**CHRIST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER**

**AUGUST 2025**

**DEVOTIONAL:**

The parable of the lost sheep where the shepherd leaves the 99 and goes in search of the one who has gone astray is proof that God has an interest in preserving the life of all of the sheep of God’s sheepfold. The fact that God seeks out the lost and restores it to the flock means that God can even seek out the most lost of humankind to restore us to life in the community. Have you ever experienced a moment of lost-ness and then been found by God’s grace? What did it feel like? How did you respond? May the God of us all continue to seek us out in our moments of lost-ness and renew and restore us.

**PASTORAL REFLECTION**:

I have just returned from a week of study leave with my preaching cohort. We invited New Testament scholar and professor Matthew Skinner to lead us in a conversation rooted in Matthew’s gospel.

I will confess that I had hoped to spend the days sitting at the feet of a scholar who would uncover all of the mysteries surrounding Jesus in the gospel of Matthew, someone who would give answers to all of the questions that might come up in the study of the book. You might say that I had great expectations for the week.

Instead, Dr. Skinner unlocked a bevy of questions for us without giving any definitive answers. Questions that he raised included: “Why is Jesus so angry?” “Why is there a focus on judgment and punishment?” “What is the anxiety in Matthew about?” “Who do you expect God to be?” “What does it mean to be blessed by Jesus?” “What does it mean to be encountered by Jesus?” and “What does it mean to be a sheep of the fold of Jesus?”

Lots of questions . . . very few answers. That often seems to be the way of things with God. The more we think we know, the less we truly understand. The more answers we seek, the more questions arise. Dr. Skinner challenged us with a question, “How much is preaching supposed to give answers? Or, is preaching supposed to create space for conversation?”

Growing up and into adulthood, I always thought that I could find answers at church. Now, however, I find that sometimes it is not about finding an answer but articulating or framing the right questions. Answers can sometimes suggest absolutes, like 2 +2 = 4. While absolutes might give us comfort and structure, questions with multiple answers can often make space for more people to gather around the table.

Ultimately, God entrusts us to carry on the mission of Jesus. How will we do that? What will it look like? My prayer is that it will look like an open invitation for people to encounter the Word of God and join the conversation. It turns out that preaching is not the answer – preaching is an invitation.

*Pastor Ruth*



**NEW MEMBERS:**

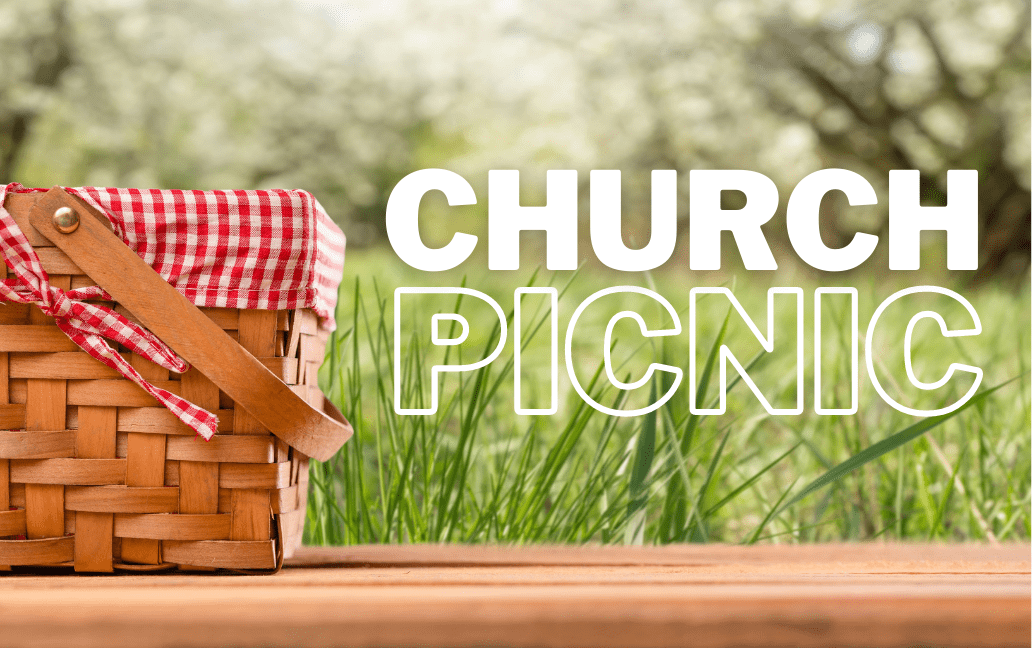
Our new members will be received in worship on **Sunday, August 17th**. If you are interested in uniting with this congregation, please indicate it on the attendance card in worship or contact Pastor Ruth.

**PRAYER MEETINGS**:

The weekly prayer meetings are continuing. Howie Wharram, Beth Bedwell and the Holy Spirit are leading them. We meet at 7PM in the Chapel on Tuesday evenings. Please join us! Any and all prayer concerns are welcome. If you cannot be present, give your prayer requests to Howie or Beth. Howie’s emai8l address is: [Jeffery\_1972@yahoo.com](mailto:Jeffery_1972@yahoo.com).

**DINNER GROUPS**:

Get to know the people sitting next to you in our church! Sign up for our dinner groups on the form in the narthex. We will begin in September. Each person or couple will be responsible for organizing a place, date, and time for an assigned month. If you have any questions, please contact Diane McClellan at 419-460-3412 or [dianefrogs@aol.com](mailto:dianefrogs@aol.com). This is for all members so please join us!

**ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC**:

This will be our Kick Off Sunday Picnic on September 7th after 10am worship. There will be information available for all the opportunities to get involved. If there is something you would like to see happening, let us know! This will be held in Hansen Hall because the weather is so unpredictable. There will be Hot dogs, Hamburgers and all the fixings. Everything is provided. See you there!

**CHANCEL FLOWERS**:

The Worship Committee needs volunteers to sign up to provide bouquets for our church services. If you enjoy arranging flowers, this would be a wonderful way to help serve the church. The flowers are used for anniversaries, memorials, for the homebound, etc. There will be a sign-up sheet on the table in the Narthex. The sign-up sheet will ask for your name and phone number so we can contact you and give you more details concerning the Chancel Flowers. If you have any questions, please contact Carilyn Collins, Worship Committee Chair at 419-205-6400 or email to [fritzecjc58@gmail.com](mailto:fritzecjc58@gmail.com).

**OUR CHOIRS**:

The Chancel, Handbell and Youth choirs will start back up in September. Consider trying one of them out! Watch for more information or contact Mark Mathias, Director of Music Ministry.

**GRIEFSHARE:**

GriefShare meetings will be starting once again this Fall at CPC. We plan to meet Thursday evenings from 6PM to 8 PM. We will meet for 13 weeks beginning September 4th. Our 13th time together falls on Thanksgiving Day so we’ll skip that night. It will be on December 4th instead. We meet in Scott Hall for a light supper provided by the wonderful Corner chefs at 6PM. After our meal, we head to the hospitality room for a 30 minute professionally produced video and discussion. Please arrive 15 minutes early when registering for your first meeting. One does not need to attend every night to be benefitted by GriefShare. The only cost is $20 for the workbook. The book is yours to keep. We have scholarship monies available if one cannot afford that. We welcome anyone who has lost a loved one or friend. Grieving is one of the most difficult times in our lives. It really helps to speak or listen to those who have already experienced losses. Although GriefShare is a Bible based program, one does not have to be a Christian or a member of CPC to attend. Howard Wharram and Carolyn Collins will be leading the sessions. If you have questions, please speak with us or go to GriefShare.com.



**SAVE THE DATE**:

Save the date for CPC Directory Pictures:

* + **Thursday, October 16th**
  + **Friday, October 17th**
  + **Saturday, October 18th**

(*More information will be in the September newsletter*)

**CPC TUESDAY SCHOOL**:

The preview night will be Tuesday, September 9th at 6 PM. Families of incoming students are invited to visit the classrooms and review procedures for the new year. There will be a brief meeting in the chapel at 6:15 with light refreshments after.

**STEWARDSHIP:**

Per Capita is $40.29 per member. Please be sure to label “per Capita” when submitting to Amalya.

Total Income (Jan – June) $193,393.15

Toal Expenses $ 255,671.78

Net Income ($59,278.63)

**ICE CREAM SOCIAL**:

The Community Committee is hosting an ice Cream social August 24th after the 10:00 worship service. This is in support of the Mechling Community Fund which helps neighbors in need during difficult times. This includes members of our congregation. A free will offering will be greatly appreciated and the last of the ceramic bowls will be for sale at $20 each. In addition, an envelope offering will be available as well.

We thank you in advance for your generous support of this mission which is needed to allow us to help vulnerable members of our community.

**SEW AND SERVE**:

Our mission is to make quilts and blankets for Project Linus which then gives them to foster children served by Children’s Services and children served by Toledo Children’s Hospital. We also meet the occasional sewing needs of the church. We meet on Mondays from 11:30 – 2pm. Contact Hattie Kate Howell at 419-531-9167 for more information.

**CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS**:

These CPC members are celebrating a birthday this month and we wish them a wonderful year ahead!



*Beverly Cowell; Mary Ann Denhof; Fred Tank; Candace Tubbs; Dale Burnett 8/2; Jim Burns 8/3; Betsy Pryor 8/6; Rick Stambaugh 8/9; Sherry Gilbert 8/12; Roy Young 8/15; Sanda Findley 8/17; Jean Oldham 8/17; Kelly Parkhurst 8/18; Mary Goldberger 8/19; Dee Dee Jeffries 8/19; Alison Hess 8/20; Annie Mintun 8/21; Janice Chu 8/25; Theresa Burns 8/28; Carole Gildemeister 8/30; Ray Hupp 8/30; Kevin Gaynor 8/31.*

**CARE AND CONCERN**:

***Homebound:***

Mary Ignat, Jama Roman, Peg Locker, Harry Tubbs

***Ongoing Concerns***:

Betsy Gouvernayre & Tim Pryor, Judd Collins, Jack Rogers, Richard Stambough, Christine Vischer, Harry Tubbs, Sherry Gilbert, Barbara & Richard Brownlee, Don & Sandy Townsend, Margie Olson, Stephanie and Linda Bell, Jim & Sanda Findley, Hean Oldham, Bruce Wharram and Katie Wharram.

***Deaths:***

Millard “Stoney” Stone on June 21, 2025

***Relatives & friends***:

Ryan Blocher (son of Carolyn Collins)

Shirley Cable (mother of Naci Poling)

Doug Holdridge (brother of Karen Start)

Alex (nephew of Jane & Phil Mintun)

Joe & Barb Esterly (friends of CPC)

Carol Reinke (sister of Karen Wharram)

Kelly Damman (cousin of Jen Juhasz)

Louise Pikor (friend of Rick Stambaugh)

Debbie Proffitt (friend of CPC)

Harel Carrier (friend of Bill Drake)

Terry Drake (brother of Bill Drake)

Perry Bates (friend of Tyson Fankhauser)

Robert Wagner (brother of Jim Wagner)

Christine Hobbs (friend of CPC)

Pam Rogers (daughter-in-law of Jack Rogers)

Anthoney & Danielle Ferrer (friends of Katie Wharram)

Terri Jo Schempf (niece of Carolyn Collins)

Jean & Angie Crisp (Howard Wharram)

Aaron Grizaniuk (son of Pat & Tony Grizaniuk)

Mike Powers (friend of CPC)

Caroline & her family (guest & friend of CPC)

Betty Felton (friend of Christine Vischer)

**CLOSING PRAYER**:

Lord of all, we give you praise and thanksgiving for creating a world full of wonder. Be with us in every moment—in moments of certainty and uncertainty, in moments of joy and sorrow. We pray for our community and congregation, for friends, for those known to us and for those known only to you. In your mercy, hear our prayer. Amen.