

STAFF

Rev. Dr. Maurice Smith
Pastor
Terry Smith
Secretary

SESSION MEMBERS

Pat Bicehouse
Cathy Donaldson
Shirley Jenkins
Connie Jewell
Ruth McDowell
Jean Walter

DEACONS

Penny Coulson
Don Elliott
Karen Ohler
Lisa Staph

TRUSTEES

Dick Bicehouse
Kent Bicehouse
Phil Coulter
Brian Jewell

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Thoughts from Pastor Mauri

Communication is the centerpiece of a healthy and functioning congregation. Whenever there is a breakdown, the business and ministry of the church begins to suffer. So it's important to keep everyone in the congregation up to speed on things going on in the family. Therefore, I want to take some time this month to share some thoughts on the state of the congregation in regards to financial giving.



In the last month or two, our treasurer has informed the session that things are tight financially. This relates to our weekly giving, not to the investments that the church has. It has gotten more difficult to see those dollars stretch when a lot of bills come due at the same time. I know it's not easy to talk about money in the church. It makes a lot of folks queasy. But it's important for the health and well being of the congregation.

Did you know that Jesus was not afraid to talk about it? He focuses on stewardship often in the gospels. Let me give you an example. In Mark 12, Jesus was teaching in the temple courts. He was popular with the people, but the religious leaders were out to arrest Him and kill Him. Some were sent to "catch Him in His words," hoping to find some fault they could use against Him. They approached Him with flattering words about integrity and His truthful teaching. Then they posed a question that they hoped would get Him into trouble with the Romans. "Is it right to pay the imperial tax to Caesar or not?" But Jesus

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wasn't about to be trapped. He knew their hypocrisy.

He asked to see one of their coins, and He used it to teach about meeting our obligations to authorities (see also Romans 13), and recognizing that “what is God’s” is a whole lot more. All that there is, is the Lord’s—the “earth...and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it” (Psalm 24:1). That includes you and me and everyone else today, as well as in the past. We’re all God’s.

Thus we are called to give of who we are and what we have to God. It’s stated this way in the ancient confession, the Heidelberg Catechism: “I belong—body and soul—to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ” (Q and A No. 1). And as God’s Word puts it, “Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God” (Romans 12:1). Giving God His due still means honest giving and, even though it’s hard to swallow sometimes, taxpaying.

So I’d like to call on all of you to examine yourselves this month. Are you giving sacrificially to God and the work of His church? Are you able to give more? Please make this a big part of your prayers. God sure gave us His all in His Son Jesus Christ.

Humbly,

Pastor Mauri



Sermon Topics for June

June 2	“The Ascension”	Acts 1:6-11
June 9	“Belong to First Church”	Acts 2:1-21
June 16	“Dad: Masculine Model of Leadership”	I Thess. 2:7-12
June 23	“Close, but No Cigar”	Mark 10: 17-22
June 30	“Does the Bible Teach Calvinism?”	Ephesians 1:3-14

Next Newsletter Deadline is June 16.

Clerk's Corner-Highlights from the May 14 Session Meeting

- On motion, the following Financial Report was approved:

Balance 4-1-19	17,192.93
Receipts	4,521.80
Total	21,714.73
Less Expenses	6,270.16
Checking Account Balance	15,444.57
Funds available for use	1,917.54
- A report on the April 30, 2019 Shenango Presbytery Meeting was given by Connie Jewell. A “Dream Team” report was included detailing the possible merger of Shenango Presbytery and the Beaver Butler Presbytery.
- Session Records Review and Church Registry Review will be May 22, 2019 at Trinity Church.
- A new member class will be held on Saturday, June 8 for 10 people.
- Summer Weiner Roasts and Pot Lucks will be: June 9 at 5:30 preceding the Ellwood City Chorale program; July 27th with possible game night and August 24th with Oldies night.
- Brian Jewell and Phil Coulter were appointed Trustees for the remainder of 2019.
- Church Inventory Committee includes: Don Elliott, Kent Bicehouse, Pat Bicehouse, Cathy Donaldson and Pastor Mauri Smith.
- Session Meetings have been changed to the second Monday of each month, beginning Monday, June 10, 2019 at 9:00 AM.
- Summer Worship will be at 10:00 AM beginning June 2 through September 1. Worship will be at 11:00 AM starting September 8.
- A new Photo Directory will be done August 15-17, 2019.

Submitted by: Connie Jewell

Joys and Concerns

- Remember our shut-ins: Eleanor Sigut (moved to room 311), Betty Swarner & Helene Whitfield
- **Vance Griffin**, at home recovering from surgery.
- **Jean Walter**, in Room 217 at GCMC.
- Our condolences to **Lee & Charlotte McCoy** on the passing of their grandson, Brent McCoy on May 14.
- Congratulations and welcome to **Scott & Alivia Duncan**, who were baptized on May 19 during our worship service.

Upcoming Events

Reminder! ***Summer Worship Schedule*** ***begins June 2***

That means no Sunday School
and services are at 10 am.
Schedule goes through Labor Day.

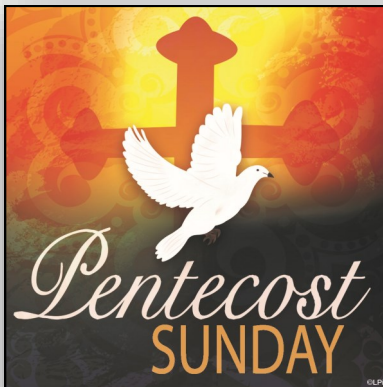
New Member's Class!!

Saturday, June 8

9:30am—2:30pm

Lunch Provided

If you are interested in participating,
contact Pastor Mauri



June 9

Come Celebrate

the Sacrament of Communion

The Ellwood City Area Civic Chorale

65th Year of Concerts



Sunday, June 9, 7:00 PM

**Come for the Wiener Roast at 5:30pm
(bring your favorite dish to share)**

and stay for the concert.

Free -All Welcome!

Special Music Month

Special music on June 2 will be presented by **Madison Liszka**.

Note: Dave & Joyce Steele will be away during their usual 2nd Sunday in June. We thank them for their participation every month and look forward to seeing them back in July.

Keith Stauffer will be returning to provide music during our June 16 worship service. (Many of you heard Keith at our Easter Sunrise Service in the pavilion). If you missed hearing him then, you won't want to miss out on hearing his wonderful voice accompanied by the guitar.

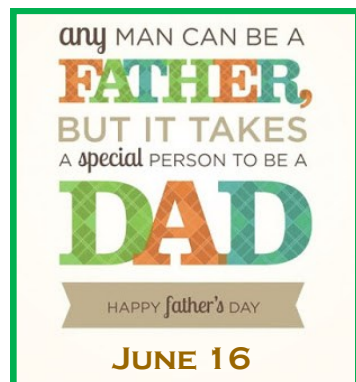
And, on June 23 during the worship service our own **Evelyn Jones** will be singing for us. Be sure to come hear her! We're sure you will be blessed.

GIVE A HOOT FOR HEIDI!



Let's support Mandi Duncan in fulfilling her mother's (Heidi) dream. Heidi Minor wanted to have a team in *2019 for Relay for Life*. Mandi is getting a team together to carry out her mother's dream for the race in July. How can you help? There are water bottles in the back of the Church marked GIVE A HOOT FOR HEIDI. Thank you for showing your support not only for Heidi's dream, but Cancer Research as well. We'll be collecting any extra loose change you have in the water bottles for another month.

Grove City Food Bank & Helping Hands Food Donations for June (we alternate the recipient each month): ketchup, mustard, canned pasta, cake mix, cake frosting, regular & light pancake syrup, pancake mix, cereal, bar soap, bathroom tissue





June 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 10AM SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE BEGINS	3 Adam Minor 7PM: Deacons	4 George & Patti Parker	5 Russ & Mary Beatty	6	7	8 9:30-2:30: New Members Class
9 PENTECOST SUNDAY Communion 5:30pm: Wiener Roast 7pm: Ellwood City Chorale Lonnie & Karen Ohler	10 9am: Session Don & Peggy Elliott	11	12 Connie Jewell	13	14	15
16 Newsletter Deadline .HAPPY. Father's ♥ DAY ♥	17	18 7pm: Trustees	19	20	21 	22
23	24	25	26 Vance & Gay Griffin	27 Brian & Connie Jewell	28 Buck & Cathy Donaldson Jason McGhee	29
30 Lisa Staph						

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When God thinks of you,
love swells in His heart.



CONTACT US

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