

NEW HORIZONS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

May Newsletter

New Horizons PCUSA
9424 Everman Ave.
Overland, MO 63114

Important Dates for May

National Day of Prayer	May 4
May Friendship Day	May 5
Fair Trade Day	May 13
Mother's Day	May 14
Presbyterian Heritage Day	May 21
Memorial Day	May 29

Church Office Hours:
Tu, Th, F: 8:30am—2:00pm

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NEW HORIZONS PC(USA)

News 'n Views

Seek ye the Lord, with heart, mind, and soul

Words from Rev. Mark

Dear friends:

On Sunday, May 14, we will celebrate Mother's Day. Why do we honor our mothers on the second Sunday of May every year? I was a dutiful son who always gave my mother a Mother's Day gift and visited her if I was able, but I never really thought about the origins of Mother's Day until several years ago when I was reading the newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church in Lincoln, Illinois. The following article about our annual celebration of mothers caught my attention.

"The celebration of Mother's Day is usually credited to Anna Jarvis, who, in 1906, began to remember other mothers on the anniversary of her own mother's death.

"But Mother's Day was first celebrated in Boston in 1872. It was organized by Julia Ward Howe, a poet, reformer, scholar, mother of six children, author of the words to the 'Battle Hymn of the Republic,' and founder of the Women's Peace Conference in 1870.

"At the time of the Franco-Prussian War she wrote, 'Why do not the mothers of mankind interfere in these matters, to prevent the waste of human life of which they alone bear and know the cost?...The terrible august dignity of motherhood and its terrible responsibility now appear to me in a new aspect.'

"She began to promote Mother's Day in 1872 as a festival for the advocacy of peace. It was so celebrated in the U.S. and abroad for many years, but gradually lost ground to the Jarvis celebration."

Mother's Day was originally a day when the mothers of the world spoke out about peace. As Julia Ward Howe recognized, mothers bear a special burden when it comes to war. Their own flesh and blood, the sons and daughters born out of their wombs, are the victims of the battlefields.



Lee Crisler
Faith Gillespie
Elaine & Tom Shanahan
Jeff Johnson
Frazier Family
Debbie Frazier
Lucille Yamnitz
Evelyn Reed
Kathryn Byrd
Edie Roberts
Marion Brewer
Lore Bailey
Laura Ringling
Nancy Yamnitz
Rhonda McClain-Wright
Tom Highfill
Peg Berger
Dorothy Alexander
Julianna Yamnitz
Carol Schuster

**The Prayer List is located in the Narthex. Please write in prayer requests throughout the month, and they will be added promptly.

Office Hours:

Tues, Thurs, Fri 8:30am—2pm

Pastor's Hours:

Tues & Thurs 11:00am—1pm

Office phone: (314) 427-0841
Pastor's home phone: (314) 395-8242
Pastor's cell phone: (314) 779-6940
Pastor's email: mark.strothmann@att.net

It has been almost 150 years ago since Julia Ward Howe organized mothers to speak about an end to violence. And yet, mothers are continuing to receive news about the deaths of sons and daughters. They are dying, not only on the battlefields, but on city streets. Mothers suffer the death of their children in a special way. This is especially true when they die violently by gunfire or from terrorist explosions. This is why Julia Ward Howe believed that mothers bear an extra responsibility to be advocates for peace and non-violence. Those who feel the pains of violence most profoundly also can speak out for peace most strongly.

Mother's Day as a day to speak out for peace has been replaced by a celebration of motherhood. My cynical streak says the reason for this is that the greeting card industry finds it more profitable to promote a sentimental celebration of mothers than a day for peace. Don't get me wrong. I like Mother's Day. I think it is a very good idea to set aside at least one day a year when we honor mothers. Nonetheless, there is also an urgent need to promote peace and non-violence, not only on Mother's Day, but throughout the year.

Across the world, mothers of all nations continue to lose their sons and daughters to terrorism and armed conflict. As Christians, what can we do in the face of this tragedy? We offer comfort to the families who have already lost loved ones. We pray for the men and women who serve bravely in war zones and protect our city streets. We can also speak up for peace, urging our elected leaders to do whatever they can to end armed conflict and violence as soon as possible. The best Mother's Day gift we can give to the world is to do more to encourage peace and mutual understanding so that mothers will no longer mourn the death of their sons and daughters as bombs explode on our city streets.

Pastor Mark

Newsletter Deadline

Newsletter articles for the June Issue should be submitted to **the office** by May 25, 2015.

Breakfast with the INN Crowd

**Friday, May 12th
7—9 am**

Room at the Inn invites you to their Ninth Annual "Breakfast with the INN Crowd" benefit, featuring a delicious breakfast, live auction, silent auction, video debut and more!

Room at the Inn helps clients identify and address the underlying causes of their homelessness, gain self-sufficiency and avoid future episodes of homelessness. All proceeds benefit the homeless women and families who find shelter at Room at the Inn.

Tickets are \$45 at the door,
or \$400 per table of 10.

Annual Police Golf Tournament

**Friday, July 14th
Shotgun start at 8:00 am**

The Overland Police Department invite you to participate in their 26th Annual Overland Police Community Relations Golf Tournament at Normandie Golf Club.

Costs are \$320 per team of 4 (\$80/player)
Golfers receive: Green fees, Cart, Food,
Beverages (beer, soda and water), and
Attendance Prizes.

Food: Breakfast, snacks, and BBQ dinner by Miss Piggies Smokehouse.

For more information, call: (314) 428-1221
Or email: comrelations@overlandmo.org

*Proceeds benefit the Overland Police Dept.'s D.A.R.E.,
Safety Town and Community Services Program.*

Overland Farmers Market

Saturdays from May 13—October 21, 2017
8 am—12:30 pm

The Overland Farmers Market will soon be opening for its 9th season! Opening day is Saturday, May 13th. The market offers Overland area residents a wide variety of locally grown produce, fresh meat, and hand-picked fruits, including in-season fresh blackberries, Calhoun County peaches and local honey! Local artist will also be selling homemade artisan products. The Overland Farmers Market is located on Verona Ave. in Overland, within walking distance of New Horizons!

“If God is Good, Then Why...?”

Why do so many people today complain so much about God not being a good God? You know what I mean. Time and again people say, “Well,... if God was really a good God, God would...” OR they’ll ask, “If God is such a good God, why does God allow [*insert tragic event here*] to happen?”

Each year I lead our confirmation class on a one-day prayer retreat, teaching them spiritual practices such as lectio divina, spiritual reading, walking a labyrinth, discernment, and contemplative prayer. In the afternoon we play “stump the pastor,” where they get to ask me the questions about God and faith that they’ve been too shy to ask. Each year someone always asks, “If God is such a good God, why does God allow such-and-such to happen?”

Over the years I’ve condensed my answers to two basic things. First, when we ask the question, what we’re really asking is *why God doesn’t revolve the universe around us*. Last week I answered the question by saying, “So, if a tornado tears up a house in Oklahoma, that’s a something God should have prevented, right?” The student replied, “I think so,... I mean, if God is good, shouldn’t God keep us safe from tornadoes?”

I responded, “But tornadoes have been touching down there for thousands upon thousands of years. Should God have kept tornadoes from touching down there for thousands of years before it became Oklahoma? So God should just stop them once people move in and build cities, towns, and houses? In other words, we should be able to move anywhere, do anything, and never suffer the consequences because God should protect us from consequences.”

Almost all the natural calamities we want God to protect us from are in situations where humans move to places where earthquakes, hurricanes, tornadoes, and other calamities have happened unnoticed for thousands, and even millions of years before we ever existed. Is it fair for us to demand that God’s goodness revolve around us? If an asteroid hits a planet three galaxies away, but we aren’t there, is that okay?

Second, most of the suffering we experience in life, which we want God to prevent, is suffering that comes from the hands of humans—muggings, wars, shootings, Ponzi schemes, cons, arguing, manipulations, indifference, etc... We desperately want God to keep people from being free to do those things, but we DO NOT want God to limit our freedom to do what we want, even if that leads to other people suffering and struggling because of what we do as spouses, parents, flighty friends,

business partners, consumers, or just people driving our cars too fast.

So, we blame God for being a bad God when God allows us to suffer the consequences of the same life that also gives us so many blessings. We blame God for not preventing earthquakes that have been giving life to planet earth for millions of years, or didn’t you know that the movement of tectonic plates actually allows life to thrive on planet earth? Why aren’t we responsible for moving into earthquake zones?

We do risky things such as driving cars, climbing ladders, smoking, eating bags of potato chips and too many meatball subs, drinking too many beers, using chain saws, shooting guns, living a sedentary life, arguing politics in bars, and so much more that have consequences. Why is the definition of God’s goodness allowing us to live a consequence-free life? Shouldn’t the definition of a good God be a God who puts us in a consequence-filled life, but offers to guide us through this life to a better way of living?

We judge God for not blessing us more, and then we take credit for how God has blessed us. We look at the opportunities of our lives, and we credit ourselves for succeeding in whatever it is: “I lifted myself up from my bootstraps. I worked for everything I have. I’m responsible for everything I am.”

Didn’t God give us the lives we’re experiencing in the first place? Didn’t God create us to work TOGETHER to build, teach, share, farm, feed, laugh, cry, and so much more? Didn’t God create us in a way, and nurture us in a way, that has given us families (no matter how flawed they may be) that have raised us in a land where there are opportunities? What about giving us friends to share lives with? What about times when God has intervened with invisible hands, or guided us with a whispered voice? We see these things as so basic that we take them for granted, never acknowledging that all of this comes from God.

So, we blame God for the consequences of so much of what just is or that humans do. Then we take credit for so much of what God has blessed us with.

The key to wisdom is turning that around by recognizing that we are often the root of struggling and suffering, while God breaks in with blessings that help us overcome them. Real wisdom comes when we live in gratitude for what God does, and become responsible for what we do.

The Rev. N. Graham Standish, Ph.D., M.S.W. is senior pastor of Calvin Presbyterian Church in Zelienople, Pennsylvania, and is an adjunct faculty member of Pittsburgh Theological and Tyndale Seminaries.

One Great Hour of Sharing

Across the country, Presbyterians celebrated One Great Hour of Sharing during Lent and received the money at Easter. New Horizons Presbyterian Church received donations totaling **\$1,766.05!** This offering will greatly aid such wonderful efforts as Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Program and Self-Development of People. Thank you to all who have donated their time and money for this offering!

Letter from Ms. Doris Cochran

"Our family is grateful for all the support of church members, the pastor and secretary during Jim's illness and his passing. We appreciate the prayers, visits with communion, your presence at the memorial service and help of the organist and pastor in making the service beautiful with such short notice.

Sincerely,

Doris, Bob, & Peggy Cochran"

Annual Overland Block Party

Saturday, June 3rd
8am—10pm

Spring has arrived again and with it comes the annual Overland Block Party presented by the Overland Business Associated! The day will begin with the **Overland Famers Market** from 8am—12:30pm and the **Joey Wasser Memorial 5K Run/Walk** at 8am. The evening festivities will then kick off at 4pm with **5 Food Trucks**, beer and soda; **Community Artisan Project** demonstrators, carnival style games, a rock climbing wall sponsored by Harmony Church and a live performance by **Volcanic Ash** from 5—10pm. More information is available at: www.overlandbiz.com

***The Joey Wasser Memorial 5K Run/Walk benefits The Jeremy Project. Registration begins at 7am, runners start at 8am and walkers start at 8:05am. Pre-order souvenir t-shirt by May 12th to guarantee availability!*

Prayer Tribute to Mothers

"Blessed be all mothers
Who have come into our lives
Whose kindness, care and loving
Remain with us to guide.

Your inspiration in us
Made us strive in every way
Especially to remember
Helping others makes our day.

Mothers, this little tribute
Flows directly from my heart
You are so loved and cherished
Invaluable, one and all, you are.

- Susan Kramer

May Birthdays

Virginia Strunk	05/10
Marcia Shrum	05/11
Doris Darr	05/24
Debra Noles	05/24
Jack Folkerts	05/27
Jan Kaiser	05/27
Victoria King	05/27
Ann Highfill	05/29

Moment for Prayer

Lord, thank you for your blessings. Whether in plenty or with little, teach us to be cheerful givers and give from a full heart that serves and uses your gifts in ways that will bless others.
Amen.



“Sustainable Church”

Several weeks ago, I was scanning the Netflix library in search of a thoughtful documentary and took a chance on one entitled *Sustainable*. It was a video essay that detailed one group’s perspective on the farm-to-table journey by highlighting the rich and deep relationships between those who partner with God to bring edible things from the earth and those who craft those edible things into something delicious and delightful!

This view of the modern agricultural relationships blessed me as it reminded me of something that Wendell Barry once wrote: “The subject of Christianity and ecology is endlessly fascinating ...theologically and artistically because of our never-to-be-satisfied curiosity between a made thing and its Maker.”

Sustainable was able to capture this interdependence between farmer and chef and reveal their thoughtful partnership with their Maker. One particular testimonial in the documentary has caused me to reflect. It came from Nicolette Niman, an attorney, author, and long-time participant in this cultural conversation, who provided an eye-witness account of the harmful effects of industrialized food cultivation and went on to make the following bold declaration, “There was a lot of wisdom that was handed down throughout the ages that was tossed out around the 1950s.” She then named those pillars of wisdom that had been collected over the generations but only recently forgotten. They are the observable ways in which God has ordered nature:

- Plants and animals work together
- Diversity thrives
- Nothing is wasted
- Things must be continuously restored

Nieman made the claim that these pillars are all instrumental to a sustainable mindset. Those comments caused me to pause the documentary and question aloud: *Was there something about the 1950s that caused well-intentioned folks to disregard generations of ecclesial wisdom, too?* As a co-laborer in a mainline denominational culture that often longs for the church of the 1950s I couldn’t resist the temptation to find parallels within the church!

Answers to my question came quickly to mind, but only in the form of trite platitudes.

They were caricatures of the mainline church’s heyday in America—for I only have secondhand memories of “the good old days”. And it is all too easy to critique a time that I have only experienced in the collective memory of others. But, as the days passed, and as I put aside my preoccupation with questioning “what went wrong”, a new question began to emerge. It was this – *are we in danger of jettisoning godly wisdom in search of new ways to be church in the 21st century?* Are there some things that we should never give up in our God-directed encounters with the lost and the least of these? Are there beliefs that we should never surrender as we practice an ancient faith in increasingly divided communities? In other words, how can we let go of some of our worn-out ideologies without forgetting God’s wisdom?

“But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.” James 3:17-18

The timelessness of James’ counsel is powerful! It points us back to the Lord Jesus’ sermon on the mount and reorients us to the characteristics of God’s kingdom. It reminds us that with every new fad, every growing threat, discouraging demographic, or changing fashion, there is a way for God’s people to evaluate each new season. We wrestle with questions like:

- Do we “step out in faith” to hire a ministry leader to work together across generation?
- Do we sell the building to enable more faithful ministry that will thrive for a generation that expects diversity?
- Do we let go of programs that might be comforting but not fruitful so that we are not wasting energy on unimportant things?
- Do we continually restore our ministry to respond the Spirit’s nudges and reach out with the good news to a people who differ from us?

The answers to these questions might be different in different contexts, but at all times God’s wisdom will lead us to mimic the character and attributes of God’s Son so that in every way we might grow to become more and more like Jesus, who is the Head of this whole operation anyway! This is the wisdom that does not change with time.

So, let us abandon, release, and repent of all sorts of broken ways in church life. But, may we never abandon the pillars of our God's wisdom:

Purity first
Peaceable always
Gentleness abounds
An absence of playing favorites and insincerity

The harvest will come in righteousness and peace for those that are up for the task of planting peace in this world! And whenever we recognize lack in this area it is so good to know that we can always ask our God for wisdom and God gives wisdom to all generously and ungrudgingly

- Reverend Ayana Teter,
Associate Minister for Outreach for Pittsburgh Presbytery

“God’s Masterpiece...”

God took the fragrance of a flower...
The majesty of a tree...
The gentleness of morning dew...
The calm of a quiet sea...
The beauty of the twilight hour...
The soul of a starry night...
The laughter of a rippling brook...
The grace of a bird in flight...
Then God fashioned from these things
A creation like no other,
And when his masterpiece was through
He called it simply – Mother.

-Herbert Farnham

Moment for Prayer

Lord, please nurture peace and unity in our world and help church leaders and members understand that strength and large size are not required to carry forth your Word to a world in need of knowing your grace, love and compassion. Amen.

Volunteers Needed—PCUSA

Big Tent 2017
July 6—8

We invite you to join Presbyterians from around the country at Big Tent 2017, held on the beautiful campus of Washington University in St. Louis, MO, July 6 -8th. The theme will emphasize the hope of the Gospel and its power to transform society in our current cultural context, marked by anxiety, racial division, political animosity, and economic inequality. Through dialogue, workshops, exhibits, and engagement with one another, participants will engage the Church in its mission of justice-making and peace.

Giddings-Lovejoy Presbytery and its member congregations have been asked to provide volunteers to help with everything from onsite registration to golf cart shuttle drivers.

This is an incredible opportunity for us to extend the hand of fellowship to our brothers and sisters from across the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). As a token of our gratitude you're invited to attend Big Tent activities at no additional cost for the same day of your service. If you are interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities please visit:

www.pcusa.org/bigtent

Scripture to Live By

Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.

- Hebrews 12:14



May 2017 - New Horizons' Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 10:30am Worship 12:30pm Pendo Comm.	1 10:00am Free to be Me Al-Anon (JH)	2 7:00pm Narcotics Anon (JH)	3 8:30am Mission Sewing	4 7:00pm Narcotics Anon (FH) 7:00pm Choir	5 10:00am Freedom Al-Anon (JH)	6 10:00am Pendo Prayers in Sanct.
7 10:30am Worship & Communion 12:30pm Pendo Comm.	8 10:00am Free to be Me Al-Anon (JH)	9 7:00pm Narcotics Anon (JH)	10 8:30am Mission Sewing 6:30pm Session Mtg	11 7:00pm Narcotics Anon (FH) 7:00pm Choir	12 10:00am Freedom Al-Anon (JH)	13 10:00am Pendo Prayers in Sanct.
14 Mother's Day 10:30am Worship 12:00pm Mission Mtg 12:30pm Pendo Comm.	15 10:00am Free to be Me Al-Anon (JH)	16 10:00am Presby. Women Mtg (JH) 7:00pm Narcotics Anon (JH)	17 8:30am Mission Sewing	18 7:00pm Narcotics Anon (FH) 7:00pm Choir	19 10:00am Freedom Al-Anon (JH)	20 10:00am Pendo Prayers in Sanct.
21 10:30am Worship 12:15pm Deacon Mtg 12:30pm Pendo Comm.	22 10:00am Free to be Me Al-Anon (JH)	23 7:00pm Narcotics Anon (JH)	24 8:30am Mission Sewing	25 7:00pm Narcotics Anon (FH) 7:00pm Choir	26 10:00am Freedom Al-Anon (JH)	27 10:00am Pendo Prayers in Sanct.
28 10:30am Worship 12:30pm Pendo Comm.	29 10:00am Free to be Me Al-Anon (JH)	30 7:00pm Narcotics Anon (JH)	31 8:30am Mission Sewing	1 7:00pm Narcotics Anon (FH) 7:00pm Choir	2 10:00am Freedom Al-Anon (JH)	3 10:00am Pendo Prayers in Sanct.