

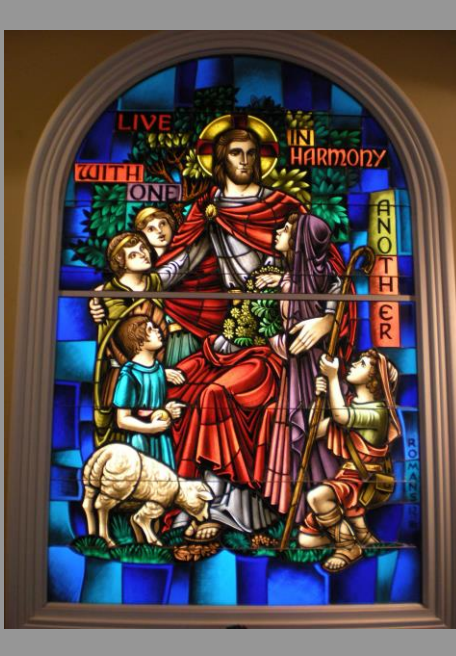
## *Message from the Pastor*

Why don't people come to church anymore? Why have other things replaced the church as a priority? What do we have to do to "attract" people to our church? These questions are being raised by *The Church* all over the western world and especially the main-line denominations here in the States. *The Church* is struggling for an identity in a way *She* hasn't had to since the beginning. *The Church's* purpose and reason for existence have been lost. We as Western Christians are struggling to identify our place in a world which has passed by us and isn't looking back. We are caught in a dilemma. We are trying to pursue an identity which hasn't existed for some time, while living in a world which doesn't find any purpose or meaning in that former identity. Therefore, the world's view of *The Church* renders our perceived or idealized sense of identity, with ties to the past glory days, meaningless in today's world.

We need to face the facts. *The Church* has often been arrogant and misdirected by human attitudes even to the point of murder and political extremism. Yet throughout most of the past 2000 years there has been an identity which has predominated and given a sense of purpose to *The Church's* existence, even though that identity was often warped by human ambition and visions of self grandeur. *The Church* journeyed with society. *She* was interwoven within the fabric of people's lives often giving hope and providing shelter. *The Church* provided a direction and foundation for society and filled in the gaps of human error with the grace of God by being the arms and legs of Jesus in the world. Throughout most of the past 2000 years *The Church* has been a moving, living, and breathing entity whose purpose was to impact the world for Jesus Christ. The establishment of Christendom was the focus. *The Church* was on a mission to make the world a Christian Kingdom. Today, *The Church* struggles to find a mission.

We are in crisis as *The Church* because we embraced modernity. Modernity focused *The Church* on individualism. In the 19 & 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, *The Church's* mission was focused on personal spiritual growth and understanding. The result of such a shift in mission has brought us to this crisis of identity. Alan J. Roxburgh states it this way. "Individuals [tend to] become structurally, and often physically, invisible in terms of the culture's standard definitions and classifications. They lose their identity"<sup>1</sup>. In other words, the more we have turned away from our connectional roots, the more we move into oblivion. I wonder if we took the approach of the early disciples and shared everything together and viewed our mission to be Jesus arms and legs in the world, joyfully praising God and serving those in need, what would happen. What if we really took seriously the call to make disciples rather than members? What if we were more concerned about people rather than institutions? Would we have an identity again that the world would find powerfully attractive? Just some thoughts.....Pastor Scott

<sup>1</sup> Roxburgh, Alan J. *Missionary Congregation, Leadership, & Liminality*. Trinity Press International, Harrisburg, PA. 1997, page 24.



## Mark your Calendar

### September 2016

- 9-4 Communion
- 9-5 Labor Day
- 9-11 Church Picnic/9-11 Remembrance
- 9-18 Deacon Meeting/Church School Begins
- 9-28 Session Meeting – 7 pm

### October 2016

- 10-2 World Communion Sunday/Peacemaking Offering
- 10-9 Fall Round-Up/Deacon Meeting
- 10-10 Columbus Day
- 10-16 World Food Day
- 10-26 Session Meeting – 7 pm

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## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### Session Update

#### Regular September Session Meeting

Wednesday, September 28, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

#### Regular October Session Meeting

Wednesday, October 26, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

### Deacon Update

#### Regular September Meeting

Sunday, September 18, 2016 at 11:30 a.m.

#### Regular October Meeting

Sunday, October 9, 2016 at 11:30 a.m.

### Usher Schedule

September 4	Communion Servers will be the Ushers
September 11 Annual Picnic	Joyce & Charlie Cummins Tina & Lance Evans
September 18	Russell Scott, Ruth Skirbst. John Counterman , Lynn Ehrhardt
September 25	Rich & Betty Salter Andy & Niki Carr
October 2	Communion Servers will be the Ushers
October 9	Joyce & Charlie Cummins Jeri Lynn Flynn, Tom Wismer
October 16	Shirley Beers. Natalie Dutt, Becky Brandt, Vicki Stevens
October 23	Rich & JoAnn Fehr, Suzanne Swanson, Ruth Skirbst
October 30	Rex LaBarre, Jan Kuhn, Ray Lalley, Cindy Winters

#### **SEPTEMBER 4, 2016 – Communion**

Assisting Elder	Tom Wismer
Greeters	Jeff & Melissa Fehr
Assisting Deacon	Emily Swanson
Servers	Charlie Cummins, Ray Lalley, Rich Fehr, Nancy Farley

#### **SEPTEMBER 11, 2016 - 11 AM Worship, Harmony Recreation Field; Picnic/9-11 Remembrance**

Assisting Elder	John Ehasz
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#### **SEPTEMBER 18, 2016 - Commissioning of Church School Teachers, Church School Begins Fellowship**

Assisting Elder	Lynn Ehrhardt
Assisting Deacon	Gail Bragin
Greeters	Dave Ehasz Family

#### **SEPTEMBER 25, 2016 – Fellowship**

Assisting Elder	Bert Kuhn
Assisting Deacon	Ray Lalley
Greeters	Indyk Family

#### **OCTOBER 2, 2016 - World Communion, Peacemaking Offering, Fellowship**

Assisting Elder	Scott Aydelotte
Greeters	Oliva Swanson, Ben Rose, Ray Bragin, Louise Harris
Assisting Deacon	Jan Kuhn
Servers	Lynn Ehrhardt, Jeri Lynn Flynn, Russell Scott, Lori Frankenfield

#### **OCTOBER 9, 2016- Fall-Round-Up Sunday**

Assisting Elder	Natalie Dutt
Assisting Deacon	Suzanne Swanson
Greeters	Haschak Family

#### **OCTOBER 16, 2016 – Fellowship**

Assisting Elder	Nancy Farley
Assisting Deacon	Sue Gentle
Greeters	Lee Smith & Family

#### **OCTOBER 23, 2016 - Fellowship**

Assisting Elder	Dave Swanson
Assisting Deacon	Tom Wismer
Greeters	Rich & Betty Salter

#### **October 30, 2016 – Fellowship**

Assisting Elder	Lori Frankenfield
Assisting Deacon	Richard Fehr
Greeters	Dick & Loyce Johnson

### **CHURCH SCHOOL REGISTRATION**

During the Church Picnic on September 11th, children will be registered for the 2016-2017 church School year. Church School begins on Sunday, September 18, 2016.

### **REMINDER - CHURCH PICNIC**

Remember that worship and 9-11 Remembrance on September 11th will be at 11:00 a.m. at the Harmony Recreation Field, with the annual Church Picnic immediately following. In the event of inclement weather, worship will be in the Sanctuary, followed by the picnic in Fellowship Hall. We welcome Rev. Amy Sandlin and the Hazen and Delaware Presbyterian Churches!!

### **FALL-ROUND-UP SUNDAY**

October 9th is Fall-Round-Up Sunday. Be sure to share your faith with a neighbor, friend, or relative at 10:00 a.m. worship that day.

### **CHOIR NEWS/RING THOSE BELLS!**

If anyone is interested in joining the Children's Choir or the Adult Choir please see Sandy Vliet. We are always glad to have new faces and voices. Also, please let Ruth or Sandy know if you feel called to ring some bells this fall. It is time to get started again.

### **FOOD FOR THE NEEDY SUNDAY**

Remember the FOOD FOR THE NEEDY SUNDAY is the first Sunday of every month. However, you may bring food *any* Sunday. As you come to worship, please place your nonperishable food items in the baskets located in the downstairs hallway. Poverty and hunger, like God, do not take a vacation. Donations have been declining and then need is great. Please consider helping this worthy cause.

### **WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY**

**October 2, 2016, is World Communion Sunday.** On the first Sunday of October, the faithful of all races and nations are invited to gather to celebrate The Lord's Supper. In this meal many are made one, united with Christ and with the church of every time and place. This unity, which God offers in the Sacrament, is a sign of the unity God wills for all creation, all races, all nations, all tongues, all classes. It is a meal which reminds all who eat and drink of the love God has shown in the past, and the hopes of the Kingdom which has come in Jesus Christ, but has not finally arrived. At Christ's table we are made one, and we can offer ourselves in obedient service to God's reign and rule, as we join God in fulfilling the Kingdom that Christ has proclaimed. With Christians around the world, join in this special celebration on Sunday, October 2, 2016, at the 10:00 a.m. worship service.

### **BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARYS**

If you would like to add a birthday or anniversary please contact the church office at 908-859-0355 or send e-mail to [tomcat507@verizon.net](mailto:tomcat507@verizon.net). Please note that the birthday and anniversary lists will be no longer appear in the Tower but will be available on our website [tpcnh.org](http://tpcnh.org).

### **CHANCEL FLOWERS**

Do you want to remember a loved one? Or honor a special person or day? Chancel flowers are only \$30 for two vases. You can take the flowers with you after the service or the Deacons will distribute to a church member who is ill or shut-in. A sign-up chart is located on the door to Fellowship Hall. Please place your donation in an envelope marked "flower fund" in the offering plate. Please call the office with any questions or if you are not able to come in and sign up.

### **BAPTISM**

We are always pleased to welcome God's children into our church family. Baptized on June 6, 2015 was Olivia Rae Colucci, born on November 27, 2015, daughter of Anthony and Camie Colucci.

### **PRAYER CONCERNS**

***If you would like to add or delete names to the Prayer Concerns list please contact the church office at 908-859-0355.***

Randa Barabas, Joan Barry, Kate Beers, Shirley Beers, Dick Collins, Mary Collins, Sheila Costanza, Glenn David, Flo Disarsky, Lois Dunn, Jean Dutt, Evans family, Kelly Fox, Denise Frankenfield, Dick Frankenfield, Josephine A. Frankenfield, Paula Freese, Gail Gangaware, Wes Garrison, Sr., Frank Gentle, Anne Ginley-Yerkes, Judy Grace, Hilton Family, Bob King, Eric Kirchgassner, Bobbye Kopec, Rex LaBarre, Ray Lalley, Sam Marino, Tracy Matlock's dad, Veronica Matus, Alice McElhinney, Jace Nikoden, Rhonda Olswfski, Irma Cook Petersen, Tom Pointer, Janice Prostack, David Rehrig and his family, Joan Richards, Betty Salter, Rich Salter, Vickie Santini, family of Carol Scott, Russell Scott, Amy Shandor, Diane Shipe Armstrong, Sgt Ryan Skibenes, Henry Skirbst, Ron Smith, Earl Steele, Sr., baby Trent, Bob Vannatta, Dave Ward, Diane Wilkinson, Danny Wismer, Kevin Wisner, Debbie Wittschiebe, Donna Youpa

### **HONORING OUR VETERANS**

It is not too early to be thinking of honoring our veterans in November. For a \$1 donation you can have a veteran listed in a special bulletin for Veteran's Day. That veteran can be a relative or friend, who served in the Military at any time from the Revolutionary War to the presents.

Please let any Elder or Deacon know if you are interested in naming someone for this new project. There will be a flyer in the upcoming bulletins to afford you the opportunity of naming one or more.

Thank you and God Bless our Vets.

### QUALIFICATIONS FOR DEACONS

The Office of deacons, as set for in Scripture, is one of sympathy, witness, and service after the example of Jesus Christ. Persons of spiritual character, honest repute, of exemplary lives, brotherly and sisterly love, warm sympathies, and sound judgment should be chosen for this office. It is the duty of deacons, first of all, to minister to those who are in need, to the sick, to the friendless, and to any who may be in distress both within and beyond the community of faith. They shall assume such other duties as may be delegated to them from time to time by the session, such as leading the people in worship through prayers of intercession, reading the Scriptures, presenting the gifts of the people, and assisting with the Lord's Supper.

**Contact Becky Brandt, chair, of the Personnel & Nominating Committee, if you are interested in serving as an Elder or Deacon.**

### QUALIFICATIONS FOR ELDERS

As there were in Old Testament times elders for the government of the people, so the New Testament Church provided persons with particular gifts to share in governing and ministry. Elders are chosen by the people. Together with ministers of The Word and Sacrament, they exercise leadership, government, and discipline and have responsibilities for the life of a particular church as well as the church at large, including ecumenical relationships. They shall serve faithfully as members of the session. When elected commissioners to higher governing bodies, elders participate and vote with the same authority as ministers of The Word and Sacrament, and they are eligible for any office.

Elders should be persons of faith, dedication, and good judgment. Their manner of life should be a demonstration of the Christian gospel, both within the church and in the world.

It is the duty of elders, individually and jointly, to strengthen and nurture the faith and life of the congregation committed to their charge. Together with the pastor, they should encourage the people in the worship and service of God, equip and renew them for their tasks within the church and for their mission in the world, visit and comfort and care for the people, with special attention to the poor, the sick, the lonely, and those who are oppressed. They should inform the pastor and session of those persons and structures which may need special attention. They should assist in worship. They should cultivate their ability to teach the Bible and may be authorized to supply places which are without the regular ministry of The Word and Sacrament. In specific circumstances and with proper instruction, elders may be authorized by the presbytery to administer the Lord's Supper. Those duties which all Christians are bound to perform by the law of love are especially incumbent upon elders because of their calling to office and are to be fulfilled by them as official responsibilities.

*THE CHURCH PICNIC IS ON SEPTEMBER 11 AT HARMONY RECREATION  
FIELD AT 11:00 A.M.*

*COME JOIN US IN A 9-11 REMEMBRANCE SERVICE WITH HAZEN &  
DELAWARE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES.*

*HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!!!*

**HARMONY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
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