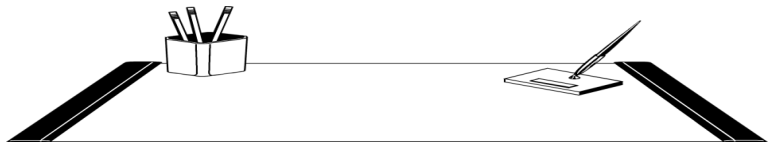


*First Presbyterian Church
June/July 2020
Tidings*

*First Presbyterian Church
Five Court Street
Towanda, Pa 18848*



I often reflect on my growing-up years in what seems like to have been a much simpler time than the present. My parents loved the Lord, and going to church and Sunday School were not options—they were an integral part of our lives. I am grateful for their wish that I be surrounded by and learn from other believers in Christ. Seeds were planted and watered and grew so that when I was 12, I could confess and believe in Jesus as my Lord and Savior as well. Thanks, Mom and Dad. Thanks, teachers and leaders at FPC! Thanks Billy Graham Crusade in 1967!

I was also blessed to be brought up in a household of love and laughter. That has also had a profound influence on my personality and outlook. I like to have fun, tease, play jokes, read jokes (just ask the choir!) and have a good belly laugh (just ask my boys about my sister and I and our laughing jags!!). And it is way more fun to do so with others sharing in the laughter! I believe that God has a sense of humor and gave us laughter as a gift. I would like to share a short devotional about laughter.

Your fun-loving friend,

Judy Douglas

Laughter by Judy Miller

Proverbs 17:22 A cheerful disposition is good for your health; gloom and doom leave you bone-tired. (MSG)

As my parents and their siblings have been passing away one at a time, I have been reminiscing about them and the fun times we had together as a family. We lived closest to my mom's side of the family, so knew them better. One of my mom's sisters, though, lived at the other end of the province. I remember a few times when mom and she were together – either at our place or at her place. Oh, how I remember the fun they had! They laughed and laughed so hard. After a while, nothing was funny anymore, but by then they couldn't stop laughing. The peals of laughter filled the house!

God wants us to be happy and joyful. A cheerful disposition does good – like medicine. It is so true: when I laugh, I do feel better. Life isn't as serious; the circumstances not so pressing. God knows a good dose of laughter is for our good. So often, though, we get stuck in the gloomy side of life, and we feel bone-tired. Let's look for something to laugh about – whether it is really funny or not. We will feel better.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank You for giving us a sense of humor and the ability to see the funny side of life. You are great! Amen.

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICES

WILL RESUME JUNE 7TH!

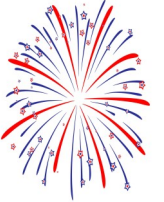
We will be following the recommended guidelines to keep you safe and healthy as we gather to worship!

*Praise
the Lord*

June 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Trustees 5:00	2 Worship Team 12:00 Christian Ed Team 1:00	3 Church Day of Prayer Hez. Hands Mtg. @The Cup 8:00AM	4 Chancel Choir 6:30	5	6
7 Morning Worship 10:00	8	9	10	11 Chancel Choir 6:30	12 Fellowship Team 1:00	13
14 Flag Day Morning Worship 10:00	15 Hez. Hands Work Week Tidings Article Deadline	16 Hez. Hands Work Week	17 Hez. Hands Work Week Prayer Group @ Richards 1:00	18 Hez. Hands Work Week Chancel Choir 6:30	19 Hez. Hands Work Week	20
21 Father's Day TACO Collection Morning Worship 10:00	22	23 Session 6:00	24	25 Chancel Choir 6:30	26	27
28 Morning Worship 10:00	29	30		ALL TEAM MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES ARE CONDITIONAL. Please contact your team leader about whether you will meet.		

July 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
ALL TEAM MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES ARE CONDITIONAL. Please contact your team leader about whether you will meet.			1 Church Day of Prayer Hez. Hands Mtg. @The Cup 8:00AM	2 Chancel Choir 6:30	3	4 
5 Morning Worship 10:00	6 Trustees 5:00	7 Worship Team 12:00 Christian Ed. Team 1:00	8	9 Chancel Choir 6:30	10 Fellowship Tm. 1:00	11
12 Morning Worship 10:00 Deacons Mtg. 11:45	13	14	15 Tidings Article Deadline Prayer Group @ Richards 1:00	16 Chancel Choir 6:30	17	18
19 TACO Collection Morning Worship 10:00	20	21	22	23 Chancel Choir 6:30	24	25
26 Morning Worship 10:00	27	28 Session 6:00	29	30 Chancel Choir 6:30	31	

Happy Father's Day!

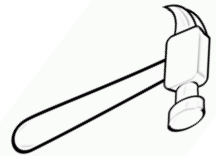
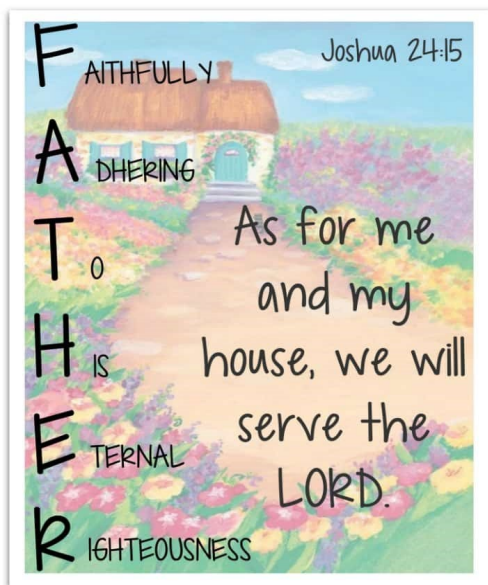
Teaching by Example By: David C. McCasland
Ephesians 6:1-11

While waiting for an eye examination, I was struck by a statement I saw in the optometrist's office: "Eighty percent of everything children learn in their first 12 years is through their eyes." I began thinking of all that children visually process through reading, television, film, events, surroundings, and observing the behavior of others, especially their families. On this Father's Day, we often think about the powerful influence of a dad.

Paul urged fathers not to frustrate their children to the point of anger, but to "bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord" (Eph. 6:4). Think of the powerful example of a dad whose behavior and consistency inspire admiration from his children. He's not perfect, but he's moving in the right direction. A great power for good is at work when our actions reflect the character of God, rather than distort it.

That's challenging for any parent, so it's no coincidence that Paul urges us to "be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might" (v.10). Only through His strength can we reflect the love and patience of our heavenly Father.

We teach our children far more from how we live than by what we say.



Answers to Sign Quiz:

1. Patterson Hall door
2. DeWitt Room
3. Patterson Hall, by Welcome Center double doors, back of Worship Center
4. Window near Court Street entrance; window by Pine Street door
5. Patterson Hall and Rest Rooms

Our Mom and Dad, Janice and Bill McConnell, will be celebrating their **60TH** wedding anniversary on June 25, 2020. ***We're hoping that you'll help us recognize this milestone occasion by sending them a card or a note of congratulations, and if possible- a fond memory from days gone by!***

Showering them with happy messages from family and friends both near and far will assuredly help them to feel as special in 2020, as they did on that rare day in June, 1960! Please mention and share this request with anyone you know who will want to wish them well! Thank you for your help in spreading the word! If you're able to do so any time between now and June 25th, please mail your card or message to:

Bill and Janice McConnell, 5230 Bicknell Road, Marbury, Maryland 20658

With our heartfelt gratitude for helping us to celebrate with Mom and Dad, we are, Betsy Lunney (daughter) and Bill McConnell (son)

Happy 4th of July

Church Day of Prayer: June 3 and July 1

1. Thank the Lord for the ways He has blessed you! Rejoice in the Lord, always!
2. For strength and endurance for Pastor Rachel as she continues treatments
3. For those struggling to put food on the table and pay bills
4. For families who have lost a loved one to COVID-19
5. For people living in fear or without income because of COVID-19
6. For persecuted Christians around the world
7. For our Kids Club/SWAG kids and their families we haven't been able to see in many months
8. For our spiritual well-being at this time
9. For our governmental leaders to seek the Lord's will and guidance with decisions
10. Wisdom for the Elders of our church as they take on new responsibilities while the Pastor is on leave



Elder on Call

June 7 -- Sarah Dunn	July 5 -- Judy Douglas
June 14 -- Dick Walsh	July 12 -- Julie O'Donnell
June 21 -- Linda Ferrario	July 19 -- Danise Fairchild
June 28 -- Judy Isaac	July 26 -- Judy Isaac

During Pastor Rachel's absence the Elders are available if you have a need. You can call the church office or the Elder on call for that week.

JUNE

1 - Marge Pierce	13 - Julie Gore
2 - Henry Dunn Jr.	16 - Cathy Guffey
5 - Greg McLaud	19 - Sharon Richards
7 - Amea Renzo	21 - Kerrigan Walsh
9 - Stacy Mount	22 - Ken Parmenter
10 - Peg Durnin	28 - Bill McConnell Sr.
12 - Reggie Douglas	29 - Evelyn Jones



JULY

1 - David McLaud	15 - Joan Gormley
3 - Shane Martin	21 - Matt Pavey
8 - Meredith Guffey MacPartland	25 - James Guffey
13 - Emily Carr	27 - Saige Greenland
14 - Brooks Greenland	28 - Christopher Horton
	31 - Jody Stroud

News from Brazil

Hi Pastor Rachel

We say in Portuguese, Muito Saudades! It means, "Great to hear from you" We miss you and it has been too long all wrapped up in one! I hope you are well!

We are feeling a long way from Towanda these days.... These truly are strange times. Alessandra, Alyssia and I are well. We are fortunate to live in a place that has open spaces to walk. The Lord has blessed us with very nice weather.... Lots of warm sunshine. This makes being shut in a lot easier.

It is fairly Surreal. Brazilians deal with death a lot different than Americans. We are a very social culture so though there are a few of us that practice social isolation and wear masks most of society, especially in the poor neighborhoods- daily life continues somewhat normal- except people are not working.

My contacts in the Favelas, like Pastor Fabio, report that the peak has come and gone. Most people have contracted the virus and have already over come it. Doctors have been treating the Covid 19 with a combination of drugs.

Unfortunately those dying are those without the means to buy the drugs. Often a person dies in the home and goes straight to the cemetery. We will really never know how many have died. Very little testing.

The poor are acquainted with high death rates Brazilians in general deal with tragedy as a normal affair. They weep and wait for two days and then get back to life. Nothing really changes and there is no accountability..... It really is a fate culture. "That is just the way it is" mentality. ☹️

In an apartment complex, one family is celebrating a birthday party while the neighbors next door are mourning the loss of their elderly Uncle.

We have been supply food boxes to families in need, but it has been difficult to know how to serve those who are suffering loss in isolation. Frustrating.

I have been preaching on Sundays and sharing devotionals on Wednesdays.

I moved my prayer letter from AOL to Outlook, have you been receiving it? I ask because in the move some people and groups fell through the cracks. Outlook is harder for me to manage. The person who saved all the data saved it in a way that I cannot easily find it or edit it..... It's like a black whole!

Please pray for us. Not only for our protection but for open doors to comfort those who mourn.

All my messages can be found on Youtube and Facebook by typing in: Union Church Rio
Here are a couple examples. ☐

<https://youtu.be/Ujo1qVTRukY> Help on the Way!
<https://youtu.be/ZEn06Qb1Sdg> The Dread of Red!



Brazil

Thanks Pastor Rachel! Send a big Brazilian Hug to all at First Church☐

Pastor Craig
EFCA REachGlobal

Memory Verse:

When I am afraid, I will put my trust in you.

Psalms 56:3

The Kids Club program kicked off in the Fall with enthusiasm. In addition to kids of a young age to junior high, many adults were in attendance. Their participation provided assistance with the program and guidance for the kids.

The program consisted of music, games, Bible stories, skits, and more in addition to a meal. Without each adult participating, the program would have likely failed. Each aspect was successful and many thanks are appreciated for every person involved. The kitchen crew stepped in to provide meals each week. By planning together, purchasing and donating food, preparing, serving, and cleaning up, dinner time was enjoyable.

If you were involved in any way with Kids Club please know that your participation is truly appreciated! With the interruption of routine life and schedules, it was not possible to express in person a thank you. Even the words THANK YOU don't seem adequate!

With God's continued love and guidance, we will continue to pray and have faith that what the future holds will be super for His kids of all ages!

Nursery "Remodel"

The Project Revival Team is in the process of updating the nursery. The overall goal is to create a safe, clean, and up-to-date look to the childcare areas in the church. Plans include an area for nursing infants, separate play areas from birth to age 2 and 2-5 years and refreshing of the décor.

To date, toys, books, and equipment have been sorted through and old or worn items discarded. All wall decorations have been removed. Some new toys have been purchased. Shelving and bulleting boards will be repainted, and the toys, equipment, cabinets, walls, and floors will be cleaned. New wall decorations will be put up. It is hoped that the remodel can be completed in the coming weeks.

Can you help? Several small projects need to be done during the remodel. The projects can be done with social distancing. Contact Cathy Guffey if you would like to help. 570-265-7518 (home) 607-725-9950 (text)
cdjm@frontiernet.net (email)

New Signs

Several new signs have been put up throughout the church. These signs will be especially helpful to newcomers or visitors. The Project Revival Team in consultation with Monte Hughey of Signs Vinyl Lettering, decided where the signs were needed and what they should say. The next time you come to the church see how many you can find. The "quiz" that follows will help you get started.

Sign Quiz

1. The letters on this sign glow in the dark. Hint: it is the only new sign that is outside.
2. This room in the main hallway did not have a name sign over the door before.
3. Where are three signs that give direction to the AED machine?
4. These two signs tell where to find the handicapped entrance. Where are they?
5. This sign under the Welcome Center sign gives directions to these two places.

Answers to the quiz are on the "Fathers Day Page".

