

Under Our Roof

First Presbyterian Church, Covington, VA

August 2022

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. (Ephesians 4:32, NIV)

Kindness, compassion, forgiveness. All are mentioned in this verse from Paul's letter to the church at Ephesus. Paul had written this letter while he was in prison in Rome and unable to travel to visit the Ephesians.

Paul wrote this letter to encourage the new believers in a trade city that was filled with people from all walks of life and all sorts of beliefs to remain steadfast in their trust in Jesus Christ, Son of God. Paul knew that they would be faced with a culture in which not everyone knew about God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. That there would be those who were not interested in hearing about living a Christian life.

This is not very different than the culture in which we find ourselves. We live in a time when not everyone knows or trusts in the Almighty and Triune God. Kindness, compassion, and forgiveness seem to be lacking. As I write this article one of the lead news stories is about yet another shooting at a shopping mall in the Indianapolis suburbs. Three people died before the alleged shooter was shot. This was not an act of kindness or compassion.

There is also a term with which we have become familiar in recent years, road rage. This is a term to describe what happens when someone becomes so angry at another driver because they were cut off in traffic or some other driving infraction that they cause an accident or they pull a gun and shoot someone in an effort to "get back" at the alleged offender. The angry driver does not yield to a sense of forgiveness toward the other.

Jesus summed up what we are to do in words recorded in the Gospels; "Love One Another." When we love one another, we are able to be kind, to show compassion, and forgive. But how do we do this. I have a few thoughts.

First, there is a movement called "Random Acts of Kindness", there is even a Random Acts of Kindness foundation. The principle here is to simply do something nice for another person with any expectation of receiving something in return. An example might be allowing that person in line behind you at Food Lion with just a few items get ahead of you with your full cart of groceries.

Compassion is the act of showing care and concern for someone who is struggling. We do this when we bring food to a family in need because of illness, grief, or hunger. It is hugs and tissues for the mourning. It is doing something that can positively change the life of a person in struggle.

Forgiveness is what we receive from God when we have sinned. Sin is anything we do that separates us from God and breaks God's heart and yet we still receive forgiveness for it. If God can forgive us, then we too should forgive those who have hurt us. Forgiveness is a choice we make which allows us to let go of our anger, resentment, and ill will. Holding onto the pain, anger, and resentment can cause harm to our bodies and so forgiving someone, letting it go, makes us physically healthy. It is my hope and prayer for us, for our community, our country, and our world that people will meet the God who empowers us to be kind, compassionate, and forgiving in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Pastor Susi

AUGUST 2022 Birthdays

- 1 Harriet Snead
- 3 Billy Oliver
- 6 Martha Carter
- 8 Elyza Pillow
- 10 Pastor Susi Ennis
- 12 Lucas Pillow
- 16 Bos Gorham
- 17 Sue Rollinson
- 28 Mildred McCabe

Minute 4 Mission

A Letter from Nadia Ayoub, serving in Greece

~June 13, 2022~

*"So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you!
As the Father has sent me, I also send
you." (John 20:21)*

Dear friends and family,

I greet you with the peace of Christ. Praise and honor be to our God, for he is love and sent Jesus to save us and commission us to share God's love with our neighbors and bring the good news of salvation through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. And I thank you, my dear partners in Christ. Because of you, I have been able to be present in Greece and share God's love with locals and refugees.

I thank God for the declining number of COVID-19 cases. Many restrictions have now been lifted, and life has begun to return to normal in schools, businesses and governmental offices.

Work with the refugees has slowed. Very few Syrian refugees are still in Greece. I recently checked in on one of my refugee families, and the wife told me, "You need to come to visit me to say goodbye." I was happy for them but felt sad because I was losing a friend. This family from the integration program has lived for more than five years in Katerini, Greece. I became close to them when I attended the birth of their second child, a baby girl, and their third child, who was born during the lockdown. He was born in a hospital in Thessaloniki, but because of the lockdown, I could not accompany the mother in person. Instead, I checked in with her by phone every hour from 8 a.m. until 10 p.m. At 11 p.m., I finally received the message that the baby had been born and that he and his mother were doing well. The lady said that I helped her more than her own mother. I told her, "God loves you and your family," she agreed and said, "yes, because He sent you to help us."



Alexandra, the director of the Education Center, helps refugees' complete applications or respond to the asylum offices.



Many refugees received rejections for their asylum requests, and they appealed the decision through a lawyer. The rejection causes many women to feel depressed and sick, and they do not want to do anything for themselves or their families. We, at Perichoresis, started a program called “Friday Teatime” at the Education Center to help them. We invited the women to come together to share and talk about what was happening in their lives. We follow up by seeing if we can help them by calling the asylum office, finding a lawyer, or completing forms needed for their children’s schools. We also played some games to help them experience some joy. At the end of the meeting, they were all smiling and promised to come the following week. The goal of “Friday Teatime” is to spend time with the women, listening to and encouraging them.

Thanks be to God, on March 21, Kurdish people celebrated Nourose, the Kurdish New Year. The families celebrated together by having a picnic in the municipal park. All children were playing and having some fun. It was special because they had not been able to celebrate together for two years because of COVID. Easter was also a happy time when families were able to gather freely without restrictions.

Since the Russian invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022, my days have been clouded with sadness and fear. I start calling and communicating with my friends

in both Russia and Ukraine. My friends in Russia were very distressed, not knowing what to do or what to expect to happen. The young men were afraid that they might be summoned to join the army. Many left to stay with their relatives in other countries, but others were scared to do so by the restrictions being enforced. They were not able to say very much when communicated with them. I was glad just to hear their voices.

I contacted my friends and former colleague with the Roma ministry and the church in Ukraine. They said in the West of Ukraine, it was safe, but still some families fled to neighboring countries. Many people came from the East for refuge and safety from the war in their areas, and people were ready to open their homes and schools and churches to host the refugees. As the war continued, many Ukrainians fled to other countries, and some thousand came to Greece. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees contacted Perichoresis with the request to consider being involved with Ukrainian refugees since Perichoresis has good reputation for its work with the Syrian refugees.

Thank God the hosting church and the Perichoresis team offered three apartments equipped and all the needs of refugee families. In a short time, three families had arrived. The first family consisted of a grandmother with her two granddaughters. The second family consisted of a husband, a wife and three little children, a grandfather and a grandmother. The third family consisted of a mother, father, two grown daughters and two grandchildren. All are situated comfortably in those apartments. The church and Perichoresis are praying that God will send enough funds so they will be able to help more Ukrainian families as well as Syrian and Iraqi refugees.

Thank God many of the Ukrainians can speak some English, but when I started to

Speak Russian with them, their eyes were lit up and smiles spread on their relaxed faces.

Thank God for hearing our prayers. I received my Greek temporary residence visa. It is valid until August 2024.

Thank you so much for your prayers, encouragement and financial support.

They have enabled me to continue working among the refugees with the encouragement of the Perichoresis team and the Greek Evangelical Church of Katerini. Your partnership is helping us all to obey God’s Word as the Apostle Paul said, “Let each one of us please the neighbors for their good, leading for edification.” (Romans 15:2)

Nadia

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SOUTH COVINGTON CARE PANTRY REPORT

STATISTICS

	<u>Families Served</u>	<u># Of Family Members</u>
June 2022	92	316
July 2022	78	297

<u>Deposits</u>	<u>June-July 2022</u>
\$532.54	Local UMCs
\$250.00	First Presbyterian Church
\$40.00	Memorial – Ronnie Chapman
\$2,250.00	Alleghany Highlands Kiwanis Club
<u>\$880.00</u>	Donations from Individuals
\$3,952.54	TOTAL

BLESSINGS

- On June 20, I attended annual Civil Rights Training in Salem at Feeding Southwest Virginia. This training is required in order for us to continue to distribute USDA products.
- We were blessed to accept delivery of a commercial double door refrigerator, which was made available through a USDA grant administered by Feeding Southwest Virginia. A recent report said that 55 partner food pantries across the region received a total of nearly half a million dollars in commercial refrigerators and freezers. This unit has been fantastic for preserving grapes, plums, corn, peaches, and other fruits we have recently received.
- I was privileged to attend a dinner meeting of the Alleghany Highlands Kiwanis Club where I was presented with a check for \$2,250 from their local food pantry support fund drive. What a great effort!
- A Callaghan Charge UMC member delivered 72 food items.
- South Covington UMC donated 77 items.
- The Patterson Grandchildren donated 20 boxes of cereal.
- Granbery Memorial UMC donated 77 food items which were picked up by a team member.
- A member of Mt. Pleasant UMC donated 12 boxes of cornbread mix.
- Aspen Hill Farms donated 15 dozen eggs.
- A neighbor donated 30 bottles of Ensure.
- The COPE Food Pantry donated 10 banana boxes of canned goods, which they shared with us from the Postal Food Drive. Our team member picked them up. Many thanks to our friends at COPE!
- Donations of very nice clothing have continued to come in, and we make them available on clothing racks on the sidewalk. This service has been very well received.
- This is not a blessing but wanted you to know that McKee Foods decided in June that they will no longer allow their distributors to donate outdated products. So, we no longer get the Little Debbie products to give out.

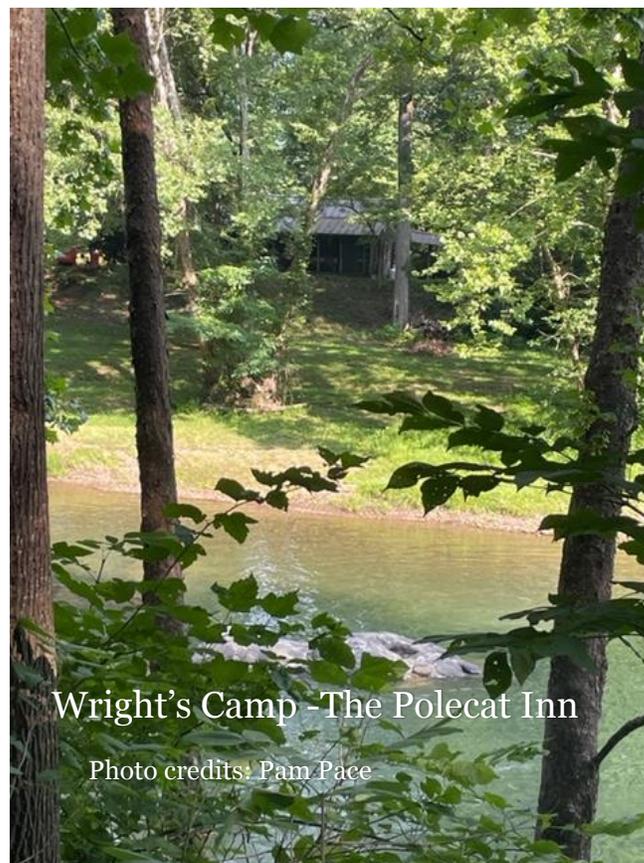
ACTS 20:35 In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.”

THE AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER ITEM OF THE MONTH IS CORNBREAD MIX, SUCH AS JIFFY. We are unable to purchase this item from Feeding Southwest Virginia. It is such a great meal completer, so let's exercise generosity! It will make you feel good, and a lot of people will be very grateful.

September is Hunger Action Month, a month where people all over America stand together with Feeding America and the nationwide network of food banks to fight hunger. It's a month to spread the word and take action on the hunger crisis and dedicate ourselves to a solution.

Words cannot express how thankful we are for the tremendous support from our community!! **THANK YOU, LORD!!!** Please continue your prayers for our mission and for all those who dedicate their time to making it successful. God bless each of you!

Linda Black for Your Care Pantry Team



Wright's Camp - The Polecat Inn

Photo credits: Pam Pace

Preschool Open House
Monday, August 29th



Wright's Camp - The Polecat Inn

Summer 2022

Photo credits: Pam Pace

MUSIC ON THE CORNER

Monday, AUGUST 1st

7:00 PM

FPC Sanctuary

**Emerging Artist Fellows
from
Garth Newel Music Center**

The Emerging Artist Fellowship Program is a four-week, intensive chamber music program for string players and pianists ages 18-28. This year's group of Fellows hail from Austria, Serbia, Kentucky, Michigan, New York, and Texas.

[Emerging Artist Fellow Showcase I |
Garth Newel Music Center](#)

- Feliks Harutyunyan, violin
 - Music and Arts University of the City of Vienna, Austria
- Madison Jones, violin
 - University of Kentucky
- Jordan Bartel, violin
 - University of Michigan
- Joshua Corwin, viola
 - SUNY Fredonia
- Sofia Puccio, cello
 - Boston University
- Bosco Stojadinovic, piano
 - Academy of Arts, Novi Sad, Serbia

Please come and enjoy this special evening of music which includes the following works:

Sonata in C major, op. 56 for two violins
– **Sergei Prokofiev** (1891-1953)

Piano Quartet in G minor,
K.478 – **Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart** (1756-1791)

You are invited to meet and greet the Emerging Artists following the concert in the narthex.

Garth Newel

Founded in 1973, Garth Newel Music Center is a year-round chamber music venue situated in the heart of Virginia's Allegheny Mountains, presenting over 50 concerts throughout the year performed by the Garth Newel Piano Quartet and other renowned guest musicians. Concerts are paired with gourmet meals created by Resident Chef Josh Elliott, and lodging is available in the Historic Manor House on the exquisite 114-acre property.

Garth Newel also hosts the Emerging Artist Fellowship Program each summer (an intensive 4-week workshop for college-age students), an Amateur Chamber Music Retreat each spring, and is home to the Allegheny Mountain String Project, a vital source of music education for children in the Bath, Alleghany, and Highland communities. Known for its breathtaking scenery, world-class performances, and friendly and comfortable accommodations, Garth Newel is truly a one-of-a-kind experience.

Prayers and Songs



Worship in the Chapel

We are planning a casual worship on Rally Day, September 11, 2022 in the Chapel. Light refreshments will be served prior to the service. Some of those attending will be asked to participate in the service. This participation would be reading scripture, leading a response or in a prayer. Pastor Susi will deliver a sermon and we will have a time of reflection on the meaning of the sermon. Sandra will be planning our music. This is a different service for us but we hope you will attend and find it inspirational. If you have questions, please, ask me.

-Brenda Linkenhoker, Worship & Music



First Presbyterian Church – Covington, VA
on Facebook



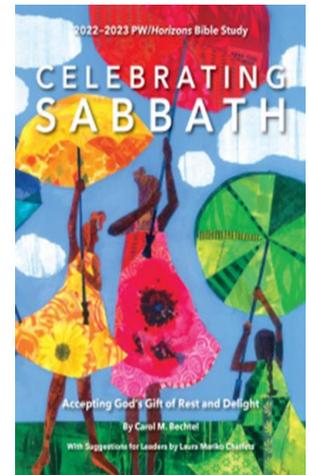
PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

The Presbyterian Women will meet on September 8th at 1 PM for their first meeting for the 2022-2023 year.

We will continue to collect items throughout the summer for SafeHomes and place them in the blue tote in the Church Library. Thank you in advance!

Our new Bible study books have arrived in plenty of time for our first 2022-2023 meeting in September.

The title is “Celebrating Sabbath” and Pastor Susi will lead us through this Bible Study.



Pastor Susi's Summer Sermon Series

Christians are people of hope. This hope is rooted on God, what God has done, and what God promises for us when we are believers in Jesus Christ. Starting on August 7 I will begin a 5-week sermon series on Christian Hope. Through Scripture we will consider why, despite the challenges of our world today, we have hope in Jesus Christ.

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

August 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Music on the Corner <i>Garth Newel</i> 7p Sanctuary	2 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	3 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Choirs Handbell, 5:30p Chancel, 6:45p	4 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	5 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	6 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a
7 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Social Time, 9:30a Sunday School, 9:45a Worship, 11:00a	8 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	9 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a M & S Workshop TUESDAY NITE SUNDAY SCHOOL 6:45 p VOUCHERS DUE, 10a	10 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	11 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	12 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	13 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a
14 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Social Time, 9:30a Sunday School 9:45a Worship, 11:00a	15 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	16 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a TUESDAY NITE SUNDAY SCHOOL 6:45 p	17 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	18 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	19 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	20 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a PRESBYTERY 9AM
21 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Social Time, 9:30a, Sunday School 9:45a Worship, 11:00a SESSION	22 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	23 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a NO TUESDAY NITE SUNDAY SCHOOL VOUCHERS DUE, 10a	24 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	25 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Newsletter Items Due 10a	26 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	27 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a
28 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Social Time, 9:30a, Sunday School 9:45a Worship, 11:00a	29 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE	30 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a TUESDAY NITE SUNDAY SCHOOL 6:45 p	31 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a			