

THE KIRK KONNECTION

Editor: Carolyn Marnon

August 2018



Greetings, my friends.

It is with an extremely heavy heart that I share the news that the church in which I was baptized, First Presbyterian Church in Girard, PA, burned to the ground early Sunday morning.

This church was within walking distance of my home. I have fond memories of strolling through our backyard, past blackberry bushes and the tall pine trees in which I (disobediently) climbed, to get to the place that we spent 2-3 hours every Sunday morning.

It was not just where I was baptized, but it was also where I was first taught about God. It was where I learned about Cain, Abel, Noah, Abraham, Mary, Joseph...and, of course, the answer to every children's sermon question: Jesus. It was where my mother preached her first sermon, it was where I went to preschool, and it was where I went on Easter egg hunts. It was a place of love, of friendship, of safety and fellowship that became the foundation upon which my faith, my values and my personality were built.

It's funny what we remember as we age. I recall squirming in my seat during Sunday school downstairs, knowing that soon a bell would ring. This bell not only signified the end of Sunday school, but it ushered us children into a time of glorious freedom. When that bell rang, clever kids could hide in the teeming mass of adults and do as they pleased. What would I do? I would run off in search of doughnuts and gum, of course. There were always jelly-filled doughnuts in the big room upstairs across from the sanctuary, and I would take 1...2...3...(sorry Mom and Dad!) on a good day. After that, I would search for big Bill Rausch, who we children referred to as "The Gum Man." Every Sunday, his pockets were lined with pieces of strawberry, grape and cherry Bazooka gum, and he would give 1 to each of us. We got greedy, though, and eventually realized we could trick him into giving us another piece if we waited 5 minutes and ran up to him again as though we'd never gotten that first one. It took several months but he got wise to this and then exercised a modicum of discretion in his gum distribution (-sigh-).

I had a lot of fun sitting in the pews doing word searches with Tommy, knowing that the noisy din surrounding me would become a complete hush any moment now. Small as I was, I could lie down in those pews and stare up at the strange lamps hanging from the ceiling, marveling that they looked so heavy but never fell down. Then John Love would begin playing the organ, and a chorus of voices would fill the sanctuary with inspired sound and song. I didn't like it so loud, but I was always impressed. And then the Rev. Bob Rogers would begin talking, and eventually one day during a sermon illustration delivered the line that became a favorite amongst the Beckman children: (in slow, deliberate wording) "Liar, liar. Pants on fire. Sitting...on the telephone...wire."

This church was where I first interacted regularly with other children; in preschool I had to decide how to handle the problem of another boy playing Connect 4 completely wrong (I handled it poorly). In Sunday school I remember Megan Rogers telling us that she was going to be a "punk rocker" for Halloween. I had no idea what a punk rocker was, and this was the first time in my life that I felt socially awkward. I had a bit of a crush on Kelly Heath, but she (and all the other girls) had crushes on Michael Bogart from school so I never said anything. And I remember it being an exciting time when Paul Case and his family came to visit us at our house. I could finally show off my Castle Greyskull!!

When I engaged in a halfhearted effort to run away from home one night at the age of 7, I only got as far as the church. There - my little brother clinging to the handlebars of my bike - I encountered Nancy Cashdollar (no one ever believes me but yes: that's her real name). I liked Mrs. Cashdollar, so of course when she asked what I was doing I very matter-of-factly explained that I was running away from home. And then, with all the cunning and guile of a typical adult, she tricked me into going into the church for a few minutes (as luck would have it, there was a Girl Scout meeting that night) where it was "nice and warm." My dad was there not long afterward, of course. So when I ran away from home I got about 1000 feet from my house.

Years after we moved to Texas, we still wore our "Holy Terrors" and "I Are A Girard Presbyterian" t-shirts. Memories of *Alice in Blunderland*, soundtrack included, still flash through my mind regularly. Then, as now, the smallest of oysters was so very proud of The Mad Hatter and Tweetle Dumb/Dumber.

Crestfallen as I am over the loss of this building, it should be pointed out that the building was exactly that: a building. The love, friendship, safety, fellowship and faith that existed within the walls of 260 E Main, Girard, PA 16417 cannot be snuffed out by any fire, even one that turns a building into rubble. First Presbyterian Church of Girard has not died; it is alive and well inside all of us and forever will be. We are not the people of a building. We are the people of God; a God that transcends time and physical space. Therefore, as I lift up the people of First Presbyterian Church in prayer, I pray not only for peace and comfort in this time of loss. I pray also for renewed strength and joy in exhibiting the same qualities that made First Presbyterian what it was to me so many years ago: a family of neighbors living together in faith, supporting one another in love.

The building may have been where all of that took place, but a building cannot love. A building cannot be a friend. A building cannot worship in fellowship, and a building cannot live its faith.

God's children can.

Wherever we are, wherever we go, whatever our surroundings.....we will always as Christians be able to love and live our faith as we do ministry. May we lift up First Presbyterian of Girard, Pennsylvania as they seek to continue to do that which they have faithfully done for the past 183 years.

...and, from this pastor: You have all of my gratitude for fulfilling the vows that you made at my baptism. Thank you for being the foundation upon which my faith was built and took shape. Thank you for teaching me about the God that I joyfully serve today.

Pastor Mike

At lunch the Grazers journeyed all the way to Bode's Corned Beef House, where Al Tedd paid homage to Wally Jennings, the king of omelettes. We miss you, Wally!



Theo Beckman tries to beat the heat with his dad, Pastor Mike, during worship one recent Sunday. However, it looks like they are both interested in Al's omelette one picture over.

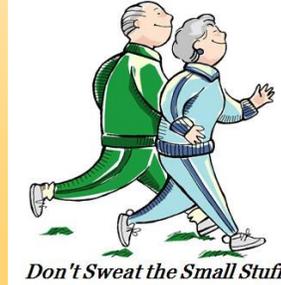


August BIRTHDAYS

- 2 June Jennings
- 6 Dominic Fortuna
- 8 Dennis King
- 12 Gale Shrewsbury
- 18 Andrea Alicea
- 22 Robin Roe
- 23 Peggy Flacks
- 28 Lisa Brincat
- 29 Erin Hesselgrave

DON'T SWEAT THE SMALL STUFF

We will begin our annual collection of sweatpants, socks and underwear, sizes 6-14 (boys and girls), on Sunday, August 5. Donations help the local schools when students need a fresh change of clothing. An area will be set up for you to place your donations. Thanks for supporting local children in need!



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Financial Report as of 06/30/2018



	June	Year to Date	Budget
Income	8,914	57,478	59,273
Expenses	14,853	62,051	57,856
Net Income or	-5,939	-4,573	1,417
Liquid Assets*	112,977	112,977	

* equals the total for Kirk checking, savings, and mutual funds.
 Does not include Thank God 4 Christian Parents Fund.

June was adversely impacted by the snowplowing/salting bill of \$6000+. That bill was higher than expected due to the amount of salting that was completed. Adjustments will be made for 2019. Without that bill, the month would have been slightly profitable. Because of the impact it will be difficult to meet the annual budget bottom line. However, keep in mind that the Kirk has paid all bills without withdrawing funds from savings or its non-Thank God 4 Christian Parents mutual funds for at least the last 3 years.



The mission of the Kirk of Our Savior is to glorify God, nurture new and existing relationships, and bear witness to our faith and divine calling through worship, service, stewardship and prayer.

It is the vision of this church to become a living example of God's love, called to show Christ to those within the church community by offering ourselves in service to those in need and inviting all to share in this vision.



Summer is here and with it come our summertime worship changes! In our effort to beat the heat, we are now downstairs in Fellowship Hall for worship. We will remain there through Labor Day.

We have also begun worship 30 minutes earlier at 10:00 a.m., so please be careful to note both the location *and* the time change. See you then and there!

**Come to
to Lunch
With Us**

August 29 Lunch- Date

August brings National Peach Month and National Picnic Month

along with More Herbs, Less Salt Day on August 29, the next meeting of the Classy Lassies and Grazers. Perhaps the informal group of men and women who meet for lunch, long called the Classy Lassies and Grazers, will take that into account when choosing a dining location for their monthly lunch get-together on Wednesday, August 29. All are welcome to come have lunch with the group. No invitation is required.



Bible Study Continues!

We are focusing on "Women of the Bible." We will continue meeting August 16 and August 23, Thursday nights, at 6:00pm in the lounge. All are welcome even if you weren't able to attend the first meetings.

There will not be meetings on August 2 and 9.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Madeline Carpenter (2021), Chairman and Elder

Bonnie Hilberer (2019) Elder

Irene Gaylord (2020) Deacon

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Mark Gallaher (2019) Chairman and Elder

Cindy Handford (2019) Deacon

Lynn King (2020) Deacon

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Dorothy Albright, (2020) Chairman and Elder

Bill Partaka (2021) Deacon

MISSION/OUTREACH

Judy Curtis (2021) Chairman and Elder

Nancy Pride (2020), Elder

Lorraine Scott (2019) Deacon

Audrey Conner (2019) Deacon

FOUNDATION

Leslie Holland (2019) Chairman and Elder

Patrick Frobe (2020) Elder

Rob Otte (2020) Deacon

Judy Walker (2021) Deacon and Deacon Moderator

TREASURER: Fred Kirk

CLERK: Jenny Root

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August 2018 Daily Lectionary

These Scripture readings are from the two-year daily lectionary of the Presbyterian Book of Common Worship (Westminster John Knox Press, 1993). The readings from the three-year Revised Common Lectionary for Sundays and Festivals are not included in this document.

August

Wednesday, August 1

Morning: Pss. 65;
147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 125; 91
Judg. 3:12–30
Acts 1:1–14
Matt. 27:45–54

Thursday, August 2

Morning: Pss. 143;
147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 81; 116
Judg. 4:4–23
Acts 1:15–26
Matt. 27:55–66

Friday, August 3

Morning: Pss. 88; 148
Evening: Pss. 6; 20
Judg. 5:1–18
Acts 2:1–21
Matt. 28:1–10

Saturday, August 4

Morning: Pss. 122; 149
Evening: Pss. 100; 63
Judg. 5:19–31
Acts 2:22–36
Matt. 28:11–20

Sunday, August 5

11th Sunday after
Pentecost
Morning: Pss. 108; 150
Evening: Pss. 66; 23
Judg. 6:1–24
2 Cor. 9:6–15
Mark 3:20–30

Monday, August 6

Morning: Pss. 62; 145
Evening: Pss. 73; 9
Judg. 6:25–40
Acts 2:37–47
John 1:1–18

Tuesday, August 7

Morning: Pss. 12; 146
Evening: Pss. 36; 7
Judg. 7:1–18
Acts 3:1–11
John 1:19–28

Wednesday, August 8

Morning: Pss. 96;
147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 132; 134
Judg. 7:19–8:12
Acts 3:12–26
John 1:29–42

Thursday, August 9

Morning: Pss. 116;
147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 26; 130
Judg. 8:22–35
Acts 4:1–12
John 1:43–51

Friday, August 10

Morning: Pss. 84; 148
Evening: Pss. 25; 40
Judg. 9:1–16, 19–21
Acts 4:13–31
John 2:1–12

Saturday, August 11

Morning: Pss. 63; 149
Evening: Pss. 125; 90
Judg. 9:22–25, 50–57
Acts 4:32–5:11
John 2:13–25

Sunday, August 12

12th Sunday after
Pentecost
Morning: Pss. 103; 150
Evening: Pss. 117; 139
Judg. 11:1–11, 29–40
2 Cor. 11:21b–31
Mark 4:35–41

Monday, August 13

Morning: Pss. 5; 145
Evening: Pss. 82; 29
Judg. 12:1–7
Acts 5:12–26
John 3:1–21

Tuesday, August 14

Morning: Pss. 42; 146
Evening: Pss. 102; 133
Judg. 13:1–15
Acts 5:27–42
John 3:22–36

Wednesday, August 15

Morning: Pss. 89:1–18;
147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 1; 33
Judg. 13:15–24
Acts 6:1–15
John 4:1–26

Thursday, August 16
Morning: Pss. 97;
147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 16; 62
Judg. 14:1–19
Acts 6:15–7:16
John 4:27–42

Friday, August 17
Morning: Pss. 51; 148
Evening: Pss. 142; 65
Judg. 14:20–15:20
Acts 7:17–29
John 4:43–54

Saturday, August 18
Morning: Pss. 104; 149
Evening: Pss. 138; 98
Judg. 16:1–14
Acts 7:30–43
John 5:1–18

Sunday, August 19
13th Sunday after
Pentecost
Morning: Pss. 19; 150
Evening: Pss. 81; 113
Judg. 16:15–31
2 Cor. 13:1–11
Mark 5:25–34

Monday, August 20
Morning: Pss. 135; 145
Evening: Pss. 97; 112
Judg. 17:1–13
Acts 7:44–8:1a
John 5:19–29

Tuesday, August 21
Morning: Pss. 123; 146
Evening: Pss. 30; 86
Judg. 18:1–15
Acts 8:1–13
John 5:30–47

Wednesday, August 22
Morning: Pss. 15;
147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 48; 4
Judg. 18:16–31
Acts 8:14–25
John 6:1–15

Thursday, August 23
Morning: Pss. 36;
147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 80; 27
Job 1:1–22
Acts 8:26–40
John 6:16–27

Friday, August 24
Morning: Pss. 130; 148
Evening: Pss. 32; 139
Job 2:1–13
Acts 9:1–9
John 6:27–40

Saturday, August 25
Morning: Pss. 56; 149
Evening: Pss. 118; 111
Job 3:1–26
Acts 9:10–19a
John 6:41–51

Sunday, August 26
14th Sunday after
Pentecost
Morning: Pss. 67; 150
Evening: Pss. 46; 93
Job 4:1–6, 12–21
Rev. 4:1–11
Mark 6:1–6a

Monday, August 27
Morning: Pss. 57; 145
Evening: Pss. 85; 47
Job 4:1; 5:1–11, 17–21,
26–27
Acts 9:19b–31
John 6:52–59

Tuesday, August 28
Morning: Pss. 54; 146
Evening: Pss. 28; 99
Job 6:1–4, 8–15, 21
Acts 9:32–43
John 6:60–71

Wednesday, August 29
Morning: Pss. 65;
147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 125; 91
Job 6:1; 7:1–21
Acts 10:1–16
John 7:1–13

Thursday, August 30
Morning: Pss. 143;
147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 81; 116
Job 8:1–10, 20–22
Acts 10:17–33
John 7:14–36

Friday, August 31
Morning: Pss. 88; 148
Evening: Pss. 6; 20
Job 9:1–15, 32–35
Acts 10:34–48
John 7:37–52

August 2018

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3	4
5	9am-Choir Practice-Fellowship Hall 10am-Worship in Fellowship Hall	6 7:30-9pm Bi-Polar Depression Support Group-Lounge	7 7-10pm Harmony Town Chorus-Fellowship Hall	8	9	10 7:45-9:30pm Alanon-Lounge	11 11am-5pm Fellowship Hall Rental
12	9am-Choir Practice-Fellowship Hall 10am-Worship in Fellowship Hall	13 6:30-8:30pm Hope 4 Healing Hearts-Fellowship Hall 7:30-9pm Bi-Polar Depression Support Group-Lounge	14 11:30-1:30pm WCCP Board Meeting 7-10pm Harmony Town Chorus-	15	16 6pm-Bible Study-Lounge	17 7:45-9:30pm Alanon-Lounge No Game Night	18
19	9am-Choir Practice-Fellowship Hall 10am-Worship/Communion in Fellowship Hall Session-Fellowship	20 7:30-9pm Bi-Polar Depression Support Group-Lounge	21 7-10pm Harmony Town Chorus-Fellowship Hall	22 6:30-8:30pm WCCP Orientation-Fellowship Hall/Classroom	23 6pm-Bible Study-Lounge	24 7:45-9:30pm Alanon-Lounge	25
26	9am-Choir Practice-Fellowship Hall 10am-Worship in Fellowship Hall Deacons-Sanctuary	27 6:30-8:30pm Hope 4 Healing Hearts-Fellowship Hall 7:30-9pm Bi-Polar Depression Support Group-Lounge	28 7-10pm Harmony Town Chorus-Fellowship Hall	29 11:30 am Classy Lassies and Grazers Lunch	30	31 7:45-9:30pm Alanon-Lounge	