



# UPPER PATH VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## September 2019 Newsletter

Dear Covenant Partners, Active Supporters, and Friends,

September is often a time when people who have drifted a bit from committed church attendance during the summer find their way back. Why is this important? Why is committed church attendance important to the Christian? Can't we just keep drifting along without having to get up and go on a Sunday morning? Here are four good reasons it is important to be a committed part of a local church family:

### 1) We tend to drift spiritually when not connected relationally.

Committed church attendance is not required for salvation and spiritual growth, but without it, we can easily lose the JOY of our salvation and become stagnant in our growth as a disciple of Jesus. When we drift from a community of believers, the human mind begins to rationalize. "I love God, and He loves me, I don't need to go to church." It's true that you don't need to go to church for God to love you and for you to love God, but if we truly do love God, we want to be where his people are! We want to gather to learn more about God and about how we can support each other as we walk the road of faith. There is such JOY in growing closer to the people in the church family. We know we are truly there for each other in times of weeping and times of rejoicing.

### 2) Christianity was never intended to be an independent endeavor.

The nature of Christianity is essentially relational. The primary relationship is between God and humanity. That relationship was perfect until broken by sin. (Genesis 3:1-19) The relationship was restored by a covenant relationship, through Abraham (Genesis 12:2-3). That covenant promise was fulfilled through Christ, also a personal relationship. Christianity was never intended to be a "Lone Ranger" proposition. We need each other. There is no perfect church, and there are no perfect Christians, but together we help each other become the people that God intended us to be.

### 3) Our shared gifts, talents and resources make us stronger.

None of us are as strong alone as we are together. The spiritual gifts listed in passages such as Romans 12:4-7, Ephesians 4:11-12, and I Corinthians 12:4-11 paint a great picture of how we work together and strengthen each other. I can't say it better than what is written in Ephesians chapter 4. *<sup>11</sup> So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up. <sup>16</sup> From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.*

### 4) God ordained the Church as His organized plan for redemption.

Ephesians 3:10-12 tells us, *"<sup>10</sup> His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, <sup>11</sup> according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. <sup>12</sup> In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence."* Because Church is God's design, then for believers, it's worth more than academic consideration or participation during the holidays. Your life becomes deeper and richer as you give your whole heart to the people and the mission of the Church.

Come on back friends. If God has called you to faith, He has called you to be an active, committed

## BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES!



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

### Birthdays

George Baker	September 2
Johanna Grove	September 2
Bobby Allison	September 3
John Boozer	September 3
Nancy Coons	September 6
Addaleigh Daniel	September 7
Molly Daniel	September 7
Travis Minium	September 7
Bobbie Wible	September 8
Abigail Frazier	September 9
Brad Gerlach	September 10
Wayne Treible	September 11
Gayle Parks	September 12
Don Umbrell	September 12
Carson Beaumont	September 14
Marissa Flood	September 15
Seth Hart	September 15
Royce McGee	September 15
Donnie Allison	September 16
Bill Harris	September 16
Sharryl Hockenberry	September 16
Jonathan Baker	September 17
Emmalynn Felmlee	September 17
Laura Copenhaver	September 18
Betty Wenger	September 18
Ray Coons	September 19
Brenda Hart	September 19
Trish Naugle	September 21
Mike Parks	September 21
Donna Adams	September 21
Pam Beaston	September 23
Crystal Gamble	September 23
Brittney Rupert	September 24
Rena Barry	September 24
Sarah Robinson	September 27
Betty Campbell	September 28
Maegan Snyder	September 28
Mark Cook	September 29

### Anniversaries

Brett & Kendra Hostler	September 1
Mike & Robin Coons	September 6
Ray & Nancy Coons	September 6
Drew & Dawn Johnson	September 6
Butch & Dee Flood	September 6
Bob & Jill Parsons	September 9
Wayne & Wanda Harry	September 12
Bob & Lori McClure	September 13

Von & Kristin McGee	September 13
Dave & Shiela Parsons	September 16
Preston & Kathy Carbaugh	September 17
Darryl & Shelly Boggs	September 18
Wayne & Carrie Anderson	September 19
Zac & Kristie Hall	September 22
Eric & Beth Bair	September 23
Cole & Keri Daniel	September 25
Ken & Janet Shirk	September 30

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Starting this fall, children ages 4-7 are invited to join our children's music program entitled, "Ways to Praise" with Monique Parsons. We will learn how to sing, dance, and play instruments as a way to serve in God's kingdom. Music is a fun and exciting way for children to grow in Christ, develop musical skill, and lead in worship. **We will be meeting on Wednesdays from 4:45-5:30 p.m. starting on September 11th.**

**Praise the LORD! "Sing to the LORD a new song, his praise in the assembly of his faithful people!"  
Psalm 149:1**



### **Path Valley Shoebox Project News**

Wherever Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes go - God goes before them. We want to share 2 examples of times when God was in the details of packing shoeboxes:

In 2015, a group of people were collecting items all year long for a packing party to be held in November. Everyone in the community and the local churches were so generous but the group did not have enough stuffed animals to pack one in every box. They reached out to family and friends and still did not have enough stuffed animals. They bought stuffed animals from every available outlet and still..... not enough for the large number of boxes they expected to pack. They had done everything they could, and the time had come to pack the boxes. Before the "packing party" began – they prayed together as they had all year long- this time asking God to bless their efforts as they packed the boxes that would share the Gospel with children all over

the world. Several hours later, almost 1,000 boxes were packed and each box packed contained a stuffed animal, other items were gone but there were still stuffed animals left over. How could this be? There had to be a mistake – but no – when the party was over there were stuffed animals remaining in unopened tubs - 12 tubs to be exact. Unbelievable isn't it, except that it happened at Brindle's Auction in Willow Hill and was the second year the Shoebox Project held a community packing party!

This summer at the Path Valley Good News Camp we were packing boxes with the campers – during the second day of packing boxes we realized that we had not brought enough pencils for each box to have 2 pencils, in fact the last 27 boxes would not have pencils. So – we shared this information with the campers and told them that when the pencils “ran out” we would put a ‘p’ on the box near the label and pencils would be added later. As the campers packed their boxes, we reminded them to go ahead and put 2 pencils in each box. At the end of the day – each box packed had 2 pencils in it and there were pencils left over! And to our surprise when we counted the pencils there were 24 pencils left over..... 24 pencils – 2 pencils per box = enough pencils for 12 more boxes.

When God provided food for the 5,000 in the form of loaves and fishes there were 12 baskets left over. When God provided for our Gospel Opportunities there were “12” left over. We serve an awesome God and we count it a blessing to be a part of this ministry. We are looking forward to seeing what God has planned for us as we continue to collect items for the packing parties. We thank each and every one of you for your prayers, donations and support as we continue to share the Gospel through a simple gift of a shoebox.

### **Operation Christmas Child**

**A unique packing party opportunity to support Operation Christmas Child will be held at UPVPC during the week of September 16 through 19.** All items to pack will be provided but what is needed is hands to pack the boxes! This year 1,500 boxes will be packed, prayed over and sent out from this event. A community night will be held **Wednesday, September 18 from 6-8 pm** but due to the limited amount of available space once the tables and items are in place, **we are encouraging families and groups to come out on Monday or Tuesday evening from 6-8 pm.** Also – if you like to fold shoeboxes – 1,500 boxes need to be folded before they can be packed! Please contact John or Ruth Mitchell for more information.

### **Bible Release- School Good News Club**

It's hard to believe but another School year is starting and with that the Bible Release – School Good News Club program will begin. Each year brings changes and challenges and this year is not an exception. If you would be interested in joining us, we would love to have you! We gather on Thursday's starting in October to share the Good News with children. For more information contact Ruth Mitchell.

**For the month of September, we will be collecting stuffed animals and dolls. These are things that are called the WOW items when packing a shoebox and we want to make sure each box we pack has one in it. As always, your UPVPC OCC Team thanks you for all donations thus far and all those that will come in the next two months.**

### **Please pray for these Post-high school students:**

Morgan Frazier (Penn Tech), Jenna Hampson, (St. Francis University – local clinicals), Jen Harris (Penn State online), Tina McGee (Penn State Harrisburg), Garrett McMath (Penn Highlands), Emily Metcalfe (Wilson College), Bailee Parson (Shippensburg University), Elizabeth Parsons (Penn State Mont Alto), Jonathan Parsons (Penn State University Park), Billy Peppernick (Messiah), Alyssa Rotz (Slippery Rock), Becca Rotz (Westchester University), Kriste Shoop (Wilson College, RN), Ben Walters (IUP), Seminary: Gary Rebok, Regent University; Laurie Ruby, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary; Jonathan Gerlach, Nazarene Theological Seminary.

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### **Children, Youth, and Family Ministry Update**

I want to express my deepest thanks to all the volunteers and leaders who helped with our Children, Youth & Family ministry this past summer! Thank you to the families who opened up their homes for our three Family Friday events: the Drew & Dawn Johnson family, the Chad & Tana Martin family, and the Bill & Jen Harris family! May the fellowship we experienced at these events flow into the remainder of the year!

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped in a variety of ways with Fruitful Farms VBS! As Pastor Meagan says, ‘many hands make light work,’ and many volunteers make for a blessed week at VBS! With your help, we were able to make connections with 30 children throughout the week and raise over \$400 for our mission focus! Please continue to pray for the seeds that were planted to be watered so that faith can grow!

The vision for our Children and Youth programs is “*to help students build a foundation on which to follow Jesus and serve Him through biblical teaching, faith modeling, and relationship building.*” Volunteers are vital in working toward this vision. Please pray how God can use you to invest in the lives of our children and youth!

Blessings, Laurie

Upper Path Valley Presbyterian Church  
P.O. Box 128  
Spring Run, PA. 17262  
[www.upvpc.org](http://www.upvpc.org)  
717-349-2603

*“May my cry come before you, LORD; give me understanding according to your word.  
May my supplication come before you; deliver me according to your promise.  
May my lips overflow with praise, for you teach me your decrees.  
May my tongue sing of your word, for all your commands are righteous.”*  
Psalm 119:169-172

**Here are the plans for our Sunday morning Small Group Ministry beginning on Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>. There is a place for every age and every level of spiritual maturity to grow. Current attending adults, it is okay to move around if you are so led. All leaders encourage you to grow wherever you are!**

Classroom	Leader	Topic
Nursery Care	<i>Still praying!</i>	
3 yr. – 5 yr.	Carrie Anderson & Kelly Hart	“God Made Us!”
K-2 <sup>nd</sup>	Trish Naugle	“How We Got the Bible”
3 <sup>rd</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup>	Ruth & John Mitchell	“New Testament Champions”
6 <sup>th</sup> -7 <sup>th</sup>	Chris Walters & <i>still praying for a male leader!</i>	“Bringing the Bible to Life!”
8 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup>	Laurie Ruby & <i>still praying for a male leader!</i>	“Explore the Bible: Ephesians”
Assembly Room	Bonnie Cornelious & Wilma Umbrell	David C. Cook Bible in Life: Fall 2019, “Responding to God’s Grace” Studies in the Old and New Testaments
Focus Room	Joni Frey	Bible Study: Matthew 5,6,7 Sermon on the Mount; 1, 2, & 3 John
Classroom 2	Rev. Meagan/Brett Hostler	Covenant Partner Inquiry Class
Classroom 3	Dawn Johnson	Andy Stanley Video/Discussion, “Judgement Call”
Library	Chad Martin/David Cauffman	Andy Stanley Video/Discussion, “It Came from Within”