July 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...

July Worship Schedule:

July 1st

Communion

10:00 a.m. Worship "People, Purpose, Principles" 1 Peter 2:16

following service:

Home Communion Visitation team departs

July 8th

10:00 a.m. Worship Pulpit Supply –Bob Bojarski preaching

following service

Coffee Hour

July 15th

10:00 a.m. Worship Begin "You Asked for it Series"

July 22nd

10:00 a.m. Worship "You Asked for it Series"

July 29th

10:00 a.m. Worship "You Asked for it Series"

"But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him, and went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine, and set him on his own donkey, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day when he departed, he took out two silver coins, and gave them to the host, and said to him, 'Take care of him; and whatever you spend more, when I come again, I will repay you". (Luke 10:33-35)

The story of the Good Samaritan is probably one of the mostly commonly known stories of the Bible. It is a story that raises issues of race and tribe, of compassion and more than anything, of commitment. I have gone back to this story again and again as I have been drawn into the conversations, discussions and responses to the incidents of hate in our nation. There seems to be an ever-increasing frequency of such issues around the country. By the way, it's not just happening "somewhere else," it's happening even in our backyard. So, I've been thinking a lot about this parable, but more specifically, this question: "Does the parable of the Good Samaritan have anything to offer to us in how we interpret and react to the issue and incidents of hate in our land today?"

In this story, one man stopped to heal another man who had been beaten and robbed and left on the roadside. We do not know the race of the injured man, only that the Samaritans were of a race that others historicall

y had treated badly. Nonetheless, the Samaritan stopped and not only helped the man but found him a place to rest and was willing to pay for his care until he was healed. I call that more than a gesture, more than a gift of compassion: I see that as willingness to cross boundaries and go beyond one's own comfort to "love your neighbor as yourself" (Luke 12:27).

We as individuals and collectively as a church are always called to consider our own levels of commitment, involvement, and response. We will need to decide if we can participate in projects, programs, and service that might be something akin to this good Samaritan. The message Christ has given us is painfully clear. We are called to love our God "with ALL our hearts with ALL our souls and with ALL our minds and to love ALL our neighbors as ourselves" (Luke 10:27). I look forward to seeing how we find ways to do this together.

Grace and Peace, Pastor John

Page =

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

<u>Presbyterian Women</u> invite you to participate in preparing **Hygiene Kits** to be sent to New Windsor, MD. In the face of natural disasters, violence, or grinding poverty, Hygiene Kits can mean the difference between sickness and health for struggling families.

- You can prepare your own complete kit or donate individual items and we will assemble them.
- Please do not add any item that is not on the list.
- Boxes will be available in the Chapel, Narthex and at the 3rd St. Hallway until the end of July.
- Monetary donations may be given to Linda Blick; make checks payable to WNPW.

Hygiene Kit

- 1 hand towel (approximately 16" x 28", no fingertip, bath towels, dish towels or microfiber towels)
- 1 washcloth
- 1 wide-tooth comb (remove from package)
- 1 finger or toe nail clipper (no metal files or emery boards; remove from package)
- 1 bar of soap (bath size in wrapper)
- 1 toothbrush (in original packaging)
- 10 Band-Aids® or other adhesive bandage strips

Please do not add toothpaste to the Hygiene Kit. Toothpaste which has an extended expiration date will be added to international Hygiene Kit shipments just prior to shipment. Seal all items in a one-gallon plastic bag with a zipper closure.





REDSTONE MISSION TEA "PRETTY in PINK"

Saturday, July 21, 2018

Congruity Presbyterian Church New Alexandria, PA

1PM

Donation \$20 per person

Gift Baskets, Fleece Blankets and Gifts for sale

Honor breast cancer survivors

Fundraiser for





PW Hygiene Kits are being collected through July. Collection boxes are in the Narthex, the Chapel and at the 3rd Street entrance. Specific items needed for the Hygiene Kits are listed on the flyer in this newsletter.

PW United Circle will not meet during the summer. Our next meeting will be September 19. We will use the *Horizons* **Bible Study – "God's Promise".** Cost is \$10. Place your order with Linda Blick by August 19. 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.

<u>Shoe Collection</u> - Redstone PW will collect good reusable shoes thru Oct. 2018 to raise money for the Rise Against Hunger meal-packing event planned for Oct. 20, 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 Mission Tea – Save the date – Saturday, July 21, 2018, 1:00 p.m. Will be held at the Congruity PC, near New Alexandria. "Pretty in Pink" will honor breast cancer survivors and the proceeds will go the Rise Against Hunger meal-packing event in October. Tickets are \$20. Gift Baskets, Fleece Blankets and other gifts will be available. Attendees are encouraged to wear pink. A \$5.00 donation can be made for a candle that will honor a breast cancer survivor, even if you don't plan to attend. If you would like to volunteer to serve in the kitchen, you do not have to buy a ticket. See Linda Blick for tickets and further information. Ticket deadline is July 9th.

Next Apple Dumpling Day is Thursday, Oct. 4, 2018.

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 give your contributions "regularly". Please don't skip giving your contribution just because you were away on vacation. The financial obligations of the church don't take "vacations".

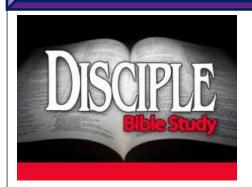


Our annual Church picnic will be held at Cedar Creek Park- Pavilion #3, on Sunday, **September 16.** Join us for food, fellowship fun and games. More info to follow.



Take Me Out to the Ballgame!
Don't miss out! The Washington
Wild Things game is quickly
approaching! There are still
tickets left! Sign up outside the
office. July 14. 7:05 start time.
We will meet at 6:15 near the
main entrance and enter together
to sing The National Anthem.
Tickets are \$8 each. Checks can
be made payable to the church
and turned in during offering.

BIBLE STUDY CLASS



Disciple Bible Study

Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.

*Disciples Bible Study does not meet during the Summer. We will begin our study again on Wednesday, August 8 at 6 PM



Fellowship Opportunity

Join us at Bill's Golfland for a fun time to socialize after worship on July 1. We will meet for lunch followed by mini golf. Everyone is welcome!

Bill's Golfland (across from Shop N Save on Rt 51) 210 Bill's Lane Belle Vernon, PA 15012



August 26, 2018

Potluck luncheon to follow worship ADOPT A SCHOOL

Beginning July 15 we will be collecting school supplies for **WEST NEWTON** ELEMENTARY. Suggested items are listed.



Teacher Wish Lists



Mrs. Coletta-Kindergarten Brown Lunch Bags Sandwich Ziploc Bags Clorox Wipes Expo Markers Coloring Books

Sidewalk Chalk

Mrs. Virgin- 1st Kleenex Crayola Crayons Plastic Baggies (All sizes) Dry Erase Markers Magnets Clorox Wipes

Wet Ones (Kid Safe Wipes) Lead Pencils Stickers, Pens, Sharpies, Markers Recess Games, Thank you notes Sidewalk Chalk

Miss Kotora-3rd No. 2 Pencils/Pencil Top Erasers Sticky Notes Glue Sticks Highlighters (small pack) Kleenex/Tissues Markers Recess Games Expo Markers Clorox Wipes Ziploc bags

Mrs. Hart-Kindergarten

Mrs. Turack-Kindergarten Expo Markers Clorox Wipes Cute Note Pads Glue Sticks Crayons Markers Sticky Notes Expo Markers Colored Pencils Shaving Cream Stickers Magnet Clips Cheap Prizes (Prize Box) Blue Pens Highlighters

Miss Skrgic- 1st Plastic Baggies (All sizes) Expo Dry Erase Markers Mrs. Fretts/Mrs. Manns- 2nd Crayons Pencils Wet Ones (Kid Safe Wipes) Clorox Wipes Glue Sticks Puzzles Crayola Crayons Ziploc Bags Crayola Markers Pens Thank You Notes/Cards Elmer Glue Sticks White Out Magnet Clips

Mrs. Markle-3rd Glue Sticks Colored Chalk Glue Sticks Pencils/Red Pencils Colored File Folders

Mrs. Bompiani-4th Pencils Dry Erase markers Class/Recess Games Magnets

Small Storage Bins

Magnet Clips Highlighters Small Baskets

Mrs. Smith-4th Pencils/Pencil Top Erasers White Out Dry Erase Markers Collection boxes will be placed around the church.





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 this Fall CORE CHRISTIANITY 101

Dates and Times to be announced. See below 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

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

Page

10

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!

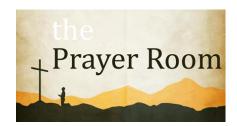
Fourth, we designed this study to engage the drama of Scripture, teach the doctrine of historic Christianity, move to doxology, and enable healthy discipleship.

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.



Mouls-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: Jul 23, 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. The next collection will be on July 8th.



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

2 members were served home communion in June.



Chancel Choir

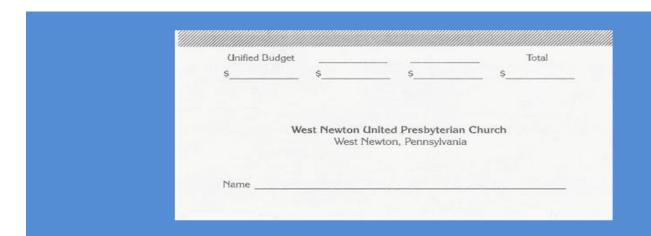
The choir is off for the summer but will resume again in the fall.

Contact Jim Sykes to get involved.



Bell Choir

The bell choir is off for the summer but will resume in the fall. 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.

Adopt a Counselor

Individuals, churches or families can bless the ministry of Pine Springs Camp this summer by agreeing to be an encourager to a counselor, program or other summer staff person. Sponsors will agree to:

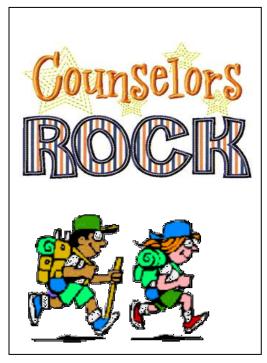
Encourage a Summer Staff Details

We ask that each congregation agrees to:

- 1. Pray for the staff member that they are assigned. A weekly reminder during worship to pray for the summer ministry as well is appreciated.
- 2. Send an encouragement note between May 30th—June 8th, letting them know that you are praying for and encouraging them this summer. Be sure to include the return address and contact person, so the staff person can send a thank you note.
- 3. Send them a shoe box sized package filled with the following by July 13th:
- Cards and notes
- Candy Bars, candy and other fun items that would fit in the box (please send just enough for them to enjoy and not be wasteful!)
- A \$25.00 Gas gift card- (Giant Eagle Get-Go is recommended but another type is fine)
- A \$25.00 Gift Card for a Restaurant (the chains that are near are Ruby Tuesdays, Eat and Park, Sub-way, Applebee's, Chili's,)
- Small devotional, book and or other spiritual encouragement items that fit in the box

Your congregation can send other note cards as well until the end of the summer August 5th, 2018. By sending the above items in the suggested manner will help maintain consistency and allow our staff to enjoy some special times together. It also will be less wasteful! Please refrain from sending items with peanuts and or peanut oil if possible.

Our counselor is Georgia Schafer
Correspondence can be sent to:
Georgia Schafer
Pine Springs Camp
PO Box 186
371 Pine Springs Camp Road
Jennerstown, PA 15547





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	
<u>June</u>	<u>adults</u>	<u>children</u>	<u>total</u>	OFFERING
3rd	101	13	114	\$4488.00
10^{th}	91	13	104	\$3728.89
$17^{\rm th}$	82	4	86	\$2989.50
24th	81	11	92	\$2170.00

4 week total \$13,376.39

June Session Highlights

- Approved "Adopt WN Elementary" program and collection of classroom items.
- Approved purchase of Quickbooks and any necessary reporting modules and tech support, not to exceed \$1000. This will replace the current Power Church Software.
- Approved elders for Pastor's vacation -Mark Barnes and Chuck Yelich
- Approved use of Social Room for Mara Sawdy's wedding shower on November 10, 2018.
- Approved no session meeting for July.
- Approved worship to be help at Vine Street Park on September 9th (part of WN Festival Community Worship).
- Began discussion and approved exploration of conducting a capital campaign for 2019.
- Approved a booth for WN Festival- 50/50 raffle. Tickets to be donated by Mark Barnes. Proceeds to fund new local mission efforts.
- Approved Youth Sunday for Aug 26th-worship service led by various youth.

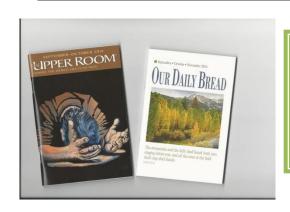


2018

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.



Summer 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.





We had a fantastic week at VBS. We had approximately 25 kids and 7 Junior helpers. Thank you to all of our volunteers that donated their time and to everyone that donated items for the week.



Youth Night

Thursdays 6:00 – 7:30 pm

Bible lesson, music, craft and snack.
Thank you to all that have attended.

Join us again in the fall!



BIRTHDAYS IN

	July	
Jordyn Polovina	J	2 nd
Mary Anne Lender		8 th
Shawn Martinelli		8 th
Sandy Berch		12 th
Vivian Blick		14 th
Dennis Day		16 th
Bill Lash		18 th
Colleen Martinelli		18 th
Tyler Mesiarik		18 th
Ray Vargo		19 th
Todd Cole		23 rd
Zach Mesher		23 rd
Ted Wojkowski		23 rd
Catherine Harris		24 th
Emily Vargo		24 th
Ben Markle		24 th
Arthur Hoak IV		25 th
Jason Mesher		25 th
Kris Edwards		26 th
Jocelyn Cramer		28 th
Jonathan Lewis		30 th



ANNIVERSARIES IN July

Greg & Dianne Franks	23 rd
John & Linda Sparico	23 rd
Rob & Kerri Bojarski	25 th
Clark & Linda Detman	25 th
Jim & Judy Oblack	27 th

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).

Page 19

We are updating our directory. If you have not already done so, please contact the office with any changes to your address, phone number, email address, etc...

Church Directory Updates

We are in the pro	cess of updating info	ormation in the church directory,	along with mailing lists, etc.
Please supply you	ur current information	n:	
PLEASE CH	ECK THIS BOX IF N	IO CHANGES NEED MADE.	
First Name:	Last Name:	Birthdate	
Address:			
Address			
Home Phone:			
nome Fnome.			
Anniversary:			
E-mail:			
		y / general church messages)	
(picase offole: Tie	Woletter / emergene	y / general onaron messages)	
Cell Phone:			
(for emergency te	exts ie. Cancellations	s, etc.)	
	Please indicate h	ere if you don't wish your	
		inted in the director	

July 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
8:45 a.m. Adult Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship with Communion Following Worship-Bill's Golfland	2	3	OFFICE CLOSED	5	6	7
8:45 a.m. Adult Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship Hunger offering collected Following Worship- Coffee Hour Pastor John vacation	9 Pastor John vacation	Pastor John vacation	Pastor John vacation	Pastor John vacation	Pastor John vacation	7:05 Washington Wild Things Game (Meet at 6:15 at main entrance)
8:45 a.m. Adult Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship	16	17	18	19	20	1:00p.m. Redstone PW Tea @ Congruity PC-New Alexandria 6:00 p.m. Filburn Manor worship
8:45 a.m. Adult Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship	23 Meals on Wheels	24 Meals on Wheels	25	26 Meals on Wheels	27 Meals on Wheels	28
8:45 a.m. Adult Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship 2:00p.m. Pastor at Redstone Highlands	30	31				

Page 21

Deadline for updates and notices for the June publication of *The Higher Ground Herald* will be **Monday, July 23**Contact the church office by phone at 724-872-7414 or email at wnupc@verizon.net