

# COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF MT. BETHEL AND PORTLAND

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



Rev. John H. Heinsohn  
Minister of Visitation

June 2022  
Volume 9, Issue 6

The pastor of our neighboring church in the Delaware Water Gap, Rev. Sherry Blackman, has recently published a book entitled, *Tales from the Trail* in which she describes anecdotes from the church's ministry to hikers on the Appalachian Trail. Local hikers are usually day-hikers but during the summer months there are people from all over the world who are on their way to Georgia or Maine and all points in between. The Presbyterian Church of the Delaware Water Gap has maintained a hiker hostel since 1976.

Several years ago, the previous pastor of the church, Rev. Karen Nickels (who died two years ago from Covid) told me that the hiker ministry got started about the same time she started there. Before she was called to the church, the church had gone through a period of decline and morale was low. The Committee of Ministry rep to the church during that interim challenged the church to think about some new ministry outreach. Could these old-time members think of the hikers as more than an inconvenient nuisance who would come off the mountain and mill around their grounds on their way to stores in the town? Granted hardly any of the hikers would ever be active participants in the church, but maybe a deliberate outreach to the hikers could have an energizing effect on the church.

The congregation took on the challenge and with Karen's leadership, the church basement was transformed into a hostel where 'Through' hikers could shower, spend the night, get a meal and rest. Church members agreed to maintain the hostel, including providing clean towels and sheets as well as offering dinners to the hikers. After Karen retired, the church called Sherry in 2014 and she has wholeheartedly embraced this unique ministry. But, to be honest, it is not easy and it has many challenges.

As I read the stories in the book, I wondered what kind of new and unusual ventures our church in Mt. Bethel might undertake. Right now, we have the AA groups, Girl Scouts and a writer's group using our facilities. The Wednesday Soup and Study gatherings draw a good number of people. Occasionally weddings, funeral and family groups use the building, but otherwise, the building is underutilized. More usage would mean more expenses with inconveniences. But all meaningful ministries are going to be challenging.

There are a number of senior citizens living in the Mt. Bethel area. The Deacons currently have a connection to the Clover Nursing Home in Columbia. Could we organize a weekly daytime program for the shut-in elderly? Or maybe, there is another kind of creative outreach(s) that we haven't thought about. I think of knitting groups, clubs of various interests, skills and hobbies.

The Delaware Water Gap Presbyterian Church's experience is a good model for us to think about in our context. Let's ask God for guidance and be open to new visions.

On a different note, The Sunday morning Bible study will resume the study of 1 Corinthians, on 9/11.



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### **Worship Service:**

10:30 a.m.

**Bible Study:** 9:15 am

### **Holy Communion:**

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the Month

### **Session Members:**

Deb Llewellyn  
Laura Bocko  
Lillian Williams  
Cher Mount  
Kevin Correll  
DaraSue Braun

Jonathan Rush – Clerk of Session



Below is the link for Rev. John's account for Zoom Worship on Sunday, June 26th. 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: 819 1681 1413

Passcode: 743486

One tap mobile

+19292056099,,81916811413#,,,,\*743486# US (New York)

+13017158592,,81916811413#,,,,

\*743486# US (Washington D.C)

Dial by your location

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 819 1681 1413

Passcode: 743486

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kcincTFM0>

Rev. Jenny will be using her account for Zoom on June 5th, June 12th and June 19th.

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=NXVwajdXcXAzMXV0cFBsdC8ydjBzd09>

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

# In The News

June 6 —Sharon Potter

June 30—James Potter



Bible Study has concluded for the summer and will resume on Sunday, September 11th , at 9:15 am.



On Sunday, June 5th, the worship committee is hosting the church picnic, that will be held immediately following the worship service in Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited to enjoy a delicious picnic in the comfort of air conditioning.



On Sunday, June 12th , The Women of CPC will be having Blanket Sunday that will benefit Church World Service.



The Women of CPC will be meeting Thursday, June 9th instead of Tuesday June 7th for a Bible study at 10am, Business meeting at 11am, and then lunch at The Stroudsmoor Country Inn.

We will be having baby bottles to fill again this year with change that you find around your house and purses. This campaign is to benefit Bright Hope, a pro-life organization in the Lehigh Valley . The baby bottles will be collected around Father's Day.



The next bake sale at Driftstone Campgrounds will be held on Saturday, July 2nd at 10am. Joan Correll will be at the church at 9:00 am to pick up any baked goods and take it to the campgrounds.

# In The News



Deacon of the is Melanie Thiel



Session will meet on Wednesday, June 15th at 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, June 4th from 9-12. Many hands will make short work!!



Prayerfully—Carole and Henry Deibel, Betty Meixsell, May Nodzak, Olin Cramer, Marcia Pensack, Wendell Harford, Phyllis Boisselle, Ray Fulton, Gus and Rosemary Belverio.

Prayer requests are to be made to  
Laura Bocko, Prayer Chain leader.

Laura's contact info is:

(610) 452-2620 (h)

[laurabocko24@gmail.com](mailto:laurabocko24@gmail.com)

If you would like to participate in the prayer chain,  
please contact Laura.



# Our Family Photo Album

Tea Party—April 30th

Life is like a teacup, to be filled to the brim and enjoyed with friends!



# June 2022

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			1	2	3	4 9-12 Work day
5 Rev. Nichols 10:30—Worship 11:30 Church Picnic	6 AA 8:00 pm	7 AA 8:00 pm	8	9 10:00 CPC Women	10	11
12 <i>Blanket Sunday</i> Rev. Nichols 10:30—Worship	13 AA 8:00 pm	14 <i>Flag Day</i> AA 8:00 pm	15 7:00 Session	16	17	18
19 <i>Father's Day</i> Rev. Nichols 10:30—Worship	20 AA 8:00 pm	21 AA 8:00 pm	22	23	24	25
26 Rev. Heinsohn 10:30—Worship	27 AA 8:00 pm	28 AA 8:00 pm	29	30		