



The Highlander

The Presbyterian Church of Punxsutawney
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June 2020

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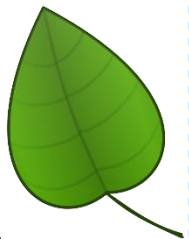
June

Please call or email
the office

**by TUESDAY
JUNE 30th** with
any information,
announcements,
updates, etc. that
you would like to
see in July's
newsletter!

~GREEN TEAM SIGN-UPS~

Please contact the office or Property Committee Chair Dana Hartman to sign up to volunteer to mow the garden lawn and/or water the flowers! Stop down any time during your week (weather-dependent)



AT-HOME WORSHIP FOR JUNE

Adapted by Debra Dinsmore from lectionary resources

JUNE 7, 2020 Readings for Trinity Sunday: Genesis 1:1–2:4a ☩ Psalm 8 ☩ 2 Corinthians 13:11–13 ☩ Matthew 28:16–20

Opening or Morning Prayer: God of the living, from whom all blessings flow, I welcome a new day with thanksgiving because you have cared for me through the night. Wherever you send me today, whomsoever I meet, be in my going and my meeting. Grant me wisdom to cherish what you give me and generosity to share what I receive. Fill me with the Spirit so that I may show courage, kindness, and a sense of humor in the face of the day's hardships. In Christ's peace, may I withhold harsh judgment against those who would do me harm. Show me ways that I may serve you throughout the day and into the night so that, waking or sleeping, I live for you; in the name of the Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Read about "The Six Days of Creation and the Sabbath": **Genesis 1:1–2:4a**

Questions for Reflection: How did you learn about Earth throughout your life? Give thanks for each of your teachers and guides. In what ways does your way of living reflect gratitude for Earth? How might you enhance your care for God's creation?

Read about "Divine Majesty and Human Dignity": **Psalm 8**

Prayer for Illumination: Holiness, Word, Power, you reveal yourself as one God in three persons, a mighty, creative, life-generating presence who invites your creation to join you. Catch me up in your love and lead me into your world to call others to follow you. Sing into my ears, O Spirit, the holy word of life. Tell me who I am and to whom I belong so that I may share your good news and live with gratitude for all that you have done. Amen. **Gospel Reading: Read** about "The Commissioning of the Disciples": **Matthew 28:16-20**

Prayer of Intercession: I give you thanks, O God, for this world, which you made and renewed in the power of Jesus' resurrection. Make me wise and careful of your gifts as I live on Earth. I pray that the love which passes ceaselessly between the Father and the Son in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit may renew and deepen the life of each Christian and draw us all into your unending life. I ask that your guiding hand be upon the leaders of the church: on Protestants, Roman Catholics, and believers of all kinds as they work to open their churches to new normals. I pray for children and youth; for the elderly whose wise counsel is sorely needed in all ages; and for all ecumenical endeavors that seek to bring us closer to each other and to you. I give thanks for Earth and all creatures and plants; for healthy water and air and soil; for policies and laws that regard our home in God's universe as a precious gift. I pray for families, households, and communities, that your life together—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit— may show us the like importance of each of us, and so strengthen your children in your grace and truth. God of all goodness, I pray for the sick and those who suffer in any way; for those who struggle to pay rent or a mortgage; for those who have no income; for those who are neglected, abused and mistreated in our communities; for people who long for justice; for children who do not have a good guide to raise them up; and for all those needs still unnamed but placed before you now. Into your hands I entrust all that is of concern this day, sure that you hear my pleas, grateful that your will be done on earth as in heaven. I pray this in the name of the Savior, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Read about "Paul's Final Greetings and Benediction to the church at Corinth": **2 Corinthians 13:11-13**

Closing or Evening Prayer: Ancient of days, these hours of light are passing into darkness. Thank you for being with me. Let me not forget the joys you put in my life today. Send your Spirit to fill my memories with comfort and peace as I prepare for the night. Where I have failed to please you, forgive me for the sake of your Son. If I have been of help to others, let them give thanks to you. May all night songs praise you; may we evening singers rejoice in your eternal glory. And I will celebrate with your whole creation in the name of Jesus Christ when the new day that you are bringing dawns. Amen.

JUNE 14, 2020 Readings: Genesis 18:1–15 (21:1-7) ☩ Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 ☩ Romans 5:1–8 ☩ Matthew 9:35–10:8 (9-23)

Opening or Morning Prayer: Holy Presence, let me be with you today. Awaken my senses to the wonders of your creation, and fill me with compassion for every person I meet. Protect me from those who would hurt me; make me watchful so that I do not harm anyone. Fill my inward being with the love of Christ, and inasmuch as it is possible, let others know your presence through me. In this way let me glorify you, Holy One, Holy Three. Amen. **Read Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19**

Prayer for Illumination: God of redemption, summon me to Sarah's joy, Abraham's wonder, and Paul's confident hope through the word and work of the Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose name I pray. Amen. **Read** about "the Son Promised to Abraham and Sarah and the Birth of Isaac": **Genesis 18:1–15 (21:1-7)**; **Read** about "the Results of Justification" **Romans 5:1-8**

Read about "the Twelve Disciples, Their Mission and Coming Persecutions" **Matthew 9:35–10:8 (9-23)**

Questions for Reflection: How would you respond to the arrival of wandering messengers in Punxsy? (Matt. 9:35–10:23)? Would you welcome them or listen to their words? What does it mean for the kingdom of heaven to "come near" (Matt. 10:7)?

Prayer After Reflection: God of all power and peace, as Jesus sent his disciples to heal the sick, cast out demons, gather the lost, raise the dead, and proclaim the nearness of your realm, make me ready to go and share the good news I have received. Amen.

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.

Closing or Evening Prayer: I give you thanks, Holy God, that you have made me your own, a treasured possession. Hold me close to your heart and bear me up on eagle's wings; in Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

AT-HOME WORSHIP FOR JUNE

Adapted by Debra Dinsmore from lectionary resources

JUNE 21, 2020 Readings: Genesis 21:8–21 ☩ Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17 ☩ Romans 6:1b–11 ☩ Matthew 10:24–39

Opening or Morning Prayer: O God, I praise you as I arise this morning. You are the giver of all life and you provide for what you have made. Be with my spirit this day and teach me to be thankful for all that you offer. Move me to be generous with others, sharing not only goods, but also time, patience, and kindness. You know what will happen today. Guide me so that I do what pleases you. Be near to me and help me to trust your love. I pray for all the world today, for what I do has effects far beyond what I can know or understand. By your Holy Spirit, let me speak peace, let me do peace, let me be peace, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Read about “the Sending Away of Hagar and Ishmael”: **Genesis 21:8–21**

Questions for Reflection: What does the story of Sarah and Hagar (Gen. 21:8–21) say about God? What does the story suggest about how we might treat one another more justly?

Prayer After Reflection: Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart, including mine, that the barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease, and that, with our divisions healed, we might live in justice and peace; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Read about “Supplication for Help against Enemies”: **Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17**

Prayer for Illumination: God of Wisdom, I eagerly seek your presence in my life and in the world. By your spirit, speak your word to me, and give me your grace to recognize the abundant signs of your care for me, so that I might be freed to act in the world with courage and abandon. Amen.

Read about “Dying and Rising with Christ”: **Romans 6:1b-11**

Read about “Whom to Fear” and about “Not Peace, but a Sword”: **Matthew 10:24-39**

Prayer of Intercession: My God, you are the God of the past, present and future. You showed mercy to Hagar and Ishmael in the desert, just as you answered Sarah’s laughter with Isaac’s birth. I pray that the church of Jesus Christ will be so filled with the Holy Spirit, so committed to the head of the church that Christ’s mind will be among us. I pray for community and national leaders who seek to make peace within this nation. May their success be measured in generations who live free from fear. I pray that you will heal the deathly divisions between all peoples of the earth today. In remembrance of Father’s Day, I pray for fathers and for those who are like fathers to many. For those who are separated, by heaven or earth, this Father’s Day I pray that you would soothe disappointment or heal wounds or close gaps or offer solace in isolating circumstances. As summer officially begins, I pray for rain and sun in proper measure, and for abundant food and water for all who dwell upon the earth. I pray for your promised kingdom to come, where equality will be the norm, and there will be no disease; where courageous faith, hope, and love will cast out hatred and injustice. This prayer I offer in the name of Jesus Christ, my Savior, Redeemer, and Friend. Amen.

Closing or Evening Prayer: For this day of familiar tasks and new responsibilities, I give you thanks, O God. You show me wonders, provide for my needs, help me to navigate through conflicts and celebrations large and small, and stay by my side. To you is due all of myself— body, mind, and heart— and I trust in your eternal care. Amen.

JUNE 28, 2020 Readings: Genesis 22:1–14 ☩ Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18 ☩ Romans 6:12-23 ☩ Matthew 10:40-42

Opening or Morning Prayer: Gracious God, I greet this day in expectation and thanks and ask to receive the opportunity to share your hospitality with all whom I meet. May I welcome you in serving others and grow ever deeper in holiness and right relationship. This is my prayer; this is my hope. Amen.

Read: Psalm 13, a psalm of transition that begins with discouragement and despair and finishes in a place of trust, joy and encouragement. **Read about “the Command to Sacrifice Isaac”:** **Genesis 22:1–14**

Questions for Reflection: Can you think of a time when God was testing you? How did you respond and what did it teach you about God or about yourself? What lesson of faith did Abraham and Isaac learn through this event?

Prayer for Illumination: Faithful God, your love stands firm from generation to generation, your mercy is always abundant. Give me an open and understanding heart, that as I hear your word, I may seek Christ’s presence in all whom I meet. Amen.

Read about “the Slaves of Righteousness”: **Romans 6:12-23**

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 “Rewards”: **Matthew 10:40-42;**

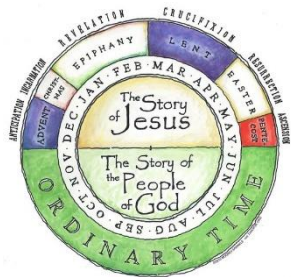
Closing or Evening Prayer: Loving God, thank you for keeping me today. I am blessed to be held in your care. Thank you for the awesome works you have blessed my eyes to see. I marvel at the beauty around me. Continue to bless my community and my church. I am blessed to be in the midst of so many loving people. Help me to be loving in return and a blessing to others. Amen.

ROBIN'S PONDERINGS

From Robin Sharp, PCOP Student Pastor

Friends, by the time you read this we will be in the beginning of the Pentecost season. I am one who likes to follow the liturgical calendar; I believe it helps to recognize the teachings of the Trinity throughout the different parts of the Church year.

The weeks after Pentecost are considered Ordinary Time. I like to think of it as the time when we explore our stories with God -- which are anything but ordinary! This idea comes from the liturgical calendar shown; it allows us to see ourselves in the continuous and everlasting story of the Triune-God.¹



It is obvious this year our current stories are very different than in the past. Yet, they do continue. In the coming weeks and months the Session of Punxsutawney Presbyterian Church will be exploring various ways to share these stories among ourselves and our neighbors.

In the meantime, though, I wish to remind you that the “Church” is much more than a gathering spot on Sunday Mornings. As a child, and then later with my husband, Matt, and our two sons, I would sing a short song about the church.

I am the church! You are the church!
 We are the church together!
 All who follow Jesus,
 all around the world!
 Yes, we're the church together!

The church is not a building;
 the church is not a steeple;
 the church is not a resting place;
 the church is a people.²

I am sure many of you, like me, miss gathering for worship. I look forward to the holiness and vitality of that time! Yet I know that through the love known as the Holy Spirit the Church we remain holy and alive as we live out the Word of God.

May grace and peace be yours in abundance.

Robin

Student Pastor

¹<https://calendarinspiration.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/the-liturgical-year-all-are-saints-all-are-welcome-all-intended-for-dates-of-the-liturgical-calendar.jpg>

²<https://hymnary.org/hymn/HGSP2008/204>

FINANCE & GENEROSITY

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

Date	Weekly offering	% to General Fund
May 10	\$5,365.00	97.30%
May 27	\$6,961.00	99.12%

MAY 2020 FINANCIAL HEALTH			
	Current	Year to Date	2020 Total Budget
Receipts	\$12,326.38	\$65,679.51	\$182,771.00
Expenses	\$8,277.27	\$113,518.93	
Excess or [Deficient]	\$4,049.11	[\$47,839.42]	

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

As we are now officially into summer, we would like to remind everyone that we still have bills to pay, supplies to purchase, and a building to maintain.

At this time of year, PCOP typically experiences a “summer slump” in giving. Contributions may even slow to the point that we are deficient in funds by the end of each month.

Please do not be a part of this summer’s slump!

Your continued support is both appreciated and requested!

*Monthly Giving
Spotlight:
Summer Giving at
PCOP*

**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, June 15th, as originally scheduled.

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 Blöse	Betty Brumbaugh	Duane & Pam Carr
Betty Cessna	Jane Crawford	The Graham Family
Martha Irvin	Kathy Kopp	The Ward Family

June 1	Joe Karetski
June 3	Jackson Fezell Susan Wydra
June 4	Jean Deeley
June 8	Donna Grabany Terry Studebaker
June 18	Donna Kengersky
June 23	Jack Haire
June 27	Beverly Divelbiss Amy Williams

*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.*



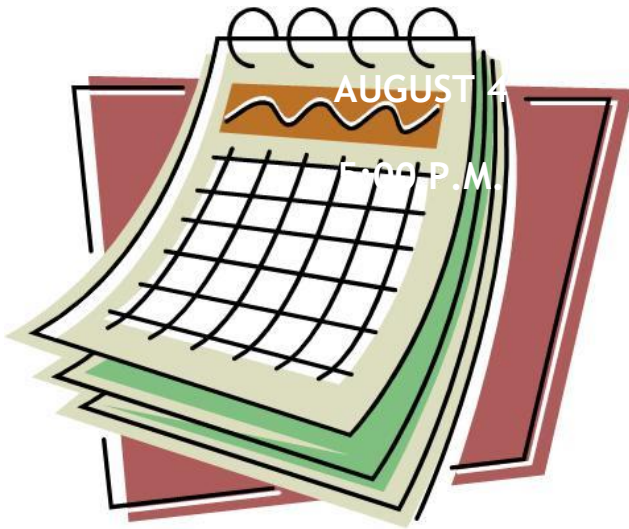
Our Christian sympathies to the family and friends of Janice Hodgson, who entered into eternal rest on Saturday, May 2, 2020.



Our Christian sympathies to the family and friends of Dorothy Jenks, who entered into eternal rest on Thursday, May 7, 2020.

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



MEN'S BREAKFAST

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

Questions? Ask Keith Hughes or Rex Lettie



Beautifully 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.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR PCOP GRADUATES!



Holly Hartman and Jackson Fezell



Punxsutawney Area High School Class of 2020

Madysen Ewing, daughter of Becky Petrini and granddaughter of Diane and Dick Forsythe. Madysen received the Outstanding Senior Art student award and lettered in Girls' Soccer (co-captain during senior year). She has been a 4-H member since she was eight years old, with many top awards in swine and goats. She works at Leila Jo's and in the past was employed at Dog Hollow Raceway. After graduation, Madysen plans to further her education, but is undecided in what direction.

Jackson Fezell, son of Tim and Chris Fezell. Jackson graduates with high honors, participated in Boys' Golf and Baseball, and received the Zeedick Scholar Athlete award. After graduation, he will attend the Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, FL, majoring in Aerospace Engineering.

Holly Hartman, daughter of Ritchey and Dana Hartman and granddaughter of Arlene Shields. Holly graduates with high honors, participated in Cheerleading and Softball (co-captain for both), and received the Zeedick Scholar Athlete award. After graduation, she will attend the Pennsylvania State University at University Park for an undecided major.

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

JUNE 2020 CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 Trinity Sunday	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 11 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	15 5:30 P.M. Crosstown Food Pantry (see page 5)	16	17	18	19 Juneteenth	20 First Day of Summer
21 12 th Sunday in Ordinary Time Father's Day	22	23	24	25	26	27 8 A.M. Men's Breakfast (see page 7)
28 13 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	29	30 July newsletter info deadline	<i>At time of publishing, all church activities continue to be suspended until further notice.</i>			

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 9)





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!