

# THE NEXUS

# FEBRUARY 2022

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## Nicki's News

Dear friends and members,

On January 23<sup>rd</sup>, the sermon was focused on evangelism in our conversations. I recognize this can be difficult for many. This week I came across this illustration that I thought would be helpful in understanding even more about how to share Christ with others. Shannon K. Evans in her book, *Embracing Weakness: The Unlikely Secret to Changing the World*, shares this, "If my testimony of the gospel revolves around a plotline of, 'I used to struggle with this, but God gave me the victory and now I'm free/healed/saved/fill in the blank,' I have immediately distanced myself from the listener of my testimony by implying that I have arrived in a place where they are not". No doubt we do find freedom, healing, and salvation in Christ — and want that for others, too — but the reality continues to be that we, ourselves, are also in process. The power of the gospel is not that we no longer suffer or struggle, but that we no longer do so alone. If we feel called to share our faith during a conversation, we should keep in mind, as she notes, where they are at in their spiritual journey so as to invite them to hear about Jesus in a non-threatening, non-exclusive way as Jesus exemplified.

In His Peace,

Pastor Nicki

## Nexus Deadline

The Nexus deadline for the February issue is Monday, January 24th.

## Nexus Sponsor

This month's issue is being sponsored by Linda Schaller in memory of her father, William Moore Jr. 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.

## 5-7 Year Planning Committee

There will be a meeting of the 5-7 Year Planning Committee on Monday, February 14<sup>th</sup> and again on Monday, February 28<sup>th</sup>.

## Men's Lunch

The next Men's Lunch will be held on Wednesday, February 9<sup>th</sup> at noon in the Lounge.



## Interfaith Prayer Service

Join us Wednesday, February 2nd for an interfaith prayer service. Stroudsburg church will be joining us. We will be gathering in our sanctuary at 7:00 pm for a hybrid service. It will be streamed on YouTube for those interested. You may add your prayer requests through the chat box.

<https://youtu.be/Ws0ADe5sLDO>

## 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, February 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

## Anniversaries

Celebrating an anniversary in **February** are:

Ed and Anna Mae West  
Dennis and Jenny Collins



## Birthdays

Celebrating birthdays in **February** are:

Diane Huffman, Chris Finelli, Frank Lanterman,  
Dick McNally, Cort Huffman, Bill Cramer,  
Norene Rosso and Kylee Vogel

## Helping Hands

After a successful trip in December to New Bern, NC, the Helping Hands Team has scheduled a **Spring mission work trip back to New Bern, NC for April 23-30, 2022.** Over the past few years this area incurred extensive damage from storms and flooding. The team found there was more work to be done and felt a return trip would be beneficial. Volunteers will be housed at the Neuse Forest Presbyterian Church in New Bern. The facility is fairly new and the accommodations were very comfortable with showers and hot water. You can read more about the Helping Hands trip in December on the Lehigh Presbytery website at: <https://lehighpresbytery.org/our-faith-community/care-teams/helping-hands/>

**PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS** and if you know anyone who would like to participate, please share this information with them. There are no specific skills or experience required, other than a pair of hands willing to help where ever it is needed. There are jobs for EVERY skill level and there are experienced volunteers who can help train you on the tasks needed to be done.

**The Registration deadline is March 18, 2022.** As with the previous trip, you must provide proof of being vaccinated against COVID. Cost of the trip is \$200.00.

If you have questions or need more information, please contact Cynthia Hahn (617-415-6013, email [cynthia.a.hahn@gmail.com](mailto:cynthia.a.hahn@gmail.com)).



## 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.

## **My Red Flag**

*Sometimes I can hear it  
vaguely flapping in the breeze behind me.  
At other times, its presence goes completely  
unnoticed and unfelt  
until it stops me dead in my tracks  
with the red flashing lights of a railroad crossing:  
“A Train Is Coming!”  
That’s when I know my trust has shifted –  
or strayed away altogether –  
and it’s time to remember  
Who is in charge of my journey.*

*May it be so, dear Lord,  
throughout this day to come  
that I see my red flag in time,  
and maybe even before it’s a crisis.  
Perhaps You could nudge me gently  
with signs to yield whenever and however  
the lie appears:  
I can figure this out.  
I don’t need any help.  
I will take it from here.  
You know the lie much better than I.  
You see it long before I even know it exists.  
Save me from the rebellion of my soul.  
The Truth is, I cannot do it alone!*

*Jessica Morris*

*\*With thanks for Psalm 25*

## **Humor Corner**

A bride said to her wedding planner, “I don’t think folks expected my last marriage to last long.”

“Why do you say that?” she replied.

“Because the guests at the wedding through minute rice.”



## **Confirmation Class**

Confirmation- This academic year’s confirmation class will continue in this new year. We will be meeting the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of every month, rotating between the four churches participating for the location. We will be using the Presbyterian Handbook as our focus book. A book that is lighthearted and teaches us about all the good, and not so good, things about being a Presbyterian Christian. If you know someone who wanted to be a part of the class but has yet to sign up, please reach out. We can get you caught up before our next meeting on February 27<sup>th</sup> at the Shawnee Church.

### **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:

Linda Schaller, Tim Swanson

# February 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Interfaith Prayer service, 7:00 pm in the sanctuary	3	4	5
6 Adult Ed. 9:00 Worship 10:00  Communion Sunday	7 TOALC Classes start	8 Mission Committee meeting, 1:00  Women's Circle, 2:00	9 Men's Lunch, noon	10	11	12
13 Adult Ed. 9:00 Worship 10:00  Session meeting Inspirarity dialogues, 6-7 pm	14 Happy Valentine's Day!  5-7 Year Planning Commission 4:15-5:15	15	16	17	18	19
20 Adult Ed. 9:00 Worship 10:00	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 Adult Ed. 9:00 Worship 10:00  Confirmation Class, 2:00	28 5-7 Year Planning Commission 4:15-5:15					