



Travelling Day Camp! We Want You!

August 5th – August 9th

Summer is upon us, and the fun is about to begin! Krislund Travelling Day Camp will be here before you know it! This is an open call for all kids and adults. It is time to get registered for what is sure to be another exciting year of camp. Copies of camp packets are on the back table in the sanctuary. Help us spread the word and get copies to your friends today! Don't worry adults; we need your help as well. Who say the kids get to have all the fun? We are in need of counselors and kitchen staff. The adults had just as much fun as the kids last year. You won't want to miss out! The excitement is contagious! If you are able to help out in any way please contact the church office or Jim Ross.

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A Posting from your Pastor – July/August 2019

Since this edition of the newsletter covers two months, I suppose I should be entitled to double the length of my posting – except I've been around long enough to know that is not even a reasonable request! So I'll settle for the usual few paragraphs and hope something in them catches your attention.

I began a personal writing project in January of this year. I have in mind its' audience: my three children and two step-children, my siblings, my wife and assorted friends. If the circle extends farther via publishing, well and good but that is not what is driving me. Instead – as seventy is in view (14 more months) – I'm looking back to note books, articles, paragraphs, sentences, poetry, music and places which have had an impact on my life across these decades of ministry.

I'm up to forty-some references and the number grows as I look through my many books, files and the touchstones of memory. It is a fascinating way to look back at my journey, identifying adages which fulfill the religious koan: *when the student is ready the teacher appears*. In the more than one hundred and fifty pages, I've revisited one aspect of the journey after another: painful, provocative, rewarding, still puzzling, satisfying. I have a two-year timeline for myself; before long, the hard work comes: editing and clarifying and cutting out what doesn't belong as it shapes itself.

What does this have to do with you, my parishioners, the sheep I am called to shepherd for this time at First Presbyterian Church? At least this: most churches go through the 'summer slump' (meaning attendance), as families take vacation, enjoy the pool, chase after their kid's activities, and give themselves permission not to be in their usual pew seat. I'm not trying to change any of that; who would listen anyway? We need what we need and God is to be found in many, many settings – including church.

While we're holding on to the now-shortening days, taking time for ourselves, being aware of what is happening around us I will offer one faith task. I must quote Presbyterian writer Fred Buechner to get it started: *"Listen to your life. See it for the fathomless mystery it is. In the boredom and pain of it, no less than in the excitement and gladness: touch, taste, smell your way to the holy and hidden heart of it, because in the last analysis all moments are key moments, and life itself is grace."*

Intentionally let yourself wander back through the fields of your life, seeing and feeling as you go. Who have the mentors been? Where did you stumble across a truth that has governed your life since? Where were the disappointments – and are they healed? What about joys? Sources of insight?

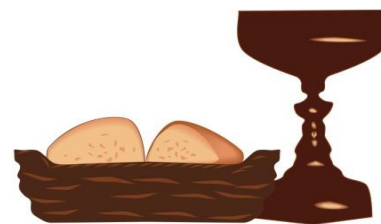
These Sundays from Pentecost until Advent constitute "Ordinary Time" in Church life. But it is precisely in ordinary time where we live most of our lives; the high times, celebrations, traditions come and go. They help to ready us for the boring times, the necessary days, the 'lazy, hazy, crazy days' of summer.

God's blessing be with you and yours. Please keep the congregation in your prayers. There are always needs that come along: health, effects of aging, issues with our children and extended family. Prayers keep us knit together even when we're apart. I look forward to seeing you on Sundays – and please let me know if I can share in the struggles and the joys.

Pastor Steve



Congratulations to Girl Scout troop 32455 on their bridging June 1st! Front row from left is Kaliya Boggs, Keely Boggs, Jaedyn Wickam, Charlotte Geiger. Back row: Emma Botto, Makayla Bracey and Macanzie Boggs.



Communion Dates 2019

July 28
October 6
November 3
December 1
December 24



Congratulations to Sara and Aaron Titus on the baptism of their daughter Latia Titus during worship on June 2nd.



Congratulations to our confirmation class. Pictured from left Leighton Force, Robert Vasquez, Pastor Steve, Miles Doll and Mia Doll.



July Birthdays

Heather Botto	7/1
Isaiah Bomboy	7/7
Graham Marshman	7/7
Joan Thomas	7/7
Mike Doll	7/8
Al West	7/8
Martha Yost	7/14
Karen Hiller	7/19
Bill Birt	7/22

August Birthday's

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

July Anniversaries

Bill & Shirley Birt	7/11
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August Anniversaries

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

Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary!

July Assistants

July 7

Greeters: Janice Moskaluk

Ushers: Joan Thomas, Eugeniu Grigorescu

Assisting Elder: Eugeniu Grigorescu

Acolyte: Emma Botto

July 14

Greeters: Ernie & Joan Botto

Ushers: Dave Force, Kevin White

Assisting Elder: Barb Huntington

Acolyte: Giuliana Force

July 21

Greeters: Penny Siesko

Ushers: Steve Hiller, Keith Botto

Assisting Elder: Joan Thomas

Acolyte: Morgan West

July 28

Greeters: Bill & Shirley Birt

Ushers: Barb Huntington, Alison Hause

Assisting Elder: Penny Siesko

Acolyte: Tyrone Birt

Deacon Visitor for July: Janice Moskaluk

Deacon Visitor for August: Al West

Have a wonderful month with family and friends!

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

320 Market Street

Berwick, PA 18603

Mail to: PO Box 325

570-759-9461

bwkpresby@pa.metrocast.net



Worship service 10:15am

Sunday school for all ages during worship

Nursery available

