

The PRESbyterian

"Learning, Loving, Giving--Christ Alive in the Believer"

September 2026

Volume LV, Issue 9

Prayer Concerns

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Tables of Eight

Join us **Saturday, September 19th** in the fellowship hall—RSVP required, \$10 per person, all are welcome! The meal will be wedge salad, casserole buffet, bread, and desserts. **RSVP to Carolyn or in the office by Monday, September 14th!**



Special Offerings

During the month of September we are taking up special offerings in recognition of World Communion Sunday on **October 4th**. These offerings are meant to benefit peacemaking efforts in the world and our community. You can contribute to the PCUSA's World Communion Offering, Noah's Hope (the county child advocacy agency), and Beneath the Shade (a community drug-recovery program). Envelops to contribute will be available on the back mission table in the sanctuary.



**WORLD COMMUNION
OFFERING**

Muskingum Valley Presbytery Stated Meeting

On **September 19th** from 9am to 4pm our church will be hosting our Presbytery for its stated fall meeting. We are looking for volunteers to aid in preparation, food service, and clean up for that day. If you are interested in helping please sign up in the church office or contact Rev. Joe!



**Church offices will be
closed on Monday,
September 7th for
Labor Day!**

Looking Ahead!

Trick or Treat will be here before we know it, and candy is already lining the store shelves! We don't know the details of Trick or Treat in our community yet, but we do know we will be passing out treats. More details will be provided next month. But in the meantime, feel free to bring Halloween candy donations anytime to the church office!



Pastor's Corner

As I reflect on the changing world, the polarizing ideas within it, and people's reactions to the changes all around them, I see a need for things to be different. Possibly the greatest understatement of the year! But it makes me realize the potential for change by the Church, the people of God, in manners that might go against how we think religion should be in our lives. Many speak about religion, about the Church, as if it is just another cultural force in our lives. That our gathering week after week is just about the study of God, coming together in common interest, and creating a community space by which to connect others who have nothing. While there are threads of truth within all of that there is a connection between those practices that goes much deeper and is more intentional than many care to admit. We do not just gather like we are waiting for the bus or our coffee order, we do not just think the same way to satisfy a certain political agenda or base, but it is a process which shapes and awakens us to what is real and requires our upmost attention.

In Celtic spirituality, the theology and ideas which shaped the Irish Christians, there is a concept called *Aman Cara*- translated literally as "friend of the soul". This is more than just being a friend, acquaintance, neighbor, coworker, or any other type of relationship. It is the act of purposefully sitting with someone and holding their soul, their very being, in your hands. It is celebrating with someone over every big and small joy, crying with them over every loss, agonizing with them over every challenge, and being so invested in their lives that it feels like your own. It is an act of union that binds people together and creates a community like no other, because it does not stop once you are no longer in physical proximity. The Church is described in the same way, in Greek it is called *Koinonia*, meaning "fellowship"- but a specific type of tight-knit, mutually-sharing, actively participatory community. It is more than just having the same thoughts, ideas, values, and beliefs. It is sharing in each other's joys, concerns, challenges, and dreams in a way that they might as well be our own. A type of relationship where you know another person's success and struggle affect your own life so you WANT to work to aid them in everything. That perfectly describes the ideal body of Christ, sharing in the common head/mission/duty (Jesus) and knowing we each can and will affect the other in how we exercise it.

In a world that seems to separate out people, segregating them into different spheres based on ideology and ability to produce and support, this type of tight-knit life answers the call of lonely hearts. It makes religion, the Church, more than just another organization to contribute to the upkeep of. It is a starting point in learning how to care about, and cultivate, healthy and loving people. How we choose to invest ourselves in the lives of others, the concerns of others, demonstrates where our heart is to see the life of God materialize and blossom here and now. We bring to God the concerns and heavy things we have no hope of lifting and receive the small and meaningful ways we can ease the hurts of others. Not in fitting them into our mold or idea but freeing them. To live and contribute in their own unique manner, and become better ourselves at recognizing the myriads of ways the divine works for a single purpose. There is a cure to the relational problems in society, a resolution to the loneliness epidemic many experience, and that is purposefulness. Purposefully being involved, purposefully caring, purposefully loving, and purposefully seeing that someone is left better than when you first found them. **-Rev. Joe**



Sunday Study Group

Join us **Sunday Mornings at 9:15am** for our study group! Anyone, and everyone, is welcome to join! Details are available through Rev. Joe!



Friends of the Homeless Meal

Our monthly Friends of the Homeless Meal will be on **September 13th** at 6pm.

Volunteers can sign up through the church office. While meal funds are good, if you wish to contribute please mark your donation as "Homeless Shelter Meals".

ONLINE MINISTRY

All online worship content (including pastor's messages, bulletins, and newsletters) are available on the church website (www.newphilapc.org). Mailings of weekly services are available upon request to the church office.

"First Celebration" Sunday

Join us on **September 6** as we celebrate Holy Communion during service, and brunch afterward. All are welcome!

Cookies for Sundays!

What's your favorite cookie? Do you have a recipe you just love to make? Every Sunday (except for the first Sunday of the month) we have cookies and coffee in the fellowship hall following the service. Would you like to bring cookies to share? They can be home baked, purchased from a bakery, store bought—it doesn't matter! Sign up in the church office!



Greeters and Ushers

We need volunteers for liturgists, worship stewards, greeters/ushers, and cookies each Sunday. A sign-up sheet is available in the office to volunteer, or you may call the church office to sign up.

Session Members:

Class of 2026: Ethelyn Ann Eichel, Gail Hedges

Class of 2027: Doug McIntire, Sally Walker

Class of 2028: Pat Laporte, Craig Stewart

Deacon Members:

Class of 2026: Jackie Stutz

Class of 2027: Bonnie Majewski

Class of 2028: Ruth Joyce Zimmerly

Office Hours:

8:00am-3:00pm Monday - Thursday
Closed: Friday

Church Email and Phone:

office@newphilapc.org
330-343-7114

Our Church:

Sunday School: 9:15am

Worship Service: 10:30am

Bible Study: Wednesdays at 10:00am in the pastor's office

Do you have something to add to the newsletter? Please call or email the church office by the 20th of the month for placement in the following newsletter.

September 2026

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

		1	2 10am- Bible Study 8pm- AA Mtg	3	4 Office Closed	5
6 Communion All-Church Brunch	7	8	9 10am- Bible Study 8pm- AA Mtg	10	11 Office Closed	12
13 6pm-FoH Meal	14	15 7pm- Session Mtg	16 10am- Bible Study 8pm- AA Mtg	17	18 Office Closed	19 9a-4p- MVP Stated Meeting 6:00pm- Tables of Eight Meal- All are welcome! Please RSVP
20	21	22 7pm Finance Mtg	23 10am- Bible Study 8pm- AA Mtg	24	25 Office Closed	26
27	28	29	30 10am- Bible Study 8pm- AA Mtg			

September Birthdays: 2nd- Sherry Bichsel, Amy Swartz; 6th- Bonnie Majewski; 13th- Pat Laporte; 17th- Bill Singhaus; 19th- Diane Troendly; 20th- John Pittman; 26th- Brenda Jenkins

No September Anniversaries.

We'd like to announce your birthday and wedding anniversary in the newsletter! Please help us to make sure we have your special day by calling the church office to let us know!