

# NEWSLETTER

In 1964 Bob Dylan sang *The Times They Are a Changin'*, and they did. The trouble is they kept on changing. It got going so fast that soon a whole changeling generation grew up and started changing things further. I blame God for this. When Moses ask for credentials from the being who commissioned him to free the Hebrew people from Egyptian slavery the conversation went something like this:

Moses: Whom shall I say sent me?

God: Yes

Moses: No, tell me your name.

God: To Be

Moses: Tobey? What kind of a name is that for a God?

God: Alright, say I Am sent me.

Moses: Iams is a pet food, at least Tobey was Spiderman.

God: I am the ground of all being a sort of gerund.

Moses: What's a gerund?

God: It is a verb acting as a noun so call me Being because I am a verb acting as a noun.

Moses: The followers of Astarte and Amen Ra don't have this problem, but I suppose you are who you say you are because you are God.

So off Moses went and when they asked who sent him he produced the Hebrew phrase YHWH, I Am.

The symbols of God's spirit are wind and fire. If the air were still there would be no wind. If the wood pile is dark and cold there is no fire. Because God is always moving we have to get used to change. Just about the time any of us get things to that perfect comfortable state God comes blowing through like a mighty wind and all is movement. As long as you aren't trying to wrestle control of the world from God there is joy in movement and hope. Stick around when things go wrong because they can always get worse and they could always get better. With God we are on an adventure.

God is moving in our time prompting responses to a pandemic and God will move us through this time. All plans are temporary; all situations are in flux. Remember that what we must do for now is for now. God is a verb and we are being swept along.

## **Notes from Session – October 15, 2020**

Listed below are highlights from the most recent Session meeting which was held on Thursday, October 15, 2020, via ZOOM. You will also find mention of these items, along with additional information, in the weekly bulletin and in upcoming newsletters.

- Bill Dolph and Mike Sodano are moving ahead with the "**Foundation project**". This project will shear up the foundation of the pulpit area of the church so that the crack doesn't widen and the building does not sink any further. This has consisted of hours of time dealing with a lawyer and finding out what we have to do so that we do not disturb the bodies that are buried under the church. We will be discussing this with the congregation in the near future.

- We have **new email addresses** that we would like you all to start using. They are internet based and will be much easier to deal with. If you want to get in touch with Rev. Hawk, use **pastor@shawneepresbyterianchurch.com**. If you want to get in touch with the office, use **info@shawneepresbyterianchurch.com**. We will have these emails on our webpage if you forget them.
- The **nominating committee** will be meeting within the next couple of weeks. If you are interested in serving as an officer, we would love for you to let us know! This could be as a Deacon, as an Elder, on the audit committee or as a member-at-large (they attend the personnel committee meeting and the nominating committee meeting – both meet once a year)
- Session approved the **Church Life Committee's November 7 Bazaar**. It will include a 20-basket Tricky Tray and some other tables. Please see Maggie if you are interested in helping.
- Keeping our fingers crossed, we are hoping that we will be able to have some of our "normal" **fundraisers** next year. Session approved the Raceway fundraiser, which will take place in June 2021 at the Pocono Raceway. Session also approved the hostel fundraiser. We are hoping that we'll get a few Boy Scout troops to spend the night in the CE Building.
- Tom and Mary Bartha are spearheading our **Stewardship campaign** this year. We are looking forward to hearing from them in November!
- The November **congregational meeting** will be held on November 15 immediately after church. The agenda will be to nominate and vote on new officers, to approve changes in the by-laws and to vote on foundation project, if the committee is ready.

### Upcoming Events:

The **Church Life Committee** will be having a Bazaar on Saturday, November 7, 10 AM – 3 PM. The Bazaar will take place in and around the CE building, weather permitting. We will be adhering to current social distancing, wearing of masks, and limiting the number of people permitted inside the building at one time. There will be a basket raffle and tables available for members to sell items and crafts. If you're interested in reserving a table or helping, please contact Maggie Della Fera at 570-460-3466.

There will be a **Congregational Meeting** on Sunday, November 15, immediately following Service. Members will have an opportunity to nominate and vote for new Church Officers, approve changes to the current by-laws, and vote to move forward on the foundation project mentioned in the "Notes from Session" section of this newsletter. Questions? Feel free to call the Church Office.

The **Presbyterian Woman** continue to participate with the *Girls on the Run* 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 - 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.

We continue to be a great resource for members of our community through our **Food Pantry**. Non-perishable donations are always 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 Sodano, 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:

*Tim and Diane Bowman –*

Tim has been hospitalized with pneumonia. He had covid-19 earlier this year as well. He is currently living at Slate Belt Nursing Home because of his Parkinson's. Diane is well. Prayers for strength for her would be appreciated.  
 104 Kistler Street, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301

*Jil Hawk –*

As many know, Jil broke her foot before our move to Shawnee on Delaware. She has gotten permission to wear a tennis shoe around the house but she still has to take it easy!  
*PO Box 305, Shawnee on Delaware, PA 18356*

*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*

*Kiki Pollack –*

Kiki has been diagnosed with brain cancer and has been undergoing chemotherapy.  
*1109 Woodland Xing, East Stroudsburg, PA 18302*

*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*

*The Wolbert Family –*

Prayers of peace and healing at Mary's passing.

**Office Hours:**

You can reach me a number of ways:

- call the church office, leave a message, 570-421-5518,
- call the manse, 570-664-6829,
- email to my new email address [pastor@shawneepresbyterianchurch.com](mailto:pastor@shawneepresbyterianchurch.com),
- on the porch (Jil and I haven't been on the porch quite as much with the cooler weather), or
- stop by my office in the CE building on Tuesday or Thursday morning from 9 AM-12 PM!

It's great to be connected!

God Bless!

*Darcy*