

The Pipe Line

Beckley Presbyterian Church
203 S Kanawha Street
Beckley, WV 25801
304-252-6289

Email: office@beckleypres.org
Website: beckleypres.org
www.facebook.com/BPC.PCUSA.WV



September 30, 2020

FROM THE PASTOR

When I was five and six and seven and eight, we lived in Europe where my father served in the Air Force. We had nice comfortable homes. My twin sister and I started kindergarten in Belgium, in a local school, where we were the only children who spoke English. We were fluent in Dutch then, although now I cannot remember any of it, which is sad. In the middle of those years, we returned for a brief time to Myrtle Beach Air Force Base, while Dad was stationed in Libya, where his family was not allowed to go. I remember Mema, my mother's mother, visiting us in Myrtle Beach, and then we were back overseas in Spain. I remember visits to my parent's hometown of Hickory, North Carolina.

Parts of four years might not seem that long to us now, but when you are eight years old, it's half your life.

We didn't have a TV overseas, and there are some cultural milestones I did not grow up with, things that other people my age might remember. Although when we were in South Carolina, I had the great privilege of encountering Batman, who is much better than Superman, because Kryptonite is the only thing that can really hurt Superman, and that gets boring. Meanwhile, Batman and Robin are tied to a conveyor belt leading to a buzz saw and you won't find out what happens until next week, same Bat-time, same Bat-channel.

We were in the States long enough for me to develop a deep affection for Mema, and for Dad's parents, Grandpa and Susie, who lived down a dirt road in Hickory. I remember lying down in the back seat of our car and looking up in the starry sky and seeing the four tall red lights of the WHKY radio station towers, and then crossing the railroad tracks and turning down the dirt road to Grandpa and Susie's house, then going past the radio towers again the other way to see Mema, who lived along a dirt road off Sweetwater Road.

When we were overseas, I felt terribly homesick for the cozy, loving worlds by the sides of those two little dirt roads. I remember thinking about Mema and Grandpa and Susie, and missing them. We didn't have Skype or Zoom or email. But every so often we'd get letters and sometimes a package from home, with gifts. I especially remember the special treat of a cassette tape. My uncle Billy would have recorded a message, and then the rest of them would say something and I wish I could remember what they said, but what I remember more than anything was hearing the sound of their voices and remembering how they loved me and I loved them.

It wasn't an ideal way to be with our loved ones, but I felt loved and I cherish those memories.

We're going to celebrate Communion this Sunday as part of World Communion Sunday. It'll be different than we've ever done it before. At the start of the pandemic, it seemed like a bad idea to celebrate communion online, rather than in person, but if this is not ideal, it is a way to be with our beloved community, and to

feel love, to remember Jesus. Perhaps we will create a time that we will one day look back on and cherish, thinking we did the best we could in a difficult situation. We are taking advantage of technology to have an opportunity to worship, and one of the ways we can weather this pandemic is to look for new approaches to follow Jesus in real and meaningful ways. The terrible things that happen are most often far away to other people in other countries and now we are the ones in the midst of crisis, and perhaps our hearts are turned a bit from selfishness and self-centeredness, to seeing the reality of the suffering of our brothers and sisters and responding in love and compassion. Perhaps we can also become more attuned to how our neighbors have suffered as well, in ways we may or may not realize.

Each time we celebrate communion is like a message from home, a voice speaking to us in love and compassion, reminding us that as we remember, we are not alone and Jesus has never forgotten us. The voice of Jesus speaks to us across time and distance and tells us he is with us. The voice of Jesus speaks to us and tells us he prays for us. In the loaf and in the cup, in the scripture, in the prayers, in the silence of our hearts, in the joy of community, we hear the voice of Jesus and we remember.

God bless you!
Monte



WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

We will celebrate Communion as part of our online worship at 11 a.m. this **Sunday, October 4th**, which is World Communion Sunday. Please prepare something to eat and drink, perhaps juice and a cracker or piece of bread, so that you can take part in Communion.



SESSION MEETING

The Session met this week and voted unanimously to continue our online worship at least through October. Please continue to participate in our worship on Facebook live at 11 a.m. Sundays. The worship service will then be posted to Facebook and to YouTube. You can also hear it on the radio at 7 p.m. Sundays on WJLS 99.5 FM.

We will also continue to post Time with Children and other videos throughout the week. Thank you to all who contribute your time and talents to make it possible to continue our worship and teachings during this time.



OFFICER ELECTIONS

Officer elections will be held in October, as expected, but because we will not worship in person the election will be conducted by mail. Your nominations have been received. The Committee will make sure each person nominated agrees to serve. The final slate of candidates will be sent to you by letter, and you may vote by return mail. The deadline for voting will be indicated in the letter.



Per capita is a set amount of money (apportionment) per member that Presbyterians have paid for over 150 years to mutually share the costs associated with coordinating the operational and ecclesiastical functions of our General Assembly, Presbyteries, and Synods. In 2020, our Presbytery of WV Per Capita rate is **\$30.00 per (active, confirmed) member.**

While the cost for each of us individually is minimal, the total impact on the church budget is substantial. **If you feel you can assist with this expense for the current year,** please make your checks payable to Beckley Presbyterian Church, with the notation, "Per Capita," on the memo line. Contributions can be received at any time during the year.

YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED

ELDERS ON CALL

Sept 27-Oct 3

Marie Lewis and Billy Richmond

Oct 4-10

Nancy Kissinger & Ross Hageman

Oct 11-17

Al Combs & Nancy Cameron

Oct 18-24

Betsy Gilmer

Oct 25-31

Marie Lewis & Billy Richmond



MEMORIAL GIFT FUND

We are grateful for the following Memorial Gifts:

--In Memory of Leslie Cox: by Ms. Marlene Blankenship

--In Memory of Cheryl McGill: by Mr. & Mrs. John Walker, Mr. & Mrs. Ross Hageman.

BAF-Sharpenburg Fund

--In Memory of Lannie Gillenwater: by Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Bays.

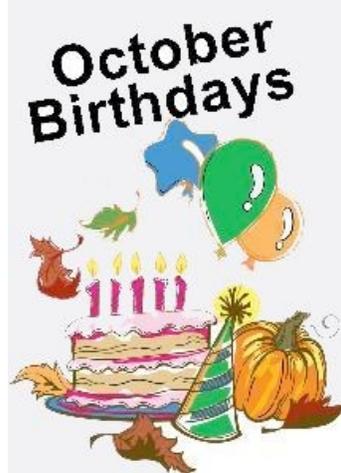


Beckley Presbyterian Church
203 South Kanawha Street
Beckley, WV 25801



Return Service Requested

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Beckley, WV
Permit No. 114



- 01 Helen Trader
- 02 Jacob Morris
- 04 Mikaela Otte
- 06 Todd Scott
- 08 Clyde A. Smith, Jr.
- 08 Al Combs
- 12 Jessica Aubrey
- 12 Jeff Harris
- 13 Bill Bailey
- 16 Helen Walker
- 25 Sam Yurick
- 28 Nancy Tieche

LECTIONARY READINGS

October 4

World Communion Sunday
Peace & Global Witness
Exod. 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20;
Ps. 19; Phil. 3:4b-14;
Matt. 21:33-46

October 18

Exod. 33:12-23; Ps. 99;
1 Thess. 1:1-10;
Matt. 22:15-22

October 11

Exod. 32:1-14; Ps. 106:1
-6, 19-23; Phil. 4:1-9;
Matt. 22:1-14

October 25

Reformation Sunday
Deut. 34:1-12;
Ps. 90:1-6, 13-17;
1 Thess. 2:1-8;
Matt. 22:34-46

NURTURING FAITH IDEAS

October 4: Read Exodus 20:1-20 This section of Exodus contains the 10 Commandments that God gave to Moses. They are rules that help us to live in relationship with God and with each other. Because these commandments were given to an ancient people, some of the words might not mean the same thing to us today. Rewrite the commandments in more modern words that make sense for us in 2020.

October 11: Read Philippians 4:1-9 The apostle Paul urges people to be joyful. Isn't it a little odd to urge people to be joyful? The next time you are at worship at your church, consider the ways that joy is shown. Is your worship joyful? Why or why not? We should always be filled with joy, especially when we remember that we are children of God.



October 18: Read Matthew 22:15-22 The people asked Jesus, "Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor or not?" The passage reminds us of the differences that exist for us as citizens of the world and as citizens of heaven. We must maintain our identity as Christians while still following the laws enacted by our government, but sometimes, what the government says is not very Christian. What do you do when you disagree with the government because it doesn't seem like something with which Jesus would agree?

October 25: Read Matthew 22:34-46 A lawyer asked Jesus, "Which commandment in the law is the greatest?" Jesus said there are only two commandments: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind," and "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." What are ways that you follow these commandments?