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The GLEANER

May, 2018

The McConnellsburg United Presbyterian Church
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“Pray For Unity”

Most of you are aware that the National Day of Prayer 2018 is observed Thursday, May 3rd. As indicated in a recent bulletin note, this year’s theme is “Unity.” It should also be noted that Saturday, May 19th, is Armed Forces Day, a day set aside each year to honor those who serve in the Armed Forces to preserve and protect our Nation’s freedoms; and Monday, May 28th, is Memorial Day, a day set aside to remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice of their lives in service to our Nation to preserve and protect our freedoms.

It is a source of tremendous personal sadness that our Nation is so deeply divided over matters of religion, race and ethnicity, sexuality, politics, and more! We claim to be “One Nation Under God” yet, in reality, we are consumed with constant in-fighting. Of course, this is nothing new. Our first President, George Washington, who served from 1789 to 1796, sought to unite the nation and establish the authority of our new government. He kept a prayer journal, and his daily prayer included: “Almighty God, we make our earnest prayer that You will keep the United States in Your holy protection; that You will incline the hearts of the citizens to entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another and for their fellow citizens . . . and that You will most graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy, and to conduct ourselves with that charity, humility, love and peace which were the characteristics of the Divine Author of our blessed religion . . .” April 30th, 1863, during our tragic Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln declared a National Day of Prayer and Fasting with these words: “We have been recipients of the choicest bounties of Heaven . . . but we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace, and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us; and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us: It behooves us, then, to humble ourselves before the offended Power, to confess our national sins, and to pray for clemency and forgiveness.”

Cont.

In one of his final recorded prayers, Jesus prayed for all future disciples: “that all of them may be one, as we [God, the Father and Son] are one . . . that they may be brought to complete unity . . . that the love you have for me may be in them” (John 17:20-26). Jesus taught, “Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called the children of God” (Matthew 5:9). The Apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthians, “God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ . . . and he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.” I have said it before already, but the church should be at the forefront of the work to promote unity – peace, reconciliation, and love (respect for one another as individuals created in the image of God) - in our Nation, as Christ’s Ambassadors.

Yes, we need to pray for unity - in our families, in our churches, in our communities and in our Nation - and for God’s help to promote it in all of our relationships – being good listeners, caring and compassionate – “denying *self*, pursuing God’s will for our lives, and following Jesus.” (Luke 9:23)

- Pastor Dale



Prayer Concerns: Please be in prayer for those listed below and their families: **Short Term:** Family of Carolyn Kneas, C.J. Rhodes, Roxanna Mellott, Janet McGinnis, Charlotte Fowler, & PNC. **Long Term:** Chas Howells, Ella Spriggs, Audrey Mitchell, Esther Webb (Bill Warthin's sister), & Chuck Wissinger (friend of Bill & Janet McGinnis)

Looking Forward:

Worship service time for the summer will return to 10:00am on June 3rd.
Service and picnic at Cowans Gap State Park, June 10th.
Annual service at White Church, Union Cemetery, June 17th.



- 3-Carolyn Kerlin
- 7-Doug Brown
- 8-Ella Spriggs
- 9-Ricki Winegardner
- 11-Megan Williams
- 12-Gary Ankney
Brynlee Parson
- 15-Betty Gail Faunce
- 17-LeeAnne Kendall
- 19-Ander Gregory
- 21-Eric Leese
- 22-Faye Elvey
Panya Peck
Olivia Reed
- 26-Hannah Hilliker
- 28-Weylin Mitchell
Benjamin Behan
- 30-Mary Ott
- 31-Janet Gordon



Congratulations to Carolyn & Stanley Kerlin on the birth of their new grandson, Nolan Gerald Kerlin born on April 13, 2018.

Congratulations to Brittany & Daryl Mitchell on the birth of their daughter, Kyzley Doris Mitchell born on March 2, 2018.

Congratulations to Sarah & Andy Cutchall on the birth of their daughter, Madilynn Cutchall, born on March 24, 2018.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' MEETING

April 3, 2018

Our meeting was opened and closed with prayer by Connie. All were present except Sandy who was visiting family. Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 1. We are trying to keep our facilities safe, clean and attractive.

New 10 year smoke/fire detectors are being installed.

The AED unit has been installed by the upstairs elevator door. If you need to use it, open the unit and it will tell you what to do.

We are still working to make our sanctuary better lighted.

Some of the plantings in front of our buildings have been removed and will soon be updated.

The Fellowship House chimney and gutter is being repaired and all of our used chimneys are being capped to keep out critters.

The stairs to the fire company will be rebuilt soon.

We are establishing a way for future Trustees to know what was accomplished and by whom.

Some items no longer being used were set out for bulk cleanup.

Thank Darren Mellott of Citgo for cleaning our parking areas along the street.

Thank Ryan Earley and his crew for painting our sanctuary.

We continue to work on our "To Do" list to make our facilities more satisfying and useful.

If you see things that need to be done, please let one of us know.

Ron Mitchell, secretary

Session



April 18, 2018

Session met for their stated April 18, 2018 meeting in the Fellowship House with elders Tim Drover, Al Clark, LeeAnne Kendall, Donna Ankney, Wes Howells,

Carolyn Kerlin, and the moderator, Rev. Dale Williams. Absent and excused was elder Ken Keebaugh. The meeting was opened at 6:30 with devotions and prayer by elder Drover. The meeting agenda was approved as well as the minutes of the February 21, 2018 stated Session meeting. There was no meeting in March due to bad weather. The average attendance for the month of February was 58. Soup night was very well attended this year. Attendance at the Ash Wednesday service was 35. Average attendance for the month of March was 68. Forty one attended the Maundy Thursday service and received communion. Pastor Williams mentioned that May 3 is National Day of Prayer. He will be organizing a 10 day trip, The Footsteps of Paul in March 2019. More later. Ben Faunce passed away on February 19, 2018. Anne Howard passed away on February 23, 2018. Elders Kendall and Howells gave a brief update on the progress of the PNC. Elder Howells reported that the video to highlight our church will soon be ready for review. A request by the girl scouts to use the fellowship hall for a tea was retroactively approved. Elder Clark will attend a meeting at which the Boy Scouts will discuss whether girls should be able to join boy scouts. He will report on this at the next meeting. Elder Drover, financial chair gave the report of finances for the month of March. Elder Clark chair of the fellowship committee reported that the committee just wrapped up soup night, provided the Maundy Thursday meal, and will begin planning for the picnic. They will also provide ice cream after church on June 3 after the viewing of the video. Dates for summer schedule, picnic, and service at white church were approved. The picnic will be held on June 10 at Cowan's Gap with worship at 10:00. The summer worship hour of 10:00 will start on June 3 and continue through September 2. We will go

back to 9:30 Sunday school and 11:00 worship on September 9, 2018. The service at white church will be held on June 17. Elder Drover will let the trustees know that they need to communicate to the custodian the importance of keeping the restrooms stocked with paper and towels, and also to keep paper towels in the kitchen. We approved a request by the trustees to install a chimney liner in the flu at the fellowship house, and install caps on the flu at the church and fellowship house. We decided that installing AC units for the church basement is not a priority at this time. Rev. Williams is not able to moderate the meeting on May 16, so the May meeting will be May 9. The July meeting will be held at the home of Rev. Williams on July 18 at 6:00. If the way be clear, Elder Donna Ankney will be commissioner to the special Presbytery meeting on April 24 at Camp Hill Presbyterian Church. If we don't have a pastor by September, we will make a decision about whether to form a task force to discuss future repairs to the church properties. New Prayer partners were assigned. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 with prayer by the moderator.



April 11, 2018

The April 11, 2018 meeting of the Presbyterian Women was opened with scripture from Psalms and prayer by moderator Carolyn Kneas. Eight ladies were present. Special prayers for Kenny and Ella Spriggs, Faunce family, Bernice Stewart, Charlotte Fowler, Barb Leese, Martha Seville, Harvey Kneas, Ellen Garrison family, Tammy Metz, Audrey Mitchell, Nolan Heronimus, Howard family, and all in need of his healing touch. The minutes of the March meeting were read. The treasurer's report was given by Marion Walker. The March offering was \$80.00 leaving a balance of \$194.77. Carolyn read correspondence from Mission of the Good Shepherd in Belize. Marion reported that she visited with Freda Cromer and that she is doing well. She then turned the program over to Becky Drover who presented a program, "Who is Jesus"? She generalized differences when seeing Jesus. We all see things differently. We all see Jesus differently. Each of us said one thing about Jesus that we would tell a child about him. She also pointed out that the Christmas story is different in the four gospels. Thank you Becky for another interesting and informative program.

Refreshments were prepared by Carolyn Kneas and served by Carolyn, LeeAnne, and Mary.

The next meeting will be on May 9, 2018 at the Fellowship house. Noreen Mann will present a program on Women of the Bible. Joyce Hornberger and Barb MacDonald will serve as hostesses.



April 4, 2018

Present: Patty Rhodes, Nancy Bivens, Barb MacDonald, April Leese, Stanley Kerlin
Absent: Laura Metcalfe
Opened in prayer
March minutes approved.

Benevolence

Love's Closet - \$100.00
Wounded Warriors - \$500.00 (local project)
Hope Outreach Ministries - \$500.00
Our Daily Bread - \$200.00
Hands and Feet of Hope - \$1000.00

Business

Flowers were delivered to shut-ins by deacons.
Prayer list updated.

Next meeting May 2 at 7.
Closed in prayer.

GLEANER DEADLINE for the June issue is May 28, 2018. Please submit your information by 10 AM that day. If you can't email it, feel free to call or lay a hand written document on the secretary's desk.



May Lectionary Readings

Week of May 6

6th Sunday of Easter

Acts 10: 44-48
Psalm 98
1 John 5: 1-6
John 15: 9-17

Week of May 13

7th Sunday of Easter

Acts 1: 15-17, 21-26
Psalm 1
1 John 5: 9-13
John 17: 6-19

Week of May 20

Day of Pentecost

Communion

Acts 2: 1-21 or Ezekiel 37: 1-14
Psalm 104: 24-34, 35b
Romans 8: 22-27 or Acts 2: 1-21
John 15: 26-27
John 16: 4b-15

Week of May 27

Trinity Sunday

Isaiah 6: 1-8
Psalm 29
Romans 8: 12-17
John 3: 1-17



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