



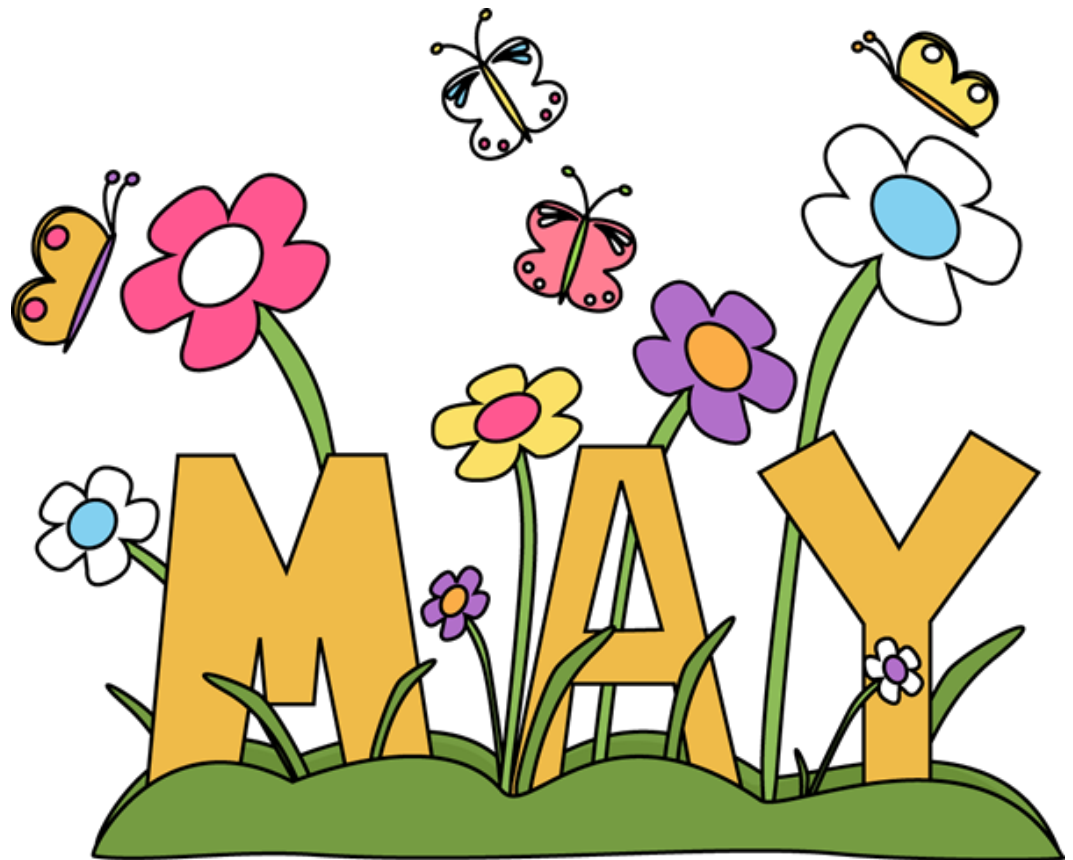
The Highlander

The Presbyterian Church of Punxsutawney
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May 2020

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*Please call or email the office **by TUESDAY JUNE 2nd** with any information, announcements, updates, etc. that you would like to see in June's newsletter!*

As announced via email and letter, all PCOP activities are suspended until further notice.

The congregation will be informed of any changes as soon as possible.

For information on member care/support from the Board of Deacons, please read the "PCOP & COVID-19 Information" letter at <https://www.punxsypc.net/events/>

THANK YOU to all our WORSHIP volunteers!

Have a question, or would you like to volunteer to help with some part of worship?
Contact either Chairperson Roberta Dinsmore or the office!

Kiskiminetas Presbytery Zoom Worship Services

Wednesday evening Vespers @ 7 PM
Sunday morning worship @ 10 AM

An email with login and meeting information was previously sent in April. Please contact the office or Kiskiminetas Presbytery if you have lost that email or have further questions.

Please contact Zoom and/or Kiskiminetas Presbytery directly if you have problems using Zoom.

Additional services from area churches can be found at kiskipby.org/list-of-worship-services

From Keith Ferguson

Sunday mornings at 9:30 AM

Punxsutawney Area Lutheran Parish (on Facebook)

livestreams worship services with music by

Keith and Kirk Ferguson

Anyone can also listen to past music the Fergusons have played by searching “Kirk Ferguson” on YouTube



AT-HOME WORSHIP FOR MAY

Adapted by Debra Dinsmore from lectionary resources

MAY 3, 2020 Readings for the 4th Sunday of Easter: Acts 2:42–47 ☩ Psalm 23 ☩ 1 Peter 2:19–25 ☩ John 10:1–10

Opening or Morning Prayer: Generous God, thank you for the gift of this new day. Help me to watch for your signs and wonders in the world today, and fill my heart with gladness and generosity, that I may generate good will wherever I go. Amen.

Read about “Life among the Believers”: **Acts 2:42-47** **Question for Reflection:** Acts 2:42–47 describes what life was like in the early church. How do these words guide today’s church? **Read about “the Example of Christ’s Suffering”:** **1 Peter 2:19-25**

Prayer of Confession: **Holy One, I confess to you that I have not always followed Christ’s example. When I have been abused, I have been abusive in return. I have gone astray. Lead me back into your fold and guard my soul in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

Prayer for Illumination: Good Shepherd, you call me by name, and I know your voice. Open the gate for me, that I may come and go freely, have life, and have it abundantly. Amen. **Gospel Reading: Read about “Jesus, the Good Shepherd”:** **John 10:1-10**

Prayer of Intercession: Shepherding God, in a dangerous world, let me hear your voice; let me come and go through your gate. I pray for the whole church, that all may be devoted to your Word and to universal fellowship, being generous to any who have need. I pray for the earth, for green pastures and still waters, that they may be restored to the goodness and purity that they had at the time that you created them. I pray for the people of the world, their nations, and leaders, that your wisdom and peace may govern all, so that no one will fear. I pray for all those in need, for those in want, those ill and those dying. I pray that a banquet may be set before them so that they may be anointed and fed and comforted in your name. I pray for myself, my family, and those I love. May no one live in fear; may all dwell in your presence. Blessed are you, Great Shepherd, who, through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, gives goodness and mercy, leads me down right paths, and restores my soul. Amen. **Read about “the Divine Shepherd”:** **Psalm 23**

Closing or Evening Prayer: Thank you, God, for shepherding me through this day. Like a shepherd who dedicates himself to his sheep, I will devote myself to the teachings of the gospel, to my prayers and to Christian fellowship, knowing that they will create in me a glad and generous heart. As I lie down to sleep this night help me to imagine green pastures and still waters, and help me to remember all the ways you have set a table before me and filled my cup to overflowing. Amen.

MAY 10, 2020 Readings for the 5th Sunday of Easter : Acts 7:55–60 ☩ Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 ☩ 1 Peter 2:2–10 ☩ John 14:1–14

Opening or Morning Prayer: Lord Jesus, as I serve you this day, let not my heart be troubled. Help me to believe with conviction that you are with me, and I am in you, and you are in God. Amen. **Read Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16**

Whoever believes in Christ will not be put to shame. Confident in this promise offer the following

Prayer of Confession: **Almighty God, your word offers freedom from sin, but I confess that I have not obeyed your word. I have harbored malice toward enemies; I have been deceitful in relationships; I have been insincere in commitments; through gossip I have slandered friends. Forgive me and lead me to genuine repentance. Help me long for your pure, spiritual milk that I may grow into the joy of salvation through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Prayer for Illumination: Lord, as I read your holy Word, open my heart to the power of your Spirit, call me out of darkness, and lead me into your marvelous light. Amen. **Read about “the Living Stone and a Chosen People”:** **1 Peter 2:2-10; Read Acts 7:55-60**

Prayer Before the Gospel Reading: Almighty God, in Christ you have shown me the way, revealed to me your truth, and offered to me everlasting life. Keep my eyes upon him that I may see your path more clearly, know your truth more fully, and receive your life more abundantly; through Christ who dwells with you and the Holy Spirit in eternal glory. Amen.

Read about “Jesus the Way to the Father”: **John 14:1-14** **Questions for Reflection:** Is the “dwelling place” of which Jesus speaks a place for us after we die, or does it include our life in the present? What does Jesus mean when he says that his disciples will do greater works”? What does it mean to pray “in Jesus’ name”?

Prayer of Intercession: I pray for the church throughout the world, that all who profess to honor the risen Lord may be faithful in their witness and courageous in their testimony to the way of Jesus. I pray for the government of this nation and its leaders. I pray for the President, for advisors, for governors and for regions and counties and communities throughout this country who look to you for help in making decisions and guidance in implementing strategies that would benefit all of your people. I pray that neighbors may live together in harmony, and that strangers may find hospitable friends. I pray that you, O God, will show mercy to the sick, the grieving, the jobless and those in need of any kind. I pray for those who continue to work hard “on the front lines” and for all as we try to adapt to a new normal. In remembrance of Mother’s Day, I pray for mothers and for those who are like mothers to many. For those who are separated, by heaven or earth, this Mother’s Day I pray that you would soothe disappointment or heal wounds or close gaps or offer solace in isolating circumstances. As spring continues to emerge, I pray for rain and sun in proper measure, and for abundant food and water for all who dwell upon the earth. Almighty God, your Son promised to grant whatever is asked in his name. By your Holy Spirit empower me to minister to the world as his faithful disciple that my work may testify to what I pray and show forth your eternal glory, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Closing or Evening Prayer: Holy Mother, I am thankful that your mothering touch rested upon my life this day. I rejoice knowing that Jesus Christ, the way the truth and the life, is forever with me and that the Spirit empowers me to serve in Christ’s name. As I rest, I do so peacefully, knowing that the God, who raised Christ from the dead, is my rock and my fortress. As darkness falls, let your face shine upon your servant, and keep me in your steadfast love. Amen.

AT-HOME WORSHIP FOR MAY

Adapted by Debra Dinsmore from lectionary resources

MAY 17, 2020 Readings for the 6th Sunday of Easter: Acts 17:22–31 ☩ Psalm 66:8-20 ☩ 1 Peter 3:13–22 ☩ John 14:15–21

Opening or Morning Prayer: Loving God, I give thanks for the gift of life and breath that is mine today in Christ. Help me to keep the commands of Jesus and to follow the promptings of the Holy Spirit. Make me eager to do good and to resist evil, and grant me the wisdom to recognize the difference. Fill me with your assurance in all I say and do that I may share the hope that is within me in gentleness and reverence of Christ. Amen. **Read Acts 17:22-31**

God not only asks us to repent, but He also assures us of forgiveness. Confident in this assurance offer the following

Prayer of Confession: Loving God, I do not always keep your commandments; I fail to love you; my conscience is not clear.

Wash me in the water of life that I may live again through the grace and mercy of Jesus, my resurrected Savior. Amen.

Prayer for Illumination: Come Holy Spirit, my helper and advocate: Open my heart and mind this day, entice me with your presence. Spark within me the word of life, a message that I may share with others as I seek to live Christ's love in the world. All this I ask in the name of God, who creates, redeems, and sustains me. Amen.

Read about "the Promise of the Holy Spirit": John 14:15-21; Read Psalm 66:8-20

Questions for Reflection: According to the psalmist, God brought the people through trials, tests, burdens, and pain to a spacious place of life, breath, and salvation. God heard their prayers and opened them to deliverance. Where have you felt such a spacious place? What story do you tell of the ways that God is blessing you? What story does your faith community tell of the ways in which God is blessing them?

Prayer of Intercession: In your own words, offer a prayer. There are no wrong ways to pray. Plainspoken or wordy. General or specific. Long winded or short and to the point. **Read about "Suffering for Doing Right": 1 Peter 3:13-22**

Closing or Evening Prayer: O God, in whom I live and move and have my being, you hear me when I cry; you listen to my prayer; you set my feet on steady ground, you never leave me alone. As I rest in you tonight, sanctify my heart in Christ, and fill me with your strength that I may rise to love and serve you and greet another day. Amen.

MAY 24, 2020 Readings for Ascension Sunday: Acts 1:1–11 ☩ Psalm 47 ☩ Ephesians 1:15-23 ☩ Luke 24:44-53

Opening or Morning Prayer: Holy God, I give thanks this day that your Son ascends in the core of my being as new life arises in me. Open the eyes of my heart this day to seek and serve you in all whom I meet. Amen.

Read about "God's Rule over the Nations": Psalm 47

Prayer for Illumination: O God of glory, the risen and ascended Christ calls me to carry your message of life to all people. Through the Holy Spirit, open my mind to see the power of Scripture to give life, enlighten my heart that I may see Christ in all whom I meet, help me to witness always to the hope to which I am called as I share Christ's love to the ends of the earth. Amen.

Read about "the Promise of the Holy Spirit and the Ascension of Jesus": Acts 1:1-11

Read about "Paul's Prayer": Ephesians 1:15-23; Read about "the Words of Jesus to His Disciples": Luke 24:44-53

Closing or Evening Prayer: Redeeming God, by your mighty hand you have safely brought me to this night, and for this and all other mercies, I give you thanks. I repent of the wrongs I have done this day, and seek forgiveness by the grace of your love. Clothe me with power on high this night that I may rest in peace. Amen.

MAY 31, 2020 Readings for Pentecost: Acts 2:1–21 ☩ Psalm 104:24-34, 35b ☩ 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 ☩ John 7:37-39

Opening or Morning Prayer: Spirit of God, source of life, refresh my spirit, reshape my desire, and re-create my heart, that I may show forth your enduring glory; through Jesus Christ. Amen. **Read about "Rivers of Living Water": John 7:37-39**

Prayer for Illumination: Holy God, like a rushing wind your Spirit moved upon the first disciples on the day of Pentecost, and like a purifying fire your Spirit seared their hearts and minds with the message of salvation. Send your Spirit upon me, stir up my courage, and rouse me for prophetic witness that I may join with them to proclaim to the world your mighty deeds of power. Amen.

Read about "the Coming of the Holy Spirit": Acts 2:1-21 Read about "Spiritual Gifts": 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

Questions for Reflection: What gift of yours, of your family, and of your community has the Holy Spirit especially nurtured in recent times? How might that gift be expressed and used in a new way during the approaching months of summer?

Read about "God the Creator and Provider": Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

Closing or Evening Prayer: Merciful Lord, as night comes to this house, I thank you for the challenges and accomplishments of this day. Give my heart and mind the comfort now to rest in your care, trusting that whatever tomorrow brings, your hand will be ready to catch us if we fall. Amen.

FINANCE & GENEROSITY

Thank you for donating funds, time, and energy to PCOP!

Date	Weekly offering	% to General Fund
April 10	\$6,167.00	91.41%
April 22	\$4,060.00	87.19%

APRIL 2020 FINANCIAL HEALTH			
	Current	Year to Date	2020 Total Budget
Receipts	\$10,227.54	\$53,353.13	\$182,771.00
Expenses	\$19,952.08	\$105,241.66	
Excess or [Deficient]	[\$9,724.54]	[\$51,888.53]	

*Until worship resumes, **PLEASE MAIL** your regular weekly offering envelopes to the office.*

The **Pentecost Special Offering** is one of the four special offerings of PCUSA, and is about guiding the Christian formation of our young people—building a solid foundation of faith formed in the first third of life, from childhood through young adulthood. Gifts to the Pentecost Special Offering unite young people in Christ and inspire them to share their faith, ideas, and unique gifts with the church and the world. In 2020, the Pentecost Special offering is received on **Pentecost Sunday, May 31st**.

Donations received are split into four areas:

40% is retained by the donating congregation for congregational initiatives with young people and investment in local programs focused on children at risk, and development of youth and young adults.

25% goes to serving communities by supporting volunteer programs that bring young adults together in fellowship, worship, and service throughout the world.

25% goes to guiding youth and youth ministries in their walk with Christ and inspire those called to accompany them.

10% goes to protection of child advocacy and education that nurtures children and youth in mind, body, and spirit.

More information can be found at presbyterianmission.org/Pentecost
If worship services have not resumed at PCOP by Pentecost Sunday, more information and offering envelopes will be sent by mail.

**Monthly Giving
Spotlight:
Pentecost
Special Offering**

MEMBERSHIP & PCOP UPDATES

Birthdays, prayer requests, moving and more!

Please remember to contact the office if you have any changes in mailing address, email address, or phone number to ensure you are still receiving PCOP updates!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY
TO...



Those Needing Our Prayers

Karina Blose	Betty Brumbaugh	Duane & Pam Carr
Betty Cessna	Jane Crawford	The Graham Family
Martha Irvin	Dorothy Jenks	Kathy Kopp
	The Ward Family	

*Please contact the office to add a name to the newsletter/bulletin "Needing Our Prayers" list. Please contact **Rex Lettie** at pcop.prayer.chain@gmail.com to join or to add a name to the PCOP Prayer Chain.*



Our Christian sympathies to the West family on the passing of Gillen Geary, who entered into eternal rest on Saturday, April 11, 2020.

May 2	Haley Hartman
May 4	Peyton Graham
May 5	Joyce Cooper
May 9	Rebecca Petrini
May 10	Jay Philliber
May 11	Darlene Fait
May 13	Diane Forsythe
May 14	Debra Dinsmore Jan Harrold
May 18	Robert McBride
May 20	Lee Blose Dona Larimer
May 21	Marilyn Douthit
May 25	Beverly Keeley
May 27	Myrna Jennings

SESSION & THE BOARD OF DEACONS

Keeping up with the committees and officers of PCOP!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The next meeting of the Board of Deacons will be:
SUNDAY TBD
9:30 a.m.
Memorial Parlor

The next meeting of Session (Unicameral Board)
will be:
MONDAY TBD
7:00 p.m.
Lester Seminar Room

Attention: Families of Graduates!

If you know a graduate you would like to honor in the June newsletter, please contact the office with their information. These submissions can be graduates of high schools, colleges/universities, postdoctoral programs, or trade/technical schools.



Beautify the sanctuary with flowers
Write "Deacons Flowers" in check memo line (\$25) and call the office to place your order. Available dates:
TBD after worship services resume and standing orders are rescheduled first.



MISSION & OUTREACH

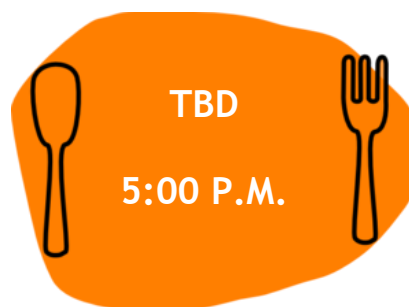
A “Choose Your Own Adventure” to get more involved at PCOP!

2020 Mission Trip Cancelled

After much thought and consultation with the Mission & Outreach Committee, we have decided to cancel the 2020 Mission Trip scheduled for July. With consideration for the phased-in plan to reopen the state, it appears unlikely that we would be able to put together a mission team by May 31st, the date that commitments needed to be made, and gather the applications and materials needed to be provided to the Bethany Retreat Center, where we had planned to stay. We also considered that some may be reluctant to stay in a congregate setting at that time, and others are hoping to reschedule activities and trips that were not able to happen in April, May or June. We regret having to make this decision, but the Committee agreed we would continue to move forward with plans for a mission trip in 2021.

Rex Lettie,
Mission & Outreach Committee Chair

*Volunteers are always
welcome to help at the next
First Tuesday
Community Meal!*



**Crosstown Ministries Food Pantry
Woodland Avenue United Methodist Church
203 Woodland Ave.**

Please contact Pastor Clint Phillips @ (814) 938-8160 for more information on whether the Food Pantry will still be occurring on Monday, May 18th, as originally scheduled.

FELLOWSHIP

Have fun and spend time with your PCOP family!



The joint breakfast with the Clearfield Presbyterian Men's Group is tentatively rescheduled for Saturday, June 27th

Questions? Ask Keith Hughes or Rex Lettie

MEN'S BREAKFAST

If you are in need of help while church activities are suspended or have any questions or concerns, please contact a current member of the Board of Deacons or a current member of Session (listed on page 10)



WHO DO I CONTACT?

“I have a question about . . .”

Schedules, quarterly financial statement, newsletter, ordering flowers, bulletin information, ordering church supplies, using church facilities, etc. <i>And anything else!</i>	Keri in PCOP office
Hospitalizations, Emergencies, Member Care	Keri in PCOP Office Board of Deacons
PCOP Property & Grounds, maintenance requests	Property Committee Co-Chairs Dana Hartman & William Cooper
Worship information, pulpit supply	Worship Committee Chair Roberta Dinsmore
Baptisms & Weddings	Clerk of Session Doug Chambers
Funerals & Memorial Services	Keri in PCOP Office Funeral Director
Mission & Fellowship Opportunities	Mission & Outreach Chair—Rex Lettie Fellowship Chair—Barbara Burkett
Youth Group & Children’s Sunday School	Youth Group—Dana Hartman Christian Education Chair—
Finances & Giving	Finance Chair—Nick Suntheimer Stewardship Chair—Richard Fetterman
New Members (Joining PCOP)	Clerk of Session Doug Chambers
Choir & Music	Music Director Nancy Pearce
First Tuesday Community Meal	Donna Anderson
Current Members of Session	William Cooper, Dana Hartman, Rex Lettie, Barbara Burkett, Deborah Elder, Nick Suntheimer, Roberta Dinsmore, David Divelbiss, Richard Fetterman
Current Board of Deacons	Lee Blose, Kathi Cessna, Jean Hughes, Debra Dinsmore, Carole Haire, Donna Grabany, Richard Cessna, Barbara Endress, Pam Hogan

MAY 2020 CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 4 th Sunday of Easter	4	5	6	7 National Day of Prayer	8	9
10 5 th Sunday of Easter Mother's Day	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 6 th Sunday of Easter	18 5:30 P.M. Crosstown Food Pantry (see page 8)	19	20	21 Ascension of the Lord	22	23
24 7 th Sunday of Easter	25 Memorial Day - Office is CLOSED	26	27	28	29	30
31 Day of Pentecost	June 1	June 2 June newsletter info deadline	<i>At time of publishing, all church activities continue to be suspended until further notice.</i>			





106 East Union Street
Punxsutawney, PA 15767

Office hours: 9 A.M. to 1 P.M.
Monday thru Friday

Office phone: (814) 938-5560

Email: punxsychurch@comcast.net

Visit online at www.punxsypc.net



The office has found an Army National Guard Total Victory Team medal and pin in a black case among various church items. These medals are awarded to post-9/11 deployed National Guard troops and/or their civilian employers.

If you have any information about this medal and where and/or who it came from, please contact the office so it can be returned or archived properly!