

# THE NEXUS

# AUGUST 2023

Presbyterian Church  
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## **Nicki's News**

Dear friends and members,

Change is a daily occurrence these days. The church universal is in transition, as well as each individual church. The PC (USA) is no exception, and neither is this congregation. One way most churches are headed is to eliminate collecting data and funds based on membership. Membership is something that was important to society in the past, but changing times means that it is no longer relevant to the majority. You may be surprised to know that your own presbytery had a worshipping community that led the way in this change. One pastor had the idea to not do membership. This church called "The Barn" was successful in growing and giving back funds just like a church with membership rolls do. This changing concept of membership is in the process in the wider church as well as here. Previously, only member's personal info, such as birthdays and anniversaries, were listed to be shared (with permission) to the wider congregation. This was a rule set in place when membership was a priority. Since we have several who attend now that are not members who could be included, we are asking those who would also like to be listed in the directory and in the birthdays and anniversaries to notify the office or fill out an available form on the table in the foyer. If you have any questions please contact the office.

many thanks,

In His Peace,

Pastor Nicki

## **Nexus Deadline**

The Nexus deadline for the September issue is Monday, August 28<sup>th</sup>.

## **Nexus Sponsor**

This month's issue is being sponsored by **Sonya Cole**. We are looking for sponsors for our future Nexus issues in 2023. 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 foyer.

## **Task Lists**

We appreciate so much everyone who has signed up for a task or to help with tasks in our church. Time is one way we can give back to God for all that God has blessed us with. You are invited to keep checking the task list and see if God is calling you to serve and give of your time. Don't forget too, if you have a new idea of something that God has laid on your heart, just fill out a task form and turn it into the office. May God use each of us in the way that God sees best fit.

## **Birthdays**

Celebrating birthdays in **August** are:

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



## **Anniversaries:**

Celebrating anniversaries in **August** are:

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

## **Living into Our Mission**

Here are ways we have brought God's light to our community in recent months:

1. We have helped someone move into a new apartment with furniture and home furnishings they needed.
2. We have provided meals for Family Promise.
3. We have supplied food to individuals and have taken food to the North Pantry.
4. We provided temporary room and board for people traveling through our area.
5. We supplied, blessed and delivered backpacks to kids in need.
6. We provided practice space for summer choir practices.
7. We baptized some babies!
8. We completed and are starting a new TOALC session.

9. We have had several Walk & Talks and are starting up again in May.
10. We have given rides, meals and visits to our congregants.
11. We have donated money to Ukraine.
12. We donated funds to Common Threads, Angel's Closet, Angel's & Dragonflies, 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming Thrift Shop and Timberwolf Pantry.
13. We contributed to One Great Hour of Sharing.
14. We contributed to the Peace & Global Witness Offering.
15. We contributed to Alice Visionary Project.
16. We provided space to the Lehigh Presbytery for some activities.
17. We support *Cares*. Once a week we have young adults with special needs come in and volunteer small chores around the church.
18. We provided for several families for Brighter Christmas.
19. We sent 36 boxes overseas to children for Operation Christmas Child.
20. Some members volunteered to Ring the Bell for the Salvation Army at Christmastime.
21. Sunday School kids made cards and cookies and delivered them to shut-ins for Christmas.
22. We donated money to the Earthquake Relief in Turkey.
23. We started a new task list for our church.
24. We celebrated Lent with shared ministry and meals with neighboring churches.
25. We had an Easter Egg hunt with other churches.
26. We had a Ramadan dinner here at ESPC.
27. We welcomed new members!
28. We had a yard sale and sent donations to 3 different causes.

## **Humor Corner**





## **Tri-Unity Youth Group Pool Party**

Join us August 5<sup>th</sup> from 2-6pm for fun times at the Denny's House, 7440 School View Lane Stroudsburg, Pa 18360. We will not only enjoy swimming, but also some great food and games. Let Pastor Nicki know if you won't make it.

## **Walk & Talks**

The Walk & Talks will continue through August on Wednesdays at 1:00. Enjoy God's beautiful creation and visit with Pastor Nicki and other members of the congregation during these hikes. Within a short drive of the church, each Walk and Talk is 1 to 2 miles and will last about an hour. Check with the church office (570-421-5821) for weather cancellations, to sign up to get email notifications, or to arrange to carpool. A full schedule is on the bulletin board in the foyer.



## **August Meetings & Events**

Wed., Aug. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	AED instruction class, 6:00 Walk & Talk, 1:00
Sat., Aug 5 <sup>th</sup>	Pool Party at the Denny's house, 2-6
Sun. Aug. 6 <sup>th</sup>	Worship, 10:00 (Communion) Inspirarity Dialogues, 4:00
Wed., Aug. 9 <sup>th</sup>	Walk & Talk, 1:00
Sun. Aug. 13 <sup>th</sup>	Worship, 10:00
Wed. Aug. 16 <sup>th</sup>	Walk & Talk, 1:00
Sun. Aug. 20 <sup>th</sup>	Worship, 10:00 Session meeting
Wed. Aug. 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Walk & Talk, 1:00 Pot Luck Dinner, 5:30 pm, followed by filling backpacks
Sun., Aug. 27 <sup>th</sup>	Outdoor service, 10:00 Backpack giveaway and Ice-Cream Social to follow worship
Wed. Aug. 30 <sup>th</sup>	Walk & Talk, 1:00

## **Inspirarity Dialogues**

This group is made up of many differing traditions that are fascinating from which to learn. 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. The next meeting is in person at Chestnut Hill Retreat Center.

**Next meeting is Sunday, August 6th at 4:00 p.m.**



## **Backpack Blessing service and Ice Cream Social Fellowship time**

Many shared how blessed they were with the backpacks received last year and the need continues. We again will be giving out fully supplied backpacks to students who can't afford them. The goal is to fill and disperse 100 backpacks, meeting the goal we set last year. Here are some ways you can help. We also invite anyone with backpacks to bring them for the special Outdoor Sunday service on August 27<sup>th</sup>, where we will bless all backpacks during the service and enjoy some ice cream sundaes after service during fellowship time.

1. Pray for those who are receiving the backpacks or having their backpacks blessed
2. Donate money to help cover cost of items being purchased. 96 backpacks have already been purchased for a total cost of \$307.20
3. Donate purchased items from the Amazon wish list using [this link](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3R5BDZMKFIJPG?ref=wl_share) [https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3R5BDZMKFIJPG?ref=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3R5BDZMKFIJPG?ref=wl_share)
4. Help fill backpacks on Wednesday August 23<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm. We are inviting families to join us for a potluck dinner followed by stuffing of backpacks. Sign up sheet is in foyer on bulletin board.
5. Invite children and youth to come on August 23<sup>rd</sup> potluck dinner to make personalized tags to put in each of the backpacks.



## **Looking ahead . . .**

Sunday School will start in September

The Church will be closed on Labor Day, September 4<sup>th</sup>

The Peace & Global Witness offering will be collected the 1<sup>st</sup> of October

### **Church Elders**

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

### **Church Staff**

Nicole Vogel  
 Jen Carmella  
 Linda Schaller  
 Sami Carmella  
 Keith Karkut

Pastor  
 Secretary  
 Music Director  
 Nursery Attd.  
 Tech./Sexton



### **Nexus Staff**

Pastor: Nicole Vogel

Editor: Jen Carmella

Contributing Editors:

Kathy Johansen

# August 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Walk & Talk, 1:00  AED Instruction Class, 6:00	3	4	5 Pool Party at the Denny's house, 2:00-6:00
6 Worship, 10:00  Inspararity Dialogues, 4:00 @ CRC	7	8	9 Walk & Talk, 1:00	10	11	12
13 Worship, 10:00	14	15	16 Walk & Talk, 1:00	17	18	19
20 Worship, 10:00  Session meeting	21	22	23 Walk & Talk, 1:00  Pot Luck Dinner @ 5:30  Filling backpacks	24	25	26
27 Worship, 10:00  Outdoor Service  Backpack Giveaway!  Ice-Cream Social!	28	29	30 Walk & Talk, 1:00	31		