

The Sounding Board

P.O. Box 145, Shawnee on Delaware, PA 18356

June 2019



SPC Mission Statement

“To be a friendly congregation where all people can freely come and worship, experience family fellowship, feel the presence of God’s love in a historical and recreational setting, and be a beacon of God’s light to the world”

Dear Friends,

I am really excited about the direction our church is heading in! We’ve completed so many repairs to the manse, the CE Building and the church and we are hoping that the structural damage to the church can be rectified sometime this year. I am also excited that we have started the process of getting a new pastor. I know that this pastor will only be a temporary one, but I think that it is important that we get some continuity and stability. We are a strong congregation and I know we believe we can do anything, but it will be nice to have someone lead us in worship, stewardship, fellowship and comfort for an extended time.

I am also excited about the number of people who have stepped up to help our church, whether it be with fundraising or in different aspects of the church. I know that everyone has a different gift to give to our church and it is exciting to see members of our congregation come forward to help. I also know that everyone will support the Session and the committee charged with writing the Ministerial Information Form as we work together to get a new pastor.

This is the last newsletter that will be sent through the mail. It is very expensive to do this and also wasteful. So from now on, unless you do not have email, we will be sending it through your computer. Please let us know if your email address has changed.

I am looking forward to the many exciting times that are coming our way as we go through this transition phase. I hope my excitement is contagious and that everyone will become involved and work together as our church moves forward!

Sincerely,

Barbara Dickinson
Clerk of Session

Update to the Shawnee Congregation – June 2, 2019

The following was presented at worship service on June 2, 2019 by Rev. Dr. Michael Drake, a member of the Lehigh Presbytery and the Lehigh Presbytery Administrative Council that has been working with Session since last fall.

Good morning! It's good to be with you this morning. I bring you greetings from Lehigh Presbytery, and am a retired pastor serving two roles for your congregation. One is as a liaison from the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry; the other is as a member of what's called an Administrative Commission of Presbytery, working with your Session in this time of transition.

I'd like to begin by asking you for a show of hands. How many of you are lifelong Presbyterians? Well, you're not unusual. Statistically speaking, about 2/3 of members of Presbyterian churches today had their roots in other religious traditions, or perhaps no tradition. I, myself, grew up as a Methodist, so I fit right in with you.

Because of that diversity, some of you may wonder what this "presbytery" thing is. You've heard about it, but what does it do? Well, the short answer is that, when you were founded as a Presbyterian congregation in the 1750s, your leaders covenanted that Shawnee Presbyterian would be a connectional church. Which means that you would not exist in isolation, but would be in partnership with other Presbyterian churches in the region, in the nation, and in the world. In terms of the region, the Presbytery is the entity, made up of clergy and elder representatives from the various churches, including Shawnee; and it guides those partnerships and relationships. It's a two-way street, where congregations and presbytery work together to support, encourage, and hold each other accountable, so that we minister together in faithfulness to our Reformed tradition. Of several Presbytery committees, the Committee on Ministry is the one that helps the churches particularly when it comes to pastors. We work with congregations as they seek a pastor, vet pastors being called to those congregations, provide for ordinations, installations, and so much more – the joyful aspects of ministry. But we're not a fair weather friend; we're there to help when a congregation faces challenging times as well.

You are facing one of those moments. Every church encounters them at some point in their history. In your case, in a period of just a few years, you had a pastor retire, then went through an interim period of searching for new leadership. That new person arrived, and neither you nor they expected that relationship to end so soon. But it did, and here you are back in another interim period.

That's not easy to navigate. So the Presbytery came to be present with you. There are several ways Administrative Commissions can function; the AC, as we call it, decided to take an accompanying role at this time. Beside myself, there are several other folks who are part of the Administrative Commission, including Rev. Betsy Baker-Smith here today, elder Sharon Laverdure from East Stroudsburg PC, and elder Bill Campbell from Pleasant Valley PC. All of them have experience with the various aspects of a period like this. We offer guidance and insight based on that experience, and bring a fresh set of eyes which can sometimes see needs and solutions which it's easy to overlook.

We've been meeting with your Session since the end of last year. In addition to the routine tasks, Session has been working hard to discern the path forward toward the vision God has for this body of faith. Thinking about things like: Who are you as a congregation? Who is God calling you to be? Where is God calling you to go? What issues need to be addressed?

They have decided that the best next step is to seek a Transitional Pastor. This is a role that is similar to an interim pastor, but the understanding and expectation on the part of both the Session and Transitional Pastor is that they will remain together for a period longer than the normal year or so a traditional interim would stay. This has several benefits. One is that it will provide you with a period of consistent presence of a pastoral leader who will lead worship, offer pastoral care, and participate in your fellowship and outreach. Another is that they are trained in the dynamics of a congregation experiencing change: looking at programs, stewardship, worship and finances; helping the Session affirm the ministries that make you vital to this community, and those which served you well in the past but perhaps need to be retired in favor of something new; listening for any feelings and concerns on your part that need to be brought into the light so that clarity and resolution can occur. Lastly, through all these things,

this person will be able to prepare you to be in a really good place as you look to welcome a permanent pastor.

The next step toward finding this person is to write what is called a Ministry Information Form. It provides significant detail on who you are and your approach to ministry. Session and the Committee on Ministry approve and file the form with the denominational offices, where matching takes place with those open to receiving a call to this kind of ministry. The Session has appointed a team of five folks to draft that form. They are: Deb Ballinger, Kathy Klinger, Kevin Mays, Chris McDannell and Gail Scott. They met last week, will meet again this week and in the weeks to come. They are working swiftly yet carefully to get this document ready. After that, we will be ready to receive information from candidates and determine those we would like to interview.

I know this is a lot of information to digest, and I have probably raised as many questions as I may have answered. I'll be around following worship if you'd like to speak with me. But I would also ask you to write down any questions you may have and hand them to Barb Dickinson or email them to her. It always seems that the question is the question of several. In this way, we can hopefully share some of the answers with all of you.

Thank you for the ministry you have had, the work you are doing in the present, and the work God is guiding you toward in the days ahead. Listening for the Spirit's presence, I believe the future is bright.

Mike Drake

MIF COMMITTEE

The Ministry Information Form Committee (MIF) is made up of Kevin Mays, Gail Scott, Debbie Ballinger, Cathy Klingler, and Chris McDannell.

The MIF is a document that answers questions about our church, so that prospective pastoral candidates can be matched with us. After they are matched the committee will read the resumes of the prospective transitional pastors and decide whether to contact that person.

Please continue to keep the committee in your prayers as we work together through our transitional process.

FOOD PANTRY

Don't forget that we are always looking for help with our food pantry. Donations can be brought to church on any Sunday or during the week if you call Ginny Sodano at 516-658-2198. Ginny can also let you know if the pantry has specific or urgent needs. Thank you for your help!

We (continue to) Reach Out To The World!

Thanks to the efforts of our Radio Committee and its support from the IT Committee, we continue our mission of reaching out and providing God's message beyond the four walls of our beautiful church.

Sponsors for our radio station are warmly welcomed! If you know of local business or individual who would like to be a sponsor, please have them contact Vince Della Fera or Bill Dolph via the church office.

Please continue to listen to our wonderful radio station at WSCP-LP at 104.9 FM.

.....
REMINDER...
July and August - worship begins at 9:30am!
.....

FUNDRAISING NEWS

This year we have continued our fund raising efforts with our traditional events while also exploring new ideas.

Over the winter we have continued to implement our Hostel Fundraiser, where we charge for groups to stay in our CE Building in conjunction with Shawnee Mountain Ski Area. It was not our best year, but we still raised \$4,275.

Our 18th Annual Golf Tournament at Shawnee Inn and Golf Resort on May 1 was a huge success! We made over \$6,500, making this our top fundraiser. Thank you Nancy Fish and all her helpers!

In February, an informal group of members and friends of SPC, including Tom and Mary Bartha, Barb Dickenson, Bill and Patti-Jo Dolph, Linda Jennings, Debbie Mays, Sharon Murphy, Gail Scott, and Mike and Ginny Sodano gathered at

Mike and Ginny's house to "brainstorm" new fund raising ideas. Many unique and different concepts were discussed. A list of suggestions was created and presented to Session for their review and approval. Some of these will be happening later this year, some have already begun!

We are in the middle of a new fund raiser, spearheaded by Bill Dolph. We are sending volunteers to Pocono Raceway to help out in various positions. In return, Pocono Raceway donates \$90 per person per day to our church. We had EIGHT volunteers at the June NASCAR race. All had a GREAT TIME! If you are interested in working the NASCAR Race on July 26-28, the Indy Race on August 17-18 or the Air Show on August 24-25. Signup forms are available in the church Narthex. For additional details or to have a form sent to you via email, contact Bill at 570-807-6969 or email at wkdjps@ptd.net.

Another new fund raiser, organized by Patti-Jo Dolph, is in conjunction with Texas Roadhouse. A ***"First Sunday Get Together"*** will be held through December

on the first Sunday of the month. Bring your church bulletin to Texas Roadhouse, enjoy the great food and fellowship of other members of SPC and have 10% of your meal donated to SPC. Wednesday, June 19th, was the first of two ***"SPC Texas Roadhouse Nights"*** to be held this year, there will be another in September. With the presentation of the Texas Roadhouse / SPC printed invitation or an image of it on your phone, 15% of the meal price is donated to SPC. These are great ways to support SPC and enjoy visiting with members of SPC and our community.

We will also be having a Garage Sale on September 21-22, organized by the Presbyterian Women. If you would like to help or have anything you want to donate, please contact Maggie Della Fera at 570-460-3466.

There is so much you can do to help out Shawnee Presbyterian Church. Please reach out to a Session member or to the person in charge of the fundraiser and I am sure we can find something for you to do. Everyone has something to offer!

UPDATE FROM BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

Building and Grounds has been busy with both ongoing items as well as future plans.

Slow, steady progress is being made towards a permanent solution of the "crack" issue in the church. In March, we met with Ken Sandri, Preservation and Resource Manager at Grey Towers NHS, to evaluate areas underneath the church building and found evidence of graves. We were fortunate to have this visit followed by a visit from Dr. Shixiong Hu, Professor of Geography at East Stroudsburg University. He brought a ground penetrating radar unit and graduate students to our church in April. We are still awaiting the results of that study. Once we have the results, we will be able to proceed to the next steps of public notification and engineering studies which will allow SPC to determine and move forward with the best method to secure the foundation.

We continue with other, necessary projects such as monitoring and testing of the well water, monitoring the status of the Manse as well as continued evaluation of the viability of the Manse.

A new drain by the rear door of the CE building has been installed. Plans have been designed and will be presented to Session for additional drainage work across the parking area, along the back of the CE building and along the Manse side of the CE building.

We are also in the process of securing bids for replacement of the church carpeting.

~~~~~  
**The next Sounding Board will be sent via email. Send your email address to us at: [shawneechurch@verizon.net](mailto:shawneechurch@verizon.net)**  
~~~~~

SPRING MISSION

We have the final numbers for our Spring Mission 2019... \$518.50! Thank You!

Keeping with the tradition here at SPC of giving, but giving for specific purposes, here is where the money will be going, with the remaining \$0.50 will be used to defray the cost of postage for sending in the order form! Descriptions are from the OGHS 2018-2019 Giving Catalog.

Farming Tools... “Growing and harvesting a fruitful crop is possible only with the proper tools, such as shovels and machetes. This necessary equipment can help bring a fruitful yield from the land.” Cost for six sets of farming tools of \$10 is \$60.

Family of Chickens... “Eggs for food, feathers for pillows and fertilizer for crops. By giving a family of chickens, you can help improve the food security and livelihoods of farmers and families around the world.” Cost for five families of chickens at \$25.00 each is \$125.00.

Pair of Goats... “Goats enhance food security through milk, cheese, butter and yogurt. These valuable foods offer nutrition to those who need it most. The gift of a pair of goats is one that will keep providing”. Cost for one pair is \$178.00.

Bag of Moringa Tree Seeds...”Moringa leaves can be an important source of nutrition since they can be ground and added to food to provide protein, amino acids, vitamins and minerals in communities that struggle with malnutrition. A gift of a sack of Moringa seeds is enough to start a small nursery of these quickly-growing, drought-tolerant trees.” Cost for two bags of seeds at \$40 each is \$80.

Rainwater Catchment System...”Rainwater can be a precious resource when collected, stored and filtered properly. Help communities collect usable water for irrigation and washing with a rainwater catchment system.” Cost of one system is \$75.

Birthday List

Dale Viernstein 6/3, Joe Marasco 6/7, Tim Ross 6/10, Simon Albert 6/20, John Liguori 6/20, Bella Okula 6/28.

Cory Fish 7/7, Janet Schilling 7/11, Annabelle Albert 7/15, Ellie Liguori 7/16, Steve Della Fera 7/17, Charles Kirkwood 7/20, Maggie Della Fera 7/24, Tom Kirkwood 7/24, Mary Wolbert 7/25.

Midge McClosky 8/1, Karen Kishpaugh 8/1, Richard Kishpaugh 8/1, Charles Kirkwood 8/3, Emma Kirkwood 8/6, Nik Salamone 8/8, Carlana Back 8/13, Scott Dietrich 8/15, Peter Kirkwood 8/18, Tim Kirkwood 8/19, Alyssa Holland 8/25, Rich Hickman 8/28, Marc Sulinski 8/28, Connie Meyer 8/29.

If we don't have your birthday, please contact the Church Office. Thank you and Happy Birthday to all!

PULPIT SUPPLY

Our pulpit continues to be filled by truly wonderful individuals, each bringing their own styles of presentation. We have been able to reach out to highly dedicated individuals who have a true caring for us as we go through our transition. The latest pulpit supply schedule, subject to change, of course, is shown below.

SHAWNEE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PULPIT SUPPLY SCHEDULE

June 2	Rev. Betsy Baker-Smith (communion)
June 9	Rev. Dianne Kareha
June 16	Rev. Skip Baker-Smith
June 23	Rev. Tom Bartha
June 30	Rev. Tom Bartha
July 7	Rev. Tom Bartha (communion)
July 14	Rev. Tom Bartha
July 21	Rev. Baker-Smith
July 28	Rev. Ed Freeborn
August 4	Rev. Grace Ji-Sun Kim (communion)
August 11	Rev. Dianne Kareha
August 18	Rev. Tom Bartha
August 25	Rev. Baker-Smith

(effective 06/01/19, subject to change)