

# THE NEXUS

# APRIL 2022

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## Nicki's News

Dear friends and members,

In many church circles, articles and, even books, are the ever-growing discussions of the future of the church universal or future survival of local churches who seem to be in continual decline. I can't seem to escape these discussions and sometimes the negativity can be draining. Yet recently, God had a new friend, a hospice chaplain, who shared a fun fact that gave me hope amongst this difficult topic. What she said was that a mushroom grows the most when it thinks it's about to die. Brothers and sisters, the church universal may be in decline, but there is hope because if we think we are dying, it leaves us for the greatest opportunity to grow. In good, Easter people fashion, we must die to ourselves and be resurrected anew.

In His Peace,

Pastor Nicki

## Nexus Deadline

The Nexus deadline for the May issue is Monday, April 25<sup>th</sup>.

## Nexus Sponsor

This month's issue is being sponsored by Frank Lanterman. If you are interested in sponsoring an issue, the cost is \$35.00. Please notify Jen, in the church office, or sign up on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

## Meal & Message

This will continue through Wednesday, April 13<sup>th</sup> and will be a hybrid event.

Join us weekly on Wednesday evenings at 6:00pm in person here at ESPC lounge or on zoom using the provided link.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84500062138?pwd=L0dvY1BlU1hqdl1dyaGhMZDBWbHc0dz09>

Meeting ID: 845 0006 2138

Passcode: 728394



## **Palm Sunday is April 10<sup>th</sup>**

Worship is at 10:00 a.m.

## **Maundy Thursday is April 14<sup>th</sup>**

There is a special worship service at 6:00 p.m. Communion will be served.

## **Good Friday is April 15<sup>th</sup>**

There will be a special worship service at First Presbyterian Church in Stroudsburg at 7:00 p.m.

## **Easter is April 17<sup>th</sup>**

Worship is at 10:00 a.m. Communion will be served.

## **Maundy Thursday Service**

We will be having a hybrid worship service on April 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. We will experience a bit of what it was like at the Last Supper and conclude with a somber song, leaving our time together in silence, as we prepare our hearts for Good Friday and Jesus's death on the cross. The Lord's Supper will be served, so I would invite you to bring along any communion elements to wherever you are worshiping. Come and experience the sacredness of Maundy Thursday.

## **Good Friday Service**

Our church, along with Christ Episcopal Church, Stroudsburg United Methodist Church, St. Matthews Catholic Church, Soulcare Church, Zion United Church of Christ, Cherry Lane United Methodist Church and First Presbyterian Church of Stroudsburg will be participating in a special Good Friday service that tells the story of Christ's passion through scripture, story and music. We hope that you can join us for this moving ecumenical service, which will be held Friday evening, April 15 at 7:00 p.m.

## **5-7 Year Planning Commission**

There will be a meeting of the 5-7 Year Planning Commission on Monday, April 11<sup>th</sup> and April 25<sup>th</sup> from 4:15 to 5:15 p.m.

## **Confirmation Classes**

We have two meetings left for this year's confirmation class. We will be meeting here at ESPC on Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup> and again on Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> at Shawnee Presbyterian Church. Both run from 2:00-4:00 p.m. We will be working on our Statements of Faith and finish reading *The Presbyterian Handbook*.

## **Inspirarity Dialogue**

Inspirarity dialogue- You have a chance to meet your neighbors of differing faiths through conversations with them. This dialogue time is one hour and each month a different topic is chosen for the next month's discussion. Each person is to bring their faith traditions or own personal beliefs take on the chosen topic. Currently we are still doing this remotely on Zoom, but the hope is to do it in person in the future. The group is made up of many differing traditions that are fascinating from which to learn. Zoom info will be coming soon and you can find links and more info on our church website and Facebook page as it becomes available. If you would like to be added to the mailing list for this group, please send Pastor Nicki an email at [pastornickiv@gmail.com](mailto:pastornickiv@gmail.com) and she will add you to the list. Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81144599578?pwd=bjZmb3UwWEdHWkxWcUIUNHlpbmhFUT09>

Meeting ID: 811 4459 9578  
Passcode: 621686

Next meeting is Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

## **Humor Corner**

*A woman approached me at the bank wanting to buy a savings bond for her granddaughter, who was being baptized. Not sure how much she wanted to spend, I asked, "What denomination?" She replied, "Protestant."*

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*A Sunday school teacher asked her class, "What was Jesus' mother's name?" One child answered, "Mary."*

*The teacher then asked, "Who knows what Jesus' father's name was?" A little kid said, "Verge."*

*Confused, the teacher asked, "Where did you get that?"*

*The kid said, "Well, you know, they are always talking about Verge n' Mary."*

## **Yard Sale**

Our annual indoor yard sale is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, April 29 and 30 from 9:00 – 3:00. We will be collecting and pricing items for two weeks before the sale. Let's see if we can come up with our usual, wonderful selection of interesting and useful items, that our buyers have come to expect. We can accept donations until Wednesday, April 27. Besides the usual household items, here are some other ideas for donations: LP records, outdoor and garden items, tools, jewelry. Clothing that is CLEAN and desirable is appreciated the week of the sale.

Please note that we do NOT want computers, monitors, car seats, TV's (except like-new flat screen), textbooks, encyclopedias, old National Geographic's, ski equipment, and things that don't work.

To volunteer help, or to arrange pickup of large items, please contact Ellie Buff at 570-424-0820. If you don't have the time or energy to help, just come and enjoy the sale. We always have an amazing amount of great stuff! And don't forget to spread the word!



## **Men's Lunch**

The next men's luncheon will be Wednesday, April 13th at 12:00. Soup and sandwiches will be served followed by a short message and some reminiscing fun.

## **Coming . . . Choir!**

We are exploring the possibility of restarting the choir in the future. If you are interested in being a part of this great group, please talk to Linda Schaller.



## **Sermon Series**

### ***“But The Spirit Says...”***

So often we tell ourselves lies. It's easy to do because we are fallible sinful humans, but God's Spirit responds, and we are called to listen to the Spirit over the lies we tell ourselves. This year's Lenten sermon series, which begins on Ash Wednesday and concludes Maundy Thursday, will focus on the lies we tell ourselves and the Holy Spirit's response. I hope you will take the time to join us weekly this Lent as we explore ourselves and what God is trying to teach us through this Lenten season of repentance and reflection.

## **Visits and Home Communion**

Would you like a visit from the Pastor or a Deacon to speak and pray with you? Please reach out to the church office via email or phone and request a visit. Pastor Nicki will schedule a meeting at a convenient time and place.

If you have been unable to come to worship on Sundays and receive communion in the presence of the congregation, our Pastor or Deacons can bring communion elements from our shared table on Communion Sundays to your home the first Sunday (or that following week) and celebrate communion with you. Please reach out if you would like to receive communion at home.

## **Family Promise Collection Drive**

Thank you to everyone who donated items for the Family Promise Collection Drive. The items collected during our two-week drive will be given to FP clients in local shelters. Your support in our mission ministries is appreciated.

## **Birthdays**

Celebrating birthdays in **April** are:

Lisa Swanson, Jen Carmella, Cole Wasylyk, Oscar Santana, Will Charpentier, Greg Menio, Sr., Kelley Stuetz, Elda McCoy, Carole Emery, Debbie Prince and Nicole Vogel



## **Easter Flowers**

Please look for the inserts to order your Easter Flowers. They will be used to decorate our church during Easter, then you may take them home. The cost is \$10.00 per plant and the checks need to be made payable to the church.

## **For Ukraine**

We are collecting money to be donated to those who are on the ground in Ukraine and other countries, helping those who are fleeing for safety, shelter, and food. If you would like to donate, you can give it in many ways, online, in the offering plate with its designation for Ukraine written on check or envelope, or simply drop off at the offices during normal office hours. So far, we have sent them \$1900.00!

## **Karen Nickels Memorial PATHwalk'22**

On Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, the annual Karen Nickels Memorial PATHwalk will begin at 12:30 at Court House Square in Stroudsburg. All funds raised from this walk will be used to support Pocono Area Transitional Housing, Inc. PATH is a charitable organization that provides temporary housing and support services to families with children who are in a housing crisis in Monroe County.

For more information, please see the flyer on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

### **Church Elders**

Sharon Laverdure	Rick Sanker	Ellie Buff
Sandra Rydell	Judy Schreck	Jim Hall
Phil Lawrence	Debbie Prince	Lisa Swanson

### **Church Staff**

Nicole Vogel	Pastor
Jen Carmella	Secretary
Linda Schaller	Music Director
Bob Lee	Sexton
Sami Carmella	Nursery Attd.
Keith Karkut	Technology

## **Nexus Staff**

Pastor: Nicole Vogel

Editor: Jen Carmella

Contributing Editors:

Ellie Buff, Sandy Rydell, Tim Swanson



# April 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 K-Group, 1:00	2
3 Adult Ed. 9:00 Worship, 10:00 Finance Committee Mtg., 10:45	4	5	6 Meal & Message, 6:00 pm	7	8	9
10 <b>PALM SUNDAY</b> Adult Ed. 9:00 Worship, 10:00 Session mtg. Inspirarity Dialogues, 7:00	11 5-7 Year Planning Commission, 4:15-5:15	12 Mission Comm. Mtg., 2:00	13 Men's Lunch, noon  Meal & Message, 6:00 pm	14 <b>Maundy Thursday</b> 6:00 pm  Communion	15 <b>Good Friday Community</b> service at 1 <sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church in Stroudsburg, 7:00 pm	16
17 <b>EASTER</b> Communion Adult Ed. 9:00 Worship, 10:00	18 Easter Monday Church Closed	19	20	21	22 Earth Day	23
24 Adult Ed. 9:00 Worship, 10:00 Confirmation Class, 2:00 here at ESPC	25 5-7 Year Planning Commission, 4:15-5:15  Nexus Deadline	26	27	28	29 YARD SALE 9:00-3:00	30 YARD SALE 9:00-3:00