away. Ruth had worked in WM school system and was librarian for Macopin School for many years
- *Diane Erickson- Prayers for Diane's grand nephew who will be having spinal surgery next Friday
- * Don Wright- His brother in law, Mike died this week in Florida. Prayers for his family
- * Prayers also for his other brother in law, Richard who has serious breathing issues and is now on Hospice care.
- *Linda Connolly- Prayers for Ken Baker
- * Ruth Allen-Prayers for her son, Patrick who fell and has a fracture in his foot
- * Samatha Choi-Prayers for her mom, Lisa who fractured her finger
- * James Esther, Phyllis Van Hooker...no longer able to attend church. Miss church company. Cards, phone calls would be welcome
- * Don Wright's brother-in-law will soon have a heart transplant. Prayers for safe surgery.
- * Judy Mazur, regular member, has suffered a stroke. Is home doing PT
- * Linda Sibson-Prayers for her friend's daughter Joy who is going to have surgery
- * Helen Kershaw-Continued prayers for her husband Ted, he is now home
- * Fran Ehrhardt- Prayers for her husband Jeff who was diagnosed with Lymphoma. He's having a biopsy this week.
- * Annette- Prayers for her friend Joanne who had a stroke. Prayers for her friend Carly who is having health issues.
- * Kathy Holley- Prayers for Dee Casey who is having back surgery.
- * Bill Francis: Passed away please keep his family in your prayers
- * Victor, Karen Willmott's son-in-law, was admitted last night to Chilton Hospital.
- * Jeff Ehrhardt: went today to Chilton Hospital for CAT scans due to severe back pain.
- * Prayers for the Maier Family on the loss of Helen.



SESSION'S REFLECTIONS

SEPTEMBER 2021

SUBMITTED BY BETSY ENGELHARDT, CLERK OF SESSION

Although Session took a break for the Summer with no new meeting details to report, the work of the church continues. We confirmed a group of 8th and 9th grade students on June 13. We baptized 3 children throughout the summer months. Session approved the Ministry Information Form completed by the PNC at a Special Meeting on June 23. At this meeting we also invited our PNC Liaison Joe Martinoni to serve as pulpit supply over Labor Day weekend Sunday service for vacationing Pastor Choi. Thanks to the hard work of our Property Committee, the Scout House and Parish House are getting a face lift as new siding is being installed on these buildings. They are looking beautiful! Personnel Committee met with Christian Ed staffing to gather details needed for transition after Kathi Endering's resignation as Director of Christian Education. We were disheartened to learn someone gained access to our church office in July and stole a Chrome Notebook used by Elders to enter our Sunday offering funds. It was password protected and stored no confidential files so little damage can be done, other than feeling violated and discouraged that our church was targeted. We look forward to resuming our meetings beginning September 13 as we plan for the Fall.

PASTORAL NOMINATING COMMITTEE

SEPTEMBER 2021 UPDATE

PNC was hopeful we could spend most of July and August reviewing applications for our full time Pastor position. Unfortunately, the process was delayed as we waited for the approval process of our Ministry Information Form (MIF) to be completed. The MIF needed to be approved by our Session first (completed before the end of June), then on to Presbytery for Committee on Ministry (COM) approval, then to PCUSA for one last approval step. Once all the approvals were obtained, we needed to be assigned login credentials for entry onto the Church Leadership Connection (CLC) system. This entire process was finally completed by August 2nd. We received our first batch of applications later that week. The committee met on August 9th to establish policies and procedures for processing these applications to ensure we had a solid practice in place to handle every application equitably with defined standards throughout the reviews. The committee expects to work throughout the next few months reading applicable Personal Information Forms (PIF) from applicants, viewing on-line sermons, researching web pages, conducting personal interviews of top candidates, all while relying on God's guidance as we search out the best individual to serve our church. With his help and our congregation's prayers, we can't fail in being fruitful in our efforts.

Respectfully submitted,
Betsy Engelhardt, PNC Chair



Deacons Doings for September

School buses are on the roads again, day light is getting shorter, temperatures are getting cooler, and chrysanthemums are on door steps. Lest we forget in this change of seasons and all the beautiful ways that Nature makes us aware,.... the Food Pantry continues to need help. The Plant Church will be gathering food all year long to help us which we are thankful for, but your help in the form of food, gift cards or money would be welcome. Thank you in advance for any help you can give. On a solemn note, we will be sorely missing Bill Francis at the Deacon's table. He leaves us with wonderful memories of a great man who led a life filled with love, enthusiasm, and kindness. He treated everyone as a friend and tried to make life a little better for all those around him. We are proud to have had him as a friend and Deacon member. There are many opportunities in the months ahead through the upcoming holidays for you to help if you would like to.

Please keep an eye out for events you might enjoy being involved in.

Enjoy September! Bonnie





WA NEWS

In 1954, Aunt Jenny Baker organized the first Rummage Sale at the West Milford Presbyterian Church. The Rummage Sale has continued annually for 67 years (except that year all of us want to forget). Interesting fact is that it took Aunt Jenny and her volunteers a week to set the sale up, it now takes us two months. We set up three buildings, three garages and outside areas. We do enjoy the work because we get to see each other every day and we also get to meet a lot of nice people when they drop off their donations. We also get to laugh a lot.

Now we have decided to enjoy this warm fellowship feeling all year by opening a thrift shop in our Parish House (the middle building.)

We look forward to opening "Aunt Jenny's Attic" and hope you will enjoy coming in to visit us and find some great things.

Look for our Grand Opening.



Aunt Jenny's Attic

1452 Union Valley Road
West Milford, NJ 07480

Grand Opening
September 15th @
1:00pm
Come stop by to
experience
a unique kind of
Thrift Store.



