

COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF MT. BETHEL AND PORTLAND

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



Rev. John H. Heinsohn
Minister of Visitation

May 2023
Volume 10, Issue 5

It was encouraging to see our church hosting a number of events during the last two months, as well as seeing a number of visitors at Easter.

The tea party on 4/22 was fun to watch as people, young and old, wore their amazing hats. There were lots of delicious morsels to enjoy even for people who came late, like me!

Regarding the visitors who come to us at worship or any of our other events, it is absolutely imperative that we attempt to establish eye contact and have an engaging smile with everyone. We have several regular visitors on Sunday mornings who are feeling comfortable in our midst. Write down their names so that you can address them by name the next time you meet them. Show interest in their lives and try to make connections with them. A key part of evangelism, discipleship or just loving people certainly begins with friendship.

We have successfully earned enough plastic materials to get an outdoor bench! Big thanks to Heather for heading up this project and also we are grateful to Jim Potter from PUMP for their big contribution to our collection.

Please note the historical research that Jonathan has done on the church bell. It is amazing and heartwarming to read about how much our forbearers have done to benefit future generations.

We will probably need another work day to keep our grounds looking good for the summer- TBA.



1755 S. Delaware Drive

Mt. Bethel, PA 18343

(570) 897-6766

Email: cpcmbp@gmail.com

Website: mtbethelresbyterian.org



Worship Service: 10:30
a.m.

Bible Study: 9:15 am

Holy Communion:

1st Sunday of the Month

Session Members:

Deb Llewellyn

Laura Bocko

Cher Mount

Kevin Correll

DaraSue Braun

Kevin Correll

Jonathan Rush—Clerk of Session



Below is the new link for our Zoom Worship each Sunday.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/8336293018?pwd=TmJoNnF1Zy8ranRjT3RMc0l5c3RiZz09>

Meeting ID: 833 629 3018

Passcode: 074935

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)



Prayer requests are to be made to

Laura Bocko, Prayer Chain leader.

Laura's contact info is:

(610) 452-2620 laurabocko24@gmail.com

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

Prayerfully— Henry Deibel, Betty Meixsell, May Nodzak, Marcia Pensack, Wendell Harford, Jane and David Horn, Michelle Belverio, Sandy DePuy and Phyllis Boisselle.





Sunday morning Bible study continues at 9:15 in the book of Daniel ***which will end in early June.***

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.

The Women of CPC will meet on Tuesday, May 2nd, at 10am in the choir room for a Bible study, followed by a business meeting at 11am, and then at 12 noon, meeting at a local restaurant for lunch. All women are welcome.



Session will meet on Wednesday, May 10 at 7:00 p.m.

We will be having our first bake sale of the summer at Driftstone campgrounds on Saturday, May 27th at 10am. Joan Correll will be at the church at 9:00AM to pick up baked goods and she will take it to Driftstone campgrounds for the bake sale. We thank everyone who contributes for our sale, we could not have it without your generous contributions.



On Sunday, May 28th we will be celebrating Pentecost. Everyone is encourage to wear something red (i.e., tie, pin, dress, shoes or an entire ensemble) to represent flames of fire.

A History of the Mount Bethel / Portland Community Presbyterian Church Bell

Searching the old dusty church record books looking for any documentation regarding the church bell, a prayer was answered in the form of a vintage memo notation dated "Portland Pa, Feb 25, 1892." Mrs. Louise Walker writes: "The Ladies of the Presbyterian Church met at the home of Mrs. Jesse Johnson Thursday afternoon for the purpose of organizing a society to aid in procuring a bell for and other ways improving the church property."

"Eleven ladies were present and a society was organized with the following officers"

Below is a copy of the complete original document:

Portland Pa. Feb. 25. 1892

The Ladies of the Presbyterian Church met at the home of Mrs. Jesse Johnson Thursday afternoon for the purpose of organizing a society to aid in procuring a bell for and other ways improving the church property.

Eleven ladies were present. and a society was organized with the following officers.

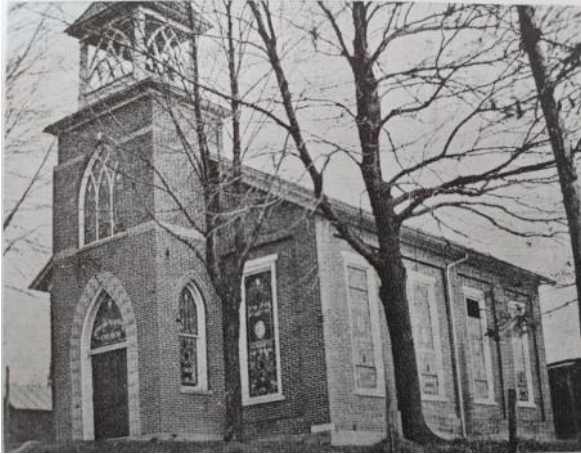
President	Mrs. Jesse Johnson
First Vice President	" Worman
Sec. "	" J. S. Johnson
Secretary	" H. F. Walker
Treas.	" C. H. Cline.

It was decided to hold semi-monthly meetings for a time. Also meetings to be held on the first Wednesday of the month. And members to pay five cents a month adjourned to meet at Mrs. J. S. Johnsons in March.

Louise Walker.
Sec.

50

Church records show that sixteen years later in 1908 a belfry and spire were erected and a steel alloy bell for the tower was purchased from C. S. Bell Co. of Hillsboro, Ohio for \$125.00! Historic photos below.



Portland Church with the new steeple belfry - 1908



Steeple damage after Nov. 25, 1950
Hurricane – bell & wheel are visible

The Upper Mount Bethel and Portland churches merged in 1963 to form the Community Presbyterian Church of Mount Bethel and Portland and four decades after the merger, the Portland church was sold. The bell was removed from the tower and stored for a time at the farm of member Paul Raesly until the new church was completed in 2006. The bell was then moved to the site of the new church on route 611 and now stands on a pedestal in front of the church. The original steel support stand has been refurbished by a team of volunteers.

I believe that the church ladies who met on that cold day in Portland on February 25, 1892 would be happy to see the bell and hear the sweet ring still calling church members to worship 131 years after their first meeting.

Jonathan E. Ruoh

Clerk of Session



Current location and home for the storied church bell in 2023.

Our Family Photo Album

The gathering of the faithful, Easter Sunday Sunrise Service at 6:30 am on April 9th, at the Heinsohn Hill Family Farm.



Morning has
broken.
He has risen!



The service was led by Rev. John Heinsohn with the assistance of 10 great grandchildren of Rev. John's parents. About 50 people attended, many from area churches.

At the conclusion of the service, the faithful gather in a circle and hold hands and pray.

Breakfast foods were served in the farmhouse afterward.



April 22nd, hosted by our deacons. Thank you ! It was a wonderful afternoon spent with old and new friends.



May 2023

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	1	2	3	4 5:15 Girl Scouts	5 	6
7 9:15 Bible Study 10:30 Worship Rev. Nichols	8 8:00 AA	9 10:00 am Presbyterian Women 8:00 AA	10 7:00 pm Session	11	12	13
14 <i>Mothers Day</i> 9:15 Bible Study 10:30 Worship Rev. Heinsohn	15 8:00 AA	16 8:00 AA	17	18 5:15 Girl Scouts	19 HAPPY Anniversary Sharon & Jim Potter	20
21 9:15 Bible Study 10:30 Worship Rev. Nichols 2:00 Writers Grp	22 8:00 AA	23 8:00 AA	24	25	26	27 9:00 Bake Sale Driftstone
28 <i>Pentecost</i> 9:15 Bible Study 10:30 Worship Rev. Nichols	29  8:00 AA	30 8:00 AA	31 <i>Our flag does not fly because the wind moves it...it flies with the last breath of each soldier who died protecting it. Author unknown.</i>			