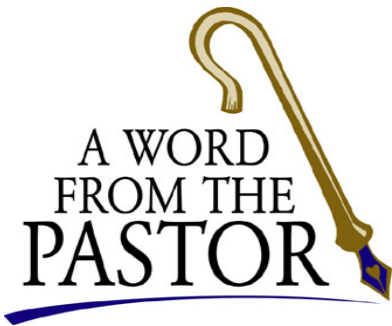


THE LISTENING POST

MAY 2024



I enjoy musicals. My spouse and I often joke that the world might be a little brighter if we just broke into random song every now and then, kind of like a musical. Although "Les Miserables" is a musical and not exactly bright and cheerful...but there's hope in it, and that's what matters. Anyway, one of the musicals I have always enjoyed is "RENT." We had tickets to see it live in Pittsburgh on April 1, 2018, but then I had a baby 3 months early, so I gave the tickets to someone who would be able to go and appreciate it.

If you've never seen it, "RENT" is loosely based on an opera called "La Boheme" from the late 19th century. It was written by Jonathan Larson and takes place in NYC in the early 1980s, focusing on a group of artist friends and acquaintances trying to make a life for themselves in the midst of also dealing with poverty and the burgeoning HIV/AIDS crisis. The opening song, "Seasons of Love," gives a preview of what you are about to witness in the performance:

Five hundred twenty-five thousand, six hundred
minutes
Five hundred twenty-five thousand moments so
dear

Five hundred twenty-five thousand, six hundred
minutes
How do you measure, measure a year...
...How about love?

This song has been rolling around in my head lately (along with the new Taylor Swift album, obviously.) How does one measure a year? Love seems a perfect way to do so.

I've been preaching through the letter of First John as we've moved in this Eastertide and approaching Pentecost, and the letter is all about love. With beautiful reminders to the followers of Jesus Christ that "perfect love casts out fear (1 John 4:18)", "we love because God loved us first (4:19)", "if anyone obeys God's word, love for God is made completely in them (2:5)," to name a few, it is clear to us that love is at the forefront of God's mind, and should therefore be at the forefront of our own. But how does one measure a year in terms of love? And should we keep score at all?

No, I don't believe we should keep score. Goodness knows that if God kept score, we'd all be in negative digits at this point with no hope to move onward and upward. But God doesn't keep score. God doesn't give us love in equal measure to what we put out. God gives us love abundantly and beyond our wildest dreams. But if we consider the ways in which we have seen love, shown love, been recipients of love, have individuals that we love, I'm sure our lists would include things like the following: making or delivering a meal to a friend in need, running carpool for a week for your neighbors, attending a hard doctor visit with someone, sending a card of appreciation, welcoming your new pastor and her family as if they've always been a part of you, including all who attend an event or party to the best of your ability, a hug, a comforting hand on the shoulder, meeting with someone to discuss and resolve disagreements, sharing a good book or movie, and the list goes on and on.

If I were to measure what has been one year since first meeting the individuals who served on the PNC of AUPC and BSPC, I would certainly measure that year in love. All 525,600 minutes.

-Pastor Niki



- 2 Shannon Pruss
- 4 Shannon Ebner, Kaitlin Thompson
- 5 Pastor Niki
- 7 Macie Arnoldy, Shawn Hilty
- 9 Amy Zukas
- 14 Lindsay Coulter
- 16 Kathy Heller
- 18 Caleb Flickinger, Dave Truffa
- 20 Nancie Allen, Nancy Curci
- 21 Rose Bush, Braden Chetsko, Nancy Joyce
- 22 Barb Hurley

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Nursery is available to parents. Young children may attend during worship.

Sunday school classes are held on the 2nd floor of the Christian Ed building shortly after 11 am each Sunday. Classes are determined by age. Our volunteer teachers have all required clearances and are anxious to introduce or continue to teach your child about Jesus. The children participate in plays 2 times per year and sometimes attend special activities in the sanctuary. If you or someone you know would like to have a child participate, call the church office at 724.478.4807.



YOUTH GROUP

This group is a Bible-based group for all youth ages Middle School, Junior High, and High School up to 18. Activities and field trips will be planned throughout the year. Service projects will be done periodically and the group will be in charge of at least one Worship Service during the year. As the teens are not funded by the church, sanctioned fund raisers will also be planned. Group will meet the 1st and 3rd Mondays at 6:30 PM.



YOUTH GROUP ANNUAL LOCK-IN
Friday, May 17 ~ 7:00 PM to 8:00 AM
 Kids 12 to 18 are invited and encouraged to bring a friend to this event. Snacks, games, conversation and FUN with little sleep will be the theme.

GRADUATION SUNDAY

On Sunday, May 19, AUPC will continue its tradition of honoring the year's graduates. Listed below are those who will be shaping not only their futures, but ours as well. Please join us in congratulating these students and their accomplishments as we pray for continued success for each of them.

ALEX DUNMIRE – Apollo-Ridge High School

BRENNA KNOX – Apollo-Ridge High School

DECLAN McMANUS –Kiski Area High School

SARAH PEACE – Clarion University

KLOEY PETERSON - IUP

TATIANA RICHARDS – Kittanning Beauty Academy

BENNETT ZUKAS – Kiski Area High School

MISSION

Local Mission Happenings...



- ✓ Remember to pass along the message while you DO the mission. Meals-on-Wheels (412-400-0975) – drivers, cooks, prep people daily on M – W – F.

St. Vincent de Paul (724-478-1113) M-Sat

Food bank opportunities:

- May 3 (Fri) Westmoreland County Food Bank – 7:45 AM – St. James Catholic Church Activity Center (behind the Church)
- May 20 (Mon), Apollo-Ridge Food Bank (packaging) – 8:00 AM – Glenn Bush Ford, right side, around back
- May 22 (Wed), Apollo-Ridge Food Bank (distribution) volunteers at 7:30 – 8:00 AM - public at 8:00 AM – Glenn Bush Ford (see above)



We're not quite penniless, but we're almost centsless and we have a counting and rolling day planned for Sunday, May 5 after worship! **We're enticing**

you to help count with PIZZA!!

HELP!! We're still trying to collect a mile of pennies for Havin. Please add your 2 cents to this project so we can continue "rolling" this project along. And, to "coin" a phrase, "a penny saved is a penny earned", but a mile of pennies does some saving.

Thank you, Christian Ed



Community Compassion

March: Food - No requests

Financial - 3 families helped (Rent \$300;

Utilities \$351.91 = \$651.91

April (as of 4/23): Food - 1 family

Financial - 3 families (Rent \$275; Utilities \$300;
Car Repair \$200 = \$775)



Our current enrollment is 83 kids. Our next and final packing day of this school year is Wednesday, May 15 at 3:00 p.m. A big thank you to all who contributed to the offerings during the Lenten Luncheons that were designated for the Food 4 Kids program. It is greatly appreciated!

CLEAN ~ UP BUCKETS

When introducing this important mission project a while back, it wasn't realized just how overwhelming it all seemed!! We provided what seemed to be an endless list of supplies for the buckets and most people thought "How can I purchase all those items?"

So On to plan "B"! **These much needed buckets, that will remain local, will be "filled" by the month.** Each month 2 items will be requested for the buckets. Everyone donating will be buying the same 2 items. The next month two more items on the list will be selected, and so on, until by November, the bucket(s) will be full. Local tragedies occur with no schedule and no warning. Our schedule will have assistance ready for the unexpected. We will be providing a small gesture that will make an enormous impact to those trying to recover from the unexpected.

April's Items: 1 scrub brush & 1 4-oz. pump air freshener.

May's Items: 1 pkg of 36-50 clothespins and 1 50-100ft. clothesline (cotton or plastic)

**COME ON DON'T LEAVE OUR
BUCKETS HALF FULL!**

MEMBERSHIP & OUTREACH



Join us for the next Fellowship reception after worship on Sunday, May 12, Mother's Day and Sunday, May 19, Pentecost/Graduation Sunday.



The new Church Directories will be here soon!! There is no cost to members for a directory, however, if you would like to make a small donation to help defray the church's cost, that would be much appreciated. Simply use the "other" line on your giving envelope and write in "directory".
Thank You!



KIDS KRAFTS

Kids Krafts on Friday nights @ 6:30 PM
Always the 2nd Friday of each month.
CHANGE: May 3, 1st Friday for the month of May only.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

If you're looking for unique cards for any occasion, please check out the variety available in the vestibule made by our own Craft Ladies. Cost is 3 for \$2 or \$.75 each



STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE

WHERE WE STAND at the END of MARCH 2024

March Income: \$11,724.52
March Expenses: \$14,490.34
March Income to Expenses: \$-2747.82

YTD Income: \$35,779.02
YTD Expenses: \$40,515.08

YTD Income to Expenses: -\$4,736.06



Update on the Spaghetti Dinner: Wanted to let you all know that the dinner netted in excess of \$1,100 for our general fund!

We were somewhat hampered by pouring rain on the day of the dinner, but things went smoothly and everyone worked hard doing their jobs to aid the cause. A big "thank you" to all who helped, all who brought desserts, all who attended, and all who recruited attendees! A special "thank you" goes out to Jonathan Coulter from Le Cafe, who donated all the food (except desserts) and who brought his own staff to man the kitchen! Jon wants to do it again in the Fall. So, we'll get another date on the church calendar ASAP!

Thanks again, everyone! Amy Shupe



DONATIONS OF GENTLY USED ITEMS MAY BE TAKEN TO THE CHURCH AT ANY TIME NOW. ITEMS SHOULD BE PLACED ON THE STAGE DOWNSTAIRS

PW Quarterly Meeting –

Saturday, June 1 @ 9 AM

Regular Meeting



WORSHIP AND MUSIC



SUNDAYS 11:00 AM
Join us in person or live on
Facebook.

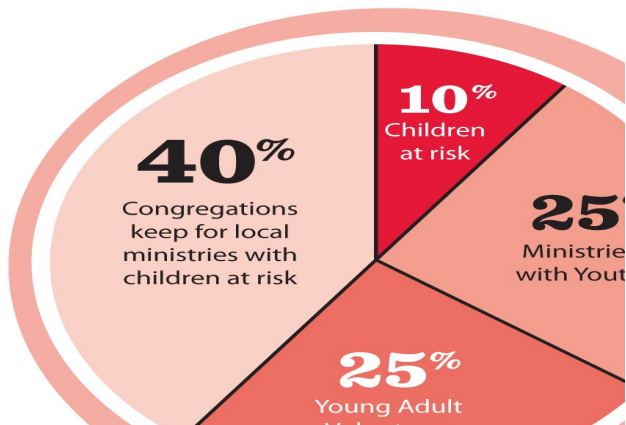


Schedule: Sunday, May 5

Attention All Acolytes: If you have an interest in being an acolyte throughout the summer months, please see Miss Shelly or sign up on the sheet in the vestibule.

PENTECOST Sunday

A gift to the Pentecost Offering helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people, and also address the needs of at-risk children. 40% of the Pentecost offering can be retained by individual congregations wanting to make an impact in the lives of young people within their own community. The remaining 60% is used to support ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency.



This offering is appropriately received at Pentecost, just as the church is remembering the coming of the Holy Spirit with its wondrous animating activity in the life of the church. The children and youth who benefit from these gifts are themselves an animating presence in the church of today. Therefore it is also appropriate that on this day of Pentecost we will be **recognizing our 2024 Graduates**, and thanking the youth who have served the church with their time and talents throughout the past year.

Join us on May 19 as we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit by **wearing RED**, reminiscent of the tongues of fire.

Prayer List! How it works: Please list prayer concerns on the back of the attendance card found in your bulletin. We will place these names on our "Immediate" prayer list for three weeks. The *newest names will appear in italics*. On the third week we will **'bold' the name**. The prayers of concern will then move to the "Continuing" list and will remain there three more weeks and then rotate off, unless otherwise requested. If you don't see a name that had previously been there and that person still requires prayer, please list the name again. Also, please list spelling corrections, if needed. **IF WANTING TO ADD NAMES TO THE BELOW LIST DURING THE WEEK, PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE.**

IMMEDIATE Sarah, Michael Ost, Family of Jim Crawford, Bill and Shirley Mumaw, Israelis, family dance joy!, Eric, Jodi Smoyer, Heather, Mary Harbison family, Debbie, Curt Cyberling, Christine, Joe, Kim Liska, Joe Suain, **Geoff Atkinson, Family of Kayla Green, family of Marge Bernat, family of Judy Herstek.**

CONTINUING Kiski Musical joy, Chester Ferracio family, Niki's father (David Brodeur), Marilyn Repasky, Kirk Siverling, Cindy, Linda's shoulder, Butch and Donna Schrecengost, Clarissa Dill Family, Joelene, Family and friends of Jane Perkins, 8-yr-old John, Kim Altmire, Tim Kanish. Sam Deliek, Candy Graham and family, Bill Schriber family, Cathy Piper-Bikle, **Chelsea, Nancy Campitella, Cathy, family of Dorothy Hancock, Eddie, Scott and Nancy Hubbard, Matt.**

ONGOING Donnie Riggle, Gary Harkcom, Donna Fry, Matt Summerhill, Bill & Linda Crabtree, Frank Kovak, Josh Hanus, Shannon Pruss, LaRue Mumaw, Chris Hilker, Carol Gallagher, Linda Gould, Snedecor family, Alan Shockey, Bonnie Machak, Lani Knox, Nick Arnoldy, Benjamin Mumaw, Sean George.

MINISTRY All those affected by the Coronavirus and those working in the health care field, first responders, research, and government. Food 4 Kids, AUPC Deacon's Emergency Fund, Support for our church, EPR Mugombwa; Victims of violence and natural disasters; President Joe Biden, our country, other world leaders, our church and its leaders, the war & military personnel, wounded military at home and in hospitals, terrorist victims, Kiskiminetas' Rwanda Partnership.



