

GREENSTONE GAZETTE

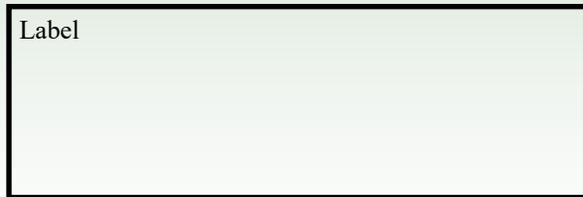
Nottingham Presbyterian Church PC (USA)
497 W. Christine Road
Nottingham, PA 19362-9760

July 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.



Deacons held a VERY SUCCESSFUL food drive for Divine Sent Food Cupboard! Our local neighbors also contributed after seeing the sign. In addition to all the food, over \$500 was contributed for Divine Sent. THANK YOU DEACONS!



Supporting our neighbors in need

Payroll Protection Loan approved! We have successfully received a payroll protection loan from the bank under the Federal program. This “loan” will be forgiven when we use it to cover payroll expenses for 2 1/2 months. All the churches in Donegal Presbytery that applied for the loans also received them.

Large Print Daily Bread available in our “Little Library” outside the church house

The Daily Bread daily devotional booklets are available in our “Little Library” outside the church house. Feel free to share them with your neighbors! The Daily Bread is also available to your email box by signing up at: <https://odb.org/resources> . They also have an app “Our Daily Bread” for your phone.

Shout for Joy, Sing Your Praises!

What we miss by not being together is the shared joys and praises we hear each week. Some are answered prayers, some are unexpected joys, some are just fun things we communicate with each other. Each week we will have a joy and praise list in addition to our normal prayer list. Let’s lift our spirits by the good things in our lives. PICTURES WELCOME! Please send them to Connie Lewis:

Lewis4450@zoominternet.net
610-932-5345

Some Praises—Bill Moore just had a new GREAT GRAND BABY! Another one is on the way this fall! Congratulations Bill.

Jim and Connie Lewis’s daughter Kristen is now home from rehab after surgery for a brain tumor. She will start radiation and chemotherapy soon.

Corrections to the Directory:

July Birthdays

Deacons and Elders have been in touch with our Church Family. Please let them or Pastor Merritt know if you need anything during this time of physical distancing.

July Anniversaries

none

On the lighter side:



We are still collecting aluminum cans while we are apart. The deposit site is next to the garage “Yes We Can” can.

If you are interested in reading the Scripture Lesson for the video taped Worship Service, please tell Pastor Merritt. We usually tape Thursday afternoon in the Sanctuary—social distancing practiced. We can work around your schedule for taping if necessary.



We express our sympathy to the family of Elwood (Woody) Welk, who passed away April 12, 2020

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

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Well, here we are. Though Chester County has entered the green phase of recovery, the Greenstone is still not open for Sunday morning worship. Why is this?

The Session is continuing to carefully and prayerfully consider when we should begin worshipping together in our sanctuary. We are reading the reports from CDC and from the Pennsylvania government. We are listening to God's leading as we consider what is best for our congregation. We are hearing from other congregations and from our presbytery. We are watching what is happening in other states – as those who re-opened quickly are experiencing significant rises in the levels of positive cases of Covid-19, and in hospitalizations. Concern for our most vulnerable members is a prime factor in our decision to continue with recording our services for the time being. We understand that a number of our community are not able to access our recorded services through computers, and are working on ways to address that need. In addition we are looking for other ways to begin socializing in smaller groups to retain our sense of community.

One idea that works on both the worship and social needs is to have small groups (no more than six) people meet in one home to view the worship service together. One of our elders or deacons could bring a laptop to the home of someone who does not use computers. Masks would still need to be worn, and social distancing observed. If you are interested in participating in such a gathering for worship, please let me know. We are also trying to see if we can transfer the electronic recording of the worship service to a DVD so that people with DVD players could access the service.

In addition, we are offering two studies for people to participate in. The first is a Zoom call study of the book Anxious to Talk about It: Helping White Christians Talk Faithfully about Racism by Carolyn Helsel. We will be joining Oxford Presbyterian in this discussion, but the most vulnerable discussions will be held in virtual rooms with just NPC members and friends in our room to allow for trusted conversations to be held. This study starts Thursday, July 2, at 7 p.m. and will continue for a total of seven weeks. Even if you miss the first session (which will cover the Introduction), you can still join in. The second study is on the Biblical book of Philippians. We may hold this by Zoom, or in person, or through a combination of the two. All will depend on how many and who decide to participate. Please let me know if you are interested in either or both of these studies.

We are still the Church! We are still the fellowship of Nottingham Presbyterian Church! Please let me know of any concerns – and joys – you have, and let me know if I may share these with the rest of our church family. The love of God continues to surround and uphold us in these trying times.

In Christ's love,
Pastor Merritt



Back to School Fair IS ON for this year. Tenille is trying to plan the fair with everything going on. What BTSF needs for a successful fair is MONEY. Tenille estimates we will need an additional \$5,500 for this year's fair. A Go Fund Me site will be set up. You can donate from our website or send in a check to the church, with Back to School on the memo line. More information to come!

Health Appointments you should consider keeping, despite the pandemic.

From the Washington Post - July 2, 2020

1. Cancer Screenings—If you’re due for a mammogram, colonoscopy or a Pap test, go ahead and schedule one.
2. Dental visits—problems caught early are easier to treat and more affordable.
3. Physical Therapy—treating injuries in the earlier stages have better outcomes.
4. Blood tests—they may be needed for medication adjustment and/or health screening.
5. Emergency Room Visits—The pandemic will NOT stop heart attacks or strokes from happening. The safest place to be if you have a medical emergency is the Emergency Room. **“Don’t Die in Doubt”**

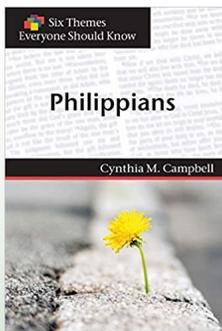


Missions is planning another Winter Clothing giveaway this fall. Start collecting coats and other winter clothing (Adults as well)

New website for Shiloh Presbyterian Church:
<https://shilohpresbyterianoxfordpa.org>

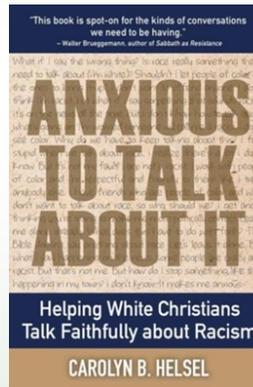


Study Opportunities



A Bible study on Philippians
 Philippi is Paul’s first destination outside Asia Minor, his first city to visit in Europe, and his first mission in a place where there was no Jewish community from which to begin preaching. Cynthia Campbell writes that in Paul’s letter to the Philippians, we get a unique glimpse of our beginnings as Christians. Some

themes explored include the importance of community for followers of Christ, Christian joy in spite of persecution, the nature of Christian unity, what it means to be “in Christ”, and mutual hospitality. Depending on the desires of those who want to participate in this study, we will meet by Zoom, in person (mask and social distancing) or a combination of the two. Date and time will be decided by those expressing interest in attending, but the thought is that this might be a day time study. Please let Pastor Merritt know if you want to participate in this study! The books for this study (\$12.00) can be ordered together if you want or you can order separately.



A Zoom Call study group with Oxford Presbyterian Church on the book, Anxious to Talk about It: Helping White Christians Talk Faithfully about Racism, by Carolyn Helsel. This is for people who believe we need to stop hiding our eyes from the prevalence of Racism in our country, but aren’t sure how to do this faithfully and respectfully of the needs and

energy of people of color. The study begins July 2 at 7 p.m., with a discussion on the introduction to this book, and continues for an additional six weeks to discuss each week one of the six chapters in the book. If you cannot get the book by July 2 (or didn’t see this notice until after then!), you can still join the study. Each week we will begin with opening remarks and prayer, but will then divide into digital rooms (host will take care of that, you just find yourself in a smaller group of people) for our more vulnerable discussions. NPC will have its own digital room so that our discussions will be among people we know and love. Please let Pastor Merritt know if you would like to join this study at any time. She will let Pastor Scott know so that he can welcome you by sending you the Zoom link. (and know which “room” to put you in!)