***The Nexus*  *april 2023***

Presbyterian Church 55 Smith Street E. Stroudsburg, PA 18301

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**Nicki’s News**

Dear friends and members,

 In youth group last month, we watched clips of the Disney movie, Inside Out, and we were discussing the complex intersection of our emotions, specifically joy and sadness. We concluded that one cannot exist without the other. We used the coming Holy Week as an example. We must experience the sadness of Jesus’s horrible death to appreciate the joy of Easter. As I reflected on this discussion, I recalled Matthew’s Easter account which mentions little about joy. What does, however, exist is a sense of amazement and uncertainty. I think sometimes we like to skip over the uncertainty and/or sadness and rush to the joy and amazement. As we enter Holy Week this year, may we remember that we shouldn’t rush and want everything settled. Rather, let us sit with the uncertainty and sadness so that resurrection is all that sweeter and true joy can be felt. Happiness, as we learned, can be fleeting. Resurrection joy is amazing, but only if we allow ourselves to acknowledge and sit with the sadness and uncertainty first.

In His Peace,

Pastor Nicki

**Nexus Sponsor**

 This month’s issue is being sponsored by Linda Schaller in memory of Frank Schaller. 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.

**Palm/Passion Sunday -**  We will have our regular service on Sunday, April 2nd for Palm Sunday. We will also receive our One Great Hour of Sharing

collection.

**Maundy Thursday**- On April 6 at 6:00pm we have a special Lord Supper planned, along with a great ending to the evening that will prepare us for Good Friday. We hope you can join us for this special time in Holy week.

**Good Friday** – Please join us for a Good Friday service here at ESPC on April 7 at 7:00 p.m. A Tenebrae reenactment of the passion of Christ with music, story and scripture, will be enjoyed by all. This will include the Presbyterian Church of the Slate Belt, Stroudsburg First Presbyterian, Stroudsburg United Methodist, Shawnee Presbyterian and us.

**Easter Sunday –** We will have our regular Easter worship service on April 9th at 10:00 a.m. Communion will be served.

**Lenten Meal and Message**

 The final Lenten study meal and message will be held on Wednesday, April 5 at 1st Presbyterian Church of Stroudsburg at 6:00 p.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88482331820?pwd=L0IxL3RMSGZCK3VtVjlmMUJ4bHBmdz09>

Meeting ID: 884 8233 1820

Passcode: 759076

**Task List update**

 Thank you to so many who have answered God’s call to give God their time to serve in so many varying tasks in the church. In stewardship season we talk about giving our time, talents, and treasures. 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. One easy way that is always needed is greeters and readers. 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 **April** are:

Lisa Swanson, Cole Wasylyk, Jen Carmella,

Oscar Santana, Will Charpentier, Greg Menio,

Elda McCoy, Carole Emery, Debbie Prince, Heather Barrett and Nicole Vogel.

**Turkey Earthquake Relief**

 So far, we have sent $775.00 to the Turkey relief program. We will continue to collect for this.

**Ramadan Dinner**

 As we approach the month of Ramadan, we get excited to meet again with close friends and neighbors at Ramadan dinners to live through the fond memories and beautiful moments that captured our hearts in the past years. You may recall; last year, we experienced the rare convergence of Ramadan, Passover, and Easter. This year, ESPC will be hosting a Ramadan dinner at 8:00 on Wednesday, April 19th. We will get to share even more beautiful moments and interactions to hear, understand, and recognize the different religious traditions and groups of our beautiful community.

**Inspirarity Dialogue**

 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 and she will add you to the list. Join Zoom Meeting
[**https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81144599578?pwd=bjZmb3UwWEdHWkxWcUlUNHlpbmhFUT09**](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81144599578?pwd=bjZmb3UwWEdHWkxWcUlUNHlpbmhFUT09)
Meeting ID: 811 4459 9578
Passcode: 621686

**Next meeting is Sunday, April 16th at 7:00 p.m.**

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Dial by your location

+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 884 8233 1820

Passcode: 759076



**Moses at Sight & Sound Theater**

 Join us on Thursday, July 13th for a trip to Sight & Sound to see *Moses*. We will be leaving the church at 7:30 a.m. and arriving back at approximately 7:00 p.m. The cost is $144.83 for ages 10 and up. There are no senior ticket prices. This is an all-inclusive event. It will include the show, lunch at Shady Maple, bus transportation and the driver’s tip. Please make checks payable to ESPC and put “Moses” in the memo. Seats are LIMITED to 55 so the first 55 PAID will be included. The deadline to sign up is April 30. We are also inviting Bangor and Stroudsburg Presbyterian churches. If financial assistance is needed or you have any questions, please contact Wendy Emery, Event Coordinator at 570-897-6181.



**Yard Sale**

 Mark your calendars! Our Annual Indoor Yard Sale is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, May 5th and 6th. This is a perfect time to Spring clean and declutter. And the church is the perfect place to donate those good, usable items you no longer need. We will be collecting and pricing items from April 23rd to May 3rd. Besides the usual household items, here are some other ideas for donations: Outdoor and garden items, sporting goods, tools, jewelry fabrics, art. Items should be clean and ready for sale. Please hold all clothing until the week of the sale.

 Please note that we do NOT want computers, monitors, car seats, TV’s (except like-new flat screen), textbooks, encyclopedias, ski equipment and things that don’t work. To volunteer help with pricing, setup, working at the sale, or cleanup, please contact Ellie Buff at 570-424-0820.



**Youth Group**

 Youth Group is going outside in April. We are planning to go rock climbing with David Childs on a Saturday after Easter. The exact day is to be determined and it is weather permitting. We are hoping for April 29th, but it depends on when the guide is available to take us. As soon as we have more information it will be emailed out. We will also be planning some summer activities and a mission project to do this summer.

**April Meetings & Events**

April 2nd – Palm/Passion Sunday service

 Easter Egg Hunt, 12:00

April 5th - Lenten Study and Meal and Message,

 6:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church

April 6th – Maundy Thursday service, 6:00 p.m. at

 ESPC

April 7th – Good Friday service at 7:00 p.m. at

 ESPC

April 9th – Easter service at 10:00 a.m.

April 11th – Women’s Circle, 1:00 p.m.

April 12th - Men’s Lunch, noon

April 16th – Session meeting, following worship

April 19th – Ramadan dinner at 8:00 p.m.

April 21st – K-Group, 1:00 p.m.

April 29th – Youth Group, rock climbing

**Nexus Deadline**

 The Nexus deadline for the May issue is Monday, April 24th.

**Church Elders**

Sharon Laverdure Ellie Buff

Sandra Rydell Judy Schreck Jim Hall

 Phil Lawrence Debbie Prince Lisa Swanson

Rick and Rebecca Sanker.

**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:

Ellie Buff, Wendy Emery

**April 2023**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Sun** | **Mon** | **Tue** | **Wed** | **Thu** | **Fri** | **Sat** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | 1 |
| Worship every Sunday at 10:00 a.m. |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| Palm SundayOGHS CollectionEaster Egg Hunt, 12:00 |  |  | Lenten Study Meal & Message, 6:00 @ 1st Pres. in Stroudsburg | Maundy Thursday service, 6:00 p.m. Communion | Good Friday service, 7:00 p.m. |  |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| Easter SundayCommunionNO Adult Ed. Class | Easter MondayChurch Closed | Women’s Circle, 1:00 p.m. | Men’s Lunch, noon |  |  |  |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| Session meeting, following worshipInspararity Dialogues, 7:00 p.m. |  |  | CRC Ramadan Dinner, 8:00 p.m. |  | K-Group, 1:00 p.m. | Small All Session gathering at ESPC at 10:00 a.m. |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
|  | Nexus deadline |  |  |  |  | Youth Group gathering |
| 30 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Deadline to sign up for MosesNo Fellowship Hour |  |  |  |  |  |  |