

From the Pastor's Desk...

May Worship Schedule:

May 7th

~ 4th Sunday of Easter

PW Birthday Offering

8:45 a.m. Adult Bible Study

10:00 a.m. Worship

with communion

"Unsealable"

John 10:17-18

following service:

Home Communion

Visitation team departs

May 14th

~ 5th Sunday of Easter

Mother's Day/Women of the Church

8:45 a.m. Adult Bible Study

10:00 a.m. Worship

"Problem Solving Gospel"

Romans 1:16-17

May 21st

~ Ascension of the Lord Sunday

8:45 a.m. Adult Bible Study

10:00 a.m. Worship

"Going and Coming"

Acts 1:1-11

May 28th

~ 7th Sunday of Easter

8:45 a.m. Adult Bible Study

10:00 a.m. Worship

Pulpit Supply

Have you ever read a book at just the right time? Every now and again, I come across something that speaks directly to me. The themes and characters give me insight and wisdom. The writing challenges my presumptions, prompting me to take action. It answers my questions and raises even more new ones. I finish grateful in better understanding my life in light of what I read.

That's a big part of what daily Bible reading and study does for me. As a literature lover, I am constantly amazed at the many ways the Bible plays a similar role in my life—far beyond any other book. It shapes my perspective and offers wisdom and insight in light of God's story or relationship with his creation. It helps me act, think, and desire to become more like Christ. The Bible is both "*sweeter than the purest honey*" and "*useful for teaching the truth, rebuking error, correcting faults*" (Psalm 19:10; 2 Timothy 3:16-17). It sustains and transforms me.

How can you join in this process of transformation? How can you read Scripture in a way that builds up; in a way that's helpful in letting Scripture transform you? The following are my four suggestions to get your going:

1. Prepare. I can pick up most anything to read anytime, anyplace and jump right in. But I will catch more details and personal implications when I am focused and ready. I get more out of the story when I have created space to enjoy it. This is especially true with Scripture. When I have readied my heart and mind to I always try to remember that what I am reading is holy, that I am getting ready to encounter a holy God.

2. Soak it in. I love words. They slow me down, giving their meanings and impact time to sink into my being. Words give me a different way of framing my experiences, new images and unexpected comparisons. Sometimes I spend time meditating on a word, phrase, or image. Sometimes I read a passage out loud, to hear how it sounds. As I take time to soak in Scripture, I let it come and live within where it can shape me and the way I interpret things.

3. Embodify. A good book will let me identify with the characters and story so deeply that it influences my actions. I may witness a character taking risks and find courage to act more boldly. I may understand the motives of a villain, fostering empathy towards people in my own life. The Bible is also meant to move beyond the page and into our daily lives. As I read Jesus's teachings and see how he carried them out, I can follow his example. As I read the epistles, I can implement some of their lessons. I may choose to say an uplifting word rather than a critical one (Ephesians 4:29). I may find strength in the witness of biblical characters during a stressful situation.

4. Share. There is nothing like discussing a good book with someone else. I get insights that I couldn't get on my own. I consider things from different angles, re-reading parts as if for the first time again. The Bible also comes alive in new ways as we read it together. After all, it is a relational book and we are relational people! It is intended to be read, shared, and lived out in community. Jesus promises, "*For where two or three come together in my name, I am there with them*" (Matthew 18:20). For me, this is the powerful tool of studying the Bible in small groups at church. It's reciting Scripture during the Sunday morning liturgy. Or it is as simple as sharing a meaningful verse in an email to a friend.

As you read the Bible intentionally, slowly, actively, together, you are transformed by its words. It's a dynamic process, moving you and all of us beyond the page. Its message becomes alive in and through us. More than any other book, Scripture offers an opportunity to be formed into Christ's image word by word.

Sunday School Class in the McKee room continues...

Adult Bible Study

Adult Bible Study meets in the McKee Room every Sunday morning at 8:45 a.m.

WE HAVE ROOM FOR YOU!

If you have any questions, please see Janice Curry or Clyde Frabizio.



God IS OUR Refuge
AND Strength

Mark your
calendars!

The next
Apple
Dumpling
Day is

Oct. 5th



WNPW April Gathering

The gathering was held on Wednesday, April 5. 30 people were at the luncheon. Jordan Besch, from Global Links, spoke about the goal of the organization – Sharing Surplus, Saving Lives. Through collections of unneeded medical supplies, many lives are saved in third world countries. This group collects, sorts and ships these supplies mainly to Latin American countries. The women in attendance brought baby items for Global Links to organize into bags of essentials for newborns. Our total came to over 100 items. Thanks to all who participated.

PW Sewing

We will not meet again until September. If you would like to sew at home, please see Dorothy Upperman.

PW CT (Coordinating Team)

We will meet on Monday, May 1 at 10:00 a.m. in the McKee Room. This is a change from our original scheduled date.

PW Birthday Offering

This will be collected on Sunday, May 7. The recipients for this year are: First Hand Aid Rural Clinic in Cuba, The Family Justice Center & Safe Haven in South Carolina and Navajo Water Project in New Mexico. Please help PW reach the goal of \$500,000 for these worthwhile projects. Envelopes will be in the pews and the bulletin. Please make checks payable to WNUPC.

PW Apple Dumpling Sale

The spring sale on April 27 was a great success. 426 dumplings were made giving us a total of \$1,613.64 to support our mission projects. We had 21 workers. Thanks to everyone who worked, sold and bought. Once more we are very grateful to Dave and Karen Murray for supplying the apples. Circle your calendar for the next Apple Dumpling Sale – October 5th.

Redstone PW Retreat to Pine Springs Camp

This will be on Tuesday, May 23 from 9:00 – 2:00. Cost is \$16 for programming, breakfast and lunch. Rev. Laura Blank, Ebensburg and Colver PC, will present “A journey through the Psalms. The mission project for the retreat will be the ingredients for S’mores – Graham crackers, Hershey bars, and marshmallows. We know campers will be delighted with this treat. Registration is due Friday, May 12. See Linda Blick if you are available for car-pooling from the church at 7:45 a.m.

Redstone PW Spring Gathering

This was held on Saturday, April 1 at Level Green P.C. in Trafford. 37 women attended. Mission Focus was donations to Military Connections with WNPW giving \$90.

PW Synod Gathering

This will be held Thursday-Saturday, June 15-17 at the Blair County Convention Center in Altoona. Cost is \$175 for registration, 5 meals and programming. Room accommodations are separate at the Marriott Courtyard adjacent to the convention center. Registration deadline is May 8. Registration forms are available on the Redstone Presbytery website, PW link: <http://www.redstone.org/ministry-groups/presbyterian-women>

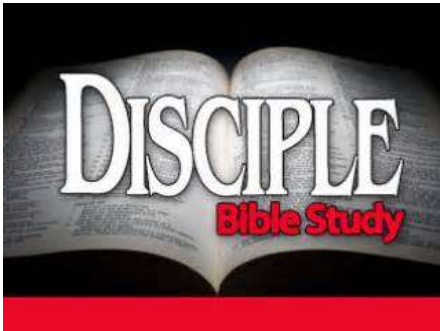
Redstone PW Mission Trip to New Windsor, MD – Sept. 24-26, 2017

This is a wonderful opportunity to serve on a short mission trip by joining volunteers from Redstone Presbytery, working in the warehouse preparing items for shipping overseas. Lodging will be at the Best Western Hotel. **The cost of \$100 covers room, breakfast & lunch for days. Dinners will be extra. A non-refundable deposit of \$25 is due May 1.** Contact Linda Blick if you are interested.

Maundy Thursday Wrap-up

Many thanks to all who volunteered to help in making the Maundy Thursday dinner a success for the 90 people in attendance. Kudos to Cathy Hall and Helen Gara for baking and donating the delicious Syrian bread.

BIBLE STUDY CLASS



Disciple Bible Study

May 3rd – Biblical Numerology

May 10th – 2nd Coming

May 17th – Book of Jude

May 24th – Biblical Mistakes: What We Think We Know

Biblical Numerology: What do the numbers found through the Bible mean? Are they merely literal numbers or are they symbolic of something greater? Can a more comprehensive understanding of numbers add to our knowledge and application of Scripture to our lives?

2nd Coming: The Apostles' Creed that Jesus, "shall come to judge the living and the dead." What does that mean? How will it take place? What should we do/be doing to prepare for Christ's return?

Book of Jude: Jude was eager to spread the message of salvation to all who would listen. He found many challenges in his day to fulfilling his mission. Perhaps his greatest challenge was that of false teachers, "perverting the grace of God." This is a timely message for us today as well.

Biblical Mistakes: What we think we know. Do we really know many of the stories of the Bible or are we buying into the myths/mistakes?

Please join us each Wednesday at 6:00 PM.



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 weeks to note on your calendar: **June 5, July 24, Sept 11, Oct 30, Dec 18**

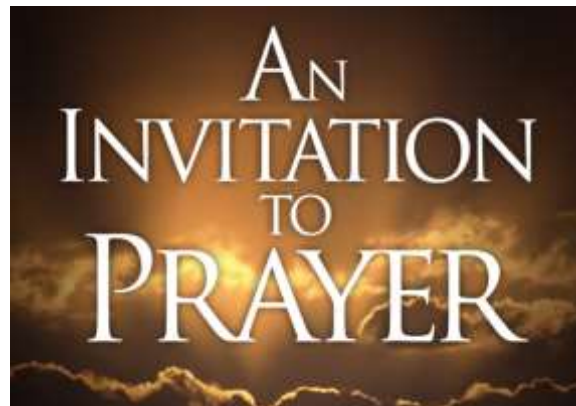
Thanks for your willingness to take part in this ministry.

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



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.



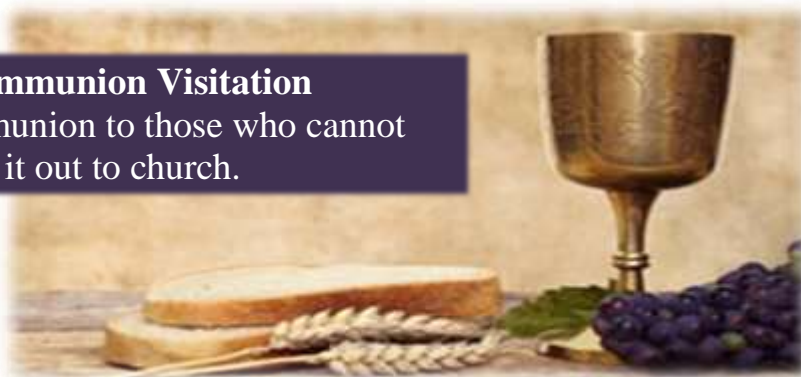
Would you like a visit from Pastor John?

Or, do you know someone who would?

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



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



Chancel Choir

meet on Thursday evenings,
during the school year,
and participate in Sunday morning
worship services at 10:00.

Contact Jim Sykes to get involved.

Thursday mornings at 11:00 a.m.
in the McKee Room, taught by Janice Curry



OUR SESSION

Clerk of Session: Kris Edwards

Class of 2017

Bob Bojarski
Anne Hustwit
Linda Shoaf
Meri Beth Wees

Class of 2018

Mark Barnes
Jo Lynn Lowanse
Diane Ozegovich
Chuck Yelich

Class of 2019

Greg Franks
Marcia Harris
Amanda McMinn
Karen Murray

*Please support them
with your prayers and participation.*



WNUPC
@WestNewtonUPC



	ATTENDANCE	ATTENDANCE	ATTENDANCE	
<u>April</u>	<u>adults</u>	<u>children</u>	<u>total</u>	<u>OFFERING</u>
2nd	99	12	111	\$3,439.00
9th	112	23	135	\$4,144.00
16th	136	27	163	\$3,994.00
23rd	84	8	92	\$2,326.00
30th		Not available at time of publication		
			4 of 5 week Total	\$13,903.00

Unified Budget

Total

\$

\$

\$

\$

West Newton United Presbyterian Church

West Newton, Pennsylvania

Name

Some days, doing "the best we can" may still fall short of what we would like to be able to do, but life isn't perfect – on any front – and doing what we can with what we have is the most we should expect of ourselves or anyone else.

— Mr. Fred Rogers



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.

West Newton United Presbyterian Church
Income and Expense Statement – March 2017
1st Quarter

Actual <u>Income</u>	43,123.90
Anticipated Budget <u>Income</u>	<u>42,713.01</u>
	410.89
Planned Budget <u>Expenses</u>	42,713.01
Actual <u>Expenses</u>	<u>42,225.47</u>
	487.54
	487.54
	<u>410.89</u>
Curretn Amount under Budget	76.65
Checking Account	67,948.36
Savings Account	113,681.56

The contributions to the Annual Budget at the end of March are just ahead of the anticipated total. The expenses are slightly under budget.

The Finance Committee urges you to continue your level of giving on a **regular basis** (even in the summer, or anytime, when you may be away) in order for us to keep up with the day-to-day expenses.

Reminder: All purchases to be submitted to the church for reimbursement must be pre-approved by a Session committee and the voucher form signed by the Session committee member.

April 2017 Session Highlights

- Opened with Scripture reading, followed by Prayer.
- Moderator: Rev. John Manon
- Present: Amanda McMinn Chuck Yelich Marica Harris Linda Shoaf
 Robert Bojarski Meri Beth Wees Greg Franks Diane Ozegovich
 Karen Murray Kris Edwards Anne Hustwit
- Absent: Mark Barnes, Jo Lynn Lowanse

Highlights:

- ❖ Motion made to not have a Memorial Day breakfast this year. Motion was seconded and approved.
- ❖ Discussion concerning memorial book and keeping it updated. Motion for Diane Ozegovich to get book current was made, seconded, and approved.
- ❖ Information received about a minor additional work needed to be done on the marque sign (corner of 4th and Main streets). Motion for Mark Barnes to get this completed was made, seconded, and approved.
- ❖ Approved VBS to occur beginning Monday, July 10th through Friday, July 14th. Curriculum, “Hero Central” has been ordered and delivered to the church office.
- ❖ Approved use of Social Room and kitchen on Monday evenings for Mantle House Mission for community classes, beginning on May 1st. This will continue through this summer. The following criteria was part of the approval:
 - 1. July 10th – social room for VBS only.
 - 2. Any necessary church function would take priority.
 - 3. \$50 refundable deposit must be made prior to any class.
- ❖ Discussion about Easter flowers (quantity and types) occurred. Several health issues were brought to Session’s attention. No action taken but will be reviewed before next Easter.
- ❖ Approved vacation request for Pastor John as follows:
 - 1. May 28 – June 3 (pulpit supply on 5/28)
 - 2. June 18 - June 24 (pulpit supply on 6/18)
- ❖ Approved request for wedding (Emily Fisher and Joseph Woleslagle) for Oct. 7th. Rehearsal will be Oct. 6th. Pastor John will be officiating.
- ❖ Approved use of chapel on January 23, 2018 for 25th anniversary vow renewal service. Pastor John will be officiating.
- ❖ Approved Senior Recognition Day in worship for June 4th. Two seniors graduating from high school (Ben Cole, Belle Vernon and Alyssa Manon, Yough).
- Next Session Meeting will be May 21, 2017 at 5:00 p.m.
- Closed with prayer

Stories of Redstone

Christ at work in our midst

Not all pastors serve in congregations... and not all congregations meet in a church building! Three Redstone pastors serving in validated ministry teach us about the depth and breadth of the Church:

Rev. Lisa Dormire, VP for Mission Support at Redstone Highlands, says "Where do I see Jesus? I see Jesus in the resident, who herself is wheelchair bound due to disease, make it her ministry to visit hospice residents and pray with them. I see Jesus in the tireless efforts of our hospice team members who are so dedicated to 'gentling the journey' for their patients. Obviously, Jesus is just all over the place here at Redstone!"

Rev. Becca Siddle, Chaplain at Redstone Highlands, says "I am inspired by their journeys every day, and witness the Love of Christ in how I hear them tenderly encourage one another, sharing their mutual stories of both loss and hope with one another." There are many similarities to church congregations, but Becca points to one difference: "It's pretty special to be able to hear the Proclamation of the Gospel in our chapel, for example, and then need to take mere footsteps to see and hear and FEEL that Gospel being lived out in real time. Christ is alive, and his Love triumphs every day at Redstone Highlands."

Rev. Susan Blank, Director of Pastoral Care at Presbyterian Senior Care at Oakmont, says "Here I am responsible to ensure that residents of all faith traditions have their spiritual and religious needs met. What a blessing to serve and love all of my neighbors. I learn daily from people who have walked in faith over ninety or a hundred years -- through thick and thin, joy and sorrow, blessings and woes. Here, the words that we pray and sing seem to take on a deeper truth and more urgency: 'Morning by morning new mercies I see; All I have needed Thy hand hath provided; Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!'"

Pictured: (Top) A cross Rev. Siddle used in Easter worship, sharing signs of the Resurrection.

(Bottom) Rev. Blank with Sister Dolorita, a Senior Care resident



*Communicate the Word...Carry on the Work...Change the World **Together!***

○



2017

**Chancel Flowers
can now be ordered**

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

**All orders must be paid in advance (\$35)
or your flowers will not be ordered.**



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 MAY

Sarah Glaser	1st
Jo Lynn Lowanse	1st
Lloyd Mauk	1st
Fran Ritchie	1st
Belinder Derr	2nd
Wally Ritchie	4th
Vi Pore	4th
Cathy Hall	9th
Alyssa Brown	11th
Christine Hustwit	10th
Edward Landini	12th
Brandon Martini	12th
Avery Mesher	13th
Nadia Lewis	14th
Rainey Craig	15th
Kathy Sandy	15th
Rick Coleman	18th
Christian Bojarski	19th
Jane Medsger	19th
Terry Day	20th
Geroge Harvey	22nd
Kim Puskar	25th
Steven Burkett	26th
Marcia Harris	30th



ANNIVERSARIES IN MAY

Jack & Amy Kuiphoff	3rd
Shawn & Colleen Martinelli	6th
Allen & Cheryl Barozzie	11th
Jack & Jackie Kuehner	12th
Paul & Alice Kurzdorfer	18th
Greg & Autumn Moody	19th
Dennis & Diane Koget	20th
Ed & Joyce Pawlik	21st
Bob & Kim Mesher	27th

We would love to
announce and celebrate
your wedding anniversary...
but, we need to know when it is...

Deadline for updates and notices for the April publication of *The Higher Ground Herald* will be Wednesday, May 24
Contact the church office
by phone at 724-872-7414 or email at wnupc@verizon.net

Looking Forward at WNUPC

Monday	May 1	10:00 a.m.	PW CT Meeting ~ McKee Room
Wednesday	May 3	6:00 p.m.	Disciple Bible Study ~ Social Room
Thursday	May 4	11:00 a.m.	Adult Bible Study ~ McKee Room
		7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir
Friday	May 5	7:30 p.m.	WN Community Singers Concert ~ Sanctuary
Sunday	May 7	8:45 a.m.	Adult Bible Study ~ McKee Room
		10:00 a.m.	Worship w/communion ~ Sanctuary
		Following worship	Home communion team departs
Wednesday	May 10	6:00 p.m.	Disciple Bible Study ~ Social Room
Thursday	May 11	11:00 a.m.	Adult Bible Study ~ McKee Room
		7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir
Saturday	May 13	8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.	Pine Springs Camp Redd Up Day
Sunday	May 14	8:45 a.m.	Adult Bible Study ~ McKee Room
		10:00 a.m.	Worship ~ Sanctuary
Tuesday	May 16	6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	Redstone Presbytery Meeting @ First P.C., Irwin
Wednesday	May 17	12:00 p.m.	PW United Circle ~ Social Room
		6:00 p.m.	Disciple Bible Study ~ Social Room
Thursday	May 18	11:00 a.m.	Adult Bible Study ~ McKee Room
		7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir
Saturday	May 20	11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.	WN Women's Club Event ~ Social Room
Sunday	May 21	8:45 a.m.	Adult Bible Study ~ McKee Room
		10:00 a.m.	Worship ~ Sanctuary
		5:00 p.m.	Session Meeting ~ McKee Room
Tuesday	May 23	9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.	PW Redstone Retreat at Pine Sprints
Wednesday	May 24	6:00 p.m.	Disciple Bible Study ~ Social Room
Thursday	May 25	7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir
Sunday	May 28	8:45 a.m.	Adult Bible Study ~ McKee Room
		10:00 a.m.	Worship ~ Sanctuary
Monday	May 29	All Day	Office Closed for Memorial Day
Tuesday	May 30	All Day	Pastor John on vacation
Wednesday	May 31	All Day	Pastor John on vacation