

THE NEXUS

AUGUST 2021

Presbyterian Church
570-421-5821

55 Smith Street
espresbyterian@gmail.com

E. Stroudsburg, PA 18301
espresbyterian.com

Nicki's News

Dear friends and members,

In my inbox are multiple emails that are talking about the post pandemic church. One email struck me though, because it said the most critical element for rebuilding is a willingness to dream like Jesus. In order to move forward in a sustainable way, the church must have a big, bold, God-sized vision. Something compelling enough, and risky enough, to require them to grow in faith, depend on each other and partner with God. Only a vision of this size and scope will draw people forward into this new phase of doing church. As we seek our way forward, may we remember to have a willingness to dream like Jesus. May we dream big and do great things that glorify God.

In His Peace,

Pastor Nicki

Nexus Sponsor

This month's issue is being sponsored by Frank Lanterman. We are looking for sponsors for our future Nexus issues. 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.

Youth Group

We will not be holding any Zoom Youth Group meetings in the summer, but be on the lookout for communication regarding other summer activities.

Treasurer and Stewardship

Report through June 30, 2021

HOPE Fund Income	\$4,650.00
HOPE Fund Disbursements	\$2,583.33
Yearly Pledges	\$144,880.00
Pledge Giving to Date	\$ 68,316.00

Inspirarity Dialogue

You are invited to participate in our monthly interfaith dialogue group currently on zoom. Each month we explore a topic chosen at the end of the last month's session. This month we will be discussing "Characteristics of G-d". We meet the second Sunday of the month from 6-7pm. The next meeting is August 10th. The zoom link is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85131075207?pwd=Q3NldTZxZU5MdGJqbU0vb09Qam14QT09>

Humor Corner

Did you hear the joke about the two birds going south for the winter?

One bird says to the other bird . . . "All this flying is giving me a migrate headache!"



Anniversaries

Celebrating anniversaries in **August** are:

Tim and Lisa Swanson
Quentin and Charlotte Currie
Pete and Christa Varrica
Mark and Wendy Lichty
Sarah and Patrick Robinson



Birthdays

Celebrating birthdays in **August** are:

Sandra Rydell, Lisa Menio, Caius Demerest,
Wendy Emery, Jean Warner, Mary Anne Gilbert,
Sonya Cole, Ben Delaney, Lucas Swanson,
Connie Powell, Theresa Lawrence, Karen Padgett
and Bonnie Miller

Nexus Deadline

The Nexus deadline for the September issue is Monday, August 30th.

Presbyterian Historical Society

On July 14, 2021, Pastor Nicki was able to deliver many documents and archives to Marsha Heimann, who, in turn, delivered these items to the Presbyterian Historical Society in Philadelphia. The PHS houses and manages the records of 12,000 historic congregations. They provide exhibits, publications, resources, record digitization and trainings for our Clerks of Session. We are happy to ensure that the church's history is not only preserved, but will always be accessible and that the church's stories will be shared with the greater story of the American Presbyterian and Reformed experience.



Remember Those Lost to Addiction

Today the Addiction Policy Forum launched the [223aDay campaign](#) to raise awareness of the 223 lives that are lost to a drug overdose every day in the United States.

The *223aDay campaign* gives families and friends a national platform to share their stories of loved ones lost to drug overdose while also increasing public awareness of the opioid epidemic. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [health advisory](#) on the increase in fatal overdoses nationwide indicates that **81,230 people died of overdose deaths** from June 2019 through May 2020, an 18.2% increase from the previous year. Synthetic opioids like fentanyl were the primary driver of the increase in overdoses, followed by overdose deaths involving cocaine.

“223 families lose a loved one every single day to a drug overdose; that is far too many lives lost,” says Jessica Hulsey, founder of Addiction Policy Forum. “COVID-19 has only exacerbated the crisis, as the isolation, service disruptions and financial worries of the pandemic collides with the opioid and stimulant crisis. We need to double down our efforts to support individuals struggling with addiction.”

“The 223aDay campaign will help shine a light on the real people and lives behind the number,” says Essex County Massachusetts District Attorney Jonathan Blodgett, Chair of the Addiction Policy Forum Board of Directors. “It is easy to become numb to the numbers of lives lost. This project will, hopefully, help those who have lost a loved one, not feel so alone in their grief.”

To read the personal stories submitted by families across the country, submit your story, or to take the pledge to stop overdoses, please visit www.stop-overdose.org.

Supporting Faith Formation at Home

Church leaders, are you looking for a way to support families and households in faith formation at home? The PMA has an offer of free resources to support at-home faith formation with younger children! They are using an endowment made possible from generous donors to help you receive a few resources through our partner, Presbyterian Publishing Corporation. These resources are specifically selected to help households with younger children to engage in Scripture and story books that highlight the vision of being a Matthew 25 faith community in the PC(USA). We consider households to include parents and children, grandparents and children, foster families, and even community outreach households. Think creatively about how you can reach young children and their guardians. Share these links to the application forms with congregational leaders and encourage them to apply. There are book bundles and Google forms in English, Spanish and Korean
<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/free-bookssupport-at-home-faith-formation-for-children/>
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd65yAB9GwABthQ9_DEQGotnWKxCzWIDYpKnn94wMCgozYAZw/viewform
<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/category/christian>

Help Victims of a House Fire

The Mission Committee is asking for your help for an East Stroudsburg family who recently had their house, and all of their belongs, destroyed by fire. For the next three weeks, beginning 8-1 to 8-22, we will be collecting clothing, monetary donations and gift cards (Old Navy, Kohl's or Amazon). You can pick up a list of clothing items and sizes for the family in the Narthex. If you would like to make a donation, please make checks payable to ESPC with 'fire victims' on the notation line.

Moravian Seminary

*Lead the Change
Master the Art of Caring*

Crossroads is pleased to offer the following courses this fall. All courses are offered in person at Moravian Theological Seminary and online, real time through Zoom. Registration and more information is available at www.moravianseminary.edu/crossroads. Contact Dr. Jill Peters at petersj2@moravian.edu with any questions. • Traditions, a look at world religions and other Protestant denominations, with the Rev. Dr. Bill Falla on Mondays from 6-9 pm, Sept 13-Nov 1, 2021. • Creative Worship with Rev. Maggie Wellert explores what is worship and how we can bring new life to our worship experiences. Thursday 6-9 pm, Sept 9 - Oct 28, 2021. • Unpacking the Scriptures - Discipleship with Pam Weiss who leads the discipleship program at First Pres Allentown gives us practical and creative ways to bring people together to explore their faith. This is our Late Fall Course which meets twice a week (Mon and Thurs) from 11/4 until 12/2/2021. Looking ahead: • Missional Leadership, Mondays 1/3 - 2/21/2022 Dr. Jill Peters • Road Hazards (Congregational Ethics), Thurs 1/6 - 2/24/2022 Rev. Derek French & Dr. Jill Peters • Story of Christianity, Mondays 3/7 - 5/2/2022 (Except Holy Week 4/11) Rev. Dr. Bill Falla • My Journey (Formative Spirituality) Thursdays 3/10 - 5/5/2022 (Except Holy Week 4/14) Rev. Maggie Wellert Dr. Jill Peters, Missional Leadership Developer ~ Moravian Theological Seminary www.moravianseminary.edu/crossroads

Nexus Staff

Pastor: Nicole Vogel
Editor: Jen Carmella

August 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion Sunday Worship, 10:00 Special Congregational meeting	2	3	4 TOALC Board Meeting, 12:00 in the pavilion	5	6	7
8 Worship, 10:00 Session Meeting	9	10 Mission Committee meeting, 1:00 NA Sub- Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m. in pavilion	11	12	13	14
15 Worship, 10:00	16	17 NA Sub- Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m. in pavilion	18	19	20	21
22 Worship, 10:00	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 Worship, 10:00	30 Nexus Deadline	31				