

The First Presbyterian Church of Murrysville, PA

Newsletter, May, June 2024

A note from our Pastor...

Summer time, and the livin' is easy.....

I was first introduced to the words of this Gershwin piece back in the late 1970's. Studying music at the Frick School with Pittsburgh's Centers for the musically talented, we were introduced to the genre of opera and first offering that we had to learn was Porgie and Bess. Time has erased many of the details of that score from my feeble memory, but that ballad – "Summertime" remains a strong and clear reminder of my past. Perhaps it is because it stands as a perfect description about what Summer stands for and how we should embrace it.

Gershwin writes that, "Summertime, the livin' is easy". Whether you are a fan of his music or not, this instruction should not go unheeded. In fact, it parallels a similar admonition from a much more respected composer with a far more impressive set of credentials. David writes in the Psalms, "Be still and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10). Be still. Take it easy. Relax. Take some time to enjoy the world that God has created.

It has been an incredibly productive year at First Presbyterian Church of Murrysville. We have initiated new programs. Forged new partnerships. Deepened relationships with one another and the community. Made significant improvements and upgrades to our physical plant. Welcomed new members and friends and gracefully provided pastoral care to those in need. We have also maintained our high level of programming in our existing ministries. Thankfully, through the power of the Holy Spirit, we have not missed a beat.

However, it has, at times, been exhausting. One look at the Church Calendar in the office on any given day would reveal that our plate is terribly full and things can be a bit overwhelming. We are grateful to the many committed individuals that make our ministry at First Presbyterian Church possible and are thankful for all of their hard work and dedication. But for now, I have some wonderful news for you all.

It's Summertime! Let the livin' be easy. At least for a few short months. The program year will be upon us quicker than you realize. Calendars will be full once more. So, for now, enjoy some much deserved downtime. Travel. Visit with friends. Tend you r gardens. Sip some lemonade on the back porch. Do what is necessary to renew your spirit and restore your soul. In the words of the Psalmist, "Be Still." Bask in the beauty of God's creation. Know that he is Lord. Take joy in the life that has been given to you.

Live easy, my friends. Have a wonderful summer!

Blessings,

Rev. Ed

🎵 NOTES FROM OUR DIRECTOR OF MUSIC 🎵

“Sing to him a new song; play skillfully, and shout for joy.” (Psalm 33:3)

On Sunday, June 9, we had an exciting time of worship as we celebrated the many talented and skilled musicians who graciously help to lead the music for our services throughout the year. A joyous program of Scripture readings, hymns, anthems, bell anthems, keyboard and guitar artistry brought blessings to all who were present for the combined service. We are very grateful for the willingness of all our volunteers to serve our Lord with the abilities they have been given and the hard work they have done in honing their craft.

We are blessed with talented and skilled musicians who will provide music for our 11:00 a.m. worship services this summer as well. Choir members, instrumentalists and guests will enhance our music ministry. One such group is the Penn-Trafford Flute Choir who will be with us on Sunday, July 7 at 11:00 a.m. Mark your calendar and be present for this beautiful offering of sacred music.

Thank you to each and every one who contributes to the enrichment of our worship and enables us to glorify God in a greater way through our music. It is an honor and privilege to serve alongside such a talented and dedicated group.

Murrysville Presbyterian Preschool (MPP)....



School is out for summer! Students enjoyed end of the year programs and activities including graduation, picnics, and beach day. The staff removed everything from the storage area in preparation for an insulation project to secure the area. The committee and staff will take a welcome break and use the time to prepare for the next fully-enrolled school year.

Tag Sale

The Tag Sale was a great success! It raised almost \$8,000 that will support the Mission work of
THANK YOU to all volunteers that make successful. It takes from volunteers to sale and rest assured does not go the church and from **GREAT JOB!!**



the church. A huge of the dozens of the Tag Sale so hundreds of man-hours support this historic that all of that work unnoticed, from within the community.

Looking Ahead

May 25-June 30, MPP Cleaned-out the storage area. It will have insulation installed in mid-June then put back together again to make ready for the Pine Springs Day Camp in July and the new school year in September.



Music Celebration Sunday at 10:00 a.m. on June 9. This service celebrated the volunteers who help our congregation glorify God through music each week.

Fun & Fellowship Game Night at 5:00 p.m., Saturday, June 30. There will be outdoor games there or you may bring an indoor game. Pizza, pop and water will be provided. Please bring a dessert to share.

The Penn-Trafford Flute Choir will be at the 11:00 a.m. worship service on July 7

Pine Springs Day Camp will be held at our Campus Monday, July 22 through Friday, July 26. The call is out for volunteers to help with Pine Springs Counselors to set-up, help with snacks, lunch, Electives, games and Camper pick-up.



Deacons and Session

The Deacons and The Session are on hiatus until the end of the summer. If a need arises that may require the Session or the Deacons, please bring the issue to a member of Deacons or Session, Rev. Gray, Carolyn Krudwig, or the church office, where the item/topic will be passed along to the relevant person/people.

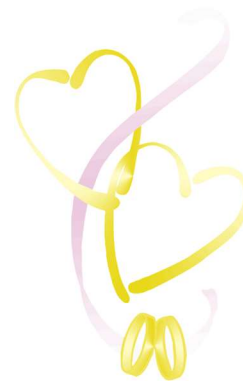
May and June Birthdays

John Manno	May 1	Barb Wilson	June 4
Chad Show	May 3	Jonathan Belak	June 5
Gerry Bogdon	May 6	Rand Hudson, Sr	June 6
Daniel Freyer	May 9	Hope Meyers	June 12
Carol Hill	May 13	Rev. Chuck MacPherson	June 21
Ben Stephens	May 15	Peter Klein	June 26
Abigail Ramaley	May 15		
Edward Little	May 18		
Mary Holtz	May 19		
Bobbie Stander	May 21		
Melinda MacPherson	May 24		
David Krudwig	May 24		
Stacie Curry	May 28		
Sarah Channell	May 30		
William Vance	May 31		



May and June Anniversaries

Kim and Bruce Stephens	May 29
Beth and Gerry Bogdon	June 6
Misty and Chad Show	June 8
Wil and Martha Gangloff	June 13
Larry and Nancy Podey	June 17
Ken and Nannette Nutter	June 18
Bob and Betty Lou Lamers	June 22
Michael and Laurie Bellavia	June 26
Rev. Ed and Karen Gray	June 28



Happy Summer, Happy PSDC!