

THE NEXUS

MARCH 2020

Presbyterian Church
570-421-5821

55 Smith Street
epresbyterian@gmail.com

E. Stroudsburg, PA 18301
epresbyterian.com

Nicki's News

Dear Friends,

Last year my husband and I spent a week in New Orleans. While there, we went to a museum in which the guide was surprised that I knew Mardi Gras was the Tuesday before Lent began and marked the beginning of Lent. There we learned that Mardi Gras started as a final feast celebration, to use up all your meat and food in the freezer to be ready for the solemn prayerful season of Lent. For many Christians, Lent is a time to refocus ourselves on Christ. Lent is observed for 40 days because 40 days is a significant biblical number. In Genesis, the flood occurred for 40 days, the Israelites wandered the wilderness for 40 days, Moses fasted for 40 days before receiving the 10 commandments and, finally, Jesus fasted for 40 days to prepare for ministry. As we begin this 40 day journey through Lent, let us spend time in prayer, Bible study and by fasting from something or by doing something to further God's kingdom here on earth.

Blessings,

Pastor Nicki

Nexus Sponsor

This issue of the Nexus is being sponsored by Meg Hope in memory of Karl and Hilda Hope. If you are interested in sponsoring a future Nexus issue, please see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Narthex (next to the flower sign-up sheet). The cost is \$35.00.

Anniversaries

Celebrating an anniversary in **March** are:

John and Lisa Finelli

Lena and Joseph Wasyluk



Birthdays

Celebrating birthdays in **March** are:

Karl Schrick, Tom Long, Eric Demarest, Lena Wasyluk, Ron Powell, Julia Delaney, Stephen Healy, Sara Robinson, Benjamin Huffman, Quentin Currie, Jack Kauderer and Olivia Gillard



Please join us on Wednesday evenings from March 4th through April 1st at 6:00 p.m. for our Lenten Soup Suppers. These will be held in our lounge and everyone is welcome for soup and fellowship.

Nexus Deadline

The Nexus deadline for the April issue is Wednesday, March 18th (due to Jen's vacation).

Women's Circle

The Women's Circle group will meet on Tuesday, **March 10th** at noon in the Lounge. All women are welcome to attend.

Men's Lunch

The Men's Lunch will be held on Wednesday, **March 11th** at noon in the Church Lounge. All men are welcome to attend.

Treasurer and Stewardship Report through January 2020.

| | |
|----------------------|--------------|
| Income: | \$22,200.77 |
| Expenses: | \$20,086.88 |
| Net | \$ 2,113.89 |
| Year-to-Date Giving: | |
| Pledge Giving: | \$ 12,700.00 |
| Non-Pledge Giving: | \$ 1,074.00 |



Daylight Savings Times begins **March 8th**.
Remember to set your clocks **forward**
one hour!!

Planning Commission Opportunity

A commission is forming to develop a 5-7 year plan for our church. If you have the time and the willingness to share your talents and opinions in determining which paths our church explores in the near future, please contact Jen, in the church office or Judy Schreck at 570-629-3430.



Stew and Movie Night!

Join us on Saturday, March 14th, for our Stew & Movie night. The Fellowship Committee will be hosting this event and providing the stew. We ask that you sign up on the sheet in the Narthex (on the Fellowship bulletin board) to bring either a salad or dessert. We will be showing *Wild Hearts Can't Be Broken* for the adults and *Enchanted* for the children.

Save the Date ESPC Annual Yard Sale Friday, May 1 & Saturday May 2

The annual yard sale is a week earlier this year. We will begin collecting items right after Easter. The collection time for items will be shorter -- only three weeks from April 12 through April 29. This is the Mission Committee's major fundraiser for our church and local and international charities/organizations.

We need your help to make the 2020 yard sale a success. Look around your house for household items, antiques, furniture, books, etc. that you would like to donate. Please, no TVs or old computers.

A Guest Speaker

In 1977, Gene McGuire's life as a free man ended. He was one of three men involved in the late-night robbery of a bar. One of the men stabbed and killed the bar owner, and Gene was sentenced to life in prison without parole on a second-degree murder charge. He was 17 years old.

After submitting to years of discipleship, Gene became a spiritual leader to thousands of inmates. With no hope for release himself, Gene instead developed a fruitful, fulfilling ministry within his world of incarceration. He became an elder in the prison church, developed small groups and yard Bible studies and led others who were also without freedom to true freedom in Christ.

Then, almost 35 years into his prison sentence, came an unexpected miracle. On April 3, 2012, Presiding Judge Russell D. Shurtleff addressed the crowded Wyoming County Courtroom in Pennsylvania. He ruled that Gene had been wrongfully charged, that his life sentence was reversed and that he had already served the appropriate sentence due. Gene was released a free man — no parole.

His story is riveting — from a life sentence of imprisonment to one filled with the power of God's love, forgiveness and freedom, bringing hope to all.

Grab an opportunity to hear Gene's story through one of these events:

Youth Program

Thursday March 12th, 5:00 – 6:30pm

Free dinner for all followed by a powerful testimony/program from our guest speaker: Gene McGuire. All youth (6th – 12th grade), young adults, and parents are invited to participate

Men's Breakfast

Saturday March 14th, 8:30 – 10:00am

Free breakfast for all and a powerful testimony from our guest speaker: Gene McGuire. All men are welcome!! Invite your friends/neighbors/co-workers!

Both events will be held at:

**East Stroudsburg United Methodist Church
83 S. Courtland Street
East Stroudsburg PA 18301**

Some of Gene McGuire's
Story (via <https://genemcguire.org/>)

Welcome

New Sexton

We are pleased to welcome William (Bill) Mack to our church family, as our new Sexton. Bill is a native of New Jersey, having grown up in Kenil. After serving in the Air Force and in Vietnam with the 12th Reconnaissance and Technical squadron in the late 60's, Bill returned home to work for 44 years at Picatinny Arsenal in Dover, NJ. While at Picatinny, Bill worked as an electrician and advanced to become the maintenance supervisor. Bill and his wife Susan moved to Tannersville in 1981 and have two adult children, Samantha and Billy. Bill and Susan are kept busy with their 8 year old granddaughter and twin two-year-olds! Bill will be at Sunday's coffee hour, so stop by to introduce yourself.

Care  Givers

The Caregiver's Prayer

Compassionate and healing God, help us to see your face in the faces of our sisters and brothers who are sick or injured. Guide us to reach out to them with hearts of compassion and hands which serve their needs. When they are anxious, help us to notice and be present. When they feel confused, help us to listen and assist in finding answers to their concerns. When they need comfort, help us communicate care and understanding.

When they are weak or discouraged, help us to find ways to refresh their spirits. When doubt or darkness touches them, give Your light to guide them and lift them up. Help us, as caregivers, to always turn to You, as the source of our own strength and compassion, as we seek to serve the needs of our sisters and brothers who are vulnerable. Amen.

To my church family—Many thanks for all your compassion, cards and prayers on the passing of my mother, Arlene. Your thoughtfulness towards me and my family is so appreciated. Jenny Collins



One Great Hour of Sharing

It's that time of year again for churches around the world come together for one cause to help others in need. Beginning on March 15 through March 29 the Minutes for Mission will focus on the three separate programs of OGHS-Self-Development of People, the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Program and the Presbyterian Hunger Program. The monies raised are divided equally among the programs.

The OGHS offering envelopes will be in the pews and fish boxes will be available. We ask that you bring in your donation for OGHS on Palm Sunday, April 5. Our church has always been generous and supportive of One Great Hour of Sharing. We are asking for your help in making our contribution even better than last year. If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!

The Mission Committee

Volunteer Mission Work Trip

There will be a Mission Work Trip opportunity to Fayetteville, North Carolina on March 28-April 2, 2020. This is the fourth mission work trip that the Helping Hands Care Team of Lehigh Presbytery has scheduled to Fayetteville. Volunteers are needed to assist with the recovery efforts after heavy rains and flooding caused extensive damage to churches and homes in this area. It takes years to recover from these storms and every "helping hand" makes a difference in the lives of people who lost so much.

There are jobs for every skill level and there will be experienced volunteers to help train you. Cost is \$200.00 per person and participants must be registered by March 12, 2020. If you are interested, please contact the Lehigh Presbytery at 610-391-9020 or email the office (office@lehighpresbytery.org).

Technology Committee

The Technology Committee has been working hard at updating our website and also keeping up with Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

Check out our website at espresbyterian.com and also the ESPC YouTube channel at <https://m.youtube.com/user/ESPresbyterian>

Your input is welcome. Please let Lisa Menio, Judy Schreck or Pastor Nicki know your thoughts or ideas to improve the publicity of our church.

Community Opportunities

First Presbyterian Church in Stroudsburg is holding their annual **Chicken Pot Pie sale!** Orders must be placed by March 15th and pick up is March 21st. The 9" pies are \$10.00 each. Call 570-421-7751 or go on line to www.fpcstroudsburg.org/pot-pies to order. All proceeds benefit their Building & Organ Renovation Project.

ACS Team Rainbow Connection & Elks Lodge are holding a **Spaghetti Dinner** on Saturday, March 14th from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. at 260 Washington Street, East Stroudsburg. The cost is \$10.00 per adult and kids 12 and under are \$5.00. This fundraiser is to benefit Ben Huffman, grandson of Bob and Diane Huffman.

Nexus Staff

Pastor: Nicole Vogel

Editor: Jen Carmella

Contributing Editors:

Jenny Collins, Lisa Menio, Sandy Rydell, Linda Schaller, Judy Schreck, Cindy Schrick, Lisa Swanson, Tim Swanson

March 2020

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|---|--|---|-----|--|
| 1 1st Sunday of Lent Worship, 10:00 Finance & Property committee meeting, 11:15 | 2 Chronic Illness Group, 10:30-12:00 | 3 | 4 Planning Committee meeting, 5:00 pm Lenten Soup Supper, 6:00 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 2nd Sunday of Lent Worship, 10:00 Daylight Savings Time | 9 | 10 Cancer Support Group, 10:00-11:30 Women's Circle, noon | 11 Men's Lunch noon Lenten Soup Supper, 6:00 | 12 Boundary Training, 8:00-4:00 in Lounge Youth Program @ ESMC 5:00-6:30 pm – Guest speaker, Gene McGuire | 13 | 14 Men's Breakfast @ ESMC 8:30-10:00 am – Guest speaker, Gene McGuire Spaghetti Dinner @ Elks Lodge Stew & Movie Night! 5:00 p.m. |
| 15 3rd Sunday of Lent Worship, 10:00 | 16 | 17 | 18 Lenten Soup Supper, 6:00 Nexus Deadline | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 4th Sunday of Lent Worship, 10:00 Session meeting, 11:15 | 23 | 24 | 25 Lenten Soup Supper, 6:00 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 5th Sunday of Lent Worship, 10:00 Deacon's Coffee Hour. 11:00 | 30 | 31 | | | | |