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The Federated Courier

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June 2021

From the Pastor's Desk

*See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up;
do you not perceive it? I am making a way
in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. Isaiah 43:19*

Greetings in the Name of Christ!

I share with you a beautiful Springtime prayer/poem by Joyce Rupp.

O Dancer of Creation,
the earth awakens to an urgent call to grow.
In the hidden recesses of my wintered spirit
I, too, hear the humming of your voice,
calling me, wooing my deadness back to life.

My soul yawns, stretches, quickens,
as the energy of Spring revives my weariness.
I sit with wonder, observing the steady activity
of downy woodpeckers and newly yellowed finch.
I do so wait with the avid attention of a child's first look,
savoring the colors and shapes of earth's loveliness.

As the filtering patterns of early sunlight
lift the shades of green in every growing thing,
I enter into spring's unlettered words of life.
For a while my doubts, anxieties, and worries
become like chapters in some ancient book
whose text no longer claims my full attention.
I am content to sit, watching Spring

turn the pages of this animated publication,
eager to discover the invigorating story
reflected in my own springtime revelation.

Tell me, Wise Awakener,
why is it easier to believe in a stem of new grass,
or the opening bud of a fresh purple crocus,
than it is to believe in the greening of me?

It has been a difficult year for all of humanity. So many lives lost. Separation from one another. Jobs lost. Depression. Anxiety. School life interrupted. Teachers burden with online planning. Students' loss of valuable education. Eyes sore from too many Zoom meetings. More and more.

But with the hope of Spring, the access to effective vaccines, the willingness of citizen's to be vaccinated, life is slowly returning. Spring is coming upon our world, which also includes us. Many wonderful things are happening. The fresh air, the warm sun, the colorful flowers, butterflies, and more are all gifts from God, that we are not alone. God is present with us always: through the COVID year and beyond. God will lead us forward into new ways of being.

We will kick off our theme for this year, "*Connection in the Spirit*." We will be intentional about reconnection or deepening our connection with God, with one another, and with our neighbors. So, as you read our newsletter, do so with your calendar near you. Mark events on the correct dates, so you will not be left out. Please call the church if you need rides. We want you to join with us from Bible studies, outdoor worship, to cookouts, and more. We have exciting plans to assist us in connection with God, one another, and our neighbors. However, you need to show up to assist us in our connections. As the ending of Rupp's poem alludes to "Let us turn green together."

In Christ's Light and Love,

Pastor Pat

From the Deacons' Bench

Pentecost! The "birth-day" of the Church! Our May 23rd worship was a joyful celebration of the first Pentecost: we danced, we sang out loud accompanied by live music, we welcomed the Holy Spirit into our hearts. I was moved to tears by the blessings of Pastor Pat's message, the live music from Sandy Tilander and Bobbi Schofield and the presence of my sister and brother congregants. I was supercharged by the Spirit, and like Isaiah, my full heart responded, "Here am I; send me!". By Tuesday, I was a bit sad to realize my spirit was already flagging! A recent reflection from Rev. Tabitha Arnold captured my spiritual rollercoaster:

**Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles.* Acts 2:43 (NRSV)*

"I wonder how long their wonder lasted. After the first Pentecost, I wonder how long those early Christians could sustain their amazement and awe at God's mighty deeds. The rush of the wind, the tongues of fire, the ability to understand one another in all different languages. It was a wonder-filled day.

But then came the next day, and the next week, and the next month...ordinary time filled with ordinary life...So how long did their wonder last? It's hard to sustain wonder. The early Christians knew that as well as we do. So after the first Pentecost, they continued to do all the ordinary things we still do as local churches. Break bread, pray, engage the Word, praise God, care for those in need, and figure out how to share their common life."

I've found that being "supercharged" to live my faith is not sustainable, but keeping a steady charge in my spiritual batteries will continuously generate enough energy to sustain me in willingly carrying out the above tasks of ordinary common congregational life, and just life in general. As uplifting as I find Sunday worship, I've found I need to plug in to the Spirit between Sundays, to keep my charge up. I may read a devotional, or an inspiring article or book, take a quiet moment outside, read Scripture, chat with Pastor Pat, take a role in worship, participate

in Bible Study, and church activities and missions. Volunteer out in the community.

I find the more I try to connect with the Spirit, the more I am energized to live in the Spirit, and even experience brilliant sparks of wonder from time to time. If you find your batteries running low I encourage you to allow more opportunities for spiritual connection, between Sundays. Bible Study may be a safe place to start- you don't have to speak, just sit, listen, be present, and be recharged.

Blessings,
Linda Hornig

Bible Study

Bible Study has moved to Wednesdays, 10:30 AM – noon. Join us at 10:00 AM for coffee and conversation. We are studying *The Sermon on the Mount* with Amy Jill Levine. She is a Professor at Vanderbilt University, teaching as an authority on Jesus and Christianity. She is Jewish and brings new information of her faith to our Christian world. Join us in this safe and unassuming Bible Study. You won't be disappointed.



June Birthdays

Birthday Greetings to the following members of our church who celebrate birthdays in June.



Pat Miller Fernandes	06/02
Karen Anable	06/05
Kimberley Mercure	06/08
Jacqueline Brusa	06/10
Miyani Tessier	06/10
Samuel Castellano	06/11
Betty Sutcliffe	06/14
Jennifer Fisher	06/15
Jacqueline Prior	06/18
Roberta Grant	06/19
Alison Castellano	06/19
Alicia Richter	06/20
Janet Modlish	06/20
Paul Cilley	06/23
Alexandra Smith	06/23
Michael DeSanti	06/24
Jacob Trevallion	06/25
Owen Godin	06/25
Penny Dibble	06/26
Elena Green	06/27
Nancy Nelson	06/27
Elizabeth Cilley	06/29
Matthew Sterling	06/29

Wedding Anniversaries

Richard & Sharon DeSanti	06/02
Joanne & David Gernux	06/07
George & Gail Romano	06/12
David & Jane Wyman	06/12
James & Beverly Brant	06/21
Beverly & Dale Barrett	06/28
Donald & Joyce Ogonowski	06/27



Prayer Corner



Evie Meacham
Ingrid & Beth (Schwabe)

Joyce Brooks

Audrey Burger
John (Jack) Bennett

Janet Brehaut
Beverly Pease

Winnie

Don Facey

Fran Brown

Frank Watson

Bob Green

Ann Kibbe

Dale Varney

Phyllis Watson

Sandra Gibson

Bonnie Watson

Beverly Burnell

Carol Darnley

Judy

Lelum

Jackie Prior

Dennis Connor

Jeffrey Howe

Edith

Earl Schofield

Christopher

Josh G. & Family

Marilyn Connor

(Rotator Cuff Surgery)

Mary Lou Black

Don Ogonowski

Elaine Selfridge

Mary

For shut-ins and those who are isolated

For first responders & healthcare workers

For the homeless

For our country

For all world leaders

For Asians & Blacks & all who are persecuted for
simply being how God created them

For those impacted by changing weather disasters

Congregational Corner

Dear Pat and Federated Church Community:

I won't be able to attend the all church meeting (about 1 am my time) but I am holding you in my heart and lifting you all up in spirit.

When I watch the recorded worship services I am very touched by their beauty. I try and see who is in the church and am surprised that I can identify many friends by the back of their heads!

It has been a rollercoaster year or so. I am very thankful that we were in Australia with family, and able to support Richard's mother through her last months. She died in January, almost a year after her husband, and it was a year of family rostering to be with her round the clock to provide connection and care. Richard and his brothers have since been arranging her estate, and it is only now that we are starting to feel the load lift. I am so grateful that we were here, but I do miss my church friends, the Bible study, Harvest Fruits laughs and companionship, the singing, painting and contemplative times together.

Reading the annual report I can see how beautifully the community has worked together through the hard times.

I send you all my love, and am wondering how I can be supportive or helpful from here.

Regards, Carmel

My Guardian Angel

Blessed angel from above
My guardian help me
To love this day and always.
Lean on me in times of trouble,
In times of sorrow,
Yes, for today and tomorrow.
I pray that you will guide us all
Especially those who need you.
Always there by my side,
All I have to do is ask and abide.
What a special feeling I get when you are near me.
I have such a peace inside I feel like I could fly!
I feel your presence, yes I do.
I humbly want to thank you.



By Marilyn Connor

Congratulations

Congratulations to Dave Spencer for his watercolor, "*Hometown*" which won the Committee Choice Award at the Monson Arts Council this year. Dave's last entry (2019) was also awarded. We are blessed to have David among us with his gifts of art and sharing them so freely. He will be offering watercolors classes in the Fall. Stay tuned!





Scholarships/Camperships *Available*

Camperships

Summer camping schedules are out. If you are interested in attending camps this summer, please speak with Kristi or Pastor Pat for suggestions and websites. Partial **Camperships** are available for those attending a Christian camp. Applications are available from the office.

Scholarships

Are you a member of the church? Attending college?

We have **College Scholarships** available for members. **Please note that you must be present in worship On June 13th to receive your scholarship.** Ask for an application from the church office and see if you qualify.

The deadline to apply is June 7th.



Altar Flowers

We have openings for July and August's, flowers on the altar. The dates are July 4th, August 1st and August 29th. If anyone is interested please contact Cheryl Fonda at 413-427-4011.



CHURCH COOKOUT



FCC Annual Cookout

June 13th is the end of the school year. Christian Education will lead worship. Service will be followed by our annual cookout. We invite you to join us and bring a neighbor or friends.

Sound System Training

June 20th

We are looking for a few folks to be trained in setting up the sound equipment for outdoor Sunday services. Please let Pastor Pat or Jack know if you are willing to be trained – even if you are only available for one Sunday during the summer, it will still help!

Outdoor Worship

Beginning on June 20th we will have Outdoor Worship services at 10:00 AM on Sundays. Bring your own lawn chair or you may use one from the church. Greeters & Ushers are still needed!

Wonderful Wednesday Lunch


12:00 pm

3rd Wednesday of each month

Lunch followed by worship

If you need a ride please call the office at 566-3711

All are Welcome!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 10:30 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Bell Choir	3	4	5
6 10:00 AM Worship	7	8 7:00 Finance	9 10:30 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Bell Choir	10	11	12 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast
13 10:00 AM Worship Cookout following worship	14	15 6:30 BOD	16 10:30 AM Bible Study 12:00 PM WWW* 1:00 PM Worship 6:30 PM Bell Choir	17	18	19
20 Outdoor Worship begins 10:00 AM Worship	21	22	23 10:30 AM Bible Study	24	25	26 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast
27 10:00 AM Outdoor Worship	28	29	30 10:30 AM Bible Study			* WWW = Wonderful Wednesday Worship