

THE NEXUS

AUGUST 2022

Presbyterian Church
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Nicki's News

Dear friends and members,

During this past week being sick and not able to do much, I had time to reflect on the kindness shared towards me by many people. I particularly recalled one from when I was in treatment. An older woman, who was dressed like a clown, would go around the waiting area cheering people up. She wasn't paid, she just wanted to bring some kindness and cheer to people who she knew were suffering. I read somewhere that we should throw kindness around like confetti. Kindness is one of the gifts of God's kingdom. As Fredrick Buechner once wrote, "...kindness is one of the doors holiness enters the world through, enters us through—not just gently kind, but sometimes fiercely kind."

This congregation has a strong sense of kindness and I know that, whenever called upon to show kindness through providing for those in need or whatever be the reason, that so many will step up and answer the call. May we all be on the lookout for ways you can be kind and share Christ with others especially in these days where kindness is harder to find.

In His Peace,

Pastor Nicki

Nexus Sponsor

This month's issue is being sponsored by Rich and Sharon Laverdure in honor of our Church family. 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.

Nexus Deadline

The Nexus deadline for the September issue is Monday, August 29th.



Walk and Talk

This time of walk and talk has been very successful. If you or anyone including friends, family, or members of community who would like to join to walk and talk together on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 1:00, you are invited to do so. The place we walk is determined by the group after the conclusion of each walk. We try to stick to paths that are mostly flat and easy. If it is bad weather, we will reschedule. The pastor will announce where each walk would take place if you missed the last walk, or you can call the office and ask. If you are planning on coming, please let the office or pastor know this way you can get a call with any changes. For August, our walks will be Wednesdays August 3rd and 24th. **Please note that for this month only, the Walk & Talk will be held the first and fourth Wednesdays of the month.**

5-7 Year Planning Commission

The next meetings of the 5-7 Year Planning Commission will be Monday, August 8th and 22nd at 4:15 p.m.

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.

Meeting ID: 811 4459 9578
Passcode: 621686
Next meeting is Sunday, August 14th at 7:00 p.m.



Potluck Dinner

Join us Wednesday, August 24th at 5:30 p.m. for a potluck dinner. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex so you can let us know what you will be bringing. We will also be filling the backpacks for our outdoor service on the 28th.

Humor Corner



Updates from our Partners Regarding Ukraine

- Uncertainty is growing in Transcarpathia. Those who have stayed are already considering leaving.
- Suicide rates are increasing for both women/men. Among those with stable families, not alcoholics or psychologically unstable.
- In Ukraine, 16 million people are in need of humanitarian aid: water, food, housing.
- He thanks Tibor Kiss for sending the Dutch open letter, adding that it is not enough to call on the West to stop arming Ukraine - it should call for a ceasefire and sit down with Putin. So far, Putin's peace terms have not been raised in any forum.

We are still collecting money for those in Ukraine. You can drop it off in the office or out in the collection plate with a note in the memo.



Brown Bag Lunch Book Club

The last brown bag book club will meet on August 25th, in the Fellowship Hall at noon at the **First Presbyterian Church, 575 Main Street, Stroudsburg**. Bring your lunch and join the discussion! This book is an easy, story-filled read that will help us think creatively about the future of the church. Drinks and desserts provided. All are welcome.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88269088647?pwd=c0U3TFRxU1EyWTMxL3luelhYeHQ3dz09>

August Book: Screwtape Letters by CS Lewis



Outdoor Worship Service

Outdoor Service

On **August 28th**, we will be having a special outdoor service. We will be inviting any children to bring in their backpack to receive a blessing over them. Additionally, we are looking to provide some backpacks for students in need. Please share this information with the families and children you know in our community. There is a table set up in the Narthex for you to drop off your donations. If you know of a child in need of a backpack, please give the church the child's **first** name. This way we can ensure we have enough for everyone. Following the worship service, there will be an ice cream social fellowship time!



Backpack Blessing

We will be giving out fully supplied backpacks to students who can't afford them. The goal is to fill and disperse 75 backpacks. Here are some ways you can help.

1. Team up with Pastor and some others who will reach out to businesses for donations
2. Share about businesses you know might be willing to donate
3. Donate items from the list below or donate money for others to purchase
4. Pray for this ministry
5. Help fill backpacks on Wednesday August 24th at 5:30pm. We are inviting families to join us for a potluck dinner followed by stuffing of backpacks.

List of New items to donate

- Backpacks
- Washable markers
- Crayons
- Pencils
- Notebooks (most often used are folder with pockets on either side)
- Notebook filler paper
- Composition books
- Tissues (for them to give to class)
- Glue Sticks

Celebrations:

Celebrating **Birthdays in August** are:

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

Celebrating an **Anniversary in August** are:

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

Family Promise Meals Needed

Family Promise is an interfaith ministry for homeless children and their families. ESPC has been involved with Family Promise since its inception in Monroe County. Before COVID, families were sheltered at various churches. At present, there are four children and six adults under shelter and staying in different locations, including the Family Promise day center on Main Street in Stroudsburg. **We have been asked to provide dinners for Mondays beginning in August.** The food is to be delivered to the day center by early afternoon and will be divided up by Family Promise staff and distributed to the families. If you are able to help with this important ministry by providing an occasional dinner (or part of a meal), please contact the church office or Ellie Buff at 570-424-0820.

All Session Gathering

Our session, along with the sessions from First Stroudsburg Presbyterian Church, Christ Church of the SlateBelt, Community Presbyterian in Broadheadsville and Shawnee Presbyterian Church sessions, are gathering for a second time to explore ways to support one another and work together for God's kingdom work. This will take place on August 20th from 11-4. Session will receive emails with more details.



Yard Sale Proceeds Benefit Many

Thanks to the generous contributions and hard work of our congregation, our church yard sale raised \$4,901 which was given to local charities. At their July meeting, Session approved the Mission Committee's recommendation to give \$816 to each of the following six charities:

1. Meals on Wheels of Monroe County
2. East Stroudsburg High School's Timberwolf food pantry
3. Common Threads of Stroudsburg High School, a clothing store staffed by students and young adults with disabilities. Proceeds go to scholarships.
4. Second Coming Thrift Shop that supports a ministry for men and women in recovery from drug and alcohol addiction.
5. Angel's Closet that provides baby layette bundles to mothers in need.
6. Angels & Dragonflies whose mission is to help families provide for their children.

August Meetings:

Session meeting,
Sunday, August 14th , following worship

Inspirarity Dialogues,
Sunday, August 14th at 7:00 pm

5-7 Year Planning Commission meeting,
Monday, August 8th and 22nd at 4:15

Walk & Talk
Wednesdays, August 3rd and 24th at 1:00 pm

New Adult Education Material

There are 11 new offerings of free materials in the Narthex—2 of them for children ages 6-10.

1. New International Version bibles .
2. "Life as a Christian". This booklet offers a strong foundation that new believers can build on with confidence. (Ages 6-10)
3. "Keys to Powerful Prayer". This booklet provides readers with effective steps to ignite their prayer lives.
4. "199 Promises of God". As you make your way through our challenging world, find your guidance in the promises of God.
5. "The Freedom of Self-Forgetfulness ". This is a liberating book for anyone who's ever worried about what others think of them.
6. " Heaven". We all have questions about what Heaven will be like.
7. "Promises for a Fruitful Life". This booklet will remind you that your life matters.
8. "Is God Speaking to Me?". Learn to experience all God has for you.
9. "What on Earth am I Here For". Give your life new meaning.
10. "Finding Peace". A hundred spirit lifting devotionals to strengthen your faith when God says "wait".
11. "The Gospel Story". This booklet will give readers ages 6-10 the big picture of God's story through 30 chosen stories.

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
Sami Carmella	Nursery Attd.
Keith Karkut	Technology

Nexus Staff

Pastor: Nicole Vogel
Editor: Jen Carmella

Contributing Editors:
Ellie Buff, Sandy Rydell

August 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 Walk & Talk, 1:00 p.m.	4	5	6
7 Worship 10:00 Nominating	8 5-7 Year Planning Commission. 4:15 p.m.	9	10	11	12	13
14 Worship 10:00 Session Meeting Inspirarity Dialogues, 7:00 p.m.	15	16	17	18	19	20 All Session Gathering, 11:00-4:00
21 Worship 10:00	22 5-7 Year Planning Commission. 4:15 p.m.	23	24 Walk & Talk, 1:00 p.m. Potluck Dinner and filling of the backpacks, 5:30 p.m.	25	26	27
28 Worship 10:00 Outdoor Worship Service Ice Cream Social! Blessing of the Backpacks	29 Nexus Deadline	30	31			