

**“To know Him and make Him known”**

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**Newsletter  
Submissions for the  
June issue are due  
July 27th**

## PASTOR'S MESSAGE

### GENERAL ASSEMBLY RECAP 2025

In June, the EPC held its 45th General Assembly. In case you are unfamiliar, the General Assembly is the annual meeting of our denomination, the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, where commissioners from each of the denomination's 16 presbyteries comprised of Teaching Elders (Pastors) and Ruling Elders (Elders in the church) from local EPC congregations around the country gather in one place to do the work of the church.

Sometimes, I'll get asked, "*Are these Presbytery and General Assembly meetings really that important? Can't we focus on what's happening in our local congregation? Why do we need to bother with anyone else?*"

First, I would say, "*Yes - Presbytery and General Assembly meetings are important because...*"

1. We believe that the church is the kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ, the house and family of God. Presbyterian polity acknowledges that this family is much bigger than just one congregation and promotes the church to work together for the building up of Christ's kingdom. Because all courts of the Church have a mutual connection with one another (local Session, Presbytery, and General Assembly), the act of each court should be considered representative of the whole Church. Therefore, no one court is separate and distinct from all the others. Each court is working together for the glory of God and the promotion of the gospel.
2. We also believe that, as ambassadors for Christ, we are to promote the beauty and purity of the Church as the Bride of Christ through obedience to the Scriptures. Certainly, local congregations must be faithful to God's Word, that the Church would be a pillar and buttress of the truth and not be put to shame by novel or even sinful ideas of men. We want the beauty and purity of Christ and His Church to be a beacon of hope in this dark world, and we want that to be true not just of our church but the churches that we connect with, particularly those in our denomination. As men and women, we are prone to all kinds of error. It is a blessing to have and to be a friend who can bring back the brother or sister who wanders from the truth (James 5:19). Our participation in the various courts of the church gives us a voice to promote the beauty and purity of Christ and his Church in times when there may be a temptation to veer from the Truth. Not only that, but it serves as a safeguard for us at times when we are tempted to deviate from Christ and His word and go our own way. Therefore, there is significant value in participating in these denominational meetings both for our unity and our purity and to serve Christ and his kingdom faithfully.

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Looking to the future, there are several concerns facing the EPC over the coming years. One is the number of candidates entering the ministry. Across the board, seminary enrollment is down, candidates pursuing ordination are down, and we are on the cusp of having many pastors reach retirement age, all of which will leave many pulpits vacant with few ministers to fill them. One of the significant business items discussed at this year's meeting was the 13 recommendations from the Ad-Interim Committee on Ordination Standards. This committee has been working for two years to clarify the ordination process in the EPC, ensuring that ministerial applicants, church sessions, and candidate advisors all understand the necessary steps to initiate, progress through, and complete the ordination process. The committee's final recommendation was that the Assembly grant them another year, allowing them to thoroughly examine our current ordination standards that a candidate would need to meet and report back to the 46th General Assembly any necessary changes or revisions to those standards. The goal of this review is not to lower the bar required to become a minister of Word and Sacrament in our denomination but rather to ensure candidates are adequately equipped to minister in the cultural moment that we are living in.

The shortage in our leadership pipeline is a genuine concern for the coming years, and small churches will likely feel this shortage the most. That's not to say there is no hope. God loves His church, no matter its size, and He will care for her. However, we must also remember that God has given us the means to take ownership of our leadership pipeline by discipling and raising up leaders in our congregation to serve in various roles within the church, including elders and potentially even as pastors. Union has a history of raising up and sending out pastors from its congregation; I believe that can still be part of our legacy in serving Christ's kingdom and fulfilling the Great Commission, and it begins with discipleship and casting a vision that service to Christ and his kingdom, in any capacity, is no foolish task, it is an honorable pursuit. It is, in fact, the primary work of every Christian that Christ's name be known and lifted up.

Speaking of the Great Commission, one of the highlights of this year's meeting was the opportunity to celebrate the denomination's Engage 2025 efforts. In 2010, at our 30th General Assembly, the EPC launched Engage 2025, a commitment to reach unreached people, especially in the Muslim world. A goal was set for each presbytery (at the time, there were 11) to identify an unreached people group by 2025 and formalize a unified effort to aid in the planting of indigenous churches among their chosen people group. At this year's assembly, we celebrated the fact that 16 out of 16 presbyteries have reached this goal and are actively supporting gospel ministry to Muslim people worldwide. The fact that this goal has been achieved is a great reason to rejoice, but this is only the tip of the iceberg; as gospel work continues among these people, Jesus will be proclaimed, disciples will be made, churches will be planted, all by the grace of God that his glory would spread to all the nations. So, with this vision of global evangelism and discipleship in mind, be sure to include unreached people in your prayers. Use our Friday email to pray for those who haven't heard the gospel of Jesus and take time to pray for those who are laboring in these difficult areas so that they will be strengthened and encouraged in their work.

There were many things to be thankful for as I walked away from this year's meeting. Suppose you are interested in doing a deep dive into this year's business items. In that case, you'll find all the GA documents at [www.epconnect.org](http://www.epconnect.org). Follow the links for the 45th General Assembly. If you would rather watch all the happenings as if you were there, you can find the recordings on YouTube by searching for Evangelical Presbyterian Church. If you have any questions about the happenings in our denomination, I'd love to chat with you.

Grace and Peace, Jeremy



# Solid Rock Spring High Tea Event

Our Spring High Tea Event, God's China, hosted at Union Presbyterian Church was a time for just the ladies to enjoy an afternoon together of tea, sweet treats, and bead crafts. Dee Henry, a Solid Rock Board Member, was our guest speaker and shared about our value as children of God, clearly sharing the gospel in a way that even the youngest girls in attendance could grasp.

It was especially sweet to see the next generation of Solid Rock students connecting with each other. Some of these girls will be starting Solid Rock weekly programs for the first time this year!





2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Yard Sale Drop-off Day 8-Noon	2	3 Yard Sale Drop-off Day 8-Noon NO DEACON MEETING	4  Independence Day	5 Yard Sale Drop-off Day 8-Noon
6 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship	7  NO TRUSTEE MEETING	8 Yard Sale Drop-off Day 8-Noon	9	10 Yard Sale Drop-off Day 8-Noon	11 7:00 - 1:00 Yard Sale	12 7:00 - 1:00 Yard Sale 2:00 Leftovers are free
13 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship	14	15	16  NO SESSION MEETING	17	18	19
20 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship  Church Picnic	28	29	30	31		

# FOOD BANK

Soups (can) – chicken noodle, tomato, and seafood chowder, green beans (can), corn (can), carrots (can), spaghetti noodles(box), Triscuits/Wheat Thins, SPAM and other canned meats, granola bars

## **Solanco Neighborhood Ministries Backpack/School Supplies Give-Away**

We are currently collecting school supplies for our annual Back-to-School Giveaway to be held at the end of summer.

We are in need of donations of:

Backpacks (for all grade levels), Spiral notebooks, 3-ring binder notebooks, Notebook paper, Pencils, pens, Composition books, Notecards, Pocket Folders, Colored markers, Highlighter markers, Colored pencils, Glue, Rulers, Pencil erasers, Crayons, Small hand sanitizer, small packs of Kleenex tissues, small kid-sized toothbrushes, small kid-friendly toothpaste, NEW bags of boys/girls socks, NEW bags boys/girls underwear

Please deliver donations to our “Drop Off Room” by Monday, Aug. 11<sup>th</sup>.  
14 S. Church Street, Quarryville, PA 17566

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

**Giving for May: \$7,667      May Expenses: \$11,691**  
**Year-to-Date: \$66,929      Year-to-Date: \$65,846**  
**Avg. Attendance: 60**  
**Sunday School collection for the Glovers: \$83**

## LECTIONARY PASSAGES

### July 6<sup>th</sup>

#### **14<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

2 Kings 5:1-14; Psalm 30:1-12;  
Galatians 6:(1-6) 7-16;  
Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

### July 13<sup>th</sup>

#### **15<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Amos 7:7-17; Psalm 82:1-8;  
Colossians 1:1-14;  
Luke 10:25-37

### July 20<sup>th</sup>

#### **16<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Amos 8:1-12;  
Psalm 52;  
Luke 10:38-42;  
Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

### July 27<sup>th</sup>

#### **17<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Hosea 1:2-10; Psalm 85:1-13;  
Colossians 2:6-15 (16-19);  
Luke 11:1-13



- 1 Michael Graver
- 2 Dorothy Harvey  
Robyn Ferguson  
Kristin Fuller
- 5 Daniel McCardell  
Valerie Williams  
Joseph Greer
- 8 Karen Greer
- 9 Joseph Jackson
- 10 John Hastings
- 12 Mary Lou Shaub
- 13 Marcia Reed
- 18 Matthew Adams  
Barbara Pyle
- 19 Brenda Wade
- 23 Jeremy Peterson
- 24 Jennifer Jackson  
Ben Dougherty
- 27 Robert Greenleaf
- 29 Sandra Graver

## GREETERS

- 6 Larry & Colleen Sheaffer  
13 (OPEN)  
20 Charlotte Stoner  
27 Diaz Family



Union Presbyterian Church  
5637 Street Road,  
Kirkwood, PA 17536



The Union Press

JULY 2025

## LET'S TALK YARD SALE

Our yard sale is quickly approaching! Drop off days are June 28, July 1, 3, 5, 8, 10.

With the big event being July 11 and 12th!

Please consider helping out during some of this time. We really have a great time putting this together. A few needs for the yard sale are plastic and paper bags. So, if you have extra laying around, please donate for the yard sale. Also, gallon bags (we use to pack small items to make a \$.25 bag). I hope you are as excited about this community event coming up as I am. This is a great way to clean up our households. We save the landfill by reselling items. The community gets great treasures and even needed items. Plus, the big reason for this, our community and church benefit from all we do! Thank you everyone for helping to make this event a highlight in people's lives!! Let's go Union!!

**Gardens of Grace**  
**Vacation Bible School**  
"Behold, I am making all things new." - Rev. 21:5  
**Union Presbyterian Church**  
**August 5, 6 & 7, 2025**  
**9:00 am - Noon**  
**Pre-K to 5<sup>th</sup> Grade**  
SCAN QR CODE TO REGISTER



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