

THE NEXUS

DECEMBER 2021

Presbyterian Church
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Nicki's News

Dear friends and members,

Recently, a congregant reminded me of the need for me to slow down. What a wise person to remind me of this. Many times, the demands in life make us feel we must be busy and rushed. In the coming Christmas season, this becomes even more difficult. In his book *The Busy Christian's Guide to Busyness*, author Tim Chester lists questions to ask ourselves if we are becoming too hurried. Some of them are: "Do you regularly work thirty minutes a day longer than your contracted hours? Do you check work e-mails and phone messages at home? Has anyone ever said to you, 'I didn't want to trouble you because I know how busy you are'?" Do your family or friends complain about not getting time with you? If tomorrow evening were unexpectedly freed up, would you use it to do work or a household chore? Do you often exceed the speed limit while driving? Do you have enough time to pray? Do you have a hobby in which you are actively involved? The Holy Spirit led this congregant to remind me to slow down. Perhaps we can use these questions throughout this busy season to remind us to slow down and take it in or we might miss seeing God amongst us.

In His Peace,

Pastor Nicki

Nexus Sponsor

This month's issue is being sponsored by **Sonya Cole**. We are looking for sponsors for our future Nexus issues in 2022. 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.



We will serve communion on Sunday, December 5th during our 10:00 worship service. Please bring your own elements. We will have some here for you if you forget. On Sunday, December 12th, there will be special music during the service. We will be having our usual Christmas Eve service on the 24th at 7:30 p.m., along with communion. Then, on December 26th, our 10:00 worship service will consist of a hymn sing. The church will be closed Monday, December 27th in honor of Christmas and again on December 31st in honor of New Years.

Nexus Deadline

The Nexus deadline for the January issue is Tuesday, December 28th.

Humor Corner

A priest was looking for something when his friend walked in, "I'm meeting some members of the laity," the priest said, "and I can't find my collar."

"My, my," his friend replied. "A lay date and a collar short."

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer and Stewardship

Report through October 31, 2021

HOPE Fund Income	\$5,017.50
HOPE Fund Disbursements	\$5,487.75
Yearly Pledges	\$144,880.00
Pledge Giving to Date	\$123,763.00

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 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

Anniversaries

Celebrating anniversaries in **December** are:

Steve and Ann Healy
Ron and Connie Powell
Allan Erbe and Elda McCoy



Birthdays

Celebrating birthdays in **December** are:

Jenny Collins, Mary Dressel, Ann Healy,
Gregory Menio Jr., Larry Desko,
David Braithwaite, Zoey Delaney, Hollie Falzone,
Bob Huffman, Ronald Bruce, Margie Staffaroni,
Daisha Kintz, Kelli Burlingame, Crista Varrica and
Mike Rosso



Operation Christmas Child

A big thank you to all who helped support Operation Christmas Child this fall. As always, the congregation gave generously so we could purchase toys, hygiene items and school supplies to pack in shoeboxes to be sent to children around the world. The Sunday School children helped to pack boxes during their class time and carried them into the sanctuary to be blessed by Pastor Nicki. We are grateful for the incredible support of the congregation, who raised enough funds to fill and pay postage for 30 boxes! Now more than ever, children need to hear the promise of God's love for them. Stay tuned for an update later this winter when we will find out to which country or countries our boxes were delivered.

Confirmation Class

Like last time, the confirmation program this year will be done with other confirmands from local Presbyterian churches. This year, though, we will be gathering between 4 churches. Christ Presbyterian Church of the Slate Belt, Delaware Water Gap Church on the Mount, Shawnee Presbyterian Church, and ours will all participate together. The first gathering will be on November 21 at 1:00pm at Church on the Mount in Delaware Water Gap. If you haven't already been in contact with Pastor Nicki, and know someone who would like to be confirmed, who can meet at least once a month from Jan-June, who is 8th grade or above, please contact Pastor Nicki or the church office.



Brighter Christmas

Again this year, the Mission Committee is planning to provide a Brighter Christmas for a family with children in each of two East Stroudsburg elementary schools: J.M. Hill and Smithfield. Please have the gifts wrapped and returned by December 12th. Our congregation has been very generous in donating for this project every year, and we hope the tradition will continue this year. We can accept monetary donations. Please put "Brighter Christmas" on the memo line. Thank you for your help. Please call Barbara Braithwaite with any questions at 570-476-7963.

Thanksgiving Food Drive

Thank you! To all who contributed to the Thanksgiving Food Drive for the Timberwolf Pantry. We were able to donate enough food for 7 families to enjoy the holiday, in addition to gift cards for each of those families as well. Great job!

Children's Sunday School

Children's Sunday school will not be in session from December 12, 2021- January 2, 2022 and will resume Sunday January 9th.

Adult Sunday School

There are a new selection of free booklets, some with a Christmas theme, now in the narthex. Here is a list.

1. Winning Your Spiritual Battles— Tony Evan's
2. How To Pray—The Best of John Wesley on Prayer.
3. Christmas Hidden Pictures Activity Book ages 6-10.
4. The Case for Christmas—The Evidence— Lee Strobel.
5. Does God Love Everyone?—Matt McCullough.
6. Is God Speaking to Me?—Lysa Terkeurst.
7. One Minute Insights for Men—Jim George.
8. Is Christmas Unbelievable? Four Questions Everyone Should Ask—Rebecca McLaughlin.

Nexus Staff

Pastor: Nicole Vogel

Editor: Jen Carmella

Contributing Editors:

Barbara Braithwaite, Sandy Rydell, Lisa Swanson, Tim Swanson

December 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 K-Group, 1:00	4
5 2 nd Sunday in Advent Adult Ed., 9:00 Worship, 10:00 Communion Sunday	6	7 Mission Committee meeting, 1:00	8 Men's Lunch, noon	9	10	11
12 3 rd Sunday in Advent Adult Ed., 9:00 Worship, 10:00 Session Mtg, following worship	13	14 Women's Circle, 1:00	15	16	17	18
19 4 th Sunday in Advent Adult Ed., 9:00 Worship, 10:00	20	21	22	23	24 Communion, Candlelight Service, 7:30 p.m.	25 Merry Christmas! Church Closed
26 Adult Ed., 9:00 Worship, 10:00 Hymn Sing	27 Church Closed for Holiday	28 Nexus Deadline	29	30	31 Church Closed for New Year's Holiday	