

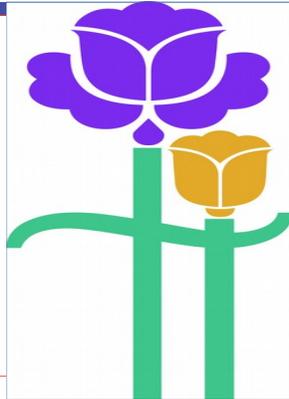


Presbyterian Press Newsletter



WHAT'S COMING UP?

- May 2-Scottish Heritage Sunday
- May 6-National Day of Prayer
- May 9-Mother's Day
- May 13- Ascension of the Lord
- May 23-Day of Pentecost
- May 30-Trinity Sunday
- May 31-Memorial Day



Kroger Community Rewards Program

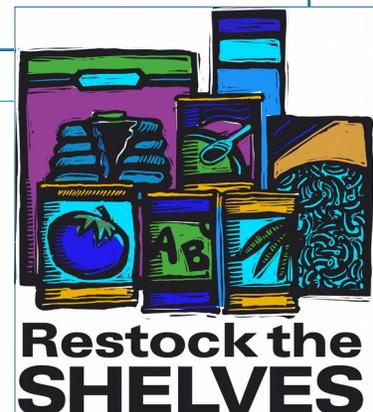
If you shop at Kroger, please sign up for this worthwhile program. It's an easy way to donate to the church. Simply visit <http://www.kroger.com>. Once you've logged into your Kroger account search for First Presbyterian Church of Clarksburg or JG610, then click enroll. There is no cost to you. Kroger donates a small percentage of your purchase to us.

You must register you rewards card for purchases to count. Just swipe your card or use the phone number registered when shopping at Kroger.



Mustard Seed sends thanks to all the generous donors and volunteers who continue our feeding the hungry and clothing the needy. In March we gave out 229 large food orders to help 693 people. Many more households combine to economize and to care for members in poor health.

Our special needs now are shampoo, shorts & blue jeans for children and men, spaghetti sauce, pasta, cereal and canned corn and beans.



May Scriptures and Sermon topics



May 2 Scottish Heritage Sunday

Guest preacher: Rev. Bruce Macbeth

May 9 6th Sunday in Easter - Mother's Day - Holy communion

Scriptures: Acts 10:44-48
*John 15:9-17

Sermon Title: "Love One Another"

Theme: Jesus calls us friends so that we can be friends to others. We are chosen to bear fruit. We don't love in order to get somewhere. We love because in Christ, we have already arrived.

May 16 7th Sunday in Easter

Scriptures: John 17:6-19
*Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

Sermon Title: "Organized Religion Is Not a Bad Word"

Theme: The first thing that happens after the resurrection account in Acts is that the church elects a new disciple to take the place of Judas. Why did the early Christians bother to appoint another apostle? Because the work of the church is too important (and too difficult) to do without organization.

May 23 Day of Pentecost

Scriptures: Acts 2
*John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15

Sermon Title: "Empowered by the Holy Spirit"

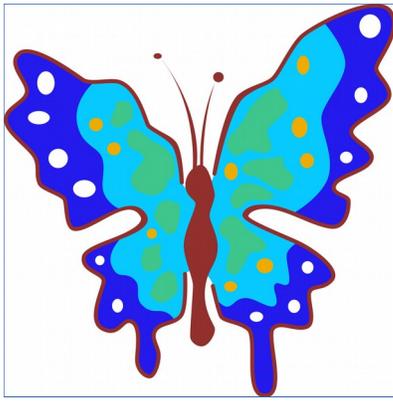
Theme: Jesus left his disciples to ascend into heaven. But he did not leave us to succeed or fail on our own. Jesus gave us the Holy Spirit to teach us all things and to lead us in the truth.

May 30 Trinity Sunday

Scriptures: *Psalm 29
John 3:1-17

Sermon Title: "*Awe* homiletics"

Theme: The emotion that allows us to give up cherished ideas and stances and accept new understandings is often called, "awe." Awe is critical for not taking the world for granted and thus losing the ability to experience it with depth and reverence. That means awe is a pathway not only to knowledge, but also to wisdom and to God. When we experience awe, we might well ask, "What is God saying in this experience?"



There is a story about a man who kept watching a cocoon. The man knew a butterfly would emerge, but it seemed to take forever. Finally, being impatient and wanting to free the struggling insect, he took a knife and split the cocoon.

The butterfly was born, but it could not fly. The man had prevented a very necessary struggle that the butterfly needed. That struggle forces body juices into the insect's wings, giving it strength to fly.

Perhaps there is a lesson for us in the story. Those who have had some great struggles in life are often better for enduring the difficulties. Losses, rejection, disabilities and disappointments can teach us patience, strengthen us spiritually, and make us better, more kindly humans.

Theologians sometimes use the phrase "No cross, No crown." It was victory over the Cross that made Christ King.

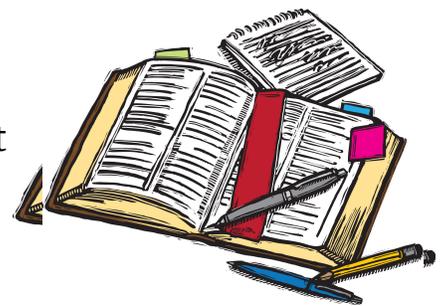


Ascension of the Lord
May 13

Pentecost Sunday May 23



Bible Study
Wednesdays at
3:30 PM



Prayer group
Tuesdays at 10 AM

Year to Date vs. Actual Budget
January thru March 2021

Jan-March Income	Expenses	Net Income
\$52,735.41	\$40,060.81	\$12,674.60

Scottish
Heritage
Sunday
May 2, 2021



Get your kilts out of the closet and join the service! Here are some photos from past celebrations.



John's Jottings

For the last 30 years, on the first Sunday in May, our church has celebrated Scottish Heritage Sunday. It has become one of the best attended Sundays of the year and a wonderful celebration. The roots of the Presbyterian Church in this country run through Scotland. Many of the first immigrants from Scotland were Presbyterians and they brought their faith with them.

Of course the roots of our Christian faith are much broader and deeper than just Scotland. As a reminder of that fact, the processional for Scottish Heritage Sunday includes the banners representing all the different creeds of the church down through history. The word "creed" comes from the Latin word "Credo" which means, "I believe." The various creeds of the church are statements of what we as a church believe. Most of the creeds came out of times of crisis or times of great change. The creeds draw on scripture to resolve the pressing questions of faith of that time.



I thought it might be helpful to give you a short summary of each of the creeds represented in our processional. The earliest creed to be written down was **the Nicene Creed**. The Emperor Constantine converted to Christianity and ended the persecution of the Christians by the Roman Empire around the year 300 A.D. The Christian Church was badly fractured at the time, so Constantine drew church leaders together to resolve differences of belief. The big issue of the day was the nature of the trinity. Was the Son equal to the Father or was he created by the Father? Did the Holy Spirit proceed from just the Father or from both the Father and the Son? The Nicene Creed declared that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are all equally God and that the Spirit proceeds from both the Father and the Son.

The Apostles' Creed is both younger and older than the Nicene Creed. Parts of it were used as early as 180 A.D. in services of baptism. But it did not reach its present form until about the 8th Century. The Apostles' Creed answered the question about whether the God revealed in Jesus Christ was the same God that created the universe in the Old Testament. The Creed confirms that the God of the Old Testament is the same God that is revealed in Jesus Christ.

The Scots Confession was written at a turning point in history of the Scottish nation. When the Queen Regent Mary of Guise died in her sleep in 1560, the Protestant nobility of Scotland was able to secure English recognition of Scottish sovereignty and to declare their nation a Protestant nation. They saw their deliverance as a miraculous act of God. The creed was written as guidance for the newly declared Protestant nation. It reflects a spirit of trust and a commitment to God whose miraculous deliverance as the Scots had experienced firsthand.

The Heidelberg Catechism was written in 1562 in the German city of Heidelberg. It is a series of questions and answers designed to teach the faith to new believers. Like the Scots Confession it was written to state clearly the Protestant faith as different from the Roman Catholic Church that they had just broken away from. The Heidelberg Catechism was an attempt to bridge the gap in the understanding between the Lutheran Church and the Reformed Church of how Christ is present in the sacrament of communion. While the Catechism was not completely successful in bridging that gap, it does draw us all together with the affirmation that "Our only comfort in life and in death is in Jesus Christ."

The Second Helvetic Confession (I have no idea what happened to the first one!) was written in 1561 in Switzerland by Heinrich Bullinger. (Helvetic is Latin for "Swiss.") Like the two previously-mentioned confessions, it was written to give guidance to the newly established Protestant Churches. It affirms the authority of Scriptures for the church's government and reformation. It asks the church to trust in God's free

and gracious election of its membership in Jesus Christ. And it addresses the practical life of the gathered community, detailing matters of worship, church order and conflict, ministry, the sacraments, and marriage.

The Westminster Confession of Faith is the longest and most detailed of the confessions. It was written in England in 1649 in response to a crisis in the country over the relations between church and state. The Anglican party stood for royal rule in England with the sovereign also head of the church's government. The Presbyterian party sought to vest authority in elected representatives of the people, both in Parliament and in church presbyteries. The Westminster Confession's main theme is the sovereignty of God. God alone is in control. God alone is to be worshiped and obeyed.

The Theological Declaration of Barmen comes out of Hitler's Germany in 1934. It was written by a group of church leaders to help Christians withstand the challenges of the Nazi party and of the so-called "German Christians," a popular movement that saw no conflict between Christianity and the ideals of Hitler's National Socialism. It is one of the strongest statements calling for the separation of church and state. It holds up the dangers of equating patriotic sentiments with Christian Truth. It demands that the church must never allow itself to become merely a tool of the state, but must maintain a position from which the ideals and goals of the state may be critically examined and challenged by the authority of God's Word.

The Confession of 1967 was written in response to the Civil Rights Movement in our own country. It was built around the key scripture passage, "In Christ God was reconciling the world to himself. . ." (2 Cor. 5:19). Reconciliation is the main theme of the confession and it calls the church to obedient action, particularly in response to social problems such as racial discrimination and class conflict. It calls on all Christians to be reconciled to God and to one another.

A Brief Statement of Faith was written in 1983 to celebrate the uniting of the two largest Presbyterian denominations, the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America (the Northern Church) and the Presbyterian Church in the United States (the Southern Church). The intent was to write a modern statement of faith that could be used in worship. The creed underscores the role of both men and women in God's covenant. It draws from scripture both feminine as well as masculine imagery of God, and affirms ordination of both women and men. The statement expresses concern for the integrity of God's creation. It affirms in its opening sentence that, "In life and death we belong to God . . ."

The creeds of the church are not perfect masterpieces of the Christian faith. Rather they are snapshots of the church's struggle down through history to remain true to whose we are and whom we worship. They allow us to rise above the particular blind spots and prejudices and imperfections of our own times and to see the church coming down through the ages in all her glory, banners flying high.

In "The Screwtape Letters," by C. S. Lewis, the senior devil, Screwtape, advises the younger devil, Wormwood, on the best way to draw human beings away from God. Keep your person focused upon the small injustices and imperfections of your fellow church goers, Screwtape advises, and whatever you do, never let him see the banners flying.

On Scottish Heritage Sunday, the banners will be flying for all to see!

Hope and Confidence and Peace,
Pastor John

Session Highlights

Wednesday, April 21, 2021 5:30 PM

- Received the treasurer's report showing us in the black by \$12,674.60. Thanks to all who so generously and faithfully support the work of God through First Presbyterian Church!
- Plans are in place for Scottish Heritage Sunday. Rev. Bruce Macbeth will be our guest preacher and we will have one bagpiper to play for the service.
- Granted permission for Hannah to do an interpretive dance for worship on an appropriate Sunday.
- We are planning to have a cake and fellowship time for Pentecost Sunday, May 23rd. Hopefully by that time most of us will have had our vaccinations.
- The committee on upgrading our sound and video equipment is hard at work. We have previewed a camera from United Sound for two Sundays and are pleased with the result. We have also heard back that our grant application to the Presbytery for new equipment has been approved.
- We have applied for and been granted a \$16,000.00 Payroll Protection Program Loan through Harrison County Bank and the Small Business Association. This money can only be used for payroll and utilities, but it will free up other money to be used where needed. Update on progress on fund for better video broadcasting equipment in Donna Smith's name. Provided we follow the procedures this loan will be forgiven and we will not have to pay it back.
- Tiles in lower hallway are breaking and coming unglued. The property committee will be exploring options for new flooring.
- We are continuing to explore new ways to get the word out about our Laundromat ministry. So far the response has not been strong, but we think that it is just a matter of getting the news out.
- Pastor's request for vacation June 7-13 was granted.
- Jeff Mitchell was elected as our commissioner to Presbytery for meeting May 20, 2021-by Zoom. Ginger Delawder will be the back up if he cannot go.

Pastor's Report:

hospital visits: 5 **Other significant Pastoral visits:** 25 almost all by phone

Funeral:

Weddings:

Baptisms:

Sacrament of Communion: Was not celebrated on Easter Sunday because the pastor was in Quarantine.
Home communion was not served because of the pandemic.

Pastor's Discretionary Fund 2021 -

Month	Number	Pledged	Paid	Total	Balance
January	2	\$190	\$190	\$190	\$1733
February	6	\$731.35	\$731.35	\$921.35	\$1101.65
March	1	\$100	\$100	\$1021.35	\$1001.65
April	2	\$139.27	\$139.27	\$1160.62	\$862.38

In February, there was \$100 credit from an account that was canceled.

Announcement

We want to be able to celebrate the achievement of those from our church who are graduating from high school or college. If you know of someone who is graduating, please let Pastor John or Cathy know. Thank you!

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM
Phone: 304-622-6831 Fax:304-622-6831
www.clarksburfpc.org

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor
Rev. John F. Koerner
209 Ohio Ave
Nutter Fort, WV 26301
Phone: 304-534-2324
johnkoerner75@yahoo.com

Parish Associates

Rev. Charla Waters Koerner
Rev. James A. Harris

Session

Jenna Bennett, Clerk
Ginger Delawder, Asst.Clerk

Office Volunteer

Elsa Davis
Elsadavis59@gmail.com

Education Coordinator

Terra M. Burnett
angeleyes11_77@hotmail.com

Choir Director

Jeanne Harris
Phone: 304-669-9191
jagaplove50@gmail.com

Organist

Dr. Mary Kay Devono

Church Treasurers

Wayne Northey	Jenna Bennett
Chuck Leuliette	Dave Allman

Nursery Attendant

Ashleigh Burnett

Church Secretary

Cathy Libert
CburgFPCSecretary@yahoo.com



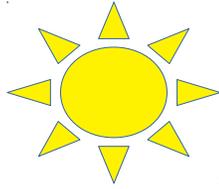
Sunday Worship
Church School 9:30 AM
Worship 10:45
Live on WPDx Radio
109.4 FM or 750AM

Children's Moments



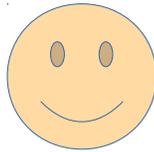
May 2-Scottish Heritage Sunday
May 9-Jeanne Harris
May 16-Dawn Woodburn
May 23-Dick Ogden
May 30-Pam Mitchell

Worship Leaders



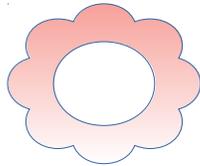
May 2-Pastor John
May 9- Wayne Northey
May 16-Maria Morrison
May 23-Buddy King
May 30-Dick Ogden

Deacon Greeters



May 2-Amy Strange
May 9-Kandy Atkinson
May 16-needed
May 23-Jeanne Lynch
May 30-Pam Mitchell

Acolytes



May 2-Hannah Burnett & Gia Corsini
May 9-
May 16-
May 23-
May 30-



Denver Atkinson	May 2
Xochitl Leuliette	May 7
Sara Waters	May 7
Annabelle Leibering	May 8
Dianne McGriff	May 8
PR Watson	May 8
Ann Davidson.	May 9
Tammy Kennedy	May 10
Kara Colucci	May 13
Andrew Sedera.	May 13
Betty Boyles	May 15
Lance Kuhens	May 15
Harriett Northey	May 17
AJ Paletta	May 18
Peggy Allman	May 20
Molly Hugus	May 21
Sara Pulling	May 23
Katy Colucci	May 25
Ty Mitchell	May 27
Bobby Colucci	May 30

Happy Anniversary to Jeff and Amy Strange
May 30

