

# NORTH LIBERTY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## NEWSLETTER

North Liberty Presbyterian Church  
209 North Liberty-Plain Grove Road  
Grove City, PA 16127

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October 2020

Volume 49 Number 5

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### SESSION

The modified Leadership Board meet on Thursday September 10, 2020 in the Fellowship Hall at 7:00 pm. The meeting was opened with prayer by Rev. Stuart.

Deacon and Trustee report was received. The special offering for the Deacons was received on Sunday September 13, 2020. Reese Coulter reported that the upper parking lot was scheduled to receive new stone. Mike Beatty is doing the work and has volunteered his time. This capital improvement expense is \$2400.00 and was planned for by the Trustees. Our radio antenna has found its permanent home in the attic which has improved the signal.

As we move into a greater social media presence our music license was in need of being updated. Trustees and Session approved the streaming license for \$73.00 /yr.

September 20, 2020 was an impressive day in the life of North Liberty. The morning service featured the dedication of our new piano. In this newsletter you can read Michele Bonnici's comments. Again, session is very appreciative of the support the congregation gave to this project. And "Shine Jesus Shine" one of my favorites was impressive on that piano.

At 3:00 pm we had the Installation service for Rev. Stuart as our new pastor. What a beautiful day we were given to celebrate this outside service. Serving on the Commissioning committee was Elder Jeff Black, North Liberty Presbyterian Church, Moderator of the Presbytery of Shenango; Elder Barb Wiles, Highland Presbyterian Church, Slippery Rock, Presbytery of Beaver-Butler; Rev. Carolyn Moss Pastor, Slippery Rock Presbyterian Church, Presbytery of Shenango; Rev. Dr. Eric Powell Pastor, Chartiers Cross roads Presbyterian Church, Presbytery of Washington; Rev. Mark Frailey, Pastor Cool Springs and Union Presbyterian Church, Presbytery of Shenango; Rev. Dr. Willian Crooks, Interium Executive Presbyter, Presbytery of Shenango; and Susan Black, Elder, North Liberty Presbyterian Church, Presbytery of Shenango. Music was provided by Michele Bonnici and Josiah Stuart provided special music for his Father's Installation service and Josh Bonnici led us in the hymns. The charge was given to Rev. Stuart by Dr. Powell and Rev. Frailey and Rev. Crooks gave the charge to the congregation. A light reception followed the service.

Thanks to the many hands who helped make this a great day for Rev. Stuart. The set-up team of Reese and Sarah Coulter, John and Alex Hemmerlin, Josiah and Rev. Stuart. Thanks to the canopies that were shared. Linda Beatty shared her beautiful zinnias that beautified both the 11:00 and Installation service. Joyce Youshock, and Dorry Sankey helped with the reception. Holly Feather created the yummy cupcakes and beautiful cake used in the reception. Jerry Sankey and Allen Fleming were busy with many tasks. And the clean -up committee featured many of the same folks and others who stepped in to assist.

Session continues to review our church activities and worship in light of COVID. We are preparing to expand programs on October 4th. We will have promotion Sunday during the Sunday School time and Christian Education commission will present the 3rd grade Bible. We will be re-opening certain areas in the educational building for our Sunday School classes. Prayer time will be moved to the downstairs conference room so that we don't share space with Denny Shea's Sunday School class. We will be delaying openings for Sunday School again so that we do not share space until later in the year. Sunday School classes will begin at 10:00 AM beginning October 11.

October 4th is also World- wide communion Sunday. We will celebrate a little differently we will be offering bread individually packaged and will distribute the wine a little differently. We will offer communion inside and outside the building as we celebrate this day a little differently. A deacon offering will be received in the silver plates and the regular offering in the brass plates in the gathering space

Rev. Stuart will have scheduled office hours on Tuesday from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM and Thursday 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Other times by appointment.

Session discussed placing the newsletter on our webpage. We are going to attempt to begin to offer it there. Writers of articles if you could send your article to both Carole at northlibertypc@gmail.com and to Pastor Rusty at prrusty@aol.com.

Joyce Youshock will serve as a commissioner to the September 29th meeting of the Presbytery at the Lebanon Presbyterian Church. A major item of business will be the discussion of the redesign of the presbytery.

From the committees of session:

The nominating committee has begun its work. Please pray for guidance for the committee and be listening to God's call for you.

Mission Committee reminds you that Joy Boxes will be due on October 4th. We have shoe boxes if you need one. You can put together a box for a boy or girl of any age. The boxes need \$7.00 for shipping if you can include that with your box.

Worship committee had met and planned for upcoming worship services. A motion was passed to purchase appropriate choir masks for the choir's use when we can proceed with a choir.

Under the House committee, approval was given for the Presbytery council to use our Fellowship Hall as needed for 2020.

Rev. Stuart reported on his work on the web page, and Facebook connection as and pastoral support to various families.

Our next regular meeting will be on October 8, 2020 at 7:00 pm. We continue to seek your prayer support as we manage these times and prayer for Sunday School and Rev. Stuart as we continue to seek God's will. Please feel free to contact us if you have a concern or idea to share.

Susan Black, Clerk of Session

DEACONS REPORT

Please note: Donations for the deacon ministry may be sent anytime to Paul Eperthener, Treasurer. There will be an offering taken on October 4, 2020 for our ministry. Thank you!

The Deacon Board met on September 14, 2020

We are in the process of making a list for Thanksgiving and Christmas for those who may be in need. If you know of someone in need, please contact Allen Fleming, Moderator or Becky Dunkerley, Vice-Moderator.

If you have a need for Friends of the Carpenter, please contact Allen Fleming, or any Board member.

Next Meeting: October 12, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dorry Sankey, Secretary

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PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S NEWS

I'm growing fonder of my staff;  
    I'm growing dimmer in the eyes;  
I'm growing fainter in my laugh;  
    I'm growing deeper in my sighs;  
I'm growing careless of my dress;  
    I'm growing frugal of my gold;  
I'm growing wise; I'm growing - yes,  
    I'm growing old.

John G. Saxe 1816-1887

This poem hits home with some of us in PW. Actually, it pertains to all of us since none are growing young. Our PW Fall speaker, audiologist Kate Faunce from Connect Hearing in Grove City, spoke to us September 21 about hearing health. We learned that “growing old” was only one cause of hearing loss. Two others are noise exposure and genetics. (Kate herself has had hearing loss since childhood). Several effects of hearing loss can be :

\*asking others to repeat...and repeat...

\*turning the TV up...and up again

\*having your spouse yell at you (when you didn't do a thing to deserve it)

We all enjoyed Kate's talk and learned that hearing loss is the only treatable risk factor to preventing memory loss and dementia. She recommends having your hearing checked. Dena Uber was the first to sign up!

After the program we had pumpkin roll made by Allen Fleming, and fruit cups and all went home with a goody bag from our speaker. Thanks to Joyce Youshock for arranging the program.

There is a bin in the narthex for collecting wrapped Christmas gifts to be donated to ROOT INTERNATIONAL. Tag them with the age and gender of the recipient. You can also write what is inside the package. If it is easier you can simply donate a \$10 Walmart gift card and Becky Vogan will buy gifts for the needy when she gets to Mexico. Give the cards to Susan Black or Dorry Sankey. Becky leaves at the end of October so there is a small window for this mission project.

We are also collecting \$10 Giant Eagle gift cards for Jeremiah's Place, a free crisis child care center in Pittsburgh. There they help care for siblings of patients at Children's Hospital, and any other child who is in need of a loving, caring place to stay.

Please pray about how you can help these two worthwhile missions.

Mark 10:45

“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.”

Terri Pizor, Secretary

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PASTOR'S COLUMN

Greetings beloved brothers and sisters,

I begin this missive this month with a hearty and heart-felt thank you to the whole of the congregation for the welcome Tina and I have felt over the past two months (WOW! Two months already — for a year in which nothing seemed to move at all, where have two months gone so quickly?). Not a day has gone by since our coming into the fellowship of believers here that, Tina or I, or both, haven't received some sort of phone call, email, text message card, note or letter from one or another of you. The totality of it is both overwhelming and quite wonderful.

And all of this has been BEFORE this past Sunday's Installation Service! We were fairly bowled-over by the presence of so many gathered outside in the parking lot on a beautiful, cool, crisp almost-Fall Sunday afternoon.

As Dr. Bill Crooks observed in his charge to the congregation during that service, it is a wonderful thing that God does in our midst. Yes, while it is true that the lines at the Safari Park may have been longer and that more people may have been gathered in local restaurants for “last-day-of-the-weekend” escapes from reality, we gathered to praise the eternal God and King of the Universe and to ask His blessing upon us in a time when His message is oft-overlooked and frequently unheeded. Yet this did not stop us.

Moreover, in the midst of this service, we had people from at least 5 different congregations gathered with us and have had nearly 50 others who joined us virtually after the fact by video recording on the internet or DVD. In real terms, that means we managed to touch almost 120 people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ in a day and time when it is difficult for the Church even to meet, and we did so in a way designed to keep people safe and healthy at the same time. God would appear to be doing something in our midst.

Now, before I utterly loose the knot at the end of my narrative thread as I write, I need to offer public thanks to:

- the 6 members of the Presbytery's Installation Commission.
- to Sue Black (wearing 3 hats as commission member, Clerk of Session and PNC Chair).
- to the session, deacons and trustees for all of their hard work.
- to the PW members and other volunteers who offered their time and services to make the reception go off well.
- to Gerry Sankey, who, as always, made certain that the sound system was up and running so we could hear each other.
- to Carol Augustino, our secretary, for the extra work she had to do to make this happen.
- to Michele, Mark and Josh Bonnici for their musical and video assistance.
- to our son, Josiah, for his musical contribution to the service,
- to the congregation for participating and for the wonderful gift of wooden cross and beautiful Wendell August aluminum bookmark.
- to any and all I have missed inadvertently; your labors may have gone unrecognized, but are not unappreciated.

As we all continue our individual labors in the faith "handed down once-for-all to the saints," let us do so — in the new way God has given to us — by continuing to wear the "whole armor of God, "bear each others' burdens in love," "speak the truth in love," and continuing to "be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave us."

We now take up our joys, burdens, sorrows, and duties knit-together by God through Christ at work in us and the abiding power, presence and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Again, many thanks to all, and may God, in His good providence, uphold and send us forward.

Grace & Peace in Christ Jesus our Lord



Pastor Rusty+

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### UNREPEATABLE STORIES

Delivering a building fund-raising banquet speech on the night of his arrival in a large city, a visiting minister told several anecdotes that he expected to repeat at meetings the next day. Because he wanted to tell the jokes over again, he requested the reporters to omit them from any accounts they might submit to their newspapers.

A cub reporter, in commenting on the speech, ended his piece with these words: “The minister told a number of stories that cannot be printed.”

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NOMINATING COMMITTEE

It’s that time again as we begin fall activities to consider the work of the church. We are looking for your suggestions to chose leaders to help us serve the Lord in the areas of ministry, mission, education, administration and service. We are asking you as members of North Liberty to prayerfully consider who you feel called to lead on the boards of our church.

SESSION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for consideration: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

DEACON

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for consideration: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

TRUSTEE

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for consideration: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Flowers on the altar are in honor of Chole & Austin Zeitler.

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### CHANGE COMES TO GROVE CITY AREA CHURCHES

Rev., Dr., Robert McCreight

Within a week in the middle of March, 2020, American society changed dramatically and suddenly. Churches were not immune to the need to make radical alterations to their normal operations. Seven Grove City area churches responded to my request for information on how they handled the onset of what came to be called “Covid-19.”

Some changes were made by all these churches: in-person gatherings for worship, bible study, and other activities were immediately curtailed, at least until May 10; churches have been resuming their in-person gatherings between June and September. All these churches began broadcasting worship services and some mid-week times of prayer and devotion using Zoom, Facebook, YouTube, and/or their church website. Typically several modes were used simultaneously. All churches canceled some activities and revised others. Governing units met more frequently to oversee matters (typically online), and pastors were definitely focused on the at-home needs of their people while adapting to the new playing field. If the congregation utilizes deacons their ministries have expanded, sometimes with new assignments.

When people began to meet back inside the buildings, signs communicating social distancing and other directions as well as hand sanitizers are everywhere. A few churches made masks and social distancing optional, while others recommended them and still others required these restrictions. Typically face masks were provided for those needing them. Books and pew cushions were often removed and gathering places were sanitized frequently; social distance (except for families) was usually encouraged or expected. Several responses mentioned that people are encouraged NOT to socialize with one another nor to gather in groups, even though this is contrary to normal practices.

The interesting part of the story is the creativity which the Grove City area churches developed to meet the crisis of social isolation. The primary change was the use of technology – for connecting with church members but also for coordinating leadership. Two churches (Wayside and Leesburg) soon began to hold worship services in their parking lots; they and North Liberty implemented a low-frequency AM radio broadcast of services to allow their members to worship closeby in their cars. North Liberty also redesigned its web page, took DVDs to members without a computer (providing a new player if it was needed), and mailed communications which others would receive online. Until May the Lutheran Church used teleconferencing by phone for worship and socializing. Technology helped church officers to stay in closer contact with church members than had previously been done. East Main also reported a lot of window and front lawn visits (definitely low-tech).

Music has been treated differently in the various congregations. When services were televised music was always included. Upon return to the sanctuary congregational singing is done in at least two of the churches. Others include the singing by only one person during services.

Churches with a presbytery or bishop expressed appreciation for the guidance provided to them during this time, and closely followed those recommendations.

Bottom line: Grove City area churches have confronted the Covid-19 challenge boldly and innovatively with new practices they would not have considered in other times. They took the threat seriously, with pretty much a universal acceptance and cooperation among their members. Attendance has fallen somewhat as in-person gatherings resume, but this is to be expected while we continue to live in the danger zone of the pandemic. Local mission work continued, though sometimes modified but sometimes intensified.

On top of the disruptions of Covid-19 several churches dealt with the extraordinary: in July the Church of the Epiphany (Episcopal) celebrated the ordination of Patricia Lavery to the Priesthood where she is now serving as Vicar. In August North Liberty began the new leadership of Rev. "Rusty" Stuart. Tragedy came to Beloved Disciple (Catholic) on June 27 in the death of their priest, Father Michael Allison, leading to their current priest Father David Foradori.

If there is a story to be told here, it is that the mission and life of the Christian Church will continue, even in the face of a crippling pandemic.

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#### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMISSION

The Christian Education Commission met on September 17, 2020 with Joyce Youshock, Adult Sunday School Superintendent and Elder, leading the group.

- Dorry Sankey, Children's Sunday School Superintendent and teacher, shared that Promotion Sunday is underway for October 4. The students will be promoted during Sunday School. We will have Teacher Appreciation for 11 teachers who will be given a gift for their service during morning worship. Carmen Martin is in third grade and will receive a Bible. Teachers may have 15-20 minutes of class time after the promotion.

-Dorry asks that teachers have a separate box for each student with their name and their own supplies in due to the virus.

- Liberty Lambs & Lions and CE will be meeting on October 4. Watch the bulletin for time and location.

- A list of current students from our church who are in college was in the September newsletter. Update: Nolan Mahaffey...14 Liberty Square, Rockland MA 02379. (Nolan is a senior in high school, but is living near Boston to play hockey). Please include him and our other students in your prayers and send a note to them occasionally to encourage them. Many won't have a break



until their Thanksgiving break!

-Our next meeting is October 14 at 4 pm.

-May God bless you all!

Linda Beatty, Secretary

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PIANIST MICHELE BONNICI'S DEDICATORY REMARKS  
FOR DEDICATION OF THE NEW PIANO, BELLA MARIA

First, I'd like to thank everyone for supporting the purchase of the new piano. At a time when so many people are struggling, your generosity toward the music ministry of this church has not gone un-noticed.

When asked to say something today, I kind of panicked a little because I prefer to stay at the piano or behind a music stand. I really didn't know where to begin!

So, I thought back to the day that the piano was delivered; Pastor Rusty, Sue Black and I were watching the delivery guys unload the piano from the truck. As they were wheeling it into the church, Susan said, "What are we going to name her?" So, I immediately said, "Mary!" I've since fancied it up a little to "Bella Maria" meaning "Beautiful May." But, why did I say "Mary"? So I thought about the different Marys in the Bible.

First, there's Mary Magdalene. After Jesus cast out seven demons from her, she became one of His devoted followers and the first one to witness His Resurrection.

Then, there's Martha's and Lazarus' sister Mary. Jesus was at their house, and while Martha was busy making preparations, cooking and cleaning, Mary was at Jesus' feet, listening to all He said and taught.

And then, of course, we have Jesus' mother Mary, who was the very vessel used to carry and give birth to Jesus, the Son of God, Who came to save us from all of our sins.

Someday, hopefully soon, we will all be able to sing together again. So, as Mary Magdalene followed Jesus, may we follow the music, lifting up our voices as one.

In the case of Martha's sister Mary, may we take time away from all the business and busy-ness of life and LISTEN. What message is Jesus sending us through the music?

And, as Jesus' mother Mary, may this piano be a vessel through which our music ministry carries the message of God out into the world. Bella Maria — Beautiful Mary! I think it's a good name!

Earlier I mentioned that I prefer to sit at the piano because I don't know what to say. My prayer life is like that, too, because I feel like I can't ever find the right words. I think I do my best praying at the piano because the music expresses what I can't find the words for.

May this piano help you to pray when you cannot find the words. May it comfort you in times of mourning. May it lift you up in times of rejoicing. And, may it always help you to praise, worship and glorify God!


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OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS:

- 7 Amy Stringert
- 9 Deb Kedanis
- 19 Janice McElhinny
- 23 J.R. Sankey
- 26 Laurel Hemmerlin
- 28 Evelyn Koprivnikar

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES:

- 15 Paul & Brenda Eperthener
  - 16 Jack & Dotty Atcheson
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<u>SUNDAY</u>	<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>	<u>THURSDAY</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>
27 —	28 —	29 —	30 —	1 11 AM Morn Circle 6:30 PM Eve. Circle	2	3
4 9:45 AM Promotion Sun 11 AM Worship / World- wide Communion & Deacons' Offer'g 6 PM Christian End'vr	5	6 11 A - 5P Pastor Rusty's Office Hours	7	8 9 A - 1P Pastor Rusty's Office Hours  7 PM Session Meeting	9	10
11 10:00 AM Sunday School 11 AM Worship 6 PM Christian End'vr	12 7:00 PM Deacons' Mtg.	13 11 A - 5P Pastor Rusty's Office Hours	14 4:00 PM Christian Ed Mtg.	15 11 A - 5P Pastor Rusty's Office Hours	16	17
18 10:00 AM Sunday School 11 AM Worship 6 PM Christian End'vr	19	20 11 A - 5P Pastor Rusty's Office Hours	21	22 11 A - 5P Pastor Rusty's Office Hours	23	24
25 10:00 AM Sunday School 11 AM Worship 6 PM Christian End'vr	26	27 Newsletter Articles Due	28	29	30	31



*"I trust in the steadfast love of God."*  
 — Psalm 52:8



— MISSION STATEMENT —

The Mission of the North Liberty Presbyterian Church is to serve Christ. We seek to introduce Jesus as the Christ and become disciples so that together we are enabled to love one another and share His love with those around us.

