

UNION FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FALL 2021 NEWSLETTER



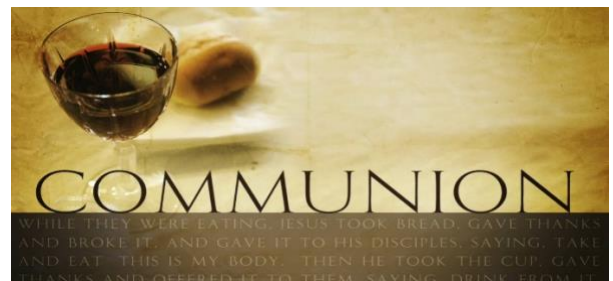
Sundays School – 10:00 am Worship Service – 11:00 am

**Join Us for Worship
In-Person or Livestream Online**

In this issue:



**Blessing of the Pets
Saturday, October 2nd**



**Celebration of Worldwide Communion
Sunday, October 3rd**



Military Recognition - Sunday, November 14th



Online Giving is Here!

Pastor's Corner – Loving One Another & Our Pets



I love pets! Always have. There have been a few times in my life when I did not have one and to be honest, I didn't really miss it because I was busy with college, marriage, and my career. The last stretch of time that I was between pets was 5 years. And then, Seamus came into my life. I knew from the time I saw his picture on the internet, I had to have him. Just look at that face!

Of all the pets I've had, Seamus is the most friendly and energetic. I think he's a great fit for pastoral ministry because he treats everyone as a friend that he hasn't met yet. He gives so much love and joy to others that most folks instantly fall in love with him, although his joyfulness can sometimes be overwhelming. But that's OK, he'll eventually calm down and will always win you over in the end.

Many folks who attend our church and decided to stay share a similar story to meeting Seamus. When you walked in the door of the church you were joyfully met by folks who

treated you like a new friend they had not met yet.

While it remains difficult for some to physically join us in worship amidst the pandemic, we can still invite others to outdoor events like the Blessing of the Pets, Trunk or Treat in the parking lot, or an outdoor wiener roast. We can call them on the phone or connect on Facetime or Zoom. We can even connect the old-fashioned way and write them a kind note. By doing so as disciples of Christ, we invite others to experience the love and joy of knowing Jesus and invite them in (or in this case outside) to love one another and their pets.

“Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples if you love one another.” – John 13:34-35.

Yours in Christ,
Rev. Diane Flynn 412-997-0642 cell





Do All Dogs Go to Heaven?

*Union First Celebrates the Blessing of the Pets
October 2, 2021, 10:00 am – 11:00 am
Pavilion*

Gift Bags, Sloppy Kisses, Toys for Kitty & Fido, & God's blessing for them all (and you, too).

Free treats for the pets and coffee & donuts for their humans.

Come one, come all to a Blessing of the Pets. If you are a lover of pets, you know the unconditional love and companionship that a pet brings to your life. So, blessing them at church is not only a fun thing to do, but it acknowledges the importance of our pets to both us and to God.

This service of blessing began in the Catholic tradition and is associated with St. Francis of Assisi. Canonized by Pope Gregory IX in 1228, St. Francis was designated the patron saint of Italy. Later, he was seen as the patron saint of animals, merchants, and the environment. All of creation was created by God; and that includes our pets. Genesis 1:25 says, "And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the livestock according to their kinds, and everything that creeps on the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good." Join Pastor Diane in her love for pets and make sure you bring a leash!



ONLINE GIVING IS HERE!

It has never been easier to give to the church. You can continue to give in the church or use the online giving program from your mobile device or online. You can make one-time payments or set up recurring payments. Choose the option that is right for you.

From your personal computer or tablet, click the "Give Now" and manage your giving. Give once or set up your recurring payment and profile. Give from your checking or savings account through automatic transactions.

Welcome All



New Adult Sunday School Series: Follow Me: Biblical Practices for Faithful Living

Following Jesus is a lifelong journey where we learn and do what Jesus said and did. It takes more than checking off boxes of what we believe or feeling deeply about another person or a cause. Following Jesus is about these things and more. It's also about doing and it takes lots of practice. We are not practicing for perfection but practicing putting faith and love into action. As we explore faith practices, we are diving into the essence of what makes us Christian, those who follow the one who practiced what he preached! Join us at 10:00 am and we'll make the coffee!



Military Appreciation - Sunday, Nov 14th

Join us in worship and celebration of our veterans. We will be blessed with a local honor guard participating in the service.

Installation Service for Rev. Flynn - June 27th



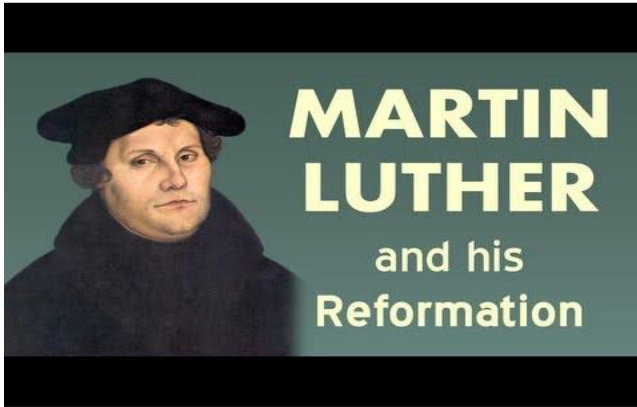
Installation Service with Kiski Presbytery Moderator Preston Younkens, Exec. Presbyter Rev. Dr. Don Wilson, and Rev. Lea Austin



Excellent food and fellowship were had by all!

A Word of Thanks – Words cannot express my thanks and praise to God for a wonderful installation service and celebration. I am grateful to the session, deacons, choir, and the volunteers who made our special day possible. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for welcoming my family and friends to Cowansville as we celebrate God's continued ministry together. – Rev. Diane Flynn

Oct. 31st – 504th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation



Ever wonder why Presbyterians, Lutherans, Anglicans, and others are referred to as “Protestants?” On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther, a German Augustinian monk, posted 95 theses on a church door in Wittenberg, Germany. It was common academic practice of the day to post statements or theories in this way. By doing so others were invited to debate the issues. Luther’s proposals challenged some portions of Roman Catholic doctrine and several specific practices. He opposed the selling of indulgences (release from the earthly penalties for sin through the payment of money) that were being sold to raise

money for the building of Saint Peter’s Basilica in Rome. In addition, the theology principles departed from the Roman Catholic Church primarily based on three principles: the sole authority of scripture, justification by faith alone, and the priesthood of all believers. The reformers who protested these beliefs and practices of the Roman Catholic Church were known as “Protestants.”

As the dream of reforming the Roman church diminished, the "protestants" were forced to split from Roman Catholicism resulting in Lutheran churches in Germany, Scandinavia and some eastern European countries, the Reformed churches in Switzerland and the Netherlands, Presbyterian churches in Scotland, the Anglican church in England, and other diverse elements all of which have evolved into the Protestant denominations of today.

Source: “Protestant Reformation.” Accessed Sept. 6, 2017. <http://www.theopedia.com/protestant-reformation>



- 5 – Gloria Claypoole
- 7 – Julie Rumbarger
- 8 – Seanna Rumbarger
- 11 – Cindy Claypoole
- 13 – Spencer Kepple
- 17 – Lois McGregor
- 18 – Sally Ann Snyder
- 30 – Debbie Whitaker

September

- 7 – Rob Kapp & Josh Shreckengost
- 12 – Anthony Flick & Nathaniel Stuber
- 15 – Bill Gray
- 16 – Steve Geidel
- 22 – Deb Titus
- 24 – Debbie Douglass & Megan Gray
- 26 – Richard Snyder, Drew Richard Hill, Jessica Cannon Douglas, Gracie Ann Patton

October

- 1 – Brian Boltz
- 3 – Jace Leavens

November

- 1 - Timothy King
- 2 – Colleen Flick
- 3 – Bryan Costanzo
- 7 – George Fleeger
- 11 – O.G. Bowser
- 14 – Lois Fink
- 16 – Bill King
- 21 – Chasity Johns Evans
- 22 – Jocelyn Bittenbender
- 23 – Bernie W. Croyle
- 24 – Hanna Freehling
- 28 – Richard Flanigan



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Join Us for Worship
In-Person or Livestream Online

September

7 – Floyd & Florence Davis
25 – Dan & Kathy Harris
28 – George & Debbie Fleeger

October

2 - Rob & Sandi Kapp
14 – Steve & Dana Elder
16 – Geoff & Gloria (King) Stuber
23 – Randy & Deanna Jack
27 – Junior & Barb Patton

November

12 – Mark & Carolyn Snyder
19 – Richard & Pamela Flanigan
27 – Sean & Julie Rumbarger

