Sept 2018

THE HIGHER GROUND HERALD

West Newton United Presbyterian Church at 300 S. Third and E. Main Streets in West Newton, PA.

From the Pastor's Desk...

September Worship Schedule:

September 2nd

Communion by Intinction

10:00 a.m. Worship
"The Bible and Work"
Colossians 3:22-4:1

Following worship:

Home Communion Visitation team departs

September 9th

Community Worship Service - Vine Street Park at

10:30 a.m.

(WNUPC, First Baptist, First Methodist, Church of God)

September 16th

10:00 a.m. Worship/ picnic at Cedar Creek Park (Pavilion #3)

September 23rd

10:00 a.m. Worship
"When God Gives Up"
Romans 1:18-32
Rev. John Tirpak
preaching

September 30th

10:00 a.m. Worship "Same Old Truth" (Part 1) Romans 8:18-30 Communication is the "imparting or exchange of information or news; a means of connection between people or places." Over the past several months, I have received a few complaints/concerns/remarks about how things are communicated in our church. To each of these concerns, I try my best to reiterate how information is distributed. I offer this as a reminder to myself and to all. The following methods are used to distribute information for all church activities currently:

- 1. <u>Email</u> at least once per year the email list is updated and people are asked if they want to be added\deleted\changes made to this list. Due to the efficiency of being able to contact large groups quickly and accurately, we use the email list as the primary method of electronic communication. Please if you have shared your email with the office indicating that you want to receive information in this manner, it is then necessary for you to check your email account regularly.
- 2. <u>Facebook</u> Our church facebook page is operated by both Pastor John and Chuck Yelich. If you use facebook, simply search our church page and you will find information there.
- 3. <u>Newsletter</u> This is published monthly and distributed via our email list and by hard copies available where the weekly worship bulletins are each week.
- 4. <u>Worship Bulletins</u> With limited space each week, the most important and time sensitive announcements are included in each week's bulletins. This is crucial for those wanting information and who do not use electronic forms of communication.
- 5. <u>Worship Verbal Announcements</u> Many times, Pastor John asks for everyone's attention to the announcement section of the bulletin to help ensure all important information is seen by all in attendance any given week.
- 6. <u>Calling the church office</u> If there is a question about any activity (time/date/location), you can always call the church office and speak with Kerri or Pastor John. This is crucial for those wanting information and who do not use electronic forms of communication.
- 7. <u>Website</u> Our church website is wnupc.com. All the same information that appears in the bulletin, emails, facebook, newsletters also appears on the website.

With all these forms of communication noted, I nor others are perfect at anything, including communication. It is my intent and the intent of Kerri (church secretary) and Chuck Yelich (facebook and website helper) to get information out as quickly and accurately as possible.

As always, I am open to other types of communication (short of personal phone calls to everyone) as may be useful to the church and everyone involved. If you have suggestions, please let me know. Our church family will only function better if we all work together on this.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor John

SAVE THE DATE

APPLE DUMPLING DAY

OCTOBER 4



Watch the bulletin for the tear-off to place your order or contact Linda Blick.



<u>The PW United Circle</u> will resume on **Wed. Sept. 19** at noon, when we will begin the new *Horizons* **Bible Study – "God's Promise"** led by Dot Come. All women are welcome to attend the Circle on the third Wed. of each month. Bring a sandwich to share for lunch and enjoy the fellowship as we celebrate the birthdays of each month. Hostesses are Jackie Kuehner, Rainey Craig, and Cathy Hall.

Hygiene Kits totaled **30** that were donated by the congregation. These items will be taken to Church World Service in New Windsor, MD in September. Thank you for your wonderful support.

<u>PW Sewing</u> will meet on **Wed. Sept. 26** from 9:00 a.m. to noon, in the McKee room, to prepare items for local missions. A variety of sewing projects are ready to be completed. No skill is needed to participate in the sewing group, so please join us.

Apple Dumpling Day is Thurs.Oct.4, starting at 7:00 a.m. You can support PW's mission programs by helping to prepare the dumplings or purchasing some at \$4.00 each — or both!!! Ask your neighbors and friends if they would like to order some delicious apple dumplings.

All women are invited to attend the **Redstone PW Gathering** at the First Presbyterian Church in Irwin on **Saturday, October 13** from 9:00 – 2:30. Programming and lunch are \$10. Reservations are due **Friday, Oct. 8.** The Mission Focus is the **Irwin Food Pantry**. Donations can be given to Linda Blick, Acting Treasurer. Please see the flyer in this newsletter for details on programming. Contact Linda Blick if you are interested in attending. A car pool may be available from our church if enough women are interested.

THE HIGHER GROUND HERALD



Redstone PW will collect **good reusable shoes** in Sept. and Oct. to raise money for the **Rise Against Hunger** meal-packing event planned for Oct. 2018. Shoes are accepted in all sizes. **No flip-flops, crocs, slippers, winter boots, dress boots or metal cleats.** A deposit box is inside the 3rd Street door.

Redstone PW Meal Packaging Event will be held at the Community UP Church in New Alexandria on **Saturday, October 20 from 10 a.m. – noon. \$6,000** was raised to buy the supplies, now volunteers are needed to pack the meals. You can sign up at http:/events.stophungernow.org/CUP.

Rise Against Hunger is an international hunger relief organization dedicated to eliminating hunger by 2030. The meal packaging program is a volunteer-based initiative that coordinates the assembly line packaging of highly nutritious dehydrated meals comprised of rice, soy, vegetables and 23 vitamins and minerals. This is a hands-on activity that was started in 2005 to support school feeding programs in developing countries. If you would like to learn more go to riseagainsthunger.org

First Fruits Sunday

Our congregation will celebrate the missional and connectional ministry that is the Presbytery of Redstone on Sunday, September 23, 2018. You will receive a letter in the mail asking for your support through a special offering. Please plan to attend the service that Sunday to participate in the giving of our "First Fruits.

<u>Financial News</u> 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.





Redstone Presbyterian Women Fall Gathering Saturday, October 13, 2018 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. First Presbyterian Church, Irwin, PA

Directions on the back of this flyer





2018-2019 Horizons Bible Study God's Promise: I Am with You by Rev. Amy Poling Sutherlun

with the Rev. Donna Havrisko
Pastor of Westminster Church, Greensburg

Meet Nyankuach Ngor.

Nyankuach is a deaconess in the Hai Jalaba congregation, Juba, South Sudan. She is the first South Sudanese woman to graduate from the theological seminary in Cairo, Egypt. Before she was forced to move south when the new nation of South Sudan was birthed, she was a lecturer at the Bible School at Gerief, West Khartoum - Sudan. She hopes one day to be ordained as a minister member of the South Sudan Presbyterian Evangelical Church.



Highlights of the Churchwide Gathering in Louisville, KY August 2-5, 2-018

at

The mission project will be nonperishable food or money for the food bank First Presbyterian Church in Irwin. See page 5 for more info.

Pre-paid Reservations are important so that the women of First, Irwin, can prepare for our event. Please use the tear-off form below.

Make check payable to: <u>PW of Redstone Presbytery</u>; must be mailed by <u>Friday, October 5</u>
Mail check and reservation slip to: **Susan Blank, PW Treasurer**



4068 Bushy Run Road, Jeannette, PA 15644 724-523-6460

2018 Redstone PW Fall Gathering First Presbyterian Church, Irwin, PA

Church Name		
Number of persons attending:	@ \$10.00 each =	amount enclosed
Contact Person:		
Phone No		
List of Attendees:		



DARTBALL

Are you looking for something fun to do on Monday evenings? Our Dartball team will begin its season on September 10.

See Kris Edwards for more information.



College Care Packages:

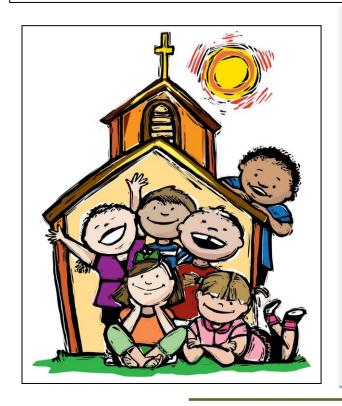
Last year, the Christian Education Committee sent boxes of goodies to our college kids in the fall to let them know we were thinking of them. We had a great response from members who donated items or money to buy things & the students loved receiving these thoughtful gifts! We would like to continue this project.

How can you help?

- 1. Pray for our student members who are away at school.
- 2. When you're out & about you can buy things like packs of microwave popcorn, individually wrapped snacks or crackers, candy, gum, drink mixes, hot chocolate mix, etc. Or, if you would like to donate money, we can do the shopping for you.
 - 3. If you like to bake, we will happily send some delicious homemade cookies from you.
- 4. Let Diane Ozegovich or Becky Moran know of any college kids & their addresses to be sure we don't miss anyone.

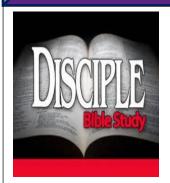


Our annual Church picnic will be held at Cedar Creek Park- Pavilion #3, on Sunday, **September 16** at 10:00 a.m. Join us for food, fellowship fun and games. Please bring a side dish correlating with the first letter of your last name. A-F dessert, G-L veggies/vegetable side dish, M-R salads, S-Z snacks. If you are able to help with planning/preparations please see Karen Murray.



Youth Night
Thursdays
6:00 – 7:30 pm
Bible lesson, music, craft
and snack.
We will resume our Youth
Nights on Thursday,
September 13. See Karen
Murray for more
information.

BIBLE STUDY CLASS



Disciple Bible Study

Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.

We will study the book of Nehemiah during the month of September.

The name Nehemiah means "the Lord's comfort" in Hebrew. That becomes evident throughout the book as Nehemiah is the prophet in whom God can send and then depend upon in Jerusalem.

There are many so called "armchair quarterbacks" around. It's easy to anazlyze, scrutinize, and just talk about all the problems in the world, with the church and with faith. What is really needed is people who will not just discuss things, but will do something according to God's directions. As we study the book of Nehemiah, we will learn by example how to become more and more like a person in whom God can depend to act for him in this world.

Disciples Bible Study Schedule

September 5th Nehemiah (Chapters 5-8)
September 12th Nehemiah (Chapters 9-11)
September 19th (Chapters 12-13)
September 26th Amos (Chapters 1-3)

COMMUNITY WORSHIP SERVICE

Join us at Vine St. Park for a community worship service on Sunday, September 9 at 10:30. We WILL NOT be meeting in the sanctuary that day.



WEST NEWTON COMMUNITY FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS ARE STILL NEEDED TO HELP WORK THE BOOTH AT THE COMMUNITY

FESTIVAL. The festival dates are September 7,8,9. We will be selling pie slices in addition to a 50/50 raffle ticket. We are also looking for people to donate homemade pies. We will need approximately 30 pies. Sign-up sheets to volunteer in the booth and make pies are located on the bulletin board outside the office. Thank you to everyone that has already volunteered to help or make pies.





Third Saturday of each month beginning September 15, 2018

FOOD — MEET AT GARY'S CHUCKWAGON 9:00A.M. (RESPONSIBLE FOR OWN FOOD PURCHASE)

FAITH — DEVOTIONAL TIME

FELLOWSHIP — SHARE WITH FELLOW BROTHERS IN CHRIST

FACTS — SPEAKERS ON RELEVANT TOPICS

Coming Soon CORE CHRISTIANITY 101

Beginning, Tuesday, September 11 at 6:30pm in the Social Room. Contact Pastor John for more information.

INTRODUCTION: WHY THIS STUDY

TO BEGIN, we would like to thank you, the students, congregants, church leaders, elders, pastors, and churches for supporting and using *Core Christianity 101*. We hope it enriches your Christian life, challenges your heart, and builds up your faith to the glory of God.

This study was designed with several things in mind.

First, we designed this study to advance the gospel.

According to the Pew Research Center, theists, agnostics, Jews, and Mormons score higher in religious knowledge than Protestants, outperforming them on questions about the core teachings and history of Christianity. Almost 60 percent of our youth leave their churches as young adults, with many of them joining the growing numbers of the so-called "nones": those who profess no adherence to any faith whatsoever.¹

Despite this unsettling news, the core message of Christianity, the gospel, is still capable of renewing the church. Rather than worrying or acting out of fear and self-preservation, we believe that the best hope for Christians, the Church, and the people who feel the pressures to abandon the faith, is the historic Christian faith, the gospel announcement of what God has done through Jesus Christ for the world.

Second, we designed this study to speak to honest questions.

Many in our Evangelical, Baptist, Reformed, Lutheran, and Anglican Churches have honest questions about faith and life that they may even be afraid to ask. Thus, we have sought to shape the material in this study to be of use to the concerns of long-time, committed Christians, new Christians, Christians with wavering faith, and skeptics alike.

We want this study to challenge skeptics and the growing numbers of people leaving the church with answers of substance and beauty, answers that give hope to the hopeless. We want this study to build the faith of Christians who have doubts. We want this study to give

¹ http://www.pewforum.org/2010/09/28/u-s-religious-knowledge-survey/

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new Christians a firm grasp of the Christian faith. And we want to renew the faith of long-time committed Christians and equip them to better share the faith with others.

Third, we designed this study with an eye toward simplicity and a variety of settings.

We have thought of Sunday school classes, Bible study groups, informal gatherings among friends, and even individuals who want to learn more about the Christian faith. Thus, this study is arranged in a series of short lessons, each of which could be done within an hour a week, with questions for personal reflection and group discussion so that Christians can come together to share insights, ask questions, pray for their churches and cities, and find hope to share what they are learning with friends and family.

The best way to do this study is to plan to meet once a week, having read the lesson and answered the questions on your own first. There are two types of questions. Questions for reflection are personal and not something you should feel obligated to share with everyone. Questions for discussion are best discussed in a group where everyone can share their thoughts and questions. After each question, space has been provided for you to answer, but some people prefer to write their answers in a journal or notebook, and that is fine too!

Fourth, we designed this study to engage the drama of Scripture, teach the doctrine of historic Christianity, move to doxology, and enable healthy discipleship.

It was really important to us that we handled doctrine in a way that shows how it naturally arises out of the Bible's narrative of Jesus Christ and his saving work. It was also really important that we showed how this doctrine both inspires our worship and leads to life.

In each lesson, there is a section to read followed by a set of questions for reflection and questions for discussion. We have designed the questions for reflection and discussion with a practical emphasis to force you to engage the material in a prayerful way that should inspire worship and lead to a fuller understanding of how to live as a disciple of Christ. The questions for reflection have personal emphasis, while the discussion questions are oriented toward groups.

For Christians who want to get a good foundation in the basics, this study is a complete, self-contained study on the Christian faith. For Christians who want to go deeper, each lesson compliments a chapter of Michael Horton's book *Core Christianity: Finding yourself in God's Story.*

Before you begin the first lesson, watch this video where Michael Horton gives an overview of what you can expect in this study: https://vimeo.com/167180988/c5d5c1bd96



Need a quiet moment to get away and pray?

The prayer room, under the bell tower, off the narthex, is available. Do you need someone to pray with?

Contact Pastor John or an Elder of the church.



Meals-on-Wheels

Our church participates in delivery duties, every 5 to 6 weeks, on a rotating schedule, organized by the West Newton Association of Churches and the West Newton Senior Center.

Future week to note on your calendar: Sept 10, Oct 29, Dec 17

Thank you for your willingness to take part in this ministry.

The sign-up sheets are in the church office hallway.



Coffee Fellowship Hour usually takes place following worship, on the second Sunday of every month, in our social room.

Hosts and Hostesses are needed sign up in the Church Kitchen for future months or Please see Anne Hustwit or Karen Murray



The second Sunday of every month we will be collecting money or gift cards for families in our community that are having difficulty providing food for their families. There will be labeled envelopes in the bulletins the weeks that we are collecting. Thank you in advance for your generosity. Since the community worship service is the second Sunday in September we will have the next collection on September 16 at the church picnic. We collected \$457.44 during the month of August to be used for food cards.



Home Communion Visitation teams take communion to those who cannot make it out to church.

3 were served home communion in August.



Chancel Choir

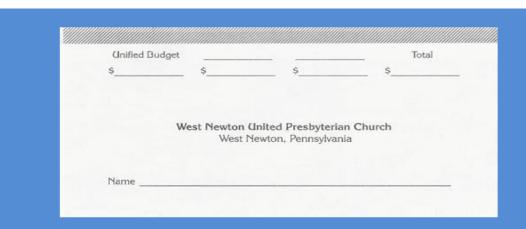
Chancel choir meets on
Thursdays
at 7:00pm during the school year,
and participates in Sunday
morning worship service.
Contact Jim Sykes to get
involved.



Bell Choir

The bell choir will resume rehearsals on Thursday, September 13 at 6:00pm.

Contact Joyce Pawlik to get involved.



Contribution Envelopes are available to anyone regularly attending our services, even if you are not a member. Contact Linda Blick, our Financial Secretary, and she will be glad to fill your request.

OUR SESSION

Clerk of Session: Kris Edwards

Class of 2018

Mark Barnes
Jo Lynn Lowanse
Diane Ozegovich
Chuck Yelich

Class of 2019

Greg Franks
Marcia Harris
Amanda McMinn
Karen Murray

Class of 2020

Annetta Carney Michele Coleman Anne Hustwit Becky Moran

Please support them with your prayers and participation.





Email WNUPC@verizon.net Website WNUPC.com

	ATTENDANCE	ATTENDANCE	ATTENDANCE	
August	<u>adults</u>	<u>children</u>	<u>total</u>	OFFERING
5th	94	6	100	\$3947
12th	75	9	84	\$3088
19 th	81	12	93	\$2368
26 th	85	11	96	\$2698

4 week total \$12,101.00

Session Highlights

Present: Marcia Harris, Annetta Carney, Diane Ozegovich, Karen Murray, Mark Barnes, Amanda McMinn, and JoLynn Lowanse.

Absent: Anne Hustwit, Chuck Yelich, Greg Franks, Michele Coleman, Becky Moran.

- Approved communion to be on September 2 by intinction.
- Approved funds from Hassick family donation to be used for purchasing new green paraments for the sanctuary.
- Approved use of sanctuary for Community Singers concert on either December 7th or 14th, whichever date is chosen as final details for the concert will soon be made.
- Approved vacation week for Pastor John for September 23-29.
 John Tirpak will be preaching on September 23 and leading Bible Study on September 26. Elders on call during Pastor's vacation are Karen Murray and Mark Barnes.
- Received update on church financial software. Quickbooks has been downloaded/purchased for the office computer. Transition from Power Church software is underway. Full use of Quickbooks to happen as soon as possible in September.
- Began discussion as to the future of Rev. John Tirpak with the church.

WNUPC Prayer List Guidelines (Reprint) (Approved by session Nov. 1, 2017)

Prayer is an essential element to a healthy life of faith for individuals and congregations. In fact, we are commanded to pray for one another in times of need. Ephesians 6:18, "Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints."

With acknowledgment that prayer is a key element to our faith, it is our desire to balance the command to pray with personal privacy and respect for all. Therefore, the following guidelines will be used to make our church's prayer list an effective tool in expressing our faith.

- 1. The prayer list will be coordinated and operated through the church office.
- 2. Ways to submit prayer requests:
 - A. Website (wnupc.com) click on the "CONTACT US" button.
 - B. E-mail Church office, wnupc@verizon.net Pastor, manon.john474@gmail.com
 - C. Phone 724-872-7414 (church office) 606-261-0232 (Pastor John)
 - D. Text message 606-261-0232 (Pastor John)
 - E. Worship fill out the orange prayer request card in pews
- 3. Prayer requests will remain on the list for 30 days.
 - requests may be updated and remain on the list for an additional 30 days.
 - if no updates are made, the request will be removed after 30 days.
- 4. Since this is our church's prayer list, please submit requests for immediate family of members, regular visitors, church staff, Presbytery and/or PCUSA specific issues. (immediate family= spouse, children, grandchildren, mom, dad, brother and sister)
- 5. Specific items will remain on the list indefinitely such as: our church, Pastor and family, our country, our military, Session and community.
- 6. List will contain names of people only. There will be no specific information, medical diagnosis, procedures, etc.
- 7. List will be distributed weekly in the following ways:
 - email (must complete form to receive prayer list)
 - monthly newsletter
 - bulletin



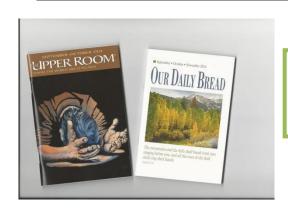


2018

We still have several weeks available for Chancel Flowers.

Please sign up on the bulletin board across from the office.

All orders <u>must be paid in advance</u> (\$35). If you have not yet paid for your flowers please do so as soon as possible.



Fall editions are now available.

In addition to the many ministries that are available here at WNUPC; like Sunday school, Bible study, and PW functions, we wish for you to continue your daily walk with the Lord in a time of prayer. To that end, we offer these free daily devotionals. Look for them on the table near the church office or in the racks in the main-entrance narthex of the church.





Mobility issues holding you back???

Wheelchairs and **Walkers** are available, on both levels of the church, as well as a **chair-lift** on the hall stairs. There is also a **ramp entryway** on 4th Street, through the chapel.



BIRTHDAYS IN September

	September
Andrew Mesiarik	2 nd
Bob Bojarski	9th
Amanda McMinn	11 th
Helen Gara	12 th
Dawn Martini	12 th
Michael Martini	15 th
Landon Franks	16 th
Faylynna Lewis	17 th
Diane Koget	19 th
Amy Kuiphoff	19 th
Wayne Overand	20 th
Mary Greenawalt	21 st
Amanda Berg	22 nd
Janis O'Bryan	25 th
Jim Sykes	27 th
Jonathan Vargo	27 th
Sally Chew	27 th
Jennifer Hoak	27 th
Leah Burkett	28 th
Tiana Martinelli	29 th



ANNIVERSARIES IN September

Adam & Amanda McMinn	1st
Harry & Dorothy Upperman	2nd
Susan & Ray Vargo	7 th
Rvan & Amy Illander	23 rd

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

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).

September 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
8:45 am Adult Sunday School 10:00am Worship with Communion	3 OFFICE CLOSED FOR LABOR DAY	4	6:00pm Bible Study	7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	7 10:30 am Pastor at TLC WN Community Festival	8 WN Community Festival
9 10:30am Worship Service at Community Festival	Meals on Wheels 7:00pm Dartball WNUPC@ Greensburg #1	Meals on Wheels	6:00pm Bible Study	Meals on Wheels 10:00am WNAC 6:00 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:00 Youth Night 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	Meals on Wheels	15
16 10:00am Church Picnic at Cedar Creek. Pavilion #3 Hunger offering	7:00 pm Dartball Greensburg#2 @ WNUPC	18	12:00pm PW United Circle 6:00pm Bible Study	6:00 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:00 Youth Night 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	21	22
8:45 am Adult Sunday School 10:00am Worship First Fruits offering	7:00 pm Dartball WNUPC@West Hempfield	25	9:00am PW Sewing 6:00pm Bible Study	6:00 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:00 Youth Night 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	28	29
30 8:45 am Adult Sunday School 10:00am Worship 5:00 pm Session meeting						



Our congregation will celebrate the missional and connectional ministry that is the Presbytery of Redstone on Sunday, September 23, 2018. You will receive in the mail a letter asking for your support through a special offering. Please plan to attend service that Sunday to participate in the giving of our "First Fruits".

Thank you to everyone that donated school supplies to West Newton Elementary.

The staff was very appreciative.



Deadline for updates and notices for the October publication of

The Higher Ground Herald will be Monday, September 24

Contact the church office

by phone at 724-872-7414 or email at wnupc@verizon.net