




the **LINK**

**FALL
2024**



Valencia  Presbyterian Church

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Church Office Hours: 9am - 12pm (M-T-W-F)

FROM THE PASTOR



UPC Family,

As you might guess, I read a lot of different things. Sometimes I am moved by an opinion and want to share it! And so it is with an article that Pastor Brian Hauser wrote for the Mars UP August newsletter.

Please take a minute to read it. I hope you find it something to reflect on. May His peace be with you always.

Pastor Tom McMeekin

Like many Americans I have enjoyed watching and cheering for the American athletes at the 2024 Summer Olympics held in Paris, France. I watched in awe as Katie Ledecky finished races half a pool length ahead of other competitors. I celebrated with joy the return of Simone Biles as a testament of the importance of good mental health. In truth, I even enjoyed watching France's Leon Marchand as he won two gold medals in the same day in the pool, a historical feat. The Olympics have a way of bringing the world together to celebrate our similarities and our differences and to bask in the great achievements of the human race.

As much as I enjoy the Olympics, they are certainly not without controversy. In years past there has been controversy over judges in various sports, controversies over the behavior of athletes who take political stands while representing their home country, controversies of drug use and PEDs and so forth. This year the controversy came early as many in the United States and around the world were displeased with the scene depicted at the opening ceremonies. Now whether the artistic display was meant to resemble Leonardo da Vinci's painting of the Last Supper or whether it is as the Olympic committee and the individual artist responsible for the event have stated, that the depiction was actually paying homage to Greek mythology and the Feast of Dionysus; is irrelevant to me. It was an

artistic work. The fact that it would not be my choice for an artistic display is irrelevant. It is okay that I may not have liked the depiction because I do not have to watch it and I do not have to celebrate or champion it either as an artistic work or a political statement. I have that right as do all Americans. What has bothered me most is not the event itself or the casual comments from well-meaning Christians voicing their displeasure with the opening ceremonies, but rather the visceral hatred that has come forth from those who call themselves Christians.

Even if the depiction using drag queens is of the last supper, even if its intent was to mock our faith, those actions do not give us the right to forgo the teachings of our faith and lash out in hatred or violence. The actors in the portrayal are not evil, they are people, sinners like us sure, but they are people too. They do not deserve death threats. The amount of projected violence toward this event is unacceptable. The scriptures tell us to love our neighbors. Those who make different life choices than us are our neighbors too! Perhaps instead of the uncontrolled outrage from Christians over this event, perhaps instead of boycotting and hating, we should reach out in love, offer forgiveness, and share in grace. Because the Christian movement is not bringing in disciples through our hatred or outrage; the only way to share Christ is by sharing love.

Jesus says in Luke 6:37 *“Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven.”* So, condemn people 3,800 miles away if you must, but know that we worship a God of love. A God who forgives! A God who refuses to condemn us even when our behavior is abhorrent! This doesn't mean we have to be “okay” with things we find as opposing the Word of God, but as Christians we can do better than uncontrolled outrage, we must do better.

Blessings,
Pastor Brian Hauser

May 21, 2024

- MSC 8-0 to approve reports of the Session*, Treasurer* & Deacons (**with corrections*)
- MSC 8-0 to approve Pastor Tom to take off June 23 and June 30. Rev. Jim Steiner will fill the pulpit
- MSC 8-0 to approve fundraising letter be sent to congregation for the building fund.
- MSC 8-0 to distribute scholarships of \$500 to high school graduates, Brian Yurek and Daisy Snow.
- MSC 8-0 to receive the cleaning contract with Dawn Pasquinelli
- MSC 8-0 to approve congregational meeting minutes
- Review of church books - records were accepted with suggestions



June 18, 2024

- MSC 7-0 to approve reports of the Session and Treasurer
- MSC 7-0 to invest \$30,000 from IRA left to VPC from Bill Rankin, into a short-term CD to be used for roofing project
- MSC 7-0 to hold VBS worship service with Mars UP and St. John Lutheran at 10am at Adams Twp. Park and to cancel service at VPC.

July 23, 2024

- MSC 6-0 to approve reports of Session and Treasurer
- Mary Laura Gardner passed away. Memorial Service will be held on August 31st at 11am with Pastor Jim Kirk officiating.
- Pastor Tom McMeekin will be out of town August 4th after worship through August 9th. Rev. Jim Steiner will be on call that week.
- MSC 6-0 to approve PNC sending 5 years of financial and membership records as requested by the MVC of Beaver-Butler Presbytery
- Online Vote MSC 6-0 to move session meeting from July 16 to July 23 due to VBS

Thank You!

Many thanks to all of the volunteers who helped in any way with the Rummage Sale this summer. This is a major event for this church and it was very successful again this year. We made approximately \$2380.00. Thank you all for your help and your donations!!!!

MIDWEEK MEAL

with a Message



WEDNESDAY EVENINGS
September 11 – November 13
Dinner & Fellowship
6:00 – 6:45pm
Bible Study (K-8 & Teen/Adult)
7:00 – 8:00pm
RSVP & Donation Requested



Teens/Adults
Sanctuary

FEED THE BODY

FEED THE SOUL

We will be kicking off our
Midweek Meal With A Message
on Wednesday, September 11th

DINNER will be served at 6pm

09/11 Sandwiches, Pasta Salad, Fruit
09/18 Kielbasa Dinner
09/25 Meatball Casserole, Salad
10/02 Breakfast
10/09 Taco Bake
10/16 Meatloaf, Fried Potatoes
10/23 Chili, Baked Potatoes, Cornbread
10/30 Chicken Tenders, Salad
11/06 Grilled Cheese, Soup
11/13 Chicken, Potatoes, Veggies

BIBLE STUDY will start at 7pm

Kids up to grade 8 will stay in the Fellowship Hall.

Teens & Adults will meet in the sanctuary.

NATIONAL
BACK TO CHURCH
SUNDAY

September 15, 2024

Fall **MINISTRY**
KICKOFF

Blessing of the Backpacks

Back to Church Sunday – September 15th

As a part of National Back to Church Sunday, we will be kicking off our VPC Fall programs such as MMWAM, Men’s & Women’s Bible Studies, and Kids ROCK. During the worship service on the 15th, we ask that all students, teachers, and administrators bring in the backpacks, briefcases, tote bags, etc. for a **Blessing of the Backpacks**.

EVERY OTHER SUNDAY
starting **SEPTEMBER 15th**
(during worship in F. Hall)

KIDS ROCK
REACHING OUT FOR CHRIST’S KINGDOM

Children of all ages
DIGGING INTO
God’s Word

SUNDAY MORNING

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

HOLY BIBLE

SUNDAYS @ 8:45AM
Fellowship Hall

Contact Crystal Yurek for details.

Women's Study & Fellowship Group

Thursdays @ 11:00 am - VPC Lounge

Devotions & Prayer Lunch @ Local Restaurant Fun Activities

Contact Annamary McMullen for more information

Saturday Morning

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY VPC Lounge

7:00 am

Contact Aaron Yurek for meeting details

FALL LUNCHEON

Sunday, October 27th

11:30 (after worship)

Fellowship Hall

Fall
Crafts



Delicious
Soups



Pumpkin
Painting

VETERANS Recognition Sunday

November 10, 2024

On Sunday, November 10th, we will be recognizing and honoring our Veterans. Please let the church office know if you have served in the US military. Thank you for your service!

Thanksgiving Eve Service

Wednesday, November 27th at 7:00 pm

LATEST UPDATES

The **Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC)** has been meeting weekly to work through the requirements of the Presbytery when searching for a new pastor. We have worked through the Ministry Discernment Profile (MDP), and are now seeking approval from the Presbytery and the Session. Once that occurs, we will open the posting of the position on the Presbytery website and hopefully begin to get applicants who may be interested in the full-time pastor position. Simultaneously, the PNC is working on an interviewing process (including questions) so that when we receive a list of applicants, we are ready to schedule and conduct interviews.

Please keep us in your prayers as we continue through this process. We will continue to regularly update you as appropriate.

Thanks, and God bless.

Matt McKinley, Chair of the PNC

This small but generous and loving congregation has a history of finding a way to support the financial needs of Valencia Presbyterian Church. As you are aware, we are planning to replace our roof this fall. The initial estimated cost of the roof was \$100,000. The work includes removal of the existing slate roof, replacement with asphalt shingles and new gutters.

Through your prayers and generosity (and God), we are close to meeting our goal. The combination of previous savings and recent contributions from our congregation, we are able to move forward with the project without needing a loan. We have an agreement for the work to be completed by C&R Roofing. The total cost of the church roof plus the roof of the hallway leading to fellowship hall is \$106,775. The work will begin in October.

We would ask you to continue to prayerfully consider helping to re-grow the building fund account because as you know, future projects will be needed (e.g., parking lot, fellowship hall, etc.).

Thank you all so much for supporting this church not only now but well into the future. We look forward to worshipping together for many years under this new roof.

Mike Pasquinnelli, Treasurer

Birthdays & Anniversaries

In Loving Memory

SEPTEMBER

- 1 Adam Beal
- 16 Jim Boyce
- 16 Karen Lussier
- 18 Ruth Wilson
- 21 Matt McKinley
- 22 Paul Halenda
- 23 Karla Gill
- 25 Dawn Pasquinelli
- 28 Katie Gill
- 29 Anne Hays
- 29 Lauren Lussier
- 29 Maddie Lussier

OCTOBER

- 5 Oneta Perry
- 9 Jason Hennessy
- 10 Doris Schaeffer
- 11 Jill Roda
- 19 Juliet Snyder
- 21 Anna Mae Farrar
- 22 Mary Snow
- 29 Steve Fordenbacher

NOVEMBER

- 3 Tammy Maihle
- 3 Helen Neese
- 7 A.J. Snow
- 9 Elizabeth Roda
- 12 Ken Schultheis
- 13 Cadence Gill
- 15 John Peterman
- 15 Rose Snow
- 16 Kierstin Hennessy
- 18 Ken Trautman
- 24 Jay Maihle
- 24 Crystal Yurek
- 25 Jonah Snyder
- 26 Rev. Gary Weston
- 28 Rev. Jim Kirk
- 30 Mary Gourley
- 30 Nadine Murphy

Mary Laura Gardner

Born into this life on July 7, 1927

United with this congregation on January 27, 2008

Ordained as a Deacon on December 12, 2010

Entered into eternal life on June 27, 2024

Nancy Chambers

Born into this life on May 15, 1941

United with this congregation on June 11, 2000

Entered into eternal life on July 12, 2024

Gloria Ambroziak

Born into this life on January 28, 1933

United with this congregation on July 13, 1958

Ordained as a Deacon on February 24, 1985

Entered into eternal life on July 29, 2024

Olive Boyce

Born into this life on December 28, 1930

United with this congregation on July 1, 1955

Ordained as an Elder on January 23, 1983

Ordained as a Deacon on January 8, 1989

Entered into eternal life on August 5, 2024

SEPTEMBER	Harry and Karen Owens	September 2, 1995
	Kenny and Sarah Cline	September 7, 2019
	Thomas and Shelley Gammell	September 11, 1971
	Mike and Karla Gill	September 14, 1985
	Ralph and Carla Hardt	September 18, 2004
	Dan and Shannon Kennedy	September 21, 2013
	Ken and Pat Schultheis	September 27, 1975
	Brian and Anne Hays	September 3, 2005

OCTOBER Doug and Rebecca Mellinger October 16, 2010

NOVEMBER John and Rae Anne Bosnyak November 26, 1982