

Holly Presbyterian Church Connections **July/August Summer 2021 Newsletter** **Volume 21 Issue 7**



Exciting News from the Pulpit!

We have a new pastor! Her name is Rev. Brooke Pickrell. She will be starting officially July 19th, preaching on July 25th. We are very excited and hope you will join us in welcoming Rev. Brooke, her husband Chris, and son Mather.



From the Lion's Den

"What Happens When Americans Can Finally Exhale?" is an [article](#) by Ed Yong in *The Atlantic* magazine. He articulates what I have been advising for months: coming out of a pandemic can be more challenging and dangerous than going into one.

As vaccination rates increase and COVID deaths decline, public health and other civil authorities are relaxing the restrictions we have lived with for the past 15 months. As of July 1, all COVID restrictions regarding masking, distancing, capacity limits, and other safety measures will be lifted. Already, many churches and businesses are returning to full, in-person operations. But Yong writes that we aren't returning to "normal." It's not like we can just push the "play" button after having pressed "pause" over a year ago.

The pandemic has changed us. For many, the experience has been traumatic in the clinical sense of the word: we have lost loved ones, or been victims of serious illness, or lost jobs. For others, the trauma has been less obvious but no less serious. After months of suppressing our feelings of anxiety and grief just to get by, reducing our vigilance can allow them all to surface: "People put their heads down and do what they have to do, but suddenly, when there's an opening, all these feelings come up," Laura van Dernoot Lipsky, the founder and director of the Trauma Stewardship Institute, says in Yong's article. According to Lipsky, "As hard as the initial trauma is, it's the aftermath that destroys people."

According to other sources, the pandemic has occasioned spikes in divorce, depression, and teen suicide. These remain elevated as the pandemic eases. On a societal level, the pandemic has eroded the factors that help people cope with collective chronic trauma: confidence in authorities, a sense of belonging, and community solidarity. Instead, "It reduced trust in institutions, separated people from their loved ones, and widened political divisions. It was something of a self-reinforcing disaster, exacerbating the conditions that make recovery harder," writes Yong.

However, the church is especially well suited to providing these very gifts and resources. We offer faith in God, and a community of belonging and care. But are we prepared to extend these to those outside our own fellowship, especially when so many in our fellowship are hurting too?

The equipping time at our Presbytery meeting on June 8 will be addressing the theme of "Congregational Vitality in a Post-COVID Church." We will have a panel discussion featuring four forward-thinking leaders in our presbytery: Christina Jensen, Andrew Pomerville, Matt Schramm, and Chris Wolf. We will be asking questions like, "How has COVID changed us as a church?"; "What can we learn from the experience of pandemic for our worship and mission?"; "What has been the impact of COVID on pastoral and lay leaders?"; and "How can the Presbytery help churches thrive in a post-COVID 'new normal'?" These are important questions for all our churches to consider.

The equipping time will follow our opening worship service and is open to all church members. Advance registration is required.

Faithfully,

Dan Saperstein, Executive Presbyter

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Session Highlights from June 8, 2021 by Jan Bradshaw

- The IT Team successfully demonstrated the ability to combine audio from our mixer with video from the camcorder and live-stream to YouTube.
- The IT team will submit a request to Presbytery for a technology grant to cover some of the expenses incurred to bring about live-streaming and broadcasting to a large-screen TV in the Fellowship Hall.

- In honor of Memorial Day the Outreach team put the church name was put in the Tri-County News to honor Veterans. They also handed out water during the Memorial Day Parade.
- Three bids have been received and are currently being reviewed for consideration from the Property Team. These bids were for repairing/replacing the front porch and crumbling back steps and two of the three bids also dealt with replacing the external wooden staircase. Additional bids are expected. The current bids range from \$7,900-\$12,350.



- The proposed Terms of Call for our new pastor were approved by the Presbytery. Both the church and the minister would also need to approve the call and those terms before they would take effect. The vote on this is scheduled for a special congregational meeting on June 27.
 - A motion was given to approve a \$100 donation from our supplemental discretionary account to Linden Presbyterian Church's food bank program in honor of Stephen Neuville, son of Rev. Don Neuville, who passed away in early June.
 - It was decided to continue wearing masks during worship (except for the minister and others when speaking up front) for now. At the July stated session meeting we will re-evaluate our policy.
 - Outside groups such as Friends with Needs and Al-Anon are asking about meeting within the church. Based on current MIOSHA regulations and guidelines, it was decided it is best to not allow groups to use the church yet. We will re-evaluate in the fall – based on MIOSHA regulations at that time.
 - Our current custodian, Jennifer Book, has overcommitted herself this summer and will be unable to clean the church until September. It was decided that church members could do the cleaning until then; various members can stay after worship on Sundays to clean bathrooms, vacuum, etc. A more thorough cleaning would need to be made prior to a wedding that is scheduled the end of August.
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July Birthdays

July 2nd Sherry McLaughlin
July 17th Jennifer Chanter
July 17th Tim McLaughlin
July 19th Gibby Dryer (8 years old)
July 19th Toni Duncanson
July 23rd Jim Lyles
July 25th Ryan Shiel
July 29th Peggy Ranger

August Birthdays

Aug 11th Randy Cook
Aug 11th Helen McNamara
Aug 19th Mark Bolan
Aug 19th Patrick Weiss
Aug 29th Dale Huffman
Aug 31st Mandie Banks



Have a safe 4th of July. Please be safe this summer and tell others about Jesus. We are supposed to have a parade and will be passing out water. See Donna and Jennifer for details.

July



August

July 23rd Jim & Roberta Single 55 yrs.

Aug 3rd Nick & Sue Amory 13 yrs.

July 25th Brian & Laura Parker 34 yrs.

Aug 8th Mr. & Mrs. Scott Studer 23 yrs.

Aug 21st Rick & Margaret Perry 39 yrs.

Finance Team

Income	May	\$7,932.81	YTD	\$33,935.20
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Expense	May	\$4,521.76	YTD	\$30,920.80
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Your Finance Team,

Vicki Lyles, Carrie Duncanson & Bob Killewald

From the Desk of Sherry

While I'm so glad we are back in the Sanctuary, we are not totally back to normal. Whatever that used to look like, right? The office remains closed. However, I am here generally every Tuesday and Wednesday morning. I check messages Tuesday through Friday.

I will be on vacation July 13th through July 23rd and will return on Tuesday, July 27th. Messages will be checked by Charlee.

From the Care Team

Prayers of Joy ...

- We are thrilled to have a new minister, Rev. Brooke Pickrell. Her first sermon will be on July 25th.
- Both fathers of Maggie and Martin (Allison Muenzer's friends) were released from the hospital and able to attend their wedding.
- Prayers of joy that 12-year old Calen Miller (friend of Laura Parker) does not have a mass on his brain, it was a shadow. Doctors will continue to look for reasons for his migraines.
- Loretta Weiss's knee surgery went well and she is undergoing PT and has 'graduated' to a cane.
- Josh Banks last epidural seems to be working. He continues PT and hopes to be back to work after July 4.

Prayers of Comfort ...

- Prayers of comfort and peace for Rev. Don Neuville and his family on the passing of his son, Stephen "Beav" Neuville.
- Prayers of comfort and peace for the family and friends of Ron Swift, who passed away after his battle with COVID-19.

Prayers of Concern ...

- For all those sickened and threatened by the COVID-19 virus here in the United States and around the world.
- For healing, strength, comfort and peace for: Mary Renico (pain and discomfort from a wound on her leg, most likely caused by the treatment she had been receiving for skin cancer; Loretta Weiss recovering from knee surgery; Melinda (Elizabeth Kici's daughter), who was diagnosed with breast cancer and is undergoing treatment; Jim Pelton, who has Lewy Body Dementia and in decline; Diana (friend of Cathie Killewald) who is facing health issues and medical tests including a lung biopsy; Jimmie Pernell (friend of Gerry Jackson) who is fighting cancer; Debbie Mikolowski (Penny Schettling's sister), who is undergoing chemo treatments with the hope of having successful surgery in the future; Mandie Bank's mom, Laura, is waiting to have more imaging done on her brain and spine before a surgical decision is made regarding her neuro sheath tumor; Mandie will have more labs this week but won't know a plan until she sees her rheumatologist later this month; Jim Killewald (Bob & Cathie's son) who has a lot of pain; ongoing prayers for Hadleigh Banks, Fran Olson and Terry & Julie Parish.

- For our members who are home bound, or in care facilities.
 - For those who are suffering from natural and man-made disasters.
 - For those serving, or who have served, in our military.
 - For our country, its leaders and for world peace in a troubled time;
 - For all the churches in our Presbytery that are in transition.
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Recycling

We are looking for your used ink cartridges. Bring in your ink cartridges and any batteries you have. Thank you!





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Term ends 2022

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