

The Berkeley Springs Presbyterian Church

June 2019

97 – 101 S. Mercer St., P.O. Box 206, Berkeley Springs, WV 25411

Church Website: bspcwv.com Email: bspcwv@frontier.com



Pastors Notes

Congratulations! That is the expected response when one learns of an imminent or recent retirement. I suppose that is a bit different from, “Thank you,” which could be taken a couple of different ways. A couple of people have asked if I was working on my last message and last service as the departing minister. To be honest, I had not thought about it all that much. I have looked ahead at the lectionary texts. So, what would I say to this congregation as I take my retirement? “Good luck,” doesn’t have the right ring to it. “The Lord be with you,” is a common refrain and much more to the point. Somehow, I may have to offer our own, “Thank you.” Thank you for calling me as your minister/pastor. Thank you, for including our family in your lives and welcoming us, Thank you for bearing with me when I am at a loss for words. There are so many things for which we might say, “Thank you,” to the church family and the community. My family has appreciated the welcome and its place at Christ’s table among you.

Maybe, I just said what I should have said on my last Sunday, and there will be nothing left to say. I suspect that there will be more to say when the time comes. In the meantime, the work of the church and its ministers remains the same: praise the Lord, and serve God always. Follow Christ’s commandments to love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, and strength; and love others as yourselves. By this, others will know we are Christ’s followers.

BOB.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- VBS
- Calendar
- Retirement party
- Sunday School
- Youth and Bells
- Graduates
- Community Involvement

SESSION

Moderator - Robert Osborne

Clerk - John Marple

Class of 2019

Virginia Marple

John Marple

Paul Mock

Class of 2020

Raynette Mock

Paula Osborne

Anne Helmick

Class of 2021

Adrienne North

Bill North

VBS Bible Tennis Camp



BIBLE SEEDS – God’s Fruit Grows!

Galatians 5: 22.

Fruits of the spirit: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self-control

When: August 5-6, 2019

Time: 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Ages: Four to Twelve

Register for Free

Bible Lesson, crafts, robotics, snacks and tennis

New this year – robotics with Gray Jones



Spread the word through our community and let Virginia or Anne know if you would like to help!

Rainbow Bells/ Youth Program

Our Rainbow Bells have been busy working with Peggy to provide music for the worship service. They combine their practice session with youth group. The bells will play on **June 23rd**.

Thank you Peggy and Paula!

Educational Programs: Sunday School and Children’s Church

Adults have started their new **summer study** *Living in Covenant* that runs June through August. Plan to join this class, studying the word of God. After July 7th, the current members of the class have agreed to lead the class. Leader books are available.

We will not have Sunday school for the youth and children during July and August (children and youth only). We will plan on having our two age levels for youth and children return with a kickoff in September. However, to do that, at least one additional **teacher is needed** to either teach children or youth! Curriculum written for volunteers is provided, plus, training is available as needed.

We want to give the children and youth a firm foundation for their religious education! Please let Virginia know if you would be willing to help!

Children’s Church requires two deep leadership. This program is especially important to children younger than 3rd grade. Curriculum is very relaxed, usually continuing the Sunday school lesson, or church calendar topic for that Sunday, and/or nursery for the youngest children. Sign up sheet for helping with children’s church is posted in the narthex. Thank you for supporting our educational programs!



Presbyterian Women celebrated a Birthday Luncheon with the congregation on May 26th. They met for their last lesson of the season May 11th. Thank you, Paula, for all your work with the Presbyterian Women at Berkeley Springs Presbyterian Church!

Please keep our **shut-ins** in your prayers. They always appreciate phone calls, visits, cards, and our prayers!

April 7th, Rev. Bob Osborne announced his retirement.

Rev Bronwen Boswell, General Presbyter/Stated Clerk for Shenandoah Presbytery, preached **April 28th** during our worship service. After church she met with session to help us understand the transitional process. Rev. Boswell and others in the presbytery are available to help us as needed. We should be hearing shortly who has been assigned our liaison.

Congregational Meeting **June 9th** we approved Bob's desire to retire, after reading and reviewing the policy and covenant regarding the relationship; of departing Ministers to their former congregations. The full policy is posted on the bulletin board. Part B: the agreement between the church and the departing pastor is:

With a posture of grace, understanding, and trusting in the guidance of the Holy Spirit we all covenant to hold one another in prayer, and refrain from all intentional **pastoral** interaction in person or online.

The Congregation covenants to pray for the well-being of the departing pastor into retirement; no longer approach the departing pastor or the departing pastor's family regarding issues of pastoral care, congregational life, or future pastoral leadership; welcome and embrace new pastoral leadership and joyfully engage in a process of discerning God's calling for their future; and allow those who are feeling a sense of loss to have adequate time to grieve the end of the departing pastor's relationship with the congregation.

Holy Cow is a tool recommended by the Presbytery of Shenandoah to help congregations in transition. Bill North, as the contact person, Brice Williams, Walker Williams, and Ian Helmick, form our committee to proceed with this project. They will meet with Rev. Nancy Meehan Yao, the Associate General Presbyter for our Presbytery on Sunday, **June 16th**, after church. The results of the Holy Cow program will give us direction towards finding our future as a congregation. Ask Bill North for more information!

The session has been busy understanding this process; and is working to make this transition as smooth as possible. Adrienne is scheduling pulpit supply. If you have any questions, please contact any session member. How can you help? Volunteer to be a lay leader, usher, greeter, teacher, or many other possibilities. Just stay active and involved! And be sure to attend worship to hear the good news delivered by different speakers.

CALENDAR

JUNE 16 HOLY COW

JUNE 22 BELLS PRACTICE

JUNE 23 RAINBOW BELLS

JUNE 30 SESSION

JULY 7 BOB'S RETIREMENT PARTY

AUG 5 AND 6TH VBS

SEPT 1 KICKOFF SUNDAY SCHOOL

SEPT 8TH SESSION

NOV 3 SESSION



*You are invited to
RETIREMENT
CELEBRATION*

for

*Rev. Robert Osborne
Sunday July 7th after
church*

*Join us for a joyous
time celebrating*

Bob's time in the ministry!

Have internet access? Consider joining our prayer group, and/or receiving weekly updates.

Online prayer group— contact Virginia Marple

Online weekly news—contact Brice Williams

Websites:

Berkeley Springs Presbyterian Church:

www.bspcwv.com

Presbyterian Church USA:

www.pcusa.org

Shenandoah Presbytery:

www.shenpres.com

Massanetta Springs:

www.massanettasprings.org

Growing Grace and Gratitude (curriculum children):

www.pcusastore.com/GGGdownloads

Congratulations Graduates

Kalee Sherrard, graduated from Davis and Elkins with plans to attend Marshall for graduate study.

Madison Slusher graduated from WVU. **Sterling Slusher** graduated from Berkeley Springs High School.

Reese Griffiths is a homeschool graduate with plans to attend Fairmont this fall to study Aviation.



Community involvement

Our church family is very involved in the community. Paula with the tennis program! Raynette and the excellent Berkeley Springs High School Tennis Team. Audrey excelled in track this spring and painted a second meter in the Town of Bath. This is just to mention a few of the many Berkeley Springs Presbyterian church members involved in our community.

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