

The Nexus

Presbyterian Church
570-421-5821

JULY 2023

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Nicki's News

Dear friends and members,

Presbyterians are not only known for predestination, but also for decency and in order. We like rules, policies, and forms that tell us what to do in every situation. Yet, in these constant fast-paced changing times, we are recognizing there are always exceptions to rules/policies/forms. Jesus, in His time, also knew that there were exceptions to God's laws given to Moses. Exceptions are hard for many to accept. We often think it is preferential treatment, but sometimes there just has to be exceptions.

Just like Jesus knew that the rule was to keep the Sabbath holy by not working healing or plucking wheat for food to eat. The important thing to remember is that all rules/policies/forms must be based in love and if so, they will allow for exceptions. We must work towards acceptance of exceptions instead of feeling inconvenienced or hurt by them. For Jesus knew and teaches us there are always exceptions, because no two situations are exactly alike. May we learn to embrace the exceptions so that God's way of love is revealed.

In His Peace,

Pastor Nicki

Nexus Deadline

The Nexus deadline for the August issue is Monday, July 24th

Nexus Sponsor

This month's issue is being sponsored by **Amanda Denny**. 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 Narthex.

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 **July** are:

Wendy Lichty, Emma Menio, Soomie Santana, Michael Delaney, Bianca Nava, Mano Miller, Albert Menio, Sharon Laverdure, Kyle Kintz, Barbara Braithwaite, Anna Mae West, Bill Ellis and Kathy Mattern.



Combined Church Youth Group

Presbyterian Youth in Trinity. Get ready to serve!

-option 1

We have scheduled Thursday, July 27th from 9-1:30 to serve the homeless in this area at the Salvation Army soup kitchen and food distribution center. Parents will need to sign a waiver. You need not be there the entire day, but it would be great if you can. Please let the office or pastor know if you can attend.

-option 2

We have scheduled Sunday, July (date) from 4-8pm to serve a meal to homeless at the Elks monthly homeless meal. Please let the office or pastor know if you can attend.

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, 2nd 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



up to get email notifications, or to arrange to carpool. A full schedule is on the bulletin board in the narthex.



Children's Water Play Day!

Water is essential to our life and faith journey, bringing joy with slip-n-slides, and with the sacrament of baptism. For this day though, we will focus on the fun slip-n-slides and exploding water balloons. Bring your bathing suits, or whatever clothes that you can get wet, and some friends. Come to the church on July 11 from 2-4pm. We will provide snack, water play items and fun with God. Bring as many friends as you would like. Please sign up on the bulletin board in Narthex or let Kylee Vogel know you will be attending. Don't forget to note how many children are coming.



LET'S GATHER:

EXPERIENCE 'THE GAME OF RENT'



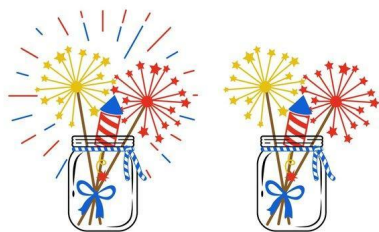
For many Americans “home sweet home” is not a promise, but a problem. We hear every day about increasing housing costs, evictions, foreclosures, and other causes of housing insecurity in our communities. On **Sunday, July 30**, we invite you to gather in the lounge for the fellowship time and conversation on these issues that confront countless neighborhoods and families here and across our country. We'll play and discuss The Game of Rent, a board game-style simulation designed to promote productive conversations about affordable housing. In the words of its creators, “using local data (we'll be using a version specially designed for the Lehigh Valley) and the luck of the draw, the Game helps build empathy and awareness around housing issues.” We will conclude by considering what we and other concerned citizens can do to help alleviate the current housing crisis in our community. Feel

Walk & Talks

The Walk & Talks are 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

free to invite others to come for this exciting learning experience.

**Reminder:
Tuesday, July 4th is
Independence Day! The church
will be closed.**



July Meetings & Events

July 2 nd	Communion Sunday
July 4 th	Independence Day! Church closed
July 5 th	No Walk & Talk today
July 11 th	Kids Water Play Date, 2-4
July 13 th	Sight & Sound Trip, 7-7
July 16 th	Holy Humor Sunday
July 19 th	Walk & Talk, Pinebrook Park, 1:00
July 24 th	Nexus Deadline
July 26 th	Walk & Talk, ForEvergreen, 1:00
July 27 th	Youth to Salvation Army, 9:00
July 30 th	“Rent” game at Fellowship Hour



**Street To Feet Donation
Collection**

Our congregation has been asked to be of assistance to the Street to Feet program that works in tandem with the Wesleyan Church. Street to Feet is a day program that welcomes the homeless to

spend the day indoors and enjoy snacks, warmth, support, and access to bathing. They are asking us to donate some much needed items as Street to Feet does not have a lot of money to spend. Here is what they are asking us for:

*bottled water, juice boxes, snacks, microwavable soups or pasta cups—travel size, not large, sandwiches or muffins—soft foods. *no hard food like lollipops as many of the homeless have dental problems, shampoo, soap*

Please place your donations by the sign in the narthex between **July 2-16**. If you are making sandwiches, muffins or any other fresh food, please individually wrap it (or place in sandwich bags) and bring it to church on July 16th. Place items in the refrigerator in the kitchen. We will be dropping off all items on July 17th. If you have any questions, please feel free to speak with Hollie and/or Luke Falzone.

Sight & Sound Theatre

If you signed up to go to the Sight & Sound theatre on Thursday, July 13th to see the show *Moses*, please make sure you meet at the church parking lot early that morning. The bus will be leaving at **7:30 a.m.** The bus be returning to the church at approximately 7:00 p.m.



Church Elders

Sharon Laverdure 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	Tech./Sexton

Nexus Staff

Pastor: Nicole Vogel

Editor: Jen Carmella

Contributing Editors:



Wishing everyone a safe and Happy 4th of July celebration!!!

July 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Worship, 10:00 Communion	3	4 Independence Day! Church Closed	5 NO Walk & Talk today	6	7	8
9 Worship, 10:00	10	11 Kid's Water Play Date, 2:00-4:00	12 Walk & Talk, 1:00 at Brodhead Creek Park	13 Sight & Sound Trip to see Moses	14	15
16 Worship, 10:00 Holy Humor Sunday	17	18	19 Walk & Talk, 1:00 at Pinebrook Park	20	21	22
23 Worship, 10:00	24 Nexus Deadline	25	26 Walk & Talk, 1:00 at ForEvergreen	27 Youth to serve at Salvation Army, 9:00-1:30	28	29
30	31					

Worship,
10:00

"Rent" game
at Fellowship
Hour

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