



## UPPER PATH VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

### November 2020 Newsletter

Dear Covenant Partners, Active Supporters, and Friends,

At times I've wondered how we would make it through another week...and here we are moving into November of this \*unprecedented\* year of 2020. It's been a rough year to say the least. And yet, God makes everything beautiful in its time (Ecclesiastes 3). So, here are some announcements just for this particular time!

- I'm sure by now you have heard that for the first time in decades, **UPVPC will not be having our annual Turkey Supper**. There were too many uncertainties that made it impossible to plan ahead with confidence. However, we will still have our community meals, although differently.
- Starting on the first Monday in December, we will deliver meals to folks in the community. **Community Meals = Delivery Only**. No eat-in guests at this time. Perhaps that restriction will change before the "meal season" is over in March 2021, but for now, we will only deliver (weather permitting). Contact with destination households will start soon.
- We made 128 pints of apple butter in the beginning of October that we are using as a **fundraiser for our local ministerium**. We have a suggested donation of \$10 pint. If you would like a pint or two, let us know and we will make a plan to get some to you.
- As many, if not most of you know, we have had a **mask protection policy** at UPVPC since we started meeting in person in May. At the start, as we followed state guidelines, masks were required. In the summer when we were able to meet both outside and inside, our policy relaxed a bit to "masks are requested." Starting on Sunday, November 1 our policy is easing a bit more to "masks are optional." Why the change when positive cases are rising? We are making this change because the folks who are most vulnerable or who are concerned about the vulnerability of a family member are not coming to in-person worship; they feel safe worshipping with the worship video online or receiving the sermon & bulletin in the mail. I am so grateful we can stay connected in these ways even though we are apart. Until a vaccine or other effective treatment is available, we know we will not see some of our church family in person (we pray that happens sooner rather than later!). We are confident that changing our policy to "masks are optional," will not change the pattern for current attenders. As your pastor, I will continue to wear my mask being around larger groups of people because of visiting in the hospital & homes of senior adults. Many others will most likely continue to wear their masks. But some will choose not to – and that's ok. Optional means \*optional\*. **Distancing guidelines will remain in place** in the sanctuary and small groups, and we certainly ask everyone to stay home if you are not feeling well. If you have any questions, just give me a call at 717-360-4878.
- We are planning a **church-wide live nativity for the community** on the weekend before Christmas at Hammond's Grove. If you'd like to be part of the planning or the presentation, please put your hand up! We want to celebrate the birth of Jesus with and for our community in this very unusual year!

Church, you are loved. You are prayed for. You are the beloved of the LORD. Look up and look around with a thankful heart! Our blessings are many!

*With love, Rev. Meagan*

## **Path Valley Shoebox Project News**

What a year! In so very many ways this year has had challenges, obstacles, stumbling blocks and most of all – blessings, yes blessings! And the Shoebox Project has certainly been blessed this year!

In the spring when everything initially shut down– we were planning our first community meeting of the team to discuss ideas, plans and goals. Then the shut-down happened and we could not gather. We decided to not set a goal – to wait and see what the Lord had planned. Well, from donations of many, many blankets for the 10-14-year-old children to many, many blankets for the 2-4-year-old children, to many, many clothes made with so much love from our valley seamstresses to hats and scarves sewn, crocheted and knitted, to wooden cars, to other handmade gifts (so many items, too many to list), whew! We are in awe of how the Lord worked among the people. Many who found more time at home decided to use this time for ministry – and we are so blessed by all of them. The Lord opened doors for us where others had closed. We were given new opportunities to have wonderful folks come and safely gather to work on small projects for the Shoeboxes. We were blessed by the laughter and the idle chatter as folks who had been at home all summer came together – making new friends, connecting with old friends – and sharing in the joy of being together. We were privileged to have the opportunity to take projects to the homes of some of our folks from the Senior Citizen Center which has been closed, giving them the chance to work on projects. As one dear lady told us – this gave her something to focus on and helps her battle depression.

And now ... now we are gathering for our final (?) packing party for 2020. We have already held 3 smaller packing parties where a total of over 1,600 boxes have been packed! On Sunday November 1 at Brindles Auction in Willow Hill, starting at 2 pm, we will share together again –the laughter, the joy, the blessings of the day and pack somewhere around another 2,000 shoeboxes sharing the Gospel with children all over the world. Can you believe it? I can't – but God can! And by the way – we were in dire need of shoeboxes – yes when the Lord provides the items, we need shoeboxes. And with many thanks to the UPVPC – we were able to purchase 3,200 plain white shoeboxes. They are very plain and at first glance, you wish they had some color, but since they are all white –the children can now use their crayons that are in their box and decorate their own box! Yes – we have

learned to think “outside the box” – even with something as simple as a plain white shoebox! So, as you can see – 2020 has been a year of blessings! We can't wait to discover the total number of Shoebox Blessings/Gospel Opportunities that we will be sending from Path Valley this year!

## **Operation Christmas Child at UPVPC**

UPVPC: Have you packed your Shoebox yet? There is still time! National Collection Week is November 16-23 and Upper Path Valley Presbyterian Church is our Valley drop off site for shoeboxes. Brenda Hart has gathered a team of volunteers to receive boxes during the week – and this year it will be a curbside delivery system. You can either bring your boxes to the church and place them in the entryway or if you prefer – you may drive up and a volunteer will unload your car and take them in for you. Thank you for packing a shoebox and sharing the Gospel through a simple gift. We are changing a child's eternal zip code – one box at a time.

**OCC Collection Week is Monday, November 16<sup>th</sup> through Monday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>.**

### **Hours:**

**Mon. 16th-5-7pm  
Tues. 17th-5-7pm  
Wed. 18th-5-7pm  
Thurs. 19th-5-7pm  
Fri. 20th-5-7pm  
Sat. 21st-10am-12  
Sun. 22nd-12-2pm  
Mon. 23rd-10am-12**

All volunteers will be masked, with gloves & hand sanitizer available. This will be a contact-less transition. Those bringing shoeboxes will drive up to the Assembly Room door and will not need to get out of their vehicles. Our volunteers will take shoeboxes from their vehicle & take them into the church. One volunteer will take down all the donor's information or the donor will be able to scan a QR code & send their information directly to Samaritan's Purse.

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**We will start taking orders for poinsettias for the Advent and Christmas season on Sunday, November 1. All poinsettias will be the same size (6" pot) and RED. Make sure you submit your order forms and payment to the office by Sunday, November 15<sup>th</sup>. Each plant is \$6.00.**

## WORDS TO PONDER with Dr. Bonnie Cornelious

We have often talked about how difficult the holiday season can be for many people. This year has brought and will continue to bring new challenges. However, for the Christian, Thanksgiving is more than a holiday; it is a way of life. Be encouraged by Scriptures on why we should give thanks. "Instead be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord always giving thanks to God the Father for everything in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ." (Ephesians 5:18-20)

That said, we also look forward to Thanksgiving Day as a family gathering day. That could take on a very different look for many this year. It may bring opportunities to continue holiday traditions but perhaps with a smaller group. Also technology can bring family members together through Zoom, Marco Polo, Facetime, email, text, or, the old fashioned way, connect by phone. It might even be a time to start a new tradition.

Whatever you choose to do, celebrate Thanksgiving with joy as you emphasize celebrating our God. "Give thanks in all circumstances for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." (1 Thessalonians 5:18) (emphasis mine) To the extent that we do this, we will gain improved mental, physical, spiritual, and emotional health. To God be the glory!

***Thank You, God, for all that You have allowed and not allowed in our lives this year. We commit our lives to you this day and ask that you remind us through this next year that You are God, You are on the throne, You are sovereign, and You alone are worthy. Amen***

## BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES!



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

### **Birthdays**

Ruth Frazier	November 3
Adaria Woodward	November 4
Martha Ewan	November 5

Patti Rebok	November 6
Brody Hall	November 8
Kristie Hall	November 9
Rodney Walters	November 9
Nicholas Naugle	November 10
Tasha Naugle	November 10
Dylan Seibert	November 11
Mike Coons	November 12
Madilynn Harris	November 14
Julie Eckels	November 16
Emma Byers	November 19
Norma Shoop	November 19
Cole Daniel, Jr.	November 20
Colby Daniel	November 21
Easton Minium	November 26
Betty Myers	November 27
Becca Rotz	November 28
Bev Hoffmann	November 28
Marie Hill	November 30

### **Anniversaries**

Nick & Laurie Parsons	November 2
Craig & Chris Walters	November 7
John and Phyllis Ciarrocca	November 29

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## Children, Youth & Family Ministry November 2020

If there is one thing I have learned this year in ministry is the importance of getting God's word and truth out to families and students using new and creative means. In the Spring this meant having virtual youth group on Wednesdays. For a portion of the summer we offered online Vacation Bible School...something that was definitely not in our wheelhouse, but with God's grace we pulled it off. This month I hosted our first ever Zoom and Tell event with Kindergarten through 2nd Grade students and it was encouraging to just see their smiling faces all at one time. As we head into these last months of 2020 here are some opportunities for Children and Youth to hear God's truth online:

1. Monthly Zoom Meetings for Elementary Aged Students: These Zoom hang outs will alternate between K-2 and 3rd-5th grade students each month. November's hang out is scheduled for November 19 at 7 p.m.
2. Bi-weekly Online Sunday School Lessons for Pre-K - 5th Grade: Using DigIn curriculum, a teaching video and activities will be made available for those unable to join us to 'dig in' to God's word at home with their families. Please speak to me if you would be interested

in receiving this resource. Our first video will be ready for Sunday, November 1st.

3. Rooted Recap Videos: Our weekly Rooted Recap series covers the lessons and main ideas from Rooted Youth that week. These videos range anywhere from 3 to 7 minutes and are also emailed weekly to parents.
4. Rooted Youth on Instagram: Did you know that Rooted Youth has an Instagram page? Follow our page to stay up to date on what's happening at Rooted Youth. Our Instagram handle is rooted\_upvpc.
5. UPVPC Parent Connections Facebook Group: This group was created to connect with one another and support one another as we journey through life together. If you are a parent and are not a part of this group, please speak with me and I will connect you.

We also have a variety of in-person opportunities for those who are able including small groups on Sunday mornings from 9:45-10:45 for Pre-K through 12th Grade. Rooted Wednesdays are every Wednesday from 7-8 p.m. for grades 6-12. No matter which way you choose to connect, please know that we are here and we are praying for you! Do not hesitate to reach out with needs you or your student may have.

Blessings,  
Laurie

### **DATES to NOTE in NOVEMBER**

- Sunday, Nov. 1: Worship at 8:30 & 11:00; Small groups for all ages, 9:45 a.m.; Local OCC Packing Party at Brindle's Auction at 2 p.m. All are welcome.
- Sunday, Nov. 1: Deacons, 12 p.m.
- Monday, Nov. 2: Exercise, 9 a.m.; Handcrafter's Prayer Ministry, 6:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, Nov. 3: Exercise, 9 a.m.; Women's Study, Men's Fellowship, 6:30 p.m.; Rooted Youth Harvest Party, 6:30-8 p.m.
- Sunday, Nov. 8: Worship at 8:30 & 11:00 a.m., Small groups for all ages, 9:45 a.m.
- Monday, Nov. 9: Exercise 9 a.m.
- Wednesday, Nov. 11: Exercise, 9 a.m.; Women's Study, Men's Fellowship, 6:30 p.m.; Rooted Youth, 7 p.m.

- Sunday, Nov. 15: Worship, 8:30 & 11 a.m.; Small groups, 9:45 a.m. Deadline for ordering poinsettias.
- Sunday, Nov. 15: Community Thanksgiving Service, 6:30 p.m. at UPVPC
- Monday, Nov. 16 – Monday, Nov. 23: Operation Christmas Child Collection Week! Check the hours in the article in this newsletter!
- Monday, Nov. 16: Exercise, 9 a.m.
- Wednesday, Nov. 18: Exercise, 9 a.m.; Women's Study, Men's Fellowship, 6:30 p.m.; Rooted Youth, 7 p.m.
- Thursday, Nov. 19: Zoom & Tell for 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grades, 7-8 p.m.
- Sunday, Nov. 22: Worship at 8:30 & 11 a.m. Small groups, 9:45-10:45 a.m. We welcome the Ocasio Family to worship today! We will prepare the sanctuary for Advent after worship.
- No events for the week of November 23<sup>rd</sup>. Blessed Thanksgiving to All!
- Sunday, Nov. 29: First Sunday of Advent. Worship with communion at 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Please bring your own bread & juice if possible. Small groups for all ages, 9:45 a.m.
- Monday, Nov. 30: Exercise, 9 a.m.



**...unless you are protected by  
the armor of God!**



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[www.upvpc.org](http://www.upvpc.org)  
Rev. Meagan Boozer, pastor



Doesn't that look delicious?



Connor Hostler & Archer Worthy finally meet!



Laurie Parsons, Kenny Wenger, Bob Shoop, Karl Barry,  
Earl Custer, Dick Eckels, & Betty Wenger



The baptism of Lane Wyatt Barkman!

