



The Spire

April-May 2021

From the Pastor:

This Spire will arrive in your in-box or mail box in the midst of Holy Week, and there are numerous opportunities for us to gather as we honor the Lord Jesus, remembering his final days, crucifixion, and resurrection.

- **Daily devotionals**, with scripture readings and prayers about the week, are being sent.
- **Thursday, April 1**, is Maundy Thursday. (Its name comes from the Latin word *mandatum*, 'command' or 'mandate'.) It reflects John 13:44, where Jesus, on the night before his death, declared, "A new commandment I give you: love one another." Our sanctuary will be open from 7:00 to 8:00 pm, and during that time you are welcome to come and sit quietly, and when ready, to receive communion. There will also be opportunity to personally receive prayer for anything, including family or marital heartaches; grief and loss; physical and emotional hurts; addictions, whether your own/others.
- On **Good Friday, April 2**, the sanctuary will be again be open from 12:00 to 3:00 pm in recognition of Christ's time on the cross. Communion and specific prayer will be available from 12:00 to 1:00 pm; the sanctuary will remain open for prayer and reflection until 3:00 pm
- On **Saturday evening, April 3**, the Mission Team is hosting an in-person meal at 5:30 pm in the social room for Elisha and Crystal Stock, missionaries in Africa. The congregation is invited to come and hear of their ministry.
- On **Easter Sunday morning, April 4**, we will once again host the Stocks with a breakfast gathering at 9:00 am, and welcome them as they speak briefly at our worship service at 10:30 am. I will be preaching from 1 Corinthians 15, and in music and prayer, we will celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior.

Through it all, we will be following suggested guidelines for gathering safely, as we "love our neighbor as ourselves."

Through April, I will continue preaching through the book of James, concluding on May 2. On May 9, Mother's Day, we will be hearing from several women as they reflect on what it means to live as disciples of Jesus in their roles as mothers.

Blessings as together we keep following Jesus with you in the everyday stuff of life!

Bill

Our Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) has been meeting regularly over the last two months as they prepare to actively search for our new pastor, given my retirement by the end of 2021. Please continue to pray for the PNC team of Dave Baily, Carole Barrett, Beth Calvario, Alaina Camps, Josh Dains, Nick Fox, and Chuck Harry. Please pray for wisdom and discernment for them as they work together, and pray that even now the Lord will be stirring the heart of the person who is to become the next pastor of FPC.

Prayer Conference Call



Every Tuesday at 6:15 PM we have an opportunity to pray together through a conference call. It is one of the ways we can stay connected and encouraged as God's people. After a brief welcome and introductory word about prayer, we will spend 30 minutes or so in prayer for our congregation and community. You are welcome to pray aloud, or simply listen and pray silently.

To join the prayer call, simply dial 978-990-5000 (you may use a land line or a cell phone) and then, when prompted, enter the access code: 425344. Please call Bill Sukolsky (412-913-9851) with any questions.

Discipleship Hour: Church & Culture

On Sunday mornings at 9 AM we will be exploring how to live as Christians in a “post-Christian” culture. We'll look at the change in our Western cultural climate and wrestle with what it looks like to follow Jesus through it all. We don't need to despair and run away from what is happening but we do need to understand what's going on. We can have hope and learn to live faithfully at school, at university, at work and even at home. Join us for a hard look at difficult topics and ideas and see how to not be ashamed of the gospel and reach others wisely with the truth in today's culture.

The first meeting will be April 11th and continue through the end of May. You can join us in person in the Assembly Room at the church or via Zoom using this [link](#) or Meeting ID: 977 7911 3448 and Passcode: 037446.

Pine Springs Camp: Women in the Woods



Women in the Woods is happening on April 24th and we want to be a part of it! It will be a one day retreat packed full of amazing things and space to renew your spirit. It will be a day to enjoy camp and all the fun it has to offer and time with other women with great teaching and food. Check in will be at 9:15 AM and departure will be at 7 PM. Cost is \$50 (but may be less if we can get a group rate). Contact Becky Juliano (bjuliano@ccojubilee.org, 518-788-8768) if you are interested in attending. Women of all ages and encouraged to participate.

RightNow Media Access



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L.I.F.E. Groups



L.I.F.E. groups

Another way to connect with others in the congregation is through L.I.F.E. Groups. L.I.F.E. groups are committed to L.I.F.E. (**L**earning God's Word together, **I**nteracting with God, **F**ellowship with one another, and **E**xtending ourselves to others).

Groups meet at a variety of times and locations (including online options) throughout the week.

Please contact Becky Juliano (bjuliano@ccojubilee.org) or Dave Baily (dbaily@bailyagency.com) about available opportunities or if you have any questions. Some of the groups are listed below. You can find a complete list on our [website](#).

L.I.F.E. Group: Men's Huddle

Sunday mornings @ 9 AM in the Green Room upstairs at First Pres or via Zoom
Led by Dave Baily

Married Men's Fellowship

Sundays after worship in the Assembly Room on the last Sunday of the month
Led by Mike Juliano

Tuesday Women's Group

Tuesday mornings @ 9:30 AM in person and via Zoom
Led by Miriam Wentzel

Mom's Prayer Group

Thursday evenings @ 9 PM via Zoom
Led by Becky Juliano and Jessica Sumpter

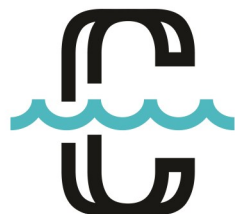
Single Women's Bible Study

Sundays @ noon in person or via Zoom
Led by Tomē Custer

Crossroads Youth Ministry

by Juan Gallo

On Sunday nights, we continue to gather in fun fellowship and engaging discussion as we work through the New City Catechism and tackle pressing questions such as: What is sin? What sort of redeemer is needed to bring us back to God? How can we be saved? What is idolatry?



CROSSROADS
YOUTH MINISTRIES

We look ahead to our Summer and Fall programming as we aim to provide opportunities for growth and community. Praying that in the Fall, on the other side of the pandemic, we will come back and rebuild with clarity toward meeting the needs of our students and fresh ways to serve and glorify God in our community. Please pray for us as we plan and check back for updates and announcements!

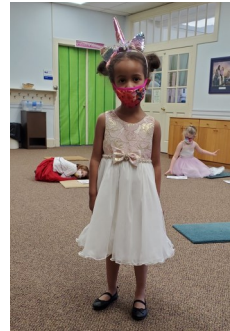
If you want to connect with us beyond Sunday nights, you can join us every Wednesday for our online home group via Zoom from 6:30-7:30 p.m. or on our prayer call every Thursday at 7:00 p.m.

Now that school is back to four days a week, Pathways is still being offered on both Tuesdays and Thursdays. (One Covid-trial-and-error that worked!) Our numbers are still down from years past, but ever growing, as has the attendance in Children in Worship. We've been working through the Psalms and the Proverbs and learning memory verses with sign language, which is a challenge that the kids seem to enjoy! Our children's music ensembles are still currently on hold but hopefully by the fall the Youth Handbell Choir will be back in circulation.

Our Adult Handbell Choir has resumed its rehearsals, with more members returning this time around. Soon, you can expect to hear them ringing every month, blessing the congregation with their beautiful and unique ministry. As always, our Praise Team is going strong, with two new members joining our line-up. While we're still keeping our numbers smaller for safety precautions, we're also always on the look-out for more people who might want to join. So, if you play an instrument or sing, let us know!

Another line-up that's growing is that of our Audio/Visual Team. With sound, cameras, and slides all needing to be manned, we've been able to start slowly training more adults, along with high school and middle school students. Our live-streams couldn't happen without all of these individuals so we are grateful that they're using their gifts for the glory of God!

The two sides of Kids' Ministry at 1st Pres



Laila in her lovely dress



Ollie in his silly socks

Mission Corner

The Mission Committee is excited to announce that we will have the privilege to spend Easter weekend with Elisha and Crystal Stock. They are two of the missionaries who we support through our Faith Promise Giving Offerings. They work for SIM USA. Through SIM USA, they are responding to need through medical and health ministry, ministry to children, community development, providing relief in drought or natural disaster, and many other ways. Their goal is to meet people's physical needs as they also share how Jesus can meet their spiritual needs. Help and relief come in many forms. Whatever the need, they respond with the love of Jesus.

Having said this, we are offering a couple of different ways in order for us, as a congregation, to meet with them, welcome them, get to know them and learn more about how they serve.

Saturday April 3rd at 5:30, there will be a dinner at the church, held in the social hall. The Stocks will be sharing a meal with us and their ministry at this time. The invitation is open to anyone who would like to attend. A meal will be provided by the Mission Team and volunteers.

Easter Sunday April 4th at 9:00, in lieu of the regular Sunday School hours, there will be a casual breakfast provided in the church social hall. This would be another opportunity to meet and greet the Stocks prior to the Easter morning service when Elisha will be sharing with the congregation their work with SIMS during a "Minute" for Mission.

Dear friends in Waynesburg,

It is a little late to wish you all the Lord's richest blessing for the New Year but nonetheless our prayers and affection accompany you all. We were so blessed to see a double portion, \$400, in the transfer of funds at the end of January. It arrived as we had just received news from Madagascar that our friends at the orphanage were about to pick up a baby boy whose mother died giving birth. As with the birth of twins the people tend to blame the baby and say that it is under a curse. We were able to transfer money immediately so that they could pick up the baby and have suitable food and clothing for the trip back to the capital.

We also sent some money to help the older ones six of whom graduated from their high school studies and were beginning specific diploma studies to prepare for work - nursing, computer technology, tourism, agriculture etc. This is a huge step for them all when we look back to where they came from. I am attaching a mail with some pictures of one girl who just "graduated", succeeded in a diploma qualifying her as a midwife. I met Florida eleven years ago when she was quite small. A couple in our church here have sponsored her and here she is, an adult with good training and hope for her future. We saw her in recent years as a teacher of the young in Sunday school and co-leader of a scout troop for young teenagers. She has a real desire to communicate her faith and a vision to return to her home area and open a Christian clinic for pregnant mothers and babies. You are our team bringing hope and faith to such as Florida and the Lord is at work. Many thanks once again for your gifts and your prayers. The Lord bless and prosper your ministry there in Waynesburg.

Affectionate greetings in Him,

Colin and Maureen

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

April

04/01 Gary Gernert, Fred Waine, Kat Lynerd,
Laila King
04/02 Marion Berryhill, William Winters,
Carolyn McGrath
04/03 Alice Teagarden
04/04 Thomas Camps, Vincent Camps,
Myles Cramer
04/05 Barbara Andrews, Chuck Baily Jr
04/06 Daisy Robinson
04/08 Gianna Stephenson
04/09 Jeffrey Klinefelter, Margo Allison
04/10 Glenn Toothman, Cathie Giachetti
04/11 Butch Brunell
04/13 Meghan Phillips, Ashley Baily
04/14 Justin Stephenson, Avery McConville
04/16 Brynn Bortz
04/17 Jackson Fox
04/18 Bill Dewese, Madison Blair
04/19 Josh Sumpter, James Batchelder,
William Batchelder
04/21 Harold Barrett, Tara Bortz, Hannah Kalsey
04/22 Aiden McGrath
04/23 Zachary Pollock
04/24 William Wentzel, Grant St. John
04/25 Kathleen Brown, Dianne Toothman,
Joshua McCracken
04/26 Janette Kline, Katie Kline, Leo Christner
04/28 Robert Fox, Elle Owen



May

05/02 Kristi Scott, Nathan Vinay
05/03 Charles Huffman Jr
05/04 Donald Shelestak, Abbe Huffman,
Eilidh Batchelder
05/05 Amelia McCracken
05/07 William Baird, Jeffrey McCracken
05/08 Luke Robinson
05/09 Mark Throckmorton, August McGowan
05/10 Ben McCracken
05/11 Ann Whipkey
05/12 Elke Hlafcsak
05/13 Tim Fox, Dane Pollock
05/14 Amy Robinson, Kaitlin Churney
05/15 Adam Knight, Travis Tedrow
05/16 Guy Gottron
05/17 Sydni Chambers
05/20 Caitlin Baily
05/21 Janice Baily
05/22 Corinne McIe, Sarah Omicioli, Levi Cerra
05/23 Sally Baird
05/24 Sebastian Chambers
05/25 Aidan Pell
05/27 Mindy Tedrow, Suzanne Swidler
05/28 Demetri Leontopoulos

Prayer

During this season of quarantine, many of us may have concerns that we would like others to hold up in prayer.
You may email your requests to wbgprsby@windstream.net.

Our friends at home

Connie Teagarden
Marie Simmons
Joan Huffman
Sue Cowell
Dick Bortz
George Nader

Our service personnel

<u>Service Member</u>	<u>First Pres Family</u>	<u>Branch of Service</u>
Dan Baily	Bonnie Baily	Air National Guard
Daniel Calvario	Dave & Beth Calvario	Air Force
David Calcek	Joe & Judy Cook	Air Force
Madison Church	Bill & Chrissy Church	Army National Guard
Peter & Leslie Coote	Jon & Maribeth Coote	Air Force
Drew McConville	Brian Dukate	Navy
Ryan McGrath	John & Carolyn McGrath	Air Force

First Presbyterian Church
169 West College St.,
P.O. Box 446
Waynesburg, PA 15370
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**The mission of ECO is to
BUILD flourishing CHURCHES
that make disciples of
JESUS CHRIST**



The Easter flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory of:

Ildiko (Jackie) White from daughter Vicki Cline

William Baily from Bonnie, Mary and Dan

Donald Teagarden and Alvin & Ione H. Teagarden from Mrs. Connie L. Teagarden

Our loved ones from The Gernert Family

Jack, Delores and John McCracken from Jeff McCracken

Rev. David L. Barrett from his family

Richard Neubauer and loved ones from D.A. Neubauer and family

Libby Church from Bill & Chrissy Church and Billie Jo Balazick

Our mother Violet McGill and brother John McGill from Robin and Charlie McGill

Lloyd Cole from Suzanne Cole