

NEWSLETTER

The earth has swung around the sun once more. Rising above the solar equator we face colder weather with the prospect of snow. What kind of winter will end this year? Whatever the weather this winter will be laced with the prospect of continued social distancing. Many of the things we do to counteract the doldrums of short cloudy days and dark cold nights involve gathering. In frontier days people were isolated on homesteads for months at a time. I recall the story of two pioneer women meeting for the first time after a spring thaw. One of them said, "I took great comfort in seeing the lights in your cabin across the valley." Isolation is hard for us any time, but solitude is something many seek. It's one thing to choose to be alone like Greta Garbo in *Grand Hotel* and another to be put in solitary confinement. This nasty virus is a vindictive jailer. Surrounded by our high tech interactive computer driven communications is not the same as being surrounded by friends. Two things may help. We tend to forget that this is for the time being. There was a time before the pandemic and pandemics before this one. What we are establishing is not the new normal but, a way of taking care of one another in abnormal times. Taking care of one another is the second helpful thing. If you are alone, reach out to others through the ways we have developed for communication across those early settlers didn't have.

Even your everyday activity can provide comfort to those who need reassured they are still in company. When I see a person with a mask covering their nose and mouth I feel a kind of hug. That person may not even know me but, they care about me. Simple gestures will get us through this winter. Soon the earth will travel on and then those crazy Australians will have to suffer the cold dark instead of us.

While God listens in on the internet no computer link is needed for prayer. If two or more are gathered on a phone call God is like the nosy operator or the others on the party line. It's better to acknowledge God and not make him eavesdrop all the time. In this we acknowledge that though he may seem far at time we are in God like a fish is in the sea. If you don't feel God in the midst of your life right now ask yourself this question, "Can a fish know it's wet?"

Upcoming Events:

Hostel season is right around the corner! Michelle Siptroth is organizing a work day to give the CE building a thorough cleaning before we start having guests. If you have an hour or two to help Michelle and her team on **Saturday, October 24th**, starting around **9 AM**, please give her a call at 570-242-3586. *Many hands make light work!*

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.

The Presbyterian Women are planning a Picnic gathering before the weather gets too cold, as well as planning an upcoming meeting. As soon as information is available, we'll be sure to share it via this newsletter, email, and the weekly bulletin. Stay tuned!

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:

Tom and Mary Bartha, and Family –

The in-laws of Tom and Mary's daughter, Katy, were killed in an automobile accident near Fargo, North Dakota, on Friday, October 2nd. Their names are Steven and Diane Christenson. Please lift this family in prayer: *Trevor and Katy Christenson, and their children, Soren, Thomas, and Walter, and Trevor's brother, Titus Christenson, and his wife Mindy.*
204 Sunrise Drive, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301

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 completely remove the boot, 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

Joshua Siegle –

Joshua is the youngest son of our Ministerial Assistant, Lori Siegle. Josh has joined the active duty component of the US Army and leaves for basic training on October 27, 2020. Prayers for focus and peace for Joshua, Lori, Dave, and their family.
107 Helen Street, 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 attention at shawneechurch@verizon.net,
- 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