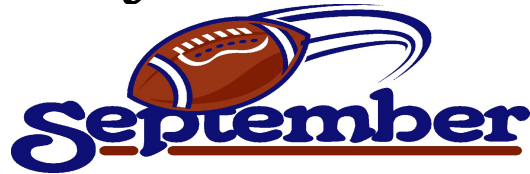




Presbyterian Press



2021

WHAT'S COMING UP?

WORLD DAY of PRAYER for the CARE of CREATION - Sept. 1

LABOR DAY- Sept. 6

CHURCH CLEANING - Sept 11

GRANDPARENTS' DAY- Sept 12

SMALL CHURCH CONFERENCE- Sept.18

FIRST DAY of AUTUMN - Sept. 22



I would like to give a big shout out to the musicians in the church. To our organist, Kay, choir director, Jeanne, all the soloists, dancers, and musicians, your talents are priceless and you enhance what is already a beautiful service.

As you're enjoying the fall colors and sipping apple cider, ponder this saying: "Autumn shows us how beautiful it is to let things go."

When leaves stop producing chlorophyll, they turn vibrant shades of yellow, orange and red. This yearly spectacle makes way for the leaves to let go and fall. It also serves as a good reminder of things we may need to drop: clutter around the home, a desire for control, commitments that no longer bring joy, personal expectations that cause added stress, a need to always be right and so on.

Just as the Israelites had to let go of their past as slaves in Egypt and Saul-turned-Paul had to abandon his persecuting ways, we, too, can let go of what weighs us down and gets in the way of God's best for our lives. Embrace fall as a season of change and see just how beautiful it is to let things go!

—Janna Firestone

Something to Think About



MUSTARD SEED

Hours are
Mon., Tues.,
Thurs., and
Friday
11AM -3 PM.

To volunteer, call Dolores Yoke
@ 304-624-6077



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

September Scriptures and Sermons

2021



Sept. 5 15th Sunday After Pentecost (Communion)

Scriptures: Psalm 146
*James 2:1-10, 11-13, 14-17

Sermon Title: "Looking in the Mirror"

Theme: Most of us look in the mirror before we go out the door. We want to be sure that we are looking our best. In James we find the idea that scripture is the perfect mirror. When we look at scripture, we see how we compare with the image of God. The foolish look and change nothing. The wise look and adjust their actions to fit the image in God's mirror.

Sept. 12, 16th Sunday After Pentecost

Scriptures: Psalm 1
*Mark 9:30-37

Sermon Title: "Questions Welcomed and Honored"

Theme: In Mark, the disciples never seem to understand who Jesus is or what he is teaching. But far from rejecting them because of their lack of understanding, Jesus sets a child before them as an example of how to be a disciple. Why a child? Perhaps it is because children are not afraid to ask questions. Jesus welcomes children and their questions!

Sept. 19, 17th Sunday After Pentecost

Scriptures: Isaiah 50:4-9a
*Mark 8:27-38

Sermon Title: "On-the-Job Training"

Theme: In today's lesson, Peter has the right answer: "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God." But it is soon obvious that Peter doesn't really know who Jesus is. Nevertheless, Jesus invites Peter and all of us disciples to follow him on the way. We get our training about who Jesus is and how to live as a Christian as we follow Jesus on the way. It is on the job training for all of us.

Sept. 26, 18th Sunday After Pentecost

Scriptures: Esther 7:1-6, 9-10, 9:20-22
Mark 9:38-50

Sermon Title: "To Hell and Back"

Theme: Jesus was always going into hellish places to rescue people. He found those who society had kicked to the curb and showed them that they were not trash, but treasure. We are to go and do likewise.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday
9:00AM to 2:00PM
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

Session

Jenna Bennett, Clerk
Ginger Delawder, Asst.Clerk

Parish Associates

Rev. Charla Waters Koerner
Rev. James A. Harris

Church Secretary

Cathy Libert
CburgFPCSecretary@yahoo.com

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 Northy
Jenna Bennett
Chuck Leuliette
Dave Allman

Nursery Attendant

Ashleigh Burnett

First Presbyterian Church

Session Agenda

Wednesday August 18, 2021 5:30 p.m.

Session **HIGHLIGHTS**



- Treasurer's report shows us \$26, 672 ahead of budget.
- Sound and video system cost about \$20,000. We received \$10,000 from Presbytery and \$2,500 from individuals.
- Wayne has filed the paper work and our \$16,000 Payroll Protection Loan has been forgiven. Thank you, Wayne!
- Received a request for a work camp in 2022.
- Rally day for Sunday School will be September 12 with breakfast at 9:30 a.m. Youth will lead worship that day.
- Fall Festival will be October 24th
- Approved \$1,000 college scholarship for Ashleigh Burnett.
- Feedback on new video and sound system is very positive. Special thanks to Bryon and Ginger and Wayne, Bradley, Quentin, Terra and Jason for their good work in learning this new system.
- We will resume fellowship and coffee hour after church beginning in October.
- The city's Winter Fest Committee would like to arrange a tour of churches during their festival on December 4. Each church would welcome visitors and provide 30 minutes of entertainment. We are interested in doing this and await further details.
- We have scheduled church work/ cleaning days for August 28 and September 11.
- The property committee reports that we have had some water problems in the McClelland rooms. We are looking into solutions.
- We are currently having our water tested for lead content.
- We will advertise on Facebook to give away the piano in McClelland 2.
- The laundromat ministry is going well. Each team is taking one Thursday a month. We need one more team to fill out the month. If you can help with this important ministry, please let Pastor John know.
- Approved the request of Jeanne Harris for use of Sanctuary and Westminster Hall for the wedding of her daughter Terri Harris and Matthew Wycoff on January 8, 2022 2 p.m.
- Plans are under way to host the Presbytery's Small Church Conference on Saturday, September 18. Session approved a budget of \$200 to cover cost of refreshments and miscellaneous items. It shouldn't cost that much, but we want First Presbyterian to shine for the conference!
- Approved the request from Cassandra Todd and Michael Hunt to have wedding and reception here on Saturday, November 6.
- Set the date for congregational meeting to elect officers this fall for after church on Sunday, October 31.
- Clarksburg Historical Society has put in for a work group from AmeriCorps to come work on their building for a three week period sometime between October 27 - December 19. They are requesting permission for the work group to stay here, use our showers and kitchen. We would not be responsible for anything other than that. The group would be between 8 and 10 people including work supervisors. We would like to be able to host this group, but we need definite dates before making that commitment.

-We will be hosting the Presbytery meeting on November 13, 2021. We will need lots of volunteers for that day. Please mark the date on your calendar.

Pastor's Report:

hospital visits: 7 **Other significant Pastoral visits:** 22 most by phone

Funerals: June 26, 2021 David L. Corsini (June 10, 1931 - June 1, 2021)
 July 1, 2021 Lloyd Francis Loudon (August 12, 1945 - June 26, 2021)
 Burial at Floral Hills
 June 23, 2021 Guy Davis, Jr.
 Aug. 7, 2021 Jackson Lawler Anderson (Oct. 2, 1928 - July 5, 2021)
 Interment at Shinnston Memorial Cemetery

Sacrament of Communion: Was celebrated on August 1 and served to 35 people.

Home communion was served to 4 people with the help of elder Connie Leuliette.

Pastor's Discretionary Fund 2021 -

MONTH	REQUESTS	COMPLETED	AMT PLEDGED	AMT DISBURSED
January	2	2	\$190	\$190
February	6	6	\$731.95	\$731.95
March	1	1	\$100	\$100
April	2	2	\$139.27	\$139.27
May	2	2	\$200.00	\$200.00
June	5	5	\$500	\$500
July	8	8	\$806.43	\$806.43
			Total	\$2667.65

We will have a work camp next summer. If you know of anyone who would be interested in coordinating this camp, please call the office at 304-622-6831.



Looking ahead: There will be a Winter Fest open house at the church. It is sponsored by the Clarksburg Visitor's Bureau. Winter Fest will kick off on Friday December 3rd. There will be a winter market at Jackson Square at 4 PM, a parade at 6, followed by a tree lighting with Santa at the green space across from the Huntington Bank. Participating churches will be able to show off their decorations and provide entertainment for visitors.



JOHN'S JOTTINGS

Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ... Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

(Romans 12:17, 21)

The war in the Holy Land seems to go on forever. Generation after generation, the Israelis and the Palestinians have killed each other. The hate and the bitterness grow and it seems like peace is impossible. That is why stories like this one that was published in "The Wired Word" for this week hit us so powerfully. If there is ever to be peace, it will be because of people like those in this story.

For her 50th birthday, Israeli Idit Harel Segal didn't want any presents. Instead, she wanted to give a gift to someone else. She finally decided to donate a kidney to give someone another chance at life.

Initially, Segal thought her kidney would go to a 54-year-old Jewish father of two, but it didn't work out. It turned out that she was a match for a 3-year-old child, which pleased her, because she is a preschool teacher. She was not deterred when she learned that the boy was from Gaza. "A kid is a kid is a kid," she said.

One of Segal's first preschool students, Oz, had become a soldier; he was killed seven years ago in battles in Gaza. Before she proceeded with the donation, she talked it over with Oz's father, Ofer, out of concern that her decision to donate a kidney to a Palestinian boy might cause him distress.

"[Oz is] your son," Segal said tearfully, "but I call him my child. I lost a child in [Gaza] ... , but on the other hand I'm giving life to a child [in Gaza]." Ofer cradled her in his arms and kissed her on the head.

"Just because my son was killed in Gaza doesn't mean I now hate the Palestinians and the Gazans," he whispered gently.

A day before the operation was scheduled, Segal's father called to wish her luck. Only then did she tell him the recipient of her kidney would be a Palestinian toddler from Gaza who had been born with a congenital kidney defect. He had required dialysis his whole short life.

"Well," Segal's father said, "he needs life, also."

It was a stunning admission, considering that her paternal grandparents had been killed by Palestinian terrorists in Jerusalem in 1948, leaving her father orphaned at the age of 1. Then in 2002, her father's adoptive uncle was killed in another terror attack in the capital.

The day of the surgeries, Segal met the boy and his family, whose names were withheld at their request. The boy's father told Segal that Israeli bombs had destroyed their home in May, rendering the family homeless. But he still went ahead with his decision to donate one of his own kidneys to Tal Ferguson, a 25-year-old Israeli mother of two. The operations all took place on June 16.

Segal brought gifts to the boy, caressed him, sang Hebrew lullabies to him and told him she loved him.

"You don't know me, but soon we'll be very close because my kidney will be in your body," Segal wrote to the boy, adding that she hoped he would live "a long and healthy and meaningful life."

The boy's condition was touch and go for a while, but eventually his condition stabilized. Segal's heart pounded the next time she visited him.

"In a way, he's like my kid," Segal asserted. "I've even got a mark to prove it. The big opening where they remove the kidney, it's like a C-section, like a birth."

Later, Segal met Ferguson, the woman who had received a kidney from the boy's father. Ferguson was amazed that he had given a part of himself "with no regard to religion, race, gender."

As Segal pondered the unlikely new relationships that were being forged between people who should have been enemies, she commented, "I threw away the anger and frustration and see only one thing. I see hope for peace and love. And if there will be more like us, there won't be anything to fight over."

"Not a day goes by that I'm not happy about saving the life of that sweet child," Segal reflected, happy that she saved a life. "What could be better than that?" she asked, flashing a sunny smile.

God bless the peacemakers and those whose love overcomes the hate of the world!

Hope and Confidence and Peace,

Pastor John

• If you find it in your heart to care for somebody else, you will have succeeded.

-Maya Angelou



Children's Moments

Sept 5-Dawn Woodburn
 Sept 12-Terra Burnett
 Sept 19-Janet Wilson
 Sept 26-Beckie Alvaro

Worship Leaders

Sept 5- Rev. James A. Harris
 Sept 12- Youth of the Church
 Sept 19- Janet Wilson
 Sept 26- Dawn Woodburn

Deacon Greeters

Sept 5-Loria Cavallo
 Sept 12-Courtney & Sandi Nuzum
 Sept 19-Amy Strange
 Sept. 26-Beckie Alvaro

Acolytes

Sept 5-Amelia & Kierra Harris
 Sept 12-Hannah Burnett & Gia Corsini
 Sept 19-Bradley Burnett & Anthony Corsini
 Sept 26-Bradley & Hannah Burnett



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Lisa Leiberling	September 1
Jeep Wilson	September 1
Dave Allman	September 2
Jackie Corsini	September 4
Jason Burnett	September 7
Ginger Delawder	September 10
Sara Mitchell	September 13
April Leuliette	September 14
Chip Corsini	September 16
Courtney Nuzum	September 18
Jeff Mitchell	September 22
Brian Nickerson	September 22
Robin Corsini	September 22
Treytin Tustin	September 25
Beckie Alvaro	September 27



Dates available for flowers in the reredos
 September 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th.