

GREENSTONE GAZETTE

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

September 2018

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Website: www.nottinghampc.org

Bringing 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.



Label

Starts with Kick-off Next Sunday - September 9!

Using the New International Version of the Bible, Randy Frazee has stitched together the parts of the Bible into chronological order, creating a flowing read which helps us to understand how the parts work together as whole, and invites to seek understanding about how WE fit into God's Story.

Worship

10:00 a.m. Sundays

Youth Program

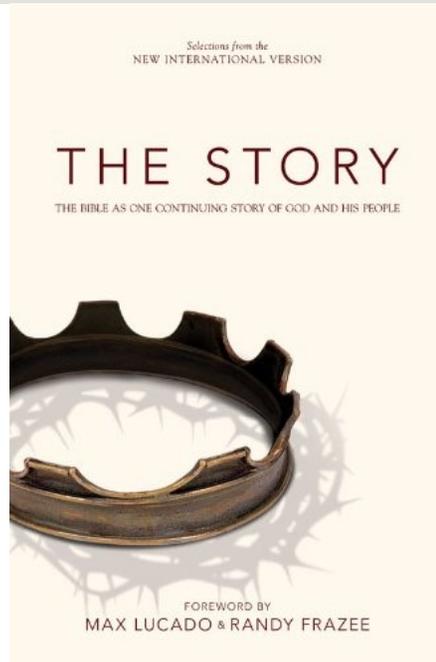
6-7 p.m. on Mondays (beginning
Sept. 17)

Adult Bible Studies

Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. (beginning
Sept. 18)

Wednesdays at 7 p.m. (beginning
Sept. 19)

Books are available.



Coming in September!

Invite Your Friends to Join Us!

Can't make all the sessions? That's okay. Come when you can, catch up at home when you can't.

Books are available.



September 2018

September Birthdays

Sept. 7—Frances Dolinger
 Sept. 10—Gerry Davis
 Sept. 11—Justin Borst-Moran
 Sept. 17—Rob Glover
 Sept. 21—Dave Pohlig
 Sept. 26—Carol McFann
 Sept. 29—Ken Sumner

September Anniversaries

Sept. 10—Eddie & Jolan Squires
 Sept. 28—Gerry & Donna Davis

Upcoming Meetings and Events:

Every Monday: Scouts 6:30pm
 Every Tuesday: AA 7pm
 Every Thursday: NA 7pm
 Sept. 5: Deacons Meeting
 Sept. 9: The Story Dedication
 Sept. 13: Worship Team 1pm
 Sept. 15: Men's Breakfast 8:30am
 Sept. 17: Youth Program 6-7pm
 Sept. 19: Adult Bible Study 7pm
 Sept. 20: Stewardship Team 7pm
 Sept. 24: Youth Program 6-7pm
 Sept. 25: Presbytery Meeting
 Chanceford Presbyterian 4pm
 Adult Bible Study 10am
 Sept. 26: Adult Bible Study 7pm
 Sept. 27: Session 7pm
 Sept. 30: Hymnal Dedication

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

While I am excited about many wonderful things happening at Nottingham Presbyterian, and looking forward to many more, I find that my heart is troubled by much of what I see going on in our country and around the world. Listening to the news, and reading the paper (yes, I still get a paper copy!), I see the divisions among us growing wider. Candidates winning primaries often are toward the outer edges of the political spectrum. We seem to be voting defensively instead of positively. Our debates over issues are often occurring in the same vein, with harsh words and sharp, self-righteous tones. The Church (the broad Body of Christ, not just any specific denomination) itself is increasingly divided. We take the part of one candidate or official over another, without preserving the role of the Church in calling all persons to greater faithfulness. We have seen the terrible consequences of doing this in the report recently released on the Catholic Church in Pennsylvania. And yet we - conservatives, evangelicals, liberals, progressives alike - continue to guard from criticism those with whom we mostly agree and utterly condemn those with whom we disagree. It was in this discouraged frame of mind that I began my daily devotionals this morning.

How beautiful it was to hear God's Word speak through the ages, addressing my concerns! As I read Psalm 65 and Psalm 147: 1-11, my heart was again filled with hope. To God will all persons come; God will forgive; God will silence the tumult of the peoples (not the protests, but the forces of violence and injustice and the strident, ill-considered shrieks of judgment); God will lift up the downtrodden, heal the brokenhearted, and bind up wounds. My prayer is that I will follow Christ in this path toward God's eternal realm.

Does this mean we leave everything to God and do nothing ourselves? Of course, not. Presbyterians have a long tradition of engaging the systemic problems of our society and of the world from the foundation of our Christian faith. However, Christians cannot do this with integrity if we completely align ourselves with one political party or another. Our highest loyalty and commitment is to God. We look to God for the vision of who we are called to be. We repent and seek forgiveness when we fail. We challenge ourselves, and all others, when we stray from God's hope, mercy, and justice.

God will not fail. To paraphrase Abraham Lincoln, our question is not whether God is on our side, but whether we are living God's vision. This thought causes us to reexamine how we are living both our personal and public lives. We do so with the assurance that our merciful God is calling us to live into a new life. God's holy vision is what we are to proclaim in all that we do and say. God promises that the Holy Spirit will guide and strengthen us as we give witness to the new life we receive in Jesus Christ. This gives us hope beyond any faulty reassurance or temptation that the world might try to provide.

As we begin our program, The Story, let us keep these thoughts in mind. Let us seek the Lord. Let us be open to the guiding of the Holy Spirit. Let us hold the vision of our Servant Savior, Jesus Christ, before us at all times and in all places. Let us live in God's hope!



In Christ's love,
 Pastor Merritt



September Volunteers

Readers:

- 9/2 Tenille Dewees
- 9/9 Carol/Jack Dunlap
- 9/16 Nina Hansen
- 9/23 Jim Lewis
- 9/30 Ruth Ann Sumner

Head Usher:

Ed Squires Jr

Deacon of the month:

Dave Pohlig

Communion Prep Team:

- 9/2 Joyce and Jerry Jackson

**Communion Servers
September 2**

- Donna and Gerry Davis
- Alice Witmer
- Carol Dunlap

October Volunteers

Readers:

- 10/7 Cindy Sudnikovich
- 10/14 Becky Conner
- 10/21 Jack and Carol Dunlap

Head Usher:

John Lloyd

Deacon of the month:

Jerry Jackson

Communion Prep Team:

- Steve and Dar Gray
- Donna and Gerry Davis

**Communion Servers
October 7**

- Jim Lewis
- Connie Lewis
- Nina Hansen



It's in the books! Another **Back to School Fair** has been completed! Thanks to all who helped to pull this off. We especially thank our wonderful partners in this program!



Thank you to the 34 OAHs Athletes, OCD Dancers, and church youth who came out to save our old backs and legs. We unloaded a trailer in 20 minutes that took over an hour to pack. We have never had a more stress-free setup day.



At least 900 people visited the Fair this year, with around the same number of backpacks handed out. Haircuts were given; Dental information handed out, clothes and toys were there on consignment. Wow!



Items left over from the consignment sale at the Back to School Fair will be offered in a garage sale at the Greenstone on **Sept. 8, 2018 from 9 a.m. – noon!** Prices reduced!

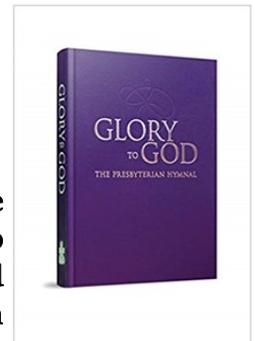
Clothes, toys, bedding! Come and see!

**Hymnal Dedication
Sunday**

September 30, 2018

10:00 a.m. Worship

Join us as we dedicate our new hymnals to God's glory! Sing old and new songs from them during our worship service. Celebrate the gift of music and rejoice in God's creativity, grace, power and love!



Kimble Barn/Howell Landscaping Company assistance:

A GoFundMe page has been established and donations can be made by going to: <https://www.gofundme.com/help-howell039s-landscaping-rebuild>



We are in the process of updating the Church Directory. If you want to be in the Directory or need to change information, please give the information to the Church office or an Elder.



**Deacons' Quarterly
Food Drive**
Please donate during the month
of September!

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| Peanut Butter | Jelly |
| Fruit Juice | Mac & Cheese |
| Canned Fruit | Cereal |
| Soup | Rice (1 lb. bag) |
| Pasta | Spaghetti Sauce |
| Canned Meat | Beans |
| Instant Potatoes | Toilet Paper |
| Stuffing Mix | Condiments |
| Toothpaste | Shampoo |
| Tea | Sugar |

Please bring in items **by September 30th**.



Christmas in September? Who is rushing things? Actually, we are not celebrating Christmas yet, we are asking you to consider writing a devotional for the Advent Devotional booklet. We have 37 devotionals to write (from Dec. 1 through January 6 – Epiphany). Do you have a special memory to share or a special Scripture that reminds you of the extraordinary meaning of Christmas? Each devotional will include a Scripture reading, a short meditation, and a prayer. You can choose all three or you can write the meditation and we will provide the Scripture choice and the prayer. Writing from the heart is a gift we can share with one another. Please let Pastor Merritt know if you plan to provide a meditation. Meditations will be due by October 15, but don't delay!

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*World Communion Sunday
October 7, 2018*



Join us at our 10:00 Worship Service as we celebration the Family of God drawn together by Jesus Christ to rejoice in the joyous feast of the Lord's Supper which makes us one.



We would like to shower April Hansen with cards to let her know how much she is loved and that we are continuing to keep her in our prayers.

Her mailing address is :

April Hansen
904 4th Avenue, Apt. 2
Brooklyn, NY 11232

**Bereavement Support Group
Jennersville Regional Hospital**

**Second and Fourth Tuesday
of each month**

**6:30-8:00pm
Conference Room A**

For more information contact:
Maris P. Hufnal, Chaplain
and Bereavement Coordinator
Brandywine River Valley Hospice (610) 998-1700

**Coming in
October:
World Communion Sunday**