

THE NEXUS

SEPTEMBER 2020

Presbyterian Church
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Nicki's News

Today I received a note on my desk that just brightened my day and reminded me of what a great leadership this church has, as well as support of one another. For those of you who don't know, over this time of pandemic, your leadership chose never to close our doors to AA or NA groups. We felt called by God to allow them to continue meeting as this is vital for many to remain sober and be mentally healthy. We also had groups, who formerly met in another church that had closed their buildings, request to meet at our church. Our leadership chose to accommodate the additional groups as well. We received several thank-yous for continuing to remain open for these groups, but the letter was special. One member of one of these groups wrote to share their gratitude for our keeping our doors open for these groups. This person wrote "you've saved lives."

In reading these words, a verse from Hebrews came to mind. "God is not unjust; he will not overlook your work and the love that you showed for His sake in serving the saints, as you still do." (Hebrews 6:10) It reminded me that we truly have a great leadership and an incredibly supportive congregation. Often it is exceedingly difficult to make such decisions as this because there is certain disagreement from outside entities. Yet, this amazing group chose to stand up for people's lives and for that, I believe we followed our calling to be the hands and voice of God in this challenging time.

I also believe that as this verse says your work, this church's work and love that was shown for His sake in serving the saints will not be overlooked. I can almost feel God smiling down on this church. Let us together thank our leadership, who continues to make difficult decisions that not everyone can agree with, for in doing so they will know that God has not

overlooked their work and love shown to those in need.

In His Peace,

Pastor Nicki

Youth Group- Zoom meeting

Join us again this month for our youth group zoom meeting. We have moved the meetings to Sunday evenings to accommodate schedules. Our next meeting is **Sunday September 20th at 6pm.**

The zoom link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85243563685>. This link will be emailed to the youth and families. If you know of others in the community or beyond who might like to join our youth zoom meetings, which our open to any youth in grades 8th-12th, let the office know their email so they can be added to the list. Our next discussion will be focused on race/racism in our current climate. Hope to see you there!!!

Keep in mind zoom is now requiring either password or waiting room so if a screen pops up that says waiting for host, just wait and your entrance into the group will be approved.



Nexus Deadline

The Nexus deadline for the October issue is Monday, **September 28th**.

Nexus Sponsor

This month's issue is sponsored by Dale and Christopher Pedersen in memory of Fern and Carl Pedersen and Bob and Jane Parsons. 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 **September** are:
Cort and Amy Huffman
Richard and Sharon Laverdure
Oscar and Soomi Santana
Donald and Sheila Hopkins

Birthdays

Celebrating birthdays in **September** are:
Nancy Creveling, Jackie Flynn, Lisa Elliott
Jacob Santana, Cindy Schrick, Anna Dressel,
Reese Wasylyk, Rebecca Sanker, Ellie Buff,
Hayden Huffman, Dale Pedersen, Bob Elliott,
John Charpentier, Sheila Hopkins, Gavin Vogel
and May Lou Huber

Treasurer and Stewardship Report through July 31, 2020

Income:	\$161,728.99
Expenses:	\$164,380.61
Net	\$ -2,651.62
Year-to-Date Giving:	
Pledge Giving:	\$ 98,069.00
Non-Pledge Giving:	\$ 2,534.00

Children's Sermons

Available immediately, the children's sermons will now be posted on YouTube. Go to YouTube, search East Stroudsburg Presbyterian Church, then click on the playlist and go to Children & Youth. You will see Pastor Nicki doing an intro video. There will also be the first two children's sermons posted. Each week, on Monday, a new video will be posted. Check it out!



Parking Lot Service

The drive-in service for September will be held on Sunday, September 6th at 10:00. This will be a communion Sunday. Please be sure to tune your radio dial into 93.9 FM. Following worship will be a Fellowship luncheon.

Fellowship Luncheon

Join us Sunday, September 6th for an outdoor fellowship luncheon & Trivia game!

We are asking everyone who comes to bring their own food, drink and picnic set (silverware, napkins, blanket to sit on or individual table and chair). We will be enjoying lunch after the outdoor church service together as a church family in the church parking lot. We are asking participants to please set up their picnic area outside of their car after the service is over.

A print out trivia game will be played so bring something to write with.

****Note that there will be no food or drink provided. Please only bring food for your family. We will not be sharing food at this time****

We are excited to hold this event and can't wait to enjoy the time together! Please be respectful of everyone by social distancing and wearing masks when moving about.



Listen to the Bells!

The church choir may be silent (hopefully not for too long) but the bell choir is alive and well! Starting in September, the Bell Choir will ring out the good news once or twice a month. Music is so important in the life of the church, especially now during these trying times. The members of the Bell Choir look forward to making music that comforts, and gives joy and love to all.



Operation Christmas Child

While Covid-19 has made life more difficult for many of us, it is not stopping ESPC from supporting Operation Christmas Child. We want boys and girls around the world 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 the hope found 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 boxes were distributed to children in Honduras! We are starting our OCC campaign a bit earlier this year and have had to tweak the ways in which our church participates in this global mission project. 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 guidelines listed at samaritanspurse.com. Bring your packed shoebox to church, or call the church office for pick-up service, by October 11th.
2. Make a monetary donation. Write a check to ESPC, with Operation Christmas Child written in the memo line, and 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 Lucas or Lisa Swanson at 570-688-1093.

Labor Day falls on Monday, September 7th. Please note that the church will be closed.

Regarding Sexton

For all requests for help or work to be done by our sexton, please contact the secretary in the front office in writing. This is necessary to ensure that everyone is aware of the need and to determine if it is possible for the sexton to do the work and stay within his/her normal working hours. Once the written request is reviewed, you will be notified of the final decision. Thank you for your understanding in the necessity of meeting out budgetary needs and ensuring that our expectation for our sexton are reasonable and manageable.

Children's Sunday School

We are excited to announce that although we cannot have in-person Sunday school at this time, there will still be opportunity to learn from the Bible in a new way. The Christian Ed committee is working hard to provide in-home lessons that will be delivered monthly to anyone with children who would like to participate. The kits will include a story and all the necessary items to do suggested crafts and activities. There is also a designated page <https://www.espresbyterian.com/worship/children-youth/> on our website where links to the stories and more will be posted for you to use at your convenience. If you, or someone else, you know would like to receive these kits, please contact church office. We will begin deliveries next month.

Suggestions and/or Questions-

In times such as we are experiencing, there are often suggestions or questions that arise. I would invite you to share them if you feel comfortable doing so. Perhaps, you have a question that a sermon could answer, or a suggestion for how we might do something better. No matter what it is, we would love to have your input. Simply email, call, or drop a note off for the pastor. Her email is pastornickiv@gmail.com.

United Way Presents:

Getting Ahead

Getting Ahead is a free 20 week program open to Monroe County residents who are income eligible. Registration is now open! Due to COVID-19, all classes will be virtual.

Our Getting Ahead program is a 20 session workshop to help people stabilize their situations and build resources to improve their lives. The Getting Ahead program guides participants through the process of assessing their own resources and how to build those resources as part of their move to self-sufficiency.

For more information, please contact Misozi (CC'd) at 570-517-3956 or use this form <https://tinyurl.com/Getting-Ahead-PMUW> to register. Also, check out the flyer on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

Free Couch!

Check out the picture on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Call Jenny Collins if interested at 570-424-8761.

Nexus Staff

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Contributing Editors:

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Linda Schaller, Judy Schreck, Cindy Schrick,
Lisa Swanson,

September 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Communion Outdoor service, followed by Fellowship Luncheon!	7 Labor Day Church Closed	8	9	10	11 Mission Committee meeting, 1:30 in the pavilion	12
13 TOALC Kickoff Session meeting	14 TOALC classes begin	15	16	17	18	19
20 Youth Zoom meeting, 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir Performs	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28 Nexus deadline	29	30			