

# THE EVANGEL – MAY 2024

## News and Ministry of the First Presbyterian Church



Senior Pastor Message.

May 2024



Greetings in the name of our Lord. As we encounter springtime days, may you be blessed and enriched with the bounty of God’s creation and the beauty of the world around you.

Since Easter our Sunday worship celebrations have been focused on the Six Great Ends of the Church. These statements are found in the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA). They are found in the Book of Order, volume two of the Constitution. They have been a hallmark of our church. Adopted in 1910 these missional statements are intended to define the life and work of the church. They give us direction for our ministry and create a goal to attain in our spiritual lives.

### THE GREAT ENDS OF THE CHURCH:

- The proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind.
- The shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God.
- The maintenance of divine worship.
- The preservation of the truth.
- The promotion of spiritual righteousness.
- The exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world.

Our lives as individuals and as the church are focused on God’s purpose for us in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We anticipate Christ’s return and Jesus’ reign in our lives. We understand that through Colossians 1:18-20, when we read this insight:

**“He (Christ) is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.”**

As believers that is our goal, that in our lives, through living out the Great Ends of the Church, by the expression of our faith that Christ **“might come to have first place in everything”** through what we say and do.

I will be preaching on the Great Ends of the Church through May 12. You are invited to join the fellowship of faith in celebration of Christ the next few weeks. Another great celebration comes to our worship life on May 19: Pentecost Sunday, when we commemorate the birthday of the church—the gift of the Holy Spirit. We will celebrate communion at both worship services. Additionally, we will install and ordain church officers, which were elected back in January. It will be a festive and celebrative day. The next week, May 26 is Trinity Sunday, and it is Memorial Day weekend, when we move to our summer schedule for worship.

There is much happening at your church. Plan to participate and celebrate our life together.

Rev. Dr. Daniel Corll, Interim Pastor.

First Presbyterian Church cares about you! If you experience a transition, illness, hospitalization, or other incident when you need pastoral care, please call the church office (814) 333-2161. Dr. Corll, a staff member, or another representative of the church will be in touch with you. The God of peace, wholeness, hope, and love be with you.

## Notes from the Director of Music

This month I have the opportunity to do something I've never done before: go on tour with a choir. The Allegheny College Choir (along with twenty alumni) will fly to Scandinavia after Mother's Day for its first international tour in seven years, visiting Copenhagen, Oslo, Uppsala, and Stockholm. By my reckoning this will be the longest stretch of time I've ever been away from my family! We'll present a concert in each city, as well as collaborating with the NOVA Chamber Choir of Oslo and its conductor, Julia Selina. My job – in addition to being the token Canadian on the trip – is to accompany the choir on piano and organ. I'm quite excited for the opportunity not only to visit but to make music in these historic buildings, some of which date back eight centuries.



*The Church of Our Savior in Copenhagen, one of the venues at which the choir will perform.*



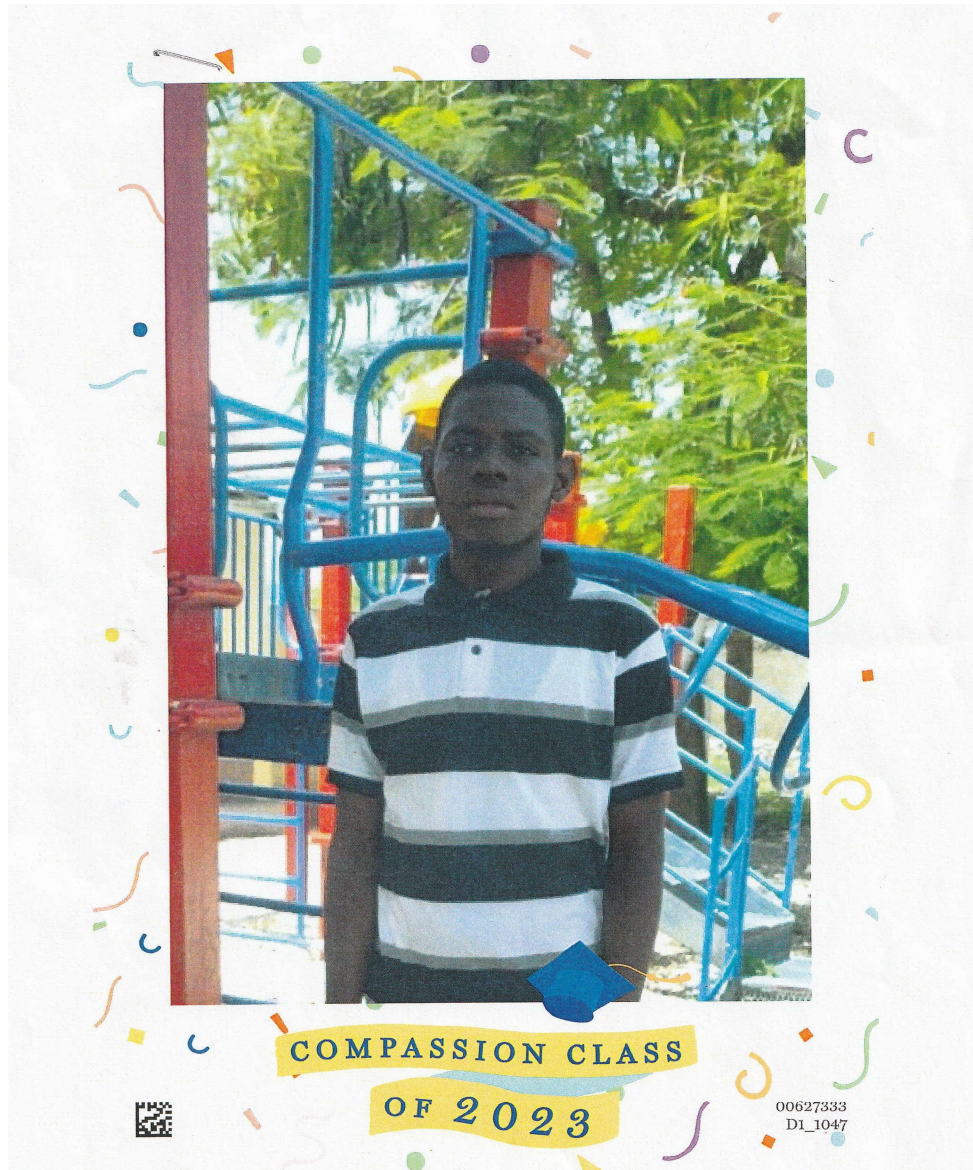
*Doesn't this look like a delightful bunch of people to spend ten days with?*

On the topic of choirs, I also want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the work our church choir and Liberty Bells have put into enriching our worship over the past year. Week after week, they ensure that God is glorified and the congregation is nurtured through the music they offer. We've explored a wide variety of repertoire in the process: classical compositions, Gregorian and Orthodox chant, arrangements of spirituals and folk hymns, and a few newly written pieces as well. The choir's last Sunday for the season will be May 5<sup>th</sup>. Despite my protests, two of our choral scholars - Isabella James and Anthony Swanson – will conclude their time with us that morning as they prepare to graduate from Allegheny College and embark on the next chapter of their lives. I encourage you to come out on the 5<sup>th</sup> as we say farewell to Bella and Anthony! Until next time,

Kevin



# Compassion in Jesus' name graduate!!!



Carlos attended the Zetroits Child Development Center in Haiti. We started our sponsorship connection in 2017 when he was 15. He is now 21.

During his time at the center, Carlos learned the tools to escape poverty. They include educational support, church support, vocation training, community and confidence and hope.

Over the years he has sent many letters writing about his educational progress, his interests and hobbies. In his letters he always expressed his love for the Lord.

Carlos is ready to move on to a job that uses the vocational training he received at the center. Our church has been a valuable part of Carlos' life. He knows that God loves him and will be with him.

Let us keep Carlos in our prayers. **We are proud of you Carlos!!**



The PNC has met several times in March and April. They have completed the Ministry Discernment Profile. It has been submitted and approved by the Session of First Presbyterian

Church and the Committee on Ministry of the Lake Erie Presbytery. The profile was then uploaded to the Church Leadership Connection database online where it was finalized and released for viewing by potential candidates. Over the last two weeks in April, the committee analyzed profiles of 24 candidate matches and one profile from a candidate who reached out to the committee with interest. As the committee begins this very important phase of the process, continued prayers are welcomed by members.



**The Pentecost Offering** unites us in a church-wide effort to support young people in Christ and inspire them to share their faith, ideas, and unique gifts with the church and the world.

**40%** stays with our congregation to support ministries with children, youth, and young adults.

**25%** supports young adult volunteers serving in communities around the world and growing as leaders through transformative Christian service.

**25%** supports youth ministry. This includes the Presbyterian Youth Triennium. Every three years, high school students from all over the world gather at a college campus to create a community of young Presbyterians committed to strengthening their relationships with God and the church.

**10%** is devoted to children at-risk and community support systems to improve education and provide safe havens.

Through our gifts to the Pentecost Offering, we are there to help build a foundation of faith in our youth which will last a lifetime. This offering will be accepted throughout the month of May and on Pentecost Sunday, May 19. **Thank you for your thoughtful giving ... for when we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!**

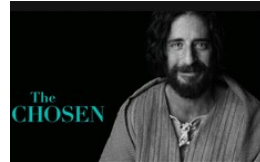


Our next **Soulstice** gathering will be on Wednesday, May 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:15 p.m. Join us in the downstairs chapel for a time of music, prayer, and silence.



On Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, after the 11:00 a.m. service, we will be celebrating Mary Zahora's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary as administrative assistant. The Session will be

hosting a luncheon in her honor. They will provide meat trays, sandwich buns and cake for dessert. Members are asked to bring side dishes to share. Please join us as we celebrate Mary's longstanding dedication to our church!



**Outreach Films** has opened limited streaming of the first four episodes of Season 4 of *The Chosen* through a church venue. Our church will be

showing the episodes during **Adult Sunday School** at 9:30 a.m. in the Culbertson Room during the month of May. All are invited to attend.

But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.  
Ephesians 4:15-16



*Is life more than you can handle alone right now?* Is your health, your attitude,

or your relationships suffering? Are you adjusting to a new job, change in marital status, a serious illness, the death of a loved one, or a recent move? Would you like to have someone in your life who really cares? **Everyone goes through difficult**

**situations.** Having someone to care and listen, and who shares the love of God, help us wade through the confusion, stress, or loneliness we may be feeling. And Stephen Ministry volunteers are here to help. The Stephen Ministry is a one-on-one care ministry grounded in Jesus' command to love one another. Through one-to-one caring relationships, those who are hurting receive the love and care they need to support them. **If you'd like more**

**information about how you can benefit from Stephen Ministry, please contact Rev. Dan Corll at 814-333-2161.**



## KNIT UNTO OTHERS

**Get your needles and yarn out. . . .**

Knit Unto Others will meet Wednesday, May 8 at 1:00 p.m. in the church library. Anyone interested in the fellowship of knitting, crocheting or cross stitching is welcome. We make prayer shawls for those in need of the warmth of God’s love, and the comfort, prayers, and support from their friends of faith. If you have any questions, you can contact Kandy Davis at [ksdavis70@zoominternet.net](mailto:ksdavis70@zoominternet.net) or 814-807-0156.

**PRAYER SHAWL DISPLAY...** It’s been a few years since Knit Unto Others displayed prayer shawls in our sanctuary, so we felt it was time to show you our recently completed creations. **On JUNE 2, you may view the shawls before and after the church service and chat with members of Knit Unto Others.** Many hours of preparation have gone into these shawls including searching for patterns, yarn types and colors. Prayer shawls are prepared for the members of First Presbyterian Church. Requests for a shawl may be directed to either Carol Ann McCall or Kandy Davis or leave a message in the Knit Unto Others mailbox in the Church office.



**Free Clinic Summer Fundraiser:** On June 15<sup>th</sup>, the same weekend of the Thurston Classic, the Clinic is having a fundraiser at the 4H barn at the Fairgrounds. Vendors are paying a fee to be there, and we want to make their participation profitable for them. The event runs from 11 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. We need volunteers to wipe down tables as needed, police the area of debris as needed and to sell tickets for a basket raffle. There is a horse show scheduled for that day at the fairgrounds and a ball tournament is scheduled adjacent to the grounds. Shifts will probably be for two hours. Please call Madalyn Davis at 814-724-2088 if you would like to volunteer.



**MEADVILLE MEMORIES:** “When the five of us arrived in Meadville, it was springtime, and I thought that it was the most beautiful town in the world. The trees, grass and hills were all so green. And the flowers all had such rich deep colors. Over the years I still thought the same. In the fall of the year, I saw green leaves take on beautiful colors and turn the hills into high flower beds. When wintertime came with all of its white snow, the hills changed into sparkling shimmering diamonds. With all of this beauty surrounding us, we all were very happy.”

The woman who wrote this, Robbie Mae Franklin Penman, emigrated from Tennessee to Meadville during “The Great Migration.” She eventually moved to Cleveland, became active in civil affairs and served as the first senior intern to Representative Louis Stokes. She lived to be 106!

-Submitted by Marianne Woods.



**Praying for Children**  
([momsinprayer.org](http://momsinprayer.org))

Every child needs prayers for spiritual, emotional and physical protection and blessings. Everyone is welcome to come and pray on Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m. in the library.

**Prayer focus for our children this month is 2 Peter 3:18:** *But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.*



The trustees are overseeing a few spring/summer projects.

- \* The security doors and cameras at the E. Cherry Stret entrance and the main entrance to Cornerstone Child Care have been installed. More details to come on its usage.
- \* The senior pastor’s office is getting a makeover. The walls have been painted and soon there will be new carpeting. A special thank you to Tim Davis for repairing the chairs and staining the desk.
- \* The final phase of the temperature control system is scheduled for this month, weather permitting. The boilers will have to be shut down so fellowship hall and the sanctuary can be converted into two separate heating zones. New piping and additional wiring will need to be installed.
- \* The trustees are looking into upgrading the office network and wi-fi system. A few weeks ago, the system went down. The staff couldn’t get their work done and there was concern that the Sunday service would not be streamed to YouTube and Armstrong Cable. It is amazing how much we rely on technology.



**Fairview Fairmont Family Center:** March was filled with a beautiful combination of special activities and ordinary days spent playing, talking, and getting to know neighbors better. Grades K-3 went on a walking field trip to participate in a literacy event at the FCCA. We had so much fun! The kids enjoyed stories, snacks, and activities. Each child got to choose a free book to take home! The egg hunt was a great success! We could never have done it as well without the five moms

who helped to plan and supervise. We counted 40 kids and over 20 adults in attendance. We've ordered the first several STEM toys from the grant we received from the Crawford Heritage Foundation, supplemented by a donation from the Presbyterian Women. The hollow blocks and colorful wooden rainbow have both been greatly enjoyed since we received them! Afterschool attendance has increased again. One day when there was no school, we opened the door at 3:00 p.m. to a dozen kids waiting in the hallway! After more trickled in, we had a total of 18 kids that day. Our community is growing in faith and love. **Thank you, First Presbyterian Church, for all your support and prayers!**



**“Goodbye Winter, So Long Snow! The More You Read This Month, The More You’ll Know!!”** So, visit our church library and find a good book or DVD. Come In and Check Them Out!!



1. Keith Gushard
3. Eeve Fischer
5. Jayne Martin
8. Mandy Mahoney
13. Dick Runnels
15. Chris Jordan
17. John Nesbitt  
Corey Jordan
19. Ruth Cooper
20. Candy Engels
21. Nicholas Engels
24. Ben Learn
25. Avery Feleppa
26. Betty Hallett
29. Carol Deiss  
JoLayne Green
31. Sophia Lobdell



Robert L. Hotchkiss  
March 31, 2024



**PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (PDA)** enables congregations and mission partners of the PC (U.S.A) to witness the healing love of Christ through caring for communities adversely affected by crisis and catastrophic events. PDA is an emergency and refugee program. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, it helps provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope. The focus is on long-term recovery by connecting partners locally and internationally with key organization active in the response such as United Nations, NVOAD (National Voluntary Agencies Active in Disaster), World Food Program, Red Cross, FEMA and others. **Our mission committee allocates \$1,200 annually to this much needed program. For more information go to [www.pda.pcusa.org](http://www.pda.pcusa.org).**



**PWCT** meets on Wednesday, May 1 at 11:00 a.m. in the youth director's office.

**Grace Circle** meets on Thursday, May 9 at 9:30 a.m. in the chapel. Coffee and tea will be provided.

**Hope Circle** meets on Thursday, May 9 at 1:30 p.m. in the library.

**Joy/Peace Circle** meets on Tuesday, May 14 at 1:30 p.m. in the library.



The **Birthday Offering of Presbyterian Women** was born in 1922 when Hallie Paxson Winsborough challenged members of the Woman's Auxiliary of the Presbyterian Church in the United States to give a penny for each year of her life as a "birthday gift." Hallie encouraged the women to offer "a penny for every year you have lived, and if that is a secret, bring a dollar!" Over the last century, this offering has provided grants to more than 200 major projects including the following 2024 grant recipients.

**Bethel Hills Apartments and Recreation Area (Marthasville, Missouri)** - The grant will be used to renovate one of their villas into four accessible apartments for eight individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities. It will provide a safe and loving place that takes into consideration their physical, emotional and spiritual needs in an environment where they can flourish. The new recreational area will offer space for art and music therapy and other leisure activities for people with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities.

**Shawnee Presbyterian Church Café Gingko (Louisville, Kentucky)** - Located in an economically disadvantaged area where single mothers and children face challenges of food insecurity, the church began serving free dine-in meals every Monday. With this grant, Café Gingko will be able to reopen with a renovated kitchen and an expanded capacity to provide meals. Improvements to the fellowship hall will allow the church to offer enriching activities: tutoring for elementary ages, Gingko Play Zone, financial literacy classes and Mama-to-Mama parenting workshops.

Birthday Offering envelopes will be available in the pews during the month of May or you can send a check to the church with "Birthday Offering" written in the memo. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

*So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them. Genesis 50:21*

**All Women of the Church Are Invited!**



**PW Summer Lunch**

**Wednesday, June 12 at 12 noon**

**Venango Valley Inn**

**House Salad—Mixed Greens, French Fries, Mozzarella Cheese, Grilled Chicken**

**Harvest Chicken Salad—Mixed Greens, Honey Walnuts, Cranberry, Feta Cheese, Grilled Chicken**

**Black Forest Turkey Sandwich—Smoked Turkey Breast, Bacon, Swiss, Lettuce, Tomato on Thick Whole Wheat Bread**

**Chicken Caesar Wrap—Cajun Grilled Chicken Breast, Romaine Blend, Parmesan & Caesar Dressing**

**Write your choice from the above list below:**

\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Please cut this form out and return it to the church office with a check for \$21 made payable to FPC and write "PW Lunch" on the memo line by **Monday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>**.



# MAY 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 11:00 PWCT  No Session 7:15 Soulstice	2  <b>National Day of Prayer</b>	3	4
5 8:30 Worship with Communion 9:30 Sunday School, Youth Group & Choir Rehearsal 11:00 Worship/ <b>Choral Scholars Senior Recognition</b> 12:00 <b>Congregational Lunch - Mary Zahora's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration as Administrative Assistant</b>	6	7  1:00 Praying for Children	8  1:00 Knit Unto Others  5:30 Session	9 <b>Ascension of the Lord</b>  9:30 Grace Circle 1:30 Hope Circle	10  Summer Evangel Articles Due: (June, July & August)	11
12 <b>Mother's Day</b> 8:30 Worship 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship	13  6:30 Deacons Meeting & Training	14  1:00 Praying for Children 1:30 Peace/Joy Circle	15 10:00 Staff Meeting 4:00 Mission Committee Meeting  Committee Night	16  3:30 Stephen Ministry Leadership Meeting 4:00 Stephen Ministry Meeting	17  <b>Senior Pictures &amp; Information Due to Mama Shelly &amp; Ms. Vickie</b>	18
19 <b>Day of Pentecost - Wear Red</b> <b>Install &amp; Ordain Church Officers</b> 8:30 Worship with Communion 9:30 Sunday School & Youth Group 11:00 Worship with Communion	20	21  1:00 Praying for Children	22	23  5:00 Trustees Annual Building & Grounds Inspection and Meeting	24	25  <b>Youth Group Lock-In</b>
26 <b>Trinity Sunday</b> Summer Worship Schedule Begins No Sunday School	27 <b>Memorial Day</b> Office Closed	28	29 10:00 Staff Meeting	30	31	



**First Presbyterian Church**

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**Meadville PA 16335**

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**Summer Worship Begin May 26**

**No Sunday School - May 26**

## **FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**SUNDAY WORSHIP** - 8:30 AM and 11:00 AM

(11:00 AM service is available on YouTube)

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** - 9:30 a.m.

**SOULSTICE** - 7:15 p.m. May 1

### **CHURCH STAFF**

**Interim Senior Pastor:** Rev. Dr. Dan Corll

**Minister of Music:** Kevin Dill

**Children's Ministry Coordinator:** Vickie Fischer

**Youth Leader:** Shelly Smith

**Administrative Assistant:** Mary Zahora

**Financial Secretary:** Kris Lubomski

**Custodian:** Elijah Boyd

**Evening Custodian:** Chris Wade

**Email:** [firstchurch@meadvillefpc.org](mailto:firstchurch@meadvillefpc.org)

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