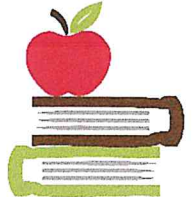


HOLMES HERALD

HOLMES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH , PO BOX 117, HOLMES, PA 19043

SEPTEMBER

2023



Please join us on
Sunday mornings for...

Adult Forum: 9:15 AM

Children's Sunday School: 10:30 AM

Traditional worship service: 10:30 AM

Pulpit Supply:

Dr. J. William Carpenter
610-529-6276

Email: pastorjwc1@gmail.com

Admin. Asst.: Cheryl Steckel
Email: holmespreschurch@gmail.com

Treasurer: Angelo LoCastro

Organist; Choir Director:
Mark Kalbach

Youth Director:
Rebecca Kalbach

Custodian: Helen Pilgrene

Office telephone: 610-532-0346

Fax No.: 610-532-2420

Website: www.holmespreschurch.org

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WORSHIP TIME CHANGE

The new school season has started and that means change. Starting Sunday, September 10, 2023 our worship will return to the 10:30 a.m. meeting time. Please make a note of this important time change.



We celebrate the role Grandparents play in our lives on September 10th and thank God for giving us these very special family members.



"Grand" parents Day

Newsletter information



Every effort is made to report complete information on all church activities. This newsletter and those in the future will contain the material received by the newsletter deadline. If the group or activity you are looking for is not listed, please contact the person leading that group/activity.



Devotion: Coming Together in Christ by Lily Cooper

How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!" – Psalm 133:1

Small groups are something that is common among Christians. Many churches have Bible studies and groups. However, some people may ask the question, "Do we need to be a part of a small group?"

With schedules packed to the brim with activities, work, and academics, adding another thing to the list may seem like the last thing you want to do. Isn't going to church each Sunday enough? Can't we get the same thing out of doing a Bible study by ourselves?

While you can go to church every Sunday and do your own personal study, you don't get the same thing out of it that you do when you come together with others. One of the key things is discipleship. A pastor once said at my church, "Disciples are not made in the worship service, they are made in the context of small groups."

That's not saying that you can't make disciples during church. Many people come to Christ during a service; however, the point of going to church is to worship and bring glory to God. That's the time that we dedicate to Him and focus on Him. Small groups are when people come together, get personal and bring each other closer to God.

Why do we need small groups?

Everyone has a mask. We put it on before we go into social settings and leave all problems at the door. It's easier to answer to someone that their day is going well instead of unloading all their emotional baggage and sins on a stranger. So we throw on our mask, smile, and nod and pretend that everything is good.

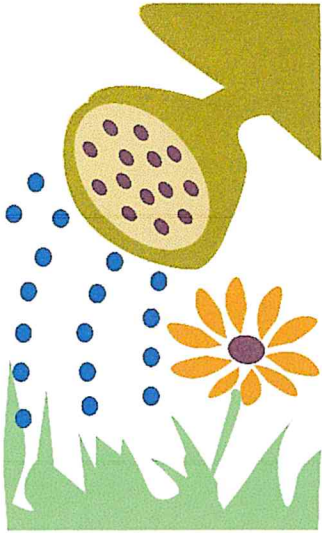
However, in a small group setting, you can't keep that mask on. Meeting with people on a weekly basis and getting to know them leads to relationships and like all relationships, it's harder to hide how you are really feeling. A small group is a place to talk about what is going on in your life and what you are struggling with. In an intimate setting where you can be real together, you don't have to wear that mask.

It's also a place for prayer. Your small group can pray for you, help you with your problems and be there for you when you need someone to lean on. It's a place where you don't have to hesitate to ask for help because everyone in the group is willing to do anything to help.

The small group will also call you out when you need it. They know you well enough that they will be able to be real with you and give you applicable advice that is in line with God. They won't just tell you what you want to hear as some people will. They will pray for you, look at God's word and tell you what God wants you to know.

(Continued on Page 5)

WE CHOOSE KINDNESS & SERVICE



CULTIVATE KINDNESS

Like a droplet of water dropped in a pond, which causes a ripple effect, your actions have consequences not limited to these walls. You may never know the impact of your kind actions, the spirits you have lifted, or the kind gestures your actions have inspired. All of you are truly a beacon of light and hope. Below is a recap of what we accomplished in our "slow" summer months.



Community Garden

Once again this year, the garden at Holmes Church has flourished under the direction of Elaine VanGeyten and her helpers.

The vegetable plants have produced many pounds of produce which was donated to Loaves & Fishes and this year to help our neighbors Elaine/Helen scheduled 4 vegetable giveaways on the church campus this summer. They met many grateful people and enjoyed the opportunity to connect with the community. Thank you to Elaine VanGeyten and all the volunteers who weed, water and harvest the vegetables to be given away.

Thank you to all the people who generously donated to our community blessing box this summer. With children not receiving school lunches and parents trying to meet school supply needs, the blessing box was very busy this summer.

A special thank you to our VBS children/parents/teachers who supported the blessing box as their mission project.



School Supply Collection



For the last 23 years, Holmes Church has collected school supplies to help children in need start off their school year.

This year, school supplies were once again collected to benefit the children in the Grands Stepping Up organization. Seven backpacks along with two cartons of school supplies were delivered to a very happy Karen Barnes and staff.

The sewing circle would like to thank all the people who donated school supplies to help ease the financial burden of these grandparents at the start of this school season. Great job everyone!

Many thanks to our "Over The Hill Gang" who faithfully work at the church year round on Mondays to solve a multitude of issues. Your service to this church and the church family is greatly appreciated.





Everyday we are given the opportunity to grow spiritually if we choose to take it. We have the option to pray, study God's Word, and of course attend worship on Sundays. On Sunday, October 1st we will have the opportunity to grow spiritually and nourish our souls as we observe World Communion Sunday. Please take advantage of this privilege and join your church family along with millions of other Christians at the Lord's Table.



Over the summer a new church website was created by Sean Molloy. Please take some time to view the new website. If you have ideas you would like to see included in the church website, please contact the church office.

Please join churches and people worldwide in praying for our children, educators and schools August 1- September 30th.



Please pray that:

- 1) Educators are filled with the wisdom, strength, and endurance to teach with excellence and compassion.
- 2) students will be protected and led by the Lord and have the passion to learn and live out their faith
- 3) schools will be a safe haven where children can learn, be inspired, and safe.
- 4) God's hand of protection will be upon the students, school and staff.

These updates to the directory were noted in the Sunday bulletin over the summer, but in case you missed them, here they are again. New contact numbers for Debbie Oliver and Patty Jo Urian
Debbie Oliver-610-547-4657
Patty Jo Urian-610-457-9837



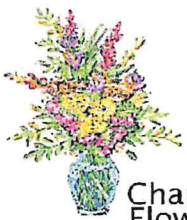
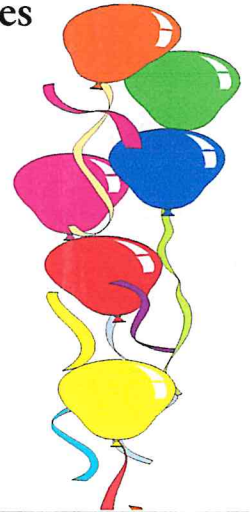
September Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to:

- 8 Sarah O'Donnell
- 22 Elaine VanGeyten
- 28 Jean Porteous

Happy Anniversary to:

- 21 Bill & Beth Carpenter



Chancel Flowers

Thank you to all the people who order chancel flowers to remember/honor someone and beautify our Sanctuary. Just a reminder to everyone, if you would like a message to accompany ordered flowers, please fill out a flower card, email or call the church office with a message. These ways will ensure that a message gets in the bulletin.

Thank You!



Summer VBS
Thank you to all of those friends and members that helped with our June VBS program. We really had a nice little group of children that came out to hear about God's kindness as the theme was " All Aboard Jesus' Kindness Train." Our mission was supporting our church's Blessings Box which provides round the clock community access to food items.

Devotion: Coming Together in Christ (Continued from page 2)

Why get involved?

There are many reasons to get involved in a small group. You can make long-lasting friendships, have people praying for you and guiding you closer to the Lord and be a safe place to admit your shortcomings. A huge reason though that one should get involved is that it's biblical.

We were created to be in relationship with each other and Jesus called us specifically for this purpose. He himself had his own small group of his twelve disciples, whom he talked with, gave advice and loved unconditionally. In Acts 2:42-47 it talks of the fellowship of the believers, "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer ... they broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people."

Romans 12:4-8 also speaks about how each person has different gifts that can help each other, "We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement." Everyone has something different to offer in the name of Christ and in a small group setting, is very important. Every situation is different and every person has something to offer in how God made them.

Coming together brings God glory and makes disciples. By being a part of a small group, you can have a community that is like a family that will help bring you closer to God and keep you accountable.

Holmes Church has many small groups that YOU can be a part of:

*Men's Bible Study, Crew 143 (Children's Youth Group), Holmes Youth Group, Over the Hill Gang, Sewing Circle, Chancel Choir, Adult Bible Study Group, Women's Bible Study (Coming soon with more information), Holmes Community Garden

We hope you will join any of our wonderful small groups!

Chancel Choir:

The Chancel Choir will resume their normal choir schedule starting on Tuesday, September 19th. Choir will begin at 7pm and end at 8pm. All are welcome to join!

Youth Group:

All youth from 6-12th grade are welcome to join the Holmes Youth Group on Sunday nights starting September 17th. This initial meeting will only be from 6:00-6:45pm. We look forward to seeing some new faces along with our regular members. See you soon.

Fellowship Hour:

Fellowship Hour will resume after worship on Sunday, September 24th. All are welcome after church, in the music room, to enjoy coffee, tea, and light refreshments.

Session:

Session will resume meeting Monday, September 11th at 7pm in the parlor.

*Friendly
Reminders*

Starting a ripple effect

Shortly before his death, 80-year-old farmer Hody Childress asked his daughter to continue a practice he'd quietly conducted for years: taking a \$100 bill to a local pharmacist on the first of every month. For years, Childress anonymously came to the aid of neighbors in Geraldine, Alabama, who couldn't afford medications. "Don't tell a soul where the money came from," he instructed store owner Brooke Walker. "If they ask, just tell them it's a blessing from the Lord."

Thanks to the farmer's generosity, Walker could fill prescriptions for about 24 uninsured or underinsured people each year. "I was honored he allowed me to do that," she said, "and it really encouraged me to do the same in my life."

Childress wasn't wealthy but "always gave what he could," said daughter Tania Nix. "I think he felt like he couldn't not give," she added. "Giving that way, that just got on his heart." After word spread about Childress' generosity, other people were inspired to perform stealth outreach and a fund was established in his name.

A man in Oklahoma who shares Childress' surname said a story about the farmer caught his attention. They're probably not related, he wrote, but he'd feel proud if they were. "A man like that surely tried to follow the example of Jesus," the Oklahoman wrote, and "[his] story inspires me to be a better man."

—adapted from The Wired Word

Being NICER as Christians at work

"As working Christians, we are deeply aware of the gap that exists between Sunday and Monday," writes Roland Heersink, founder of the God & Work Initiative. "Although the two days are next to each other on the calendar, they seem miles apart. On Sunday we hear that we are children of God, saved by grace in Jesus Christ. On Monday, there are endless emails to be answered, spreadsheets to be completed, people to be hired and fired, meetings to attend, and important decisions to be made."

For a stronger relationship between our roles as faith-filled Christians and employees, Heersink uses the acronym NICER. How well do you live out these five essentials in your work life?

No Compromise (See Daniel 1:8-14.)

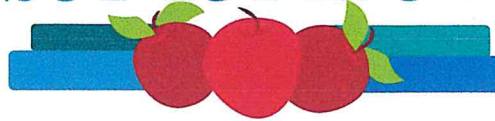
Integrity (See Daniel 6:1-5.)

Compassionate in Relationships (Follow Jesus' example.)

Excellence ("Do your best, and let Jesus do the rest.")

Responsible to Others (Be a good Samaritan.)

SEPTEMBER



Holmes Presbyterian Church

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