

COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF MT. BETHEL AND PORTLAND

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



Rev. John H. Heinsohn
Minister of Visitation

December 2020
Volume 7, Issue 12

On Thursday, November 17th, I asked our administrative secretary to send out a statement about some of the new worship practices that I thought would be a wise thing to implement given the new state mandates earlier in the week and given the increasing infection rates throughout the state and nation. Later that afternoon, I participated in a Presbytery sponsored meeting led by three experts in the fields of vaccine research and immunology. Two of these people were from churches in our Presbytery. For several years, I have known Dr. Bill Bartlett from the First Presbyterian Church of Easton, who was one of the presenters. Their information was very instructive and relevant.

What I took away from that meeting, which had many church leaders participating from several presbyteries, was that the best way to stop the spread of this airborne virus was by erecting defensive barriers. Our physical bodies are equipped with some natural barriers which help keep us healthy on a daily basis. Facial masks are just one type of external barrier. Distance between people is another barrier to reduce the virus germs coming toward us. Ventilation is also important, which is why being outside is so much better than being inside. The size of the room, the height of the ceilings, as well as the type of ventilating system in the room all make a difference in terms of virus spread. Another barrier is the length of time we are exposed to the virus particles. They also mentioned that surface sanitizing is less important than previously thought because the virus germs cannot live very long on hard surfaces.

As we all know, the rate of infection has been increasing for some weeks now and is projected to get much worse as we go through the holidays. I believe our area was spared from much virus infection in the spring and summer but now I am aware of more friends and family who are getting the virus. Some area churches who had opened up their buildings and worship services in the past few weeks are now closing up again because they are experiencing infection spread in their congregations.

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Worship Service:

10:30 a.m.

Sept. 13, 2020– June 6, 2021

9:30 a.m. June 13th – Sept. 12, 2021

Bible Study: 9:15 am

Holy Communion:

1st Sunday of the Month

Session Members:

Jonathan Rush – Clerk
Bonnie Pearce
Lillian Williams
Laura Bocko
Suzy Armstrong
Mike Feeney

We have a small worshipping congregation and worshippers are doing a good job of maintaining social distance. I am hopeful that we can continue meeting in person as well as offer the zoom connection for those who would prefer to follow along at home. This past Sunday, almost everyone kept their mask on throughout the service. The balcony is another place a few people can use and be quite separated from others.

Not everybody is pleased with these restrictions. I wish they were not needed and I, too, long for the day in the months ahead when we will return to what was normal before this all started.

I feel that if we are inviting people into our building for worship or any event, we owe it to them to make sure it is a safe place for them to be. If we cannot provide that then we should not open it to the public. At least for now, I think it is a relatively safe place to which people can come.

Our Lord is certainly just as present to us in this pandemic as before and maybe the change in routine will be an opportunity to experience God in a whole new and vibrant way.

For Christmas Eve, we will gather outside at 9:30 to start our service with the singing of Christmas carols. The windows will be open on the parking lot side so those who are not able to be outside can hear and join in the singing from inside the building. A cup of hot chocolate will be available as we move into the building and finish the service with some readings, candle lighting and ending with the singing of Silent Night. It will be a night to remember with joy!



The Slate Belt Community Thanksgiving Worship Service was held on November 22nd at Prince of Peace Church in Bangor. Rev. John was one of several ministers who participated in the worship service. The Ministerium has posted the entire service on YouTube. Here is the link if you wish to see it: <https://youtu.be/Dqa2JW8Ozac>

The Ministerium is also on Facebook—search for Slate Belt Ministerium and you will see the events, photos, and comments.



Below is the link for Rev. John's account for Zoom Worship on December 20th and 27th. The access code will be the same as it has been for each of the past few months. Here are the links:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81916811413?pwd=bEgyMjRjdVJLV2lzTGVGekJLQmhVUT09>

Meeting ID: is 819 1681 1413

Password: 743486

Rev. Jenny will be using her account for Zoom on December 7th, 14th, and 24th.

The access code will be the same as it has been for each of the past few months. Here are the links:

<https://zoom.us/j/216305804?pwd=NXVwajdXcXAzMjV0cFBsdC8ydjBzdz09>

Meeting ID: 216 305 804

Password: 998322

You can also download the Zoom app for your Smartphone or tablet and use that same Meeting ID and Password to join.

If you would like to join via the phone, you can call 646-558-8656

When it asks for a meeting ID enter 216 305 804#

When it asks for a participant ID just enter #

When it asks for a password, enter 998322

Sunday morning Bible study will continue on Sunday, at 9:15 am. The zoom account will also be used so that others who are unable to come to Mt Bethel can join in. The study will be zoomed each week by Rev. John.



Prayer requests are to be made to
Heather Delp, Prayer Chain leader.

Heather's contact info is:

(610) 984-7360 (c)

(610) 588-6909 (h)

heather.delp@gmail.com



Prayerfully—Carole Deibel, Jim and Cathy DeMartino, Betty Meixsell, David Shoup, Esther Nichols, Shirley Sharpe, May Nodzak, Olin Cramer, Nancy Seas, John and Bonnie Pearce. The pandemic caregivers—nurses, doctors, janitors, EMT's, our students and teachers, those who are helping feed the needy, those who have lost loved ones and incomes, our government leaders that they may prayerfully lead our country back to normalcy and our ministers.



Emergency Contact Information - For pastoral or emergencies please contact the Rev. John Heinsohn at (610) 365-2092 (h), (609) 462-1639 (c)

Altar flowers - If you would like to place flowers on the altar in honor or in memory of a loved one, please contact Debbie Llewellyn. Cost is \$30 per pair.



DEACONS

Following to lead | Leading to Serve

Deacon of the month is Heather Delp

UPCOMING Events



The Women of Community Presbyterian Church will meet on December 15th to put together Christmas cookie boxes for shut-ins. We will each bring lunch fixings.

Due to the recent increase in the positivity rate of Covid-19 - the Advent Luncheon is cancelled.



Session will meet on Wednesday, December 17th at 7:00 p.m.



- 12/2—Hope Correll
- 12/2—Marion Pearce
- 12/9—May Nodzak
- 12/16—Jacob Seas
- 12/23—Tim Thiel

UPCOMING Events

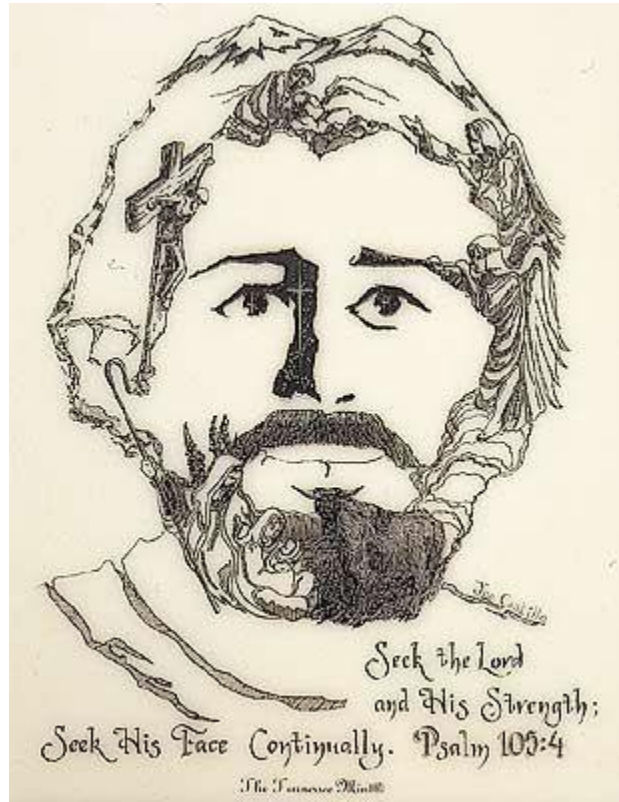
Our veterans being honored on Sunday, November 8th are (pictured) l-r: Joe Courtright, United States Coast Guard, Mike Feeney, United States Army. Jonathan Rush, United States Air Force.



Pastor Jenny, Mandela, and Isaiah blessing the Christmas Child shoeboxes during worship service on November 8th.



The longer you look at this picture of Jesus, the more you will see. Look at the lines the artist drew and you will see scenes from Jesus' life.



THIS CHRISTMAS WE
DON'T
NEED
MORE
STUFF.
WE
NEED
MORE
HEALING,
KINDNESS
AND LOVE BETWEEN
ONE ANOTHER ...

Words to heal the soul



Community Presbyterian Church
December 2020



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

		<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>6</i> Rev. Nichols Adult Bible Study 9:15 Worship 10:30	<i>7</i> AA 8:00 p.m.	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>13</i> Rev. Nichols Adult Bible Study 9:15	<i>14</i> AA 8:00 p.m.	<i>15</i> CPC Women 10:00 a.m.	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i> Home Communion 2:00 pm Session 7:00	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>20</i> Rev. Heinsohn Adult Bible Study 9:15 Worship 10:30	<i>21</i> AA 8:00 p.m.	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i> 	<i>25</i> 	<i>26</i>
<i>27</i> Rev. Heinsohn Adult Bible Study 9:15 Worship 10:30	<i>28</i> AA 8:00 p.m.	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i> 		