



**Welcome Back to the Nursery this fall!!** There is always room for more people able to serve in the nursery each Sunday. If you have taken a break due to concerns about COVID or other reasons and are ready to be back on the schedule starting in September, please know you are welcome. If you have not spent time in the nursery before, this is the perfect time to join those of us who get to know our little ones better. Each volunteer is usually scheduled once a quarter. Everyone is required to have child abuse and criminal background clearances that can be completed online or by mail. There are always 2 people at a time (couples or families are fine) and subs are available for last minute changes. Please contact Sue Wilson ([dan\\_sue46@hotmail.com](mailto:dan_sue46@hotmail.com)) or 724-376-7346 for more details or to be put on the schedule.

### NURSERY SCHEDULE

7/4/2021	Church 10:00 a.m.	Sue Wilson & Jackie Grisetti
7/11/2021	Church 10:00 a.m.	Sue Hart & Sue Blum
7/18/2021	Church 10:00 a.m.	Molly Davis & Family
7/25/2021	Church 10:00 a.m.	Mary K. Miller & Savannah Johnson
8/1/2021	Church 10:00 a.m.	Becky Bray & Jennifer Forbes
8/8/2021	Church 10:00 a.m.	Bev Titzel & Nancy Hoffacker
8/15/2021	Church 10:00 a.m.	Diane Dawson & Kim Brainard
8/22/2021	Church 10:00 a.m.	Barbara Deist & Carol Houck
8/29/2021	Church 10:00 a.m.	Ericka Dershimer & Summer Stitt



### In Loving Memory

Joyce Hustey  
January 26, 1932 - May 13, 2021

William L. Fay  
December 26, 1945 - May 17, 2021

Richard L. Heckathorn  
April 20, 1948 - May 24, 2021

### July

Doug Groover	7/1
Bobbie Russell	7/1
Gerri Stallsmith	7/3
Clint Graham	7/5
Carol Houck	7/5
Sherry Lasch	7/6
Doug Moon	7/8
Betty Hinds	7/9
Bev Titzel	7/9
Alex Dawson	7/10
Karen Patterson	7/10
Kim Brainard	7/11
Shani Eddy	7/11
Nita Glassman	7/11
Mary Kroen	7/13
Phil Oswald	7/14
Bob Barney	7/16
David Fay	7/19
Fred Hofing	7/20
Paige Fay	7/21
Jean Heckathorn	7/22
Mimi Milheim	7/24
Dan Baker	7/26
Kelsey Peterson	7/26
Tim Eckhardt	7/26
Altha Graham	7/29
Jill Jones	7/29
Donna Lenkner	7/29
Lucy Wheaton	7/29
Michelle Shipton	7/31

### Youth

Riley Krepp	7/9
Sammi Johnson	7/9
Conner Geiger	7/22
Holden Williams	7/26

### August

John Forbes	8/2
Josh Hittle	8/3
Archie Wallace	8/4
Chris Truby	8/6
Marcia Barney	8/9
Gaby Beil	8/11
Jamie Ickes	8/12
Joyce Thomas	8/12
Ed Camlin	8/18
Patricia Peebles	8/18
Evelyn Wilson	8/19
Tom Harpst	8/22
Rebekah Petty	8/22
Betty Geisel	8/25
Kerry Overfield	8/25
Sawyer Truby	8/25
Darlene Ficeti	8/26
Bonnie Rickert	8/31

### Youth

Megan Kelley	8/10
Summer Stitt	8/10
R.J. Davis	8/14
Rachel Minner	8/21
Kaleb Frew	8/26



Dear Presbyterian Women/Circle Leaders,/Church family,  
Just a not to thank you so very much for your gracious work and contributions to Dad's funeral dinner. The meal was delicious-so yummy! It couldn't have been better, truly-and everything was so lovely, seamless, orderly and thorough. Your willingness to go ahead and serve in this way and on such short notice and after a year of no dinners...well, you'd have never known it!

So thank you again for the rich, rich blessing of allowing us to fellowship, gather, enjoy the comfort of eating together. Seemed a fitting way to usher in a new season after covid, and most especially, to honor dad with others who loved him.

Thank you church family, for all of the cards, remembrances, showing up you did for dad, for mom, for us. We are grateful to be part of FirstPres of Greenville. Thank you for your faithfulness-in all the varying ways you display it.

Love & Blessing in Christ to you, each one and altogether,  
Amy (Fay) Johnson

## VIEW FROM THE PULPIT—

Sometimes, the weeks of summer lend themselves more generously to reading for which we wish we had time in other seasons of the year.

You would perhaps be interested to know that part of the year-around professional relationship our Associate Pastor, Ben Claypool, and I share is a modest attempt to answer in a continuing way the question “What are we reading?” That is to ask—and to answer, where are we finding ideas? How do we know how to think about the church and the world? How do we frame responses to all manner of thing? On what are those responses based?

To date, Ben and I have looked together at the following titles/authors: ‘When Narcissism Comes to Church’ (Chuck DeGroat, Intervarsity Press, 2020), ‘Diary of a Pastor’s Soul’ (M. Craig Barnes, Baker/Brazos, 2020), ‘Hillbilly Elegy’ (J. D. Vance, HarperCollins, 2016), and ‘The Preacher as Sermon’ (Steve Norman, Christianity Today, 2021).

These works are obviously not Holy Scripture. In regular ways, Ben and I encounter eternal truth through both professional and personal discipline. We are first—and foremost—people of ‘the Book.’

Neither are these works classics in theology. We are not trying to replicate the seminary experience. At the same time, they are neither featherweight nor frivolous.

We are sincerely trying to ask and to answer—as well as possibly we can—the question: ‘What are we reading—together?’ What are the ideas that inform our understanding—of everything?

We have made—as I suggest—only modest beginnings in an exercise I am convinced can have great value among people of faith. Obviously, choices of what to read that I/we make matter very much.

Perhaps more than ever, Christian community needs broad and wide grasp of things of which life is made in all its parts—not only professional, but also personal—not only theoretical, but also practical.

What are you reading that informs your faith journey and your understanding of the world we are together called to serve in the name of Christ and the Church?

Ben and I would love to hear your suggestions.

May the blessings of summer be yours.

DAD



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### **VBS reminder: July 12-17, 2021 from 9:00-11:30 AM. Jesus Power Pulls Us through!**



Spaces are still available and students must be pre-registered this year. Registration can be done by calling the church office or going to the church web site at [fpcgreenville.com](http://fpcgreenville.com). Children going into 1<sup>st</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grade are eligible. Our mission project this year will be collecting money to purchase alpacas for families in Ecuador to use in farming and to make clothing. During the VBS week, some of our older students and helpers will travel to Mercer, eat lunch and then pack boxes and load a trailer for Root International to take to Navajo Indians. Please remain in prayer for our staff and children as we continue to plan for this important VBS week.

### **Christian Education Committee**

-Adult Summer Sunday School classes will continue through July and August with Tom Brainard finishing a video series by Ray VanderLaan and Rev. Dobi completing the summer with topic lessons. Children’s classes through 6<sup>th</sup> grade will also continue through the summer.

-The committee would like to express appreciation to all those who wrote a thank you note to the staff at St. Paul Homes and The Grove. There were 70 notes and treats sent to The Grove and 290 to St. Paul Homes.

-On behalf of the congregation, Christian Ed committee has received expressions of appreciation from seniors. The following note is an example: “I really appreciate the Bible that you gave me and ... will have it with me for the rest of my life. I also appreciate the gentleman that made the graduation signs. He did a very good job. I really like mine. Thank you, Memphis”



## From the Pen of Ben

One of my favorite movies is a movie called Big Fish by Tim Burton. The film is about a man Edward Bloom and his son, who have a rocky relationship. Edward loved to tell stories about his life. He would tell the same stories repeatedly, and people loved them, except for his son. He grew tired of them, and the stories took on a life of their own to the point the son and father did not talk. Then Edward develops cancer, and his son returns home. The son tells his dad that he is like an iceberg; you only see 10% of it, and the other 90% is buried beneath the sea. The son didn't know who his dad was because he stopped listening to the stories. It turns out the stories had truth to them, and it told them the way he did to bring excitement to a boring life. Eventually, the son realizes what a great man his dad was by exploring his past stories.

I bring this all up because stories and listening are how we communicate with each other. The Bible was initially passed along by storytelling. The Passover meal for the Jewish people was a story event. Specific dialogue with each part of the meal that told a story about the Jewish people escaping Israel. So why am I talking about stories? Because we get to participate in the most extraordinary story ever to be told and is still be told. The story of God coming into the world as a human child and calling ordinary people to do extraordinary things. Are you listening to the story being told around you? Do you feel your life is boring and uneventful? Maybe you are listening to the wrong storyteller for your life. Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, is telling you what to do. Are you listening?

I was told a few months ago about a new streaming series called "The Chosen." It is about the people Jesus called to follow him. It is a drama based on the Gospel accounts of what the disciples saw and heard as they followed Jesus. It is a drama, and there are things added to make the disciples more human. For instance, Matthew is portrayed as an autistic man because he was a tax collector and good with numbers. Because Matthew was a tax collector, the other disciples have issues with him as they walk along with Jesus. The series is a well-done story through cinematography and acting, but I don't think it is strictly scriptural. The director Dallas Jenkins has said that the point of this series is to get viewers to read their Bibles and know the real Jesus found in scripture. If you want some excellent storytelling with a biblical message to help you live a great story, then I recommend "The Chosen." (It can be watched by going to [watch.angelstudios.com](http://watch.angelstudios.com) or downloading the app from whatever app store you use). This series is free to view. They do offer a pay it forward program to enable others to watch for free.

Don't substitute this for reading the Bible but use it to help create a sense of awe and wonder to who is this Jesus of Nazareth. Come and see who he is and what it means to follow him, and then, like the disciples, you will live an extraordinary story that focuses on Jesus, and there will be no more mundane story but an adventure-filled story. If we live more exciting stories that point to Jesus, this world will catch on fire for Jesus. That would be a great thing to see and watch in real life instead of just in a movie.

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## Mission Updates

Dear Friends,

In this place of Fresh Grounds Coffeehouse, the staff has continually relied on God and His faithfulness to the ministry and to the individual ministries under our umbrella such as His Work His Way, Keystone Bibles, Neighbor to Neighbor and the Lighthouse. He continually provides volunteers, staff, financial resources, and those who have the knowledge and/or skills when needed. We could never orchestrate all that He has put together for us. We truly appreciate the role you play in supporting these ministries.

Thank you, Bonnie Prugh, DTM Office Manager

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### Financial Update

May Giving: 29,722.28  
Budgeted Need: 29,167/Month

**Bulletin announcements need submitted  
no later than noon on Wednesdays.**

**Deadline for the September  
'Churchmouse' is August 20.**

### *Greetings, faithful givers!*

The Good Shepherd Center is asking for **canned or boxed meals for June**. Baskets for donations, as ever, are located at each of the sanctuary entrances. In addition to the monthly requests, please know that any and all non-perishable food items are always welcome to bolster their shelves. Thank you again for all your past, present, and future graciousness in giving!

### PHONETREE

The church office uses a phone messaging system to reach out to Covenant Partners for meetings, church announcements, etc. If you are not currently on the PhoneTree and would like to be added, please call the church office and give Sue the phone number to reach you. If you have a number which needs changed or corrected for the PhoneTree or the Church Directory please contact Sue. Thank you!

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First Presbyterian Church, Greenville, PA 16125  
-RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED-

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**SESSION NOTES-A regular meeting of Session gathered hybrid Monday, June 14, 2021, beginning at 6:00 PM. All members of Session were either present or accounted for.**

Session heard the following information:

- In a 40th year of its service to Christ, the Church, and the Greenville community, Kids of the Kingdom Pre-School 'graduated' the Class of 2034 Wednesday, May 26, noting that since its beginning, Pre-School at First Presbyterian Church has served more than 1000 Greenville-area children and their families.
- Congregational Life/Fellowship Committee extended invitation to FPC family and friends to enjoy ice cream and social time at U'll Scream,' Transfer—Thursday, June 17, beginning at 7:00 PM.
- Associate Pastor Ben Claypool presented a report on a continuing education experience in which he participated June 11 in Pittsburgh.
- Vacation Bible School is offered at First Presbyterian Church Monday-Friday, July 12-16, 2021, with a limited enrollment.
- FirstPres volunteers prepared and served 162 Monday dinners at The Good Shepherd Center, May 17.
- The final five chapel/rest room windows in the 'Stained Glass Window Project' are scheduled for removal to the Pittsburgh shop of Hunt Glass Monday-Friday, June 14'18.
- In partnership with Mercer County Community Food Warehouse, 'Myron the Meal Bus' is scheduled to visit the parking lot at FPC Friday, June 18 (noon until 1:30 PM) and consecutive Friday lunch hours through August 20.
- The Church Office will be closed Monday, July 05, (Independence Day observed) and Labor Day—Monday, September 06.
- The Fall Gathering of Rivers of Life ECO has been scheduled for Saturday, November 06, at McDonald (PA) Presbyterian Church.

Session took the following actions:

- Approved an afternoon FPC youth and leaders mission trip for Thursday, July 15 to Root International, Mercer, to pack boxes and load trailer. (Christian Ed/Youth)
  - Planning for the fall 2021 quarter, approved extending the meeting schedule of one adult Sunday School elective offering to 9:00 AM until 10:30 AM to accommodate 'The Truth Project' led by Tom Brainard (Christian Ed/Youth)
  - Pending agreement from adjoining neighbors, approved removal of three pine trees near the southeast portion of the church parking lot. (Property)
  - Approved a 'bricks and mortar' transfer of \$7000. to the 'Stained Glass Window Fund.' (Property)
  - Affirmed a plan to worship @ FPC Sunday, July 18, 10:00 AM together with friends from Hillside Presbyterian Church approving Dr. Carl Trueman, Grove City College Faculty, as a preacher for the morning. (Pastor)
  - Approved infant Baptism for Dominic Wendell Deist and Covenant Partner reception for Theresa Deist, Sunday, June 20, 10:00 AM (Pastor)
  - Approved meeting space requested by Venango County Children and Youth Services for a hearing Tuesday, June 29, beginning at 3:00 PM (Pastor)
  - Approved Pastor vacation time July 19-29, Associate Pastor July 5-10, Administrative Assistant July 19-25. (Pastor)
  - Approved appointment of Bretton Walberg to the Investment Committee. (Investment Committee)
  - Approved removal of mask restrictions for fully vaccinated persons beginning June 15.
- The next regular meeting of Session is planned for Monday, July 12, beginning at 6:00 PM.