***The Nexus*  *March 2023***

Presbyterian Church 55 Smith Street E. Stroudsburg, PA 18301

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**Nicki’s News**

Dear friends and members,

We have now begun this Lenten season, which began on Ash Wednesday and concludes with Easter. During this season, we typically talk about focusing inward reviewing our lives, confessing sins, and trying our best to walk with Jesus to the cross so we can really feel what is was like for Him. It seems so downward focused. Yet, if we look to Jesus’s final moments, we realize in His most “down” moment, Jesus looks upward! As we continue focusing this Lenten season of *Where New Life Might Begin* I would encourage us to look upward. Perhaps take on a spiritual discipline that will help you look up to God. Maybe try silent meditation, join in a Lenten Bible study, set a discipline prayer time, try Lectio Divina, or practice a daily service to help someone. Lent doesn’t have to be downward focused because Jesus exampled that when we are down that is when we most need to look up. May we start looking up this Lent.

In His Peace,

Pastor Nicki

**Nexus Deadline**

The Nexus deadline for the April issue is Monday, March 27th.

**Men’s Lunch**

The next Men’s Lunch will be held on Wednesday, March 8th at noon in the Lounge.

**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](mailto: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, March 13th at 7:00 p.m.**

**Lenten Meal and Message**

As was noted in last month’s Nexus, this Lenten season will be offering an opportunity to take time during Lent to focus on looking upward by growing in God through a Wednesday evening Bible Study. As in years past, we will begin with a light meal at 6:00 p.m. followed by a Bible Study. However, this year, being tasked by the leaderships to do more shared ministry opportunities, we will be rotating the Bible Study location and leadership. The first one will be on March 1 here at ESPC. The further schedule is below. The Bible Study is based on the book *Hard to Dance With the Devil On Your Back* which is a Lenten study that looks at the transcendent struggle in the lives of believers, while helping us to enter the continually crumbling world surrounding Jesus and the disciples in the days preceding Easter. It will also be available on zoom using the link provided below.

March 1 at ESPC

March 8 at Christ Presbyterian Church of the Slate Belt

March 15 at 1st Presbyterian Church of Stroudsburg

March 22 at ESPC

March 29 at Christ Presbyterian Church of the Slate Belt

April 5 at 1st Presbyterian Church of Stroudsburg

Zoom info:

Topic: Lenten Supper and Book Study

Time: Mar 1, 2023 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Every week on Wed, through Apr 5, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

6 occurrences.

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 884 8233 1820

Passcode: 759076

One tap mobile

+16468769923,,88482331820#,,,,\*759076# US (New York)

+16469313860,,88482331820#,,,,\*759076# US

Dial by your location

+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 884 8233 1820

Passcode: 759076

A picture containing text

Description automatically generated

**Hop on Over!**

HOP on over to the Denny’s house on Saturday, April 1st from 11;00-1:00 for an EGGStra special Easter Egg Hunt! There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for all those able to attend. Please be sure to sign up by March 19th or email [adenny@evenlink.com](mailto:adenny@evenlink.com) with your child’s name and age. Grandchildren are welcome too! The hunt will start promptly at 11:30. Prizes and goodies for all. AND . . .a visit from the Easter Bunny - so bring your camera! Address is 7440 School View Lane in Stroudsburg (it’s right off of North 5th Street, behind Clearview Elementary School – super easy to get to).

If anyone would like to donate items/candy to fill the eggs or fun Easter snacks to share, that would be greatly appreciated. This will also be a ministry sharing event, as we will be inviting the other Presbyterians churches in the area to join us.

**Anniversaries**

Celebrating an anniversary in **March** are:

John and Lisa Finelli

Lena and Joe Wasylyk



**Birthdays**

Celebrating birthdays in **March** are:

Karl Schrick, Tom Long, Lena Wasylyk,

Ron Powell, Julia Delaney, Benjamin Huffman, Colin Barrett, Quentin Currie and Jack Kauderer.

**Helping Hands**

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/>

**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)).



**Yard Sale**

Mark your calendars! Our Annual Indoor Yard Sale is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, May 5th and 6th. We will be collecting and pricing items for two weeks before the sale. Let’s see if we can come up with our usual amazing selection of interesting and useful items that our buyers have come to expect. 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.

**Best Dad Ever**

Being a **great father** is really important.  It is probably the **most important** thing you will do in your life.  But **being a great dad**is really hard.   We **need help** to get there.   We all need some guidance.    **From The Daily Dad by Ryan Holiday.**

**There are 3 FREE Opportunities that Dads can take advantage of to “up” their Dad game:**

1. Sign up for the 24/7 Dad class starting the week of March 6th
2. Attend an information session the week of Feb 27th to learn more about the Pocono Dad Project
3. Sign up for FREE Newsletter(s) that deliver Dad tips and resources right to their inbox

It is offered Monday thru Thursday at different partner locations in Monroe County from 6:00 to 8:00 PM starting the week of March 6th.    The sessions covered over the 12 weeks include Family History, What it Means to be a Man, Showing and Handling Feelings, Men's Health, Communication, The Father's Role, Discipline, Children's Growth, Getting Involved, Working with Mom and Co-parenting, Dads and Work and  24/7 Dad Checklist. Dads build friendships and learn from each other during the 12 weeks. There is a flyer on the bulletin board with more information.

**Youth Group**

Our combined church youth group will be meeting again this month on March 26 at 2pm. This month’s meeting will be at Christ Presbyterian Church of the Slate Belt. Like we’ve been doing, both the confirmation and youth groups will meet at same time. We will begin with team building activities as a combined group then separate out in our perspective groups. David Childs has some fun activities planned. Hope to see you there.

**Shared Ministry**

A small group of leaders from our church, Christ Presbyterian Church of the Slate Belt and First Presbyterian Church of Stroudsburg and Community Presbyterian in Brodheadsville are beginning to meet to discuss more ways to collectively do mission and ministry together. The feedback from the combined Christmas Day and New Year’s services as well as the Advent wreath making, Pot Pie lunch was very positive. These events are helping us get to know one another and see where we can work together to make God’s kingdom on earth more visible. Sandra Rydell and Lisa Swanson are representing this church and would be happy to hear any ideas or input you might have.

**Opportunities for ESPC Women**

You are invited to be part of one (or both) of the following small groups:

The ESPC Women’s Circle meets monthly on the second Tuesday of the month at 1:00pm for Bible Study, fellowship, and service. We take part in Church Women United of Monroe Co. and support some of their ministries. Traditionally we help pack up the church yard sale leftovers. We take an offering which is used for our study guides, CWU dues, and various charities. For Bible study, we use the Presbyterian Women’s *Horizons* Bible study materials. We recently started a new study entitled ‘Celebrating Sabbath’.

The Koinonia Group also meets monthly, currently on the 4th Friday at 1:00pm for study, prayer, fellowship, and to share experiences and encourage one another in discipleship. We use various study materials and are about to start discussions based on the book, *Help is Here* by Max Lucado.

This would be an ideal time to start coming to either or both of these small groups. For information on obtaining materials for either group, contact Ellie Buff at (570) 424-0820.

**March Meetings & Events**

March 1 Bible Lenten Study Meal 6:00 at ESPC

March 5 Lenten luncheon following worship

March 8 Men’s Lunch, noon

Bible Lenten Study Meal 6:00 @

Christ Pres. of the Slate Belt

March 12 Session Meeting, after worship

Inspararity Dialogues, 7:00 p.m.

March 14 Women’s Circle, 1:00

March 15 Bible Lenten Study Meal 6:00 @

1st Pres. of Stroudsburg

March 22 Bible Lenten Study Meal 6:00 at ESPC

March 24 K-Group, 1:00

March 29 Bible Lenten Study Meal 6:00 @

Christ Pres. of the Slate Belt

**Looking Ahead . . .**

April 1 Easter Egg Hunt at Denny’s, 11:00

April 6 Maundy Thursday service at 6:00 p.m.

April 7 Good Friday service, 7:00 p.m.

**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, Linda Schaller, Tim Swanson

**March 2023**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Sun** | **Mon** | **Tue** | **Wed** | **Thu** | **Fri** | **Sat** |
|  |  |  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|  |  |  | Bible Lenten Study Meal  6:00 pm at ESPC |  |  |  |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| Worship, 10:00  2nd Sunday in Lent |  |  | Men’s Lunch, noon  Bible Lenten Study Meal  6:00 pm at Christ Pres. of the Slate Belt |  |  |  |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| Worship, 10:00  3rd Sunday in Lent  Session Meeting  Inspararity /dialogues, 7:00 pm |  | Women’s Circle, 1:00 | Bible Lenten Study Meal  6:00 pm at 1st Pres. of Stroudsburg |  |  |  |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| Worship, 10:00  4th Sunday in Lent |  |  | Bible Lenten Study Meal  6:00 pm at ESPC |  | K-Group, 1:00 |  |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |  |
| Worship, 10:00  5th Sunday in Lent  Youth Group Gathering, 2 pm & Christ Pres. of Slate Belt | Nexus Deadline |  | Bible Lenten Study Meal  6:00 pm at Christ Pres. of the Slate Belt |  |  |  |