



UPPER PATH VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

May 2020 Newsletter

Dear Covenant Partners, Active Supporters, and Friends,

As we continue in this extraordinary time of sickness & separation caused by COVID-19, how wonderful that the National Day of Prayer is upon us! Coincidence? I think not! We have so much to pray about, don't we? We need to be on our knees for our world, for our nation, for our communities, and for our families. On Thursday, May 7th, the following prayer will be prayed all over our nation. I invite you to repeatedly pray this special prayer out loud written by Kathy Branzell, President, 2020 National Day of Prayer Task Force:

2020 NATIONAL PRAYER FOR AMERICA

Lord, we exist to give You glory. We exist because of Your glory, and in Your glory, as our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. We give you thanks and praise for every breath and moment You have given to us. We repent of our sin; for the shameful things we have done against You and for our silence when we did not speak up to proclaim Your Name, profess Your Word, or protect and practice Your will. We ask Your forgiveness. We pray that the knowledge of the glory of the Lord will spread across our nation and the entire earth as we seek Your Kingdom and righteousness; as we walk in obedience to You, and in humble unity, love one another.

Jesus, the Bible says that You are “the knowledge of the glory of the Lord.” You have taught us to pray, commanded us to love, and commissioned us to share Your gospel of grace. Your glory fills our hearts and families, it overflows into our neighborhoods, workplaces, campuses, churches, in our entertainment and media. We give thanks for our military and ask that Your glory would spread to, and through them as they preserve freedom around the world. We pray for our government, that all of our leaders and laws would be filled with Your glory, that they would magnify Your Holy Word and honor Your will and ways. We pray that Your grace and glory would spread to bring hope to the hopeless, and love where there is hurt and hate. God, use us as we pray your promise, that “the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.” In Jesus Name, Amen!

It is a beautiful thing to hear God's people lift their voices in prayer. Just think how we would bless the Lord if all over this nation, His people were praying in unity! Oh Father, may it be so. May your people come together in common faith, hope, and love – exalting Jesus – the Head of the Church. May your people release their worries, their burdens, their fears, their anger, and their heartaches to you. May we find ourselves in a new place of peace and freedom as we entrust ourselves anew to you. Oh Lord, may there be an outpouring of the revelation of Jesus Christ in these days. May hearts that have grown hard towards you, be softened. May ears that have been closed to you, be unstopped. May eyes that have been shut to your glory, be opened. May hands that have clutched the things of this world too tightly, unfurl. May feet that have grown still, move forward once again. May lips that have been silent, find praises rising up with great joy and release. We ARE your church. We ARE your people. We ARE the hands and feet of Jesus! May all that we do honor you, point to you as the source of our life and joy, and show the results of your amazing grace in our lives. Amen? Amen!

With great faith, hope, and love for God and for all of you, Rev. Meagan



THE DANIEL WOLFF SCHOOL LOAN FUND

If you will be attending some type of college/training institution post-high school for the 2020-21 school year and your family is active in the work and worship at UPVPC - you may be eligible to receive a very low-interest loan from the Daniel Wolff fund to help cover the cost. Payments do not begin until you have completed your degree/certificate program.

Whether you are applying for the first time or reapplying for a loan, you are required to submit a formal letter to the UPVPC Daniel Wolff Committee (no emails, no text messages) **by June 15th**. The address is UPVPC, P.O. Box 128, Spring Run, PA. 17262, Attn: Daniel Wolff Committee. Members of the committee are Ruth Frazier, Jama Hampson, David Cauffman, and Teresa Miller.

We are so grateful to God for the opportunity to support students because of the generosity of Mr. Wolff who is long deceased. We must all think beyond our earthly years and make plans to keep the work of the Kingdom going once we are gone. "So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith." (Galatians 6:10)

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES!



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

Birthdays

Chester Perry	May 4
Austin Harris, Clay Johnson	
David Parsons, Kim Walters	May 5
Bob McClure	May 6
Doug Frey	May 10
Mary Jane Coons	May 11
Phyllis Burns	May 12
Preston Best	May 13

Ana Parsons	May 15
Trinity Johnson	May 17
Chad Martin	May 20
Tim Browning	May 21
Gavin Baker	May 22
Becky Gerlach	May 22
Linda Gardner	May 23
Vance Neil	May 24
Corey Daniel	May 25
Kerry Myer, Rick Hockenberry	May 31

Anniversaries

Ryan & Sarah Robinson	May 7
Chris & Jim Metcalfe	May 10
Ada & Randy Price	May 10
Zach & Miranda Neil	May 12
Aaron & Ashley Mayeski	May 12
Scott & Patricia Naugle	May 17
Jason & April Robinson	May 21
Jim & Amy Thatcher	May 21
Tom & Linda Gardner	May 24
Jerry & Cathy Yeager	May 25
Chester & Kay Perry	May 31

Words to Ponder Dr. Bonnie Cornelious

As we enter the last phase (we hope) of coronavirus restrictions, I'd like to share with you some techniques I've used with friends as we all work through this historic time. These suggestions are also important in the times when things are going well. Our focus should always be peace and sanctuary in the arms of God whether times are "good" or "bad." Paul says it best in Philippians 4:11 (Amplified): *"Not that I speak from [any personal] need, for I have learned to be content [and self-sufficient through Christ, satisfied to the point where I am not disturbed or uneasy] regardless of my circumstances."*

The first decision to be made in any event in life is "What do I control?" The quick answer to that is that I control my reaction(s) to what is going on around me. I suggest the following:

- If you are lonely for human contact, find new ways of connecting with others: texting, cards, phone calls, FaceTime, and other ideas that you techies know about that I don't. Try a Zoom conference.
- If you have family around you 24/7, schedule some alone time. Those who are alone might

not understand this, but those who are “on duty” all the time will.

- Start a “gratitude list.” Anyone can tell us what is wrong with something, but it’s much more important to be able to know and to list what’s right in our lives.
- I love lists. Each day I have a “to do” list (mostly because I love to scratch off accomplishments), but it gets me off the couch and helps me put things in perspective.
- “There’s a silver lining in every cloud.” That old adage has important meaning in all situations. Find that silver lining and thank God for it. An important aspect of something like this pandemic is, after it’s over, “What life lesson{s} did I learn?”
- *“Finally, brothers, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.”* (2 Corinthians 13:11)

These techniques are explored in many counseling sessions but are especially important to “re-hear” now. In closing, I want to share something from a friend that came my way on Facebook. No author was named so I can’t properly attribute it.

**“Fear does not stop death. It stops life.
And worrying does not take away
tomorrow’s troubles.
It takes away today’s peace.”**

Sovereign God, we know that when Jesus returned to Heaven He left us with His peace and comfort. He provided a guide for us in His word and in the Holy Spirit. We know that with Him all things are possible. We know that He wants only what is best for us. I pray that we allow this knowledge to lead us to His wisdom that God is for us so no one or “no thing” can prevail against us. “In peace I will both lie down and sleep; for you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety.” (Psalm 4:8) Amen.

How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord Almighty!
My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.
Even the sparrow has found a home,
and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may have her young—
a place near your altar,
Lord Almighty, my King and my God.
Blessed are those who dwell in your house;
they are ever praising you. (Psalm 84:1-4)

Rooted Youth at UPVPC

Rooted Youth @ UPVPC’s vision is “to help students build a foundation on which to follow Jesus and serve Him through biblical teaching, faith modeling, and relationship building.” While we are unable to meet physically with students, we are still seeking ways to pursue this vision. Students in grades 6-12 are invited to connect with us in the following ways:

→ Rooted Youth Online: Join us every Wednesday from 7-8 PM for our Virtual Youth Gathering using the GoToMeeting App. Our time together on Wednesday includes a short devotional followed by a time to just be together and reconnect with one another. Students can log onto Rooted Youth Online at www.gotomeet.me/UPVPCRooted. Students do not need to provide any additional information to use the app feature.

→ UPVPC Rooted YouTube Channel: Students and parents can stay up to date on what is happening on our YouTube Channel: [UPVPC Rooted](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...). Each week video devotionals and check-ins will be posted to the channel as well as Weekly Rooted Recaps. Our Rooted Recaps are posted on Thursdays and cover the devotional portion of our virtual youth gatherings.

→ Rooted Lunch: Students are invited for lunch every Friday at 12:30 PM. Grab your lunch and join us for laughter, a thoughtful word, and a time to rewind the week. Students can join us using the same link for Rooted Youth Online and the GoToMeeting App. Pop in and say hi or stay for the whole hour. Bring your lunch and a joke to share!

To recap:

- Rooted Youth Online– Wednesdays, 7-8 PM
- Rooted Recap– Thursdays on UPVPC Rooted YouTube Channel
- Rooted Lunches– Fridays, 12:30 PM

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out. We are here to support you and your family in any way we can.

Blessings,
Rooted Youth Ministry Team
*Marissa Flood, Rodney Walters,
Nick & Laurie Parsons*

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UPVPC Dining Room Upgrade!

For several years an upgrade to our downstairs dining room has been on the trustee agenda. For those same years other projects kept pushing the project lower on the list. When 2020 began however, we felt the time was right to move forward as soon as our women and children's banquet was over the first Sunday of May. Of course, the banquet didn't happen this month, so now that social distancing restrictions are lifting a bit, a few workers started to pull the paneling off and remove the carpet. We are excited to see how we can brighten the room and use the original storage space behind the stud walls more effectively.

With demolition often comes surprises, and wow, did we find one big surprise! In the dining room are 4 support posts. They were all encased in wood boxes and covered in the paneling from the walls. Three of the posts were found to be metal poles, corroding terribly from the base on up. The fourth post was our big surprise. The fourth post is a log. Yes, you read that right. The fourth post is a log. Here is a picture:

B E F O R E



D U R I N G



Please be in prayer for our trustees as they plan and coordinate the project. We are hoping to do most, if not all of the work ourselves. We are also hoping to have the room ready for occupancy by the time it is safe to gather in larger groups again. Thanks be to God for a board of trustees who are thinking beyond this pandemic to the days when face-to-face ministry can resume and flourish!

