

SONSHINE NEWSLETTER

May 2023

A Publication of Rocky Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church



“Sharing, Preparing and Caring in Jesus’ Name”

Rocky Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church

321 Rocky Grove Avenue, Franklin, PA 16323

Church Phone: 814-432-4162

Website: www.rockygrovepres.org

Email Address: rgapc@verizon.net

Worship – 9:30 a.m.

Church Staff

Rhonda Rust, Secretary

Mike Burkhardt, Organist

Janet Bish, Assistant Organist

Scott Donaldson, Custodian

Church Office Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday: 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

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Jesus Christ, 33, of Nazareth, died Friday on Mount Calvary, also known as Golgotha, the place of the skull. Betrayed by the apostle Judas, Jesus was crucified by the Romans, by order of the Ruler Pontius Pilate. The causes of death were crucifixion, extreme exhaustion, severe torture, and loss of blood.



Jesus Christ, a descendant of Abraham, was a member of the house of David. He was the Son of the late Joseph, a carpenter of Nazareth, and Mary, His devoted Mother. Jesus was born in a stable in the city of Bethlehem, Judea. He is survived by His mother Mary, His faithful Apostles, numerous disciples, and many other followers.

Jesus was self-educated and spent most of his adult life working as a teacher. Jesus also occasionally worked as a medical doctor and it is reported that he healed many patients. Up until the time of His death, Jesus was teaching and sharing the Good News, healing the sick, touching the lonely, feeding the hungry and helping the poor.

Jesus was most noted for telling parables about His Father’s Kingdom and performing miracles, such as feeding over 5,000 people with only five loaves of bread and two fish, and healing a man who was born blind. On the day before His death, He held a Last Supper celebrating the Passover Feast, at which He foretold His death.

The body was quickly buried in a stone grave, which was donated by Joseph of Arimathea, a loyal friend of the family. By order of Pontius Pilate, a boulder was rolled in front of the tomb. Roman soldiers were put on guard.

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested that everyone try to live as Jesus did. Donations may be sent to anyone in need.

(Reprinted in response to popular demand)



MAY Birthdays

- 4 Cody C. D. Sparling (2)
- 27 Betty Cornmesser

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## Servants for May

- Recorders:** Lois Pierce & Joyce Wetjen
- Worship Leaders:**
  - 7 Rev. Joseph Martin
  - 14 Lois Pierce & Chris Gates
  - 21 Travis Bean
  - 28 To be announced

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Presbyterian Women of Lake Erie Presbytery will be holding their Spring Gathering – Saturday, May 20th, from 10:00 a.m. ’til 1:30 p.m. (registration starts at 9:00 a.m.) at Irvine Presbyterian Church, 885 National Forge Road, Irvine, PA, Warren County. All women are welcome. Additional information can be found on the bulletin board on the west side of the narthex or on the presbytery’s web site - <https://pbylakeerie.org/happenings-around-presbytery>

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It is with great sadness that I am retiring from leading worship for you faithful servants of the Lord. I can’t begin to tell you what a joy it has been to be your Pastor and spiritual leader. Please keep me in your prayers as I explore where God will send me next. I am unable to drive a car or preach in the pulpit, but I will continue to pray for you and serve you in any way possible. I have been blessed by your presence in my life.

*Pastor Rachel*

Lake Erie Presbytery Prayer List for month of May

Week of May 7<sup>th</sup>

Girard Presbyterian Church  
Rev. Nicola Vitiello, Pastor

Rev. David Fugate, Validated Ministry  
Chaplain, Springhill Senior Living

Week of May 14<sup>th</sup>

Cranesville-Bethel Presbyterian Church  
Mel Bendig (UMC), preaching

Rev. Josh Heikkila  
PCUSA World Mission Co-Worker, Ghana

Week of May 21<sup>st</sup>

Titusville Presbyterian Church  
Rev. Vaughan Smith, Pastor

Rev. J. Herbert Nelson,  
Stated Clerk of the General Assembly

Week of May 28<sup>th</sup>

5 Presbytery Conversation Leaders  
Rev. Susan Orr  
Rev. Amy Austin-Loving  
Rev. Anita Bernhardt  
Rev. Karen Shamis  
Rev. Laura Norris-Buisch

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Congratulations, Arika Songer, for being salutatorian of Franklin Jr./Sr. High School Class of 2023! You are amazing, smart and beautiful.

MISSIONS CORNER:

One Great Hour of Sharing offering collected during Lent received a total of \$125.00. Your contributions will help with disaster assistance, alleviating hunger as well as helping people learn how to help themselves toward a better life. Thanks to all who were able to give.



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If you would like to provide flowers for Sunday morning worship, please contact the church office (814-432-4162). You will want to advise Rhonda 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.

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Spring Work Day at Seneca Hills Bible Camp & Retreat Center has been set for Saturday, May 6, 2023, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided. There are jobs for every age; no skill required. For information, call 814-432-3026 or visit senecahills.org. The camp is located off Old Route 8 at the bottom of Pecan Hill (276 Damascus Road, Polk, PA).

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**Volunteers needed!**

The Erie VA (Veterans Administration) Medical Center is seeking volunteer drivers to transport Veterans to VA-related appointments. Volunteers are also needed at Community-Based Out-patient Clinics in Ashtabula, Crawford, Venango, Warren and McKean Counties. Additional information may be obtained by calling 814-860-2024.



# MAY 2023



| SUNDAY                                                     | MONDAY                                                                                           | TUESDAY                                    | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY                                  | FRIDAY                                                                                                                        | SATURDAY                               |
|------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
|                                                            | <b>1</b><br>6:00 Trustees                                                                        | <b>2</b>                                   | <b>3</b>  | <b>4</b><br><i>National Day of Prayer</i> | <b>5</b><br><i>May Friendship Day</i>                                                                                         | <b>6</b><br>9:30 Overeaters Anonymous  |
| <b>7</b><br>9:30 Worship                                   | <b>8</b>                                                                                         | <b>9</b><br>1:15 Session                   | <b>10</b> | <b>11</b>                                 | <b>12</b>                                                                                                                     | <b>13</b><br>9:30 Overeaters Anonymous |
| <b>14</b><br>9:30 Worship<br><i>Mother's Day</i>           | <b>15</b>                                                                                        | <b>16</b>                                  | <b>17</b> | <b>18</b><br><i>Ascension of the Lord</i> | <b>19</b><br><b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>                                                                                       | <b>20</b><br>9:30 Overeaters Anonymous |
| <b>21</b><br>9:30 Worship                                  | <b>22</b>                                                                                        | <b>23</b><br>2:00 Presbytery Meeting ~ TBA | <b>24</b> | <b>25</b>                                 | <b>26</b><br><i>June Sunshine Newsletter available:</i><br><a href="http://www.rockygrovepres.org">www.rockygrovepres.org</a> | <b>27</b><br>9:30 Overeaters Anonymous |
| <b>28</b><br>9:30 Worship<br><i>Pentecost</i><br>Communion | <b>29</b><br> | <b>30</b>                                  | <b>31</b> |                                           |                                                                                                                               |                                        |

*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.*