

GREENSTONE GAZETTE

Nottingham Presbyterian Church PC (USA)
497 W. Christine Road
Nottingham, PA 19362-9760

August 2020

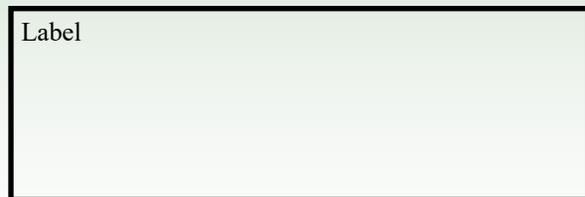
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Bring the love of Jesus to our community by fostering an accepting, nurturing and compassionate environment. Expanding our missions, infrastructure and worship experiences to meet the community's needs. Passionately and enthusiastically developing opportunities for personal and spiritual growth. Seeking partnerships with local organizations in pursuit of God's vision for the greater Nottingham area.



Annual Congregational meeting August 16 at 11am via Zoom. This meeting is to go over the Annual report from 2019, since we canceled the meeting in February and March!. Zoom information will be emailed out. Call your Deacon/Elder if you do not have computer/internet access, we will have you join by phone.

Eric Hansen will again be participating in **The Black Rock 2020 bikeathon** September 12,2020. This raises money for the Black Rock retreat center. Contributions can be sent to Eric Hansen. **Checks made out to Black Rock Retreat** and mailed to Eric at: 407 Queens Gate Lane, Lincoln University PA 19352

Back to School Fair IS ON for this year. You can donate from our website or send in a check to the church, with Back to School on the memo line. A generous donor will MATCH donated funds up to \$2750.00
Distribution will be Saturday August 29 9am—1pm as a drive through distribution entering via Herr's drive.

Worship with Us!

We continue to hold Worship Services!

These are videotaped and posted on our website: NottinghamPC.org and on our Facebook page. We will continue with this until it is safe for us to resume in-person worship. Listen to our beautiful organ and electric piano celebrating God's grace for us.

VOTE in November!

Votespa.com is the website to check and make sure you're registered to vote. You can register to vote and you can also apply for an absentee ballot (remember the "S" in the address)

VOTESPA.COM

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It happened again. This morning another post appeared in my Facebook feed of police officers standing over an African-American family (adult woman, several young children) who had been told to lie on the asphalt parking lot face down). The offense – a suspected stolen car. I can imagine that the police officers thought they might teach the adult a lesson, by embarrassing her in front of her children, so that she would never steal a car again. Only, the car wasn't stolen. There was no way to undo the damage done to those children, that woman, and even to other officers who would never have thought of behaving in this way.

This is not an attempt to smear police officers. I have the greatest respect for those persons who truly serve our communities, sometimes at great risk to themselves. I use this as an example of what happens when we allow our self-righteousness to guide us in our actions. I have done this, and suspect some of you have as well. We are incensed about something – a slight, an injustice, or some other harmful activity has been observed or perceived. We are determined to set things right before we gather the facts. We act high-handedly to teach a lesson, and feel proud of ourselves in doing so. Later we learn that we had our facts wrong. We can apologize, but we cannot undo the harm that was done – by passing along unkind gossip, by posting false information, by calling police on a neighbor, by treating a person as suspect or dangerous when we have no other information than their appearance, and in so many other ways.

All of us have some power and some influence whether we recognize this or not. There are times to use our power and influence for good. There are other times when we use them to protect ourselves from imagined insults or loss of power, without checking the facts. In today's culture climate, we are often encouraged to react in such ways. We are convinced that we need to protect ourselves in this way. This, however, is not in accordance with Christ's teachings for us. Jesus told us to respond to offenses by first trying to talk with the other person, then enlisting others to try to persuade the offender (which would also require us to have a second opinion about the presumed offense). (Matthew 18:15-20). Paul reminds us that each of us are accountable to God so we should be careful about our accusations or judgments (Romans 14:10-12).

Following Christ's example, we can do our best to encourage one another (including self-reminders) to do our best, to love one another, to reprove with gentleness and kindness, to receive God's gracious forgiveness as a gift which overflows into our behavior toward others. I see this so often in our interactions as brothers and sisters in Christ when we are at our best. It is often when we are tired or frustrated that we revert to snarky comments or harsh actions. May God grant us the grace at such times to breathe in the Spirit which heals our wounds, and then breathe the Spirit upon others, sharing that healing grace with them!

In Christ's love,
Pastor Merritt



Session (our Ruling Elders): Jean Bender, Donna Davis, Jerry Jackson, Jim Lewis, Nina Hansen, Becky Reiber,

Deacons: Brian Dewees, Chris Dolinger, Dar Gray, Eric Hansen, Connie Lewis, Dave Pohlig, Chris Ulrich

August Birthdays

August Anniversaries