

THE NEXUS

OCTOBER 2023

Presbyterian Church
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Nicki's News

Dear friends and members,

Sometimes we do things in ministry because, well it's what we do. Unfortunately, this means we can easily miss some of the beautiful and sacred aspects if something becomes wrote. In the Presbyterian Reformed tradition, we believe in the sacrament of communion, which can easily become so wrote we miss some of the beauty and sacred aspects. Communion, also known as Eucharist or the Lord's Supper, is one of the aspects of the reformed tradition that is very important, which is why it makes sense that some will say "when can we go back to having communion the way we used to do?", or that the communion elements aren't very good tasting. Covid did change the way we did communion in some respects, but we can adapt to ensure we don't lose the beauty and sacredness of this sacrament. One way the session decided to adapt, so that we can feel the sacred aspect of serving each other, is by passing the plate to each other. If the taste of the elements are distracting, then feel free to bring in elements of your preference with you. As we celebrate World Communion this first Sunday in October, may we remember to let go of the wrote or distractions and embrace the beauty and sacredness of remembering what Christ did for us.

In His Peace,

Pastor Nicki

Nexus Deadline

The Nexus deadline for the November issue is Monday, October

Nexus Sponsor

This month's issue is being sponsored by Rich and Sharon Laverdure in honor of all the October birthdays of their friends and family. We are looking for sponsors for our future Nexus issues. 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 foyer.



We will be honoring the Saints who, as the Bible tells us, surround us even though they are no longer physically with us. On November 5th we will have a *time to remember* those saints who have gone before us and are now amongst the great cloud of witnesses. We invite you to fill out the form in the bulletin to list anyone that was a saint in your life, then turn it in to the office or place in the offering plates.

Humor Corner

What was Moses' wife, Zippora, known as when she'd throw dinner parties?

"The hostess with the Moses."

Birthdays:

Celebrating birthdays in **October** are:

Rich Laverdure, Charlotte Currie,
Emery Grace Gilbert, Janice Delaney, Gert Roth,
Rylee Mehringer, Sienna Mehringer,
Philip Lawrence

Anniversaries:

Celebrating anniversaries in **October** are:

Felix and Margie Staffaroni
Rick and Rebecca Sanker
Jim and Carol Hall
James and Heather Barrett
Kyle and Daisha Kintz

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.
29. We support Angel's Closet by being a drop-off location for bundle pickups.



**Sunday Morning
Adult Study**

Adult Sunday School Class

How well do you understand the concept of Heaven? What happens to a Christian at the time of death? How well do you understand what happens in the End Times? The class will begin with an examination of Heaven, using Pastor Chip Ingram's 6-part video series, "The Real Heaven." Next, Tim will lead the class in a study of End Times. Class participants will read Pastor Robert Jeffress' book, Perfect Ending. These classes promise to be a time of extraordinary discovery and learning.

Join Tim Swanson and our adult Sunday school class on October 22nd at 9:00 in the lounge to discuss these topics.



October Meetings & Events

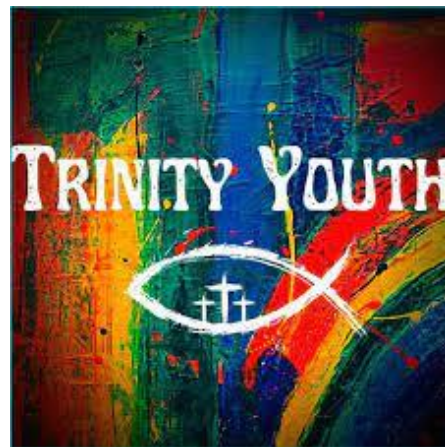
- Sun. Oct. 1st Worship, 10:00
World Communion Sunday
Peace & Global Witness Offering
- Wed. Oct. 4th Book Study, 10:45 in room #3
- Sat. Oct. 7th Reception for Edouard Ndecky at
First Baptist Church, E.S.
- Sun. Oct. 8th Worship, 10:00
Session meeting, 11:00
Inspirarity Dialogues, 7:00 pm
- Tues. Oct. 10th Women's Circle, 1:00
- Wed. Oct. 11th Men's Lunch, noon
Book Study, 10:45
- Sun. Oct. 15th Worship, 10:00
- Sun. Oct. 15th Faith, Blue & You Event, 3-5
- Wed. Oct. 18th Book study, 10:45
- Sun. Oct. 22nd Adult Education, 9:00
Worship, 10:00
"Rent" game, following worship
- Wed. Oct. 25th Book Study, 10:45
- Fri. Oct. 27th K-Group, 1:00
- Sun. Oct. 29th Adult Education, 9:00
Worship 10:00 – Pledge Sunday
- Mon. Oct. 30th Nexus Deadline

Looking ahead . . .

- All Saints Sunday, Nov. 5th (Communion)
- Presbytery Assembly, Nov. 18th
- Annual Interfaith /Thanksgiving Service, Nov. 19th
- Thanksgiving, Nov. 23rd – Office closed Thursday & Friday

Presbyterian Youth in Trinity

Unfortunately, the gentleman who is leading us in the rock climbing was unable to get a date in September. That means we will be starting with getting in the rained-out rock climbing day, that was supposed to happen late last spring. We are waiting on leader Dave to give us this date and we will share with you as soon as we can. We will still need adults for driving and assistance. Please bring water and snacks, and lunch. Dress accordingly. Stay away from jeans or non-stretch pants or shorts. Layers always work best. The event will be cancelled if it rains. If the weather is iffy, an email will go out by 7:30 AM to confirm cancellation. Bring insect repellent and sunscreen. Medical Release forms will need to be signed to participate. If you need one please pick one up from the office or ask Pastor Nicki for one. Additionally, planning has begun to do *Mazilla* this fall. If you are interested, please let Pastor Nicki or Amanda Denny know.



Inspirarity Dialogues

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. **Next meeting is Sunday, October 8th at 7:00 p.m.**

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 a small group gathered to play 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 have used 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 learned a lot and had fun while we did it. The group decided we wanted to offer the wider church another opportunity to learn about the low-income housing struggles. We once again 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 will conclude by considering what we and other concerned citizens can do to help alleviate the current housing crisis in our community. Feel free to invite others from the community to come for this exciting learning experience. Please join us Sunday, October 22nd, after worship.

Operation Shoebox

ESPC will begin collecting shoebox items and funds to support Operation Christmas Child this October. This is a long-standing mission project that our congregation has enthusiastically supported. We want boys and girls worldwide to know that God loves them and has not forgotten them during this time of fear and uncertainty. Children need great joy now more than ever. Most of all, they need hope only in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Each shoebox that is packed is filled with school supplies, hygiene items, toys, and Bible teachings in the child’s target language. Last year, our 39 boxes were distributed to children in Colombia, Liberia, South Africa, and Honduras! If you would like to support OCC, we encourage you to choose from one of the following options:

1. Pack your own shoebox by following the guidelines listed at samaritanspurse.com or stop by the OCC table in the Narthex for information. Bring your packed shoebox to church by October 30th.
2. Shop for items needed to fill the boxes. A list of items will be provided at the OCC table in the lobby.
3. Make a monetary donation. Write a check to ESPC, with “Operation Christmas Child” written in the memo line, we will do the shopping for you! \$25 will cover the cost of shipping plus filling a shoebox.
3. Pray for the children who will be blessed by Operation Christmas Child. If you have questions regarding any aspect of this outreach project, please call Lisa Swanson or Heather Barrett.

Special Event

There will be a reception of Edouard Ndecky. He lived in West Africa and received a shoebox at the age of 14. Come and hear his exciting testimony and life story how he came here from there.

The reception will be held on Saturday, October 7th at 7PM at the First Baptist Church of East Stroudsburg, 160 North Courtland Street, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301.

Please RSVP to Robyn Scales
at robyn.scales@gmail.com



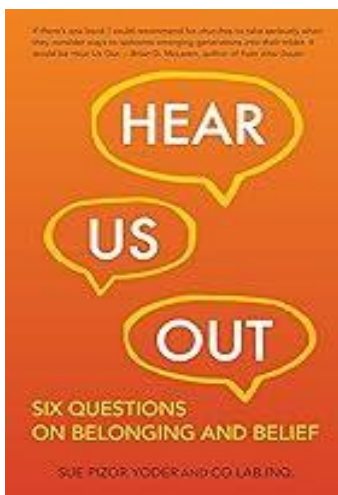
Book Study

In many churches we often hear phrases or questions like, “if we just get more young people in we will be fine,” “the families make sports priority over church”, or “Why don’t the young ones come anymore?” Ever really wonder what is going on with those in the under 40 group who are least represented in the pews of many churches?

Well, here is your opportunity to learn their stories. It’s not too late to join Pastor Nicki and others who are gathering for a Wednesday morning book study on the book *Hear Us Out* written collectively by eight scholars, several of whom are a part of our presbytery.

It explores what has changed for them that they find more meaning through their own lives than that of faith communities. This group of scholars shares their reflections and experiences from interviewing over 200 individuals under the age of 40. There are many insights to learn and discuss.

If you are interested in learning from and about the “nones” and “dones”, we will meet weekly on Wednesdays at 10:45am, starting October 4th, in conference room #3, and will meet every Wednesday morning through November 1st. Please sign up in the foyer or call the office. Need the book? Don’t worry, we can get you one. See Pastor Nicki for more details or to get a book.



Artists-In-Residence Mission

The Presbyterian Church of the Mountain Church, in Delaware Water Gap is establishing an Artist-in-Residence mission to advance the arts in faith, church mission, and the D.W.G. community. The Church of the Mountain, a small but vibrant and creative congregation, wants to share their God-given talents. “We are blessed with poets, painters, writers, musicians, composers and songwriters in our congregation who will serve as mentors in the community for anyone of any age who is interested in learning more about these arts” says Reverend Sherry Blackman, pastor of the church.

Lehigh Presbytery has awarded a \$5000 grant to advance the Artists-in-Residence mission. The mission hopes to be a self- sustaining asset to the Church, Delaware Water Gap, and the Poconos. Mentoring workshops will meet monthly, beginning in October at no cost to the community or participants. A schedule of when and where these gatherings will take place is forthcoming. If interested in learning more, contact Rev. Blackman at 570-476-0345 or by email: pcom106@gmail.com.

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October 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 World Communion Sunday Worship, 10:00 Peace & Global Witness Offering	2	3	4 Book Club Study, 10:45	5	6	7 Reception for Edouard Ndecky of West Africa, 7:00 pm
8 Worship, 10:00 Session meeting, 11:00 Inspararity Dialogues, 7:00 pm	9	10 Women's Circle, 1:00	11 Book Club Study, 10:45 Men's Lunch, noon	12	13	14
15 Worship, 10:00 Faith, Blue & You, 3-5 @ ESU	16	17	18 Book Club Study, 10:45	19	20	21
22 Adult Ed., 9:00 Worship, 10:00 "Rent" game after worship	23	24	25 Book Club Study, 10:45	26	27 K-Group, 1:00	28
29 Pledge Sunday Adult Ed. 9:00 Worship, 10:00	30 Nexus Deadline	31				