



What's Up Wickliffe!

JUNE 2023

Renew, Regrow, Re-Invent

It is just a few days after Easter as I write this so I am spending a lot of time thinking about resurrection and what that means for me and for the churches I work with. I find myself thinking as well about perspective and how where we stand can make a huge difference in how we experience the world.

Sitting in the pews of many churches these days you might at first perceive a sense of scarcity: fewer people, less energy, greater space. All of this is an accurate way of experiencing reality. So, too, in the day after the crucifixion, there was a vast emptiness. Space that was formerly filled with promise was ostensibly gone.

Energy abhors a vacuum so when space is created something comes to fill it; in those first few hours after Jesus' death grief filled the space that he had occupied.

Opportunity beyond all imagining

We may be in the midst of grief over the change occurring in our churches today. Our churches do not feel the way they did decades ago. They do not occupy the same space in the social landscape. Things have changed and change is hard, scary, and uncomfortable. Certainly no one would suggest that the transformation Jesus underwent from human life to spirit was comfortable.

But after grief in the story of Jesus' death comes opportunity, hope, and joy beyond all imagining. The resurrection tells us that there is something else, something beyond what we could perceive with our human eyes, something greater than we could imagine. Some were quick to move from grief to opportunity. Others took a little longer, but the lesson is that we are called to take that leap and to move forward.

It is time to put aside our grief over what was and experience the possibility of what can be. I suspect that while Jesus was alive none of the disciples really believed that they were going to have to take over someday. Sure they could help out; they could preach, they could do some healing but they had a very real, very tangible safety net. Until they didn't.

Balance and a shift in perspective

And then, miraculously they did, along with a transformational charge: you are the body, you are the spirit, you have to be the work of Jesus in the world. And there were not that many of them – the "church" was

small, they didn't have big buildings, and they were not terribly popular with the people in power. But wow! Did they ever manage to do something incredible!

We are no less the recipients of that charge today. We are no less responsible and we are no less capable. The legacy of the opportunity present in the resurrection is ours, and we must do the work that will pass that legacy to the next generation and the one after that. We can not stop at grief but instead we must move through that grief to the world of new possibility and new beginning.

In yoga practice, you always do every move on both sides of your body. Functionally, this makes sure that your muscles are balanced. Psychologically, it allows you to check your view of the world with just a subtle shift. Stand on your right leg in tree pose and the world looks one way, stand on your left and the view changes. When we stand facing the empty tomb we see a loss, when we experience the emptiness in that tomb we can fill ourselves with all the possibility that brings.

Our churches have changed from the very beginning. Indeed, without change, we would not be where we are today – a link in a chain stretching back thousands of years.

If we shift our perspective just a little to the fullness of the opportunity in front of us, the promise of transformed life inherent in the resurrection, we can move forward together with hope, with joy, with gladness, and with the full knowledge that we will do our work to make sure that the church is there for thousands of years to come.

*Maggie Harmon, Presbyterian Foundation's
Ministry Relations Officer, Southwest, PC(USA)*

Check Out What's Inside

Page 2	June Schedule Birthdays/Anniversaries
Page 3	Church Women United Needle's Eye Ministry
Page 4	Per Capita Info Reminders
Page 5	In Step With Session
Page 6	Church Deacons Church Equipment Notice
Page 7	June Calendar



JUNE SCHEDULE

- June 4** **Trinity Sunday**
- June 11** **Second Sunday after Pentecost**
- June 18** **Third Sunday after Pentecost**
 ♦ **Father's Day**
- June 25** **Fourth Sunday after Pentecost**



- June 15 Bill Wayland
- June 21 Robert Kirchner
- June 26 Pauline Oliphant
- June 30 Elaine Ritchie



- June 8 Ray & Debbie Marshall
- June 8 Richard & Bobbi Jo Smith
- June 23 Bob & Debby Fabian
- June 29 Ron & Bonnie Salo

Church Office Hours:
 Monday - 9:00am - 12:00pm
 Tuesday - Closed
 Wednesday - Closed
 Thursday - 9:00am - 12:00pm
 Friday - Closed

(Hours may vary. Please contact the office for an appointment if you need in the church)

Church Website: www.wickliffepc.com
 Secretary's Email: wickliffepc@gmail.com

Wickliffe Presbyterian Church
 45 Idlewood Rd.
 Austintown, OH 44515
 P: 330-792-6441 F: 330-792-1006

TLCC Daycare and Preschool
 Director, Norma Johnson
 330-792-9048





CHURCH WOMEN UNITED



Church Women United is an inclusive ecumenical Christian women's movement celebrating unity in diversity and empowering Women to work towards a world of peace and justice.

MAY FRIENDSHIP SERVICE MAY 20, 2023

To The wonderful Women of Wickliffe:

Thank you to all of our women who attended Church Women United service on Saturday, May 20, 2023!

The service was dedicated to May Mental Health Month and our speaker, Brenda Heidinger from the Mahoning County Mental Health Board, gave us insight to the importance of mental health for all of us. She highlighted all the areas designated as mental health issues. As we listen to the troubles in our country, we are becoming so aware of people who need great help for their mental health.

Included in her talk and in the program bulletin was a list of Mental Health resources with phone numbers:

1. National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. (800-273-8255)
2. SAMHSA National Helpline (substance use treatment) (800-662-4357)
3. Alcoholics Anonymous Helpline (855-974-5819)
4. National Alliance on Mental Illness (800-950-NAMI)
5. Your most trusted Spiritual Friend

In these troubled times, please REMEMBER: If you see something, say something!
If you hear something, say something!
If you suspect something, say something!

We ask YOU, O Lord, to bless us and open our minds to find meaningful ways to Labor with Love, with a Heart to Care.

Our next service will be in November with details to follow.

In His Love, Donna Cooper

Needle's Eye Soup Ministry

Look for your initial and please give cans of soup, beans, or peanut butter! These donations are given to the elderly in our area who find their food supply very low at the end of the month. You can find the basket beside the Fellowship door.

Thank you for your generosity!
Donna Cooper



This month's initials are: J—K—L


Please Note: The NEEDLE'S EYE Service will be held on Sunday, July 23, 2023. Details to follow.



2023 Per Capita is \$32.50. Per Capita information flyers are available at the church.




REMINDER FROM JEFF



Jeff Bryant is still collecting **aluminum cans** this year for a project with the VFW called **“Cans for Vets”**. Please bring your cans to the church (garbage can is placed near the door) or set them by the garage for this very worthy cause. Jeff will be collecting the cans for the remainder of the year. Thank you in advance for your Christian generosity!


“POP TABS—Reminder”



Ronald McDonald House

This is a reminder that you take time to collect **Pop Tabs** for our **RONALD McDONALD HOUSE Outreach**. You will find the tall plastic container in the Narthex. Let's please see how fast we can fill the jug this time. Blessings to all for your support of this worthy cause!
~ Nancy O'Hara, Clerk of Session

A PRAYER FOR UKRAINE



PRAY FOR UKRAINE

God of peace and justice, we pray for the people of Ukraine today. We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons. We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow, that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them. We pray for those with power over war or peace, for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear, that you would hold and protect them. We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Amen.



IN STEP WITH SESSION

As we move into our Summer months, our Session will be taking a time to relax and enjoy the beautiful weather and spend time with their families. We are not stepping down from the tasks we've been assigned and will meet if necessary when situations arise. I do want to take time to thank all our leadership and staff for their hard work and dedication. (Our Elders, Our Deacons, Our Secretary, Our Custodian, Our repair and grounds person, Our teachers, Our pianist along with our Moderator) Their diligence to doing a job well done helps to make our Church a stronger and more vibrant place to attend Worship. I know we are without a Pastor at this time, but we've been able to Worship together. Thank you all for your support and understanding as we move forward.

Your Session met on the 16th of May with all present and accounted for.... We received the following written reports from the Deacons and TLCC. At this reading, we will have enjoyed the Deacons Ice Cream Social which we have looked forward to and missed during the Pandemic. Thank You..... TLCC is thriving well with 86 students in attendance. Take notice of the new Playground equipment purchased with a grant they received. More items to come.

Our Committees gave verbal reports and the following was mentioned by their chairs: Growth reported that they are in the process of having another service at the Needles Eye hopefully sometime in July. Listen for details. Donna to celebrate Birthdays soon and our annual picnic will be held on August 13th at the Township Park with the Renewal Trio in attendance.

Service reported that we are going to have the outside sign repaired. It has been working off and on but has some issues. It was suggested to cover the thermostats with a locked case. We have had issues with improperly turning the AC on. Don't want to have high repair costs.

Worship reported that they handed out potted plants on Mothers Day and are working on Fathers Day gifts as well. Ruth asked for more volunteers to be lay-leaders.

Lastly we spend time on reading changes to the Hall Rental Forms. The Wedding form is still in process of being finalized. Session did a great job of sharing their feelings with the forms. Thank you for your input. Audrey and I will work on the Wedding form throughout the summer.

Wishing you well this summer season. Blessings, Nancy O'Hara, Clerk of Session



Our May 21st **Ice Cream Social** was a huge success thanks to our generous Wickliffe family! We served approx. 33 people a fun menu of hot dogs, baked beans, potato salad, chips, drinks, ice cream with lots

of toppings, plus a beautiful array of homemade cookies provided by you! The Deacons received a lovely free will donation of \$200.00 to be used for their yearly mission work.

Many, many thanks to all who attended, stayed to socialize and all who baked yummy cookies. We appreciate your generosity!

Love and thanks from the Deacons



Church Equipment That's on Loan

... Just a note to all our members as we address items belonging to the Church. It has been our policy in the past, when items leave the premises, that we have them documented in the office by our Secretary. I've informed Audrey to create a chart stating the person's name and phone number along with what items they have borrowed.

She will also mark when they are returned as well. Jeff Bryant will aid her in documenting these items so please let either Audrey or Jeff know when notations need to be made. Thank you for your understanding as we move forward. If anything is damaged, please bring it to their attention as well.



Blessings to all, Nancy O'Hara, Clerk of Session



June 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 5:45 PM Tops	2	3
4 10:00 AM Worship Service  8:00 PM AA Mtg.	5	6	7 11:30 AM Goodtimers	8 5:45 PM Tops	9	10
11 10:00 AM Worship Service 8:00 PM AA Mtg.	12	13	14	15 5:45 PM Tops	16	17
18 10:00 AM Worship Service  8:00 PM AA Mtg.	19	20	21 	22 Newsletter Deadline 5:45 PM Tops	23	24
25 10:00 AM Worship Service 8:00 PM AA Mtg.	26	27	28	29 5:45 PM Tops	30	