



A monthly publication of the First Presbyterian Church of Berwick  
**AUGUST 2018**

## Travelling Day Camp

**Travelling day camp with Camp Krislund has begun!** The excitement has been growing for some time and it is finally here! We are looking forward to a fun filled busy week of activities. Please remember volunteers are welcome Monday through Thursday. Any time you can give is greatly appreciated!

## AGAPEpalooza

AGAPE is gearing up for their annual Palooza event that will be held on **Saturday August 25<sup>th</sup> 11am-6pm** at Bloomsburg Town Park. We want to invite you and your congregation to join in all the fun! We will be having free pony rides, face painting and other activities for the kids. As always free entertainment, vendors, and the amazing food.

## Stuff the Bus

Once again, we're joining a number of local businesses to provide school supplies to children in need in the Berwick and Bloomsburg school districts. Residents are starting their school shopping early as part of a communitywide backpack donation drive called Stuff the Bus. Donated backpacks and schools supplies will be given to local students who qualify for free or reduced lunches. **Donations will be accepted until August 10th.** Our goal has been increased each year. Backpacks get delivered to the entire Berwick School District and then surrounding schools/shelters in need. School officials will distribute the backpacks to qualifying students.

**Items needed are backpacks, pencils, erasers, colored pencils, sharpeners, notebooks, calculators, folders, crayons, glue, pens, pencil boxes.** Donations can be dropped off in the barrel in the narthex or in the office. **Thank you in advance for your support!**

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I CAN DO  
ALL THINGS  
THROUGH  
*Christ*  
who  
STRENGTHENS  
ME Philippians  
4:13

## A Posting from Your Pastor – August 2018

In a few weeks, I'll be meeting up with new friends, flying from Philadelphia to San Juan, prepared for a week of labor among those whose lives were so completely upended by the hurricanes that savaged Puerto Rico last year. I had hoped to take part in a mission trip of some sort and that island – so abandoned by so many – tugged at my heart strings. I'm working with the United Church of Christ Disaster Relief program, touching base with my home denomination – linking with a group from Downer's Grove, IL and another from Pottstown, PA – August 18 – 26.

The practical task at hand is rebuilding homes destroyed by the winds and rains. I'm not a carpenter – had I been assigned the building of the Ark...well, let's just say that story would have had a different outcome! Still they said to come on; there will be work for skilled and unskilled – something I found out thirty years ago in responding to Hurricane Hugo outside Charleston, SC. I learned on the job, as I will this time around; it will feel good to be doing something useful.

Of course I'm second-guessing myself, reconsidering my age (almost 68), the intense heat of a Caribbean island in August, options less demanding and closer to home, fears of a host of unknowns. I'm old enough to know this will not be a lark, a week's vacation. It will be hot, humid, up early, no television and spotty phone service.

But I come back to the initial desire to *do something*. The world is in such a geopolitical mess these days, so much change and the intentional upending of progress toward freedom and inclusion and hope. Walls of separation are more important than tables of welcome and grace. And yet, the text from a few weeks ago rings in my heart and mind: ***My grace is sufficient.***

All any of us can do – in good times and trying times – is what we can do. This trip will accomplish housing for two, maybe three families. Our prayers for separated families, for restoring creation, for courage to speak God's truth of love, justice, mercy and compassion to power – seem so impotent. *But something happens when we are engaged in the work Christ gave to us: to reconcile and heal.* The effort, more than the scope of that effort, is what will bear fruit that will last.

Please hold me and our group in your prayers along with the people whose faith and courage will inspire and surprise us. Please look for ways you can be a light in the darkness. A word, a dollar, a prayer, even an intention carries with it more power than we realize.

Join us as we worship on Sundays, sometimes in the sanctuary and on very hot days in the lounge. We celebrate the Traveling Day Camp ministry, the baptism of Allesandra Ann West, her mother joining this church, and plans for our life together in the fall. May God's peace quiet our fears and push us into life-changing action.

Pastor Steve

## Women's Gathering

Our next women's gathering will be held **Wednesday August 8<sup>th</sup> at 11am** in the lounge. All women are welcome to attend.



## Outdoor Worship and Picnic

This year not only will we be celebrating our picnic we will be having outdoor worship prior to the picnic! What a wonderful way to worship in the great outdoors along the Susquehanna River. Mark your calendar for **Sunday September 9<sup>th</sup>** at Columbia Park, Old Berwick Road pavilion 2.

## Flower Chart

Just a reminder that the flower chart is totally open from now through the remainder of 2018. Please check out the flower chart to place flowers today!

## Who's in the Pulpit?

We welcome back Judy Wadsworth **August 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>** as our guest preacher and in September we welcome back Sally Dries **September 16<sup>th</sup>**.

## Lifeway Simulcast

New Covenant Church invites all women to attend a Lifeway Simulcast with Beth Moore on Saturday, September 15<sup>th</sup>.

Unite with women from around the world for this inspiring one-day event with Beth Moore, one of today's top women's ministry leaders, and Travis Cottrell, worship pastor and Dove Award recipient. Presented by the Nashville-based publishing company LifeWay Christian Resources, Living Proof will simulcast live from Huntsville, AL so women across the globe will be able to experience a live Bible study with Beth Moore right in their own communities.

Doors open at 9:00am at NC Church with the simulcast starting live at 10:30am and concluding at 5:30pm. Tickets are \$25 and include the seminar, continental breakfast, a Subway boxed lunch, afternoon snacks, and drinks throughout the day. Ample parking is available and the venue is handicap accessible.

For additional information and to purchase tickets online please go to [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com) and search for events in Berwick, PA or go to the NC Church website at [www.ncchurchhome.com](http://www.ncchurchhome.com) and click on the Living Proof Beth Moore tab under simulcasts. You can also purchase tickets through our church office. Any further questions can be emailed to [ncwomen@ncchurchhome.com](mailto:ncwomen@ncchurchhome.com)

## Fresh Produce Giveaway

The Berwick area YMCA staff and volunteers will be giving out free produce. First come, first serve! Participants must sign eligibility waiver. The giveaway will be held **every other Monday** starting July 30<sup>th</sup> from 3pm until 6pm or until food runs out. Food will be distributed on the Vine Street side of the YMCA.

### Communion Dates 2017

September 2  
October 7  
November 4  
November 25  
December 24



### Saturday August 18<sup>th</sup>

Salvation Army Soup  
Kitchen 10am



### August Birthdays

Rebecca Hoopes	8/5
Tyrone Birt	8/13
Clio Strausser	8/27
Sara Titus	8/30

### August Anniversary's

Kevin & Jennifer White	8/10
Jim & Carol Ross	8/21

Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary!

# August Assistants

## August 5

**Greeters:** Carol Ross

**Ushers:** Al West, Steve Hiller

**Assisting Elder:** Jim Ross

**Acolyte:** Morgan West

## August 12

**Greeters:** Birt Family

**Ushers:** Tom & Barb Huntington

**Assisting Elder:** Joan Thomas

**Acolyte:** Tyrone Birt

## August 19

**Greeters:** Walter & Alison Hause

**Ushers:** Joan Thomas, Eugeniu Grigorescu

**Assisting Elder:** Nancy Dietterick

**Acolyte:** Emma Botto

## August 26

**Greeters:** Janice Moskaluk

**Ushers:** Keith Botto, Ernie Botto

**Assisting Elder:** Penny Siesko

**Acolyte:** Robbie DAngelo

**Deacon Visitor for August:** Steve & Karen Hiller

**Have a wonderful month with family and friends!**

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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**Worship service 10:15am**

**Sunday school for all ages during worship**

**Nursery available**

