

Oct. 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...

October Worship Schedule:

October 7th

Communion

10:00 a.m. Worship
Sermon Series-
"Same Old Truth"
(Part 2)
Isaiah 55:8-9/
Matthew
19:16-30

Following worship:

Home Communion
Visitation team
departs

October 14th

10:00 a.m. Worship
Sermon Series-
(Part 3)
"Same Old Truth"
Psalm 27:7-14/
2 Peter 3:8-9

October 21st

10:00 a.m. Worship
Sermon Series-
(Part 4)
"Same Old Truth"
Psalm 145:9-13/
Philippians 1:3-6

October

10:00 a.m. Worship
Reformation Sunday
"Still Relevant"
Leviticus 26:1-13/
Ephesians 2:1-10

The Paradox of Faith

When I get a break from the intensity of the normal pressures of ministry, I do some reading and even do some thinking. Sort of outside the boundaries of constant preparation for sermons type of thing. This has been a focus of such times for me lately. I'm very much aware of the fact that unconverted people don't understand Christianity. It is for them a paradox.

In 1 Corinthians 2:14, the Apostle Paul says, "But a natural man"...That's a man in his natural condition...an unspiritual man...a man outside the Kingdom of God, an unregenerate man, an unconverted man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God. They are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised or spiritually examined." Now this is a reality. Unconverted people look at the cross. Look at the Christian Gospel, the Christian faith, and it appears as foolishness to them. They are spiritually blind, blinded by their own sinfulness. They are deaf to the voice of God. They are ignorant of their condition and of the truth of God. And so...the Gospel appears to them to be foolish. Even when they would study it, perhaps with some vigor, it might continue to look foolish to them, because, in the Gospel message, there are contained so many contrasts – paradoxes.

I've been thinking about this quite a while, and, as I was simply sitting in peace and quiet reflecting on God and faith, I started writing down the things that make the Gospel appear foolish. Things like this: A king who becomes a servant. A king who exchanges the crown of glory for a crown of thorns. The eternal God...who fills all the vastness of the limitless universe, confined to a human body. The God who is outside time. The Creator of time, subject to 33 years of life. The eternal Giver of Life who dies...on the surface, all of that seems paradoxical. The righteous judge...the holy and righteous judge who becomes the guilty criminal's advocate...the holy executioner of sinners who becomes the Savior of sinners. The God who measures all people against the perfection of His law...and decides to forgive sinners all the violations.

And it isn't just...those matters which have to do with God that appear so contradictory and so difficult. It is matters that have to do with God's revelation. God has given us Scripture, and Scripture is a law which provides complete freedom from sin. And the truth of Scripture obeyed is a freedom which is a form of slavery to righteousness. Even when you look at believers' lives...we are enemies who become children. We are outcasts who become aristocrats. We are the poor who become rich. We are the bankrupt who are made joint heirs with Christ and will inherit all eternal glories. We are the criminals who become judges...We are the haters of God who become the lovers of God. We are souls born twice. We are dying people who live forever. We live lives subject to death and yet we conquer death.

We are the constantly defeated who become more than conquerors. We are heroes who rejoice in our weaknesses. We are the world's despised whom the Lord honors forever. We are part of a Kingdom on earth that has a capital city in Heaven. We are just a humble little flock and yet we are kings and priests unto our God.

And all of this, for us, is made possible by the incomprehensible reality that the Giver of Life gave up His life that the dead might live. Here in lies something of the apparent paradoxical nature of our faith. And a natural person looking at that could easily be mystified. People cannot understand the Gospel. The natural man cannot understand it, and it appears to him to be foolish, contradictory...unreasonable, illogical...because it is spiritually discerned, and he is spiritually dead. But I would venture to say that you all understood everything I am saying, don't you? You understand all of that, because you understand the Gospel. It isn't that you're so brilliant that you understand it. He who is spiritual is that one who has come out of that natural condition into a spiritual life by virtue of the mighty work of God in his soul or her soul. And for those of us who have received that work of God and been made alive and had the blinders taken off so that we could see, and our ears unstopped so that we could hear, and our minds opened so that we could understand, for us...we have, "The mind of Christ."

Now, all of that is basic to us. That is the glory of the Kingdom. It's incomprehensibility to anybody who doesn't have the mind of Christ, doesn't think that way...What a privilege has been granted to all of us who are believers to have been given the mind of Christ. To have the mind of Christ means to think the way He thinks. And we know exactly how He thinks, because He's revealed what He thinks here. Is that not true? Is this the Word of God? Is Christ God? Then this is the Word of God, the Word of Christ. That's why Paul in Colossians said, "Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly." As the Word of Christ dwells in you richly, you have the mind of Christ. And those things that appear to be paradoxes are clear to us because the Lord has transformed our lives and opened our minds to the wonderful ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Really, all of the incredible glories of the Kingdom, many more than I've mentioned here, take us back to one great reality, and that is the cross. When you look at the cross, that you see it all come together. There, the Eternal God, the Giver of Life, dies. There the great judge becomes the criminal's advocate, actually becomes the criminal's substitute. There the great executioner becomes the great Savior and so forth. And it is in that act on the cross that enemies become friends and rebels become sons and haters of God become lovers of God and so forth. It seems, to us who believe, the paradoxes of faith are no paradoxes at all!

Grace and Peace,

Pastor John

Sermon Series: "Same Old Truth"

In this sermon series, we will be diving into one of the oldest stories in the Bible -Noah. It is approximately a 5,000 year old account of how Noah and all of creation worked through their relationship with God. The overarching question is, "Can such an ancient story still offer truths that a believer in 2018 might apply to their life of faith?" We will explore, over a few weeks, 10 truths from Noah's story and determine their value for us today. We will discover the ages old truth that God always provides a way, always opens a path, for us toward restoration and redemption.

SAVE THE DATE

APPLE DUMPLING DAY

OCTOBER 4



Deadline to order is **Sunday, Sept. 30.** Look in the bulletin for the tear-off to place your order or contact Linda Blick.



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!!! You don't have to work all day; just give us a couple of hours of your time and enjoy the fellowship. Don't forget to ask your co-workers or neighbors if they would like to purchase some apple dumplings.

The PW United Circle will meet on Wed. Oct. 17 at noon, when we will discuss the 2nd lesson of the Bible Study, "**God's Promises**", 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 Judy Oblack, Mary Jane Smith and Vi Pore.

PW Sewing will meet on Wed. Oct. 24 from 9:00 a.m. to noon, in the McKee room, to prepare items for local and overseas missions. No skill is needed to participate in the sewing group, so please join us for the fellowship.

Hygiene Kits, 35 were collected by PW over the summer from the congregation. Instead of sending them to New Windsor, MD, we sent them to the local shelters in the West Newton area for the victims of the flooding. Some of the money which would have been used for shipping the Hygiene Kits, was used to buy cleaning supplies the church collected for the flood victims. **Many thanks to everyone who contributed to these projects which will help those in need.**

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. 5**. The Mission Focus is **the Irwin, First Food Bank**. 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.

Shoe Collection

October is the last month Redstone PW will collect good reusable shoes 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 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 <https://shn.secure.force.com/events/homepage?id=701f1000001kkhCAAQ> (This is a more reliable link than was listed in last month's newsletter.)

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

Consecration Sunday will be **October 21**. Please bring your "Estimated Giving" card for 2019, which you will receive in the mail after Oct. 14. At this service we will prayerfully "consecrate" our planned giving to the ministry of our congregation for the year 2019.

First Fruits Sunday was observed on Sunday, September 23, 2018. The congregation responded with contributions totaling \$951 to be sent to Redstone Presbytery to support their missional and connectional ministry. If you didn't contribute, it is still not too late.

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.

The Church Picnic was a great success with 80 attending. Kudos to Karen Murray and her committee for organizing a wonderful day at Cedar Creek Park on Sept. 16.



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: PW of Redstone Presbytery; must be mailed by Friday, October 5

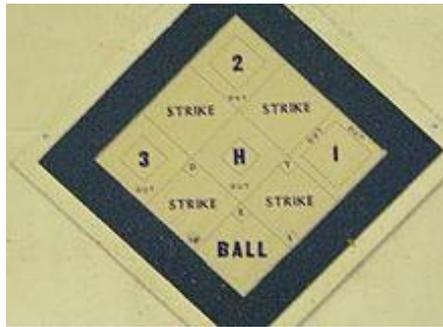
Mail check and reservation slip to: **Susan Blank, PW Treasurer**

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 meets on Monday evenings at 7:00.

See Kris Edwards for more information.



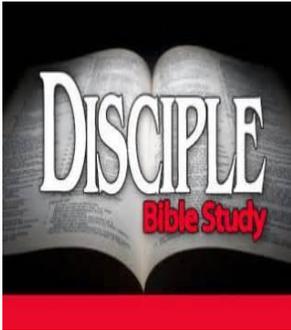
College Care Packages:

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.

BIBLE STUDY CLASS



Disciple Bible Study

Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.

This group will continue studying many of the minor prophets. Each of the prophets have basically the same message- return to God through obedience and faith by correcting the errors of your life. At the same time, each prophet is called by God in a specific time and place for a specific group of people. All of this is relevant to us today as we see what issues are addressed, that people and their general nature really doesn't change, and that God's expectations and plans never change.

Disciples Bible Study Schedule

October 3rd Amos (Chapters 4-6)

October 10th Amos (Chapters 7-9)

October 17th Obadiah

October 24th Nahum

October 31st Zephaniah

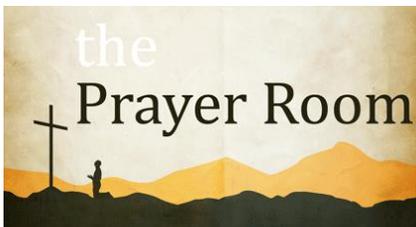
WEST NEWTON COMMUNITY FESTIVAL

. Thank you to everyone that volunteered by either making pies or working at the community Festival booth. The Pie sale brought in \$421





The men of the church will meet once again for a time of fellowship at the men's breakfast on **Saturday, October 20th at 9AM.** This group meets every third Saturday of the month at Gary's Chuckwagon. Each person is responsible for the cost of their own breakfast. This time of men's fellowship includes prayer, food, a short devotion, and a speaker. The speaker will focus on faith (blessings and challenges) in their life journey as a faithful Christian. Men or young men of all ages are welcome to attend.



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.

Session Highlights

The regularly scheduled meeting of Session for the month of September was moved to Sunday, September 30th due to Pastor John's vacation week. Therefore, there is no report at the time of publication of this newsletter.





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: **Oct 29, Dec 17**

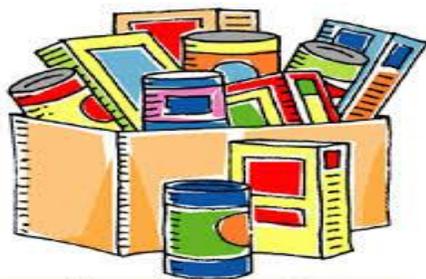
Thank you for your willingness to take part in this ministry.
The sign-up sheets are in the church office hallway.



Coffee Fellowship

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



Feeding the Community

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. We collected \$451 at the time of publication in addition to several pre-purchased food cards during the month of September. The next Hunger Offering will be October 14.



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

2 were served home communion in September



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 rehearses on Thursdays, at 6:00pm.
Contact Joyce Pawlik to get involved.

Unified Budget			Total
\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____

West Newton United Presbyterian Church
West Newton, Pennsylvania

Name _____

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 <u>adults</u>	ATTENDANCE <u>children</u>	ATTENDANCE <u>total</u>	<u>OFFERING</u>
<u>September</u>				
2nd	70	5	75	\$3319
9 th Community Worship Service			108	\$2623
16 th Picnic			80	\$2418
23 rd	73	6	79	\$2256.01
30 th	Not available at time of publication			
			4/5 week total	\$10,616.01

Prayer List

Please submit any changes to the prayer list by the end of the day on Wednesdays.

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 must be paid in advance (\$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 October

Bob Flock	1 st
Mia Martinelli	2 nd
Michelle Polovina	4 th
Harry Hepler	6 th
Joyce Hysong	8 th
Doris Markle	10 th
Stacey Livengood	10 th
Kim Mesher	11 th
Judy Oblack	14 th
John Sparico	14 th
John Hall	15 th
Amy Ulander	16 th
Nancy Molovich	18 th
Alice Kurzdorfer	18 th
Kelley Manon	18 th
Diane Franks	20 th
Autumn Moody	20 th
Randy Lecky	21 st
Bob Shoaf	23 rd
Hunter Polovina	24 th
Monica Moody	26 th



ANNIVERSARIES IN October

Tom & Belinda Derr	2 nd
Joyce & Rick Craft	7 th
John & Cathy Hall	11 th
Ted & Edie Wojkowski	14 th
Mark & Lois Barnes	21 st

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).

LOOKING AHEAD AT WNUPC

October 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 7:00pm Dartball vs Irwin Methodist	2	3 6:00pm Disciples Bible Study	4 7:00 Apple Dumplings 12:00 pm Apple Dumplingpickup 6:00pm Youth Night/Bells 7:00pm Choir	5	6
7 8:45am Adult Sunday School 10:00am Worship with Communion	8	9	10 6:00pm Disciples Bible Study	11 10:00am WNAC 6:00pm Youth Night 6:00pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Chancel Choir	12 10:30am Pastor @ Filburn Manor	13
14 8:45am Adult Sunday School 10:00am Worship Hunger Offering Coffee Hour	15 7:00pm Dartball @ LCOS	16	17 12:00pm PW United Circle 6:00pm Disciples Bible Study	18 6:00pm Youth Night 6:00pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Chancel Choir	19	20 Redstone PW Meal Packing Congruity PC 9:00am Men's Breakfast
21 8:45am Adult Sunday School 10:00am Worship 5:00pm Session Meeting	22 7:00pm Dartball @ Paintertown	23	24 9:00am PW Sewing 6:00pm Disciples Bible Study	25 6:00pm Youth Night 6:00pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Chancel Choir	26	27 PW Redstone Fall Gathering
28 8:45am Adult Sunday School 10:00am Worship Pastor John @ Redstone	29 Meals on Wheels 7:00pm Dartball vs Norwin Alliance	30 Meals on Wheels	31 6:00pm Disciples Bible Study			



Thank you to everyone that donated cleaning supplies to those affected by the flooding in our area in September.



Youth Night
Thursdays

6:00 – 7:30 pm

Bible lesson, music, craft and snack.

JOIN US FOR FUN!

Deadline for updates and notices for the November publication of *The Higher Ground Herald* will be **Monday, October 29th**.

Contact the church office

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