



UPPER PATH VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

October 2019 Newsletter

Dear Covenant Partners, Active Supporters, and Friends,

As we move into October this year, I feel more focused and more observant than usual. I feel more focused about who we are and where we are going as a congregation. I believe God has clearly laid out our course in Scripture and we are becoming much more intentional about staying on it. Our mission statement is **to be and make disciples of Jesus Christ**. A mission statement describes the steady endurance of our day-to-day work. This is what guides our motivations and our decisions. Will it help us grow as disciples and will it give us opportunity to make disciples? If so, let's do it! If not, let's re-evaluate and ask God for the way forward.

On the other hand, our vision statement is: **To ignite a deep-rooted passion for Christ in future generations**. This describes why we do what we do. Why do we focus on being and making disciples of Jesus? Because our own redeemed and faithful and grateful lives will then help to ignite a deep-rooted passion for Christ in those who come after us. They will see how following Jesus has made a difference in us. Psalm 145:4, *"One generation shall commend your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts."* Why? So that the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ continues to spread far and wide until Jesus returns. That's why I feel more focused. It's clear what and why we are doing what we are doing. Hallelujah!

But, more observant? What does that mean? We have come to a time in the life of the congregation that I simply cannot keep track of everything and everyone. I used to be able to (at least I told myself that I did). But with a healthy, growing congregation – with more and more folks coming to small groups, and a worship attendance this summer that did not have the usual dips – it is more than one pastor/person can (and should) 'manage.' This has begun to force a (positive) transition that I observe happening among us. We are beginning to become less clergy-centered and more laity-centered. Without me even articulating it, we are beginning to jump in and do the work of ministry without thinking that Meagan has to be in on it. This is fantastic! It is the way the church is supposed to be activated in the world. And so, I am becoming more observant. Who is stepping up? Where are the willing hearts and the open hands?

We all have gifts that God has given us for the building up of the kingdom of God. Some of us know what those gifts are, some of us haven't discovered them yet. Over the next 6 months we are going to focus on helping you discover the gifts God has given you to be used for his church. We're not talking about talents or skills here, we are talking about spiritual gifts – and as your pastor – I don't want your special gifts (given specifically to you by God) to go unused. There is such JOY in using the gifts God has given you! Such JOY!

Would you join me in praying that we stay the course set before us of being and making disciples of Jesus in all that we do? And would you join me in praying that we will all come to the place where we know what gifts God has given us and have found a place to use them for his glory? A man named Sam Logan defined success in this way: *Finding out what God wants you to do and doing it!* May it be so!

With love, Rev. Meagan

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES!



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

Birthdays

10/1, Steve Ruby, Neva Neil
10/2, Daulton Seibert
10/3, Carl Magee, Kriste Shoop
10/5, Marvin Adams
10/6, Andrea Cauffman
10/7, Joyce Carbaugh
10/8, Neil Hill
10/9, Beth Bair
10/10, Bonnie Cornelious, Amy Thatcher, Gary Rosenberry
10/11, Maggie Daniel
10/12, Kay Ile
10/13, Barb Ramsey
10/14, Kathy Carbaugh, Lori McClure
10/16, John Mitchell
10/18, Robin Coons
10/18, Gabriella Sabatino
10/21, Peggy Browning
10/29, Hubert Burns
10/31, Keri Daniel

Anniversaries

10/1, Marty & Lisa Parsons
10/2, Mark & Jacki Cook
10/3, Brad & Crystal Gamble
10/4, Wally & Bev Hoffmann
10/8, Doug & Tammy Adams
10/9, Jon & Leslie Baker
10/9, Jim & Teresa Miller
10/9, Josh & Kelsey Zeigler
10/10, Kevin & Adaria Woodward
10/16, Aaron & Brittney Rupert
10/21, Wyatt & Marissa Flood

MANY THANKS to the following people for their service to the Lord: Thank you to **Pat Allison & Brenda Hart** for your hospitality work in beautifying the property with the gorgeous flowers each year. Thank you also to **Earl Custer & Phil Lakjer** for your work in edging our landscaping beds and keeping ahead of the weeds this summer. You all are much appreciated! Thank you to **Marlene Shearer** for taking over nursery care during the summer while **Nancy Coons** was helping her family during an especially trying time. And of course – thank you to Nancy for her faithfulness to care for our children during 11:00 a.m. worship!



But they 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

This verse has meant so much to us these last few weeks. We have experienced the lowest point in our lives with the loss of our son Matthew, but we have also experienced the love of our Lord Jesus Christ in so many ways. We have seen the eagles soaring in the sky when we have both been at a low point in our day – God has sent us the eagle to remind us that we will find our strength as we lean on Him. The prayers, hugs, cards, offers of food, words of comfort spoken and unspoken have carried us through. We have grown weary, and at times even faint – and in those times we have seen the love of others demonstrated to us. We thank you all for your loving support. We are so blessed to be a part of this loving church family.

Thank you. John and Ruth Mitchell



Path Valley Shoebox News

Wow! How can we begin to thank all of you for your generous support of our mission to pack 1,486 shoeboxes to share the gospel with children all over the world! What a joy to see all the helping hands, trucks and supplies coming in throughout the week to make this all possible. Many hands folded boxes prior to the packing week – many hands moved endless totes and boxes of supplies to the church and set up the tables and many hands packed “good bulging boxes” to the glory of the Lord! We are so thankful to live in the valley – where we can join together as one community for a united purpose such as this.

Throughout this year we have been blessed with gifts from the members of the congregation who have shared things with us such as boxes and boxes of sewing

material, craft paint, yarn, wooden cars, dresses, tote bags, pencil bags, and many other items. We also wish to thank the church and Mission Board for the generous donation to help with our shipping costs to send these boxes where God has directed them to go.

We are looking forward to **November 3 when we will pack additional boxes at Brindles Auction**. To be able to pack even more boxes we will need supplies restocked into our inventory – we are **in need of stuffed animals** – beanie baby size or slightly larger are preferred but any “stuffie” will be accepted. We also could use **some type of toy or game** for the boxes – jump ropes, water bottles, puzzles, cars, dolls, etc are good examples of what we are hoping for. Any and all donations are greatly appreciated – we love seeing what others “find” for the boxes. Our storage area at Val-Med will be open to receive items September 28 from 9 to 12 noon or contact John and Ruth Mitchell for other arrangements.

ONE MORE VERY EXCITING OCC THING!

We are excited to share good news with all of you. **Savannah Harris** is now the project leader for OCC for us! What this means is Savannah will be the “Church Cheerleader” for OCC – how exciting for all of us! Very soon a table will be set up with dvd’s, pens, brochures, prayer cards, and boxes to help you get ready to pack your shoebox for OCC. **National Collection Week is November 18-25** so now is the time to start packing!

And with National Collection Week rapidly approaching – **Brenda Hart** will be the new person in charge of the “Drop-Off Site” – which means Brenda will be receiving the boxes that are brought to the church from the churches, community and UPVPC. At the end of collection week – Brenda will be responsible for these boxes to be transported to the next stop on their journey.

We wish to thank **Emma Baker Byers** for her many years of service to OCC as project leader and drop off site coordinator. Each year the number of boxes grows and with that the responsibilities grow as well. Emma was a faithful volunteer for many years and watching the joy grow on her face with each box has been a privilege to see. It has been a joy to work with Emma over the years and we are looking forward to the joy of working with Savannah and Brenda as they begin their new duties.

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Children, Youth, & Family Ministry

Fall is one of my favorite times of year. The weather gets cooler, sweaters get cozier, and pumpkin patches and corn mazes are in abundance. Fall is also one of my favorite times in the Church because Fall is the kick-off to many wonderful things for all ages.

There is something for everyone this fall and connections for all ages.

On Wednesday evenings, we have kicked off our Children’s Music Ministry with **Monique Parsons** for ages 4-7. Their energy and joy in the building is a blessing to witness. We have also kicked off our Rooted Wednesdays Youth Group last month for grades 6-12. Many thanks to **Rodney Walters** and **Marissa Flood** for joining our youth ministry team! On Wednesday, October 2, we will kick off our Wednesday Night Growing Together classes for all ages! No matter what age, there is a place for you here on Wednesday nights!

Fall is always when we have our major outreach events for our community, starting with our **Fall Festival on Saturday, October 19 from 3-6 p.m.** All ages are invited to join us for fun, food, games, and Jesus! The Fall Festival will be held in the back-parking lot with a rain date of October 26. Activities include a sand art station, face painting, pumpkin decorating, a hay slide, football toss, Frisbee throw, photo booth, and pumpkin ring toss! As always, we will have a Fall Bible lesson for all to attend so that the Gospel will spread throughout our community! May everything we do this day be used to spread the good news of Jesus and bear eternal fruit!

If you are interested in helping with the Fall Festival this year, we have a place for you to serve! Please speak with the Fall Festival team (**Tana Martin, Kendra Hostler, Carrie Anderson**, or me) or sign up on the clipboard on the front pew. Donations of cookies and brownies are also needed for our food stand! This Fall may God grant us the opportunities to make connections with our children and youth that will bear eternal fruit for His kingdom!

Blessings, Laurie Ruby



Some of us made a 2108 year-end donation to the church specified for a new roof for the Assembly Room. This is a project the trustees have had on their plate for several years - and they thought 2019 was the year we would get it accomplished! However, **ministry needs took precedence**. We needed more classroom space, so we ended up investing in our stage-removal/new classroom project instead. Please join us in praying that we can squeeze a couple more years out of the roof! Thank you to those who gave to this project. Eventually, you’ll see the fruit of your generosity through a new white tin roof!

Upper Path Valley Presbyterian Church
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Spring Run, PA 17262
717-349-2603
www.upvpc.org

OCTOBER DATES TO NOTE

- Oct. 2: GROWing Together Begins! 4:45-5:30 p.m., Music for 4-7 year olds, Fellowship meal at 5:30 p.m.; Rooted youth, K-5 class, Men's fellowship, and Adult Bible study, 6:30-7:30 p.m. All are welcome!
- Oct. 3: Bible Release Meeting, 1:30 p.m.
- Oct. 6: Worship at 8:30 & 11 a.m.; Small groups, 9:45-10:45 a.m. World Communion and Compassion Sunday! Worship committee 12:15 p.m.
- Oct. 8: Session, 6:30 p.m.
- Oct. 9: Ministerium, 10 a.m.; GROWing Together. There will not be a meal prepared tonight. Bring your own sandwich, etc. and eat together before classes begin!
- Oct. 10: Bible Release Time begins!
- Oct. 11: Peel, cut, & chop apples, 4-6 p.m.
- Oct. 12: Apple Butter Boil. 8 a.m. Bring a breakfast snack to share as we help stir, wash, label, & fill jars.
- Oct. 13: Worship at 8:30 & 11 a.m. Small groups, 9:45-10:45 a.m.
- Oct. 14: Mission Committee, 4 p.m.; Deacons, 6:30 p.m.
- Oct. 16: GROWing Together!
- Oct. 17: Bible Release!
- Oct. 19: FALL FEST, 3 – 6 p.m. in the back-parking lot. Rain date: Oct. 26
- Oct. 20: Worship at 8:30 & 11 a.m. Small groups, 9:45-10:45 a.m.
- Oct. 23: GROWing Together!
- Oct. 27: Worship at 8:30 & 11 a.m.; Small groups, 9:45-10:45 a.m.; Nominating Committee after worship.

- Oct. 28: Handcrafters Prayer Ministry, 6:30 p.m.; Trustees, 6:30 p.m.
- Oct. 30: GROWing Together!

Every Monday and Wednesday morning from 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. join in the Strong Women exercise class with Bonnie Cornelious in the Assembly Room.

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ANNUAL TURKEY SUPPER
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23
FRESH APPLE BUTTER FOR SALE!
DELICIOUS MEAL!
GREAT FELLOWSHIP FOR
SERVERS AND GUESTS ALIKE!
FUND MEALS FOR MEALS MISSION!
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Mark These Christmas Dates

Sunday, December 15: Annual Christmas Pageant & Children's Party

Wednesday, December 18:
Christmas Caroling, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, December 24:
Worship, 4:30 & 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 25:
10 a.m. worship

Sunday, December 29:
ONE service at 10:00 a.m.
Service for the New Year

We Grieve with Hope
Remembering Johanna Grove
1964 – 2019

On Thursday, September 12th our friend and sister in Christ, Johanna Grove, went home to Heaven just as she and Chuck were disembarking from a beautiful 8-day cruise. Chuck and Johanna moved to Path Valley in 2012 and Johanna has been an active part of our church family ever since. She sang in the choir, served on the mission & outreach committee, served as a trustee, as a member of the safety team, as a faithful helper for VBS, and a planner and preparer of our Wednesday evening meals for several years alongside Sally Strickler. She will be missed by so many in our congregation.

During her service of celebration on September 19th attended by many friends, church members, and family members, Austin & Savannah Harris rose to speak about her. With their permission, here is what they said:

Austin (9 years old): "My memory of Johanna is when she invited my family and I over to swim in her pool. It filled my heart with love and joy and I will never forget that feeling I had in my heart. She has gone to her place and we will follow in her steps. She will never be forgotten. I hope that the feeling in my heart will enter your hearts and remain with you forever. She will be with us no matter where we are. She is our friend, our family, and our teacher. She has taught me something: Never forget the people that have died. As long as the church remains she will be loved."

Savannah (13 years old): "The last memory I had with Johanna is VBS. I walked in late on Sunday and as soon as I walked through those doors I was greeted with a big smile and she said, "Hi Savannah," and told me where I was! Every time I saw her at VBS she was cheerful and always smiling. She did tons of amazing stuff. One time Johanna invited us over to try to tie-dye shirts. She provided all the materials and we just had to bring ourselves and creativity. Johanna invited us over to swim while she, mom, and Trish talked. Mom said that Johanna would call and see how we all were doing. Johanna was like family to me. Johanna, if you're listening, I love you and I will always remember you as the One and Only Johanna Grove."

Friends, please keep Johanna's husband, Chuck and stepsons Andrew and Bruce in your prayers. Thank you.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION!

Our library gets more stuffed with each passing month! Many of you bring in good Christ-centered fiction or theological books when you have finished reading them, plus our quarterly small group curriculum sits in a pile when we are finished. From time to time it is best to send some things along to someone else who can use it. When that time comes we send things to an organization called **Love Packages**. The vision of this organization is "to see all of our excess, the materials that are being wasted, placed on the mission fields of the world."

Just this year they have shipped out 1161 tons of literature all over the world - Zimbabwe, India, Ghana, Nigeria, Philippines, etc.! Look them up on the internet: www.lovepackages.org.

2020: The Global Year of the Bible

Missionary leaders from over 34 countries convened at the Museum of the Bible on September 16th to launch **A.D. 2020 Global Year of the Bible**. This movement aims to affirm and promote the value of the Bible for all people and calls for an end to Bible poverty at a time when over 1,600 languages lack New and Old Testament translations.

The movement also seeks to restore the significance of the Bible in traditionally-Christian Western cultures where children are increasingly growing up without exposure to the Gospel or a biblical worldview. Organizers hope that the Global Year of the Bible will ultimately spur momentum to make the 2020s the "Decade of the Bible."

Six goals of the A.D. 2020 Year of the Bible movement are: pray, translate, publish, distribute, educate, and motivate people to engage with God's Word.

Plans are underway to jump on board this important movement locally, nationally, and globally. How would God have us engage and invest in a way that changes lives?

Upper Path Valley Presbyterian Church

LET'S GROW TOGETHER

*First Wednesday
of each month:
Fellowship Meal
5:30 p.m.*

Growing Together Wednesdays

- ◆ 4:45-5:30 p.m. – Music for 4-7 year old's – Starts September 11!

Every Wednesday starting 10/2:*

- ◆ Pre-K – 5th grade
- ◆ Rooted Youth Group (6-12th)
- ◆ Men's Fellowship
- ◆ Adult Bible Study (Praying at the Crossroads)

*All groups meet from 6:30-7:30 p.m.



For more information,
call the church at 717-349-2603.





Save the date!
January 10-12, 2020

UPVPC Marriage RETREAT

Time to Renew & Reconnect in Christ

Roxbury Holiness Camp

\$150 per couple

Includes two nights and five meals

Registration will begin soon!



**UPPER PATH VALLEY
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

FALL FESTIVAL

**Oct. 19, 2019* - UPVPC Church
Back Parking Lot
3 - 6 p.m.**

**ENJOY GAMES, HAY RIDE, HAY SLIDE,
FOOD, BAKED GOODS,
& THE GOSPEL MESSAGE!
FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!**

***RAIN DATE: OCT. 26**

