

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN NEWS

Rev. Alan T. Jeffries, Minister, First Presbyterian Church
P.O. Box 472, 1000 Third Street, Moundsville, WV 26041 Phone (845-7155)
COME AND WORSHIP WITH US EACH SUNDAY
Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. Morning Worship at 10:45 a.m.

MAY 2024

Time To Rejoice

Open the windows and let the sun in.
Oh, listen how sweet the birds sing;
The bond of winter has broken away,
It's time to rejoice and greet spring.

Hillsides are lovely in green once again,
And blossoms appear on the trees.
Flowers are waking aroused by spring's kiss,
And lilac scent drifts on the breeze.

Earth now is bursting with joy and rebirth.
Oh, how can a soul fail to sing!
After life's winter comes heart-peace and hope-
All part of God's promise called spring.

--Beverly J. Anderson

National Day of Prayer

(Thursday, May 2, 2024)

The first Thursday of May each year is designated as a day for the people of our country to pray. Yes, there is separation of state and church in America, but religious people in our nation would never vote for the separation of America from God. This country surely will always remain, "one nation under God." Therefore we are right to set aside a day for national prayer – a day when we can beseech God's guidance regarding our nation's policies and actions, and pray for the general welfare of all citizens, especially for the helpless and those suffering injustices.

Please join us, for a brief service at 12:00 noon, as we observe the National Day of Prayer on Thursday, May 2. The observance will be held at the Marshall County Courthouse near the All Wars Memorial Area. "*Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord*" (Psalm 33:12)

Opus Spring Concert

Opus Music Club will be holding their annual Spring Concert on Sunday, May 5 at 2:00p.m. at the First Christian Church. Chuck Morrow is the director with Denise Freeland as accompanist.

The Ascension of Christ

On Thursday, May 9, 2024, many denominations will observe the Ascension of Christ. The day focuses on the account given in Acts 1:6-11. In that passage we read that Christ told his friends that they would be receiving the Holy Spirit and the experience would give them the power to be his witnesses. Afterward, he was "lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight" (Acts 1:9, NRSV).

There are several lessons we can draw from this event:

1. The risen Christ is not with us physically, but wherever we are, Christ's Spirit is present as our guide and strength.
2. Christ is an intercessor on our behalf before God (Hebrews 7:25).
3. The Resurrection and the Ascension are conclusive proof that Jesus is Lord and King. He has defeated sin and death, and lives forever as our companion, supporter, friend and Savior.

Mother's Day

(Sunday, May 12, 2024)

A mother's prayer

Make me a wise mother, O Lord. Keep me calm and give me patience to bear the small, irritating things in the daily routine of life. Give me tolerance and understanding to bridge the gulf between my generation and that of my children.

Let me not be too ready to guide my children's stumbling feet, but allow me to be ever near to bind their bruises. Give me a sense of humor that I may laugh with them but never at them. Let me refrain from preaching with words.

Keep me from forcing their confidences, but give me a sympathetic ear when my children come to me. Make me humble. Keep my children close to me, O Lord, though miles may separate us. And let your light so shine upon me that they, too, will perceive your glory. Amen.

St. Philip Episcopal Church, Rochester, MN

Presbyterian Women Birthday Offering

The Presbyterian Women's Birthday Offering will be collected during the worship service on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 12.

Deacons Meeting

There will be no Deacons meeting on Sun., May 12.

Election Day

(Tuesday, May 14, 2024)

Day of Pentecost

(Sunday, May 19, 2024)

The Presence and Power of the Spirit

On the day of Pentecost, seven weeks after the resurrection of Jesus, the Holy Spirit was poured out upon those followers of Jesus who had gathered together in Jerusalem. What happened on the first Pentecost continues to happen to Christians throughout the world today, though usually not in such a dramatic fashion. We rarely get a heavenly wind and tongues of fire anymore. Nevertheless, God pours out the Spirit upon all who put their faith in Jesus Christ and become his disciples (Roman 8:11-11).

Christians are meant to live in the presence and power of the Spirit of God. The Holy Spirit helps us to confess Jesus as Lord (Cor.12:3), empowers us to serve God with supernatural power (1 Cor. 12:4-11), binds us together as the body of Christ (cor.12:12-13), helps us to pray (Rom. 8:26), and even intercedes for us with God the Father (Rom. 8:27). The Spirit guides us (Gal. 5:25), helping us to live like Jesus (Gal. 5:22-23).

Holy Communion

Holy Communion (Day of Pentecost) will be celebrated on Sunday, May 19, 2024. The Elders serving will be Jane McNinch, Bill Groft, Sharon Burke, and John Harler.

Session Meeting

The Session will meet following worship on Sunday, May 19.

Trinity Sunday

(Sunday, May 26, 2024)



Memorial Day Service

There will be a Memorial Day Service in honor of those who laid down their lives for our country's freedom at the Marshall County Courthouse All Wars Memorial on Monday, May 27 at 11:00. The church office will be closed on Monday, May 27 in observance of Memorial Day.

Memorial Day

On this Memorial Day weekend, let us think about the countless sacrifices that American soldiers have made throughout the years, many of them giving their lives.

The moon gives you light,
And the bugles and the drums give you music,
And my heart, O my soldiers, my veterans,
My heart gives you love.

[from Dirge for Two Veterans by Walt Whitman]

WHO OTHER THAN A MOTHER

Who other than a mother...

...knows what the world looks like at 2AM, 3AM, 4AM... and feels like she will never again get a full night's sleep.

Who other than a mother...

is able to carry a diaper bag, stuffed animal, shopping bag, purse, baby and keys (all in one arm), while keeping the other hand available to unlock the car, open doors, or hold hands with another child.

Who other than a mother...

... can eat peanut butter & jelly for several days in a row, counts fruit snacks as a fruit, and thinks McDonalds (with a play land) is one of the best restaurants in town.

Who other than a mother...

...never goes to sleep at night until each child is checked on, covered up, and kissed.

Who other than a mother...

...can get herself and two children up, dressed, and out the door, in the same amount of time that it takes her husband to get himself ready.

Who other than a mother...

...is most likely driving a vehicle that is decorated with a car seat or two, empty juice boxes, fruit snack wrappers, a variety of toys and books, and several stale french fries.

Who other than a mother...

...can spend her evening playing Hi-Ho Cherrio, watching a "Thomas the Train" video or reading "Go Do Go" and know it was time well spent.

Who other than a mother...

...tears up when her 3 year old, who notices her new lipstick, stops dead in his tracks and says, "Oh Mommy, you look BEA-U-TI-FUL"!

Who other than a mother...

...with endless chores of dishes, laundry, and picking up toys, will stop in the middle of these tasks when she hears, "Mommy, come see this!" or "Mommy, will you play with me?"

Who other than a mother...

...can remember the exact moment her baby smiled for the first time, took her first steps or finally said "Ma-Ma", when she's been saying "Da-Da" for months.

Who other than a mother...

...will worry constantly and pray consistently for her children, and know that the most important thing that she can do for her children is to teach them about God and how much He loves them.

Beth Gustafson

A Mother Is Springtime

You are the music in the songs
That nature sings to earth;
You are the pattern of the stars,
The miracle of birth.

You are the wonder of the sky,
The enchantment of the sea.
You are the purity of air,
The calmness of lea.

You are the magic of the night,
The glory of the day;
You are the mystery of time
That all of life conveys.

You are the freshness of the rain
That falls in early May,
The perfection of the rainbow
That shines in array.

You are the beauty of the spring,

The hyacinth's perfume,
The fragrant honeysuckle;
You are the rose in bloom.

You are the summer's gently breeze,
The bright sunrise at dawn,
The melody of singing birds,
The softness of the fawn.

You are the grandeur of the forest,
The stature of the trees,
The fairness of the lilies,
The honey from the bees.

You are richness of the hue
In autumn's golden glow'
You are the warmth in winter,
The whiteness of the snow.

You're all of life combined in one
In your charming, queenly ways.
Your life bespeaks the gift of love
To all who share your days.

Mary Pitchford Barnes

A Prayer In Spring

Oh, give us pleasure in the flowers today;
And give us not to think so far away
As the uncertain harvest; keep us here
all simply in the springing of the year.

Oh, give us pleasure in the orchard white,
Like nothing else by day, like ghosts by might;
And make us happy in the happy bees,
The swarm dilating round the perfect trees.

And make us happy in the darting bird
That suddenly above the bees are heard,
The meteor that thrusts with needle bill,
And off a blossom in mid-air stands still.

For this is love and nothing else is love,
The which it is reserved for God above
To sanctify to what far ends He will,
But which it only needs that we fulfill.

By Robert Frost

Endowment Meeting

The Endowment committee will meet on Sunday,
May 26 after church service.