

GRAPES VINE

"The Pastor's Page"

July 11, 2023

What Does it Mean to be Presbyterian?

Five Consecutive Thursdays, starting July 20th
MacAskill Room at 7pm

All material will be provided for the course each week; each class is a separate unit so you by no means need to attend all, though you may find it helpful. We are starting slightly backwards in preparation for the "State of the Church Address" on the 23rd, and opening the five weeks with foundational form of government information which will provide a healthy foundation for thinking about our church and its future.

Sign ups will be in the Fellowship Hall. In the event that more than 50 individuals sign up for the course, the class will move to the Sanctuary.

Source Material:

Bible (NRSV)
PCUSA Book of Confessions (2016)
PCUSA Book of Order (2019-2023)
Principles of Presbyterian Polity, Carlos E. Wilton, 2016 Geneva Press

July 20th:	Presbyterian Government Book of Order, Foundations, F-3.0201 – F-3.0209
July 27th	Presbyterian Foundations Councils, Ordered Ministry, Elders and Deacons Language Constitution: Bible, Confessions, B.O.O.
August 3rd	Presbyterian Mission God, Jesus, Spirit, Body Great Ends Reformed Marks
August 10th	Presbyterian Principles God is the Lord of the Conscience Corporate Judgement Truth and Goodness Mutual Forbearance
August 17th	Presbyterian Worship History Theology ORDO

I hope you consider joining us during on Thursday evenings over the summer as our church makes some large transitions – changes in worship schedule, changes in pastoral staff. We, as Presbyterians, are dually rooted: in tradition and in our commitment to be reformers. As reformers we remember our motto: Reformed and Always Reforming.

Grace and peace to you and I look forward to seeing you on Sundays as we deepen our discipleship and build up God's Kingdom.

Peace, Pastor Caleb

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THANK YOU!

What an amazing Vacation Bible School this year! Words cannot express the depth of my gratitude for all the children, youth and adults who helped make “Keys for God’s Kingdom” such a success. This year we were blessed with having 51 children registered for VBS.

Alongside them, 53 volunteers worked to make sure everyone was safe and happy. My prayer is that the children (and volunteers) will remember our *4 leadership keys* (qualities) to make us better citizens of God’s Kingdom...

Be Loyal, Be Wise, Be Courageous, and Be Love.



I was once reminded that ministry is not done alone; Jesus had 12 disciples. So, when they say “it takes a village,” this was my village for the week. While we captured many of the faces here, this is not all who had a hand in making this a successful VBS. To all those who prepped, who listened and prayed, who were on-site, who set-up or tore down, and to those who donated countless keys and supplies... I thank you with every fiber of my being!

~ Kyle Clark



Joanna and I want to thank the many members of our GPC family who have helped and supported us through our many health issues over the past eighteen months. In particular, we want to thank Pastors Caleb and Lou and the board of deacons for transportation, meals and other support, and our sincere gratitude goes to all who have prayed for us. Without your prayers, this time would have been much more difficult.

While our problems have not been as severe as some face, still they have been a great trial for us. Sometimes I wonder if God thinks my middle name should be Job.

We still have some matters to be resolved, but we feel we are out of the woods.

Again, many thanks to our GPC family for all you have done for us. God bless you all.

In His Name,
Joanna and Leo McGuire

State of the Church Address

On July 23rd, immediately following worship in the Sanctuary, we invite you stay for a church Address! The order of the day is as follows:

Speakers from various committees will present updates to the congregation, giving brief reports about what they have been prayerfully working on and share vision for the future as we lean into God's call of Gathering People In Christ.

Committees: Worship and Music Team, Christian Education Team, Personnel and Administration Team, Building and Grounds Team, Nominating Team.

Following the speakers, there will be a time for Q&A. If you cannot be with us in person, do not worry, the Address will be live streamed. If you have a question you'd like asked to the committee's ahead of time, you may submit it to the church office by Wednesday, July 19th. Our Q&A Time will follow a few simple guidelines:

1. Please limit your questions to 90 seconds. One of the elders will be in charge of keeping time so that our Q&A flows smoothly.
2. If you have a second question, we request that you allow two other speakers to go in front of you before you return to the microphone.

We remember God's command to love one another as we are so loved; we request that the meeting time reflect our witness to this command.

Thank you and we look forward to seeing you on the 23rd!



Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministers have been called
"The After People"



A Stephen Minister is there:

- after you've washed and returned the last casserole dish.
- after the last child honks, waves and drives away – and the house seems incredibly empty.
- after you arrive home following the service and the emotions you've held off come crashing in on you.
- after the nursing home director says, "Welcome to your new home."
- after you realize the hands on the retirement watch you received move more slowly than you ever imagined.
- after family and friends have heard your story, but you still need to talk it out.

Stephen Ministers will walk alongside you, your friends, neighbors, coworkers, or relatives.

Stephen Ministers will provide compassionate care, comfort, and support for as long "after" as they are needed.

To learn about Stephen Ministry call the church office at 717-334-1235.

The Deacons schedule Ushers, coordinate Transportation for members when special needs arise and coordinate Meals for members during difficult times.



We are asking for additional Volunteers willing to Usher, provide Transportation and/or provide Meals. If you have wondered how you can get involved in GPC and help your fellow members, this is your opportunity.

Please contact Penny in the GPC Office (717-334-1235, gpcadmin@gettysburgpresbyterian.org) with the following information:

I would like to: Usher
 Provide Transportation
 Provide Meals

Name: _____

Cell: _____ Email: _____

Would you like to help provide fresh produce to people in our county?

SCCAP has a wonderful program for that. It's called the **Gleaning Project**, where local farmers and orchard people set aside a portion of their harvest for gleaners to come in and pick. (Recall the Bible story of Ruth and Naomi, gleaners in Boaz's fields.) You too can be a gleaner!

If you sign up at thegleaningproject.org you will be notified when an opportunity comes up, telling you the date, time, and address. You choose only the ones you want to go to. We have a lot of fun, get to be out in the beautiful orchard hills, and often we can take home some peaches, or apples for ourselves too. The rest of the bounty gets trucked to the Gettysburg Food Pantry, where it is available to all, and also to Adams County Senior Centers, and other food pantries in the county.

Questions- contact Amy Deitch, elder for local missions, at ahdeitch@hotmail.com

Sunday Fellowship Cookie/Treat Sign-Ups Needed

It may be summertime but that doesn't mean our time of Fellowship takes a break. Cookies and other baked treats are always welcome and enhance our time of Fellowship each Sunday morning before and after our 9:30 service. Please consider signing up to bake or bring some treats to share.



"Calendar of Giving"

The Calendar of Giving is an opportunity for our congregation to support numerous local organizations. Through this program, we identify local organizations that are in need of smaller donations. Each month, we will be collecting specific items for the identified organization. Please put your donations in the bin by the elevator.

For the month of:

July

We will be collecting items for
Manos Unidas

Snacks, Paper and School Supplies.

NEED A RIDE?

If you are having trouble attending church services and/or church functions due to not having transportation, let the Deacons help you.

July 10 - Aug. 13 please contact Elly Cleaver at: 240-938-4045.

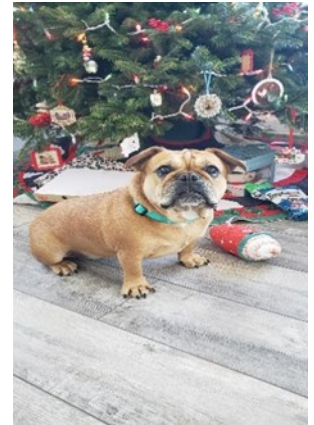


During Fellowship time recently, I chatted with Whitney and Nancy Coombs. It was a delightful conversation that started because Mrs. Nancy saw my camping cup that said, "Life is better with a camping dog." Our discussion turned to our pets. They have Burmese dogs. My dog, Sophie, is a rescue dog. She is supposed to be a French Bulldog (but she looks like she has some English traits). You need to know, I have always said: "I didn't get the pet gene, my brother Billy did." Fast forward to January 2022 when my friend posted a picture of a cute little Frenchie that she was assisting to have someone "adopt." Believe it or not, it was love at first sight on my part. I applied for the dog, received approval, and shared with my husband, Chet, who was delighted. He is the pet person. (I didn't share my application with him prior because I didn't want to upset him if it didn't go through.)

There are many benefits to a pet, most of which are physical and mental health. Dogs can understand words, body language, etc. They are very loyal. Dogs and cats have been shown to reduce stress, lower blood pressure anxiety, depression, elevate levels of serotonin and dopamine (which calm and relax), encourage us to exercise, etc. Most importantly, they can provide unconditional love.

There are all types of pets in the home. In my Hospice experience, I have seen some interesting pets including exotic birds, rats and snakes. Rabbits are ideal if you are allergic to other animals. Reptiles and fish can also provide companionship. Studies are now becoming available regarding the connection between us and our animals. Some studies show that heart attack patients with pets survive longer than those without. Pet owners over age 65 make 30 percent fewer visits to their doctors than those without pets.

Hospitals are now using therapy dogs. They provide comfort to all they encounter. It has been amazing to see the transformation in the staff, patients, and visitors when they come walking down the halls. I know my life has been changed forever with my dog Sophie!



Hearing Devices available

Hearing Devices are available for your use. They are located on the counter in the kitchen by the doorway. Please pick up one up for use during the Worship services.

- Pick up hearing assistive device
- Insert earphones
- Turn on to channel 1 or 2 when you get into the Sanctuary
- At end of service, place device in basket

If the hearing device is NOT working, please place it in Pam Phillips mailbox.

Pam Phillips FCN at 410-596-0777 or email gpcfcn@gettyburgpresbyterian.org



