

September 24, 2020

“He drew a circle that shut me out-
Heretic, rebel, a thing to flout.
But love and I had the wit to win:
We drew a circle and took him In!”
— Edwin Markham

When in high school I learned Thomas Jefferson proposed we stage a revolution every four years in the planned republic. I thought, “What a violent and upsetting proposition.” The *American Revolution*. In Britain it’s known as “their” war of independence in which we, like a disobedient and thankless child, bit the hand that fed us. It was a bloody mess like all wars. Why would we want to have a war every four years? The nation that emerged from that conflict doesn’t even have its own name. I’ve never understood why Canada and Mexico, not to mention the nations of South America, all get their own names and we don’t. I’ve thought of a suggestion: Tisofthee, as in “My Country ‘Tis of Thee” but it is sung to the tune of “God Save the Queen.” What else could we call this newly born experiment, the red, white, and blue good old U. S. of A.? Of course France uses red, white, and blue, too. While they aren’t keen on us trying to murder their language, overall they like us so it’s ok to share colors. They can’t have our stars, though. Our stars are important. Notice the stars aren’t red and blue, they are all the same color. A war was fought to keep them all the same color. Dubbed the war of northern aggression, down below the Mason-Dixon Line it was about staying one people out of many. The quadrennial revolution Jefferson wrote about was not a palace coup or military campaign but a simple peaceful thing, an election.

Presbyterians know all about elections since we are God’s elect, predestined to goodness and salvation. The only voter in that election is God so our elections are about seeking God’s will for the church but, in the U. S. of A. we participate in an experiment in democracy. Our opinions are requested on a regular basis. Some of our fellow citizens seek God’s will in the polling booth; some have no God; others call God by a different name and, others have many gods or names for God. In order to move our experiment forward we must realize we are stuck together. Any way forward involves moving together or else we are back to force of arms and barbarian struggle.



I urge you to prayerfully consider your duty to vote and to do so as best you can. We Christians have no call to force our faith on others but our faith is the salt of the earth influencing the whole toward good.

Upcoming Events:

The *Rummage Sale* was great fun! Jil and I had a wonderful time greeting not only members of our church community, but many folks from the surrounding areas! While many, many items were sold, there are some items still remaining in the CE building. Many organizations within our community may be able to use a lot of these things. If you’re able to help distribute un-sold items to organizations within the community, please contact the church office. We’ll coordinate, best we can, sharing what remains. Thank you to everyone who was able to help with this wonderful event!

The Presbyterian Woman are helping out *Girls on the Run* with their shoe drive. There is a bin in the back hallway of the CE building and another one in the narthex. Please donate any type of shoe -

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men's, women's, children's, in clean, decent shape. The bins will be emptied on a regular basis so that we do not have a stinky shoe smell in the church.

Ginny Sodano has been busy continuing to help our community by coordinating gathering and distributing items for our *Food Pantry*. Non-perishable donations are needed. Some suggestions include: fruit, pasta, mac and cheese, drink boxes, canned chicken, white and brown rice, salad dressing, noodles, cereal, pancake mix, syrup, and paper towels. If you need to get in touch with Ginny, her phone number is 570-476-9393 and her email address is ggodano@ptd.net. A big "thank you" to Ginny for all she does with this important ministry!

Prayer Concerns:

Please pray for the following people:

Mary Resh –

She fell and broke her femur. Surgery resulted in a pin being implanted in her leg. She is currently in stable condition in the hospital and will be going to a rehab facility as soon as they are able to move her.

Grace Park, Apt. 119, 1170 West Main St., Stroudsburg, PA 18360

Mary Wolbert –

Mary is being moved to a nursing rehabilitation center in Easton so she can get better, gain strength and return home. She is also suffering from a bladder infection. Her son, Robin, is very concerned about her condition at this time, and is thankful for prayers and that we continue to think of her!

PO Box 87, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301

Kiki Pollack –

Kiki has been diagnosed with brain cancer and has been undergoing chemotherapy.

1109 Woodland Xing, East Stroudsburg, PA 18302

Linda Jennings -

Linda fell, hurt her shoulder, and is doing better, thanks to physical therapy. Continued prayers for the healing process.

151 Naomi Lane, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301

Jil Hawk –

Jil broke her foot before our move to Shawnee on Delaware. She is in a boot and hobbling around quite well.

PO Box 305, Shawnee on Delaware, PA 18356

You can reach me a number of ways:

- call the church office, leave a message, 570-421-5518,
- call the manse, 570-664-6829 (yes, we have phone and internet!), or
- email to my attention at shawneechurch@verizon.net.

It's great to be connected!

God Bless!

Darcy