

The PresbyRecord

A community beacon of faith, love and hope.

Volume LV Issue 6

June 2025

Poems for Pentecost

"Come, Holy Spirit"

May the Gifts of the Holy
Spirit
bring fire to the earth
so that the presence of God
may be seen

in a new light,
in new places,
in new ways.

May our own hearts
burst into flame
so that no obstacle,
no matter how great,
ever obstructs the message
of the God within each of us.

May we come to trust
the Word of God in our heart,
to speak it with courage,
to follow it faithfully
and to fan it to flame in
others.

May the Jesus
who filled women
with his Holy Spirit
fill the world and the church
with new respect
for women's power and
presence.

Give me, Great God,
a sense of the Breath of Spirit
within me as I...

(State the intention
in your own life at this time
for which you are praying.

Amen.

— Sister Joan Chittister

"Effortlessly"

Love flows from God into man,
Like a bird
Who rivers the air
Without moving her wings.
Thus we move in His world,
One in body and soul,
Though outwardly separate in form.
As the Source strikes the note,
Humanity sings—
The Holy Spirit is our harpist,
And all strings
Which are touched in Love
Must sound.

— Mechtild of Magdeburg 1207-1297
trans. Jane Hirshfield

"Pentecost"

Lord God, the Holy Ghost,
In this accepted hour,
As on the day of Pentecost,
Descend in all thy power.
We meet with one accord
Within this hallowed place,
And wait the promise of our
Lord,
The Spirit of all grace.

Like mighty rushing wind
Upon the waves beneath,
Move with one impulse every
mind;
One soul, one feeling breathe;
The young, the old inspire
With wisdom from above;
And give us hearts and tongues
of fire,
To pray, and praise, and love.

Spirit of light, explore
And chase our gloom away,
With lustre shining more and
more
Unto the perfect day.
Spirit of truth, be Thou,
In life and death, our guide:
O Spirit of adoption, now
May we be sanctified.

—James Montgomery
1771-1854

Communion Servers

June 1st - Buck Ivey - Set up

Kristi Sutphin - Server

Jack Rogers - Server

July 6th - Kristi Sutphin - Set up

Jack Rogers- Server

Jennifer Burgess - Server

Liturgists

June 1st - Dave Harvey

June 8th - Valerie Wade

June 15th - Holly Greathouse

June 22nd - Adam Greathouse

June 29th - 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

Journey (Jess & Dustin's daughter)

Elliet Malcomb

Prayer Concerns - Family and Friends

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)

Joshua Higgins (Ron & Sharon Peterson's nephew)

Jeff Maddy (Kathryn Maddy's husband)

Michael Murphy (Mark Boyd's friend) cancer
returned

Eloise Waugh, Florida

Brucie Kessler (recovering from surgery)

Jason Turley, major health concerns (Laurey's son
and Holly's brother)

Marion Moir (Ann McCormick)

Harry Speidel (Connie Ivey's brother)

Debbie Speidel, broken shoulder (Connie's sister-
in-law)

Darrin Grass, stomach cancer (Laurie Turley)

Mary Jo Swartz

Flo Rogers (Jack's wife) recovering from surgery

Ron Collins, multiple and serious health issues

(Kathy Leftwich, the husband of a dear friend.)

Journey, two year old daughter of Dustin and Jess
Combs, Anticipating Surgery

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)

Kate Calkins Lichtenfels, cancer (Kathryn Maddy's
niece)

Arnett Schmidt, cancer and a ruptured spleen
(Kathy Harrah)

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

June Birthdays

1 – Denny Denison

2 – Stephen Wiles, Ma Otto, Jennifer Burgess

3 – Emma Truly

5 – Mark Boyd (1976)

7 – Susan Groscup

12 – Debbie Duvall

13 – Havyn Jones

14 – Betty King

16 – Sarah Roberts

17 – John Wiles, Kayla Coffman

18 – Buck Ivey

19 – Patsy Denison, Teresa Evans, David Harvey,

Makenzie McGrogan

20 – Dreama Walker

21 – Katlyn Morford

27 – Libby Mullins

30 – Judy Otto

Happy Anniversary

Kathy and Steve Leftwich

Steve and Rachel Moss

Elmer and Jeannie Young

Gary and JoBeth Mounts

June 6, 1998

June 8, 1956

June 30, 1984

June 1, 1996



Congratulations, Ellie Malcomb, on graduating 8th grade! This is such a wonderful milestone, and your hard work and perseverance have truly shone through. As you move forward, remember that God has a bright future planned for you. Keep trusting in Him and reaching for the stars—your potential is limitless! Wishing you all the best in this exciting new chapter. Blessings from Your Church Family!

We offer our warmest congratulations to PFC Joseph Sutphin on his graduation from Basic and AIT training at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri.

PFC Sutphin is the proud son of Bob and Kristi Sutphin and the brother of Sam. His grandparents, Keith and Patsy Denison, along with Bob and Becky Sutphin, also join in celebrating this wonderful achievement.





True North: A Summer of Faith and Adventure Awaits!

As summer approaches, excitement is building for this year's Vacation Bible School at First Presby. From June 9-13, 5:30 - 8:00pm each night, we invite children to embark on an unforgettable journey toward Jesus, our True North—a faithful friend we can always trust!

In today's fast-moving world, it's easy to lose sight of truth. But throughout this special week, kids will explore how Jesus provides unwavering guidance, leading them through life's adventures with clarity and love. Expect faith discoveries, memorable music, epic adventures, and friendship-building moments with Jesus!

Each evening will be packed with food, energizing music, science experiments, fun games, and engaging Bible time, ensuring that every child experiences the joy of growing in faith.

We still need volunteers to help make this event a success! If you're passionate about guiding young hearts toward faith, we encourage you to **reach out to Holly Greathouse at (304) 741-7549**.

Come join us in this incredible journey as we navigate toward our True North—Jesus!
We can't wait to see you there!

Register at: firstpresbychurch.com

First 20 to register will receive a free True North T-Shirt!

<https://forms.gle/6teyshqjwPHctp539>





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.

Presbyterian Women hosts a lunch gathering each month. This month we will meet on Friday, June 13, 2025, at Shucker's at 11:45 am. Please RSVP by Thursday night to Kathryn at (304)539-2573 if you can join us. We can always add a chair at the last minute, but it is nice to let the restaurant know how many to expect.

2025-2026 PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN Horizons Bible Study Finding Resilience, Joy and Our Identity in Christ

The Rev. Dr. Rhaskell D. Hunter, author of *Finding Resilience, Joy and Our Identity in Jesus Christ*, says turbulent, chaotic, and changing are words we might use to describe our culture today. She asks, "Where do we find resilience, joy and identity in tempestuous times?" Her Bible study will take us through Biblical stories and texts to map out the signposts where we can see resilience, joy and identity. Hunter believes that even in times of crisis, trauma and economic troubles, we can experience our lives centered in Christ, our true North, in finding our way.

Bible study is the common bond for Presbyterian Women. Our circle fellowship has two opportunities available to participate in our new study. Evening participants may join the Zoom study at 7:00 pm on the second Tuesday each month. Those who prefer to meet in the daytime may join us at noon on the second Wednesday. Both studies provide a time for fellowship prior to the study. All are welcome to join either study. Reading the lesson ahead of time is optional.

The study book may be ordered through the church to minimize shipping costs. The study cost has increased to \$14 this year, and the large print edition is now \$20. If this is a financial difficulty let the church know and assistance will be made available. Please place your order by July 11, 2025.

Excerpt from the *Dettweiler Dialogue* by
Steve and Sonia Dettweiler
find them at:
www.wycliffe.org/partner/ssdettweiler



Creation Care Corner

How can we be less wasteful in our consumption of this planet's finite resources? One good idea that Steve and I picked up from an online course we took in 2022 is for people to rethink a consumer economy so that its design becomes **circular** (reuse, repair, refurbish, repurpose, recycle...) rather than **linear** (take-make-waste). Two examples of circularity we heard about in the course:

1. Laws in some European countries require companies (producers) to be responsible for reclaiming the packaging in which they sell their goods. This gets companies paying better attention to the ability to reuse their packaging and cuts down considerably on packaging being relegated to landfill sites.
2. Major home items like furniture and carpet can be made available to consumers under a rental-service agreement. For example, your carpet comes in attractive squares; when more heavily used squares show wear the company replaces them and reclaims the worn squares for reprocessing.

You can check out one of these websites:

[Circular Action Alliance—USA](#)

[Circular Economy—Canada](#)

Spiritual Life Comm. Update

Facilities Committee

Abbey delivered 12 blessing bags to Christ's Kitchen. She said that Mary was delighted to receive them!

Planning for VBS is underway! if you would like to participate or volunteer please contact Holly or Raven!

Facility Comm. Report Update
5-26-25

Co-Chairs: David Harvey & Jack Rogers

1. Michael Clark contacted Habitat for Humanity & Boy Scouts of America to pick up articles in the old basement.
 - a. Jack and Sara reorganized the stuff in the old basement and did a general clean up.
2. Kirk King to clean the flower beds and possible add cedar mulch.
3. Flower added to the South entrance. (Fellowship Hall)
4. Some clean up done & reorganization of the stage has been done. More to come.
5. Next proposed church cleanup work day: June 21st, 2025 9am till ?

Littles Story Time Team

Donna Merguc, Coordinator

Seems like the Littles can't wait till Fridays and I believe the volunteers feel the same! The children are just so awesome to be around and we enjoy talking with their parents and grandparents.

On May 23rd, Calvin Slawson, a firefighter at the Yeager Airport, read the book, Stop, Drop and Roll. It was very informational and the children were good listeners. The children enjoyed the music and puppet that went with it. The children acted out the actions, Stop, Drop, and Roll. Hannah, his wife and Beau's momma prepared the craft too. We were blessed and we had a great turnout of 20. Some of our parents/grandparents are even bringing snacks for the children too...isn't that wonderful!

We have invited the 3, 4, and 5 year olds to VBS so Raven be looking for their registrations.

As a reminder, Littles will NOT meet the month of July and the first two weeks of August. We will return on Friday, August 15. We had a first-time child, Ainsley Brightwell join us last Friday; she participated in everything.

Littles' Storytime Schedule

June 6	John Jones	Sara Kell	Jennifer Burgess
June 13	Kirk King	Andi Pease	Linda Slappe
June 20	Connie Ivey	Donna Merguc	Regina Dayfield
June 27	Teresa Evans	Tara Malcomb	Kathy Leftwich

Comments from the Children's Corner...

Scarlet says our prayer for us now. We always pray before we put the food on the table. Scarlet said, "Where's the food for me to pray over?" Scarlet's mother just had a baby and she brought Ava to Littles when she was 3 weeks old. Lilly use to pray for us but she attends Kindergarten; isn't it nice to have another child step right up. Praise God.

APRIL 21-JUNE 8, 2025

12144-25-034

A FOUNDATION OF FAITH

established during
childhood through
young adulthood
helps ensure lifelong
faith and service.
When you give to the
Pentecost Offering,
you are helping to
provide opportunities
for young people to
grow and share in
their faith in Christ.

WAYS TO GIVE —

Through your congregation

Text PENTECOST
to 91999 to support
these vital ministries

Give online at
pcusa.org/give/Pentecost



You can help sustain the important ministries and programs that are supported by the Pentecost Offering by making an online gift at any time throughout the year. Checks may be sent Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); P.O. Box 643700; Pittsburgh, PA, 15264-3700.



The Pentecost Offering is one of four annual special offerings. The church-wide Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) play an important role in defining what it means to be a connectional church in the twenty-first century, bringing together the diversity of the PC (USA) to focus and take faith-based action on shared concerns. The Offerings offer opportunities for partnership, learning and witness, and profoundly affect the life of the church as a collective witness to Jesus Christ's love for the whole church.

*Transforming Spirit,
bless our children, youth,
and young adults with
a faith that grows their
whole lives long.*

*May these gifts we offer
shape the future of
your Church.*

Amen.



PENTECOST
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

CHILDREN AT RISK • YOUTH • YOUNG ADULTS

*O God, may we follow the leading
of your Holy Spirit as we celebrate Pentecost Sunday.
Use our gifts inspire all children, youth, and young adults
to faith in your Son, Jesus Christ,
in whose name we pray,
Amen.*



La Escuelita Learning Hub serves some 30 children and youth from refugee and new immigrant families, offering them trauma informed care including homework help, enrichment activities, ESL assistance and family case management support. For some, it has been life-saving.

One mother walked with her children across six countries through dangerous jungles and across raging rivers to flee violent cartels who threatened her family. Her disabled teenage son was traumatized by their experience but La Escuelita is helping by bringing kids together in a loving setting.



PENTECOST CELEBRATES
THE RENEWAL OF THE RELATIONSHIP
BETWEEN GOD AND THE COMMUNITY OF FAITH.
WITH OUR GIFTS TO THE PENTECOST OFFERING,
WE ARE THERE TO HELP BUILD A FOUNDATION OF FAITH
IN OUR YOUTH WHICH WILL LAST A LIFETIME.


40%

stays with our congregation
to support local ministries with
children, youth, and young adults.


25%

supports Young Adult Volunteers (YAV),
serving in communities around the world,
and growing as leaders through
transformative Christian service.


25%

supports Ministries with Youth,
including the Presbyterian Youth Triennium.

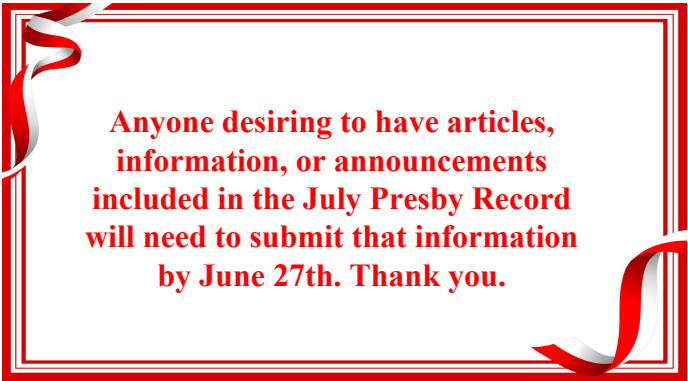

10%

is devoted to children at-risk
and supports efforts to improve education
and provide safe havens.

WON'T YOU JOIN US?

Please give generously...for if we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

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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