

GO IN GOD'S NAME

*HYMN "Go, My Children, with My Blessing" Hymnal #547

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE¹ "Go, My Children, with My Blessing" Frank Stoldt

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Worship notes: *congregation is invited to stand - **Bold** is to be said by congregation

¹ We are so blessed to have such a talented music staff at our church! If you would like to listen to the postlude, feel free to move closer to the front of the church after the benediction where you can sit with others who will also be listening mindfully. "Praise the Lord! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty firmament!" (Psalm 150:1)

PRAYING FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

Nabil, Kelly, Noah, Nabil Jr., and Ariel Hamdan; Joan Harkness; Lynne Harkness; Bryan Hatch; Charlie Hatch; John, Tina, Jessica, and Rachael Hazen

PENNINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF
Pastor: Nancy Mikoski Associate Pastor: David Hallgren
Pastor Emeritus: William McQuoid
Director of Music Ministries: Megan Coiley Organist: Donald Dolan
Director of Youth Music Ministries: Phil McMillan Bell Choir Director: Laura McMillan
Office Administrator: Eva Szakal Finance Administrator: Pam Paluzzi
Treasurer: John Coats Nursery Care: Nicole Sanders
Director of Pennington Presbyterian Nursery School: Hope Anderson
Church Office: (609) 737-1221, #1 Email: office@pennpres.org
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Pennington Presbyterian Church

The Sixth Sunday of Easter

~ May 26, 2019 ~

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

GATHERING MUSIC

As the music begins, please quiet yourself in anticipation of the worship of God.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Nancy Mikoski

The grace of our Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

PRELUDE

"Song Without Words, Op. 30, No. 1" Felix Mendelssohn

*CALL TO WORSHIP from Psalm 67

Rev. David Hallgren

Leader: Let all the peoples praise you, O God;

All: **Let all the peoples praise you.**

People on the chancel: **Praise the Lord!**

People on the organ side: **Praise the Lord!**

People on the piano side: **Praise the Lord!**

Leader: Let the nations be glad and sing for joy!

All: **We sing to you, O God!**

*HYMN

"Praise God, All You Nations"

Hymnal #328

CALL TO CONFESSION

Gary Coleman

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, for your glory. (silent prayer of confession) Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*RESPONSE HYMN "Praise, Praise, Praise the Lord!"

Hymnal #390

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

We know, dear Lord, that your Holy Spirit has the power to open hearts and minds to your word. Help us to hear your word of life that we may be open in new ways to your Spirit's work in our lives and in our church. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 67

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

(Young worshippers may go to Child Care in Room 102 in the Nursery School building. Cherub Music time will resume in September. Visitors welcome.)

*HYMN

"Guide My Feet"

Hymnal #741

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Acts 16:6-15

SERMON

"Road Signs"

Rev. Nancy Mikoski

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

*A BRIEF STATEMENT OF FAITH (PCUSA) part 3

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church. In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, Come, Lord Jesus! With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

CALL FOR THE OFFERING AND MOMENT OF FRIENDSHIP

OFFERTORY

"Laudate Pueri"

Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdi

The Adult Choir

Translation

Laudate, pueri, Dominum;
laudate nomen Domini.
Sit nomen Domini benedictum
ex hoc nunc et usque in saecula.

Praise, children, the Lord;
praise the name of the Lord.
May the name of the Lord be blessed
from this time on and forevermore.

Beati omnes qui timent Dominum.
Qui ambulat in viis ejus.

Blessed are all who fear the Lord,
who walk in God's ways.

*THE DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures here below. Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

You bless us, generous God, with the new life of Easter faith. All that we have comes from your abundance, so we gladly share this offering that each of us, your children, partner with you in the ministry of blessing the world. Amen.

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lord, send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Pennington Presbyterian

FAITH • COMMUNITY • SERVICE

You are cordially invited
to the Annual All Church Picnic
on June 2 at Kunkel Park

Worship is at 10:15 am and the picnic right after.



Bring a salad if your last name begins with A-L.
Bring a dessert if your last name begins with M-Z.
Bring a chair or blankets for your seating.

\$6 for adults and children 13+
\$4 for kids 12 and under
\$15 max per family

Sign up at fellowship time.

(Rain location: Heritage Hall.)

WELCOME! We extend a warm greeting to newcomers and visitors and invite you to join fully in the life of our church. Coffee/fellowship hour is held following our service. For printed information, please stop by the Visitors Welcome Table.

CHILDREN'S BIBLES are available. Please feel free to look for one for your child and take it to where you are seated. **CHILDREN'S WORSHIP BAGS** with paper, crayons, etc., are also available. **RESERVED PARKING** is available for people who must park close to our entrances. Please respect the special needs of others.

IMPORTANT NOTE: We appreciate your consideration in not taking flash pictures, and silencing cell phones during the worship services, as it is disruptive to the other worshippers. Thank you.

SCHEDULE:

May 25 - SUNDAY - 10:15 am - Worship followed by fellowship time; childcare available at 10 am in room 102 (PPNS classroom)

May 26 - MONDAY - MEMORIAL DAY - Church office closed all day

May 26 - MONDAY - Noon - Memorial Day Program at Pennington African cemetery

May 29 - WEDNESDAY - 7:00 pm - Session meets

May 30 - THURSDAY - 7:00 pm - Nominating Committee meets

May 31 - FRIDAY - 7:00 pm - PPC at Trenton Thunder at the Arm & Hammer Suite (Tickets are \$8 per person of all ages. RSVP to ChrisLarthey@gmail.com.)

June 1 - SATURDAY - 9:00 am - FOCUS will arrive by email.

June 2 - SUNDAY - 10:15 am - Worship and Deacons' All Church Picnic at Kunkel Park (See article below for details.)

June 2 - SUNDAY - 5:00 pm - SNC and High School Youth Groups End of Year BBQ and Water Night - Meet in the church courtyard and wear clothes that can get wet and bring a towel. Bring a dessert to share.

June 3 - MONDAY - 6:00 pm - PPC Softball vs. Yardbird Racing @ Moody Field (<https://sites.google.com/site/1977mesl/field-directions?authuser=0>)

June 3 - MONDAY - 6:30 pm - Joint Deacon and Session Dinner, followed by meeting at 7:30 pm

June 3 - MONDAY - 7:00 pm - Personnel Committee meets

June 5 MONDAY - 10:30 am - Parish Callers meet

June 9 - SUNDAY - Pentecost - Confirmation Sunday - Please wear red!

June 9 - SUNDAY - 2:00 pm - Memorial Service for Dorothy Allison

June 16 - SUNDAY - Summer worship series begins

June 21 - FRIDAY - 11:30 am - 2:00 pm - PresPlus Picnic at Pennington Point



MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH MONTH – Please be sure to take a look at two special bulletin boards presenting helpful information about mental health. The bulletin board outside of the sanctuary is oriented toward adults. The one in the office area, between pastors’ offices, is focused on young people. Please help yourself to the pamphlets presented on these boards and share the information with others.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SUMMER CHILDCARE DURING WORSHIP – Starting in June and continuing throughout the summer, we will need help each Sunday for an adult (18 years of older) to help Nicole in child care in Room 102. Please consider helping out. Signups will be on the easel in coffee hour on Sunday or contact Carol Meyer at caroljordanmeyer@gmail.com or 609-658-8227.

THANK YOU. PENNINGTON DAY WAS A BIG SUCCESS. – A huge thank you to all who helped with Pennington Day last Saturday to welcome all and talk about our wonderful church and mission work. Thank you for volunteering. Thank you for stopping by our booth, and supporting our youth to raise money for their summer mission trip.

PRAYING FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD ONE COUNTRY AT A TIME – This week we are praying for the Slovak Republic, also known as Slovakia. It is located in Central Europe. It is surrounded by Ukraine on the east, Hungary on the south, Austria on the southwest, the Czech Republic on the west, and Poland on the north.

The capital is Bratislava, and the population of the country is about 5.4 million. The national language is Slovak, which is part of the West Slavic group of languages that include Russian and Polish. It is similar to Czech, so Czechs and Slovaks, who were once part of Czechoslovakia, can understand the other’s native language.

The country’s topography is rugged mountains in the central & northern parts, with lowlands in the south. The many forests provide homes to squirrel, fox, wild boar, lynx, wolf, bear and roe deer.

The Slavs arrived in this area in the 5th and 6th century where they created the Samo’s Empire. Beginning in the early 9th Century, Slavs began to convert to Christianity. Over time this area became part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. After WW I, the allies grouped the Slovaks and Czechs into Czechoslovakia, which became a client state of Nazi Germany when the Sudetenland region was invaded by

Germany. After WW II, Czechoslovakia was reestablished, which, after a coup in 1948, became a satellite state of the Soviet Union. Czechoslovakia attempted to gain independence from Russian in August 1968 that resulted in the bloody Warsaw Pact invasion. In 1989, the Velvet Revolution resulted in an independent Czechoslovakia; then in January 1993, the “Velvet Divorce” produced the independent Slovak Republic and Czech Republic. Currently, Slovakia has a relatively high standard of living, an advanced economy, and a very high Human Development Index, which reflects longevity, education, and standard of living.)

There are a number of issues with which the Slovak Republic is struggling. It has a significant Romany population (~9%) and they suffer from high levels of poverty because of social deprivation and active discrimination (as they do in the surrounding countries.) Air pollution from Poland and the former German Democratic Republic produced acid rain that damaged the Slovak forests, and land erosion is the result of local agriculture and mining practices. The death of a young reporter and his fiancée in 2018 brought to the forefront the deeply-rooted mafia corruption.

About 62% of the population professes to be Roman Catholic, and only about 8% Protestant, and another 4% follow the Greek Catholic (Byzantine) tradition. By some accounts, Slovakian participation in religion still shows the lingering negative effects of 40 years of Communist rule. The Catholic and Protestant churches struggle with low attendance and ways to re-energize their congregations, while the Jehovah’s Witnesses continue to attract new members.

WORSHIP WITH US THIS SUMMER AS WE EXPLORE OUR THEME “FAMILY REUNION: MEETING SOME OF OUR LONG-LOST RELATIVES” – Beginning June 16, each week we will meet one of the lesser known persons in the Bible. Their stories come from the Old and New Testaments and these relatives include insiders and outsiders, the powerful and the humble. The stories will be about some of the challenges that come in life, how these relatives responded to their circumstances, and how they experienced God’s love in their lives.

SUMMER WORSHIP LEADER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – Children, youth and adults are invited to help lead worship during the summer. There are opportunities to lead a call to worship, a prayer, the offering, or read scripture. Please email or speak to Rev. Nancy Mikoski soon to get on the schedule. (Nancy@pennpres.org)