

The Nexus

Presbyterian Church
570-421-5821

September 2023

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Nicki's News

Dear friends and members,

In a Pulpit Fiction podcast, host Rev. Robb McCoy shared his experience of how often, as parents, we are excited and cannot wait for summer when there is more flexibility in schedules. Then about halfway through summer, or in the last few weeks of it, we start looking forward to getting back to routines. Routines are very helpful and although sabbath time of rest is necessary, it is also necessary to get back to a more regular daily schedule. This is true of all times. Even Jesus had routines. He was Jewish and followed the Jewish customs. Luke reminds us of these routines "as was His custom, He went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read." Getting back to routines is healthy, being among others who will push you to be who God created you to be happens more frequently. This is true in the church as we return to our routines it is helpful to get back to Sunday School and bible studies. These are ways we come together and worship God through learning and fellowship. As we get back to our routines, may we be reminded of the blessings they are to us.

In His Peace,

Pastor Nicki

Nexus Deadline

The Nexus deadline for the October issue is Monday, September 25th.

Nexus Sponsor

This month's issue is being sponsored by Linda Schaller in memory of her grandmother, Ruth Butterworth. 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 foyer.

Task Lists

Thank you to so many who continue to use your gifts and their time to serve God by taking on many varying tasks in the church. In stewardship season we talk about giving our time, talents, and treasures. Everyone is invited to keep checking the task list and see if God is calling you to serve and give of your time and talents. One easy thing, 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.



Youth Sunday School is scheduled to begin on Sunday, September 17th. **Adult** Education Sunday

School is scheduled to start on Sunday, October 22nd.

Recovery Awareness!

September is Recovery Awareness month. During this month, we are joining many other businesses and churches who are lighting up their property with purple lights. This is to honor all of those in recovery and those lost to addictions. If you happen to drive by the church, or any place you see purple lights, remember to say a prayer for those who are in recovery and those who have been lost to their addictions.

Birthdays

Celebrating birthdays in **September** are:

Nancy Creveling, Jackie Flynn, Jacob Santana, Keth Karkut, Cindy Schrick, Reese Wasylyk, Rebecca Sanker, Ellie Buff, Hayden Huffman, Dale Pedersen, Sheila Hopkins, Gavin Vogel and Mary Lou Huber.

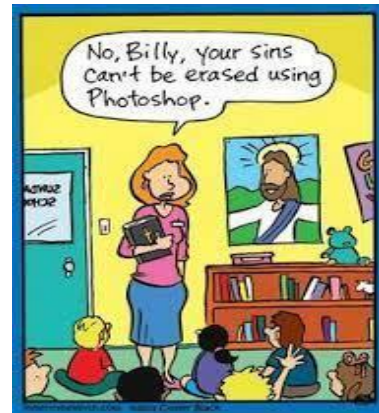


Anniversaries:

Celebrating anniversaries in **September** are:

Cort and Amy Huffman
Richard and Sharon Laverdure
Oscar and Soomi Santana
Donald and Sheila Hopkins

Humor Corner



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.



Youth Group

We have some fun things planned for this school year's youth group gatherings. We will be starting with getting in the rained-out rock climbing day, that was supposed to happen late last spring. It will take place in October. We will follow up with more information. We will 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 in order to participate. If you need one, please pick one up from the office or ask Pastor Nicki for one.

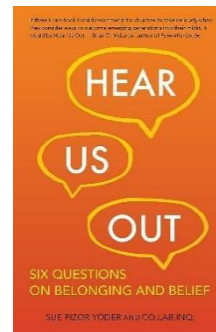
Come Sing and/or Ring!

The Choir and Bell Choir are ready to begin a new year of singing and ringing to God and the congregation. Choir begins September 10th with a rehearsal at 9:00 a.m. On September 24th, we will rehearse at 9:00 and sing at 10:00 a.m. We rehearse and sing every other week. No experience needed, just your love for singing. If interested, join us

Sunday, September 10th. Bell Choir begins September 24th, with an after-church rehearsal. We usually perform once a month after 3 rehearsals. No experience needed. If interested, please come to our first rehearsal on September 24th, after church.

Walk & Talks

The Walk & Talks will continue through September on Wednesdays at 1:00. Each Walk and Talk is 1 to 2 miles and will last about an hour. A full schedule is on the bulletin board in the foyer.



Book Study

Pastor Nicki will be leading 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. Are you interested in learning from and about the “nones” and “dones”? 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. Starting with chapter 2, each chapter gives discussion questions that we will discuss weekly. We will purchase the book, or you can purchase it on your own. We will meet weekly on Wednesdays at 10:45am in conference room 3 starting September 27th and will meet every Wednesday morning until October 25. If you are interested please sign up in the foyer or call the office.

Peace & Global Witness Offering

The Peace & Global Witness Special Offering campaign will run from September 3 to October 1, 2023 (World Communion Sunday). This special offering allows our church to keep 25% of the money raised to support a local cause. This year we are asking for your help in determining what issue is most important to our congregants. A letter was sent out with a form to check on the bottom. You can also see it in the *In Our Life* section. Offering envelopes were also included with the letter. There are extras on the table in the lobby.



Church Forms

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. If interested in learning more, contact Rev. Blackman at 570-476-0345 or by email: pcom106@gmail.com.

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, September 10th at 7:00 p.m.**

Looking ahead . . .

World Communion Sunday, October 1st

The Peace & Global Witness offering will be collected the 1st of October.

Faith, Blue and You picnic event on Saturday October 7th at ESU. More details coming soon.

“RENT” game on Sunday, October 22nd.

Presbytery Assembly, November 18th



September Meetings & Events

- Sept. 3rd Worship, 10:00
Peace & Global Witness Offering begins
- Sept. 4th Labor Day! Church Closed
- Sept. 6th Walk & Talk, 1:00
- Sept. 10th Worship, 10:00, Choir begins
TOALC Kick off, 1:00
Session meeting
Inspirarity Dialogues, 7:00 pm
- Sept. 11th TOALC classes begin
- Sept. 12th Women’s Circle, 1:00
- Sept. 13th Men’s Lunch, noon
Walk & Talk, 1:00
- Sept. 17th Worship, 10:00, Sunday School starts
- Sept. 17th Presbytery Assembly, 2:00pm @
Church of Christ Uniting, Kingston
- Sept. 20th Walk & Talk, 1:00
- Sept 24th Worship, 10:00
Bell rehearsals begins
- Sept. 25th Nexus deadline
- Sept. 29th K-Group

Church Elders

Sharon Laverdure Ellie Buff

Sandra Rydell Judy Schreck Jim Hall
 Phil Lawrence Debbie Prince Lisa Swanson

Nexus Staff

Pastor: Nicole Vogel
 Editor: Jen Carmella

Contributing Editors: Kathy Johansen,

Sandy Rydell, Linda Schaller

Church Staff

Nicole Vogel
 Jen Carmella
 Linda Schaller
 Sami Carmella
 Keith Karkut

Pastor
 Secretary
 Music Director
 Nursery Attd.
 Tech./Sexton

September 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Worship, 10:00	4 Labor Day! Church Closed	5	6 Walk & Talk, 1:00 ESU	7	8	9
10 Worship, 10:00 Choir begins Session meeting TOALC kickoff Inspararity Dialogues, 7:00	11 TOALC classes begin	12 Women's Circle, 1:00	13 Men' Lunch, noon Walk & Talk, 1:00 Pomeroy McMichaels Creek Nature Preserve	14	15	16
17 Worship, 10:00 Children's Sunday School begins Presbytery Assembly, 2:00	18	19	20 Walk & Talk, 1:00 Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge	21	22	23

24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Worship, 10:00 Bell rehearsal begins	Nexus Deadline		Walk & Talk rain date "Hear Us Out" book study, 10:45		K-Group, 1:00	