

SONSHINE NEWSLETTER

July 2018

A Publication of Rocky Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church



“Sharing, Preparing and Caring in Jesus’ Name”

321 Rocky Grove Avenue, Franklin, PA 16323

Church Phone: 814-432-4162

Website: www.rockygrovepres.org

Email Address: [rgapc @ verizon.net](mailto:rgapc@verizon.net)

Sunday Worship – 9:00 a.m.

Church Staff

Rev. Rachel J. Johns, Pastor

Rhonda Rust, Secretary

Mike Burkhardt, Organist

Janet Bish, Assistant Organist

Scott Donaldson, Custodian

Church Office Hours for Summer

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday: 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Rocky Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church
321 Rocky Grove Avenue
Franklin, PA 16323



Reach Out In Faith

FROM THE SESSION

ACTIONS OF SESSION – JUNE 11, 2018

1. Approved minutes of May 14, 2018 meeting.
 2. Approved May financial reports.
 3. Removed from the membership roll the name of Marjorie Sheffer, who passed away on June 8, 2018. She was a faithful servant and will be sorely missed.
 4. Approved giving a key to Jeremy Beer, our new mailman.
 5. Approved changes to the proposed lease with Grace Learning Center.
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July Birthdays

1 David Brandt	25 Jamie Wetjen
17 Doris Feather	27 Reagan Hartman
24 Brad Wetjen	31 Beth Blanchard

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## SERVANTS FOR JULY

**Hospital Visits:** Diane Whitman & a Deacon

**Greeter(s):** 1 Arnie & Janet Bish  
8 Hartman family  
15 Dorie Feather  
22 Rhonda Rust  
29 Phyllis Vogan

**Worship Leader:** 1 Lois Pierce  
8 Rhonda Rust  
15 Diane Whitman  
22 Lois Pierce  
29 Rhonda Rust

**Counters:** 1 Linda Hartman & Joyce Wetjen  
8 Diane Whitman & Linda Zeller  
15 Linda Hartman & Joyce Wetjen  
22 Linda Hartman & Linda Zeller  
29 Linda Hartman & another Elder

## 2018 Church Officers and Other Leaders

### Session Members:

Class of 2018: Linda Hartman, Lois Pierce, Elissa Stuttler, Joyce Wetjen, Diane Whitman & Linda Zeller  
Class of 2019:  
Class of 2020:

Clerk of Session: Elissa Stuttler

Moderator of Session: Rev. Rachel Johns

### Session Members leading Ministry Teams:

Christian Education: Diane Whitman

Congregational Life & Worship: Lois Pierce  
& Linda Zeller

Missions & Outreach: Joyce Wetjen & Elissa Stuttler

Stewardship & Personnel: Linda Hartman

Nominating: Linda Hartman

### Board of Deacons:

Moderator: Doris Feather

Secretary/Treasurer: Rhonda Rust

Class of 2018: Doris Feather, Grace Gibbons  
& Phyllis Vogan

Class of 2019: Kennedy Hartman & Rhonda Rust

Class of 2020: Judy Ream

### Board of Trustees:

Moderator: John Dumbleton

Secretary: Rhonda Rust

Class of 2018: Arnie Bish, John Dumbleton,  
Kevin Songer & Brad Wetjen

### Nominating Committee Members:

Linda Hartman, Doris Feather, Rhonda Rust & Joyce Wetjen

**Church Treasurer:** Rhonda Rust

**Assistant Church Treasurer:** Vacant

**Financial Secretary:** Joyce Wetjen

**Assistant Financial Secretary:** Lois Pierce

**Auditors:** Gene Sheffer (2018)

Doris Feather (2019)

Lois Pierce (2020)

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If you would like to provide flowers for Sunday morning worship, please contact the church office. You will want to advise the office as to whether you will order your own flowers, how you want it listed in the bulletin and if you will be removing them after the service.

NEWS FROM GRACE LEARNING CENTER

The staff and children of Grace Learning Center entertained the congregation and community with dinner and a show on May 24th. We enjoyed a delicious spaghetti dinner and great desserts. Following dinner, the students performed a talent show. A skit, singing, dancing, batons, streamers and puppets were offered for our enjoyment. These students are indeed talented and hard working. There were 63 people in attendance. What a delight it was to welcome parents, grandparents, siblings and neighbors to our fellowship hall. The parking lot was full, and the excitement was electrifying.

We thank the staff for their hard work and the Board members for their support. It takes a village to raise a child. We were able to connect with our "village" to provide love and encouragement to these children and their families.

We look forward to the future and the Christian impact we can make in the lives of these children.

During June, we offered a program Monday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Then in the fall, we will resume the after-school program. We are very blessed to be able to serve God in this time and place. Thank you for your prayers and support.

More news from Grace Learning Center...

On Saturday, June 2, the church hosted a Saturday fun day for the Grace Learning children, their friends and parents. This event was funded by the generosity of Lake Erie Presbytery.

It was really a fun day. We had eleven adults and nine children. One family traveled from Oil City because some friends from GLC invited them.

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The organized games included "pie eating" (my favorite), a watermelon eating contest, and finding coins in the sand. The unorganized entertainment included chasing balloons, playing basketball and running around screaming -- what a joy and delight! The children and adults were served hot dogs, chips, more watermelon and ice cream for lunch.

A special thank-you to the adult helpers. It is wonderful to have church members involved in this children's ministry. God bless each one of you.

Pastor Rachel

UPCOMING EVENTS at RGAPC

Men and women with youthful spirits gather for food and fellowship at noon the first Wednesday of each month (except January & February). Make your reservation for the *Youthful Spirits* picnic on July 11 2018, at Ray & Toby Aikins, 162 Shade Tree Lane, Franklin. Call 432-2726 by Monday, July 9th. Hot dogs, hamburgers, condiments & beverage will be provided. All attending are asked to take a picnic dish to share!! Next month's gathering will be August 1st hosted by Rhonda Rust.

Curt Sheffer has graciously offered to play for an old-fashioned hymn sing on Monday, July 9th, at 6:30 p.m. before he returns to Florida. Mark your calendars and make plans to participate.

Women's Prayer Breakfast - July 14th

Join the women of RGAPC for breakfast the second Saturday of the month at Linda Lou's Restaurant, 1572 Mercer Road. Come out and enjoy fellowship, devotions and good food too beginning at 8:30 a.m.!

Congregational Life & Worship is planning for a Progressive Dinner for September 8th. If you are willing to host a course, let Lois Pierce or Linda Zeller know as soon as possible.

Missions Corner

BLANKET OFFERING – June 17 & 24, 2018
resulted in the collection of \$110.00 to assist Church World Service provide blankets to those suffering from disaster. Thank you for your generosity once again!!



MISSIONFEST WILL BE HERE SOON – 8/11/2018

It is time to look for items to donate to the garage sale. And if you have an opportunity to talk to anyone who is having a sale, be sure to let them know that we will gladly take the leftovers they might want to donate to RGAPC for our sale. The only things we can't take are clothing and shoes. Watch future bulletins for information on when we can start bringing things to the church.

Also, be thinking what you can do to help. You will soon be asked what job you would like to do for Missionfest. We will have food booths for hot sausage sandwiches, hot dogs and drinks. Also, we will have the bake sale items. Some things could be baked and frozen early to give you more time to get ready.

Remember we need everyone's help. And thanks in advance to all of you for the work you will be doing to make this year's Missionfest a success.

We ask for your prayers for a beautiful day for Missionfest and that all goes smoothly; and prayers for our adaptability if things don't go as planned; and last but not least, prayers for another successful Missionfest – not for our glory, but for God's glory.

Arrangements have been made to have ***The Pine Valley Boys***, to be with us Sunday morning to share their gift of music. Services are at 9:00 a.m. So, spread the word.

If you have any questions please contact anyone on the Missions Team – ***Rhonda Rust, Elissa Stuttler, Joyce Wetjen, Diane Whitman or Linda Zeller.***

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2018 Missions/Missionfest Recipients

ABC Life Center – Franklin
Child Evangelism Fellowship – Cranberry
Grace Learning Center – Franklin
Mustard Seed Missions – Venango County
Seneca Hills Bible Camp & Retreat Center – Polk
United World Missions – Columbia
Youth for Christ – Venango County

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Also, on July 28, Missions will be selling hot dogs, snacks and drinks for the Soap Box Derby.  
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Collection for ROOT International

During May and June, forty-four (44) flip flops were collected for ROOT International. Rebecca Vogan, President, of the organization gave an informative presentation during worship on June 24, 2018.

ROOT International is based in Mercer, PA, and works to meet the needs of smaller, lesser-known organizations, helping them in areas of benevolence, education, and information (i.e.; networking between entities, providing contact numbers and information to aid their organizations).

In 2002, the work which began in Mercer responded to a need in Juarez, Mexico. Donated material goods from the Mercer area began to be transported there. It wasn't long before connections were made with other local ministries in PA, OH, LA, WV and AZ.

We will be donating our unsold Garage Sale items following Missionfest on August 11, 2018.

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*A tote has been placed in the Narthex for the collection of school supplies for Grace Learning Center. Please help with this outreach as you are able. We are inviting the students and their parents to join us in worship on August 19, 2018, for each school-aged child to receive a bag of supplies.*

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

1. The birthstone for July is the Ruby.
2. The flower for July is the water lily.
3. The month of July was named after Julius Caesar.
4. John Hancock was the only member of the Continental Congress to formally sign the Declaration of Independence on July 4th, 1776.
5. The Fourth of July was not declared a federal holiday until 1938.
6. The first White House Fourth of July party was held in 1804.
7. Around 150 million hot dogs are consumed on Fourth of July.
8. In 1776, when the Declaration of Independence was signed, 2.5 million people lived in the U.S. Now there are 311 million.
9. The now American-celebrated song, Yankee Doodle, was originally written by officers of the British army to make fun of backwoods Americans.
10. Three United States presidents died on the Fourth of July: John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, and James Monroe.
11. July 4th is also celebrated in the Philippines, because in 1946, the country was recognized as an independent nation.
12. In one year, \$600 million is spent on fireworks alone in the U.S.
13. Most of the signers of the Declaration did not formally sign until August 2, 1776.
14. Though it is no treasure map as predicted by Nicholas Cage in "Treasure Hunt 2", the message "Original Declaration of Independence dated 4th July 1776" is written upside down on the back of the Declaration of Independence.
15. More than 14,000 firework displays are put on across the country on Fourth of July!
16. Bristol, Rhode Island is home to the world's oldest Independence Day celebration. It dates back to 1785!
17. In 1781, Massachusetts became the first state to declare Independence Day a holiday.
18. Macy's Fourth of July Fireworks Display is the largest in the United States



*Our Deepest  
Sympathy*

*Our deepest sympathy is extended to the family of Marjorie Sheffer. "Margie" went to be with our Lord on Friday, June 8, 2018. She and Gene became members of Rocky Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church December 13, 1983, following transfer by letter from Good Hope Lutheran Church in Oil City. She is sadly missed but not forgotten.*

*We extend Christian sympathy to the family of Eric Whitman on his passing. Eric journeyed to his heavenly home on Sunday, June 10, 2018.*



**THANK YOU**

Thanks to all for their prayers, cards and visits during my recent medical problems. I appreciated all of them.

*Ray Aikins*

The Trustees wish to thank all who donated tools, especially Ray Aikins and Jim Albright, to better stock the church's tool box. The one item that is still desired is a vise. Please keep your eyes peeled at garage sales this season!

A card from the Whitman family thanking the church following their recent loss has been placed on the bulletin board on the sanctuary level.



# JULY 2018



| SUNDAY                           | MONDAY                                                                                  | TUESDAY                                          | WEDNESDAY                                                                                                                 | THURSDAY  | FRIDAY                                  | SATURDAY                                                                              |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1</b><br><b>9:00</b> Worship  | <b>2</b><br><b>2:00</b> CLAW meeting<br><b>7:00</b> Trustees meet                       | <b>3</b><br><b>6:30</b> Sweet Adelines Practice  | <b>4</b><br><i>Independence Day</i><br> | <b>5</b>  | <b>6</b>                                | <b>7</b><br><b>9:30</b> Overeaters Anonymous                                          |
| <b>8</b><br><b>9:00</b> Worship  | <b>9</b><br><b>6:30</b> Hymn Sing with Curt Sheffer (followed by brief Session meeting) | <b>10</b><br><b>6:30</b> Sweet Adelines practice | <b>11</b><br>Noon <i>Youthful Spirits</i> Picnic @ Aikins<br>162 Shade Tree Lane<br><b>6:30</b> Boy Scout Leaders meet    | <b>12</b> | <b>13</b>                               | <b>14</b><br><b>8:30</b> Women's Prayer Breakfast<br><b>9:30</b> Overeaters Anonymous |
| <b>15</b><br><b>9:00</b> Worship | <b>16</b>                                                                               | <b>17</b><br><b>6:30</b> Sweet Adelines practice | <b>18</b><br><b>6:30</b> Boy Scouts Merit Badge Trng.                                                                     | <b>19</b> | <b>20</b><br><i>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</i> | <b>21</b><br><b>9:30</b> Overeaters Anonymous                                         |
| <b>22</b><br><b>9:00</b> Worship | <b>23</b>                                                                               | <b>24</b><br><b>6:30</b> Sweet Adelines practice | <b>25</b><br><b>6:30</b> Missions meeting                                                                                 | <b>26</b> | <b>27</b>                               | <b>28</b><br><b>9:00</b> Soap Box Derby<br><b>9:30</b> Overeaters Anonymous           |
| <b>29</b><br><b>9:00</b> Worship | <b>30</b>                                                                               | <b>31</b><br><b>6:30</b> Sweet Adelines practice |                                                                                                                           |           |                                         |                                                                                       |

*Newsletter articles are due in the church office by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month or risk being omitted from next month's issue.*