

PENNSBURG UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

775 Main Street
Pennsburg, PA 18073



Address Service Requested

DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE EXPEDITE

To our Members & Friends

May
2019

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Pastor: Rev. Matthew Gorkos

Consistory Officers:

President Scott Mest
Vice President Donna Falk
Treasurer Sharon Burns
Secretary Wendy Smedley

Director of Music: Audrey Reinhart

Custodian: Lynn Sturdevant

Administrative Assistant: Jane MacNeill

Groundskeeper: Larry Hoff

Inside This Issue:

Page 2 Pastor's Page
Page 3 Pastor's Page continued
Page 4 Film Group
Page 5 "Image of God" sessions, community meal
Page 6 Attendance & Offering, birthday, anniversaries
Page 7 Volunteers, Geranium order
Page 8 May Calendar
Insert-We need your feedback!

Pennsburg U.C.C.

9:00 AM, Sunday School
10:15 AM, Morning Worship

Our Mission Statement:

*We are a welcoming
congregation that celebrates and
shares God's unconditional love
with each other,
the community and the world.*



News
From
The
Pews
May
2019

Pennsburg United Church Of Christ

775 Main Street, Pennsburg, PA 18073

215-679-7513

Rev. Matthew Gorkos, Pastor

www.pennsburgucc.org pennsburgucc@gmail.com

It should be against the law for a pastor to have to write a newsletter article the week after Easter. I simply don't have any words left.

So, I need your help. I need you to provide some words. Fill in the blanks below, and then **turn the page to fill your words into the story.**

Person's name _____
Valuable thing _____
Verb _____
Verb _____
Adjective _____
City _____
City _____
A basic need _____
Trustworthy person _____
Respectable person _____
Disliked person _____
Vehicle _____
Place _____
Number _____
Person at the place _____

Just then ____ (person's name) ____ stood up with a question to test Jesus. "Teacher, what do I need to do to get ____ (valuable thing) ____?"

He answered, "What's written in God's Law? How do you interpret it?"

He said, "That you ____ (verb) ____ the Lord your God with all your heart and soul and might and mind—and that you ____ (verb) ____ your neighbor as well as you do yourself."

"____ (adjective) ____ answer!" said Jesus. "Do it and you'll live."

Looking for a loophole, he asked, "And just how would you define 'neighbor'?"

Jesus answered by telling a story. "There was once a man traveling from ____ (city) ____ to ____ (city) _____. On the way he was attacked by robbers. They took his ____ (basic need) ____, beat him up, and went off leaving him half-dead.

Luckily, a ____ (important person) ____ was on his way down the same road, but when he saw him he angled across to the other side. Then a ____ (respected person) ____ showed up; he also avoided the injured man.

A ____ (unlikeable person) ____ traveling the road came on him. When he saw the man's condition, his heart went out to him. He gave him first aid, disinfecting and bandaging his wounds. Then he lifted him onto his ____ (vehicle) ____, led him to an ____ (place) ____, and made him comfortable. In the morning he took out ____ (number) ____ dollars and gave it to the ____ (person at the place) ____, saying, "Take good care of him. If it costs any more, put it on my bill—I'll pay you on my way back."

"What do you think? Which of the three became a neighbor to the man attacked by robbers?"

"The one who treated him kindly," the questioner responded.

Jesus said, "Go and do the same."...

The Parable of the Good Samaritan can often be powerful when we use our own words and today's social circumstances to tell the story - when priests and Levites become pastors and politicians or royalty and police (or whatever well-liked people you came up with) and the Samaritan becomes an ex-convict or Muslim or a politician. Yet, no matter what labels or words we put in the blanks, Jesus' conclusion remains the same, the one who did kindly is the neighbor and we are called to do the same.

I think Jesus' challenge hits us in two ways:

1) Are we kind neighbors to everyone around us? Or, are we selective neighbors? Are we kinder to people who are like us and whom we like? Or, do we extend the same level of kindness to our enemy as to our best friend?

2) Are we willing to acknowledge the kindness of others and call them our neighbors, even if they are different than us? Do we define true kindness by beliefs or by actions? Can someone who believes differently than us but acts kindly still be our neighbor?

In our world, today, we have neighbors next door and neighbors on the other side of the globe. How we show kindness and how we act as good neighbors depends upon how broadly we define the two. My hope is that we might widen our vision so that it matches the wideness of God's grace and love.

Peace,
Pastor Matt

Paperless Newsletter

In an effort to be better stewards of our church's resources (and our planet's), we will be trying to cut back on the amount of paper newsletters we mail each month. We currently send an email version, and we will begin posting a digital version on our church website. If you are able to access either of those options, please do so. If you are unable to access those options and want to continue receiving a paper copy, you **must** notify the church office. As of the September newsletter, we will only be mailing paper copies to those who have requested them specifically.

Film Group

After finishing out our spring schedule in May, we will be again having two showings per month during the summer. Each month movies will share some sort of connecting theme which will enable us to discuss the movies individually and in connection to one another.

- Friday, May 24th - *The Field of Dreams* (PG) - It's not heaven - just Iowa. Just in time for baseball season and Pentecost: a movie that will get you talking about what the call of God sounds like.
- June - **"Authors of Faith"**
- Friday, June 14th - *Blue Like Jazz* (PG-13) - Based on an autobiographical memoir by Donald Miller about a kid who grows up in the Bible Belt then attends a racially liberal college that tests everything he thinks he knows about himself and his faith.
- Friday, June 28th - *Shadowlands* (PG) - Heart-wrenching story of prolific author C.S. Lewis and his wife Joy Davidman. Anthony Hopkins is magnificent as the famous writer in capturing the depth and humanity of his love and grief.
- July - **"Jim Carrey"**
- Friday, July 12th - *The Truman Show* (PG) - Truman Burbank's whole life is an elaborate reality TV show, and everyone knows it but him...until now. Carrey is brilliant in a story that raises all sorts of questions about human free will and God's omnipotence.
- Friday, July 26th - *Bruce Almighty* (PG) - Speaking of free will and omnipotence, in this role, Carrey gets a turn with all the power of God. Hilarity ensues; humility is learned.
- August - **"Cormac McCarthy"**
- Friday, August 9th - *No Country for Old Men* (R) - An Oscar-winning masterpiece from the Coen Brothers based on McCarthy's novel which forces us to reflect on the insidious, senseless evil that seems to plague our world and our powerlessness to stop it.
- Friday, August 23rd - *The Road* (R) - McCarthy's Pulitzer-winning novel about a father and son journeying through a post-apocalyptic wasteland and about the faith that even in the direst of circumstances, goodness might survive. All showings begin at 6 PM in Miller Hall (unless otherwise noted). Bring your own popcorn!



The Image of God

The last session will be held on June 2 as Pastor Matt leads us in the weekly teaching series on how a robust theology of the *Imago Dei* can help us navigate controversial subjects with grace and respect for others. **Sessions will be held after worship and include a light lunch.**

The schedule is as follows:

June 2nd - Wrap-up and Next Steps (if necessary)

Direct any questions to Pastor Matt.



Make Music Upper Perk –

For the 7th year in a row, the sounds of music will reverberate throughout the **Upper Perkiomen Valley on June 21st**. Starting at 9 a.m. and going till 10 p.m., music lovers can find something happening somewhere in the Valley all day long, between Sumneytown and East Greenville. You can hear musicians of all ages, music of all styles, amateurs and professionals, all kinds of instruments. It is a fun day in the community, celebrating music and the beginning of summer! Once again, Pennsburg UCC will be one of 20 venues hosting musical acts in the late afternoon and through the evening campfire. For more details, watch the Town and Country or pick up a schedule at the Upper Perkiomen Library, M&J Gourmet, local churches, and other community locations. You can also go on line at ValleyArtScene.wordpress.com. Put June 21st on your calendar today and gather your friends to make a day of enjoying the music; All Day! All Free! All Over!



ATTENDANCE & OFFERING REPORT

March/April 2019 to date

	Amount Received	Amount Received	Attendance
<u>Date</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	
March 31	1,354.06	2,869.00 (Easter)	38
April 7	821.00	657.00	40
April 14(Palm Sunday)	1,123.00	606.00	53
April 18 (Maundy Thurs.)	388.00	316.99	37
April 21 (Easter) 7am	210.00	No early service	14
(Easter) 10:15 am	3,091.50	1,345.00	110
Total	\$ 6,987.56	\$ 5,793.99	Avg. 48



Birthdays

5/2: Colby Weller
 5/3: Peggy Schwenk
 5/4: Devan Schmoyer
 5/10: Adalynn Conrad
 5/16: Joyce Hess
 5/17: Glenn Beard, Zachary Kern
 5/20: Victoria Mest, Rodney Miller
 5/23: Kathleen Badman, Aliviyah Conrad
 5/24: Shirley Diehl
 5/25: Lori Kern, Debra Royer
 5/26: Barbara Ettinger, Travis Harwick
 5/29: Samantha Beard, Isaac Royer

Anniversaries

5/5: John & Sherry Haas (29)
 5/22: Irvin & Holly Lash (20)
 5/24: Daryl & Kellie Mensch (16)

GREETERS

Christine Henry, Ginny Wisler, Jessica Huff, Hallie Huff

OFFERING STEWARDS

5/5: Irv & Holly Lash & Tom & Mary Jane May

5/12: Children & Youth

5/19: Bill Kurz, Cliff Lauchnor, Scott Mest, Aidan Lash

5/26: Frank & Donna Falk, Lori Kern, Sharon Burns

ACOLYTE

5/5: Chase Henry

5/12: Ezra Gorkos

5/19: Morgan Dwornik

5.26: Madison Dwornik

NURSERY

5/5: Jane Bernhard & Christine Henry

5/12: Jessica Huff & Huff Youth

5/19: Jane Bernhard & Baylee Cleaver

5/26: Holly Lash & Jana Butler

RED GERANIUM ORDER FORM - 2019

It is once again time to order red geraniums
which add so much color and beauty
to our sanctuary on **Pentecost Sunday, June 9th**.

The deadline for placing your order is Sunday, June 2th

Please fill out the order form below and return it, along with your payment, to any member of the Worship Committee: Tom & Mary Jane May, Ginger Witman, Kathy Badman, Candi Tornetta, Sharon Burns.

_____ **red geranium \$4.00**
_____ Total Enclosed


Presented by:_____

In Memory of:_____

In Honor of:_____

Please make checks payable to Pennsburg UCC

May 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 7PM Choir rehearsal	2 8am-noon Office hours	3 8am-noon Office hours	4
5 9am-Sunday School 10:15am Worship "Image of God" session after worship	6 6PM-1 st Monday Meal (PUCC serving)	7 8am-noon Office Hours 7pm Worship Committee	8 7PM Choir rehearsal	9 8am-noon Office Hours	10 8am-noon Office Hours	11
12 9am-Sunday School 10:15am Worship (No "Image of God" session today)  HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY	13 6:30 pm Executive Mtg.	14 8am-noon Office Hours	15 7PM Choir rehearsal	16 8am-noon Office Hours	17 8am-noon Office Hours	18
19 9am Sunday school 10:15am Worship "Image of God" session after worship	20 6:30 pm Consistory mtg.	21 8am-noon Office Hours	22 7PM Choir Rehearsal Iron Pigs game	23 8am-noon Office Hours	24 8am-noon Office Hours 6pm-Movie "The Field of Dreams"	25
26 9am Sunday School 10:15am Worship "Image of God" session	27 Memorial Day	28 8am-noon Office Hours	29 7PM Choir rehearsal	30 8am-noon Office Hours	31 8am-noon Office hours	

