

“Since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.”

~ Romans 3: 23-24



“Glad Tidings”

God Doesn't Need Your Good Works, But...



As Protestants, most of us have engrained in our very bones the idea that we are saved by God's grace and not our works. We “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,” and “are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,” (Romans 3:23-24). Jesus saves us unconditionally, “without any merit or worthiness” on our part, as the reformer Martin Luther said.

So, if God does not need our good works, and promises to save us no matter what we do, can't we simply live as we like?

Of course, we can't! But, you already knew that. You already know that someone freed from sin does not desire to remain within it. When freed from the bad, we naturally desire to do good.

And, it may be true that God does not need our good works in order to save us (God saves us because God wants to), but that does not mean that our good works are not desperately needed. I would like to suggest an old reformation idea: that God doesn't need your good works; but your neighbors do.

“A scene from the book of Acts gives us a window into this way of thinking,” Pastor Paul Lutter points out in his article *God Doesn't Need Your Good Works*. “Jesus has ascended into heaven, and the disciples are standing there, their eyes gazing upon the soles of Jesus' feet.

Then two angels, robed in white, come to them asking why they are standing there, staring heavenward. Jesus will return, they declare. Taking their gaze off of heaven and fixing their eyes on the world among them, they realize the need around them. As a result, they engage the world around them. Their first act of business is to appoint Matthias to join them in mission and ministry (Acts 1:6-26).”

God doesn't need you to follow the commandment to “not steal” in order to be fulfilled for all eternity, but your neighbor needs you to follow that commandment. God doesn't require you to forgive your enemy in order to love you, but your enemy requires you to love them so that they may know love. It is your neighbor who needs your goodness.

The Question Box

(Questions About Our Christian Life)

“Pastor, how do I know that God forgives me?”

The short answer is: “You are forgiven; but you don't know for certain.” You are not the first to doubt God's forgiveness. At some point in most people's lives, after taking a good look at themselves in the mirror, and not liking what they see, most people doubt God's forgiveness. You do not know that God forgives you the same way that you know gravity will put an apple to the ground when dropped. God's forgiveness is a matter of trust. A person trusts that God forgives because God promises to forgive us. We trust God's promise, because God has kept promises in the past. This is not certainty, but it is trust that God is true to God's word. – Pastor Jira

Sewing Society

We had a great turnout for our Tuesday dinner and many fine compliments.

Many thanks to all who provided food and to all who worked. Again, the guys did a great job.

Glad to have Pam Williams home from Florida and we hope she had a great winter.

We are looking for someone to clean the kitchen for us. If you know of anyone, please let us know.

Hope to see you next month when we will be serving roast pork and dressing.

God walks beside you as you face each challenge. You can trust that God will see you through.

Prayer Circle Banquet

The annual Prayer Circle Banquet will be held on Wednesday, June 19th at noon at the Towanda Gun Club. The menu includes: ham, baked potato, peas, carrots, salad and apple crisp for dessert. The price is \$12.50 which includes your meal, tax and tip. Reservations need to be made by June 12th by calling Marty at 265-3740.

Thank You

Thank you to the Sewing Society and to the Congregation for remembering the life of Jim Murray.

—Robin Murray

Special Music for the month of June

June 2nd—Confirmation—Special music by Shelby Bruce, Jake Gilpin, Destiny Barto & Nathan Schmieg

June 16th—Kevin and Jake Gilpin

June 24th—Yvonne Robinson

June 30th—Jim and Marie Parks

Vesper Community—Special Guests in June

June 2nd—Charles Stingham

June 9th—Martha Kress

June 16th—Potter Sisters

June 23rd—Jacob and Kevin Gilpin

June 30th—Ronnie Schoonover

Newsletter Changes to Come...

In the near future, the way the newsletter will be distributed will be changed. Please let Crystal know how you would prefer to receive the newsletter by filling out the form below and returning it to the office, by phone (265-6119) or by email wyoexpresbyterian@frontiernet.net.

Name _____

Address _____

I prefer to have the newsletter:

Emailed By Mail Pick it up at the Church

Church Chat

Congratulations to **Andrea Kuntz** on her graduation from Mansfield University. (Andrea, how quickly those years passed by!)

Congratulations to **Kyle Blascak** and **Andrea Irvine** who will graduate from Towanda Area High School.

Also, congrats to **Meghan Morningstar** on obtaining her Masters Degree from Cortland University in adaptive physical education.

We welcome home **Dave and Cheryl Rowlands** from the sunny south. It is great to have you back!

We are happy for Phyllis Mulcahy's granddaughter, Holly, who obtained employment; HOWEVER, Holly is such a great help at our dinners, we will miss her. She has promised to help out whenever her schedule permits.

Congratulations to **Jacob Gilpin** for his first place playing the piano. We are proud of you!

We are happy to see our college students home for the summer. We hope all of you had another good year. We missed you.

Thanks to **Loretta Stevens** and our very devoted choir. They have done their last Sunday anthem, may they enjoy their summer.

Mission Committee

For the month of May for TACO, the Mission Committee collected cleaning products. In June, our collections will go to Grace Connection. There will be Christmas in July, getting a start on Operation Christmas Child. In August, we will be collecting back to school supplies. The Mission Committee thanks the members of our church for their continued support.

Enjoying the Mother / Daughter Banquet...



*The Garden of 'Weedin'
...Life Began in a Garden*



Prayer Circle

With the professional leadership of Pastor Jira, we are still deep into Romans,. We have covered chapters 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and a few verses in chapter 7.

We studied the Jews and their interpretation of the law, God's faithfulness, no one is righteous, forgiveness of sin through Christ, righteousness through faith, death through Adam, life through Christ, freedom from sins grasp, death to sin, alive in Christ, slaves to righteousness, and about marriage. We have discussed and rediscussed many issues and Pastor Jira is always so patient and understanding with us. We feel blessed to have him as our leader. Thanks Pastor!

We are again planning our annual banquet which will be held on Wednesday, June 19th at noon at the Towanda Gun Club. We are asking that if you plan to attend that you arrive by 11:30. The price is \$12.50 per person which includes everything; however we need reservations. The menu is ham, baked potatoes (white and sweet), peas & carrots, salad and apple crisp. Our entertainment will be Ronnie Schoonover, a very talented musician. Please call Martha Vincent at 265-3740 by June 12th. Please remember to pay if you make a reservation.. See you there!!

The following were remembered on our Prayer List

April 17th thru May 22nd

Prayer Circle Listing

Angel List

Makayla Evans
Mason Barto
Ashley Weed
Marisa Ivey
Betty Miller
Nancy Irvine
Andrew Pardoe
Brian Mastrantonio
Deb Mathers
Shawn Mastrantonio
Abbriella Brown
Caiden Irvine
Carolyn Russell

Current List

Whitney Rockwell
Hunter Shaw
Danny Schmeckenbecher
Thomas Schmeckenbecher
Marion Lent
Jim Allen
Walt Ellinger
Dorothy Benjamin
Robert Allen
Elsie Zurn
Carol Wright
Carol Miller
Otto Brown
Daniel Fassett

Shirley Blackall
Vern Cooley
Gladys Derr
Raymond Mix Family
Jan & Harry Fassett
Nancy & Tom Neilson
Cynthia Sims
Harry Fassett Family
Leo Schultz
Betty Johnson
Ann Barnes
Rev. Maurice Hart Family
Barry Aronson Family
Oklahoma Tornado Victims

Vacation Bible School - June 23rd thru June 27th

In just a few weeks, we're taking a journey back to ancient Athens, where the Apostle Paul stayed! You'll get to talk to Paul to find out what happened on his dangerous journey to share the truth about God.

We'll learn about life in Athens and create cool projects in the Marketplace, laugh as we play Bible-times games, visit with Paul, and eat some interesting new food. We'll do all this while making great new friends!

Vacation Bible School will be held June 23rd—June 27th from 6-8 p.m. at St. Agnes. Volunteers are still needed in all areas. If interested, please contact Barb Slocum at 721-2884.

REGISTRATION FORM (one form per family)

Names and Ages: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Primary Phone: _____ Alternate Phone: _____

Emergency Contact (if parent cannot be reached):

Allergies or Medical Conditions:

Home Church: _____

***Just a reminder.....Our Sunday worship time will remain
at 11:00 a.m. through the summer months.***

April Session Minutes

**WYSOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SESSION MEETING
April 8, 2013**

The regular meeting of the Session of the Wysox Presbyterian Church was called to order by Pastor Jira Albers on April 8, 2013 at 7:05 PM at the Wysox Presbyterian Church.

Opening devotions and prayer led by Pastor Jira Albers.

Elders Present: Kim Barnes, Dave Blascak, Lori Blascak, Betty Conner, Michelle Irvine, Ronald Irvine Jr., Deborah King, Dody Savercool, and Loretta Stevens

Elders Excused: Mary Bruce and Julie Palmer

Elder Absent: None

Guests Present: Greg McLaud and Confirmation Class Members: Kayla Brown and Kaleb King

ORDER OF THE DAY:

1. The Docket for the meeting was approved as presented on a motion by Elder Lori Blascak and seconded by Elder Michelle Irvine, with one correction noted.
2. On a motion by Elder Michelle Irvine and second by Elder Ron Irvine, the minutes of the Session Meeting on 03/11/2013 were approved with corrections noted.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- 1 Presbyterian Mission Agency letter regarding restricted funds use application
- 2 Board of Pension "Assistance Program" Fact Sheet
- 3 Bradford Co. Conservation Dist./Chesapeake seedling give-away

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Music & Worship: Elder Savercool reported:
 - a. All activities during the Easter season were well received and well attended.
 - b. April 21st is Compassion Sunday and Earth Day will be celebrated.
 - c. Elders for the month of April: King and Barnes
 - d. Elders for the month of May: Savercool and Bruce
2. Christian Education: Elder M. Irvine reported:
 - e. Confirmation class with five participants is continuing under the guidance of Elder King and Pastor Albers.
 - f. The annual Mother-Daughter banquet preparations are underway for May 5th
 - g. Earth Day clean up after service is scheduled for April 21st.
 - h. Bibles have been purchased for the confirmation class, the youth class and the High School graduates and paid for from Sunday School account.
3. Membership & Evangelism: Elder Stevens reported:
 - i. Noted that Easter service was well attended
4. Mission: Elder King reported in Elder Palmer's absence:
 - j. Featured items for TACO: April - Bubbles; May - Cleaning Supplies; June - Baby Items
 - k. Collection of Baby bottles for the Endless Mountain Pregnancy center has ended

April Session Minutes Continued...

5. Memorial: It was reported that \$275 has been received for memorials for Clara Wizelman
6. Property: Elder Ron Irvine reported:
 - l. Upgrading of the breaker panels has been completed
 - m. The committee will explore the options for repair of the air conditioning units
 - n. The need for an exterminator was expressed. On a motion by Elder Barnes and second by Elder King, it was agreed to move forward with an exterminator.
7. Personnel: Elder Ron Irvine
 - o. Review of cleaning tasks and priorities to be conducted
 - p. Thank you from church secretary for her recent raise was shared
8. Finance & Investments: Elder Lori Blascak:
 - q. Presented and reviewed the accounts as reported by the committee.

SPECIAL REPORTS

1. a. Treasurer's Report: The monthly financial report was accepted on a motion by Elder L. Blascak, seconded by Elder R. Irvine, and unanimously approved. A question regarding the timing of investment income was raised and will be forwarded on to the Treasurer for clarification.
b. Greg McLaud provided an update on the current status of the outstanding issue with the IRS. No additional action is required on the part of the church and a final decision is expected in the near future. Mr. McLaud also provided an update on the status of the payroll account.
2. Pastor's Report: Pastor Albers shared his report of activities for the past month.
3. Lackawanna Presbytery: No Report

OLD BUSINESS:

1. It was agreed that the church secretary would have the authority to grant use of the social hall and parlor to any member of the church as long as the calendar was open for the date. It is the responsibility of the member to ensure that everything is left in the same (or better) condition when done, and that all lights are off and doors are locked. Use by non-members will be reviewed and decided by session on a case-by-case basis.
2. On a motion by Elder M. Irvine, seconded by Elder Connor a policy to make a donation of \$50 in memory of each church member that dies was unanimously approved. It will be requested that Prayer Circle notify the Chair of Memorials (currently Mary Bruce) so that this can occur in a timely fashion. On a motion by Elder Conner, seconded by Elder King, it was unanimously agreed to provide a \$50 memorial donation on behalf of church member Clara Wizelman.
3. Research is continuing to finalize a Membership plaque to honor 50 year + members.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. The anticipated change in the way bulk mailing is permitted and the impact on the cost for mailing of our monthly newsletters, etc. was discussed. In an effort to help reduce costs it was suggested that perhaps email be used in place of traditional mailings to the extent possible. Elder Barnes agreed to draft something for the congregation to obtain email addresses from those members agreeable to this form of communication.

April Session Minutes Continued...

2. Confirmation Class Members Kayla Brown and Kaleb King were on hand to answer some questions for session to gage their readiness for confirmation and church membership. On a motion by Elder Conner, seconded by Elder M. Irvine approval for the confirmation of both Kayla Brown and Kaleb King was unanimously approved.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15pm.
Closing Prayer lead by Pastor Jira Albers

Next Session Meeting: **May 13th @ 7:00pm**

Respectfully recorded and submitted by:

Kim D Barnes
Clerk of Session

April's Special Meeting Minutes

WYSOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SPECIAL SESSION MEETING

April 21, 2013

A special meeting of the Session of the Wysox Presbyterian Church was called to order by Pastor Jira Albers on April 21, 2013 at 12:20 PM at the Wysox Presbyterian Church.

Elders Present: Kim Barnes, Dave Blascak, Lori Blascak, Mary Bruce, Betty Conner, Michelle Irvine, Ronald Irvine Jr., Deborah King, Dody Savercool, and Loretta Stevens

Elders Excused: Julie Palmer

Elder Absent: None

Guests Present: None

NEW BUSINESS:

1. The need to fill the cleaning position after the resignation of the current cleaning person was brought to the attention of session. On a motion by Lori Blascak, seconded by Michelle Irvine, it was agreed to have Julie Palmer fill the cleaning position at the current hourly rate on an interim basis until the opening could be announced/advertised in-house. If no interested and qualified applicant can be found internally, session will publicly advertise the opening. The motion was unanimously approved and carried.
2. After a short discussion, the church policy to off set the cost of church members attending Camp Lackawanna was restated. It was agreed that the policy will continue to be to provide the cost of the registration/application fee for any active member of the Wysox Presbyterian Church attending Camp Lackawanna.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:45pm.

Closing Prayer lead by Pastor Jira Albers

Next Session Meeting: **May 13th @ 7:00pm**

Respectfully recorded and submitted by: Kim D Barnes, Clerk of Session