

Under Our Roof

First Presbyterian Church, Covington, VA

June 2022

¹ When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. ² Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongue as the Spirit enabled them.

(Acts 2:1-4, NIV)

We will celebrate the day of Pentecost on June 5, 2022. This is a day when we recognize the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon Jesus' followers. You may often hear Pentecost referred to as the Birthday of the Church.

As the Holy Spirit broke into the place where the disciples and other followers were staying there was a huge sound described as the rush of a violent wind. And then those gathered were filled with the Holy Spirit.

It would be another change for Jesus' followers. Change upon change had confronted them for the past 2 months. Think about all they had experienced. Passover with Jesus, followed by His arrest, crucifixion, death, and resurrection. Then more teaching from the Risen Savior. And just when they may have been able to wrap their minds around Jesus' presence with them, He ascended to heaven to take His place alongside God.

And now, this....

A loud rushing sound and the appearance of tongues of fire resting on their heads. What can it possibly mean? And even more unsettling, some are speaking languages they have never spoken before. They realize that what is happening comes from God, but that doesn't make it any less unnerving.

What the disciples would learn, what we learn is that the Holy Spirit of God, one of the members of our Triune God, indwells us just as it happened that Pentecost day following Jesus' resurrection and ascension. This Holy Spirit of God is what Jesus had called "The Advocate", the person of God who comes alongside us to give us strength, wisdom, perseverance, and inspiration.

The Holy Spirit, who has been present for us from the beginning, "*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and **the Spirit of God** was hovering over the waters.*" (Genesis 1:1-2, NIV) is with us in all that we do. The Holy Spirit works with God, now hovering over all that God created, particularly the people of God.

This is God's power in action that is available for each of us who trusts God, who calls Jesus Lord, and lives a life of faithfulness with the help of the Holy Spirit.

So, on Sunday June 5, wear something red to represent the Holy Spirit in your life.

Pastor Susi



3	Emmett Keller
13	Blake Oliver
13	Marsha Patterson
17	John Rollinson
18	Rob Lindstrom
21	Charlie Deacon
21	Bill Caperton
22	Jamie Lloyd
22	Kaylie Carter
23	Daniel Pillow



Picnic will be cancelled in the event of extreme inclement weather.

PRESCHOOL NEWS



These geraniums were given to the preschool teachers during the recent Teacher Appreciation Week.

Mrs. Margaret and Mrs. Jo were very appreciative of their gifts.



On one of our sunny days, the children in the preschool play in the playground with water beads. A good — and wet — time was had by all.



Terri Miller reads to the preschool children. Terri and her family briefly lived in Japan, and she read to the children in Japanese. She also taught them some numbers in Japanese, and they enjoyed repeating them. Ironically, the day after Terri's visit, Children's Day was celebrated in Japan.



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A Note from your Pastor



A New Bible?

Recently a panel of scholars from the National Council of Churches, the Society for Biblical Literature, and Friendship Press was assembled to take a look at the New Revised Standard Translation Bible known as the NRSV. The NRSV is the Bible that we have in our pews.

The NRSV has been used by churches and seminaries for 30 years. In those 30 years there has been more study of original manuscripts written in Hebrew and Greek. The discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls has influenced scholarship and translation in the intervening years.

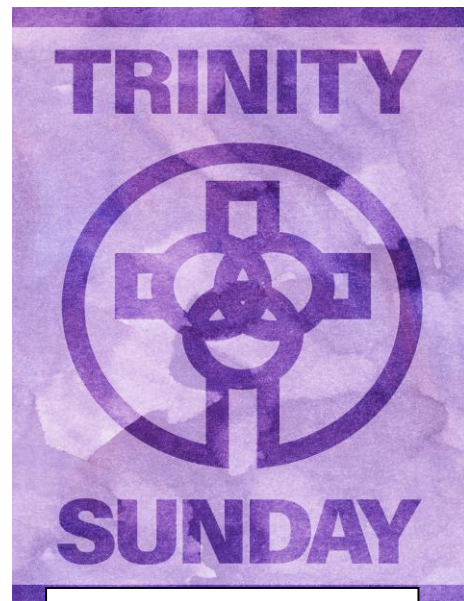
Whenever translating Biblical texts there is always the desire to stay as literal as possible while smoothing out the words to make sense to the English reader. The translators also look at Philology, the study of historical development of words. That is to say that the English language is always looking for better ways to express some things.

More of the changes are in the Old Testament than in the New Testament. They center around how people are identified. For example, instead of saying someone is a "demoniac", the text will now say "the man possessed by demons". Or instead of identifying someone as "the cripple" it will now read "the one who is lame".

Why does this matter? It matters because we are realizing that people are more than any disability they may experience. And the language we use in our Scripture should recognize that. Jesus taught us to love each other as God loves us. That means that God and Jesus do not see people as a medical condition. We are seen as the people that God created us to be.

This is important because I will be using the NRSVue Bible for worship and if you are following along with the pew Bible the words may not be exactly the same.

And that is O. K.



Communion on June 12th

What a friend!

Jesus is...

Forgiving

Rich in love

Inviting to all

Ever Faithful

Near to help

Delighted with us

Jesus said, "I have called you friends." John 15:15

Card Shower request:

Ms. Cynthia Earehart Rinker
Harrisonburg Health & Rehabilitation Center
1225 Reservoir Rd. – Room 79A
Harrisonburg, VA 22801
(Cindy is the daughter of the late Bill & Carolyn Earehart)

For those traveling...for whatever reason:

A PRAYER FOR SAFE TRAVEL

*May the Lord bless
and protect you.*

Minute 4 Mission

Sunday School June 19, 2022
Virtual Visit by Nadia Ayoub, PC(USA)
Mission Co-Worker in Perichoresis, Greece

Please join the June 19th Sunday School hour to learn about Nadia Ayoub's mission work in Perichoresis, Greece.

Perichoresis provides housing and support for approximately 550 refugees in 115 apartments in the city of Katerini on mainland Greece. Their programs include a nursery school, sports activities, and socio-therapeutic groups for children, adolescents and women. It also supports refugees with medical appointments and visits with lawyers. In her work with Perichoresis, Nadia serves as a children's worker in its preschool programs and as a translator. Nadia strives to listen carefully to the refugees with whom she interacts so that she can understand their real needs. Primarily from Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq, these refugees are fleeing war-torn, conflict-ridden countries in search of reunification with their families and a safe place to live.

From 2010 to 2017, Nadia Ayoub partnered with the Reformed Church in Carpath-Ukraine in developing and implementing early childhood education programs in marginalized Roma communities. It is when she was doing this work that we began writing the Two Cents a Meal grant applications for the Roma Mission Center, Peterfalva, Ukraine. We have been blessed to get to meet and know Nadia through her visits to First Presbyterian Church 2013, 2014 and 2018 with a small group from our Church visiting her in 2015.

Born into a Christian family in Egypt, Nadia immigrated to the United States with her family in 1985. Before she left Egypt, Nadia earned her Bachelor of Science degree in agriculture from Ain Shams University in Cairo and her Bachelor of Science degree in Christian theology from the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Cairo. We support Nadia Ayoub financially via our Church's annual budget and also in prayer. Should you like to make a designated gift to support her work, please send your check to the church office with a memo noting "Nadia Ayoub".

We begin each 9:45am Sunday School with a 15-minute social time at 9:30am. We will conclude by 10:30am.

-- Mission & Service Committee



Reminder: Pentecost Denominational Collection on June 5th. Investing in our greatest resource: Help youth begin life with a solid foundation of faith.

Forty percent of the Pentecost offering can be retained by individual congregations wanting to make an impact in the lives of young people within their own community; First Presbyterian Church's Session has approved that the 40% local portion will go to **Preschool Scholarship Fund**.

The remaining 60% is used to support ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency:

- Guiding Youth (Youth Ministries) 25% supports ministries with youth, ages 12–18, and those called to accompany them.
- Young Adult Volunteers 25% (which is what Miguel Petrosky did during his year in New Orleans and that in Zambia)
- Child Advocacy 10% supports the "Educate a Child, Transform the World" national initiative, which was affirmed at the 221st General Assembly (2014).

-- Mission & Service Committee



The Presbyterian Women met on May 12th at 1 PM for their final meeting for the 2021-2022 year. Pastor Susi completed our Bible study about women of the Bible. We were able to continue our meeting in the

sanctuary to help keep us distanced during COVID. There were 16 in attendance for our Birthday celebration.



Frances, Mildred, Ruby, Terri, Jean, Pastor Susi, Debby, Jeanie, Doris

Debby Amick led our devotional.

Old business was to thank the members for the generous outpouring of items for safe homes as well as the Christmas Mother. We collected a huge box of items to send to and help Safehomes. A suggestion was made to continue to bring things during the summer when there are special sales on items.

Ruby Sharp gave an update on Joan Schiffeler and as a result of using computer skills, she has been found. Thanks so much to Debby Amick's husband for researching her whereabouts.

Ruby Sharp gave her card report and we had Sandra Minter accompany us in a rendition of Happy Birthday. All birthdays for May-August were remembered:

Susi Ennis
Barbara Fawley
Jean Johnson
Mildred McCabe
Sandra Minter



Sandra



Sandra, Mildred, Debby, Frances

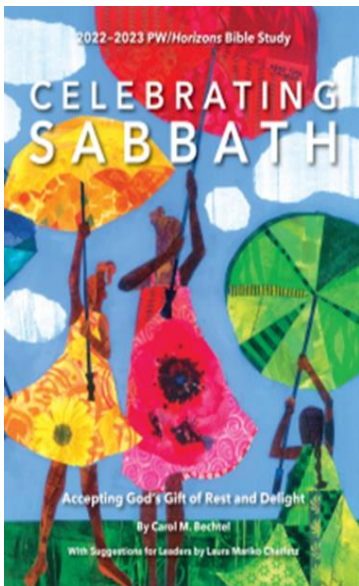


Dotty and Cathy



Barbara

Barbara Fawley gave us the treasure report. Our love offering has helped bring our balance a little over \$900.



Our new books will be ordered in time for our 2022-2023 September meeting. The theme is "Celebrating the Sabbath" which will have some interesting thoughts for discussion.



Ann Marie

Ruby Sharp has asked to step down as Co-Moderator. Her organization and good ideas have helped us to grow. We are grateful for her continued guidance. She will continue to serve as card chairman. Jeanie Morrisette has agreed to serve as Co-Moderator.



Jeanie and Doris

After Pastor Susi completed our lesson on Women of the Bible, Ruby Sharp presented her a book for helping us with our great Bible studies.



Pastor Susi and Ruby

Our group adjourned to the Noah's Ark room for punch and cupcakes. We all enjoyed fellowshiping together. A big thank you to

Mildred McCabe for the cupcakes. She is a caring person and these acts of kindness are the way she expresses her love.



Ruby setting up for Celebration.



Terri, Jean and Pastor Susi

At the end of the birthday celebration, Barbara reported we had collected \$155 birthday dollars and a decision was made to share our gift with The Presbyterian Children's Home of the Highlands in Wytheville, an orphanage our Presbytery helps to support.

Have a safe and restful summer and we will reconvene in September 8th at 1:00 pm.



*Pam Pace
Moderator*



Both the Sunday morning and Tuesday evening classes have started a study of the Gospel of John.



John's Gospel is often called the Fourth Gospel because it has some unique features that are not found in the Synoptic Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke.

Some things unique to John's Gospel include the accounts of the Wedding at Cana; the visit of Nicodemus, and the Raising of Lazarus. It also includes 3 Passovers that Jesus observes with the final one in Chapter 11 beginning the Passion narrative.

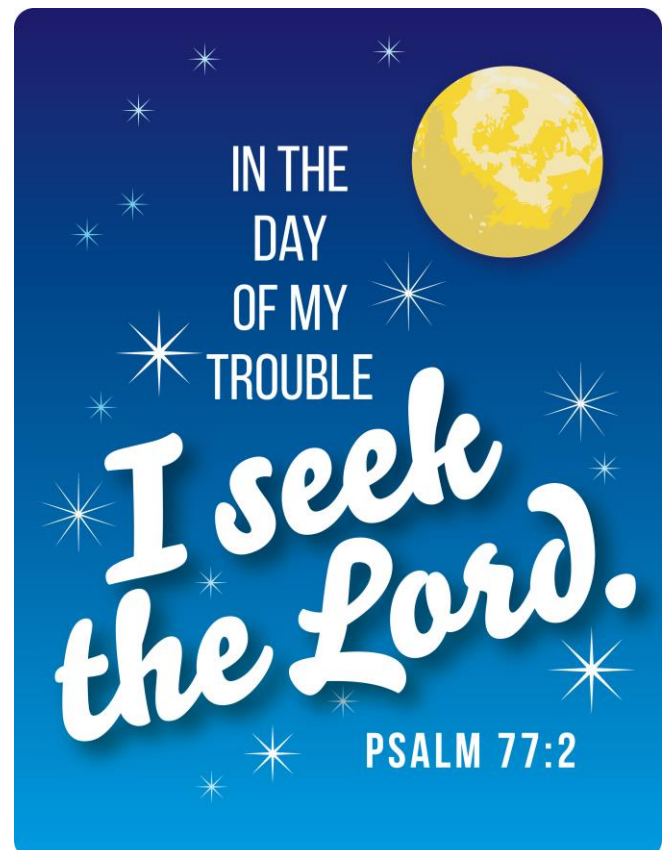
People ask who the author might be since the writer does not identify himself. Most scholars and tradition believe that the author is Jesus' disciple John, son of Zebedee and brother of James.

Scholars have long worked to determine when the Gospels were written. For the Gospel of John, it is believed to have been written following

the destruction of the Jerusalem Temple in 70 AD, between 80-100 AD. Following the destruction of the Temple the Jews were scattered out from Jerusalem. The Johannine community would have been Jews who worshipped in a synagogue and were Christian Jews who believed that Jesus is God's Son and the Messiah.

We find that selections from the Gospel of John appear in the Lectionary cycle each year, particularly in the seasons of Advent and Christmas; and Lent and Easter.

Both Sunday morning and Tuesday evening classes are offered by zoom. If you would like to join us at 9:30 am on Sunday mornings or at 6:45 pm on Tuesday evenings, please contact the church office to be added to the email distribution for the zoom link and reading assignments.



General Assembly

The 225th General Assembly of the PC (USA) will meet this summer. This GA will be a hybrid gathering. The theme of this year's GA is "From Lament to Hope" and the Bible verse is Hebrews 11:1; "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, a conviction of things not seen."

What is General Assembly? It is a gathering of commissioners of the PC (USA) that occurs every two years. The General Assembly is described in The Book of Order in G-3.05 as follows: "The General Assembly is the council of the whole church and it is representative of the unity of the synods, presbyteries, sessions, and congregations of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). It shall consist of equal numbers of ruling elders and ministers of the Word and Sacrament elected by the presbyteries and reflective of the diversity within their bounds), to serve as commissioners..."

The first two days of GA are June 18 & 19, 2022 and will be online. June 20-July 2, 2022 committees will meet in Louisville. These meetings will be staggered so that not all participants are there at the same time to facilitate the ability to observe COVID protocols. Once the committees work is concluded then Plenary sessions will be held July 5-9, 2022 online.

The first order of business for all meetings of the PC(USA) General Assembly is to elect the co-moderators. This year there are two co-moderator teams standing for election.

Josefina "Fina" Ahumada & Marilyn McKelvey Tucker-Marek are one of the teams. Josefina is a Commissioned Pastor, social worker, education, and human rights advocate from the Presbytery de Cristo. Marilyn is a Teaching Elder at Forsyth Presbyterian Church in Forsyth GA.

Ruth Santana-Grace & Shavon Starling-Louis are the other team standing for co-moderator. Ruth is a Teaching Elder serving as the Executive Presbyter for the Presbytery of Philadelphia. Shavon is also a Teaching Elder serving as the Senior Pastor at Memorial Presbyterian Church in Charlotte NC.

Many issues will be discussed and debated including climate change, gun violence, the pandemic, race relations and the restructuring of the Presbyterian Mission Agency. Once again, the Hands and Feet Initiative will lead Presbyterians to advocate for social justice.

You can read more about the candidates for co-Moderator as well as other issues by going to the General Assembly website at <https://ga-pcusa.org/>. Once GA is in session each day updates will be published on this website.

May we begin to pray for the work to be done by all those commissioners at the 225th General Assembly.

First Presbyterian Church

Sunday Worship Will Be Held In-Person and on Our YouTube Channel
 Devotions with Daniel Continue to Be Streamed on Our YouTube Channel
 Sunday School via Zoom – Contact Pastor Susi for an Invitation @pastor.susi.ennis@gmail.com

June 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Choirs Handbell, 5:30p Chancel, 6:45p	2 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	3 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	4 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a
5 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Social Time, 9:30a Sunday School, 9:45a Worship, 11:00a PENTECOST Wear red	6 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	7 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a TUESDAY NITE SUNDAY SCHOOL 6:45 p	8 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Choirs Handbell, 5:30p Chancel, 6:45p VOUCHERS DUE, 10a	9 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	10 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	11 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a
12 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Social Time, 9:30a Sunday School 9:45a Worship, 11:00a TRINITY SUNDAY Communion	13 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	14 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a TUESDAY NITE SUNDAY SCHOOL 6:45 p	15 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Choirs Handbell, 5:30p Chancel, 6:45p	16 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	17 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	18 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a
19 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Social Time, 9:30a, Nadia Ayoub Sunday School 9:45a Linda Trumbo Worship, 11:00a Father's Day	20 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	21 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a TUESDAY NITE SUNDAY SCHOOL 6:45 p M & S 4 PM Zoom 1ST Day of Summer	22 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Choirs Handbell, 5:30p Chancel, 6:45p	23 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a CHURCH PICNIC Meet 11:30 AM and Eat at 12:30PM Wright's Camp The Polecat Inn VOUCHERS DUE, 10a	24 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	25 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a
26 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Social Time, 9:30a, Sunday School 9:45a Worship, 11:00a SESSION	27 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	28 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a TUESDAY NITE SUNDAY SCHOOL 6:45 p Newsletter Items Due 10a	29 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	30 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a		

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