

Under Our Roof

First Presbyterian Church, Covington, VA

September 2021

As we turn our calendars from August to September, we turn our thoughts toward Autumn. We await milder temperatures and less humidity. Stores have changed their displays to include pumpkins, hay bales, and autumn-colored leaves. Just visit the church and you will see that Ann Marie and I have decorated our offices for the season.

Every year we mark time by the changing of the seasons. Each one its own characteristics which are both good and not so great. Every year the cycle of seasons is repeated.

Genesis 1 tells us about God's creation of the earth and all that is in it. Even though Genesis does not specifically say that God created the seasons, it does tell us God created day and night; land, sea, and sky; all the vegetation and all living creatures. Therefore, we can trust that God created the seasons.

The writer of Ecclesiastes shows this in the 3rd Chapter. The author begins this chapter; "*For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven...*" (Ecclesiastes 3:1, NRSV). The following verses talk about some of the matters under heaven: birth and death; planting and harvesting, weeping and laughing, mourning and dancing. In the late 1950s Pete Seegar used Ecclesiastes 3 as the basis for his song "*Turn, Turn, Turn*" which was made popular by the group The Byrds in 1965.

This is one of the Scripture passages families might choose to be read at a funeral because of its relevance to life. "For everything there is a season..."

We experience Spring times. Just like the earth experiences rebirth and new growth; we do as well. Graduations, marriage, birth of children, new jobs come in the Springtime of our lives. And then there is the growing seasons, Summer. We enjoy living and watching our lives develop until we can reap the rewards of that growth in the Autumn of life. Winters are the seasons of challenge. Here in Covington, Winter is characterized by cold, snow, and ice; and by days that have less light. In life there are those times when we struggle. Life seems cold and dark. It is just plain hard, but it is not hopeless.

The good news is that Spring follows Winter, Spring with its regrowth and new growth. How often do we approach March and tell each other that Winter is almost over, Spring is coming? Yes, knowing that each season passes into the next means that when we are in one that is difficult, it gives us an ability to persevere. We also know that we can persevere because God, the author of the seasons, cares for us so that we can look forward in hope.

Psalm 130:7 remind us that we hope because we have God. "*O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem.*"

God has redeemed each of us in the life of Jesus Christ. We live into that hope. Seasons come and seasons go, and God is present in each of them.

Pastor Susi

SEPTEMBER



- 7 Brenda Linkenhoker**
- 8 David Rollinson**
- 14 Jim Snyder**
- 15 Jacob Wright**
- 17 Steve Minter**
- 21 Jim Howard**
- 24 Jonathan Pillow**
- 26 Nicholas Pillow**



4th Quarter THESE DAYS devotionals have come in and will be available to pick up later this month. Anyone that would like a copy mailed to them, please let Ann Marie know in the office.

The Changing Face of Sunday School

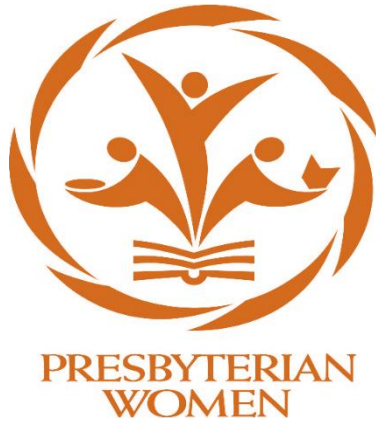
There are some exciting changes coming to the Adult Learning Opportunities. Pastor Susi is adding an additional opportunity to participate in what is presented each Sunday morning. This will happen on Tuesday evenings. It is a chance for anyone whose participation in worship preparation conflicts with joining at 9:30 on Sunday mornings. The Tuesday evening class will present and discuss the same material as Sunday morning. Class will begin at 7:00 pm and will be held on zoom. The zoom link will be opened at 6:30 pm for those who wish to join and have some fellowship time with one another before we start the study.

In September as we finish the current study “Confident Hope” we will move into a study of the book of Acts. The early church has much to teach us about being followers of Jesus Christ and being the church.

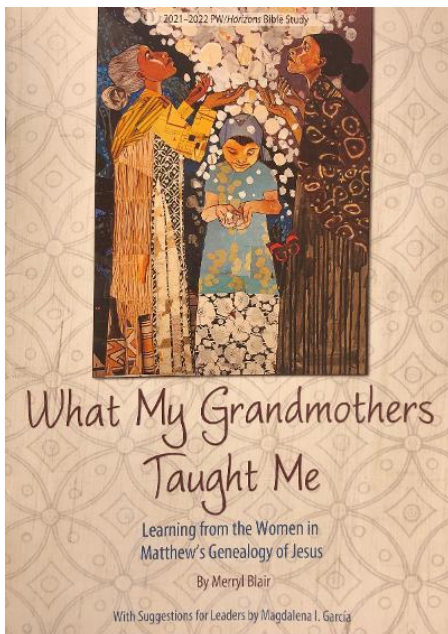
In between the end of the current study and beginning Acts there will be a presentation by Brenda Linkenhoker on Sunday morning to give us an update on local mission work and a week where we look at Biblical Interpretation and Study to prepare for our journey through Acts.

The look at Biblical Interpretation will be Sunday, Sept. 12 at 9:30 am and Tuesday, Sept. 14 at 6:30 pm. Pastor Susi will be on vacation Sept. 19 and so Brenda Linkenhoker’s presentation will be that morning at 9:30 am; there will be no class on Tuesday Sept. 21. The study of Acts will begin on Sunday, Sept. 26 at 9:30 am and on Tuesday, Sept. 28 at 6:30 pm.

If you are not on the Sunday School distribution list to receive the zoom link and any handouts, please provide your email address to either Pastor Susi or Ann Marie so you may be included.



The PW will meet September 9th at 1:00 P.M. in the church sanctuary. We will be following the rules for COVID safety by wearing a mask and practicing social distancing. The advantage of holding the meeting in the sanctuary will be to minimize exposure to the new variant as well as having the sound system to hear our lesson. Pastor Susi will be our Bible Study Leader this season. Our new books are called “What My Grandmothers Taught Me” *Learning from the Women in Matthew’s Genealogy of Jesus* written by Merryl Blair.



We are looking forward to being together again after missing our time together last year. Please bring your booklets that have been mailed to you already as well as the booklet with the information including phone numbers, birthdays, and email addresses. Bring a pencil or pen for corrections or additions in our PW booklets. We are so excited to see you all plus some new members to our group.

Moderator
Pam Pace

Peaks PW Annual Gathering

The Peaks PW Annual Gathering will be held in person this year at Trinity Ecumenical Parish (40 Lakemount Dr., Moneta, VA 24121) on Saturday, September 25. We are working to have a great Gathering, and we will be installing **our new Moderator, Shelda Wills**. Please continue to watch for more exciting news about the Annual Gathering. We are so looking forward to seeing you on **September 25, in Moneta, Virginia – lots of room to spread out!**

MISSION *talk*

Save the Date!

Sunday School September 19, 2021
Virtual Visit by Brenda Linkenhoker

Please plan to virtually join the September 19th Sunday School to get updated on two local programs: the Christmas Mother program and also the Bridging the Gap program by Brenda Linkenhoker, Church Member, Session Member, Worship & Music Committee Chair as well as 2020 Allegheny Highlands Christmas Mother.

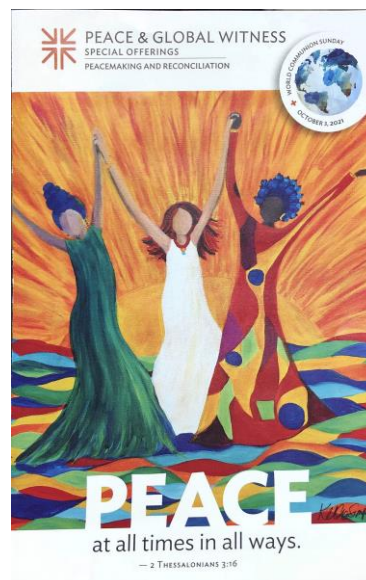
Brenda plans to review the Christmas Mother Program and the reasons and goals for the Bridging the Gap program. Time is allocated for Q&A.

We support the Christmas Mother and Bridging the Gap programs financially via our Church's annual budget and also in prayer. Should you like to make a designated gift to support either of these programs, please send your check to the church office with a memo note of the program's name.

We look forward to your participation during this session.

If you are not on the email distribution for these virtual Sunday Schools, please let Pastor Susi know and she will add you the weekly list and you can participate via Zoom when you are able. The class begins at 9:30am Eastern with 15 minutes of socializing, then at 9:45am begins the lesson and in this case the visit on mission work we support via First Presbyterian Church, concluding at 10:30am.

-- Mission & Service Committee



Peace & Global Witness Offering
September 5th through October 3rd

confronting hopelessness, thwarting division
Empowering congregations and individuals to
become peacemakers themselves.

Through the Peace & Global Witness Offering, congregations are encouraged and equipped to find and address the anxiety and discord that is prevalent throughout this broken and sinful world.

The Peace & Global Witness Denominational Collection will occur on October 3rd. A gift to the Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world. Individual congregations are encouraged to utilize up to 25% of this Offering to connect with the global witness of Christ's peace. Mid councils retain an additional 25% for ministries of peace and reconciliation. The remaining 50% is used by the Presbyterian Mission Agency to advocate for peace and justice in cultures of violence, including our own, through collaborative projects of education and Christian witness. At First Presbyterian Church, we give our local portion to the support of Safehome Systems. A special envelop should be found in your donation box for this collection.

Many thanks for your generous and thoughtful gifts.

-- Mission & Service Committee

the YMCA

Attention: Young at Heart

The Alleghany Highlands YMCA is hosting Senior Day on Saturday, September 18th from 10 AM to 3 PM. The event will feature a plethora of activities that include exercising, seminars, health screenings, Bingo and more. Various vendors will also be on hand to provide plenty of goodies during this fun-filled event. For more information, please visit the Alleghany Highlands YMCA website at alleghanyhighlandsymca.org/senior-day!

Worship With Us



Prayers and Songs

The Worship and Music Committee is again on hold with presenting music to the community. We are closely monitoring our local viral rate. When it is down from the current “hot Spot” rating, we will again continue our outreach in music.

As some of you may know Pastor Susi is going to be on vacation September 19. Our speaker for that service will be Mr. Tom Sibold. I have heard Tommy speak and he is very inspirational. Susi will also be away October 10th. Our own Linda Trumbo will be speaking that Sunday.

The worship committee welcomes any input from anyone on how to make our worship service more meaningful. You are also welcome to attend our meetings which are on the second Tuesday at 11:00. (In person or zoom)

First Presbyterian Church - Covington, VA
@FirstPresbyterianChurchCovingtonVA

IF YOU'RE ON FACEBOOK AND HAVEN'T LIKED OUR PAGE YET PLEASE LOOK US UP AND SHARE SOME OF OUR DAILY SCRIPTURE TO ENCOURAGE OTHERS!

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

September 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a <u>No Choir Rehearsal</u>	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	6 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a LABOR DAY	7 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a M&S Comm. 4p	8 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a <u>Choirs</u> Handbell, 5:30p Chancel, 7:30p FIRST DAY PRE-SCHOOL VOUCHERS DUE, 10a	9 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Presbyterian Women 1:00 PM	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	13 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	14 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a W/M Comm. & Staff 11a TUESDAY NITE SUNDAY SCHOOL 6:30 p	15 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a <u>Choirs</u> Handbell, 5:30p Chancel, 7:30p	16 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	17 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	18 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a
19 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Brenda Linkenhoker <i>Christmas Mother/ Bridging the Gap</i> Sunday School 9:30a Worship, 11:00a	20 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	21 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	22 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a <u>Choirs</u> Handbell, 5:30p Chancel, 7:30p	23 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a 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, 12:30p	27 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	28 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a TUESDAY NITE SUNDAY SCHOOL 6:30 p	29 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a <u>Choirs</u> Handbell, 5:30p Chancel, 7:30p Newsletter Items Due 10a	30 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a		