

NEWS FROM THE PEW

I came across this quote that I thought would work well in my **News from the Pew**: and I quote, “*The poet T.S. Eliot, wrote ‘In my ending is my beginning.’ That is a Biblical perspective upon the journey that we live. As we journey through the endings that we knew in life, God is in that journey with us creating a beginning out of our endings.*” These were fitting words for Rev. Stone’s transition from here to retirement (Rev. Stone wrote this in the April 2019 newsletter.) and I believe they are great words for my transition from Barnet, VT to Neshannock Presbyterian Church.

All great journeys have a beginning and an end, but often we forget that they also have another beginning.

One lesson I have learned about long journeys is not to think too much about the end, but to focus on the right now. Sure we all have the goal in our minds and work towards it, but as they say, “It is not the destination but the journey,” and I couldn’t agree more. It is the little moments that affect you the most, not just achieving a goal, but the beauty and challenges along the way.

A friend of mine was a guide for Rainer Mountain in Washington State. As I was about to leave for my trip to Rainer I asked him for some advice. I asked him what I needed to know to climb Rainer. He simply and matter-of-factly said, “Keep taking the next step.” I was disappointed, but when I was on Rainer those words helped get me to the summit. Like Dory in *Finding Nemo*, I keep saying, “Just keep walking, just keep walking.”

As we journey on this path together we have a lot to look forward to and there will be struggles as well, but we are not alone. Together with Christ we will see new things that he is doing every day.

I close with another quote from Rev. Stone’s article:

“...may I borrow again the words of St. Paul to express my thoughts, my heart and my hope joy: ‘I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of you sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.’ (Philippians 1:3-5)”

So I look forward to traveling the journey with you and Christ. Let’s just keep walking...

In Christ,
Howard



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Pastor Howard's Office Hours:

Monday—Friday

8 AM—1 PM

Email: pastorhoward@neshpresby.org

NESHANNOCK GOES DIGITALLY

We have recently launched a Facebook page. Pastor Howard is sharing sermon teasers for each week. Events, updates and recent news will be posted here too. Please check us out on Facebook, and be sure to "Follow us" so that you stay in the loop digitally. To make sure that you don't miss the sermon teasers or news, click the three little dots, click following, and then click see first and you will see all new posts every time you log in. Remember to tag us in your photos this advent season! To find us search for **Neshannock Presbyterian Church in New Wilmington.**



If you don't have Facebook you don't have to miss out on everything! Pastor Howard is sharing his sermon teaser on YouTube. To find them go to YouTube.com and search for **Neshannock Presbyterian Church, New Wilmington.** Then click the subscribe button so that new videos will show up when you log in. Feel free to leave comments on the videos. Our church is continuing to work on the website to make it user friendly. We hope to see you soon in church or on the web.

*Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.
Matthew 28:19*

BECOMING A DISCIPLE

Jesus instructed His followers to make disciples of all men. (Matthew 28:19) Before you can make disciples of others, however, you must become a disciple yourself. Jesus commanded his followers, "**Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.**" (John 13: 34-35) Perhaps this is the most important attribute of a follower of Christ. To become a disciple you must also obey Jesus' commandment to: "**Love your neighbor as yourself**" (Matthew 22: 39).

Perhaps this is the most difficult attribute to develop and maintain. Jesus does not offer a list of exceptions for the word "neighbor." In fact, Jesus identified a despised Samaritan as "the neighbor." Your neighbors include: those who do not attend our church (or any church for that matter); those whose ancestors came from Central Africa; those who speak English as a "second language," and even those who have "offended" society in some way. Your neighbors might also include those whom some label as "sinners."

Remember that Jesus told His followers, "**It is not the healthy that need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous but, sinners.**" (Mark 2: 17)

NESHANNOCK DISCIPLES USE TEAMWORK TO DECORATE



When you walk into the church on the first Sunday of Advent, you can't help but get into the mood for Christmas with the beautiful decorations that seem to magically appear over the Thanksgiving holiday. It's not magic, but the love and labor of some of our congregation.

Talking with Janet Meeder it was discovered that we have been decorating the church for Christmas for close to 40 years. Carl and Janet Meeder headed and organized the decorating since the start. It started simple with just a tree, but gradually became the beautiful wonder we enjoy now slowly over time. The decoration have been mostly donated through the years and replaced by those that spend the Sunday before Thanksgiving decorating.

Jobs have been handed down from generation to generation as well. The arches were first done by Carl Meeder and later handed down to Bruce Campbell and Bill McKissick. Now

the job that you can't be afraid of heights to do has been handed to Todd Wilson. Our new Pastor and his wife Donna jumped right in and got to work with us as if they had done it before. The task of preparing the sanctuary for Advent can vary in time, depending on the hands that are available to help. This year it took about 2 hours because the hands available were plentiful.

As you sit back and enjoy the beautification this advent season, know that many hands and many hours have gone into it that were filled with love.



We aren't that different from our ancestors that built this very building in 1899. The church history book states, "About one hundred men gave their services in these and other ways and found as much delight in their toils as it were a holiday pastime. Also the women of the town took equally keen pleasure in furnishing bounteous meals without charge to the men of the country who came long distances to do hauling and other work;" when speaking of the many volunteers that helped build our church.

Not only with decorating the church, but a lot of other projects are done behind the scenes with people donating not only supplies, but their time. Matthew 6: 2-3 states, "So when you give something to a needy person, do not make a big show of it, as the hypocrites do in the houses of worship and on the streets. They do it so that people will praise them. I assure you, they have already been paid in full. But when you help a needy person, do it in such a way that even your closest friend will not know about it." We just want to say thank you to those people that do all that they do for our church quietly for the known and unknown tasks that are required to run our church. We love you and we thank you!



A NEW WAY TO LOOK AT THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

Originally a poem written by Catholic clerics was turned into a Christmas carol. Some scholars of the Catholic Church think it has more meaning.

The partridge in a pear tree is Jesus Christ.

The two turtle doves are the Old and New Testament.

The three French hens stand for faith, hope and love.

The four calling birds are the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

The five golden rings recalled the Thorah or Law, the first five books of the Old Testament.

The six geese a laying stand for the six days of creation.

The seven swans a swimming represent the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit: prophesy, serving, teaching, exhortation, contribution, leadership, and mercy.

The eight maids a milking are the eight beatitudes.

The nine ladies dancing are the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control.

The ten lords a leaping are the ten commandments.

The eleven pipers piping stand for the eleven faithful disciples.

The twelve drummers drumming symbolizes the twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed.

BRAIN TEASERS ANSWERS

Stainglass Window

Take a closer look at the 10 Commandments on the window memorizing Colonel M. M. Dawson at the back of the Sanctuary. As a young elder at Neshannock Church during the civil war, he was chosen captain of the 100th Regiment of Pennsylvania, also known as the Roundheads. Matthew served as captain of Company B until his promotion, first to major, and then to lieutenant colonel. The mistake is the roman numeral 5 (V) instead of 10 (X).

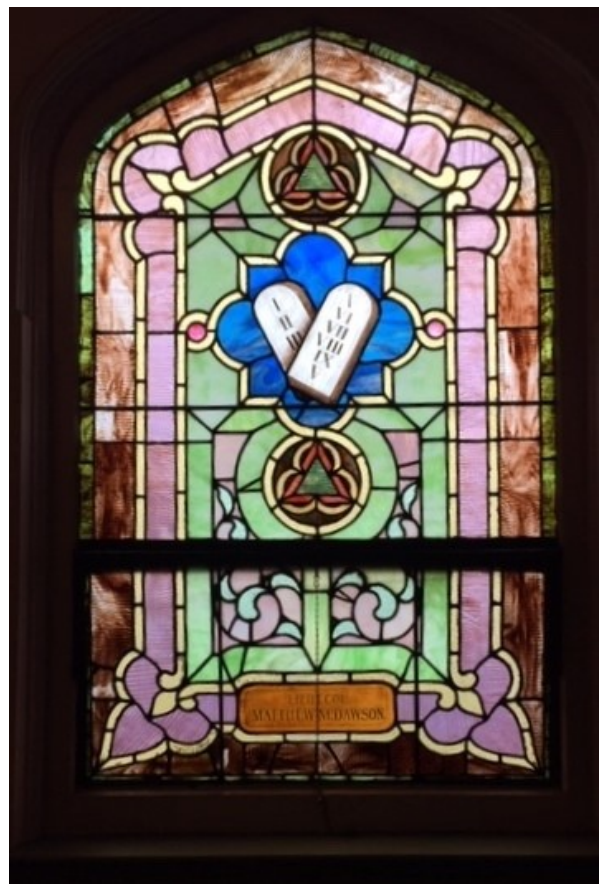
Information on the other windows can be found on page 341 of our 1925 *History of Neshannock Church*.

CRYPTOQUIP

The Serenity Prayer

God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can and the wisdom to know the difference.

Reinhold Niebuhr



KNO COMBINES LEARNING WITH SERVICE

The Kids' Night Out program under the leadership of Dama Fraley and Cindy Malinowski have taken a new approach this year by incorporating more service projects into their program for kindergarten through sixth graders. They are meeting not only on Tuesday nights but also on the weekends. Their most recent service project was making mini pumpkin pies and cards for some shut-ins and other older members of our church.



They continue their lessons and crafts on Tuesdays, but wanted to offer activities on the weekends for the kids that are busy during the week. On December 8th after the worship service they went to the Villa Maria to see the nativity sets from around the world.



WELCOME NEW CONFIRMATION CLASS MEMBERS



This fall we welcomed six new members to our church family that completed the confirmation classes. They met about once a week starting in the spring and ending at the beginning of fall. Jamie Bair, Katelyn Campbell, Elizabeth Fraley, Colin Hill, Annabelle Roberts, and David Roberts are our newest members.

LIFE AND MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH

YOUTH CHOIR SINGING: The youth will be singing on December 22nd during the worship service.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE: The Candlelight Communion service at our church will be on December 24th with the time to be announced soon.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: January 12th following the worship service with a meal. All reports are due to the church secretary by January 5th. At the meeting there will be time to talk about possibilities for the manse.

PRAYER CHAIN: If you would like to place a prayer request for the prayer chain, you are invited to do so by calling Sally Means at 724-657-3641.

PER CAPITA: The 2019 per capita is due to the General Assembly at the end of the year. It is based upon our active membership of 220. This breaks down to \$39.31 per member: \$28.06 to the ministries and personnel of Shenango Presbytery, \$2.30 to the Synod of the Trinity, and \$8.95 to the General Assembly ministries. Please identify your per capita contribution as your intention that it goes towards paying "per capita" on your giving envelope.

PACKING BACKPACKS & JOY: The PB&J ministry to children in need within the Wilmington Area School District has resumed. Each team packs 4-5 times throughout the school year. Packing nights are Tuesdays. If interested in participating, please call the church office.

NEWSLETTER: If you have any contributions or ideas for the next newsletter please contact Kelly Hoffman via email at k3690@hotmail.com. The next newsletter will go out the end of March.

LAZY DAY LASAGNA FOR A COLD NIGHT

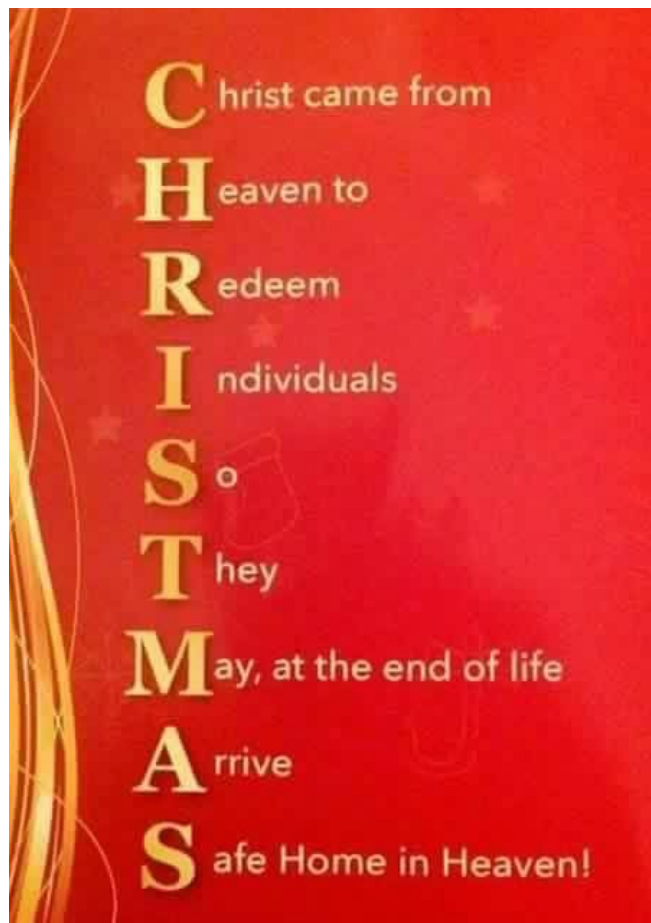


Recipe by: Nancy Campbell from the Neshannock Presbyterian Church Bicentennial Cookbook

Ingredients: 1 lb. ground chuck, 1/2 lb. rigatoni, 1 lb. sliced pepperoni, 1/2 large container

of cottage cheese, 12 oz of mozzarella, 1 1/2-2 quart spaghetti sauce, parmesan and parsley flakes to taste

Directions: Saute ground chuck, salt and pepper. Pour the sauce into a 9x12 inch pan. Add the cooked rigatoni and all other ingredients, reserving enough mozzarella to layer over the top. Make sure rigatoni is coated with sauce as you mix. Cover the top layer with mozzarella cheese and sprinkle with parsley and parmesan. Cover with foil and bake at 350 for 1 hour. During the last 15 minutes layer with more mozzarella (if desired).





WELCOME BABY MYERS

Adrienne Lynn was born on November 6, 2019 at 4:55 AM at Sharon Regional Hospital. She was 8 pounds and 5 ounces and 21 inches long. She is the daughter of Steve and Bobbie Myers and the little sister to Morgan. Adrienne is the granddaughter of Donna Myers and the late Alan Myers as well Laurie Campbell and the late Patrick Campbell. She is Mabel Campbell and the late George Rayburn Campbell's 25th great grandchild.

*Children are a gift from the Lord;
they are a real blessing.
Psalm 127: 3*

NESHANNOCK YOUTH GROUP KEEPING BUSY

The Neshannock Presbyterian Youth Group has kept busy this fall with good Christian fellowship and performing local mission tasks as well. They have met for several social functions including the Cool Springs Corn maze and game nights at the church.



Two mission outreaches they have participated in were the Fall Food Share for the City Rescue Mission by asking for donations at Giant Eagle and shopping for gifts for Operation Christmas Child to pack shoeboxes.

Daisy Bowersox and Hannah Bowersox continue to develop the youth's relationship with God by combining service projects with fun activities out such as bowling in 2020. Some other ideas they would like to do are church dinners, make cupcakes, and start a Bible Study. The Youth Group would like to thank the congregation for all the continued support.

BRAIN TEASERS TO KEEP YOU SHARP THROUGH HOLIDAYS

Hopefully,
you have had the opportunity
to study the beautiful windows here at
Neshannock Church. If not, take a few minutes
sometime and take a closer look; and while
you are doing so, don't forget to check
out the windows in
the balcony! Perhaps
you have wondered about the
people in whose memory the
windows were given.
Installed over 100 yrs

ago, the artwork
is exquisite *BUT, one of
the windows has a
numerical error. Do you
know which one it is?*

Submitted by Dorothy Tanner

CRYPTOQUIP

Here is a puzzle for you to solve. Find
what alphabet code letter is used for the
proper letter.

Hint: L=I

CUR CDOTN JH NMH KHDHTNV NU
OGGBN NMH NMLTCK L IOTTUN
IMOTCH, IUGDOCH NU IMOTCH
NMH NMLTCK L IOT NTR NMH
FJKRUN NU KTAFF NMH
RLQQHDETIH.

KHDHTNV BDOVHD

Answers to the puzzle on page 4

Neshannock Presbyterian Church
330 West Neshannock Avenue
New Wilmington, PA 16142

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Phone: 724-946-2081
E-mail: admin@neshpresby.org

Church Office Hours:
Tuesday-Friday: 8:00 AM-1:00 PM

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