

1844

**175th Anniversary**  
small church with a big heart

2019

# The Link

Unionville Presbyterian Church

**JULY/AUGUST  
2019**

## Inside this issue:

Loving Ourselves	5-7
PCUSA	8
Community	9-11
Loving God	12
Loving Neighbors	13
Leadership	13
Calendars	14-15

## Special points of interest:

- Pastor's Thank You
- Pastor's Night Stand
- 175th Anniversary
- Financial Update
- Vacation Boxes
- Garden Table
- Leadership

## Will You Live Out of Your Memories or Your Imagination?

Some call it a battle. Others a wrestling match. Let's go with something a bit less confrontational and call it a challenge that will impact whether or not you survive. I'm describing one of the foundational polarities every church must confront and manage. Simply put: will your life together be primarily shaped by your *memories* or by your *imagination*?

*If your church constantly allows your memories to overrule your imaginations, you will die. It really is that simple. Inviting God's creative Spirit to inhabit our minds and hearts is the first step toward vibrancy and sustainability.*

No one questions whether both are important. Our memories and the past are a vital component of a healthy and vibrant faith and church. Our imaginations and the ability to innovate and adapt are a vital component of a healthy and vibrant church. Neither can exist in an appropriate way without the other.

However, the default position of the vast majority of congregations and parishes is to lean most heavily upon the familiar, the known, the former. Our imaginations grow weak from lack of use as we loop repeatedly back to what is comfortable and predictable.

Jesus confronted a religious system steeped in tradition and ritual. While honoring those who had gone before him, he also peeled back the layers of meaningless repetition to reveal the original intent and then breathed new life into that truth. Worship was not about Sabbath rules but about revering almighty God and offering one's self wholly to God.



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Sin was not so much a matter of external habits as a habit of the heart. The love of neighbor was not limited to “people like us” but extended to those very different from “us”, even lepers and Samaritans!

In each case, Jesus paid homage to the memories and traditions, but landed most emphatically on the power of imagination to rethink and reframe an eternal truth in a new and innovative way. The resulting earthquake that rocked the established religious order still reverberates through the church that tries to follow his lead.

Imitating our forefathers and mothers, we calcify eternal truth by wrapping it in temporal traditions and practices. We too often cling to memories and set patterns rather than engage our imaginations and creative capacities.

For example:

When confronted with the challenges of a culture that no longer regards Sunday as sacred space to be set aside for religious activities, we whine and complain about Sunday attendance rather than adapt and adjust to the new lifestyles that we ourselves have adopted. What is valuable and timeless is the worship of God and the fellowship of faith. What is temporal and open to imaginative reframing is when, how and where that worship and fellowship takes place.

When confronted by a pluralistic and diverse community, we revert back to primitive thinking about race rather than see this new world as perfectly suited for Jesus’ message of inclusion and Christ-centered unity in the midst of diversity.

When facing dwindling financial resources and cumbersome facilities, we double down on guilt-laden stewardship and “clubhouse thinking” about our buildings rather than imaginatively exploring new streams of revenue and using our facilities as community assets rather than private quarters.

When hiring and assigning staff, we repeat patterns from earlier eras that no longer result in effective outcomes rather than reimagine new models of staffing positions and tasks that shift the church culture away from “paying for professional services” toward leading a focused team on a missional adventure that includes everyone taking part as God has gifted and called them.

If your church or faith community is going to have a future, and if you want that future to be more about thriving than simply surviving, then you must get this balance right. Are you going to be primarily driven by memory or imagination? You will need both.

Every church I served on staff was birthed in the 1800’s. I understand the power and value and place of memory. I have profound respect for and appreciation of traditions and past practices. I want to honor those who sacrificed mightily for me to have the privilege of ministering in the 21st century.

And yet, I know that a significant part of what got them through the challenges of previous eras was the willingness of those past leaders to engage their imaginations and push past the limitations of their memories. Like Jesus seeking to reform a tone-deaf religious machine that has lost its way, every generation must confront the temptations of our church to lean on what was and to lean away from what will be.

I’m sorry, but if your church constantly allows your memories to overrule your imaginations, you will die. It really is that simple. Inviting God’s creative Spirit to invade and inhabit our minds and hearts is the first step toward vibrancy and sustainability. Walking by faith and not by sight has always been our challenge.

Blessings to you as you seek to live by faith in the One who gave you an imagination and expects you to use it.

Bill Wilson  
Creating Healthy Churches Director

## Thanks from Your Pastor

Luke 17:11-19 11 Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. 12 As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance 13 and called out in a loud voice, “Jesus, Master, have pity on us!” 14 When he saw them, he said, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were cleansed. 15 One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. 16 He threw himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan. 17 Jesus asked, “Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? 18 Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?”

How is it that nine of the newly healed lepers did not come back to say “thank you?” Two easy words that mean so much to the hearer – yet only one came back. Expressing gratitude is important and I want to express mine to you. I love to write thank-you notes! My mother used to tease me that I would write a thank-you note if I got a drink from your garden hose. Verbal thanks is good, email thanks is OK, but a handwritten note really tells the giver how much

their gift meant to you. As I look back at my seven years as the pastor of UPC (6 of ordained ministry as of July 21), I am filled with gratitude.

I am thankful for the ways you have let me into your lives – I have shared your joys and your sorrows. I have walked on the hallowed ground of your lives and hearts. It is truly a privilege to be among such a warm and caring congregation! I am so proud of the ways in which you respond to the needs of the community in which God has placed you. Our little church has shown such a great capacity to care for and love our neighbors – just as God commanded.

Every week I am humbled that you come to listen to the message I prepare. I am always overwhelmed by the support and leadership of the congregation. I apologize for the times I have failed and am grateful for the forgiveness offered. This is a great place to worship and serve! You minister to me and allow me to minister to you. My prayer is that you know how blessed I feel to be in your midst. My prayers are full of thanks to God for the privilege of serving UPC!

## On The Pastor’s Night Stand

Recently I learned of the passing of one of my favorite current Christian theologians, Rachel Held Evans. She passed away this spring at the age of 37. As I grieved the loss, I re-read her books. They are all wonderful and I highly recommend them all.

Her first book, Faith Unraveled (formerly titled Evolving in Monkey Town) is one of my favorites. Eighty years after the Scopes Monkey Trial made a spectacle of Christian fundamentalism and brought national attention to her hometown,



Rachel Held Evans faced a trial of her own when she began to have doubts about her faith.

In Faith Unraveled, Rachel recounts growing up in a culture obsessed with apologetics, struggling as her own faith unraveled one unexpected question at a time.

In order for her faith to survive, Rachel realizes, it must adapt to change and evolve. Using as an illustration her

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# 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – Kirkin' O' Th' Tartan



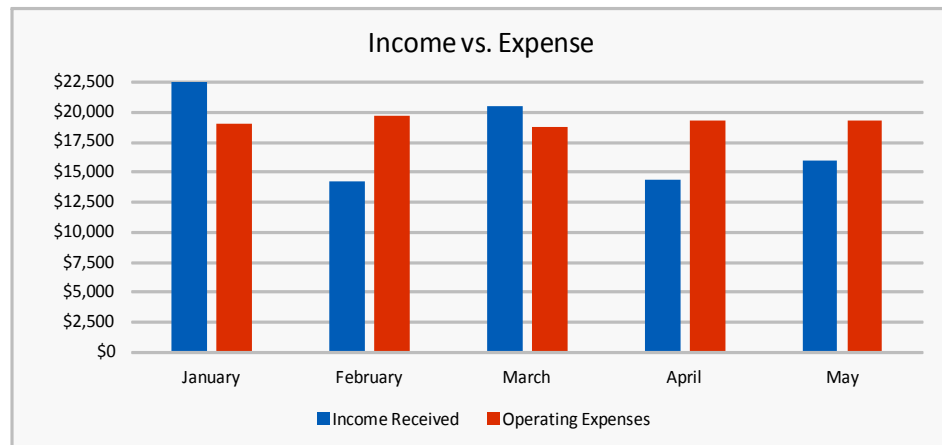


# LOVING OURSELVES

## Finance Ministry Team Update

As of May 31, income received (\$103,216) was greater than operating expenses incurred (\$95,744). There were a few people who made a full year contribution in January that is inflating the income year to date. If we were to pro-rate their contributions, income would be \$89,802 compared to expenses of \$95,744. Our expenses through May month-end are below budget (\$95,744 vs \$100,745). Please see the chart below for a comparison of income received to operating expenses by month.

*Remember the church  
in your will!*



The Finance Ministry Team will continue to monitor and report income and expenses on a monthly basis and look for ways to control expenses.

If you have any questions, suggestions, or comments for the FMT, please feel free to contact its chair, Fred Hoge. You can do so in person, by phone (610-357-8464), or email ([hogekf@verizon.net](mailto:hogekf@verizon.net)). You may also contact the church treasurer, Mary Hewes, by phone at 610-347-2327 or by email at [hewesmb@aol.com](mailto:hewesmb@aol.com).

## UPC at The Blue Rocks

Would you like to sing the National Anthem at a Blue Rocks game? Join the UPC Choir, on July 12. Because our special arrangement is slightly different than the original, you'll need to rehearse with the choir. Those two rehearsals will be immediately after the Sunday service on July 7. ...Bill Johnson





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own spiritual journey from certainty to doubt to faith, Evans challenges you to disentangle your faith from false fundamentals and to trust in a God who is big enough to handle your tough questions.

In a changing cultural environment where new ideas seem to threaten the safety and security of the faith, Faith Unraveled is a fearlessly honest story of survival.

I encourage you to get a copy of this, or any one of her books, and meet me for a cup of coffee or a bowl of ice cream to discuss it! If there is enough interest, we could certainly form a book club; just let me know!

## 2019 UPC Directory is Coming

A Lifetouch photographer will be at UPC on Monday September 16th from 2pm - 9pm and Tuesday September 17th from 2pm - 9pm.

New for Home Directories (not the Pew Directories) will be the additions of Cell phone #s and Email addresses.



**Save the date**

Be included in the new  
Unionville Presbyterian Church Church directory.

Photography dates:  
Monday, 9/16/19 2-9pm  
Tuesday, 9/17/19 2-9pm

**Lifetouch**

As in the past, your 8" x 10" photo will be free. You also get the Home Directory for sitting for a photo and \$10 off any additional photos.

For any questions or for providing additional contact information, contact Carol Buckley at [carolb442@msn.com](mailto:carolb442@msn.com) or any Sunday in church.

## Hello Wollaston Road Neighbors!

Our neighborhood is now using a free private online network called Nextdoor Unionville Village and you should join us. On this website, we share service provider recommendations, items for sale/free, lost pet notifications, safety updates, local events and much more.

It's 100% free and private - just for our neighbors.

Please go to [www.nextdoor.com/join](http://www.nextdoor.com/join) and enter this code to join us: BDBGGT (this code expires in 7 days!)

-West Prein, Wollaston Rd

P.S. There are already over 800 posts on Nextdoor Unionville Village, including posts about Crime and Safety issues in the neighborhood.



## The Mourner's Bill of Rights

- 1. You have the right to experience your own unique grief.** No one else will grieve in exactly the same way you do. So, when you turn to others for help, don't allow them to tell what you should or should not be feeling.
- 2. You have the right to talk about your grief.** Talking about your grief will help you heal. Seek out others who will allow you to talk as much as you want, as often as you want, about your grief. If at times you don't feel like talking, you also have the right to be silent.
- 3. You have the right to feel a multitude of emotions.** Confusion, disorientation, fear, guilt and relief are just a few of the emotions you might feel as part of your grief journey. Others may try to tell you that feeling angry, for example, is wrong. Don't take these judgmental responses to heart. Instead, find listeners who will accept your feelings without condition.
- 4. You have the right to be tolerant of your physical and emotional limits.** Your feelings of loss and sadness will probably leave you feeling fatigued. Respect what your body and mind are telling you. Get daily rest. Eat balanced meals. And don't allow others to push you into doing things you don't feel ready to do.
- 5. You have the right to experience "grief bursts."** Sometimes, out of nowhere, a powerful surge of grief may overcome you. This can be frightening, but is normal and natural. Find someone who understands and will let you talk it out.
- 6. You have the right to make use of ritual.** The funeral does more than acknowledge the death of someone loved. It helps provide you with the support of caring people. More importantly, the funeral is a way for you to mourn. If others tell you the funeral or other healing rituals such as these are silly or unnecessary, don't listen.
- 7. You have the right to embrace your spirituality.** If faith is a part of your life, express it in ways that seem appropriate to you. Allow yourself to be around people who understand and support your religious beliefs. If you feel angry at God, find someone to talk with who won't be critical of your feelings of hurt and abandonment.
- 8. You have the right to search for meaning.** You may find yourself asking "Why did he or she die? Why this way? Why now?" Some of your questions may have answers, but some may not. And watch out for the clichéd responses some people may give you. Comments like "It was God's will" or "Think of what you have to be thankful for" are not helpful and you do not have to accept them.
- 9. You have the right to treasure your memories.** Memories are one of the best legacies that exist after the death of someone loved. You will always remember. Instead of ignoring your memories, find others with whom you can share them.
- 10. You have the right to move toward your grief and heal.** Reconciling your grief will not happen quickly. Remember, grief is a process, not an event. Be patient and tolerant with yourself and avoid people who are impatient and intolerant with you. Neither you nor those around you must forget that the death of someone loved changes your life forever.





# PCUSA CORNER

## PC(USA) Releases 2018 Statistical Report

The 2018 statistical report for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) shows a continuing decline for the denomination in both membership and the number of churches, although the rate of decline may be slowing slightly.

The PC(USA) lost 62,375 active members from 2017 to 2018, dropping from 1,415,053 members in 2017 to 1,352,678 in 2018 (a decrease of 4.4%).

The number of churches in the denomination dropped by 143 over the last year – from 9,304 in

2017 to 9,161 in 2018. While fewer churches than in recent years were dismissed to other denominations (34 in 2018, compared with 45 the previous year) the PC (USA) continues to see churches dissolved as they become too small to continue operating – with 108 churches dissolved in 2018, while only 20 new churches were organized.

The reality of membership losses is nothing new. The PC(USA) has been growing smaller for decades – dropping in size by about two-thirds over the last 50 years, from a peak membership of 4.2 million in 1965.

The statistical report also makes it clear that the PC(USA) is a denomination of predominantly small congregations – with nearly two-thirds of the churches (63 percent) having fewer than 100 members.

There are glimmers of hope too. The number of new worshipping communities increased, from 144 in 2017 to 158 in 2018. And the number of professions of faith and reaffirmations of faith rose by more than 9,000.

Other numbers to watch involve the number of ministers in the denomination (down 248 in 2018) and the number of ministers being ordained (down 10). Some have raised concerns that the PC(USA) may be facing an [impending shortfall of pastors](#), as more ministers retire and the supply of new ministers being ordained doesn't keep pace.



-Leslie Scanlon





# COMMUNITY

## Cub Pack 22 Wraps Up the Season

Pack 22 had their Bridge Crossing ceremony back on May 15<sup>th</sup>. This is the time of year when each Cub Scout moves up a rank if they met the requirements at that level. I am proud to say that every scout met the criteria to move up. After the ceremony, the Pack went to Foxy Loxy to enjoy some ice cream and games.

We also marched in the Kennett Square Memorial Day Parade! This was our last official Pack activity until Fall 2019.

Ray Rissmiller, Committee Member



## Law Enforcement Sunday





*SPC Community Outreach Center, Erected 2014*

**SHILOH**  
**Presbyterian Church**  
**Oxford, PA**

**PANCAKE & OMELET BREAKFAST**  
**July 13, 2019**



**Place:** SPC Community Outreach Center  
42 South Fifth Street, Oxford, PA

**Time:** 8:30 – 10:30 A.M.

**Donation:** Adults, \$7.00; Children (4–11),  
\$5.00; 3 years and under, free.  
Tickets are purchased at the door.

**Coordinators:** Sheila Bowers and Susan Ruffin

This Breakfast has been scheduled for the second Saturday every other month.  
Various items are included on the menu.

For information, please leave a message at the church office, 610-932-9256.

Thanks for your support. Happy Independence Day – July 4th!





### **Christmas in July**

**9 AM to 3 PM**

Ware Presbyterian Village Auxiliary invites you to come to our Third Annual Christmas in July Craft Fair and More. It is located in the Pavilion auditorium at Vista Ridge Apartments at Ware Presbyterian Village in Oxford, PA. Proceeds used to enrich the lives of all residents including those in the Oxford Health Care Center and Steward Place. Shop at more than **50** Crafter tables, purchase fresh flowers, and browse the New to You Thrift Shop and The Gift Box, located in Steward Place. Visit the Ware Model Railroad display and Workshop tool sale in the Ware Mansion. Food Court with wine, cheese, jams and jellies, homemade truffles, local honey and more will be available for purchase. Box lunches, and beverages will also be available for purchase. Take a tour of a sample senior living apartment.

Silent Auction of a homemade quilt!

Door Prizes and More!

More information email: [cijatware@zoominternet.net](mailto:cijatware@zoominternet.net).





# LOVING GOD

## From the Desk of the DCM



### TAKE-OUT CHURCH BOXES = FUN FOR THE FAMILY ON VACATION!

What is Take-Out Church? When you go on vacation do you wish for activities to engage the family and practice your faith? A special way to remember you are a part of God's family and loved. This summer we have "Take-Out Church" boxes full of activities, to take and enjoy on your vacation. Just sign a box out and return the box to the table in the narthex when you return from your vacation. All boxes are the same.

There's so much to do inside! Use the conversation starters to engage the family while traveling to your favorite vacation lo-

cation. Remember Flat Stanley? You'll find Flat Jesus inside the Vacation Box. Take Flat Jesus along and snap pictures of him having fun with your family and while you enjoy all your activities. Then look to the Starburst prayers and guiding prayer prompts. Each color of Starburst has a corresponding prayer. I won't spoil the fun by telling you everything that's included inside. *Remember to check the table in the narthex and sign your Take-Out Church box out for your summer vacation!*

Here are some conversation starters to get you started while you plan your next vacation or "staycation".

If you could stay up all night, what would you do?

If you could be an Olympic athlete, in what sport would you compete?

You are going to be alone on a deserted island for a year and you get to take one book/DVD/CD. What would you take?

What superpowers would you like to have?

If you were writing a newspaper article about your day, what would the headline be?

Have a happy and safe vacation!



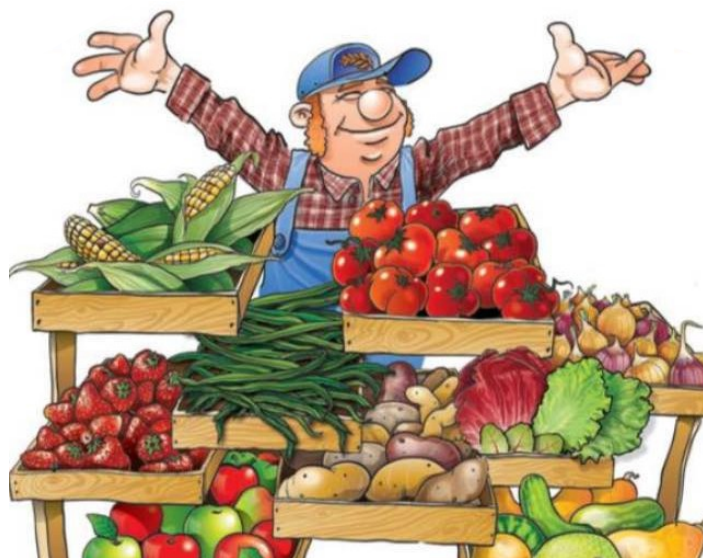


## LOVING NEIGHBORS

Gardeners everywhere have great hopes for the upcoming season. While we wait for tomatoes, zucchini, and corn, it's a good time to divide perennials and share them with the Garden Table. Plants and produce of any kind are welcome and will be greatly appreciated all season long, starting June 16 through the end of September. All proceeds from voluntary donations for the goodies you wish to take will benefit the Kennett Food Cupboard. Of

## Mission/Outreach

course, baked goods always have a spot on the Garden Table! Look for us each Sunday after service.



## Leadership of Unionville Presbyterian Church

### ELDERS

Moderator: Rev. Annalie Korengel  
Clerk of Session: Sue Minarchi

### DEACONS

Co-Moderators: Mardette Alexander  
and Kay Dunkle

#### Class of 2019

Joan Deming-Murphy  
Susan Minarchi  
Greg Permar

#### Class of 2020

Carol Buckley  
Michael King  
Curt McCray

#### Class of 2019

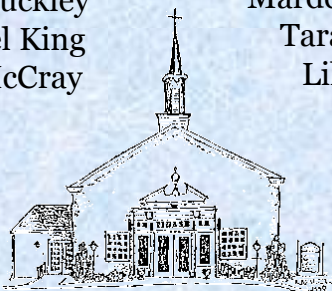
Mardette Alexander  
Tara Dickinson  
Lillian Ryan

#### Class of 2020

Betty Bryer  
Judy Jackson  
Brian Roberts

#### Class of 2021

Fred Hoge  
J R Nelson  
Brooke Wren



#### Class of 2021


JoAnn Fisher  
Marlel Holloway  
Pam Woodford

### STAFF

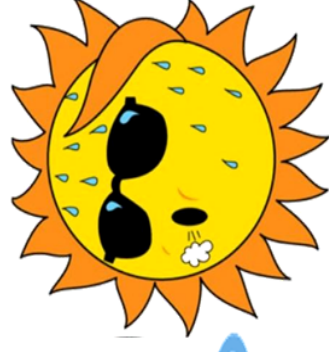
Pastor/Head of Staff: Rev. Annalie Korengel  
Director of Children's Ministry: Lizabeth G. Connors  
Secretary: Judy Krug

Financial Secretary/ Treasurer: Mary Hewes  
Director of Music Ministry: Bill Johnson  
Nursery Attendant: Olivia Finkey

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 	5 AA 7:00	6
7 COMMUNION Worship 9:00 Discipleship 9:00 Garden Table	8 Finance 10:00	9	10 If Love Was Enough 7:30	11 LIFE 9:30	12 Blue Rocks 7:05 AA 7:00	13
14 Worship 9:00 Discipleship 9:00 Garden Table	15	16	17	18 LIFE 9:30	19 AA 7:00	20
21 Worship 9:00 Discipleship 9:00 Garden Table	22 Session 7:00	23	24	25 LIFE 9:30	26 AA 7:00	27
28 Worship 9:00 Discipleship 9:00 Garden Table	29	30	31 Prayer/Praise 3:30			





# AUGUST 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 LIFE 9:30	2 AA 7:00	3
4 COMMUNION Worship 9:00 Discipleship 9:00 Garden Table	5	6	7	8 LIFE 9:30	9 AA 7:00	10
11 Worship 9:00 Discipleship 9:00 Garden Table	12 Finance 10:00	13	14	15 LIFE 9:30	16 AA 7:00	17
18 Worship 9:00 Discipleship 9:00 Garden Table	19	20	21	22 LIFE 9:30	23 AA 7:00	24
25 Worship 9:00 Discipleship 9:00 Garden Table	26	27	28 Prayer/Praise 3:30	29 LIFE 9:30	30 AA 7:00	31

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**Website: [www.unionvillepresbyterianchurch.org](http://www.unionvillepresbyterianchurch.org)**

*Loving God and our neighbors as ourselves*

