

THE NEXUS

MARCH 2022

Presbyterian Church
570-421-5821

55 Smith Street
epresbyterian@gmail.com

E. Stroudsburg, PA 18301
epresbyterian.com

Nicki's News

Dear friends and members,

Although this year is one in which Easter is later, the Lenten season remains 40 days of time (not Sundays) where disciples, in honor of Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness, take time to pray, study scriptures, fast and prepare our hearts for Easter. Some choose to give up things as a way of fasting from something. Others choose to take something on as a way of displaying a fast on their time. Lent is also a great opportunity to sacrifice some more time than just a Sunday morning worship to study scriptures and pray more. During this Lent we have opportunities to grow spiritually when we commit our time to the Lord. There are opportunities to do so starting with the first day of Lent by attending the Ash Wednesday hybrid service at 6:00pm on March 2. If you can't do an evening time, you can also come in to receive Ashes from 12-1pm. In the weeks following, there is an opportunity to participate in a Meal and Message Lenten Bible Study. (more information below) Additionally, there will be evening services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, which is an ecumenical service. In this season of Lent, may we fast of our time, repent, pray, study and grow in the grace and knowledge of our Savior.

In His Peace,

Pastor Nicki

Nexus Deadline

The Nexus deadline for the April issue is Monday, March 28th.

Meal & Message

Starting Wednesday, March 9th, we will be sharing a Meal & Message for Lent at 6:00 p.m. This will continue through Wednesday, April 13th and will be a hybrid event. The Deacons will take care of the first evening and then we will create a sign-up sheet for people to bring in food.

MEAL AND MESSAGE- This opportunity is for all and is being offered to other local Presbyterian churches and anyone who would like to come. To make it easier for some to participate, we will be offering the option to Zoom in. This year's theme is 'forgiveness' using Marjorie J. Thompsons book *Forgiveness, A Lenten Study*. The understanding how Christian forgiveness should be practiced has widely different interpretations and viewpoints. We will seek to work through these, share stories of amazing forgiveness, work to get past some of our emotional barriers to forgiveness and more. Join us weekly on Wednesday evenings at 6:00pm in person here at ESPC lounge or on zoom using the provided link.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84500062138?pwd=L0dvY1BIU1hqdl1dyaGhMZDBWbHc0dz09>

Meeting ID: 845 0006 2138

Passcode: 728394

One tap mobile

929-436-2866 when prompted enter meeting ID 84500062138# then again using the passcode*728394# this is a New York number so if using a landline, it may be long distance. If you need assistance with technology please call the church office and we can find someone to assist you.



Ash Wednesday Service

We will hold our Ash Wednesday service at 6:00 p.m. on March 2nd.

Men's Lunch

The next Men's Lunch will be held on Wednesday, March 9th at noon in the Lounge.

5-7 Year Planning Commission

There will be a meeting of the 5-7 Year Planning Commission on Monday, March 14th and again on Monday, March 28th from 4:15 to 5:15 p.m.



Daylight Savings time begins Sunday, March 13th. Don't forget to turn your clocks **ahead** one hour.

Nexus Sponsor

This month's issue is being sponsored by Jim and Carol Hall. 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.

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

Next meeting is Sunday, March 13th at 7:00 p.m.

Anniversaries

Celebrating an anniversary in **March** are:

John and Lisa Finelli
Joe and Lena Wasyluk



Birthdays

Celebrating birthdays in **March** are:

Karl Schrick, Tom Long, Lena Wasyluk, Ron Powell, Julia Delaney, Sarah Robinson, Ben Huffman. Quentin Currie and Jack Kauderer

Sermon Series

“But The Spirit Says...”

So often we tell ourselves lies. It’s easy to do because we are fallible sinful humans, but God’s Spirit responds, and we are called to listen to the Spirit over the lies we tell ourselves. This year’s Lenten sermon series, which begins on Ash Wednesday and concludes Maundy Thursday, will focus on the lies we tell ourselves and the Holy Spirit’s response. I hope you will take the time to join us weekly this Lent as we explore ourselves and what God is trying to teach us through this Lenten season of repentance and reflection.



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.

Humor Corner



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).

Thank you...

Dear Congregation and Friends,

I am so sorry this took so long to write. I just wanted to thank everybody for helping me in reference to the medical procedure I needed to have done on the 25th of January. From the people who were willing to provide transportation, to the person who came up with the idea to put me in a hotel for two nights and to the church who paid for the accommodations.

Also a special thank you to Barbara Braithwaite who, not only gave me a ride back to my hotel from the hospital, but stopped back later and took me out for a late lunch-early dinner. I had such a good time. Barbara is a real delight. Again I thank the congregation and everyone involved.

You have always been there for me, especially when I was going through my radiation treatments with my cancer, with your thoughts and prayers. I just want to say I love you all!!!! May you all be Blessed with good health and my prayers are with each and every one of you.

*Love,
Scott 😊*

Visits and Home Communion

Would you like a visit from the Pastor or a Deacon to speak and pray with you? Please reach out to the church office via email or phone and request a visit. Pastor Nicki will schedule a meeting at a convenient time and place.

If you have been unable to come to worship on Sundays and receive communion in the presence of the congregation, our Pastor or Deacons can bring communion elements from our shared table on Communion Sundays to your home the first Sunday (or that following week) and celebrate communion with you. Please reach out if you would like to receive communion at home.



Special Offering for One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)

Lent is a time that churches around the world come together to help others in need through OGHS. The three programs of One Great Hour of Sharing are: the Presbyterian Hunger Program, the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Program and the Self-Development of People Program. The monies raised, from all of the churches, are divided equally to fund the OGHS programs.

A letter and special offering envelope will be mailed to you. Also, fish banks are available for your children or grandchildren. The OGHS special offering will be collected on Palm Sunday (April 10). Please make the check is payable to ESPC and on the notation line indicate OGHS. Our church has always given generously to One Great Hour of Sharing. In fact, last year we raised \$2657.00 which was a record for ESPC. Can we reach last year's donated amount again this year or maybe exceed it? Your donation is very much appreciated, whatever amount you can give. Thank you for your support which helps people in need in U.S. and internationally.



Men's Lunch

The Men's lunch group will meet on Wednesday, February 9th at noon in the lounge.



40 Community organizing actions you can practice during Lent

1. *Pray for the community each day.*
2. *Identify community leaders with power and influence.*
3. *Have a relational meeting with at least three new people.*
4. *Listen more, speak less.*
5. *Be willing to learn.*
6. *Do not assume you know what the community needs.*
7. *Lose the savior complex.*
8. *Get uncomfortable.*
9. *Try a new thing.*
10. *Have a visioning session with leaders.*
11. *Do not be afraid to fail.*
12. *Use your privilege.*
13. *Take risks.*
14. *Pray.*
15. *Do not settle for no.*
16. *Compromise goals, not values.*
17. *Show compassion.*
18. *Lead with vulnerability.*
19. *Be clear on your self-interest.*
20. *Set specific, tangible goals.*
21. *Be mindful.*
22. *Do not go it alone.*
23. *Build a team.*
24. *Brainstorm.*
25. *Dream.*
26. *Make a plan.*
27. *Motivate the people.*
28. *Pray, some more.*
29. *Listen to Holy Spirit.*
30. *Be authentic.*
31. *Build trust.*
32. *Create courageous spaces.*
33. *Affirm others.*
34. *Create a space for healthy collaboration.*
35. *Be brave.*
36. *Study other organizers.*
37. *Find God in the details.*
38. *Be joyful.*
39. *Create impact.*
40. *Do not give up.*

Family Promise

Our church will be sponsoring a collection drive for supplies that Family Promise clients need in the shelter. We will collect items from March 6 through March 20. A table will be set up in the Narthex for your items to be dropped off during the office hours of 7:30 am and 12:30 pm. The items are: body wash, shampoo, trash bags, paper towels and toilet paper, combs/brushes, deodorant, laundry detergent, and dryer sheets. Thank you for your support in our mission ministry.

Save-the-Date

Mark your calendars!! The ESPC Annual Yard Sale will be on Friday, April 29 and Saturday, April 30. Collection of items will be two weeks before the sale.

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:

Scott Harrison, Sandy Rydell, Linda Schaller, Tim Swanson

March 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Ash Wednesday Service at 6:00 pm	3	4 K-Group, 1:00	5
6 Adult Ed. 9:00 Worship, 10:00 Deacons Mtg. Communion Sunday OGHS begins	7	8 Mission Committee Mtg. 1:00 pm Women's Circle, 2:00 pm	9 Men's Lunch, noon Meal & Message, 6:00 pm	10	11	12
13 Adult Ed. 9:00 Worship, 10:00 Session Mtg. Inspirarity Dialogue, 7:00 Daylight Savings Time	14 5-7 Year Planning Commission 4:15-5:15	15	16 Meal & Message, 6:00 pm	17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19
20 Adult Ed. 9:00 Worship, 10:00	21	22	23 Meal & Message, 6:00 pm	24	25	26
27 Adult Ed. 9:00 Worship, 10:00 Confirmation Class, 2:00 @ Christ Pres. Church	28 5-7 Year Planning Commission 4:15-5:15 Nexus Deadline	29	30 Meal & Message, 6:00 pm	31		