

"We will share the love of our Lord, building on our past, reaching in faith toward our future."

A letter from the Pastor...

"For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery." – Galatians 5:1

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As a Pastor, a lot of people are surprised to find out that my favorite holiday of the year is the 4th of July. I love the chance to cookout with family, play lawn games, see incredible fireworks displays, and of course the celebration of our Freedom. But if I'm honest, none of those is the #1 reason why it's my favorite holiday. If you want to know why it's my favorite holiday you'll have to stop in and ask me!

This month of July we are going to take a closer look at what is really means to be free in Christ. Free from sin, free from death, free to new life, free to forgive others as we have been forgiven. I hope you will take time each day this month to give thanks to God for the freedoms that you have. But, I especially hope you take advantage of the freedom to worship without fear of persecution.

Whether you are home all summer and can join together each week in person for worship, or you find yourself travelling throughout the country or across the globe and join us for online worship, don't take your freedom to worship for granted!

Wherever you may find yourself this July I hope you have a wonderful STAYcation!

STAY Tuned In! STAY In Touch! STAY Involved!

In Christ,

Pastor Ben

JULY, 2023

First United Presbyterian Church 102 North Main Street Houston, PA 15342 724-746-3040 houstonpresbyterian.org

> Pastor Ben Libert 1379pbl@gmail.com 724-469-1244 (Cell)

Secretary Angela M. Itzel secretary@houstonpresbyterian.org

> Clerk of Session Sandy Wallace

Music Director Karen Jones jonesykj@verizon.net

> **Custodian** Robin Spiker

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		Jonnie Swarow
Meghan Cline	July 3rd	Tony Putorti
Marsha Mason	July 3rd	Adalyne Brown
Elaine Bigler	July 5th	Derek McIlvaine
Brian Bayne	July 7th	Keegan Decker
Sami Bell	July 9th	Stephanie Wylie
Miles Greely	July 11th	Bob Blough Sr.
Ethan Shober	July 11th	Dexter Demian
Kara Petras	July 12th	Dean Shober
Patrick Zeni	July 13th	Kristin McCarty
Gary Thomas Swarow	July 15th	Brad Patsch
JJ Williams	July 15th	Connor Washabaugh
Terry Craig	July 16th	Vicky Lesjak
Heather Bogart	July 17th	Austin Schoppe
Susan Gervasio	July 19th	Debbie McFarland
Betty Wylie	July 20th	Dan Browning
Shana Brown	July 21st	Joanie Bish
Dustin Westcott	July 21st	Haley Steere
Jill Vintorini	July 25th	Tricia Fee
Austin Wittik	July 26th	Pat Goldbach
Ben Brown	July 30th	Shannon Rungo
Addison Durkacs	July 31st	Virginia Bayne
	Elaine BiglerBrian BayneSami BellMiles GreelyEthan ShoberKara PetrasPatrick ZeniGary Thomas SwarowJJ WilliamsTerry CraigHeather BogartSusan GervasioBetty WylieShana BrownDustin WestcottJill VintoriniAustin WittikBen Brown	Meghan ClineJuly 3rdMarsha MasonJuly 3rdElaine BiglerJuly 5thBrian BayneJuly 7thSami BellJuly 9thMiles GreelyJuly 11thEthan ShoberJuly 11thKara PetrasJuly 12thPatrick ZeniJuly 13thGary Thomas SwarowJuly 15thJJ WilliamsJuly 15thJJ WilliamsJuly 16thHeather BogartJuly 17thSusan GervasioJuly 19thBetty WylieJuly 20thShana BrownJuly 21stJill VintoriniJuly 25thAustin WittikJuly 26thBen BrownJuly 30th



July 6th - Mark & Jayme Marshall July 22nd - Duane & Christy Valley July 25th - Bob & Audrey Washabaugh July 25th - Rich & Diane Puskarich July 26th - Ben & Shana Brown July 28th - Rich & Jill Harshman July 16th - Ron & Emily Anestis July 24th - Grier & Diane Adamson July 25th - Bill & Ruth Plunkett July 26th - Chuck & Emily Homitz July 27th - Matthew & Carly Campbell July 29th - Ralph & Mary Lou Patsch Jr.

PRAYER LIST

ONGOING PRAYER REQUESTS:

Mindy Kelley, Brandon Craig, Darren Spiker, Cat Morgan, Rev. Don Austin, Millie Romeo, Tim Lynch, Melanie Donahoo, William Young, Patti Nagy, Ronnie Casper, JoAnn Pitcock, Amanda, Matthew Scears, Brad Pitcock, Brian Baumgardner, Bill Brown, Sophia Desmond, and Bill Ensley.



JULY PRAYER REQUEST:

Baby Emilia Lemon, Marion Marcase, Bo Lesjak, Jeannie Volkar, MaryAnn Clark, Curtis Marcase, Diane Adamson, Howard Lovell, Jeff Brown, Rev. Peggy Shannon, Nancy Hofrichter, Inez Patsch, John Orlando, Daralyn Campbell, Susan Stonebraker, Jill & Rich Harshman, Joey Dudam, Jeff Van Fozmire, Darlene Dunn, Michael Kanotz, Frank Zaccone, Jacob Braun, Cory Clark, and Carole Borda.



PLEASE ALSO PRAY FOR:

Pastor Ben and our Houston Church Leaders, Our Nation and our Nation's Leaders, and all unspoken requests of our church family.

August Newsletter Articles due by Friday, July 21, 2023.

SERVING THE CHURCH IN JULY 2023

Communion will be celebrated on Sunday, July 2, 2023.

GREETERS

Deacon Greeters:

Jul<u>y 2nd -</u> Dodie Hanna (MV) Marianne Blough (GV) Libby Young (GH) July 9th -Janice Blosel (MV) Emily Homitz (GV) Libby Young (GH) July 16th -Mary Skirpan (MV) Haley Steere(GV) Libby Young (GH) July 23rd -Virginia Bayne (MV) Nancy Isiminger (GV) Libby young (GH) <u>July 30th -</u> Lala Patsch (MV) Inez Patsch (GV)

Libby young (GH)

Elder Greeters:

July 2nd -Sandy Wallace (MV) Pastor Ben (GV) Jonnie Swarow (GH) July 9th -Pastor Ben (MV) Linda Young (GV) Stacey Simpson (GH) July 16th -Gloria Schmalz (MV) Sandy Wallace(GV) Pastor Ben (GH) July 23rd -Pastor Ben (MV) Linda Young (GV) Bob Blough (GH) <u>July 30th -</u> Harlan Shober (MV) Pastor Ben (GV) Sandy Wallace (GH)

Music: Karen Jones

Audiovisual: Leon Young

Liturgist: Kayleigh Valley

Money Counters:

July Acolytes:

July - Bob Blough & Gloria Schmalz August - Bob Blough & Karen Jones

July 2nd - Mako Morgan July 9th - Mako Morgan July 16th - Eden Jeffers July 23rd - Gary Swarow July 30th - Julia Swarow

NURSERY SCHEDULE:

July 2nd - Sarah Wallace July 16th - Sandy Wallace July 30th - Jonnie Swarow July 9th - Marianne Blough July 23rd - Sandy Wallace

DEACONS NEWS

ANNUAL CHURCH SERVICE/PICNIC

Join us for a Special Service and the Annual Picnic August 20, at Arnold Park Pavilion. The Worship Service will begin at 10:00am Picnic 11:30am, right after the Worship Service. Hope you can come for one or both events. Deacons will be supplying Chicken, Hot Dogs and Drinks. Covered dishes are welcome!







The Deacons continue to support the food pantry, our numerous Mission Projects, and keeping in touch with the Shut-Ins and College Students. Blessings - Virginia Bayne - Moderator

Yes, we are still collecting pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House. Containers are in the fellowship hall! Thanks you.



Remember, August 26th - Rise Against Hunger, West Alexander Fair Grounds.

Anyone need RADA - please see Nancy Isiminger!



2023 Barnabas Award

It is time to apply for our church's Barnabas Award! Students who are pursuing post-high school education are invited to apply, this includes student continuing in their post-high school programs (upper classmen).

Two scholarships will be awarded, one to a first year student and one to a continuing student. Each scholarship is \$1000.00 per year, payable in two installments.

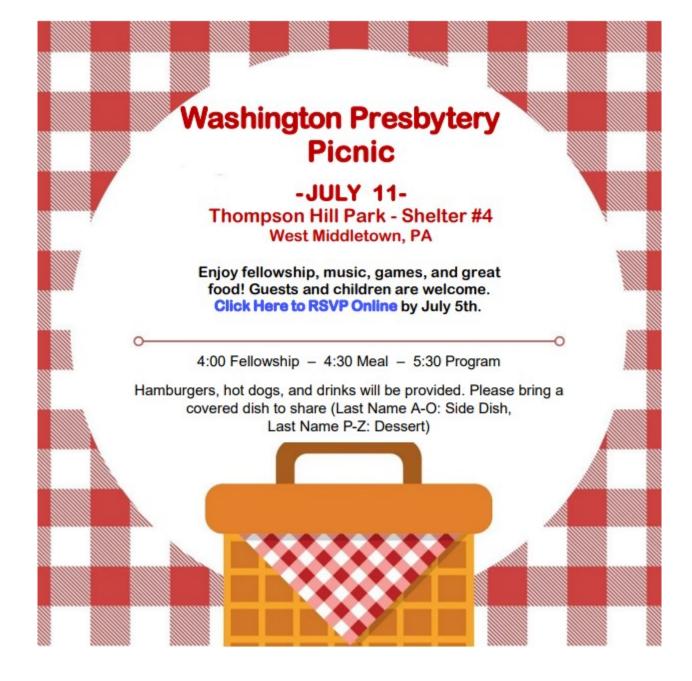


The deadline to submit your information is 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, July 9, 2023.

Instruction packets are available by calling the Church Office at 724-746-3040 and will be mailed to you.

The awards will be presented at the Sunday service on August 6, 2023.

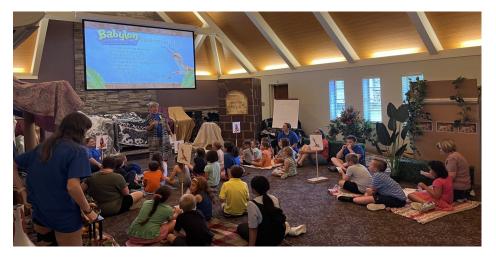
Barnabas was a missionary whose name means "son of encouragement." We want to encourage our students to continue their education.





Vacation Bible School

Look for more pictures in the August Newsletter!



PASTOR BEN'S JULY READINGS

VBS CELEBRATION!

JULY 2, 2022 5th Sunday after Pentecost Communion Sunday Psalm 13:1-6 Romans 6:12-23 "A Free Advantage"

JULY 9, 2022 6th Sunday after Pentecost Romans 7:15-25a Matthew 11:16-30 *"That Thing You Do!"*

JULY 16, 2022 7th Sunday After Pentecost Psalm 119:105-112 Romans 8:1-11 *"On the Right Track"*

JULY 23, 2022 8th Sunday After Pentecost Psalm 139:-12, 23-24 Romans 8:12-25 *"The Freedom of Hope"*

JULY 30, 2022 9th Sunday After Pentecost Healing and Anointing Sunday Romans 8:26-39 Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52 *"To Tell the Truth"*



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JUL		2023	July Committee Meetings as needed	ttee leeded	<u>Regular Eventss</u> Worship -10:00am	<u>=ventss</u> 10:00am
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1-
2- Communion Sunday	ω	4- Office Closed	ក្	စု	7-	٣
ဖု	1 0	11- Washington Presbytery Picnic 4pm	12-	13- -	14-	15 5
16-	17-	18-	19-	20-	21-	22-
23-	24-	25-	26-	27-	28-	29-
30-	31-					

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First United Presbyterian Church 102 North Main Street Houston, PA 15342



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> **Church Office** 724-746-3040

Pastor Ext: 313 1379pbl@gmail.com

Secretary Ext: 310 secretary@houstonpresbyterian.org

Meals on Wheels Ext: 314

Open Door Nursery Ext: 311

Website houstonpresbyterian.org

Sunday School Sunday School Begins Sept.18th at 10:00am

Sunday Worship Service September —May at 11:00 a.m. Nursery Available June-July-August at 10:00 a.m.

> **Bible Study** Tuesdays 10:30 a.m.—11:30 a.m.