



UPPER PATH VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

July 2019 Newsletter

Dear Covenant Partners, Active Supporters, and Friends,

On Monday, June 10 a meeting was held with those who have led **adult and youth small groups** in the past year. It was an important time to think and pray and envision what God wants us to do to keep growing, maturing, and multiplying disciples at UPVPC. When asked about the current small groups, the following descriptors of ‘what we do’ were shared:

- † We study the Bible
- † We build relationships & bond with one another
- † We try to instill a hunger for God’s Word
- † We share encouraging stories from our week
- † We make sure we are leading with a healthy awareness of different levels of Bible knowledge in the room
- † We pray for and support one another
- † We create a safe place to talk about difficult things
- † We encourage, reach out, and take care of each other
- † We challenge each other to be and make disciples every day of the week, no matter where we are

We spoke at length about what/who is missing in our groups. We celebrated a healthy multi-generational mix in all of the adult classes and agreed that we want to continue this, promoting it as the best way for a church family to learn and grow from one another. The challenges of the young and the challenges of the old help us get outside ourselves to share wisdom and hope with one another as followers of Jesus Christ. We discussed ways to integrate new high school graduates and college students into the adult small group ministry. If you are not currently engaged in a small group on Sunday mornings or Wednesday evenings, I enthusiastically encourage you to take a step of faith and give one a try.

We also put **Confirmation** on the table for discussion. Confirmation in the Presbyterian Church has always happened before age 15 as a class experience designed to teach the foundations of the faith to teens. The goal is help them make faith their own by choosing and professing faith in Jesus and making a commitment to covenant partnership - an important step to adulthood and maturation as a disciple. We are launching a new model for confirmation at UPVPC.

We agreed whole-heartedly that a more personal approach needs to be taken with our teens who express a readiness to profess their faith in Christ and become covenant partners of the church. Therefore, with a team of mentors at-the-ready, using a modified version of my covenant partner class curriculum, we are prepared to offer this important relationship-driven ministry to our teens. The current mentors ready to serve are: Joni Frey, Becky Gerlach, Bonnie Cornelious, and Chris Walters for our girls, and John Boozer and Karl Barry for our boys. This will be a one-on-one or two-on-one experience – as God leads. If you have a teen in your household who is ready to make a commitment to Christ and the church, please speak directly with me or Laurie Ruby to get the ball rolling. The timing for this will be extremely flexible, but a commitment to agreed-upon meeting times will be a critical part of bringing your teen to this new place in their lives.

We concluded our meeting with things we celebrate in our small group discipleship ministry at UPVPC: The new classroom, inclusiveness (all are welcome no matter what hindrance you might think somehow disqualifies you – not true!), loving direction, teens learning Scripture, laughter, love, fellowship, relationships, safe spaces, the freedom to change groups when desired, and one another. I am beyond grateful to God for what He is doing in us, through us, and with us. Let us press on, inviting others, and committed to the full ripening of the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Love, Meagan

THANK YOU

The daughters of Winnie Agett put a beautiful flower arrangement in the sanctuary for worship in June along with the following sentiments:

- † *Mom was a faithful member of UPVPC for many, many years. I grew up in this church and acquired my own foundation of faith from the pastors and church members who lived out their faith in so many ways.*
 - † *Thank you for keeping my family in your thoughts and prayers during this past year. It is hard to believe it is a year since mom's death. We continue to miss her – her love, her concern for our safety, well-being, and our happiness.*
 - † *But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. Isaiah 40:31*
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ONE MORE THANK YOU

Dear UPVPC Church family,

Thank you so very much for the special Easter gift sent our way! What an encouragement that you thought of us and gave so generously. The children of one of our Bible clubs are particularly keen on memorizing the verses each week, so we had been thinking about purchasing Bibles for them at the end of our year in December. This gift will allow us to do that. Thank you again, and may God bless each one of you dear brothers and sisters.

*Love in Jesus,
Matias, Rebekah, and Lily Mancilla*

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AND ONE MORE!

Thank you to the following folks who came on the first Saturday in June for our work morning at church. We had a lot of things on the list, and almost all of them were completed on that day! Thank you to Brad Gamble, Brenda & Mark Hart, Twila Snyder, Kenny Wenger, Phil & Lena Lakjer, Eric & Beth Bair, Marie Hill, Becky Gerlach, and Tom & Linda Gardner. In the week previous to this, Earl Custer did an outstanding job cleaning up the prayer garden for the spring and summer, and in the week after this, Kenny Wenger tended to the masonry needs on the sanctuary steps, steps down to old Rt. 75, and the brick pillars by the front patio. Also, in the weeks after this, Brenda Hart finished the trim painting in our new classroom! Thank you to all! You are appreciated! Many hands do make light work!



Summer Mission Work Update

The week of July 8th is our local mission work week. If you want to help in any way (light construction, yard clean-up, etc.) please put your name on the mission list on the front pew (or contact Rev. Meagan). We have numerous sites where we will be working, so the more help we have the more work we can accomplish that week!

PATH VALLEY SHOEBOX PROJECT!

It is time to celebrate Christmas In July with the Path Valley Shoebox Project! Actually, it's Christmas any month with this group! We are so excited every time items are received for the Shoeboxes. During July we want to focus on the back to school sales that are starting (unbelievable – school just ended!) Many stores will have sales on pencils, notebooks and paper, crayons, pencil sharpeners and erasers, solar calculators, markers, colored pencils, etc. We are in need of all of these items along with many other things – and we greatly appreciate all the support we have received especially this year. If you are a yard sale shopper – great buys can be found on stuffed animals and small toys – along with baby blankets and gently used clothing. Donated items can be placed in the bins at the church or brought to our storage area at Val-Med the last Saturday of the month from 9 a.m. -12 p.m.

Thank you all for your support of our recent pizza coupon sale along with the food stand and table at the flea market. All funds from these sales will be used to purchase items for the shoeboxes and to offset shipping expenses.

The Path Valley Shoebox Project is on a mission to share the gospel with children all over the world. We do this by packing a shoebox, trusting God to place it in the hands of a child, a child excited to hear His Word. **We have a God-sized goal of 5,500 shoeboxes from Path Valley this year-** wow – God is good! If you would like to learn more about the Shoebox Project or to be a part of it – join us at Double Dip, July 8 at 6:30 pm. For more info contact John or Ruth Mitchell.



Children, Youth & Family Ministry Update

On Sunday, July 14th during the Small Group hour from 9:45-10:45 a.m. parents of children pre-school through college are invited to attend a **parent meeting** in the church basement. This meeting will be a time to encourage one another, raise concerns they are facing, and provide input into what resources they would be interested in receiving to help their children navigate faith and the world. A portion of the meeting will address technology and how to engage technology in a Christ-centered way. Our children are saturated in technology and media at such a young age, it is important that we know how to help them navigate all the information they are receiving in a healthy way.

If you are unable to attend the meeting, but are interested in receiving more information about what was discussed or interested in receiving resources for your own family, please contact me and we can set something up. I look forward to meeting with you and connecting with you all on Sunday, July 14.

For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual understanding. And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience and joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light."
Colossians 1:9-12

Blessings, Laurie Ruby

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES!



Pray a prayer of thanksgiving and blessing over each person/couple as their special day arrives:

- 7/1 Sarah Cornelious McDowell, Ellen Heckman
- 7/2 Tana Martin, David Cauffman
- 7/3 Bruce Jones, Evyanna Snyder
- 7/4 Claire Coons, Dawn Johnson
- 7/5 Wade Cook
- 7/6 Angie Hall
- 7/7 Earl Custer, Wren Rupert, Don Woodward
- 7/9 Pat Campbell
- 7/11 Dee Flood, Aaron Mayeski
- 7/13 Jim Thatcher
- 7/14 Teresa Miller
- 7/15 Cooper Bair, Melissa Bannister
- 7/16 Twila Snyder
- 7/18 Andrew Thatcher
- 7/21 Barb Burkholder
- 7/22 Larry Bryan
- 7/23 Greg Best, Autumn Daniel
- 7/24 Finn McGee, Sandy Stine, Karen Willis, Nancy Woodward
- 7/26 Lillian Parker
- 7/30 Myla Neil

Anniversaries

- 7/9 Glenn & Betty Campbell
- 7/13 Phil & Lena Lakjer
- 7/22 Stuart & Cheryl Trueax
- 7/24 Mark & Brenda Hart, Steve & Wanda Ruby

Congratulations to Brock and Blake Woodward on Mt. Union High School's AAA State Baseball Championship!



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Rev. Meagan M. Boozer, Pastor

**Enjoy this poem shared by Phyllis Ciarrocca
in her small group on Sunday, June 23.**

Where God Ain't

He was just a little boy on a week's first day.
He was wandering home from Sunday School
and dawdling on the way.
He scuffed his shoes into the grass,
he found a caterpillar,
He found a fluffy milkweed pod,
and blew out all the "filler".
A bird's nest in a tree o'er head,
so wisely placed on high,
was just another wonder
that caught his eager eye.

A neighbor watched his zig-zag course
and hailed him from the lawn
Asked him where he'd been that day
and what was going on.
"I've been to bible school" he said,
and turned a piece of sod,
He picked up a wiggly worm,
replying "I've learned a lot of God."

"Very fine way" the neighbor said,
"for a boy to spend his time,
If you'll tell me where God is,
I'll give you a brand-new dime."

Quick as a flash the answer came,
nor were his accents faint,
"I'll give you a dollar, Mister
if you can tell me where God ain't."

JULY 2019 AT A GLANCE

- Wednesday, July 3: Retired friends' lunch at PVR, 11:30 a.m.; Tuscarora Organic Growers in the Assembly Room, 1 - 4 p.m.; Rooted youth, 6:30 p.m.; Adult Bible Study, 6:30 p.m.
- Thursday, July 4: Church office closed for Independence Day.
- Sunday, July 7: Worship, 8:30 & 11 a.m.; Small Groups, 9:45. Sermon: "Not Too Much To Bear: Patience."
- Monday, July 8: LOCAL MISSION WEEK BEGINS!
- Monday, July 8: Open House Bridal shower for Laurie Ruby in the Assembly Room, 6-8 p.m. All women & girls in the congregation are invited. Please RSVP to Trish Naugle.
- Saturday, July 13: Family Fellowship at the home of Tana & Chad Martin, 3 p.m.
- Sunday, July 14: Worship, 8:30 & 11 a.m.; Small Groups, 9:45. Local mission sharing in worship: Katy Dortenzo from Sweet Grace Ministries, and Gary Rebok from Occupational Services.
- Wednesday, July 17: Rooted Youth at Laurie's house, 6:30-8 p.m.; Adult Bible Study, 6:30 p.m.
- Sunday, July 21: Worship, 8:30 & 11 a.m.; Small Groups, 9:45. Sermon: "Not Too Much to Bear: Kindness."
- Sunday - Thursday, July 21-25: FRUITFUL FARMS VBS 6:30 - 8:15 p.m. every evening for ages 3 - 5th grade.
- Sunday, July 28: Worship, 8:30 & 11 a.m.; Small Groups, 9:45. Sermon: "Not Too Much to Bear: Goodness."
- Wednesday, July 31: Final Summer Rooted Youth, 6:30-8 p.m.; Adult Bible Study, 6:30 p.m.

Very Exciting Musical News!

At their June 11th meeting the elders received and approved a special proposal from Monique Parsons to begin a music ministry with our children ages 4-7. The purpose of the ministry is:

- To worship God
- To encourage spiritual growth
- To build friendships through sharing musical experiences
- To contribute to the church community
- To build self-confidence and musical ability.

Monique will practice with the children for 45 minutes once a week during the spring and fall school semesters. These gatherings will be fun and upbeat with a theme. The first theme will be called "Ways to Praise" and will focus on how we can praise God through singing, moving, dancing, and playing. One of Monique hopes is to have the children share as a children's choir once a month during a morning worship service!

As we see how God leads, if the way be clear, Monique hopes to be able to begin a choir chime group for older children, and/or a beginning bell choir for older teens and adults.

Father God, we thank you for bringing Monique to UPVPC and for her passion for sharing the musical gifts you have given her with others. We pray for your leadership in her life as she prepares, and pray for the fruit of the Spirit to ripen beautifully in her as she follows your call. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**Join together with the community
on Sunday, August 4th at 6 p.m.
at Hammond's Grove
to hear The Delawder Family
as we kick off
Path Valley Picnic Week!
Bring a chair and a friend!**

**Rain Location: Upper Path Valley
Presbyterian Church.**

**Sponsored by the Path & Amberson
Valley Ministerium**

August 11 is 10 - 4 Sunday!

One worship service at 10 a.m. with music, music, music! (no small groups)

Annual Church Picnic at Spring House Farm at 4 p.m. Meat, rolls, condiments, paper products, and water will be provided. Bring a covered dish, salad, or dessert to share!



Mark your calendars today!

August 11 is 10 - 4 Sunday!

**Four Adult Sunday Morning
Small Groups for the Summer**

Sermon on the Mount Bible Study in the first classroom to the right on your way to the nursery with Joni Frey, leader. Study the Beautitudes, the Lord's prayer, the wise and foolish builder...and so much more in Matthew 5, 6, & 7.

Onward: Engaging the Culture without losing the Gospel: A video/discussion class in classroom 3 with John Boozer, leader. As Christianity seems increasingly strange and even subversive to our culture, we have the *opportunity* to embrace the distinctiveness of the Christian faith and yes, to be marginalized for the sake of the gospel.

Bible-in-Life David C. Cook Curriculum, Summer Theme: Covenant in God (Studies in Ruth, 1 Samuel, Matthew, John, Ephesians, Hebrews, & Romans): A lively and personal discussion class in the Assembly Room with Dr. Bonnie Cornelious, leader.

The End of Me: A video/discussion class in the library with Rev. Meagan, leader. Powerful video testimonies challenge us to consider what we are holding onto rather than letting go to grab hold of God's will and plan for us.

We are compiling a list of all faithful attenders who have CPR/AED and First Aid Certifications in our congregation (please let Rev. Meagan know if you have these certifications and are not listed). Those who just completed the courses at the church are:
CPR/AED: Wally Hoffmann, Phil Lakjer, Wyatt & Marissa Flood, Johanna Grove, Laurie Ruby, and Amy Thatcher.
FIRST AID: Wally & Bev Hoffmann, Phil Lakjer, Wyatt & Marissa Flood, Abby Frazier, Laurie Ruby, & Amy Thatcher.

We also have the following **EMT's** as part of our attending congregation (please let me know if I missed anyone): Eric Bair, Scott Naugle, Dale, Zac, & Angie Hall, and Morgan Frazier.

We are grateful to have so many to step up to help us in times of injury and need!

Safety 



**"For the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience,
kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control."**

Galatians 5:22-23

Register today at:

upvpc.org or pick up a paper registration at the Church office!