

GRAPEVINE

"The Pastor's Page"

August 2, 2017

Benedictions

There are a lot of things I get to do in worship that I really enjoy: leading prayers, singing, and preaching come to mind. But the thing I do in worship that I might enjoy most of all is the Benediction at the end of the service! Benediction is another word for a blessing. So I am announcing God's blessing on all who are present. Often, after I have struggled to proclaim what the scripture demands of us during the sermon, it is wonderful to be able to simply proclaim God's blessing on us all.

I typically use two benedictions. The first was first spoken by Moses' brother Aaron in his role as priest over Israel: *"The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you and give you peace."* (Numbers 6:24-26) It is a simple blessing that recognizes God's good actions on our behalf.

The second contains a challenge as well as a blessing: *"Now go from this place to love the Lord and love the people, to serve the Lord and serve the people. And may the blessing of God Almighty, Father Son, and Holy Spirit, descend upon you and remain in your heart forever."* I love the link between loving and serving God and loving and serving each other.

So, next time worship is ending, and the final song has been sung, rather than gather up all your things, focus on the benediction and experience the Good News of God's grace for us!

Pastor Dave

Inside

- Blessing of Backpacks
- Professional Educators, Principals & Superintendents Blessing
- Music News for Fall
- Calendar of Giving
- Kick Off Celebration
- All-Church Picnic
- Exploring Membership Class
- Divorce Care Support

We want to thank everyone for their thoughts, prayers, and words of encouragement over the last two and a half years. Through Jeff's illnesses and the terminal illness of Susan's brother, Ted, the words and encouragement of our friends at GPC have enabled us to gain strength and continue on as best as we could as a family,

Jeff & Susan Anderson

God has given me many things to be thankful for and the love and support I have received from the Presbyterian Church family is a treasured blessing. My sincere thanks to all for the prayers, visits, cards, food and support given to me while Roy was in York Hospital in March and upon his death in July. Thanks to Pastor Lou for a beautiful Memorial Service and the Women's Fellowship for the lovely luncheon. Memories will help me to go forward and good memories will include "Our Church Family."

May God keep all in his loving care,
Jean Thomas, loving wife of Roy

Upcoming Events:

MidSHIP & SHIP Kick-Off

September 17
5:30 p.m.

Ice Cream & Info

Bring Family, Friends and Fun!!

Bibles to 3 Year-Olds – Sunday, August 27th

We will be presenting Bibles to our 3 year-olds during worship on Sunday, August 27th. Letters have been sent to parents reminding them of this important step in their child's faith journey. Please let Cheryl know if you will be present that Sunday and which worship service you will be attending.

Exploring Membership

September 10
@ 12:00 p.m.

If you are interested in learning more about GPC, plan to attend the Exploring Membership Class on Sunday, Sept. 10 at 12:00 p.m. Following a lunch together, you'll have a chance to learn more about Presbyterians and opportunities for spiritual nurture and service here at GPC, and to meet our staff. Following the class, you may meet with the Session and join the church if you so desire. Childcare is available. Call the church office to register. (334-1235, ext. 5)

DATES TO REMEMBER

For Upcoming Fellowship Events

"Kick Off Celebration"

September 10, 2017

"All-Church Pot Luck Picnic"

September 24, 2017

12:30 - 2:30 p.m.

Fireman's Pavilion @ Rec Park

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. We are only a phone call away. The transportation Deacon for July 9—August 13 is Jerry Heeschen at 334-3788.



PROFESSIONAL EDUCATORS, PRINCIPALS, SUPERINTENDENTS

Sunday, August 20th we are inviting you to come to worship for a blessing by the Director of Christian Education. We want to bless you as you enter a new school year. We know the pressure that our culture puts on educators to rectify all kinds of family and social problems that have made this profession both vastly more crucial and infinitely more difficult. Please join us on Sunday, August 20th as we affirm educators serving in schools as an honorable vocation.

BLESSING OF BACKPACKS

Sunday, August 27th we would like all children (Preschool - 5th grade) to bring their backpacks to worship. We will have the blessing of the backpacks during the Children's Message and have a token to give each child to go on their backpack. Our children and youth deal with so many stresses nowadays – academic, extracurricular, social, etc. During all these stresses, we want them to have a tangible reminder that they are always being upheld by the love of God and the love and prayers of this congregation. What better tangible reminder than the backpack that they lug around with them all day long? So, if you know any children or youth, encourage them to bring their backpacks to worship on Sunday, August 27th.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DATES TO REMEMBER:

Sunday, August 20 th	Blessing of Professional Educators
Sunday, August 27 th	Blessing of Backpacks Bibles to 3 Year-olds
Wednesday, September 6 th	Youth Club Orientation Meeting – Youth and Parents 7 PM
Thursday, September 7 th	Children's Sunday School Teacher Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, September 10 th	Kick Off Sunday All Sunday School classes resume Presenting Bibles to 2 nd Graders Disciple Bible Study – “Into the Word/Into the World” begins
Monday, September 11 th	Disciple Bible Study – “Under Tree of Life” begins
Wednesday, September 13 th	Youth Club Begins
Sunday, September 17 th	SHIP & MidSHIP Begins





COMING
SOON

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY SIGN-UP

Sign ups begin August 20 in Fellowship Hall.

Any questions please see Cheryl Betts.



MUSIC NEWS - COMING THIS FALL!



Plans are underway to bring you opportunities to incorporate your musical talent in worship starting in September:

- **Adult Choir** Sings 11:00 a.m. service and special concerts.
This group practices Wednesdays 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
- **Early Choir** Sings 8:15 a.m. service and special concerts.
(for adults) This group practices 7:40 a.m. Sunday mornings.
- **Recorder Consort** Plays at the 11:00 a.m and 8:15 a.m. services approximately every other month.
This group practices Sunday afternoons 12:30 p.m.
- **Youth Bells and Youth Choir** Sing and ring at 11:00 a.m. or 8:15 a.m. almost every month.
(for middle-school and high-school students) This group practices Sundays at 4:00 p.m., prior to SHIP and MidSHIP.
- **Primary Choir** Children in grades K-2, which meets Sunday mornings and sings in services twice yearly.
- **Adult Handbells** Plays one service monthly at 11:00 a.m. or 8:15 a.m.
NEW THIS YEAR: Practices will be held WEDNESDAYS 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.
- **NEW Church/Community Children's Choir** and instrumental group for children in grades 3-5.
This group will sing and play instruments, as well as participate in a variety of movement and drama activities. Tentatively this group will meet Thursdays at 6:00 - 6:45 p.m.

If you have an interest in singing, playing an instrument, and acting in a musical drama there is a place for you in music at GPC. Please see or email Emily Koons at emilykkoons@gmail.com so we can help you find a music group that interests you. Training is available.

Thank you, and we look forward to hearing from you this fall!

- Emily Koons, Director of Music

Part of Something BIG

As a Stephen Ministry congregation, GPC is part of a big network of care. There are thousands of Stephen Ministry congregations representing more than 150 Christian denominations across the US, Canada, and the world.

The Stephen Ministries headquarters is based in St. Louis, Missouri and can connect our Stephen Leaders with Stephen Ministry congregations virtually everywhere in the country. So if you have a relative or friend far away who is in need of care, talk to one of our Stephen Leaders. They may be able to connect your friend to a Stephen Ministry congregation in his or her own neighborhood.

For more information contact Lou Nyiri at 334-1235 ext. 4.



Disciple Bible Study for Fall

Sunday evening Disciple Bible Study will be led by Marion Lambert-Hollowell studying "Into The Word, Into the World" learning what God has to say to us through Genesis, Exodus, Luke and Acts. Class will meet from 5 – 7 PM in the Sewing Room. Registration will begin on Sunday, August 6th.

Monday morning Disciple Bible Study led by Cheryl Betts will be studying "Under the Tree of Life." Learn what God has to say to us through the Writings, Poetry, and Wisdom books of the Old Testament as well as John and Revelation of the New Testament. Class will meet from 10:00 - noon in the Sewing Room. Registration will begin on Sunday, August 6th.

"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.

For the month of:

August

We will be collecting items for

Agape House

Toilet paper, paper towels, multipurpose cleaner with disinfectant, trash bags, magic erasers, window cleaner and toilet bowl cleaner.

Divorce Care Support

Gettysburg Presbyterian Church is pleased to begin offering DivorceCare support services through its Stephen Ministry. Divorce and separation are painful and stressful, and people going through them can feel very isolated.

DivorceCare is a nationally recognized support group that meets weekly to help people experiencing separation and/or divorce face the many challenges facing them. DivorceCare is a faith-based program, which runs in 13 week cycles. Each meeting incorporates a video seminar with top experts on divorce and recovery, followed by time spent as a group discussing the video and talking about the challenges that the members of the group may be facing.

The first cohort at GPC for DivorceCare begins on Sunday, August 27 from 5:30 to 7 in the Eisenhower Lounge, and will meet every Sunday for 13 weeks at the same time. The groups will be facilitated by Dr. Susan Tassin, and require pre-registration.

The cost is \$15, and includes a workbook (confidential financial aid available upon request). Childcare is available upon request, let us know when registering for the group.

If interested, please contact Susan at susantgpc@gmail.com or call the church office. Further information, including free daily e-mail sign-up can be located at www.divorcecare.org.

Mission Prayer Calendar

Please keep these ministries in your personal prayers as we pray for them together on Sundays.

- 8/6 Fruitbelt Farmworkers Ministry- Rod Runyon, director
- 8/13 Mexico Mission Trip- for those who went and the work that was done
- 8/20 Marta Bennet, seminary professor in Kenya
- 8/27 Habitat for Humanity

Adams County Habitat for Humanity (ACHH) is asking for your help in locating families or individuals who would qualify for a “Hand Up” in improving their housing situation. ACHH partners with qualifying families or individuals who would like to participate in the pride of owning their own home. Basic requirements include 500 donated hours (250 for single parent families) working with the Habitat volunteers on their home or that of another. One half of those hours can be donated by friends and family. A Habitat owner must qualify with an acceptable credit and employment history and sufficient income to make an interest free mortgage payment. They also must have been a resident in Adams County for a year. The upper income limit for family of four is \$58,550 and \$46,850 for a family of 2. If you know of such qualifying individuals or families or for more information call: 717-334-5557, or drop a note to ACHH, P O Box 3561, Gettysburg, PA 17325.

Hiking Club's First Hike!

Join us for our first hike and take in God's beauty as well as enjoying fellowship with other nature lovers! We will meet on Saturday, September 23rd at 9am in the parking lot of the Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve - 1537 Mt. Hope Rd., Fairfield. There will be two choices for hiking - one an easier hike and the other a moderate/difficult hike. The hike will take approximately 2-3 hours. Please bring water and a snack; we will stop midway for a break and devotion. You'll want to wear comfortable, broken-in hiking shoes and bring sunscreen and bug spray with you.

We will also discuss upcoming hikes. If you need a ride or have any questions, please email Megan Ziegler at MeganZiegler2014@gmail.com or Matt and Jen Clark at MJClark1963@embargmail.com.



Blessings,
Megan

“Kick-Off Sunday”

September 10, 2017

The Fellowship Team invites you to be part of the excitement on Kick-Off Sunday, September 10. This is a great opportunity to generate enthusiasm for your ministry team, as well as the overall new programmatic year, which begins on September 10, 2017. It'll be amazing to see how God uses the upcoming programmatic, education and service opportunities of 2017-2018 to further the good news of the Gospel.

The focus of the morning will be generating enthusiasm for the upcoming year and highlighting the many GPC Ministry Teams. Plan to stop by Fellowship Hall before or after you worship and check out the displays of the many ministries and missions of this church. “Kick-Off Sunday” is a great chance to learn more about our GPC church family, meet new people and enjoy our “kickoff” to a new year of activities and service in Jesus’ name. It is also a good time to introduce a friend you know who is looking for a church family so that they will learn about all that we offer here and, most important, all that God is doing here @ GPC.

If one of the ministry teams or groups you work with in our church would like to reserve a table, then complete the form below and return it to Rev. Lou Nyiri by September 3rd.

GPC September 10, 2017

“Kick-Off Sunday & Ministry Team Fair”

(Return this form to Rev. Lou Nyiri in the church office via mail; offering plate or email gpclou@gettysburgpresbyterian.org

NO LATER than September 3)

_____ We need ½ of an 8-foot table (4'X4')

_____ We need 1 whole 8-foot table (4'X8')

Group Name: _____

Group Contact: _____

Group Contact Phone: _____ (Best time to call: 3-5pm / 5-7pm / 7-9pm)

Group Contact Email: _____

Will you need an electrical outlet for your display? YES / NO

The News is Spreading...

In early June, members from the Girl Scout Junior Troop 80096 that meets at GPC, shared the Blessing Box that they created at the Minute for Missions at all church services. The girls worked tirelessly to create a Blessing Box on the side of the church parking lot. This box is to help the people in our community that are struggling. If the Soup Kitchen or SCCAP/Food Bank is not open or unable to help with their needs, the individual can stop by the box to pick up an item they might need. The box is split into four sections; nonperishable/prepackaged food items, personal hygiene products, pet supplies and gently used children's books. Since the dedication of the box in late May, it continues to be used by those in need in our area. A small note was left by an individual recently that has been using the box, "Thank you Girl Scouts for all of your help. I have cancer and this box helps." This is proof of the good work of the Girl Scouts and the members of the church and the community who are donating items.

The troop would like to ask all friends and family of GPC to consider donating an item or two to this cause. Below you will find a list of the suggested items and a picture of the box.

- Canned soup, vegetables, fruit, beans, tomato sauce, etc.
- Boxes of rice, noodles, crackers, cookies
- Toothbrushes, combs and hair brushes
- Individual snack crackers, dried fruit, cookie packs
- Travel-size toothpaste, mouthwash, tissues
- Bottles of water
- Individual-sized Chef Boyardee and mac 'n cheese cups
- Feminine hygiene products
- Canned cat or dog food
- Small dog/cat bowls, leashes, toys, treats
- Gently used children's books



Please no glass jars, open food containers, expired items, fresh fruit or items needing refrigeration.

If your donated items do not fit in the box, please feel free to contact Wendy Brubaker at 410-370-3008 or wenandmike@comcast.net or the church office. The troop has a location to store extra items.

Thank you so much for your support!

YOUTH CLUB CHANGES

We are excited that some new changes will be happening when Youth Club begins in September. A task force was established to look at the Youth Club program and after doing so, has suggested some wonderful changes. We welcome Deb Litten as our games coordinator. Parents of children attending and other church adults will be our "second" required adults to follow state law and church policy. Ian James, our Gettysburg college student, will be back with us.

Some of the changes include no fee for Youth Club this year. We are not going to serve meals except for a few special occasions this year. Music will be moving from Wednesday evening to form a new church/community children's choir that will include instruments and drama meeting on Thursday evenings from 6 - 6:45 p.m. with Emily Koons.

The new schedule for Youth Club will be:

- 3:20-3:45 children arrive from school;
- 3:45-4:00 free time;
- 4:00 - 4:30 will be games;
- 4:30 - 4:45 will be snacks;
- 4:45 - 5:15 Bible Discussion
- 5:30 PM departure time.

We are excited about these new changes. Parents and youth will have an opportunity to hear more at the orientation meeting on Wednesday, September 6th at 7 PM.

FALL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Schedule begins on
September 3

- 8:15 a.m.
Traditional Worship
- 9:30 a.m.
Contemporary Worship
- 11:00 a.m.
Traditional Worship

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Gettysburg Presbyterian Church Mission Statement

Gettysburg Presbyterian Church believes that God calls us to invite people to faith in Jesus Christ, and equip them to grow as His fully devoted followers. As disciples we:

- * study regularly
- * pray daily
- * witness boldly
- * live faithfully
- * serve passionately
- * give generously
- * worship weekly



Next Newsletter Deadline:
Noon, Thursday, August 17, 2017

Summer Worship Schedule

Our Summer Worship Schedule continues through August!

:
9:00 a.m.
Contemporary Worship

10:30 a.m.
Traditional Worship

See you in worship!

July 2017

GPC WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Contemporary Worship @ 9:00 a.m.

Traditional Worship @ 10:30 a.m.

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| August 6 | Heroes and Heroines: Peter Lord's Supper |
| August 13 | Heroes and Heroines: Lydia Mexico Report |
| August 20 | Heroes and Heroines: Stephen |
| August 27 | Q & A With Your Pastors! |