



The Friendly News

The First Presbyterian Church of Woodbury Heights September 2018



Dear Friends,

As I mentioned last month, for the next few months I will be focusing on the words of Chapter 4 of Philippians, one of the most practical and important passages Paul ever wrote.

And this month, we turn to one of his most familiar verses – Verse 4. And while it is just nine words, it has more power than many other things he wrote.

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say rejoice.”

You notice he didn't say: “Be happy in the Lord always, and again I say be happy.” For happiness, even though the Declaration of Independence guarantees our right to pursue it, has its foundation in how well things are going in life.

If we are healthy, wealthy, surrounded by good friends and family, have a good job, a comfortable home and all the things we figure we need to get through each day, then we are happy.

Happiness fills our lives, but we all know that happiness doesn't always fulfill our lives. Truth to be told, though we always hope to smell the roses, oftentimes all we smell is the garbage.

We pursue happiness but can't catch it.

Paul knew that -- well. He spent time in prison at the hands of his enemies -- he wrote Philippians in prison. On one occasion, he was stoned in a public square

by his opponents and left for dead.

He had a big argument with his close friend Barnabas, and the two separated, never to work together again.

While on his way to Rome, Paul was shipwrecked off the coast of Malta. And while Acts doesn't quite get this far, tradition says he lost his head, literally, while in Rome.

Oh, and there was violent opposition to his work, both from steadfast Jews and from the Jewish Christians who wanted the Gentile believers to adopt Jewish customs and laws before they could accept Jesus as their savior.

As Paul was writing Philippians, he had in his mind an awareness of all that had happened, was happening and would happen.

He also knew that the Philippian Church was struggling and not succeeding in its struggles. He had real concerns about where the Christians in Philippi would end up.

He likely wasn't clapping his hands, stomping his feet, or shouting “Amen” when someone said: “If you're happy and you know it...”

And yet, Paul had joy, which is different from happiness. Joy is an awareness that even if your circumstances defy being happy, you can still look to the Lord. That even if life is tumbling in and robs you of happiness, you can still turn to the one, the only one, who can help you make sense of your life. That even when all you smell is garbage, you've got the one who gave to the roses their fragrance and He will wave them under your nose.

See PASTOR on Page 2

September birthdays

- 1 – Connie Harley
- 1 – Nicole Good
- 5 – Matthew Geserick, Sr.
- 5 – Rev. Dr. Paul Milio
- 8 – Gary Kuehnappel, Sr.
- 8 – Madeleine Pheasant
- 9 – Adam Lott
- 11 – Joan Mullin
- 12 – Zachary Swanson
- 16 – Garrett Ternowyj
- 17 – Helen Geserick
- 21 – Margaret Schneeman
- 25 – Bryan Bonfiglio
- 23 – Brad Gilmore
- 28 – Rachel Eachus
- 28 – Carol Lex



September anniversaries

- 7 – Donald and Isabelle Ley
- 10 – Walt and Kay Pierson
- 11 – Beth and Clay Cary
- 12 – Joseph and Carol Martino
- 14 – Gary and Diane Kuehnappel
- 18 – Michael and Tracey Urion
- 19 – Jim and Shirley Golding
- 26 – William and Amie Packer

Our summer mission news

Thanks to those who volunteered to help at Cathedral Kitchen in August. It was great to see a few new volunteers, who found it to be very rewarding.

The peanut butter and jelly sandwiches we made Aug. 17 were greatly appreciated. Our next CK date is Oct. 30. Please contact Mary Kay Reynolds if you would like to help out.

“Undie Sunday” was another success. Donations will be given to needy children in Camden through the Seeds of Hope Ministries.

The Crop Walk will be Oct. 14 at Chestnut Branch Park in Mantua. We need walkers to help fight hunger.

Mission Sunday will be on Nov. 11. Cindy Corell, the missionary we sponsor, will talk to us about the work she and others do in Haiti.

Our church will help with Family Promise again soon. Stay tuned!

PLEASE!!
NOTE

News and notes from the pulpit

Get-well wishes to **Arnie Shannon**, who was hospitalized recently; to **Dick Shaw**, who was in the hospital and in physical rehab this summer; to **John Pedicone**, who had a bad fall and broke his right arm; to **Nancy Butler**, who had two outpatient surgeries this past month; to **Dick Love**, who was recently hospitalized; to **Susan Shunk**, who had a bad fall and has a hairline fracture in her right foot; and to **Ammie Davis**, who has a badly herniated disc in her back.

A big thank you to all who filled in on our organ and piano this summer: **Ammie Davis**, **Connie Harley**, **Linda Kershaw**, **Kris Lott** and **Laura Seidelmann**. Also thanks to our special-music soloists/duets artists!

Congratulations to **Kristen** and **Brad Lynch**, on the baptism of infant daughter **Ellie Kate**, and to **Anthony Urion**, our newly ordained and installed youth elder.

PASTOR, continued from Page 1

Happiness is something that happens. Joy is a choice. Paul chose to rejoice despite his unhappy circumstances; he chose to rejoice in what he knew to be truly true about his life. And he told the Philippians to make the same choice.

He knew what was coming for him. He had a good idea of what would be coming for the Philippians (and for us, too, as a matter of fact). But all he could think of was joy – the joy of belonging to God, no matter what, in this world and in the next.

And in case he forgot it, and in case the Philippians forgot it, and in case we forget it (and, oh my, do we!) he said it again: Rejoice!

One of the most beloved Christmas carols is not: “Happiness to the World, the Lord is come.” It’s “*Joy to the World*,” because He DID come, will come again, and is here right now to boot.

And if we choose to believe that, all the things that make us unhappy can fade like the morning dew, even on a rainy day!

Maybe we should all just sing: “If you’re joyful and you know it, clap your hands, stomp your feet, shout Amen, do all three!” That’s more Biblical!

In Christ, John

SEPTEMBER

2018

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.”

-- Proverbs 1:7



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Worship, 10 am	3	4 Esther Circle, 7 pm	5	6 Quilters meet, lounge, 10 am Bell choir practice, 6:45 Sanctuary choir practice, 7:45	7	8 Men's group breakfast, Piston Diner, 8:30 am Church officers' retreat, 9 am
9 Rally Day Sunday School, 9:30 am Worship, 11 am	10 PrimeTimers' picnic, Red Bank Battlefield pavilion, noon	11	12	13 Quilters meet, lounge, 10 am Bell choir practice, 6:45 Sanctuary choir practice, 7:45	14	15
16 Sunday School, 9:30 am Worship, 11 am	17	18 WJ Presbytery meets, Woodbury Presbyterian Church	19 Mission meets, annex, 6:30 pm Session meets, annex, 7:30 pm	20 Quilters meet, lounge, 10 am Bell choir practice, 6:45 Sanctuary choir practice, 7:45	21	22
23 Sunday School, 9:30 am Worship, 11 am	24	25 Deacons meet, annex, 7 pm	26	27 Quilters meet, lounge, 10 am Bell choir practice, 6:45 Sanctuary choir practice, 7:45	28	29
30 Sunday School, 9:30 am Worship, 11 am						

OCTOBER

2018



“You shall observe the Feast of Weeks, the first fruits of wheat harvest, and the Feast of Ingathering at the year's end.”

-- Exodus 34:22

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		Esther Circle meets, 7 pm	Budget committee meets, annex, 7 pm	Quilters meet, lounge, 10 am Bell choir practice, 6:45 pm Sanctuary choir, 7:45 pm		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Sunday School, 9:30 am Worship, 11 am Lunch with Mount Zion 12:15 pm	PrimeTimers travel to Phila. Historical Society, time TBA			Quilters meet, lounge, 10 am Bell choir practice, 6:45 pm Sanctuary choir, 7:45 pm		Men's Group breakfast, Piston Diner, 8:30 am
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Sunday School, 9:30 am Worship, 11 am CROP Walk, Chestnut Branch Park			Mission meets, annex, 6:30 pm Session meets, annex, 7:30 pm	Quilters meet, lounge, 10 am Bell choir practice, 6:45 pm Sanctuary choir, 7:45 pm		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Sunday School, 9:30 am Worship, 11 am Baby Boomers pizza party, 2 pm		Red Cross Blood Drive, Cooper Hall, 2 to 7 pm Deacons meet, annex, 7 pm		Quilters meet, lounge, 10 am Bell choir practice, 6:45 pm Sanctuary choir, 7:45 pm		Trunk or Treat, church parking lot
28	29	30	31			
Sunday School, 9:30 am Worship, 11 am .						



Lancaster, Pa., trip features great lunch, stage show

At 10 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 22, 14 church members left the annex for the Sight and Sound Theater in Lancaster, Pa., in cars driven by Dick Daugherty and Mike Woodrow. Meeting up again at the Dutch Way Restaurant, the group enjoyed an ample buffet lunch in a private room.

Rev. Paul Milio welcomed everyone and asked a blessing before the waitress served us beverages. She was a lovely, young Amish woman with sparkling eyes, a beautiful smile, and she gave us gracious service. The buffet was an invitation to gluttony. The fried chicken, quesadillas, soft-serve ice cream with candy toppings and homemade peach pie topped the list of favorites for our group.



Sight and Sound is a massive and beautiful structure. Our 14 well-fed Presbyterians squeezed together in front of the lion and lamb statue for a group photo before entering and taking their seats.

“Jesus,” the production we were there to see, begins in a fishing village by the Sea of Galilee, where Peter and the sons of Zebedee, James and John, have docked their vessels.

Peter is despondent about the poor fishing and as the “sons of thunder” taunt him, they argue and start a brawl. Then Jesus appears and the conscription of apostles begins.

The show continues through scenes of Jesus performing miracles and interacting with children, family members and figures of authority as the stories of the Bible are re-enacted. The scenery is massive and dynamic. However the violence and realism of a storm at sea was achieved, it was most effective and very dramatic.

Costuming, set design and beautiful music were hallmarks of this production. Live animals, camels, horses, a donkey and a dog were also part of the cast.

The production ends with the crucifixion, resurrection and Jesus ascending to Heaven. It left all in the theater quietly reverent, and Nicodemus appeared center stage to issue an altar-call.

Arriving safely back at the annex, all agreed that the long day was made perfect by beautiful weather, wonderful fellowship, great dining and spiritual renewal.

The Place of Children in Church

From Rev. Shedwick:

One of the concerns raised in our Every Member Visitation was the behavior of children during worship.

Your Session, your Board of Deacons and our Sunday School teachers have discussed this. One of the ways we will deal with encouraging proper behavior will happen on Rally Day as we will guide our children in understanding just what worship is about and how they can be an important part of it.

But there are other ways we can all be a part of the training process. What follows are some thoughts, suggestions and inspirations adapted from a publication of another church, with a few additions from me.

I hope they will give us a better vision of how we can include all of God's children -- no matter how old they are -- in worshiping Him.

From the Bible: "What we have heard and known, what our fathers have told us, we will not hide from our children; we will tell the next generation of the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, His power, and the wonders He has done." (Psalm 78:3-4).

Commentary: We are all called to teach children (not just parents and Sunday School teachers). That is a vow we ALL take when a child is baptized. In a world where family life is segmented and disrupted, we all need to choose to show all our children who God is, what He does, and why we should worship Him.

From the Bible: "Jesus said: Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 22:37-40)

Commentary: Jesus said that of all the 600 laws the Pharisees deemed important, there are the two on which EVERYTHING hangs. Not only do we teach them to our children, we model them. "Do as I do," not just "Do as I say."

From the Bible: "People were bringing their

children to Jesus, but the disciples rebuked them. But He was indignant. 'Let the children come to me and do not hinder them, for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these (Matthew 19:13-14)

Commentary: Jesus spoke to ALL who needed Him, from tax collectors to the disabled to children. All people need His loving touch. And need to worship Him to respond to that love. Children discover the fullness of their relationship with the One who loves them in worship experiences.

From the Bible: "Train a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it." (Proverbs 22:6)

Commentary: Parents train their children in all the daily activities of life. Coaches and teachers train them as well. And those who worship with them do as well by showing them how to worship by our attitude and actions. Children will not grow up to love the Lord just by being in church; they have to see what difference it makes.

From the Bible: "These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up." (Deuteronomy 6:6-7)

Commentary: In other words, parents and church members are to take every opportunity to teach their children what worship means. Have you ever passed the peace to the child sitting near you? Or held a little one's hand while we sing the Benediction? How do we show God's love to a child before worship, after worship, or even if we happen to see a child at the ShopRite during the week? Classroom teachers will tell you that every moment can be a teachable moment. And every opportunity missed might never be restored.

From The Bible: "God is Spirit and His worshippers must worship Him in spirit and in truth." (John 4:24)

Commentary: We may think that children won't "get" a lot from worship. Segments within worship services are not on a child's level of understanding. But they can understand, even at an early age, that the sanctuary is a place where they belong, where they are welcome, where they are loved. And isn't that one of the most important things we want to teach our children?

See CHILDREN on Page 7

American Red Cross Blood Drive

Give blood. Help save lives

Where: Cooper Hall (use Fourth Street entrance)
First Presbyterian Church
335 Elm Ave., Woodbury Heights, N.J. 08097

When: 2 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 23

Please note: As a thank you for giving blood this October, you will be automatically entered to win one of five \$500 gift cards redeemable at hundreds of merchants! **See** www.rcblood.org/goal **for more details.**

Appointments: They are preferred. Call 1-800-REDCROSS or make an appointment online at: www.redcrossblood.org and use sponsor code: **First Presbyterian Woodbury Heights**

Save time: Visit www.redcrossblood.org/rapidpass on Oct. 23.

Ask about Power Red donations:



*Area hospital patients are counting on you!
Don't forget to HYDRATE and please remember your ID.*

Try Tai Chi at Cooper Hall starting Sept. 24

A program called Tai Chi for Healthy Living will be offered free of charge from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. inside Cooper Hall, starting Sept. 24.

The program, led by Ralph Quinn, will be offered for eight consecutive Mondays

Tai Chi is perfect for adults of all abilities and ages. Feel free to invite your friends and neighbors to join, too.

Those who want to participate are asked to register in advance by calling the church office between 9 a.m. and noon Tuesday through Friday.

For more information, check with church member Peg Schoen

CHILDREN, from Page 6.

From the Bible: "The disciples asked: 'Who is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven?' Jesus brought a child to Him and said: "Unless you become like little children, you will never enter the Kingdom of God.

Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of Heaven. And whoever welcomes this little child in My Name welcomes me." (Matthew 18:1-5)

Commentary: Could it be any clearer than that?

(Adapted from a publication of the Tallowood Baptist Church in Houston, Texas.)

A lesson about 'Jesus Loves Me'

Smiles abound whenever we hear our children raise their voices to sing "Jesus Loves Me." Chances are good this was one of your earliest lessons in Christian theology!

It remains one of the most popular Sunday School songs ever written. In fact, it was the theme song for the Sunday School Movement in the 1860s.

Anna Bartlett Warner (1877-1915) was one of two Presbyterian sisters who taught a Bible class for the young men attending West Point. Both sisters were successful authors of popular sentimentalized stories of Christian piety.

Susan Warner knew of a child who was terminally ill and came to her sister requesting that she write a song to encourage the boy. The lyrics had originally been published in 1862 in one of Anna Warner's first novels, "Say and Seal."

William B. Bradbury added two verses and a refrain when he composed the music that we still sing today.



Church member Nancy Butler presided over a three-part Conversation on Race summer series we sponsored.

Photo by Denise Pitchford

Join the Dinner for 6 fun, sign up soon in narthex

Do you enjoy good food, interesting and fun conversation and a night out? If so, you might be interested in signing up for the revival of our church’s Dinner for Six program.

Our scheduled start date for Dinner for Six is Saturday, Oct. 13. A sign-up sheet will be posted in the narthex on Sept. 9, 16 and 23.

When sign-ups are complete, a letter will be sent to each participant indicating who the host/hostess will be and what type of dish is to be contributed by each couple or individual. Single people as well as married couples are welcome to participate.

Many special friendships have developed because of these gatherings. We share experiences, tell stories and create our own memories that we will cherish as we look back on the good times, conversation and fellowship we have shared.

If you have questions, contact Dinner for Six coordinator Carol Martino at (856) 848-7221.

If you want to be a host or hostess, please indicate whether you would like to have six or eight guests at your home when you sign up. Please remember: Any two people make a couple, so grab a friend sign up.

Here are the ways you can financially support our church

**By Dick Daugherty
Church Financial Secretary**

This is what you need to know about the methods your Session has made available to you for donating to our church:

Electronic Funds Transfer via the Presbyterian Foundation: There is no setup or monthly fee, so getting started is free. However, the foundation takes a 2% administration fee from all gifts to cover reasonable and customary costs of operation and to help ensure the continued viability of the program and its services.

The foundation also holds the contributions until the first of the following month, which forces us to wait for your contribution – and that could affect our cash flow.

Bank checks: If you have a checking account at a bank, you can arrange through a “Bill Pay” or some other outlet to have the bank cut a check and mail it to the church.

You must arrange how often checks will be sent and for how much. The bank will do the rest at no charge to the you or the church. Once the check is received, it is recorded with the next offering and deposited the next business day.

Offering envelopes: They’ve been used for decades, and they physically show which weeks donations were made and which were missed and need to be made up.

Your offering envelope box includes envelopes for each week’s donation as well as envelopes for the Capital Fund, the Per Capita Fund, the Deacons Fund, etc.

The church pays a nominal sum annually to provide every member, couple or family an envelope box.

The Stewardship Committee and Session have given you the ability to choose how to donate. Use it wisely and most economically for the church.

God Bless.