



UPPER PATH VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

June 2020 Newsletter

Dear Covenant Partners, Active Supporters, and Friends,

The months of summer are upon us, and certainly this summer is going to look a lot different than any summer I've ever lived through. Due to the COVID-19 Global Pandemic (that quarantined us from one another starting in March 2020) we are in a time of being very careful & cautious as we (finally) begin to plan & implement in-person gatherings on the church property. We are watching the statistics, reading the CDC guidelines, and most importantly listening to God - the One Consistent Voice of reason and truth. We are making progress, slow though it may be.

This past Sunday, May 31st, the Day of Pentecost, we offered a full online worship service as well as an in-person outdoor time of worship. The plan was clear:

1. Gather on the front lawn at 10 a.m.
2. Bring your own chair.
3. Wear a mask until you have found your spot to set up your chair(s). If you have to get up and move, put your mask back on.
4. Set up a minimum of 6' apart from others that you have not already been around in the last weeks.

Approximately 90 people came together and followed the guidelines that we sent out ahead of time. It was truly wonderful to actually see the faces of the people I've been preaching to online for the last 12 weeks. God gave us a glorious day to begin this new way of gathering. At this point, we are planning to do the same thing for this coming Sunday, June 7. If it is raining, or if there is a significant threat of rain, we will worship only online. We (the elders, relaunch team, and staff) are going to make decisions about worship on a week to week basis as of now. Though there are a minimal number of COVID-19 cases in the valleys in which most of us live, many of us work in Chambersburg where the numbers are high and still rising. We proceed carefully, cautiously, and we pray, faithfully.

Before we stopped meeting together on the church property back in March we had started a Lenten study entitled Something Needs to Change by Pastor David Platt. The subtitle of the book is *Making Your Life Count in a World of Urgent Need*. We, of course, had no idea what was about to happen. We only shared two weeks of eight in the study before we were separated. But don't you think it is interesting that we started a study called Something Needs to Change right before we were quarantined? I do. The God we serve doesn't waste anything. He doesn't waste any opportunity to call us to repentance (meaning: *change*). He doesn't waste any opportunity to connect the dots of our lives to reveal his presence to us – to reveal his involvement in the details of our lives.

What has changed in and with you since the middle of March? Have you grown in your faith? Have you found new ways to show your devotion to him? Have you settled into a different routine for your daily Bible reading? Have you discovered deeper paths to prayer? Some things did need to change in me. God revealed some things in my life that needed his healing hand, his unfailing love, his ever-steadying truth. I am hopeful about this next season of ministry at UPVPC. I am hopeful for new believers, maturing disciples, and new ways to share & spread the gospel. Keep praying, church. God's got this.

With love & prayers, Rev. Meagan

Words to Ponder Dr. Bonnie Cornelious

One of the requests that people voice in a counseling relationship is to find comfort. I believe that what they are seeking is peace. I understand what they are saying because we hear so often "I'm just not comfortable with that." or "I would like to be comfortable with my decision." or "Why don't I deserve to feel comfortable?"

In my search of the biblical meaning of comfort, I, young modern that I am (NOT), I sought information through Google. Every biblical reference to comfort that I could find relates to God comforting believers in good times and challenging times and instilling His peace in us. There is a difference in being comforted and being comfortable. I'm usually cold so being comfortable is anything above 72 degrees, but that has little to do with Paul's truth to be content in whatever state he found himself.

In the 70's there was an expression "if it feels good, do it," and I think many of my clients still abide by that dictum. I fear that sometimes I fall into that trap too and am called to repentance. Doing what's right is often not comfortable. Proverbs 14:12 tells us "There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death."

In answer to deserving to feel comfortable, which I interpret to mean being without troubles or problems, I can refer to John 16:33, "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." "As for asking God to rid us of our troubles, it would help to remember, as Rabbi Yitzchok Hutnerz'l said, that 'the purpose of prayer is not to get us out of trouble. The purpose of trouble is to get us into prayer.'" (David C. Cook lesson)

I thank God for the opportunity and privilege that I have in meeting with each person I see. I learn so much, and, with God's help, I pray that my witness helps them to seek a path to peace.

For them, for you, and for myself I pray God's words from Romans 15:13: "*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, the comforter that God sent to live in us. Amen*

REMINDER: The low interest Daniel Wolff student loan fund is available to all students of any age who are active in the work and worship at UPVPC and are pursuing education beyond high school. If you want to apply or reapply for a UPVPC Daniel Wolff Student Loan, please contact Elder Jama Hampson at 717-372-0815. The firm deadline is June 15th.

Children, Youth, & Family Ministry Update: June 2020

At the beginning of the year I sat down and started the process of planning for the year ahead. Ministry teams were put in place to plan and pray for a "fruitful" year of children's and youth ministry as well as plan thoughtful and engaging times for families. Well, the past few months have definitely put a snag on some of the plans we had for the year. What is that proverb we recently read in our Daily Bible Reading, Proverbs 16:9? "We can make our plans, but the Lord determines our steps." Or Proverbs 19:21, "You can make many plans, but the Lord's purpose will prevail." The plans we had made may have been put on hold, cancelled, or altered, however, the prayer for the continuation of planting and watering seeds that bear fruit for Christ still remains.

Thank you for your patience as staff, volunteers, and Sunday school leaders have navigated these new waters. As we look to move forward in the rest of 2020 please continue to be patient with us as our ministries begin to look different. As summer approaches, we will continue to adapt to the changing waters and seek new ways to resource your families to talk about faith and the Bible while remaining at home. Some things we are looking into for Children are: Take-home Church boxes for families, Alternative At-Home VBS (either over a span of weeks or multiple days), and Online Video Activities/Lessons.

Thank you to all the parents who have been able to help set up their youth with GoToMeeting and Zoom for Rooted Youth Online. Some weeks we had to battle the internet, but it truly is wonderful to stay connected with your students in this capacity. We shared many laughs during our time, which I think many of us needed as the weeks went on. Moving forward, Rooted Youth @ UPVPC will continue to maintain an online presence with emails, YouTube videos, and virtual lunch gatherings. We have been given the green light to meet on campus again (either outside or in the Assembly Room) and plan to

resume Wednesday night in-person gatherings on June 3rd from 7-8 pm. Parents, please note the guidelines we will be putting in place will be communicated to you via email and Facebook. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask.

Please continue to pray for all of our students and their families during this time. May God continue to grow our faith this summer in ways that we would never have expected!

Blessings, Laurie



Congratulations to the 2020 Graduates!

Amy Hill (Fannett-Metal), Garrett McMath (Penn Highlands Community College, Criminal Justice), Jenna Hampson Seilhammer (St. Francis University, Master's in Occupational Therapy), Jealee Stouffer (Fannett-Metal), and Darston Warren (Fannett-Metal)!



Congratulations to the following couples!

**Kayla Barry & Aaron Worthy were married on May 23rd in Orbisonia!
Jenna Hampson & Ross Seilhammer were married on May 30th in Neelyton!**

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES!

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

Birthdays

- | | |
|---|--|
| 6/5 Missy Barkman | 6/23 Jacob Worthy |
| 6/6 Gary Rebok | 6/24 Wally Hoffman, Denny Stine |
| 6/8 Wayne Harry | 6/26 Jeff Beaumont, Hunter Waite, Ruth Mitchell, Eric Bair |
| 6/11 Tina McGee, Phil Lakjer | 6/28 Joan Stewart |
| 6/12 Glenn Campbell | 6/29 Kathy Baker, Logan Walters, Elizabeth Parsons |
| 6/13 Meagan Boozer, Lisa Parsons | 6/30 Kyndlelyn Rosenberry, Casey Rotz, Tammy Shoop |
| 6/16 Kathy McGee | |
| 6/18 Carrie Anderson, Bob Shoop, Bill Shoop | |
| 6/20 Willa Allison, Ashley Mayeski | |
| 6/22 Ken Weikel | |

Anniversaries

- | | |
|---|--|
| 6/2 John & Joan Stewart; Gary & Minnia Rosenberry | 6/17 Don & Nancy Woodward |
| 6/3 Mark & Ruth Frazier; Casey & Holly Rotz | 6/19 Bob & Laurie Shoop |
| 6/5 Donnie & Pat Allison | 6/21 Melvin & Ellen Heckman |
| 6/7 Tim & Jama Hampson; Todd & Katrina Myers | 6/25 Greg & Jackie Best, Mike & Gayle Parks, Kenny & Betty Wenger |
| 6/8 Jeff & Dawn Beaumont | 6/28 Greg & Bobbi Jo Hart |
| 6/14 Mark & Brooke Fischer | 6/29 Seth & Tammy Hart |
| 6/15 Tim & Donna Zeigler | 6/30 Bob & Sherri Baker, Dick & Julie Eckels, Rodney & Kim Walters, Chad & Tana Martin |

Upper Path Valley Presbyterian Church
P.O. Box 128
Spring Run, PA. 17262
www.upvpc.org
Rev. Meagan Boozer, Pastor
717-349-2603

For our Lenten mission project: We were able to give 540 Bibles to Christians all over the world who are persecuted for their faith! Please pray for the safe distribution of the Bibles and for God's Word to accomplish the purpose for which He sent it!

Thank you for Ruth Frazier, Abby Frazier, Marlene Shearer, and Brenda Hart for their help with the May Blood Drive. Nineteen units of blood were donated and safety precautions were followed!

We grieve with the following families who have lost a loved one in the last several months: Ken Shirk (husband of Janet), Jerry Hall (dad of Dale Hall & Chris Seibert), infant Veronica Hart (daughter of Kelly Hart), Larry Umbrell (brother of Donnie Umbrell), and Larry Carlin (husband of Carol). Please keep these families in your prayers.

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Dear Meagan & Church Family, I would like to thank you for all your thoughts and prayers for Ken and me over the last several months. Your prayers and cards gave me the strength I needed to take care of Ken at home. Then on Christmas, Ken had his third stroke and was in the hospital for 5 days. Then he went to Forest Park for 3 months. Ken was then sent to Holy Spirit Hospital where he spent his last days. I was not able to visit him for over 3 weeks. He had been in terrible pain for weeks. The night of April 5th, in deep sorrow, I asked the Lord to carry Ken home when he knew the time was right. In the morning of April 6th the Lord took Ken's hand and put his arms around him, as I asked, and carried Ken home with him. I could not have remained strong without your love and prayers. Thank you for all your prayers, *Janet Shirk*

To the Handcrafter's Prayer Ministry, Thank you for the beautiful 'throw blanket' you made for me. I greatly appreciate it and when this coming winter gets here, I will definitely be using it to help keep me warm as I sit on my recliner watching TV. I believe my wonderful cousin Peggy Browning was the one responsible for putting me on your prayer list and initiating you ladies to make the blanket you gave to me. Peggy delivered it to me personally at our home in Shade Gap. My wife Laverne and I love both her and her husband Tim enormously. As I am sure you already know, both Peggy and Tim have been and still are faced with several health issues of their own. Even with the amputations that Tim has undergone, he still remains faithful and positive in his belief and love of our Lord God Jesus Christ. Even with his disability, he is one of the strongest men I have ever known. I was overjoyed when Peggy delivered the blanket to me and I will keep and treasure it, but even more important to me than the blanket is knowing God has blessed the hearts and minds of all you ladies that take time to make these precious gifts. All I can say is keep up the good work. I know it will soothe and warm the hearts of whomever receives your gifts. *I love you and again I thank you, Stan Sheffield*

If you are able to continue to give your tithes, gifts, and offerings to UPVPC, you can send through our website (PayPal) at www.upvpc.org/give/ or mail to the church at the above address. Thank you!

At a time when our nation is so divided, may these words from ECO's Essential Tenets help to ground us and guide us:

We are called to: "eradicate a spirit of anger, resentment, callousness, violence, or bitterness, and instead cultivate a spirit of gentleness, kindness, peace, and love; recognize and honor the image of God in every human being from conception to natural death."

May it be so. Amen.

This is an important announcement for our community from our dear attenders Phil & Lena Lakjer. I asked Phil if we could share this notification sent out in May and he agreed. Your prayers for the ongoing construction of this new business are appreciated.

Dear Folks,

Hello, first of all, please accept our sincere apology if this comes to you during a difficult time in the life of your family.

My name is Phil Lakjer and I am writing on behalf of my son, Andy, and myself to inform you that we have purchased the Agett-Geisel Funeral Home business in Dry Run, now officially registered as Agett-Lakjer Funeral Home & Crematory Inc. The location in Dry Run will remain in operation until our new facility in Spring Run along Route 75 is completed later this year.

As a little background, my wife, Lena (Zook) and I are fairly new residents in "The Valley." I have been a licensed funeral director over 52 years and we reside in the house immediately next to the new funeral home and crematory. Many of you may know Andy as the proprietor of Path Valley Market in Spring Run, but he has also been a licensed funeral director since 1995. Andy and his wife, Valerie (Martin) and family live on a farm within eyesight of the new funeral home.

We like to think in terms of a local family caring for local families continuing the legacy of service founded and fostered by John Agett and his family over 70 years ago. We are available 24/7 every day of the year at landline 717-349-2820 or cell 215/512-2450.

Thank you for taking your time to read. If you have questions or wish information, your call is always welcome.

Yours truly,
Philip R. Lakjer and Andrew B. "Andy" Lakjer

PRAYER WALK on the UPVPC Grounds OR at Home

This prayer walk represents our ongoing, step-by-step commitment to pray for this next, new season in the life of our congregation. Some ministries, attitudes, programs, & practices have been cut off that were not bearing fruit for the Kingdom. Some ministries, attitudes, programs, & practices have been pruned because they were only bearing 'man-made' fruit not God-made fruit. Some things have been revealed in us as individuals and as a church family during quarantine that are not things of which we are proud. Some things have been revealed to us about the way we use (and perhaps waste) our time, our money, and our gifts, talents, & skills. Walking and praying either out loud or silently is a helpful way to invite God to do what only He can do: heal us, restore us, revive us, and renew our bodies, our minds, and our souls for this next season. Let us ask God for his guidance for our congregation and for His blessing as we seek Him & follow Him with all our heart. Let us ask God for an outpouring of the revelation of Jesus in our lives, our homes, our communities, our state, our nation, and in all the world. Take your time. If you are praying on the property: If someone is behind you & you feel rushed, let them "go around" you as you walk and pray. Please keep at least 6' distance between you and others. May our prayers ascend to the Father in unity with His will for us.

1. **Thanksgiving:** We begin this walk (or drive around) with thanksgiving. Tell God how thankful you are for all He has done for you. We do not lay our requests before him without first speaking words of thanksgiving. Philippians 4:6,7: "6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."
2. **Confession:** Confess the things that are on your heart that God has revealed to you – ways that you as an individual, and that we as a church body have not done as God has called us to do, or done what God has not called us to do. How have we dishonored His name on this property? How have we spoken against our brothers and sisters on this property? How have we neglected the true purpose of the church? How have we kept others 'out' who wanted to belong? How have we neglected to serve the most vulnerable? Etc, etc., etc...
3. **Repentance:** Repentance means to turn around and go the other way. This is a time to speak your

words of intention to God. We have confessed, now it is time to make a commitment to change, to being transformed by the Spirit of God. I repent (of the things you/we were led to confess). Revival starts with each one turning back to God.

4. **Receiving forgiveness & mercy:** This is where we open our heart to all His goodness, all His mercy, all His love, and all His forgiveness. This is where we open our hands to receive what only God can give: acceptance, unconditional love, and a new start for us and for our church family.
5. **Re-filling of the Spirit, healing, wholeness:** A continuation of the previous prayer of receiving – now we pray for the Holy Spirit to refill us (or fill us if you have never been filled before!). Come, Holy Spirit, fill me up – and bring healing and wholeness to yourself as an individual and to our whole congregation. Fill us up, Lord. Fill us up until our cup is overflowing!
6. **Staff:** Pray for your church staff, Keith Hart, Jen Harris, Jonathan Parsons, Chris Metcalfe, Ruth Frazier, Gary Rebok, Laurie Parsons, & Rev. Meagan Boozer.
7. **Elders, deacons, trustees:** Pray for the members of our boards: **Elders:** Mark Shearer, Scott Naugle, Wanda Ruby, Andrea Cauffman, Jama Hampson, Brett Hostler, Keith Hart, Kriste Shoop, & Chris Walters **Deacons:** Crystal Gamble, Brenda hart, Cheryl Trueax, Marlene Shearer, Sandy Stine, Gary Rebok, Holly Rotz, Joyce Carbaugh, & Marissa Flood. **Trustees:** Gene Carbaugh, John Boozer, Dennis Stine, Brad Gamble, Nick Parsons, David Cauffman, Eric Bair, Bill Harris, Ken Weikel.
8. **Relaunch Church Team:** Andrea Cauffman, Bonnie Cornelious, Jim Miller, Chris Seibert, Tina McGee, Marlene Shearer, Laurie Parsons, Rev. Meagan.
9. **Missionaries (all countries affected by COVID-19):** The Ocasio Family in Lithuania, The Gerlach Family in Thailand, The Holcomb Family in Alaska, Unnamed in the Middle East, and the Mancilla Family in Argentina.
10. **Our stewardship:** We must pray that we are being good stewards, wise managers, responsible caretakers, generous distributors of all that God has given us both as individuals and as a church. Are we making the most of what we have been given, or is there more we can be doing for the building of the Kingdom?
11. **Our mission:** Please pray that our mission of Being and Making Disciples of Jesus Christ would be foremost in our plans, our prayers, and our practices. May it be so that we are not just “doing

church” but that we are truly living as disciples and making more disciples in our homes and in our church family.

12. **Our vision:** Our vision is to ignite a deep-rooted passion for Christ in future generations. Oh, please pray that we would know how to use all that we have been given to bring forth this vision. How have we neglected this? How have we missed opportunities? How are we already investing in this vision? Pray this vision into fullness of being.
13. **Our core values:** Our 5 core values are: “We believe the Bible is the inspired Word of God and the absolute truth.; We rejoice that God’s grace is a gift that cannot be earned by works; We believe that Jesus is the Head of the body, the Church; therefore, He must have first place in everything; We are committed to missions, near and far; We are welcoming to everyone.” Pray that these core values would guide and guard everything that we do on this property and that they would sink deep into our souls and find good soil in which to grow and flourish.
14. **Prayer for wisdom:** Pray that we would seek, and that God would grant us His wisdom as we move into this new season of ministry. Pray that we would settle for nothing less.
15. **Love:** Please pray that this church property would be a place where Christ’s love is freely given to and received by the youngest to the oldest among us. Pray that all who venture onto this property would sense God’s love, would yearn for more of it, be transformed by it, and be compelled to share it.
16. **Faith:** Pray for a renewal and a growth of faith in our homes and in this place. May we be willing to be risk-takers for God, trusting His guidance and His provision. Pray that we will continue to walk by faith and not by sight.
17. **New believers in Christ:** Pray that day by day the Lord would add to our numbers those who are being saved. Pray that our lives would be such good, strong, consistent, & beautiful examples as Christ-followers that others would see and want the Christ they see in us.
18. **Peace:** Pray for peace over this property and over this congregation as we navigate new waters. Pray that we will be peace dispensers into the lives of one another and into the lives of the people and the communities around us.
19. **Joy:** Pray for the joy of the Lord to be our strength!
20. **Thanksgiving & Praise** – Go for it!
May you, your home, and our congregation be renewed, revived, and restored as you pray!

Upper Path Valley Presbyterian Church Announcements about Sunday, June 7

Sunday, June 7

WEATHER PERMITTING and IF YOU ARE COMFORTABLE GATHERING IN PERSON:

1. Gather for worship at 10 a.m. on the lawn in front of the UPVPC sanctuary.
2. Bring a Bible and your own chair if possible.
3. Please park according to your physical strength. If you need to park close to where we are gathering, please do so. If you don't, please park around back, in the cemetery lot, by the kitchen entrance, or along the road by the cemetery.
4. Please maintain 6' distance between you and people you have not already been around in the last several weeks.
5. Please sit at least 6' from people you have not been around in the last several weeks.
6. Thank you for showing care, compassion, & respect for everyone in the following ways:
 - a. Please wear a mask until you are seated, then you may remove your mask.
 - b. If you get up to move around, please put your mask back on.
7. If you have children with you, please make sure they understand their boundaries.
8. ONLY one door (off the patio) will be open if you need to use the bathroom, but please try to avoid this if at all possible. If you park in the back, please note that you will have to walk around the building to the worship site.
9. Please bring your own coffee/tea or water. None will be provided.
10. Before and after worship, you are encouraged to 'prayer walk' around the perimeter of the church property to cover it in prayer. We have 20 signs to guide you in this. This prayer walk will remain in place for weeks so you can come multiple times on your own.
11. There will continue to be online worship as we have been offering for the past 12 weeks for those who are not able or not yet comfortable regathering. Whether we are worshipping in one place, or worshipping at home, the blood of Jesus Christ unites us.
12. If it is raining, or if there is a significant threat of rain, we will ONLY meet ONLINE as we have been doing. If at all possible, that decision will be made the night before and widely communicated. If you are not sure, call Rev. Meagan at 717-360-4878.

SMALL GROUPS for ADULTS ARE BEGINNING TO MEET ON THE CHURCH PROPERTY ONE AT A TIME EITHER OUTSIDE OR IN THE ASSEMBLY ROOM. IF YOU ARE IN ONE OF THESE GROUPS, OR WANT TO JOIN ONE, PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN CHAIR IF AT ALL POSSIBLE and YOUR OWN FILLED DRINK CONTAINER IF YOU PLAN TO GET THIRSTY. ☺ ALL ARE WELCOME!

- **Monday at 7 p.m.: Adult Small Group (John Boozer/Dee Flood)**
- **Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.: Adult Small Group (Joni Frey/Nick Parsons)**
- **Wednesday at 7 p.m.: Youth Group for 6-12 grades (Laurie & Nick Parsons/Rodney Walters/Marissa Flood/Chris Walters)**
- **Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.: Men's Fellowship**
- **Sunday at 11 a.m.: Adult Small Group (Bonnie Cornelious/Bob McClure/Wilma Umbrell)**
- **Sunday at 6 p.m. on ZOOM: Adult Small Group (Cornelious/McClure)**