



PRESBY BEACON



"Shining the Light of Christ in the Mon Valley"

June 2020

From the Pastor:

It's June! Who knew four months could have passed so quickly? One day I was learning your way of doing things, and the next Natalie and I were isolated at the office trying to figure out how to bring some sense of normalcy to our joint lives together as the church. Let's talk a little about what has transpired:

1. Session made the decision to partner with Rehoboth Presbyterian, our mother church, so that Pastor Don and I could work together to bring worship online, etc. We changed the time (by 15 minutes) as a compromise between our two churches, while Rehoboth made other compromises in the process. This was an exercise in living together as the Church, and I think it went well. Of course, being married to the other pastor for 36 years this coming week also helped!

As a new pastor, isolated in preparation, there were also some changes made, albeit inadvertently or because of necessity. I am grateful to those of you who stayed in contact, offered encouragement and/or asked me questions about your concerns or thoughts. You might remember the Behavioral Covenant I brought to you in February. One of the major aspects of that covenant is speaking directly to the person with whom you have conflict or disappointment. I welcome a direct, loving approach and look forward too many more conversations.

2. This was totally new space for us. It takes at least three times as long to record, edit, and render video. Because we don't have appropriate "live" equipment (as we

IMPORTANT NOTES:

*Our online giving portal is LIVE!
Be sure to read the online giving brochure in the newsletter!*

SUMMER WORSHIP TIME

Session met on June 1st and voted to move our summer worship to 10 a.m. in June this year to facilitate our move back into the sanctuary. See you then!

VBS CANCELED

Due to restrictions on gathering and working with the children, the Christian Education committee has reluctantly voted to cancel VBS this year.

Watch for ideas from Pastor Mary Kay for summer fun opportunities.

TECHIE HELP NEEDED

Are you familiar with videography and live-streaming? Can you help with PowerPoint? Contact Pastor Mary Kay to help out with worship prep.

discovered: too slow of internet, too much echo, etc.), the quality suffered at first.

Thanks to those of you who have been with us, sometimes worshiping later in the day when we could get the internet and computers to cooperate. I know it was frustrating to you; it was to us, too. Just when I think we have it all together, the software drops part of the file while making the video! Now I know why I purposely rejected an offer by a former company to go to school for computer programming!

3. We had to drop in-person worship and Bible study. This, for me, was the hardest part. I miss the choir and hearing the voices of the congregation praising God. I miss seeing your smiling faces and talking together. Somehow the phone does not quite do it. And preaching to a camera, well, it's kind of strange. Maybe I'll publish a video of bloopers!

I am thankful for Natalie and for Donna, who were always there to help whenever they could, to get things done; to Renee Bonari and Kathy Rice who came when they could to "socially-distanced" lead us in singing the hymns. Thank you to the session for purchasing new computers for the office that helped make the process more bearable.

4. This Sunday, June 7th, we invite you to come to the church parking lot at our summer worship time of 10 am. Find a parking space facing the garages and enjoy worship from your car. You can stream with us on Facebook Live or listen on your FM radio in your car! The video will be displayed on a large-screen TV. It will still be streamed on the internet to your home computer and/or phone for those of you who need to stay home.

The church will re-open for worship on Sunday, June 14th 10 am. (one month early on the time change). We will be following all CDC guidelines. ***Please try to join us for the all-church cleanup so we are ready to reopen.***

5. Bible study will resume, after the church cleanup, on Tuesday, June 16th, but in the Fellowship Hall, to allow for distancing. Each person will sit at their own table. It won't be as comfortable, but I think we can make it work until we can sit together at the Parish House. I'm changing the way we are going through the Psalms. I think you'll find it very interesting! Join us!

No one likes change for change's sake, so let me assure you that we are in this together. The necessity of leading a new congregation in isolation has caused some changes of necessity, but we are moving back toward some sense of normalcy and comfort together.

This is a long letter, but I wanted to catch you up on what has been happening and going forward. I've attempted to stay in contact with you all, meeting with session and calling to

check up, and I appreciate all of you who called to check up on me and make sure I'm doing okay. There have been days when I, too, have felt like just dropping my sword and quit fighting. It has been great to pray together with you and to meet people who had not been in worship previous but who have joined us online and are excited about joining us in worship face to face once again, including at least one new member!

On January 12th you asked me to come and serve with you as your teaching elder/pastor, we committed to one another to seek God's will to move the church forward and see what God will do among and through us to reach this area and strengthen one another. Then COVID-19 dropped on us like an explosion. Once again, I offer to you my commitment to partner together as we move forward. What the future will look like is still a mystery to all of us. These are new, uncharted waters, and yet, we serve a mighty God who knows us and our future. Let us walk it together.

Returning to the Sanctuary

We are opening up for worship on June 14th. Please follow these guidelines:

1. Everyone should wear a mask or a face shield, especially when singing.
2. People will be seated in every other pew as designated; families can sit together.
3. If you are sick or care for someone vulnerable to infection, you should stay at home or worship in the parking lot. Streaming will continue.
4. The church will be sectioned off, and people will guide you to your seat.
5. Entrance will through the parking lot doors only.
6. Hand sanitizer will be available at the entrance and throughout the sanctuary.

The **Presby Beacon** is a monthly newsletter publication of the **First Presbyterian Church**

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All Church Clean Up

On Saturday, June 13th at 9 am (until 1 or sooner), we will be gathering at the church to have a “clean-up” day. We will be weeding, cleaning up the flower beds and “freshening” up the outside!

We also will be cleaning the inside of the church to help us get back into the sanctuary! Please come and help! We are excited to get things cleaned and spruced back up again! All help is greatly appreciated! Call the church to let us know if you (and how many from your family) will be attending so we can plan. We hope to see you! Ladies, we would love to have snack and refreshments support, too! Please call Pastor Mary Kay.



Peach Festival



Our Annual Peach Festival will be held on Saturday, August 8th. You may leave any donations of Robin Hood Flour or Crisco in the church kitchen anytime between July and the festival to help with the expenses of our peach pies. We will need people to peel and cut

peaches Friday, August 7th, beginning at 9 AM, for the peach desserts and again on Friday, August 14th, to do the same for pies. We would greatly appreciate any help to clean up both Fridays, and of course, lots of help in lots of areas will be needed for the Peach Festival itself.

Church Printer

	\$8,500
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Thanks to all of you who collectively have donated \$950 to the fund for our printer replacement. Thank you, as well, to the H.O.A., which has pledged \$2,000 toward the cost. In addition, \$2,622 of the Transition Fund has been applied. That said, we are now at \$5,572 collected, with approximately \$2,900 remaining. We have put in the order for the printer and will need the remaining amount by July 15th. This equipment will greatly enhance the work we do here and will relieve the tension of not knowing how long the current one will last.

Good Thing for CDs!

Several years ago, it was decided that the church services would be recorded, then copied and sent to shut-ins. That has turned out to be a wonderful resource during the COVID 19 Pandemic. I do not know if you have been able to listen to the church services Rev. Mary Kay and her husband, Rev. Don, have been broadcasting via a few different “channels,” but if you have, you have been hearing anthems and special music from those CDs.

I felt bad that we have been unable to have choir practices and music is such an important part of worship service. So, I had a “God Wink.” I contacted Natalie to find out how far back the CDs are kept, and I also contacted Ann Rice-McCorkle because I remembered that she sometimes records our anthems and special music. Between the two of them I have been able to come up with anthems and special music for the worship services. I hope you have been able to hear them and have enjoyed listening to them. (My music has been “live”.)

I have been in touch with the choir members, and we are all looking forward to being able to “make a joyful noise unto the Lord” in person, but until then we will continue to provide music “from the past” and keep our social distancing.

Also, as in past years, June has been “choir’s choice” month for anthems, and this June will be no different. The anthems for the month of June will be favorites of the choir and I hope they are favorites of yours also.

May God be with all you of as we go through these unchartered times. Remember the words from the hymn: “Be not dismayed, what e’er betide, God will take care of you; Beneath His wings of love abide, God will take care of you.”

Donna

Keeping in Touch

- Our Administrative Assistant, Natalie Brewer, celebrated her 10-year work anniversary here at the church last month! Natalie wanted to thank everyone who sent their well wishes and cards!
- Kathy Rice retired from Children's Hospital this month! Congratulations Kathy! Happy retirement!

June Birthdays



- June 4- Jayme Horan
- June 6- Kay Conger
- June 7- Eileen Kunca
- June 8- Debbie Fox
- June 19- Arlene Giovannelli
- June 20- Kacie Rozas
- June 26- Linda Calcek
- June 27- Kathi Horan
- June 28- Becky Mutich Moore,
Ryan McWreath

June Anniversaries



- June 2- Don & Mary Kay Glunt
- June 12- Brad & Sharon Manown,
Bruce & Marguerite
Patterson
- June 14- Jayme & Kathi Horan
Frank & Janet Garofalo
- June 22- Dan & Mary Beth Burkley
- June 24- Fred & June Exley
- June 28- Ryan & Joelle McWreath

**Pastor Mary Kay has a new local
mobile number: 724-243-2871.
The old one works, too!**

To my Church Family

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! I can never thank you enough for the most spectacular birthday I have ever experienced. The horn tooting, banner waving motorcade honoring me was oozing with love from my church family and relatives as it passed our home Saturday, May 15th in the afternoon.

I know a lot of time and effort went into this parade and I have to give a special shout out to Renee Bonari and her family for organizing and the many signs that were made by her and by the members.

Believe me, my tears flowed during and after the parade. My emotions were in overdrive, I felt like Sally Fields when she made her unforgettable speech at the Academy Awards ceremony. "You like me, you really like me!"

My daughter Lynne had me blindfolded and playing a silly game before the cars got there. When she finally let me take it off and my eyes were adjusting to the light, is when I heard the firetruck siren. That is when I turned to the left and saw all the cars and I was in total shock! Even Rev. Mary Kay took time from her schedule to honor this Kay!

Once again, I want to thank everyone who participated in the parade and all those who sent cards and gifts. You will never know how wonderful you made this 80-year-old woman feel! I wanted to do a cartwheel, but Duane made me think twice about that! Truly, First Presbyterian Family epitomizes John 15:17.

Love,

Kay (Nelson)



Spencer Aten

Congratulations to Spencer Aten on his 2020 high school graduation. Spencer is the son of Bob and Lisa Aten and the grandson of Fred and Linda Aten and John and Marlene Amoroso. Spencer is an avid ice hockey player and lettered for the second year for the varsity team at North Hills High School. Spencer continues to work several jobs including lawn care and as a customer service rep at Agway. Spencer is planning to attend Rosedale Technical College to pursue a career in welding.

Kody Callaway

Kody is a senior at Belle Vernon Area High School. Kody played football all four years during his high school career. He also participates in a recreational bowling league. He is currently undecided about his future, but he is thinking of attending a community college or a trade school.

Cameron Guess

Cameron Guess is a graduate of Belle Vernon Area High School. Cameron is the son of Larry and Christina Guess and the grandson of Jane Bonari and Larry and Jan Guess. Cameron graduated in January and was an early start freshman at the University of Pittsburgh where he is majoring in Business-Human Resource management with a Sports Management Certification. Cameron is also a member of the University of Pittsburgh football team as a Kicker/Punter. In high school

Cameron was a member of the National Honor Society where he served as Co-President. Cameron was also on the 2019 Homecoming Court and in the Interact Club.

Cameron was a 2-year letter man in basketball and soccer. His sophomore year he was all section in soccer and the Mon Valley Independent's Goalkeeper of the year. Cameron lettered all 4 years in football. He was all section all 4 years in football and all-state his senior year.

Baileigh Anne Horan

Baileigh is the daughter of Jayme and Kathi Jo Horan of Belle Vernon. She is a 4-year Highest Honors student. She has been a member of the volleyball team for 4 years and was voted varsity captain her junior and senior year. She is also a 4-year member of the marching band. She has been involved in the Spanish club, prom committee, MIC/SADD club, and Interact Club. She is a member of the National Honor Society, Spanish National Honor Society and Science National Honor Society, serving as its Secretary. Baileigh was awarded the Challenge Program's Community Service Award and the Student-Athlete Army Excellence Award. After graduation, Baileigh will attend Chatham University where she will continue her volleyball career and study to become a Physician Assistant.



Congratulations!

**Congratulations as well to
Kristen Tetil and
Zade Zadrozny!**



FiPY—First Presbyterian Youth on the Move!

“We ARE the Church”

Our middle- and high-school youth are working hard to be the church in our community.

This week, instead of meeting online, we worked on the community garden at the Belle Vernon Library. We shopped at Lowe’s for plants, had a socially distanced picnic, then worked the garden and planted veggies and herbs for those in our community. The youth will be visiting the garden regularly, taking turns watering and weeding. Any donations toward the expenses of the garden and our other activities would be appreciated.

Also, session has approved the youth group’s request to create a community blessing box on our campus, patterned after the one at Houston Presbyterian Church (see picture). Ray Helster will be helping us build it, and we can put non-perishables, books (magazines, etc) in the summer, including activities and small games for kids, and winter items—gloves, scarves, and jackets, sweatshirts, and coats on the outside hooks for people to take if they need it. Beginning this month, every fifth Sunday in a month will be Youth Sunday! Our young people will be leading the worship this Sunday for Pentecost. Be sure you tune in to support them!

Finally, I could use a few youth sponsors to assist me with leading the group. If you are interested in being a part of the youth leadership, contact me. Of course, anyone volunteering will need to have background checks completed.



End of Classes – The Start of Serving a Church

Hello First Church,

It seems impossible to believe that over 3 years ago, Rev. Sue suggested that I enroll in a Presbyterian sponsored program beginning with a class in theology. The end goal of the program was to become a Certified Ruling Elder (CRE), and it consisted of 2 years of classes and various practicums.

I agreed, not with that end goal in sight, but rather simply to give me something to focus on and draw closer to God during a difficult time of transition in my life.

Well, it worked, or should I say, God worked, and all goals have been met. It has been 3 years of great personal and spiritual growth, and I find myself suddenly being called to become a commissioned, ruling elder at Laurel Hill Presbyterian Church, right down route 51 South.

I still have some items to check off my practicum list and much more to learn, but with God's provision and your support, I will begin weekly at Laurel Hill in late September.

It is First Church, however, and all of you, who will always hold a special place in my heart for your encouragement, your vision to see this potential in me, your financial support, and most importantly, your love for me and my family through very difficult times.

I thank you all and will keep in touch as my schedule solidifies. I would love to see you visit Laurel Hill some time; they, too, are a special group of people.

Blessings to you as you have been a blessing to me.

Bill Weightman

Report from Session

The session met on Thursday, May 19th, both on Zoom and in the fellowship hall, socially distanced. Clerk of Session Sharon Zunic sends this report:

Treasurer Report: The treasurer reported that our offerings are down due to isolation protocol. To fully fund our budget and commitments we need \$3,086 per week/\$12,344 per month. As of May 28, 2020, our receipts for regular offerings in May were \$4,455, a little over one-third of what we need. During the lockdown we had three special offerings: One Great Hour of Sharing and two Communion offerings. Unfortunately, these, too were short because of our absence from the building. Session asked Pastor Glunt to remind the congregation that these organizations still need our support.

Communion Offerings:

April: Pine Springs Camp	\$50.00
May: Salvation Army	\$35.00
One Great Hour of Sharing:	\$92.16

Pastor Report: Reported that our online giving program is now active and on the website. Will include a brochure in the next newsletter. Reported that youth program is ongoing.

Cleaning Person: Session is still working through the custodian job description duties, and hours. We hope to have the position posted in the very near future and to begin interviewing.

Change of time: Session discussed the way forward regarding service times and reopening the church. Session approved purchase of an FM transmitter. We will have worship in the church parking lot on Sunday, June 7th in our vehicles. Worship will start at 10 am (one month early). The church will re-open on Sunday, June 14th, with worship beginning at 10 am., socially distanced. Session asks that all wear masks.

First Presbyterian Church
501 Fayette Avenue
Rostraver Twp. PA 15012

Return Service Requested

NON PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
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MONESSEN PA
15062
PERMIT NUMBER 60

We live and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ through worship, service, and witness. As a Christ-centered church empowered by the Holy Spirit, we seek God's plan for each of us and all of us. We welcome everyone to journey with us as we strive to grow in love, faith, trust, and discipleship.

- June 7-** Drive-in Worship in church parking lot
- June 13-** All Church Clean up at 9 am
- June 14-** Church re-opens
- June 16-** Tuesday Bible Study resumes at 2 p.m. Fellowship Hall
- Aug. 8-** Peach Festival
- Aug. 14-** Peach Pie Baking
- Sept. 4 & 5-** Flea Market
- Sept. 13-** Church Picnic at Cedar Creek

