

The Gleaner

Piedmont Presbyterian Church, Piedmont, WV

The Lord be with you!

This past week I had a chaplain visit with a couple at the hospital. She was recuperating from knee replacement surgery earlier that day. He was ministering to her. As I sat down with them I asked what they would like to talk about. She said, "Oh, tell me something encouraging." In this Easter season I think that is what we all need—Spirit-fueled encouragement.

That morning I was in class listening to a rather dull video-taped lecture on family systems. At the end, the professor gave his perspective on systemic anxiety which I found fascinating. He said that since the end of World War II our world has been getting smaller. We are being compressed. There are more and more people in the world. New technology means that we have unprecedented access to the whole world—and they have access to us. We are being exposed to many and varied cultures and ideologies. We are being bombarded by media and advertising so that, as the philosopher Jagger says, "I can't get no satisfaction." The institutions in which we have traditionally built our security are proving erratic and unreliable. As the world squeezes in around us, our anxiety grows. Relationships are strained as people focus down on protecting "me and mine." Trust is eroded. Society becomes concerned with rights and entitlement over responsibility.

This professor may or may not be right. I don't know. But let's think about this. At Easter we celebrate the single most significant event in history, the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Through his resurrection we have the assurance of hope for our own resurrection. Eternity in the kingdom of heaven has been opened to us. We are in the eternal kingdom today but we experience it only partly. Soon, we will see Christ perfectly and be perfected in him. Against the contraction of the world, we are together being expanded, surging upward toward God and outward toward other people—the people God puts in our path—with love.

How's that for encouragement?

Blessings,

Tom

Contact Information:

Piedmont Presbyterian Church

Website:

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Address: 63 Ashfield Street
Piedmont, WV 26750

Pastor Tom Forbes

Email: pastor@piedmontpresby.org

Phone: 304 707 1864

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

Dates to Remember

- ~ Sundays 9:45 AM *Sunday School*
- ~ Sundays 11:00 AM *Worship*
- ~ Wednesdays 6:30 PM *Choir Rehearsal*
 - ~ 2nd Tuesday 10:00 AM
Presbyterian Women Meeting
 - ~ 2nd Saturday Noon
Church Women of the Tri-Towns Meeting
- ~ 1st Sunday *Food Pantry Collection*
- ~ April 17 *Spring Fling Hymn Sing and Dinner at 5 PM*
- ~ May 8 *Presbyterian Women's Mother's Day Presentation During Worship*
- ~ May 15 *Holy Communion, Pentecost, and Presbyterian Women's Birthday Offering and Dinner*
- ~ May 29 *Last Day of Children's Sunday School*
- ~ June 5 *Outdoor Service and Picnic at Creekside Park, Westport*
- ~ June 19 *Presbyterian Women's Father's Day Presentation*

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

April 3 Denise and Darlene Spitzer
April 10 Debbie and Mike Hartman
April 17 Kathy and Mike Boyce
April 24 Sandra Chilcote and Erma Landis
May 1
May 8
May 15
May 22
May 29
June 5
June 12
June 19
June 26

Ushers and Greeters

April 3 Aggie and Phil Carnell
April 10 Jack Brandlen and Andi Grady
April 17 Kathy and Mike Boyce
April 24 Buck Knott and Lawrence Cook
May 1 Cindy and Eddie Scheermesser
May 8 Francy Becker and Maxine Groves
May 15 Debbie and Steve Scheermesser
May 22 Kathy and Mike Boyce
May 29 Andi Grady and Buck Knott
June 5
June 12
June 19
June 26

Liturgists

April 3 Jeanne Thrasher
April 10 Frances Becker
April 17 Lori Evans
April 24 Laurie Groves
May 1 Jeanne Thrasher
May 8 Lori Evans
May 15 Mike Hartman
May 22
May 29 Laurie Groves
June 5 Jeanne Thrasher
June 12 Frances Becker
June 19 Lori Evans
June 26

Children's Time Leaders

April 3 Jeanne Thrasher
April 10
April 17 Lori Evans
April 24
May 1 Jeanne Thrasher
May 8 Frances Becker
May 15 Jeanne Thrasher
May 22
May 29
June 5 Jeanne Thrasher
June 12
June 19 Lori Evans
June 26

News & Notes

We want to give a shout out to our kids who presented on Palm Sunday. They did great! Thanks to Francy, Jeanne, and Cindy, and of course, the kids for a lovely program. Thanks to our choir as well for their hard work and joyful music. And what would we do without Pat! Thanks for your dedication, service, and beautiful musical gifts!

Our third annual Spring Fling Hymn Sing will be held on Sunday, April 17 at 5 PM. Dinner will include soup and sandwiches. The hymn sing, led by Don Stephens, will follow. It's sure to be an uplifting time of worship and fellowship!

The Presbyterian Women's Birthday Celebration will be on May 15 this year. This has been an annual event for the past 10+ years. Our PW are very grateful for the congregation's help!

We will be having an outdoor worship service and picnic on Sunday, June 5 at Creekside Park in Westernport. It is a wonderful time spent with God and our church family with no walls to separate us from God's creation. Plan to attend and enjoy!

Check out our website! www.piedmontpresby.org.



April 7 Pam Ours

April 15 Glynnna Harbaugh

April 19 Maxine Groves

April 19 Jeanne Thrasher

April 22 Cyndi Rounds

April 24 Ed & Steve Scheermesser

April 28 Alison Forbes

May 4 Tina Lynch

May 7 Jonathan Bostic

May 14 Patrick Boyce

May 15 Evie Groves

May 16 Nikki Boyce

May 19 Devin Lynch

May 22 Brandon Lynch

May 24 Mary Agnes Carnell

June 3 Brooke Boyce

June 12 Anita Lupton

June 14 Becky Niland

June 15 Brent Harbaugh

June 21 Cameron Lynch

June 22 Mary Brandlen

June 25 Darlene Spitzer

June 27 Brycen Rounds

June 27 Steve Thrasher



Please let Laurie know of any prayer requests to be added to or removed from the next Gleaner. It will be distributed towards the end of June. Thank you!

Tonia Brandlen
Erma Landis and Family

Peggy Boal

Floretta Kelly

Kermit and Francy Becker

PPC Ministry

Virginia Metcalf

John Michael, Christopher, Bryan, Mike, and Debbie
Hartman

Glynnna and Shawn Harbaugh

Orphans and Missionaries in Belize

Hannah Rawlings

Caregivers

Jim Wilson

Ernie and Carol Kelley

Kathryn Harvey and Family

Our country, our leaders, & our troops

Tom's father, Dick Forbes

Theresa Wolford

Ginny Flick

Mary Brandlen

Nina McCarty

Lawrence, Gloria, and Lauren Cook

Paula Swayne

Laura Nell Hill

George Tasker

Jack & Tess Tasker

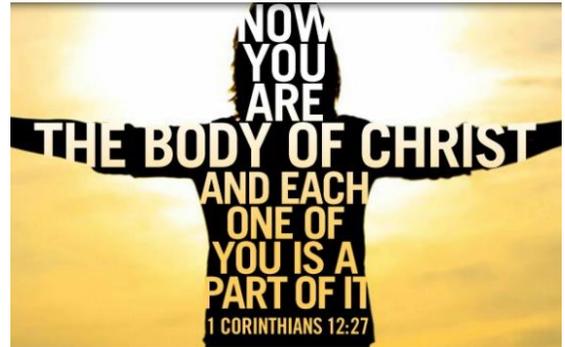
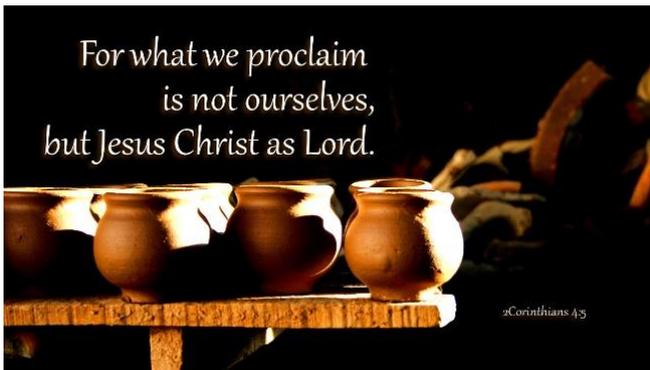
Darlene and Denise Spitzer

Jeanne Thrasher

Richard Luger and Family

Our Ethiopian Partner Synod

Illulabar Bethel Synod



If We Are the Body

It's crowded in worship today
As she slips in trying to fade into the faces
The girls' teasing laughter is carrying farther than
they know
Farther than they know

But if we are the body
Why aren't His arms reaching?
Why aren't His hands healing?
Why aren't His words teaching?
And if we are the body
Why aren't His feet going?
Why is His love not showing them there is a
way?
There is a way, there is a way

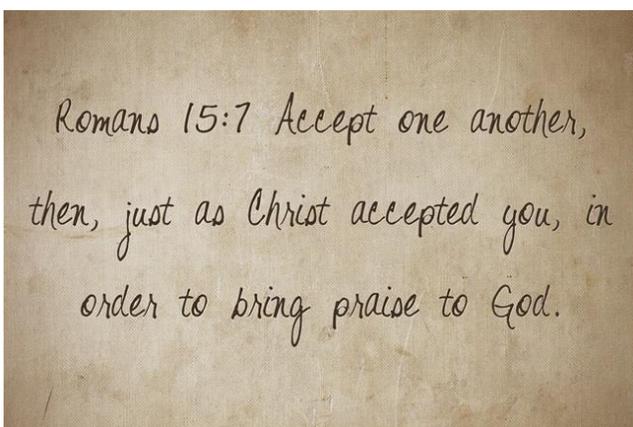
A traveler is far away from home
He sheds his coat and quietly sinks into the back
row
The weight of their judgmental glances
Tells him that his chances are better out on the
road

Jesus paid much too high a price
For us to pick and choose who should come

Jesus is the way
Jesus is the way
We are His hands
We are His feet
We are His body
Jesus is the way

Songwriter
JOHN MARK HALL

**What are we doing as the Body of Christ?
We're feeding local residents with the Food
Pantry and the Community Garden. We're
providing Disaster Relief through Presbyterian
Disaster Assistance and Church World Service.
We're sharing God's word through our online
ministry. We're leading and learning in
Sunday School and Bible Studies. We are
praying for friends, family members, and
strangers. Folks are serving individually by
making clean up buckets and hygiene kits and
volunteering at after school programs and
nursing homes. Our congregation is giving
time, skills, talents, and money to those who
need it. Praise God for the opportunities to
serve!**



LETTER FROM THE WEBMASTER

I just wanted to take the time to let you know all of the information you can find on the church website. Not only is it full of up to date information for the month, but you can find the following:

- **The Gleaner for the current month and past Gleaners (you can even print them out)**
- **The Revised Common Lectionary for the current date**
- **An up to date calendar of current church happenings**
- **Printable Flyers for the Hymn Sing being held on April 17th**

As always you will be able to find links to the church YouTube Channel, Facebook, and an archived page of previous church videos (by month and year). It is just full of information and is designed to put everything at your fingertips in a font size you can read! As always, if there is a feature you would like to see or question regarding the webpage be sure to see me and I will be happy to assist.

We have also started a community garden page we hope you will help out with. Right now it has a link to the printable garden contract request, a gallery of the start up, and links to helpful garden verses (scripture). We really want to document the journey as the community garden takes off. We would love to have your pictures, thoughts, and just general help with the page.

I also wanted to take the time to invite any of you who have not yet made the visit to see the church page or would like some help navigating our church website to please let me know and I would be glad to come early or late to any church service to show you around. We can get you on the internet at church using your favorite internet capable device (phone, tablet, laptop, etc.) or the church computer. I really want to thank everyone for their input and thoughts regarding our website. I really feel it is a helpful resource and I am always open to your suggestions regarding what you would like to see.

See you on the web,

Shawn



The Gleaner is being distributed quarterly. If you have dates or information that you would like included in the next issue or suggestions for what should be included in The Gleaner, please get it to Laurie and Evie Groves by June 15.



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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