

Under Our Roof

First Presbyterian Church, Covington, VA

October 2023

“For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven:” (Ecclesiastes 3:1, NRSVue)

With the changing of the seasons this passage from Ecclesiastes came to my mind. Every year we experience the cycle of seasons that God created. Some of us have a favorite season. Fall is my favorite season. The heat of summer is dissipating with cooler temperatures becoming the norm. Leaves of the trees on the mountainside begin to change their colors.

Maybe you enjoy the spring when the world is waking up from its winter sleep and the flowers begin to emerge and bloom. Or is it summer when we watch the garden grow and begin to enjoy the bounty of fresh vegetables for meals. Then there is winter when things go into a time of rest and renewal.

Every year we experience one season giving way to the next. If we don't like a particular season, we know that eventually it will end as the next comes. The writer of Ecclesiastes 3 knows that God has given us different seasons or times of life.

Verse 2 starts by saying that there is a time to be born and a time to die. Life and death is for all sorts of living things. Spring brings the birth of gardens while fall and winter bring the death of the plants. But it is not forever, spring comes back and we start the garden up again.

Another verse, verse 3, says that there is a time to break down and a time to build up. This time is hard. It is a time of change which is a challenge for many people. Some of us do not like change. We want things to stay the same. We complain and resist.

However, we do need to change. We need to break down some of the old to build new things. Friends, this is where we are as a congregation. We are being challenged to discern what things need to be broken down so other things may be built up.

I have spent the time since I arrived at the end of 2020, yes it was that long ago that I came; listening to what is important to folks here. Some of those important things are our traditions. There are traditions that are important to observe while others may have past usefulness. Some may need to be left behind, that is broken down.

We have the opportunity to begin new traditions, to build new things that will become meaningful to us. This may come in the form of changes to the worship service. The Worship and Music committee has discussed how we can make worship a meaningful time for every person that attends.

Last year we started having worship services in the chapel upon occasion. These times have been less formal and more interactive. These services have been well received and so we hope to continue them.

What about other changes? There is a group of folks looking at bringing a kitchen area to the main level as the kitchen downstairs is not accessible to folks with mobility issues. (See additional article in this newsletter.) With such an area we will be able to look at ways to hold more events that are attractive to people who are seeking a church family. It will also help us to be a place for outside groups to come and enjoy our building.

This means that an additional thing to build is programs that will be for the entire community. The Great Commission in Matthew 28:19 tells us that we are to: “*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*” We must start with the ends of the community called Covington Virginia.

How will we reach people? How do we let people know about the God who loves people so much that Jesus Christ lived and died to bring salvation? We will do this because it is what Jesus instructs us to do.

As we try these new things some will work out and some will not. I would like us to remember we are fulfilling the instruction of Almighty God as given by Jesus.

~Pastor Susi



Birthdays of the Month

OCTOBER

- 4 Kathy Howard
- 4 Jim Oliver
- 15 Jim Slate
- 25 Pam Pace
- 30 Gary Pillow



First Presbyterian Women met together on Thursday, September 14th to begin their new study for the year 2023-24. Our Bible Study, “Sacred Encounters”, got

off to big start with the stories of Elizabeth and Mary. The women in these stories were given the news of the arrival of Jesus before anyone else, because of their deep faith. The discussion by those present brought out insight into the times where women had important roles in the Bible.

Prior to the meeting, we made ice cream sundaes and shared our summer stories.



A big thank you to Ann Marie and Ann Woodward for helping to get the room ready for the event.

We will continue to meet in the Noah’s Ark Room for a time due to careful planning before the actual construction

phase for the new kitchen. We will have session’s approval prior to the construction, so this will take some time.

All members will be asked to suggest projects this year that will be voted on at the October meeting. Some suggestions include gift cards for the Children’s Home in Wytheville, helping the food pantry and supplying needed items to Safe Homes. You may email me or call me with your ideas.

Jeanie Morrissette gave a card report and updated us on several members wellbeing. We offer prayers to those not able to be with us today.

The treasurer’s report was given and we have a balance of \$420.25 as of our meeting day. We decided to bring a love offering to help with our projects and that

can be collected at our meeting.



Emily Amick had our devotional for our meeting. Thank you for your contribution. Our next meeting is October 12th at 1:00 p.m. in the Noah's Ark room. We will be discussing chapter 2 in our study guides.

I still need to deliver a few books before our next meeting. We have extra books if you would like to join



Pam Pace
PW Moderator



Coffee and Conversation

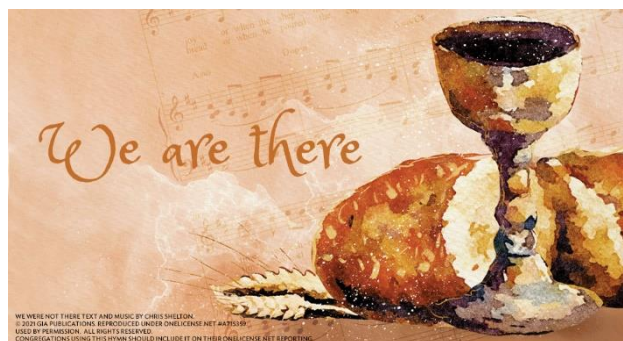
Join Pastor Susi at Kanawha Café on the following Tuesday mornings (Oct. 3, 10, 24 and 31) between 8:30 AM and 10:30 AM.

Grab a cup of coffee and maybe a snack or two and find her at one of the tables chatting.

RADIO WORD

The Western Alleghany Ministerial Association (WAMA) does devotions on our local radio stations each day around noon. Pastor Susi can be heard doing her week of radio devotions on October 23rd through 27th! Tune in to hear a brief message.

MINUTE FOR MISSION



Peace & Global Witness Offering – October 1st
Through the Peace & Global Witness Offering, we are there in places like North Carolina, Tuvalu, and Madagascar working alongside our siblings affected by structural racism, climate change, and human trafficking. We come together to promote the peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice in our own communities and around the world.



*Every time the world is troubled,
and we dare to wake and see;
every time our neighbors call us,
and we stand with those in need;
and every time we are peacemakers,
and the fearful are set free,
In our living, in our giving,
we are there.*

**Community Worship Service
 Sunday, October 8th at 4 P. M.
 at Oakland Grove Presbyterian**

Pastor Susi Ennis will be speaking at this special service. Please plan to attend.

Oakland Grove Presbyterian Church is a historic Presbyterian church located at Selma, Alleghany County, Virginia. It was built about 1847, and is a one-story, brick structure measuring 30 feet by 40 feet. It features a molded brick cornice that runs beneath the eaves of the slate covered gable roof. It is the oldest known ecclesiastical structure in Alleghany County and is popularly regarded as one of the county's chief historic landmarks. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1982.



**October 29th is
 Reformation
 Sunday
 Joint Service
 at Mallow Presbyterian
 11:00 A. M.**

No Bible Study or Worship at First Presbyterian

PRAYER REQUEST

*We will be glad to join
 with you in praying
 for your specific needs.*

Please write your request here
 and place it in the offering plate
 or hand it to an usher.

Please pray for _____

Requested by _____

Date: _____

___ I would like someone to contact me
 to pray over more confidential matters.

Phone number: _____

*Please share with us as God
 meets your needs so that we
 may rejoice with you!*



Kitchen Update

As you all have heard, we are planning a new kitchen. The first hurdle we encountered was our zoning. The church is zoned C1. This means we have to meet commercial standards. That means our stove has to have a ventilation suppression hood vented to the outside.

The session met Sunday and discussed several options. They decided to continue with the commercial kitchen plan. Other options did not include a stove in the new area.

Our next obstacle is our electrical system. This part of the church was built in 1959. It was decided that we needed someone to come in and inspect our current electrical situation and design the electrical layout for the new kitchen. After several calls, one with a contractor and one with H&M Electric, it was decided we need an electrical engineering firm. There are none in our immediate area. I have called Lawrence Perry and Associates in Roanoke and have not heard back. This company has done work in our area before and at least knows where Covington is. H&M Electric will be doing the electrical work once the design work is completed. The design for cabinets and appliances is complete. The cabinets will be purchased and installed by Town & Country. They will also install our new floor. We are going forward – baby steps at this time. After we get this electrical situation completed, we will be ready to start the actual renovation of the Noah's Ark Room. Thank you all for your support – please ask questions. – Brenda Linkenhoker



Notes from Worship and Music Committee

Upcoming Services

- October 1 – World Communion Sunday
October 29 – Reformation Sunday
This service will be celebrated at 11:00 A. M. at Mallow Presbyterian Church.
- November 19 – Thanksgiving Service
Granbery UMC will host this service. The time has not been announced.
- November 26- Communion
December 3 – First Sunday of Advent
December 10- Communion
December 24 – We will celebrate the 4th Sunday of Advent at the 11:00 A. M. service. The Christmas Eve service will be held at 4:00 P. M.
- December 31 – casual service of hymns and fellowship at 11:00 A. M.

Christmas Angel Tree

The Christmas Angel Tree will be going up soon. This year we ask that you take a paper angel and replace it with one of the hand-crocheted angels. These angels will be in a basket by the tree. Return your gifts to the tree unwrapped. The hand-crocheted angels are a loving gift from Francis Withrow.

We invite everyone to attend our Worship & Music meetings. We love new ideas.



Bus Trip
**INTERNATIONAL
 CIVIL RIGHTS
 CENTER & MUSEUM**

GREENSBORO NC

October 7, 2023

Bus will pick up riders at the following locations:

9am-- Peace Presbyterian Church
 5646 Cloverdale Road
 Roanoke VA 24019

10:15am-- First Presbyterian Martinsville
 1901 Patrick Henry Avenue
 Martinsville VA 24112

11:30am-- Arrive in Greensboro NC

The International Civil Rights Center & Museum-- commemorating the February 1, 1960, beginning of sit-ins at a whites-only lunch counter in Greensboro, by the N.C. A&T Four college students-- opened in 2010 as a comprehensive museum of the Civil Rights Movement in the United States.

see the Peaks Presbytery website to reserve your seat
bus transportation and museum admission included

Justice and Mercy Commission
 Racial Equity Subcommittee
 Blacksburg Presbyterian Church

"Woolworth's Building, Greensboro, NC" by w_lemay is marked with CC0 1.0.

Event will be held in the Chapel

Let's Talk About It...!
Healing Conversations to Bridge
the Gaps Which Divide us...

Facing Racism

Monday, October 30
9am-4pm

1st Presbyterian Church
Covington

185 N Maple Avenue
Covington VA 24426



**A learning workshop designed for
pastors and lay leaders to engage
the topic of Racism through the
lens of scripture and shared dialogue...**

Please see the Peaks Presbytery website for
more information and registration

Justice & Mercy of Peaks Presbytery



<https://www.peakspresbytery.org/>

First Presbyterian Church

Sunday Morning Worship is held in-person and live-streamed on our YouTube channel.

Daily devotions with Daniel Pillow are streamed on our YouTube channel.

Bible Study in-person & via Zoom – Contact Pastor Susi for a Zoom link @pastor.susi.ennis@gmail.com

October 2023						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Bible Study 9:45a Worship, 11:00a World Communion Peace & Global Witness Offering	2 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	3 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Coffee & Conversation 8:30-10:30a Bible Study 6:45p	4 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Choir Chancel, 4:30p Handbell, 5:30p	5 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	6 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	7 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Civil Rights Center & Museum Bus Trip <i>(see flyer)</i>
8 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Bible Study 9:45a Worship, 11:00a SESSION Community Worship @ Oakland Pres. Low Moor 4p	9 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	10 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Coffee & Conversation 8:30-10:30a VOUCHERS DUE, 10a Bible Study 6:45p	11 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Open Sanctuary 1-2 p Choir Chancel, 4:30p Handbell, 5:30p	12 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a PW 1p	13 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	14 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a
15 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Bible Study 9:45a Worship, 11:00a	16 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	17 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a No Coffee Time No Bible Study	18 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Choir Chancel, 4:30p Handbell, 5:30p	19 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	20 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	21 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a
22 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a No Bible Study Worship, 11:00a JIM IRWIN Pulpit Supply	23 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	24 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Coffee & Conversation 8:30-10:30a MISSION & SERVICE Zoom 10a Bible Study 6:45p	25 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Open Sanctuary 1-2 p Choir Chancel, 4:30p Handbell, 5:30p	26 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a VOUCHERS DUE, 10a Newsletter Info Due 10a	27 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	28 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a
29 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a No Bible Study REFORMATION SUNDAY Joint Service @Mallow PC Offering goes to Abukloi	30 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Workshop in Chapel “Let’s talk about it: Facing Racism” 9a-4p <i>(see flyer)</i>	31 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Coffee & Conversation 8:30-10:30a No Bible Study	