

The Gleaner

Piedmont Presbyterian Church, Piedmont, WV

God Is In Control*

The Lord be with you.

No matter what we do and how much we think it's up to us what happens in our church and the church's work in our neighborhoods, it is God who working ahead of everything. What this means is that all of the Jesus-centered things we are doing should not be church-centered. What is happening in the neighborhood is not about us. So, going forward with the work of the church starts first with discerning what God is already doing in here and out there.

We see in the biblical narrative that we aren't the authors of the practices we embrace so warmly within the church. These come from God and are discovered, just as Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, and the first disciples did, when we see what God is doing in the neighborhood. In God's story we find narratives of calling, narratives of deliverance, narratives of going out and sending, and narratives of new life in the face of trouble and decline.

The church is all about the kingdom of God but the work of God goes beyond the church. Our God is the sending God who is revealed in the incarnation of Jesus Christ who was sent for the salvation of God's creation. God, in Jesus Christ, is participating in the world and the church is called to participate in the work of God in the world—the mission of God.

This means that everything we do at Piedmont Presbyterian Church is to be shaped by what God is already doing in the Tri-Towns, as well as the broader society and culture and global realities. We are all disciples and so are called to first listen to what God is up to in these contexts. It comes down to Christ's commission for us go out and make disciples not necessarily church members. The challenge for us is to find out what this looks like. Since this begins with God, we won't find it in church programs or how-to books. We find it when we reduce the clutter of church institutions and travel lightly, following Jesus out into the neighborhood.

May God bless our travels.

Tom

* Words of wisdom from Roxburgh, Alan J. *Joining God, Remaking Church, and Changing the World*. New York: Morehouse Publishing, 2015.

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Please see our website for individual contact information including session members, committee chairs, and music leaders.

This will be the last printed version of The Gleaner. Please see www.piedmontpresby.org and the weekly bulletin for information.

Dates to Remember

October 2

Holy Communion (World Communion Sunday)

October 11

Presbyterian Women Meeting

November 15

Presbyterian Women Meeting

November 20

Holy Communion (Christ the King Sunday)

November 22

Decorate the Church for Christmas

November 27

First Sunday of Advent

Lights of Love Christmas Concert 5 PM

December 11

Christmas Dinner after Worship

Santa Visits

December 24 - 6 PM

Christmas Eve Service with Holy Communion

December 25

Sunday School and Worship

WORSHIP SERVERS

Thank you so much for giving your time and effort in the life and work of the church! Please see Sandra or Francy to help fill in the blanks!

Counters

October 2 Debbie & Mike Hartman
October 9 Kathy & Mike Boyce
October 16 Sandra Chilcote & Andy Grady
October 23 Erma Landis & Andi Grady
October 30 Denise & Darlene Spitzer
November 6 Debbie & Mike Hartman
November 13 Kathy & Mike Boyce
November 20 Sandra Chilcote & Erma Landis
November 27 Erma Landis & Andy Grady
December 4 Denise & Darlene Spitzer
December 11 Debbie & Mike Hartman
December 18 Kathy & Mike Boyce
December 25 Sandra Chilcote & Andi Grady

Ushers and Greeters

October 2 Aggie and Phil Carnell
October 9 Cindy and Eddie Scheermesser
October 16 Debbie and Mike Hartman
October 23 Debbie and Steve Hartman
October 30 Jack Brandlen and Andi Grady
November 6 Aggie and Phil Carnell
November 13 Kathy and Mike Boyce
November 20 Andi Grady and Buck Knott
November 27 Maxine Groves and Frances Becker
December 4 Cindy and Eddie Scheermesser
December 11 Debbie and Mike Hartman
December 18 Kathy and Mike Boyce
December 24 Debbie and Steve Scheermesser
December 25 Andi Grady and Buck Knott

Liturgists

October 2 Jeanne Thrasher
October 9
October 16 Kermit Becker
October 23 Lori Evans
October 30 Laurie Groves
November 6 Jeanne Thrasher
November 13 Francy Becker
November 20 Lori Evans
November 27 Laurie Groves
December 4 Jeanne Thrasher
December 11 Francy Becker
December 18
December 24 Lori Evans
December 25

Children's Time Leaders

October 2 Jeanne Thrasher
October 9 Tom Forbes
October 16 Francy Becker
October 23 Lori Evans
October 30 Kermit Becker
November 6 Jeanne Thrasher
November 13 Tom Forbes
November 20 Lori Evans
November 27
December 4 Jeanne Thrasher
December 11 Tom Forbes
December 18
December 24 Lori Evans
December 25

News & Notes

Thank you for your generosity in supporting the Tri-Towns CROP Walk Sept. 25. You are helping to lessen hunger around the world and in our community!

The annual Lights of Love Christmas Concert will be held on Sunday, November 27 at 5 PM. It is a wonderful time of celebration and inspiration to commemorate our Savior's birth and the life of our church. Please come and enjoy! Thank you to everyone who organizes, participates, attends, and prepares the food

Thank you to all of our teachers and music leaders in the church. We had a nice service commissioning these folks for service in the next year.

Our Christmas Eve service will be at 6 PM this year. Come and be blessed!



October 2 – John Michael Hartman
October 3 – Lori Evans
October 14 – Kathy Boyce
October 14 – Gloria Harrell-Cook
October 15 – Jade Greenwald
October 16 – Laurie Groves
October 21 – Kathryn Harvey
October 23 – Ryan Albright
October 23 – Brittany Chojar

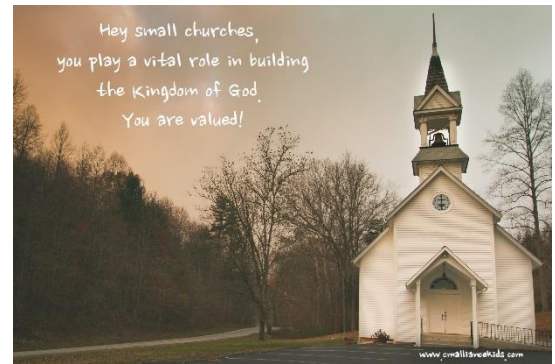
October 25 – Andrew Bostic
October 26 – Lauren Cook
November 9 – Shawn Groves
November 9 – Marissa Tranum
November 14 – Autumn Albright
November 14 – Christopher Hartman
November 16 – Kermit Becker
November 16 – Kim Matthews
November 17 – Tom Forbes

November 23 – Mike Boyce
November 26 – Theresa Shay
December 1 – Mayleah Tranum
December 4 – Andi Grady
December 4 – Cindy Butler
December 21 – Debbie Hartman



Please check the prayer bulletin board in the fellowship hall as well as weekly prayer requests shared in church.

In light of Hurricane Hermine, Roy Harrell, a pastor in Bethany Beach, DE was considering why God would allow storms on what is typically their most attended Sunday services on the beach: July 4th and Labor Day weekend. Here's his response to these questions: "I confess I don't know the answer for sure. But God seemed to remind me today of the feeding of the five thousand in Matthew 14. Afterwards it says that Jesus had the disciples send away the great crowds, and made the disciples get into a boat and go out on the lake at night in the midst of a fierce storm. Just doesn't make sense according to most ministry models. Send away the large crowds, and then send the disciples out to row against fierce wind and waves all night. Why?



The only answer the gospels give us is that they came to know Christ better through the storm than through the adulation of the multitude. Jesus showed up in a way that brought His disciples to a greater maturity and faith, so they might learn that they could trust Him to be with them in the storms that would come later after He had ascended into heaven.

So as this storm approaches, I pray that we too might persevere through it, and trust the Lord to show up in it, and through it bring us to greater faith, that we might do greater works than what we might have accomplished through sunny skies and large crowds."

Remember those thoughts! God works in and through our people and our (small) church!



If you're not already worshipping with us in person, please stop by. We'd love to celebrate with you, pray with you, and welcome you. You can always join us online at www.piedmontpresby.org. Sermons are streamed live each Sunday starting at about 11:00 A.M.

“Even now,” declares the Lord, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning. Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity.” Joel 2: 12-13

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