



The Presby Record

A community beacon of faith, love and hope.

Volume LV Issue 8

August 2025

As summer draws to a close and the rhythms of school life loom ahead, let us delve into the timeless tale of David and Goliath. This narrative teaches us about overcoming life's formidable challenges through steadfast faith. Much like David, who faced the towering adversary Goliath, you too encounter daunting trials in your daily existence. This story reassures us that no matter the magnitude of our obstacles, with divine guidance and unwavering belief, triumph is within our reach. Remember, the size of the challenge is never greater than the strength of your faith.

In a time when the fate of nations was decided by the might of warriors, a young shepherd named David found himself on the cusp of destiny. Though anointed by God to be the future king of Israel, David remained a humble figure, tending to his father's sheep in the hills of Bethlehem. Meanwhile, King Saul still ruled, and a shadow loomed over Israel in the form of the Philistine army.

The Philistines, sworn enemies of the Israelites, had gathered their forces on one hill, with Saul's army perched on another. Between them lay a valley, where each day, a daunting spectacle unfolded. Goliath, a giant of a man clad in gleaming bronze armor, stepped forward to issue his daily challenge. Towering over nine feet tall and brandishing a spear that seemed forged for gods, he bellowed, "Send a man to fight me! If he defeats me, we will become your slaves. But if I win, you must serve the Philistines."

For forty days, Goliath's voice thundered across the valley, striking fear into the hearts of Saul's men. No warrior dared to face the giant, leaving the Israelites in a state of paralyzed dread.

Oblivious to the turmoil at the frontlines, David remained in the fields, watching over his father's flock. His three elder brothers, however, were among Saul's troops. One day, their father, Jesse, asked David to deliver provisions to them. Eager to fulfill his father's request, David set off, unaware that this journey would alter the course of his life.

Upon reaching the camp, David was astounded by the scene before him. The soldiers whispered of rewards for the one who would dare challenge Goliath: wealth, a royal marriage, and freedom from taxes. Yet, it was not the promise of riches that stirred David, but the defiance of a man who dared to mock his God.

Driven by faith, David approached his brothers, drawn to the battle they were too afraid to join. "Go back to the sheep," they rebuked, misunderstanding his intentions. But David was undeterred. He went to King Saul and declared his intention to confront Goliath, recounting his past victories over lions and bears that threatened his flock, feats accomplished with the aid of the Lord.

"I may not be a soldier," David told Saul, "but God will help me defeat this giant."

Moved by the courage and conviction of the young shepherd, Saul agreed, offering David his own armor. But David, finding it cumbersome and unfamiliar, chose to face the giant with only his sling and a pocketful of stones.

Moved by the courage and conviction of the young shepherd, Saul agreed, offering David his own armor. But David, finding it cumbersome and unfamiliar, chose to face the giant with only his sling and a pocketful of stones.

Armed with unwavering faith, David descended into the valley. Goliath laughed at the sight of this boy, mocking both him and his God. But David's heart was resolute.

"You come against me with sword and spear," he proclaimed, "but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, whom you have defied. Today, I will defeat you, and the world will know there is a God in Israel!"

As Goliath advanced, David ran forward, his hand steady as he loaded a stone into his sling. With a swift motion, he released it, and the stone flew true, striking Goliath squarely on the forehead. The giant fell, and with a final act of valor, David took Goliath's own sword to ensure victory.

The Philistine army, witnessing the fall of their champion, fled in panic. The Israelites, emboldened by the triumph of a young shepherd, surged forward, securing a victory that would be recounted for generations. In that moment, David's unwavering trust in the Lord turned the tides of battle, marking the beginning of his journey to the throne.



Communion Servers

August 3rd: Jack Rogers - Set Up
Jennifer Burgess - Server
Kathy Maddy - Server

September 7th: Jennifer Burgess - Set Up
Kathy Maddy - Server
Valerie Wade - Server

Liturgists

August 3rd	Valerie Wade
August 10th	Adam Greathouse
August 17th	Kathy Maddy
August 24th	Holly Greathouse
August 31st	Kathleen Jordan
September 7th	Buck Ivey
September 14th	Raven Lanham
September 21st	Dave Harvey
September 28th	Kristi Sutphin

In Care Facilities:

Ann McCormick, Apt. 106, English Meadows,
5 Bexley Dr, Scott Depot, WV 25560
Sadie Ashworth, 5 Rolling Meadows Dr., Room
118, Scott Depot, WV 25560
Cel Jones, Meadowbrook Acres Rehab, Room A-
13, 2149 Greenbrier Street, Charleston, WV 25311
Phone 304 344-4268

Prayer Concerns

Prayer Concerns – Congregation Members:

Mike Clark	Mike Merguc, Home
Mark Curtis	Alex Dayfield
Sara Kell	Kensie McComas
Elliet Malcomb	

Prayer Concerns - Family and Friends

Grayson "Lane" Garvin, Severe Health Problems
(Hannah & Cody Caldwell)
Ashley Nestman, Lymphoma (Connie Ivey) Kathi
Curtis' mother, Shirley Ware, Florida
Dr. Cynthia Rigby, Parkinson's (Kathryn Maddy)
William Wallace (Traletta Wallace's son) kidney
Roger Schomburg (Kathryn Maddy's uncle)
Victoria Reynolds (Wanda Bowman)
Jeff Maddy (Kathryn Maddy's husband)
Brucie Kessler (recovering from surgery)
Harry Speidel (Connie Ivey's brother)
Debbie Speidel, broken shoulder (Connie's sister-in-
law)
Darrin Grass, stomach cancer (Laurie Turley)
Flo Rogers (Jack's wife & Raven's mom) health
complications

Ron Collins, multiple and serious health issues
(Kathy Leftwich, the husband of a dear friend.)
Jennifer Ray, high risk pregnancy (Donna's
cousin) Jason Haught, complications from spinal
surgery (Vickie Haught's son, Jack Rogers'
nephew) Brett and Linda Foster, glioblastoma
(Laurie's nephew and his wife)
Brittany Atkins (Ann McCormick)
Randall Kirk and Linda Hanney, car accident
(Kathy Harrah)
Brenda (Christopher's Grandmother), stage two
kidney failure
Kate Calkins Lichtenfels, cancer (Kathryn Maddy's
niece)
Arnett Schmidt, cancer and a ruptured spleen
(Kathy Harrah)
Jason Turley, major health concerns (Laurey's son
and Holly's brother)
Marion Moir (Ann McCormick)
Matt Waldie, lung cancer (Kathleen Jordan's
friend)
Mark Cunningham (Abbie Burch's brother)
Mary Jo Swartz, health problems
Carla Kay Hoskins, director of Jericho House,
chest pain

Military

Captain Allie Curtis, US. Army (United States) **Hunter
Parsons** U.S. Navy (Virginia)
Mickey Swartz, Aircrew Flight Equipment Technician,
U.S. Air Force (Eugene, Oregon) **Lieutenant Jack
Wiles**, U.S. Air Force
PFC Joseph Sutphin, US Army

August Birthdays

2 – Brendon Cook
3 – Abbie Burch
5 – Dolly Locke, John Harvey
6 – James Resler
7 – Kathy Harrah
9 – Sara Hedrick
13 – Susan Allowatt, Lillian Roberts
17 – Lindsey Duvall
20 – Kevin Duvall
21 – Regina Dayfield
24 – Jon Cox
31- Patrick Curtis

Happy Anniversary

Brucie and Bill Kessler	August 13, 1977
Cathy and Steve Holstein	August 10, 1996
Sarah and Bryan Roberts	August 14, 2004
Holly and Adam Greathouse	August 30, 2006



Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to: nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study, support the mission of the church worldwide, work for justice and peace, and build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom.

Women of the church are going to an early dinner at Angela's on the River on Friday, August 8. We'll start gathering at 5:45pm.



Western Regional CASA is having a Hygiene Drive! We are collecting full size hygiene products for children experiencing foster care. We're looking for shampoo, conditioner, body wash, deodorant, feminine hygiene products, etc.

Our sympathy to the family of Karen Cardwell (Harshbarger) Teel, who passed away July 26, 2025. Karen was an active member of First Presbyterian church in the 1980's including teaching, leading Vacation Bible School, Cub Scouts, and we especially remember her beautiful voice. She sang with the Chancel Choir on Sundays and at many special occasions held at the church. She was a dear friend to many of us and we will miss her. Service times will be set at a later date.



August Session Highlights

Present: Adam Greathouse, Kathleen Jordan, Kristi Sutphin, Buck Ivey, David Harvey, Jennifer Burgess, Jack Rogers, Kathy Harrah

Moderator: Rev. Julie Hitsman

Clerk of Session: Andi Pease

Excused: Valerie Wade

Guests: Rev. Doug Minnerly, representing Presbytery's Committee on Ministry and Bob Hansen, Presbytery's Committee on Ministry liaison.

- Moderator Hitsman explained the process of searching for a new pastor and session assigned Adam Greathouse, Buck Ivey, Dave Harvey, and Kristi Sutphin to begin the paperwork. Mr. Hansen will guide them.
- Motion made, seconded and approved Stated Minutes of June 3, 2025.
- Motion made, seconded and approved the July 8, 2025 Agenda with amendment.
- Approved June 2025 Income and Expense Statement.
- Starting date for Wednesday activities was discussed and sent back to Committee to choose the beginning date.
- Set next Stated Session Meeting for Tuesday, August 12 at 6:00 pm.

Meeting adjourned and closed with prayer by the Moderator.

Facilities Committee

7-20-25

Items Discussed:

1. New HVAC unit for library and office or replace fans.
 - a. 2 new units \$2,330 with limited warranty.
 - b. 2 new fans \$927 no warranty.*The group decided to go to session for 2 new HVAC units.
2. New work day 9-13-25. Session to approve.
3. We are getting in touch with Creative Sound to try and solve the buzzing (ground) issue in audio hook ups.

Little's Story Time Team

Dear Church Family,

Little's is on summer vacation and will start back Friday, August 15 at 10:30am. Spread the word and invite your friends and neighbors. We promise them a wonderful time!

I am grateful that ALL of our volunteers are coming back. If YOU would like to join the Little's Team, please drop us a note. If you see a good book, a fun craft idea, or a delicious snack idea, send them to us too. Thank you.

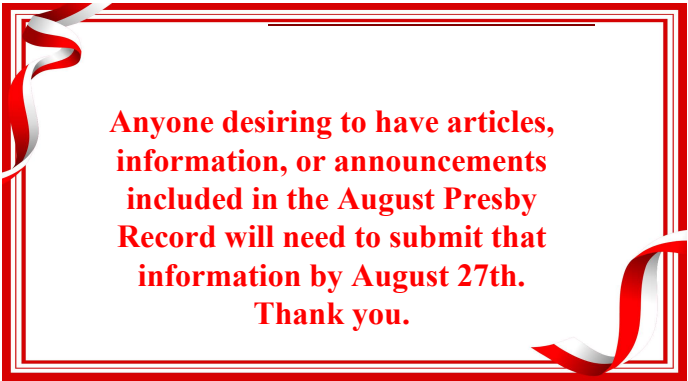
A big Thank You goes to Sara K. and Raven for helping me tackle the Craft Room. Most of all thank you for giving of your time. It was a big job and a lot of hard work. Next time when you are preparing a craft or activity, check out the craft room...you may just find what you need!

Also, thank you Raven, Sara K. and Andi for preparing the Jungle picture and hanging it in the Nursery. It really adds to the Nursery and goes well with our new curtains.

We ordered two new banners with all the information about Little's and will replace the old ones displayed around our church. Many of our attendees have come after reading these banners!

Sincerely, Mrs. Donna, Little's Coordinator

First Presbyterian Church
201 Kanawha Terrace
St. Albans, WV 25177



Trustees

Class of 2025: Buck Ivey
Class of 2026: Holly Greathouse
Class of 2027: Dewitt Bowman

Officers

Class of 2025	Class of 2026	Class of 2027
Dave Harvey (1)	Kathleen Jordan (2)	Jennifer Burgess (1)
Adam Greathouse (1)	Valerie Wade (2)	Kathy Harrah (1)
Buck Ivey (1)	Kristi Sutphin (1)	Jack Rogers (2)

Church Staff

Ministers.....	Every Member of the Congregation
Pastor	
Administrative Assistant.....	Raven Lanham
Custodian	Jennifer Gil
Musician.....	N. David Stern
Treasurer	Buck Ivey
Tech Team	Dave&Wendy Harvey, Betty King, Logan Roberts

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