

THE PROCLAIMER

JULY-AUGUST, 2023

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DOC) - MONONGAHELA, PA

Editor—Barbara Henderson

Message From Your Pastor:

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It's hard to believe that it's almost time to celebrate our nation's Independence Day and to remember how blessed we are live in a country with so many freedoms we take for granted. In spite of this luxury, we are still fighting the battle of sin in a world where churches today are not as valued by our modern society. But that doesn't mean we have lost the battle, we just need to put on our suit of armor each day. The full armor of God that Christians are called to put on comprises the Belt of Truth, the Breastplate of Righteousness, the Gospel of Peace, the Shield of Faith, the Helmet of Salvation, and the Sword of the Spirit. That's how we dress for success in God's army!

On another note, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada is excited to announce the 2023 General Assembly in Louisville, Kentucky, July 29-Aug 1! It will be the first time in four years the church as a whole has gathered. Joining me will be Barbara Henderson, Rev. Nikki Mazza-Fredley and our Bethany Priscilla and Disciple Peace Fellowship intern, Marci Mazza-Fredley.

The theme of this year's General Assembly is **Kindom of God: Within Us and Among Us**. The theme is a call to Disciples to strengthen their relationship to God in both individual and communal ways through an expansive in person and digital gathering of the church in Louisville.

Pray for those across our nation and Canada who are attending the Assembly. Have a blessed July and August.

In His Service,

Pastor Janet

**KINDOM
OF GOD
WITHIN US
AMONG US**

GENESIS 11:1-9 • LUKE 17:20-21 • 2 PETER 1:3

July 29 - August 1, 2023 - Louisville

ELDER'S PRAYER

Lord God,

The beauty and warmth of the summer months are upon us—graduations, picnics, fireworks, vacations, nature in bloom and being grateful and proud to be an American. But, we will take time to stop and smell the roses, to remember the warmth of Your love for us, and the light of Your goodness. May we be generous and considerate by helping others enjoy the blessings of summer. Guide our steps and strengthen our hearts. Grant us refreshment of mind and body. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Elder Kathleen Mancinelli



“Don't pray when you feel like it.
Have an appointment
with the Lord
and keep it.”

—Corrie ten Boom



Church Family,

Thank you so much for choosing me to be your Priscilla! I am so blessed to have so many people in my corner who support me through everything.

I wanted to send a card and say thank you for the gift you have given me for being your Priscilla and representing our church family here at Bethany. I can't wait for all the God has planned for me. I know that no matter what my path brings, I will have so many people who love me along the way.



Many Blessings,
 Marci Mazza-Fredley

On Sunday, June 11, 2023, Wanda McMahon celebrated a milestone birthday. She was showered with many birthday blessings as her children, Jennifer and Scott, had a reception for her following worship. The following is a thank you from Wanda to her church family:

Dear Church family,

Thank you so much for making my 80th birthday so special! Since the majority of my extended family lives in Virginia and South Carolina, my church family has become my extended family. The shower of cards was greatly appreciated with the sharing of cake with dear friends.

Love and blessings,
 Wanda Lou McMahon



DATES TO REMEMBER

JULY

- 4 Independence Day
- 10 Board Meeting
- 26 Elders Meeting
- 29-30 General Assembly, Louisville, KY

AUGUST

- 1 General Assembly, Louisville, KY
- 14 Team Ministry Meeting
- 23 Elders Meeting



THE PROCLAIMER

Happy Birthday to...

JULY

29 David A Petrosky

AUGUST

7 John Gamble
12 Vivian Beattie
12 Michele Hyslop
12 Joe Mancinelli
19 Pat Niblock
19 Adalyn Minjock
21 Harry Wentzell
27 Mary Alice Boyce
27 Donna Hruby
29 Grace Kahl

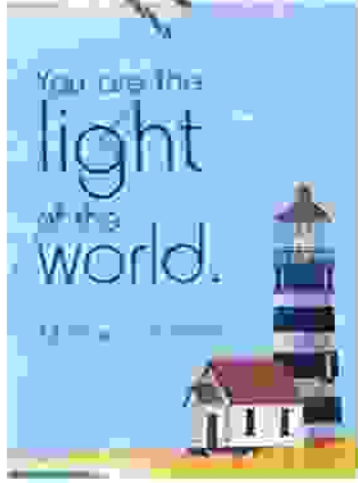
HAPPY Anniversary

JULY

11 John & Patty Gamble

AUGUST

8 Joe & Cindy Mancinelli
9 Harry & Sandy Wentzell
11 Dale & Audrey Minjock



The Lighthouse

Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, "I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life." John 8:12 (NLT)

In 1970, Ronnie Hinson, wrote a song titled "The Lighthouse." He was part of a singing group with his siblings. They were rehearsing for an upcoming concert at "The Pentecostal Tabernacle" and were searching for new a song. Ronnie went to the downstairs restroom with the intention of coming back with a new original song. They all laughed that he could write a song that quickly. He was gone for several minutes and when he returned with a song written on a long sheet of toilet paper with the title "the Lighthouse." As he began to sing someone grabbed it out of his hands, wadded it up and threw in the trash can. His brother Kenny, their guitar player, collected that piece of toilet paper out of the trash. When he started playing and singing the presence of the Lord filled the sanctuary, and from that point on it was a hit.

At the time Ronnie had written this song, he had never laid eyes on a lighthouse before. He truly did not understand what was so special about his song, until he jumped on his bicycle and rode 30 miles to find a lighthouse. He parked his bike and climbed up on a sand dune and for the first time he saw the Pigeon Point Lighthouse in Santa Cruz, CA. As he sat staring at the lighthouse that was so desolate looking, he thought, "What a scene", there stood the lighthouse filled with hope in the middle of all that dreary hopelessness of the gray ocean. He then looked at the words written on that piece of toilet paper and with tear filled eyes he knew that it was something that God had orchestrated.

(Written by Sylvia M. Clemens)

There's a lighthouse on the hillside
And it over looks life's sea.
And when my soul is tossed you know
it sends out a light that I might see.
And the light shines in darkness now
will safely lead me home,
And I know, I know if it wasn't for the
lighthouse, I know my ship would sail
no more.

And I thank God for the Lighthouse, I
owe my life to Him.
Jesus is the Lighthouse and from the
rocks of sin,
He has shown the light around me, so
that I might clearly see.
If it wasn't for The Lighthouse,
Where would this ship be?



My Cup Runneth Over

I know that you must be getting tired of reading the same thing about Hot Meal Monday in each Proclaimer. When asked to write something for the newsletter, my initial response was “No. There is nothing new to report.” But then the words “My cup runneth over” came into my mind, and I began to think of all of the blessings that this outreach has brought. So, I lift up these thanks...

- Thank you for supporting this outreach through your monetary donations to the church general fund. The church took a leap of faith when they added a \$3,500.00 “Hot Meal Monday” line item to our already tight budget. We are a church of people living on fixed incomes and yet as of know, your additional donations for this project have exceeded our expenses. You are truly amazing and I sincerely thank you for supporting this vision.
- Thank you for support this outreach by volunteering to serve and prepare food on Monday night. At the beginning, we tried to prepare enough food for 50 meals, but now we prepare for 60 to 70. It truly is a labor of love. Ask Kathleen how many pierogies she prepared for Monday night meal. ☺ We now need 4 or 5 cakes each week for dessert. They may not be fancy but they are well appreciated. One of our “eat in” gentlemen shyly asks for a second dessert each week. We have started to plan meals in which many of us prepare the same item—lessening the load on one person. It does take a village, and I sincerely thank you for cooking, baking, and serving. May God bless you as you have been such a blessing to others!
- Thank you to the people who have made their way to our door each Monday. We have made connections and friendships with many. New people continue to join us—just recently a family of 7! All of these people have become a part of our extended family, and we delight in sharing God’s love with them each week.
- Thank you for praying for this outreach. Prayer is the one thing that we all can do despite our physical or financial limitations, and I am sincerely thankful for your prayers.

God’s love is truly shining through this little congregation. My cup runneth over!

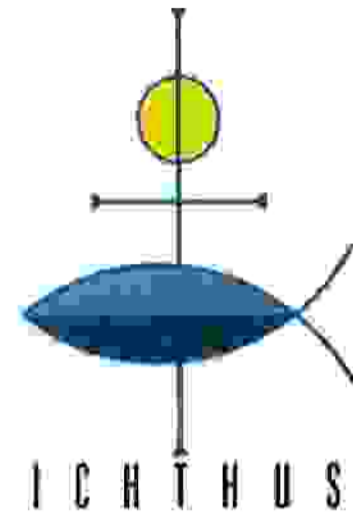
Audrey





Christian symbol

FISH—The first letters in the Greek phrase “Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior” spell ICHTHUS, or fish. Early Christians used the Sign to convey their faith and avoid per-
 Section. In the gospels, fish are part of several Miracles. They also represent people who need to be “caught” for Christ. Today, a fish bumper sticker is a popular indicator of Christian faith.



Then Jesus said to them, “Come, follow me, and I will make you to become Fishers of Men”. Mark 1:17 (RSV)



Fleatique on the Mon

On June 3, 2023, the church came together to participate in the 25th Annual Fleatique on the Mon. Treasures were sold on the side parking lot and lunch and baked goods were sold in the Fellowship Hall. A lunch special of Sloppy Joe sandwich, pasta salad, watermelon and drink was available for \$5.00. The church made between the outside and inside areas \$1371.75. Thank you all for donating your time, treasures and baked goods. After much thought, the decision has been made that this will be the last time we will participate in the Fleatique.



On Sunday, May 14, 2023 following worship service, the ladies of the church were recognized with a reception in the library. The tables were arrayed with cookies, fruit, punch and a chocolate fondue to dip fresh strawberries. Each lady received a vinca plant. God bless all the ladies of the church.





Independence Day lessons for church life

- **Return to the basics** — On July 4th we commemorate the origins of our country. In terms of faith, we also periodically need to hear again the foundational stories of Creation, the Israelites and, of course, Jesus.
- **Honor the gift of freedom** — “For freedom Christ has set us free ... do not submit again to a yoke of slavery” (Galatians 5:1, ESV). We strive as citizens to preserve and live out our national freedom. Likewise, as citizens of God’s kingdom we live gladly in the freedom of salvation and share that gift with others.
- **Enjoy community** — July 4th is known for picnics, parades and other community gatherings. Similarly, the church is nourished by coming together for worship, meals and other special events.
- **Be light in the darkness** — As fireworks brighten the sky with light and color, the church is called to display the Gospel’s unique light in a dark world. Our word *dynamite* and the Greek word for *power* — as in, “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you” (Acts 1:8) — share a root. Through God’s power in us, we share Jesus — dynamically! — with others.

—Heidi Mann

In the words of George Washington, the 1st President of the United States of America,

“While we are zealously performing the duties of good citizens and soldiers, we certainly ought not to be inattentive to the higher duties of religion. To the distinguished character of Patriot, it should be our highest glory to add the more distinguished character of Christian.”

