

Under Our Roof

First Presbyterian Church, Covington, VA

September 2022

“...but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.”
(Isaiah 40:31, NRSVue)

If you are like me you may be surprised that September is upon us. In our communities these days the end of August and beginning of September are a time of transition. We are transitioning from summer as we move toward fall. Teachers and students are returning to their classrooms after summer break.

But was it a summer break? Life is so hectic. After the pandemic isolation we are now able to be out and about. Activities have resumed. This means that summer activities were in full force. Vacation Bible schools, swim teams, family vacations, and family reunions. All of this kept us busy. There was no time to slow down and relax in these “off” months.

And now, as our students begin school, as our churches resume regular activities that took a summer hiatus; we are already tired. Possibly we are asking a universal question. How will we find the energy to do what needs to be done?

There is much literature out there these days about how to improve our energy physically. Much of it connects the wellbeing of your physical body to your spiritual wellbeing.

Our spiritual wellbeing is deeply connected to God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. We are familiar with the beginning of the 40th chapter of Isaiah. We hear it during Advent; *“Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.”* (Isaiah 40:1, NRSVue)

As Isaiah brings God’s Word to the Israelite people who are tired and weary, he speaks of how God carries us through our weariness with words such as *“See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him and his recompense before him.”* (Isaiah 40:10, NRSVue)

Isaiah reminds God’s people that God comes to us in our despair which causes weariness; in our exhaustion; in our busyness. God is a God of compassion, love, mercy, grace, and strength.

God sent Jesus, The Son, to help us understand what it means to place ourselves in hands that carry us. God’s Son tells us about the Holy Spirit who gives us spiritual strength and stamina. With all three members of the Triune God we indeed are able to do much.

This is why Isaiah says that we are able to run and not be weary. It is why we are able to walk without passing out. It is in God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit that we find strength to make it, every moment of every day.

May you find strength, both physically and spiritually, in God.

Pastor Susi



SEPTEMBER

BIRTHDAYS

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

COVID. If any of you are interested in serving on a social committee to make suggestions for our group, please let us know.

We will also discuss our big project for the coming year. I have asked Brenda Linkenhoker to speak about the children's home in Wytheville during the September meeting. We send a yearly check but this might be an opportunity to send a little Christmas cheer if we decide on this project. Other outreach projects will be discussed.

To keep our finances in order, we will decide if having a love offering would be a good way to manage our indebtedness. Last year your generosity helped us manage our obligations so we were able to order our books for the new year. Thank you for making this possible.

If you would like to do the opening devotional at our meetings, Jeanie Morrissette will have a sign-up sheet. Jean Johnson will be giving the September devotional. Our goal is to involve as many of you as possible if you enjoy sharing your talents.

We all have missed being together so September 8th is coming. If you know of women who might benefit from this group, please invite them. We have so much love and joy being together and it is good to share.

Pam Pace
PW Moderator



The moderators met with Pastor Susi in August to help set up the PW meetings for the year. Pastor Susi has agreed to serve as the teacher for our group this year. The booklets have arrived and are in the office. Ann Marie has made name tags for

each book which makes them look really nice. Our study this year will be about Celebrating the Sabbath With all the demands that are made on women we are looking forward to these Bible study lessons to see how we can deal with all the responsibilities we have and yet serve the will of God through the celebration of the Sabbath.

We are continuing our scheduled dates of the second Thursday each month for Presbyterian Women, so please mark your calendars. We are still keeping the month of January as closed because of the weather. The phone committee will be contacting each of you soon.

Ann Marie will provide us with new directories in October after we have edited our list. Please check the phone number and email address we have for you in our booklets. Any corrections would be appreciated.

At our first meeting we will have a discussion as to other activities on our day to be together, such as gathering for lunch. With the new CDC guidelines, we have more options for being together and yet remain safe from transmission of

Celebrating Sabbath: Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight

In the nine lessons of this [new Bible study](#), author Carol M. Bechtel invites participants to consider Sabbath: as a celebration, not a day of dreary formality, as God's intent for all of creation (and that includes busy people too!), as one day of the week, perhaps a Sunday, as a time to surrender unhealthy striving and frantic busyness, and instead trust that God will provide, as a reminder that life is precious and working too much is against God's plans for our precious lives, and as a day devoted to community and justice and not exclusively self-care. *Celebrating Sabbath* brims with sermon possibilities, adult education opportunities, and of course, personal faith enrichment.

Carol M. Bechtel is the professor of Old Testament at Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan.

Minute 4 Mission

Conquerors through Christ
August 9, 2022

A Letter from Nadia Ayoub, serving in Greece Summer 2022

You can give to D500115 in honor of Nadia Ayoub's ministry, just mark your envelope.

"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword...No in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us." Romans 8:35, 37

Dear friends and families,

I greet you all in the name of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit. With a heart full of thanksgiving, I thank God for He is love, and through Him, we are more than conquerors because all the suffering cannot separate us from the love of Christ, who showed us the ultimate love by dying on the cross to save us from sin and gave us abundant life. What a comforting truth I treasure and refer to whenever I translate stories of hardship for the displaced and forced immigrant people.

Toward the end of April, Perichoresis welcomed the first Ukrainian family: a grandmother and two granddaughters. They were happy to have left Mariupol when the fight started, leaving behind the grandfather with his two sons and wives to defend the city. The grandmother was full of hope that they would only stay for a short time and soon return to her flat that she had locked with wooden and iron doors. But after a few days, she received the news that the doors had been broken open and her belongings stolen or damaged. Tears flowed from her eyes as she was told what had happened. But she continued to be proud of her family, who had stayed behind to defend their beloved Ukraine. After two months, the Ukrainian fighters could no longer fight, and their city fell into the hands of the Russians. Russian officials began asking Ukrainian citizens to surrender their Ukrainian passports in exchange for new Russian passports so that they could live easily and travel freely. The grandmother's family intended to hold on to their Ukrainian documents. She said, "we may not be able to go back again, but there is no

place like Ukraine. It was rich in everything, especially in food."

Another family, a mother with two children, left her husband back in Ukraine to care for his elderly parents, who did not want to leave. She is a lawyer and consulted astrology to determine when it would be a good time to leave. Leaving was a good decision. She recounts how the war has divided families. She has a brother who lives in Russia, and every time they call, they fight with each other over whether or not Ukraine should fight Russia. Finally, they stopped calling each other.

Perichoresis, a humanitarian and non-profit organization, was established in October 2016 in Katerini, Greece, based on the Christian ideals mentioned in Matthew 25. Perichoresis's mission is to alleviate human hardship regardless of ethnicity, race and creed. Perichoresis's vision is to embrace every destitute fellow human being and include all people, both native and foreign, in the spirit of inclusion, providing protection, accommodation, medical/pharmaceutical care, legal support, social inclusion and educational programs.

Perichoresis initially volunteered to host Ukrainian refugees for two months by providing three fully equipped and furnished apartments for the refugees. Even before the two months were over, Perichoresis decided to make five apartments available and extended the time that the Ukrainian families could stay to four months. Now looking at the prolonged war between Ukraine and Russia, we see the need for long-term housing and adding a few more apartments. It takes a lot of volunteering work to manage a few families.

I had the chance to come back to the USA after more than three years to visit my family, see my two nieces' children and have a medical check-up. I was overwhelmed by the many changes.

When I returned to Katerini, Greece, I learned I needed to teach English in Perichoresis' education center. This task increases my chance of meeting and serving refugees.

The Friday coffee time continues to be a joyful time where women feel free to talk about anything they like: cooking, families, beauty and make-up, customs and traditions. As one lady said, "in our homeland, women are not allowed to speak out, but we are here free, and we enjoy expressing our opinions."

In addition to the Ukrainian refugees, Perichoresis is caring for refugees from Syria, Iraq, Kuwait, Iran, Niger, Congo, Ghana and Japan. Most of them have had their asylum requests rejected one or more times. With the help of lawyers, they reapply for asylum many times. But sometimes, they feel discouraged and try to cross into other countries with the help of smugglers. They rejoice when they arrive in the country of their dreams, but when they arrive, they still have to apply for asylum and wait to see if they will be granted refugee status.

I thank the Lord so much because of you and thank you for your prayers, encouragement and financial support that enable me to be in Katerini, Greece and share Christ's love with all our precious siblings.

I pray the Lord bless you and encourage you more as you share Christ's love locally and internationally.

Serving God joyfully together,

Nadia



1. At the Park for Friday Women Gathering
2. Friday Coffee with ladies.
3. Praise the Lord for the 3 new Grandchildren added to my family.
4. Nouros Family – they left Greece in 2019 and they still wait the decision to be accepted as refugees in the new country.
5. New friend from Japan at my flat cooking together.

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE for JULY FLOODING

Severe flooding has impacted Kentucky, Missouri and Virginia in late July. PDA is in communication with Presbyterian leadership in the affected presbyteries to offer resources, process grants and deploy National Response Team members when it is safe to do so. Please mark your offering envelopes with the PDA designation # DR000191.

Adaptive Leadership Workshop

Change is a constant throughout our personal and communal lives. The founders of adaptive leadership theory suggest that we humans don't actually fear change--we fear loss. When our sense of loss is greater than our sense of purpose, resistance kicks in. During our time together we will take a deeper look at the forces keeping us stuck and we will experience new ways of listening to each other and to God's Spirit so we can join God in the new thing God is doing.

Peaks Presbytery is offering a two-day workshop for Teaching Elders, Ruling Elders, staff, and other lay leaders in the Highlands Neighborhood. The workshop is built on an adaptive leadership framework designed to help you and your church community thrive through the challenges of our time. The leader of the workshop is Jen Brothers, Church Leadership Ministry Specialist for Peaks Presbytery.

The workshop will be held on September 20 & 21, 2022 at Clifton Forge Presbyterian Church. We will meet from 9 am and conclude by 4:30 pm both days. Lunch will be provided.

If you have any questions please talk to Brenda Linkenhoker or Pastor Susi. Registration for the workshop can be done by going to the Presbytery website, www.peakspresbytery.org. There you will go to the events menu and select register for an event.



EARTH

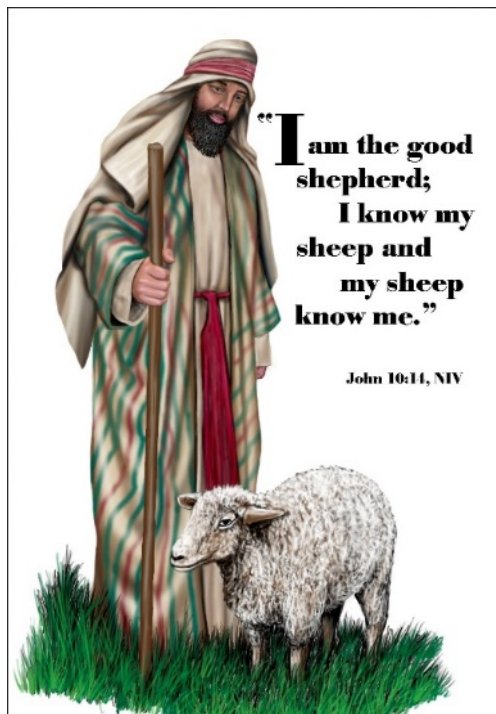
CARE

SUMMIT

The Presbytery of the Peaks Earth Care Workgroup will be hosting a Presbytery Earth Care Summit on Saturday, October 1. They wish for us to consider sending one or more representatives from our church to learn to strengthen our church's creation care activities, and to get some motivation, encouragement and resources for making it a ministry priority for our congregation.

To reduce travel time and still allow for face-to-face interaction, we plan to gather in three "hubs", connecting the hubs virtually through an in-person/virtual hybrid format from 11:00 – 2:00.
Hub 1: Covenant Presbyterian Church, Roanoke
Hub 2: First Presbyterian Church, Martinsville
Hub 3: Quaker Memorial Presbyterian Church, Lynchburg

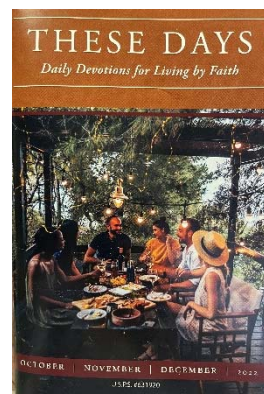
Information on registering will be available in the near future and will be published in the bulletin.



We are planning a casual worship 11AM 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



These Days for last quarter have arrived. Please let the office know if you want one mailed to you!



Prayer Time

From the moment of creation, people have been in relationship with God. It is a relationship that people have broken at times, yet it is one that God desires to maintain. In any relationship communication is a key element. Our communication with God is called prayer.

Paul writes to the Philippians; *“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.”* (Philippians 4:6, NRSVue) We continue our conversation with God.

Jesus says that it need not be wordy, using lofty words: *“When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard because of their many words ...”* (Matthew 6:7, NRSVue). Just talk to God using your own words.

And finally when Solomon had completed the Jerusalem Temple and it was dedicated to God, these words came to him from God; *“...if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land. Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayer that is made in this place.”*

Beginning in September the sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church will be open on Wednesdays twice a month from 1-2 pm for people to come here and pray. It is a time for quiet prayer. Usually, it will be the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month. However, for September the dates are September 14 and 28, 2022.

If needed there will be some Biblical passages for you to use in your time of prayer. During this time Pastor Susi will be available to pray with you for any particular concerns.

Puzzle!

Look up each verse in an NIV Bible and find a word that fits in that row. Then write the word from the bold vertical column in the blank below to complete Proverbs 24:3-4.

1 Corinthians 8:1		N					
Philippians 1:9						H	
2 Peter 1:5							S
			A				2 Timothy 3:7
Matthew 24:32						S	
John 7:15						R	
							I
							Isaiah 33:6
2 Peter 3:18							E
		W					Proverbs 24:5

By wisdom a house is built, and ...
through _____ its rooms are filled with
rare and beautiful treasures.

PROVERBS 24:3-4, NIV

Answer: know, insight, goodness, always, lesson, learning, foundation, grace, power, knowledge



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 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	2 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	3 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a
4 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Social Time, 9:30a Sunday School, 9:45a Worship, 11:00a	5 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a  Labor Day <i>Office Closed</i>	6 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a TUESDAY NITE SUNDAY SCHOOL 6:45 p	7 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Choirs Handbell, 5:30p Chancel, 6:45p PRESCHOOL STARTS	8 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Presbyterian Women 1p	9 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	10 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a
11 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Social Time, 9:30a Sunday School 9:45a Worship, 11:00a IN THE CHAPEL	12 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	13 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a TUESDAY NITE SUNDAY SCHOOL 6:45 p VOUCHERS DUE, 10a	14 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Choirs Handbell, 5:30p Chancel, 6:45p <i>Prayer Time 1-2p</i>	15 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	16 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	17 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a
18 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Social Time, 9:30a, Sunday School 9:45a Worship, 11:00a	19 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	20 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a TUESDAY NITE SUNDAY SCHOOL 6:45 p	21 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Choirs Handbell, 5:30p Chancel, 6:45p	22 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a  <i>First Day of Autumn</i>	23 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	24 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a
25 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Social Time, 9:30a, Sunday School 9:45a Worship, 11:00a	26 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	27 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a TUESDAY NITE SUNDAY SCHOOL 6:45 p VOUCHERS DUE, 10a Newsletter Items Due 10a	28 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Choirs Handbell, 5:30p Chancel, 6:45p <i>Prayer Time 1-2p</i>	29 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	30 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	