

The Heavenly Herald

“We will share the love of our Lord, building on our past, reaching in faith toward our future.”

A letter from the Pastor...

AUGUST, 2023

“Faith is believing what we do not see, and the reward for this kind of faith is to see what we believe.” – Saint Augustine

Who would believe that the pop tab from one aluminum can could actually make a difference in someone’s life? There are more than enough excuses not to do something so seemingly trivial like saving pop tabs... They’re too small. They don’t weigh enough to be worth saving to recycle. It’s not worth the effort.

But years ago, our church made the decision to be faithful with the small action of collecting pop tabs in order to recycle them and donate the entirety of the funds raised to Ronald McDonald House. In case you are not familiar, the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Pittsburgh and Morgantown, Inc. provides families with a “home-away-from-home” for seriously ill children receiving medical treatment, and is committed to helping children and their families lead happier, healthier and more productive lives.

his small but mighty mission is not limited to just our church but to friends and family in our community as well. Recently one friend of the church dropped off this load of pop tabs to help us in our mission and ministry to families in need. This is what approximately 38,500 pop tabs look like.



As we prepare for the end of summer and the beginning of the fall schedule, I want to remind you that God does not ask us to complete extraordinary displays of power and prestige but rather God desires that we would display everyday acts of devotion and discipleship. Nothing you do in service to God is too small or too trivial or “not worth the effort”.

Let us join together in daily displays of Christ’s redeeming love, even if it’s just one pop tab at a time, until God’s blessings for us and for this community are too numerous to count!

God Bless, Pastor Ben

**First United
Presbyterian Church**
102 North Main Street
Houston, PA 15342
724-746-3040
houstonpresbyterian.org

Pastor
Ben Libert
1379pbl@gmail.com
724-469-1244 (Cell)

Secretary
Angela M. Itzel
secretary@houstonpresbyterian.org

Clerk of Session
Sandy Wallace

Music Director
Karen Jones
jonesykj@verizon.net

Custodian
Robin Spiker

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Pastor Ben’s Letter | 1 |
| Birthdays & Anniversaries | 2 |
| Prayer Lists | 3 |
| Schedule of Servers | 4 |
| Deacons News/Thank You | 5 |
| Vacation Bible School | 6 |
| Vacation Bible School | 7 |
| Pastor Ben’s August Readings | 8 |
| August Calendar | 9 |



| | | | |
|-----------|-------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| Aug. 1st | Abby Spinnenweber | Aug. 2nd | Joshua Colletti |
| Aug. 2nd | Ruth Libert | Aug. 3rd | Larry Baker |
| Aug. 3rd | Ryan Jones | Aug. 5th | Christy Valley |
| Aug. 7th | Dawn Jardini | Aug. 9th | Devan Zanaglio |
| Aug. 10th | Diane Adamson | Aug. 11th | Mike Rose |
| Aug. 12th | Jackie Shober | Aug. 14th | Lennox Stevens |
| Aug. 15th | Roger Nixon | Aug. 15th | Tonya Michtak |
| Aug. 17th | Jack Curry | Aug. 17th | Michael Mason |
| Aug. 18th | Erin Caldwell | Aug. 18th | Hayden Greely |
| Aug. 19th | Loren Cochran | Aug. 19th | Brianna Askew |
| Aug. 20th | Colton Rubbo | Aug. 26th | Jillian McCarty |
| Aug. 28th | Matt Marshall | Aug. 29th | Bev Penvose |
| Aug. 29th | Dawn Zendt | Aug. 29th | Kaitlin Smith |
| Aug. 30th | George White | Aug. 31st | Savannah Wittik |



Aug. 8th - Kevin & Jenette Wittik
Aug. 10th - John & Joyce Orlando
Aug. 12th - James & Jennifer Baxter
Aug. 26th - Fred & Marilyn Lese Sr.

Aug. 9th - Jeff & Debbie Askew
Aug. 10th - Tim & Karli Andy
Aug. 25th - George & Donna Mondik
Aug. 31st - Mike & Pam Rose

PRAYER LIST

ONGOING PRAYER REQUESTS:

Mindy Kelley, Brandon Craig, Darren Spiker, Cat Morgan, Rev. Don Austin, Millie Romeo, Tim Lynch, Melanie Donahoo, William Young, Patti Nagy, Ronnie Casper, JoAnn Pitcock, Amanda, Matthew Scears, Brad Pitcock, Brian Baumgardner, Bill Brown, Sophia Desmond, and Bill Ensley.



AUGUST PRAYER REQUEST:

Bob Washabaugh, Robert Kanotz, Baby Emilia Lemon, Marion Marcase, Bo Lesjak, Jeannie Volkar, MaryAnn Clark, Curtis Marcase, Howard Lovell, Rev. Peggy Shannon, Nancy Hofrichter, John Orlando, Daralyn Campbell, Susan Stonebraker, Jill & Rich Harshman, Joey Dudam, Jeff Van Fozmire, Darlene Dunn, Frank Zacccone, Jacob Braun, Cory Clark, and Carole Borda.



PLEASE ALSO PRAY FOR:

**Pastor Ben and our Houston Church Leaders,
Our Nation and our Nation's Leaders, and
all unspoken requests of our church family.**

**September Newsletter Articles
due by Monday, August 21, 2023.**

SERVING THE CHURCH IN AUGUST, 2023

Communion will be celebrated on Sunday, August 6, 2023.

GREETERS

Deacon Greeters:

August 6th -

Mary Skirpan (MV)
Jackie Shoher (GV)
Libby Young (GH)

August 13th -

Inez Patsch (MV)
Janice Bloesel (GV)
Libby Young (GH)

August 20th - Picnic

Inez Patsch
Libby Young

August 27th -

Dodie Hanna (MV)
Janice Bloesel (GV)
Libby young (GH)

Elder Greeters:

August 6th -

Pastor Ben (MV)
Sandy Wallace (GV)
Stacey Simpson (GH)

August 13th -

Bob Blough (MV)
Pastor Ben (GV)
Jonnie Swarow (GH)

August 20th - Picnic

Gloria Schmalz (MV)
Linda Young (GV)
Pastor Ben (GH)

August 27th -

Pastor Ben (MV)
Harlan Shoher (GV)
Karen Jones (GH)

Music: Karen Jones

Audiovisual: Leon Young

Liturgist: Haley Steere

Money Counters:

Bob Blough & Karen Jones

July Acolytes:

August 6th - Mako Morgan
August 13th - Julia Swarow
August 20th - Eden Jeffers
August 27th - Gary Swarow

NURSERY SCHEDULE:

August 6th - Jonnie Swarow
August 20th - Church Picnic

August 13th - Linda Baker
August 27th - Jonnie Swarow

DEACONS NEWS



ANNUAL CHURCH SERVICE/PICNIC

Join us for a Special Service and the Annual Picnic
August 20, at Arnold Park Pavilion.

The Worship Service will begin at 10:00am

Picnic 11:30am, right after the Worship Service.

Hope you can come for one or both events.

Deacons will be supplying Chicken, Hot Dogs and Drinks.

Covered dishes are welcome!



The Deacons continue to support the food pantry, our numerous
Mission Projects, and keeping in touch with the Shut-Ins and College Students.

Blessings - Virginia Bayne - Moderator



Our church is putting a team together to join forces with other groups in our community to "Rise Against Hunger" at West Alexander Fairgrounds on August 26, 2023, sponsored by the West Alexander Area Community of Services. Teams are made up of all age groups with jobs for all to do. The younger ones are runners, stronger filled bins and pack crates, and the rest filled, weighed and sealed bags that contain long grain white rice, textured soy protein, dehydrated vegetable blend, a sachet of vitamin powder and cooking instructions.

Come join us with a fantastic group of people on August 26th as we try to surpass a goal of 60,000 meals. Event starts at 10:30am at the Morton Building on West Alexander Fairgrounds.

thank you!

I would like to thank everyone for the get well cards, the well wishes and all the prayers sent my way during my recent open heart surgery and recovery. I also thank my lord and savior Jesus Christ for watching over me and providing such a good outcome. I am doing very well but have a long way to go until I am fully recovered.



Thanks again - Bo (John) Lesjak



Babylon VBS Adventure Week





Babylon VBS Adventure Week

Our journey to Babylon was a fun week of stories, crafts, games, and creative snacks. We all learned of 'Daniel's Courage in Captivity' and how **God is always with us – Praise God!!**. Our mission project's offerings of \$300 was for CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) for Kids. Big thanks to all who helped bring it all together!



“Father, give me a heart with those who hurt, a voice used to comfort others, and a will to help when it’s just the right thing to do.”



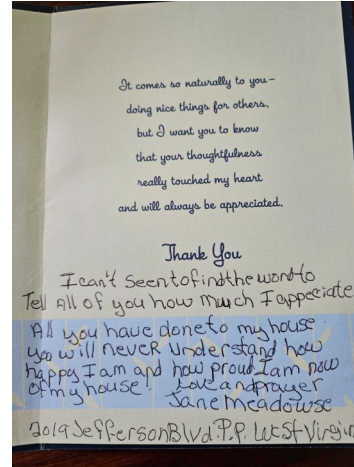
There were 18 individuals from several churches in the Washington area that headed south to Point Pleasant, WV to answer a need, because it’s just the right thing to do. We were divided into 2 groups. One group tackled handicap ramps for two families, and flooring. They measured, cut, designed ramps that helped the families gain the freedom to leave their homes safely.



The second team went to a 100 year old home that needed painted and other repairs. They scraped, 2 coat primed and painted a two story house. They also replaced a ceiling in the dining room, remade window screens, reglazed the windows and fixed the kitchen cabinets.



Our church provided the funds to purchase the food that was used to prepare the meals for the group. They were provided a hot breakfast, bag lunch and a complete dinner each day.



This is just one of the reasons that we do these mission trips, found this slipped into my truck.

His humble servants: Leon, Linda and Libby

1 Peter 4:10 - Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you have received.

PASTOR BEN'S AUGUST READINGS

AUGUST 6, 2023

10th Sunday after Pentecost
Communion Sunday

Romans 9:1-5

Matthew 14:13-21

"What's For Dinner?"

AUGUST 13, 2023

11th Sunday after Pentecost

Psalm 105: 1-6, 16-22, 45b

Romans 10:5-15

"You Are Being Sent"

CHURCH PICNIC
at Arnold Park 10AM!

AUGUST 20, 2023

12th Sunday After Pentecost

Psalm 133:1-3

Genesis 45:1-15

"Hurry Up! The Food is Getting Cold"

AUGUST 27, 2023

13th Sunday After Pentecost

Psalm 124:1-8

Romans 12:1-8

"A Living (and Loving) Sacrifice"

11AM Fall Worship Begins Sunday, September 3!

AUGUST, 2023

11am Fall Worship Begins Sunday, September 3!

Regular Eventss

Worship -10:00am

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|-----|-----|-----|
| July 30th | July 31st | 1- Deacons Mtg. 6:00pm | 2- Bible Study 6:30pm | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6- Communion Sunday | 7- Ministry Mtg. 6:30pm | 8- | 9- Bible Study 6:30pm | 10- | 11- | 12- |
| 13- | 14- Mission & Nurturing Mtg. 6:30pm | 15- | 16- Bible Study 6:30pm | 17- | 18- | 19- |
| 20- Church Picnic Arnold Pavilion 10am Worship Picnic after Worship | 21- Admin. Mtg. 6:30pm | 22- | 23- Bible Study 6:30pm | 24- | 25- | 26- |
| 27- | 28- Session Mtg. 6:30pm | 29- | 30- | 31- | | |



First United Presbyterian Church
 102 North Main Street
 Houston, PA 15342

Address Service Requested

Nonprofit organization
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Houston, PA 15342

Church Office
 724-746-3040

Pastor Ext: 313
 1379pbl@gmail.com

Secretary Ext: 310
 secretary@houstonpresbyterian.org

Meals on Wheels Ext: 314
Open Door Nursery Ext: 311

Website
 houstonpresbyterian.org

Sunday School
 Sunday School Begins
 Sept. 18th at 10:00am

Sunday Worship Service
September — May at 11:00 a.m.
 Nursery Available
 June-July-August at 10:00 a.m.

Bible Study
 Tuesdays
 10:30 a.m.—11:30 a.m.

Gifts and Offerings

First United Presbyterian Church
 102 North Main Street
 Houston, PA 15342



Member Visitor

Name _____ No. _____

Please apply my offering as follows:

| | |
|------------------|----------|
| Regular Offering | \$ _____ |
| Deacons Fund | \$ _____ |
| Building Fund | \$ _____ |
| Special Project | \$ _____ |

Memorial Fund \$ _____

In Memory of _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Thank you for your generous gift.