

June 2020

The Higher Ground Herald

West Newton United Presbyterian Church

300 S. Third and E. Main Streets in West Newton, PA

From the Pastor's Desk...

June Worship Schedule

We will be meeting at the church beginning June 7 at 10 AM. In addition to in person worship, the service will also be

broadcast on the Church's

Facebook page Sunday

Mornings at 10 AM.

June 7: Trinity Sunday

"Mysterious Yet Personal"

Psalms 8: 1-4

June 14: Begin Sermon Series -

"What's Your Character?"

Communion

"Always Being Tested"

Romans 5: 1-5

June 21: "The Parking Spot"

Colossians 3: 12-17

June 28: "Slow, Slower, and

Slower Yet"

Ephesians 4: 1-6

Honor Graduates

A Time for Everything

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing, a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, a time to tear and a time to mend, time to be silent and a time to speak, a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace."

What an interesting time to be alive! The days are certainly intriguing. Life is the same yet radically different all at once. Perhaps you have or are feeling the same way. These few verses from the book of Ecclesiastes seem to have much more impact upon my life, our lives, as we begin the process of returning to in-person worship.

The past 10 weeks or so have been challenging, frustrating, invigorating, blessed (learning new technology things) as we have tried our best to continue worship God and offering opportunities via Facebook Live for you to do so as well. Also, the Disciples Bible Study group has continued meeting weekly via Zoom. The impetus behind all this is love and service. I have been burdened of heart and spirit to find ways that demonstrate the love of Christ, the worship of Almighty God, and the study of his word in effective, least interruptive, truthful and meaningful ways. First, I praise God for his blessings upon our church and especially during these weeks as we experienced very little if any issues in our many online broadcasts. Each of you should extend a hearty thanks to both Jim Sykes and Chuck Yelich for their efforts. I certainly am grateful for their dedication.

(Continued...)

We are transitioning to a new season. It is to some degree unknown. Even so, this church has moved forward in many previous seasons of uncertainty and came out on the other side just fine. I pray we will do so again this time. In this newsletter there is a plan of action for our church to resume meeting in-person for worship. This plan can also be found on our website (wnupc.com), on our Facebook page, and a copy will be mailed to all. Please read it and digest the information as it will make things much smoother whenever it is that you feel comfortable to return in person.

With that said, I am fully aware that the process of returning to in-person worship will be different for each person. I will say that I am fully respectful and supportive of each person and their personal issues and schedules. Some people are ready to worship in person today, others might take weeks or perhaps longer. What I'm asking is that we all bear with one another and the seasons of one another's lives. There is plenty of division in the world and we encounter it at every turn. Please, let's not have that in our church! *Ephesians 4:2, "Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love."*

Finally, rest assured that each member of Session and myself have worked hard, prayed and prayed and prayed, have the best intention to lead our congregation in this new season. I'm led to the wonderful and powerful old hymn, "Onward Christian Soldier" as we march into what the Holy Spirit has in store for this new season.

Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus going on before!
Christ, the royal Master, leads against the foe;
Forward into battle, see his banner go!
Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus going on before! ...

I'll see you when you are ready. May God continue to bless and keep each of you until that time.

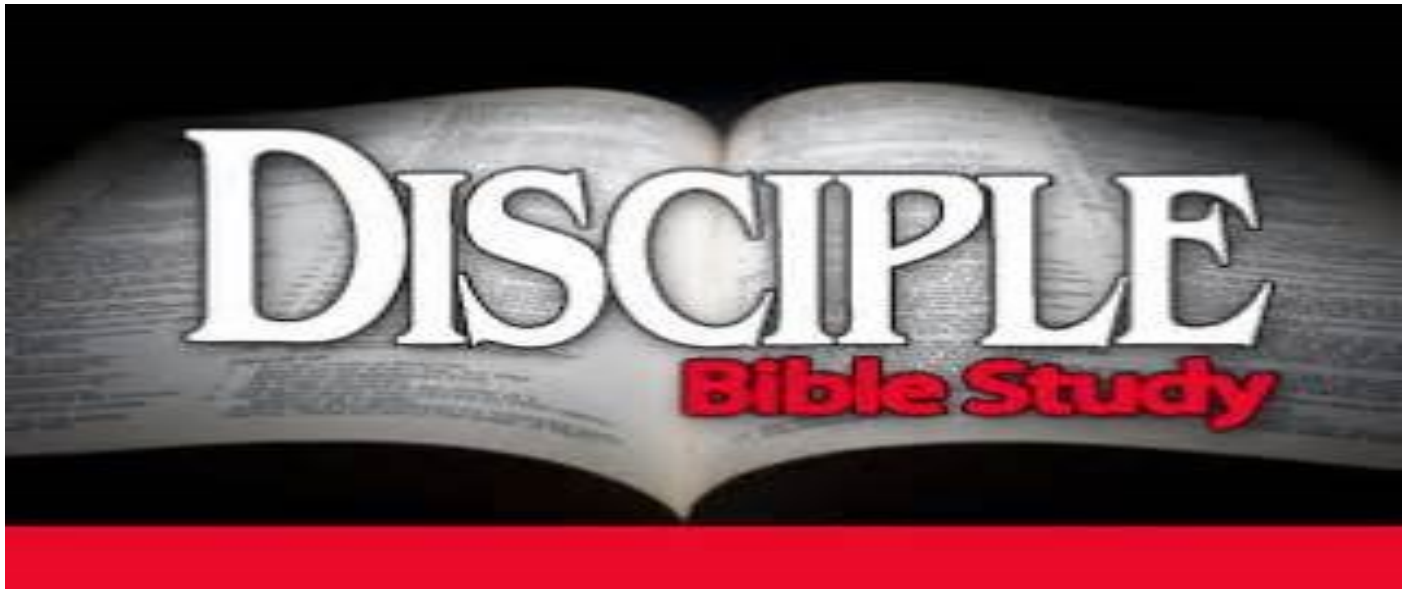
Peace and Grace,

Pastor John

We want your photos!



If you take any photos throughout the year at church activities please share them with us. They can be emailed to the office at any time. Thank You!



Disciples Bible Study

We will continue this Bible Study through the month of June via Zoom. The book of Jude will be our topic. Each week and email reminder is sent out from the church as a reminder to join our study on Wednesday evenings at 6 PM. In the email is all the necessary information to be a part of each week's Zoom meeting. Please join us!



2020 High School Graduates – The following High School Graduates from our congregation will be honored by PW on June 28th: Steven Manon, Cody Ulander, Alexis Yuhas and Aubrey Bacha. If you know of any other names, please give them to Winnie Davis.

PW United Circle will not meet during the summer. Our next meeting will be September 16. We will use the Horizons Bible Study – “Into the Light”. Cost is \$10. Place your order with Linda Blick by August 16. All women are welcome to join the Circle meeting each month.

PW Sewing will not meet until September. If you would like to sew at home this summer, please see Jo Lynn Lowanse for supplies for some of our projects.

Redstone PW Retreat at Pine Springs Camp scheduled for May 26 was cancelled.

PW Birthday Offering usually collected in early May can still be contributed until June 28. Make checks payable to WNUPC.

Margaret Edwards will celebrate her 103rd birthday on June 17. Help her enjoy this special day with a “card shower”. Her address is Westmoreland Manor, 2480 S. Grande Blvd., Unit A., Room 320, Greensburg, PA 15601.

Financial News

1. Contribution Envelopes are available to anyone regularly attending our services, even if you are not a member. Linda Blick, Financial Secretary, will be glad to fill your request. If you have a Contribution number, you will receive a 6 month statement in July and a year-end statement in January showing your contributions to WNUPC. This statement can be used to show charitable giving on your income-tax form.
2. The Finance Committee urges you to continue with your weekly or monthly giving to our church. We must pay the monthly utility bills and continue support of all our personnel. Several special offerings which are taken in the Spring are the **One Great Hour of Sharing** and the **PW Birthday Offering**. Also the monthly **Food Basket** is still being collected. All of these offerings can be combined on one check, just list the amounts for each one on the memo line. Thank you for your on-going support of our church and missions.



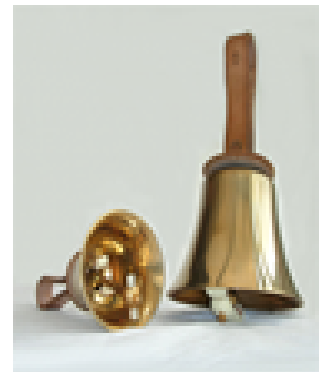
Chancel Choir

Chancel Choir will return in the fall.

Contact Jim Sykes if you would like to get involved.

Bell Choir

Bell choir is on leave for the remainder of the spring and summer. They will return in the fall. Please contact Joyce Pawlik for more information or to become involved..



First Tuesday Fellowship Dinner

First Tuesday Fellowship Dinners will return again in September.



First Tuesday Fellowship

Men's Breakfast

Men's Breakfast is held on the third Saturday of the month at Gary's Chuckwagon at 9 a.m. Men's Breakfast will resume in September.





Coffee Fellowship Hour usually takes place following worship, on the second Sunday of every month, in our social room. There will be no coffee hour in June.

Many people in our community often struggle to provide food for their families. The second Sunday of each month, we will be collecting money in support of the Westmoreland County Food Pantry now located at our church the second Friday of each month. There will be labeled envelopes in the bulletins the weeks that we are collecting. Thank you in advance for your generosity. The next collection will be June 14.



Westmoreland County Food Bank, Inc.

The Westmoreland County Food Pantry will be located at our church going forward. This takes place the second Friday of every month.

The next Food Pantry pick up will be June 12. Until further notice we only need a minimum number of people helping. However, if you would like to help with this important mission in the future please contact the church office (724-872-7414) or Linda Shoaf (724-872-7857).

Our Session

Clerk of Session: Kris Edwards

Class of 2020

Annetta Carney

Michele Coleman

Anne Hustwit

Becky Moran

Class of 2021

Clark Detman

Ron Chamberlain

Colleen Martinelli

Harry Hepler

Class of 2022

Deb King

Joyce Pawlik

Pete Pritchard

Karen Murray

Session Highlights—May 17, 2020

Present: Karen Murray, Becky Moran, Ron Chamberlain, Anne Hustwit, Colleen Martinelli, Pete Pritchard, Harry Hepler, Clark Detman, Deb King, Joyce Pawlik, Annetta Carney

Excused: Michele Coleman

- * Approved March 15, 2020 minutes as presented
- * Due to our recent/ongoing shutdown only budget, billing and grounds committee had reports.
- * Budget committee –March report shows net +\$814.95 and April report shows a net + \$853.06.
- * Building and grounds committee –water heater replaced and additional materials and labor needed to bring up to correct commercial code. Cost will be around \$7000. To be paid from Key Bank account.
- * Approved moving to ORANGE operation level, effective 05/18/20.
 - Kerri to resume in office work
 - Trena to resume custodial work.
- * Pastor/session to develop plan to begin worship in person beginning on June 7.
- * Session will meet again on Tuesday, May 26th @ 6:30 PM.

Session Highlights—May 26, 2020

Present: Karen Murray, Becky Moran, Anne Hustwit, Harry Hepler, Deb King, Joyce Pawlik, Annetta Carney

Absent: Michele Coleman, Ron Chamberlain, Coleen Martinelli, Pete Pritchard,

Clark Detman

- * Approved moving the celebration of holy communion for June, 2020 to June 14.
- * Approved removal of light pole outside of chapel.
- * Approved this year's honoring of graduates to June 28.
- * Approved issuing refunds for people who ordered Easter flowers. Refunds will also be issued for those who purchased flowers for each Sunday during the online weeks unless they agree to have flowers for an open week on the schedule.
- * Pastor John checked with the church's insurance agent (Don Hamm) in regard to liability coverage if it would be needed in the event of any issue once the in person worship resumes. The current liability coverage is in effect and would cover any issues.
- * Pastor John and session will create a plan for resuming in person worship to begin on June 7.
- * Session will meet again on June 4 at 6 PM.



June Birthdays

Daryl Shaw	1st
Alyssa Manon	2nd
Shayna McMinn	3rd
Diane Ozegovich	5th
Debby Fought	5th
Esther Hanna	6th
Jim Martini	8th
Michele Coleman	8th
Charles Medsger	9th
Noah Burkett	12th
Linda Sparico	12th
Khrysta Mesiarik	16th
Margaret Edwards	17th
Paul Fought	24th
Elly Bojarski	27th



happy anniversary

June Anniversaries

Bill & Judy Lash	1st
Ed & Anne Hustwit	6th
Dave & Rainey Craig	10th
Wally & Fran Ritchie	10th
Rick & Michele Coleman	25th
Richard & Sue Sahar	27th
Bob & Dee Dave	28th

We would love to announce and
celebrate your birthday and wedding
anniversary. Please let us know when it
is...

June 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 6 Bible Study via ZOOM	4 6 pm Session Meeting	5	6
7 10 Worship Resume in person	8	9	10 6 Bible Study via ZOOM	11	12	13
14 10 Worship w communion	15	16	13 ⁷ 6 Bible Study via ZOOM	18	19	20
21 10 Worship Session mtg. following worship	22	23	24 6 Bible Study via ZOOM	25	26	27
28 10 Worship Honor HS graduates	29	30				

Bulletin/Prayer List Changes

Please submit any announcements for the bulletin or changes to the prayer list by the **end of the day on Wednesdays each week.**

Deadline for updates and notices for the July publication of
The Higher Ground Herald will be

Thursday June 25.

Contact the church office by phone at 724-872-7414 or email at
wnupc1@gmail.com

Office hours are Monday—Friday 9 a.m.—2 p.m.

Would you like a visit from Pastor John?

Or, do you know someone who would?

Please contact him at 724-872-7414 (office) or 606-261-0232 (cell).

Email: wnupc1@gmail.com

Website WNUPC.com

