



**Guided by the Word of God, led by the Holy Spirit, and motivated by the love of Christ and all his people, United Presbyterian Church, an intergenerational community, celebrates God's glory by fostering Christian growth.**

**Therefore, we value fellowship, Bible-centered messages, music, and faith expressed through worship, and commitment to our community.**



My Dear Friends,

I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for the love you have shown me in the period that I have been with you. You reminded me of how much I love being a pastor. As you prepare for your new pastor, I want to suggest a few things for his sake and for yours.

- 1) Lean into God. It is the instinct of churches to lean into their pastors, who do represent God's presence in some ways. However, we are not God. As you transition remind yourself that the Lord is your shepherd (same word as pastor!). Rely on God above all people and things.
- 2) Let me go. It is good to be glad for my time with you. I am very glad for it. I loved my time with you. So give me a good farewell, but say goodbye. Forgive me for leaving if that feels necessary. Wash your hands of me and shake off the dust. Haha. The better you let go of me the more open for Rev. O'Neil you will be. Holding on to me will only limit Rev. O'Neil's ministry.
- 3) Love Mike O'Neil. Mike will be at his best when with your love and support. You may feel the urge to guard the church from pastors and their wild ideas. Just love him. That doesn't mean you have to agree with everything he says. When pastors feel like the church is against them then they will not be successful and therefore the church will not have success. Just love him. He will be at his best and so will you.

Lastly, I want to tell you three gifts that you gave me in my time with you.

- 1) You reminded me that God called me to be a pastor. At the end of 2019, I felt called to leave pastoral ministry for a time

to develop and learn to practice the theory I developed in my dissertation. I am glad I did. But saying yes to being the interim pastor at Greenville was one of the best decisions I ever made. It has prepared me for my next call as a pastor.

- 2) You brought out my best preaching. I have never felt freer in the pulpit and more connected to God as I preached. I never worried about criticism or the need to perform or impress. I think that is because you accepted me so lovingly.
- 3) You showed me the best way to do a Bible study. One of the highlights of my time here has been co-teaching through the Gospel of Matthew with Pat Penland. I have taught through many of the books of the Bible over the years, but there was something special about this one. There is something so very Presbyterian about the partnership between a minister, an elder, and God's people. The Spirit was very present and apparent in that study, even more so than in the preaching. I am convinced that a Bible study that allows for conversation is the best form of discipleship a church can have. There is one thing that would perfect it. If every week there was a mission that everyone was sent out to do during the week. That's what Jesus did with the disciples. Practice makes perfect.

Of course, the greatest gift you gave me is your love. I will cherish you and your love for me always. Thank you! You have made me a better pastor and a better man of God because of your love. Your love is your greatest and most valuable strength as a congregation. If you love everyone you meet like you have loved me then this church can't fail. Just don't forget to invite them to church so they can get the full effect of God's love. Love is how you will grow as individuals and as a church.

I love each of you dearly and I wish you all the best,

Pastor Paul



July 23, 2023

Dear new friends at United Presbyterian Church,

Pat asked me to send something in for the August newsletter. I am sitting at my office desk at the Wheeling church for the last time having preached my final sermon here. We are in that in between time of finishing up a ministry I have truly enjoyed and beginning a new adventure with you. Thank you to the PNC for calling me and to the congregation for following the recommendation of the PNC to allow me to begin my ministry with you.

We move to Greenville excited and of course a little nervous as we see what God is calling us to do together. I am looking forward to see the opportunities and challenges that await us as well as the faithful ministry you are already engaged in as you seek to be faithful to God's call on a daily basis.

The PNC has provided you with a brief introduction and I am looking forward to getting to know each each other more personally. I grew up in Fort Worth, Texas and attended Austin College. I have done quite a bit of graduate studies over the years and until coming to Wheeling most of my ministry has been in Texas. My wife is Christine and we have been married since 2002 and she grew up in Norman and graduated from the University of Oklahoma. Our daughter Grace graduated high school this year and will be attending TCU next month. She has been in marching band doing color guard and plans to continue participating in the marching band at TCU. We are also bringing our dog Natasha down to Texas. She is a mini sheepadoodle which is a combination of a miniature Poodle and an English Sheep Dog. She often looks and acts like a sheep dog but in anticipation of the Texas heat she got a pretty significant trim.

We feel blessed to be called to United Presbyterian Church and are grateful for the opportunity to serve here. I believe Jesus has called to do wonderful things together, have fun and grow together. My cell number is (979) 799-8130.

Our address with 1429 Reiger Dr.  
Greenville, TX.  
75402

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Mike O'Neil

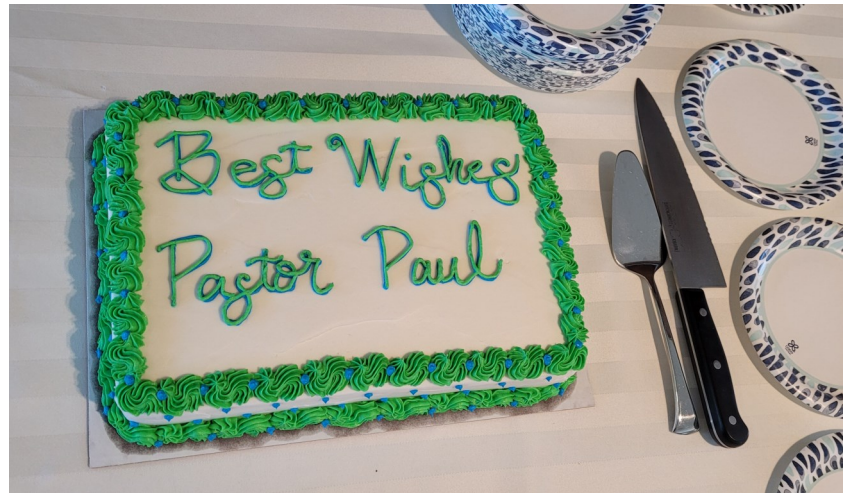
# August 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 5 p.m. Prayer Mtg. 5:30 Choir Rehearsal 6:15 pm Hand-bells	3 8:30 am Bread Ministry 3-4 pm Chair Yoga 4:30-5:30 pm Yoga 5:30 pm Inreach	4 Office closed	5
6 <b>COMMUNION</b> Sunday School Worship shared on Facebook and in person	7	8	9 5 p.m. Prayer Mtg.	10 8:30 am Bread Ministry 3-4 pm Chair Yoga 4:30-5:30 pm Yoga	11 Office closed	12 10 am PW Mtg
13 <b>NOSIY OFFERING</b> Sunday School Worship shared on Facebook and in person	14 5:30 pm S&F 6:00 pm CYM	15	16 5 p.m. Prayer Mtg.	17 8:30 am Bread Ministry 3-4 pm Chair Yoga 4:30-5:30 pm Yoga	18 Office closed	19
20 <b>GOODLAND</b> Sunday School Worship shared on Facebook and in person	21	22	23 5 p.m. Prayer Mtg.	24 8:30 am Bread Ministry 3-4 pm Chair Yoga 4:30-5:30 pm Yoga	25 Office closed	26
27 Sunday School Worship shared on Facebook and in person	28	29	30 5 p.m. Prayer Mtg.	31 8:30 am Bread Ministry 3-4 pm Chair Yoga 4:30-5:30 pm Yoga		





**Good Bye and  
Best Wishes  
Pastor Paul.  
Thank you for  
your ministry  
while you were at  
UPC.**





## NOISY OFFERING FOR 2ND QUARTER

The supplies UPC purchased for the GiSD Teachers' Supply Closet. The purchase was made with the money we donated from the 2nd quarter Noisy Offering, totaling \$482.96



© Can Stock Photo

For the safety of our children, ALL people who work with our children are put through a background check!





PW Summer Meeting and Brunch!  
10:00 am August 12th  
In the Fellowship Hall  
Don't forget the Birthday Offering!

### Breaking News!!

After the PW meeting on August 12th, the Presbyterian Women can attend a field trip to the Teachers Supply Closet for a private tour. We have collected supplies for the teachers for several years, and if you have not seen where teachers can get supplies for their students, this will be our own tour. We will probably go about 12:00 and can carpool or drive. It is at the Old Houston Elementary Campus at 3923 Henry Street. I am very interested in seeing what the Closet provides and what it needs!

Bettina Zanut



## AUGUST Outreach Opportunities

### Blessing Box Food Pantry

We are continuing to collect food items for our food pantry. The most popular items appear to be **pop top cans** of ready to eat, non-perishable foods such as soup, peanut butter, Ravioli, Spaghetti O's, fruit cups and tuna. Also, please consider donating bottled water as well. Thank you for your ongoing support of this effort.

## Thank You Corner

## SEPTEMBER

### \*\*\*honorarys for loved ones who have battled cancer

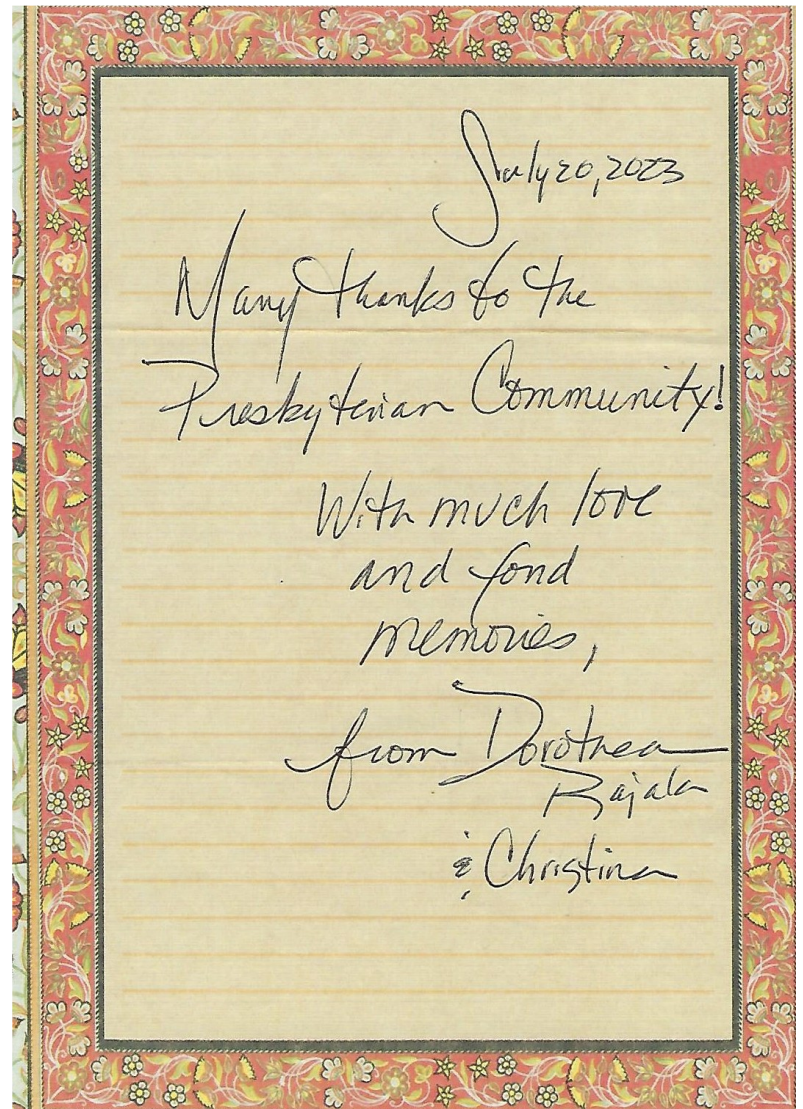
Donations will be accepted September 3, 10 and 17 for a colored butterfly with your loved one's name on it, which will be placed on the wall in the Commons Area, or you may bring a picture to be placed on a nearby table. This is an either/or situation. Proceeds benefit Bras for the Cause and local cancer patients.

### \*\*\*very competitive dessert auction September 17

Feel free to provide a dessert, a coupon for a future dessert, or a handmade craft item, or bid generously on any of these items. Proceeds benefit Bras for the Cause and local cancer patients. There will be a combination of a very lively auction and silent auction following the pot luck lunch.

### Noisy Offering

The Noisy Offering for the 3rd quarter will be the Bras for The Cause, to help Cancer patients. You can either drop your coins or quiet money in the metal bowls the second Sunday of each month. For August that will be the 13th.



# Children and Youth Corner

The youth will have their first get together for the fall on August 20th. There will be a pot luck luncheon at church followed by an excursion to Hunt County Shared Ministries to volunteer. We look forward to seeing everyone after the summer break and hope you can come to participate. Better yet, invite a friend to come with you.

The Children and Youth Ministry is looking for more volunteers to help with Children's Church. Children's Church meets each Sunday right after the pastor's Children's sermon except for Communion Sunday.

Even if you aren't called to teach a lesson we need a volunteer to be in the classroom with the teacher each Sunday. If you can help us with this very important ministry please contact one of our committee.

We would think you were an angel.

Sharon Leonard

Marcie Penland

Melanie Marsh

Bettina Zvanut





Just for **KIDS**  
KIDS



## Summer Word Search

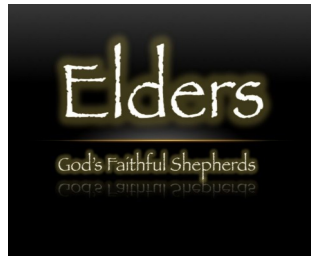
O	H	N	Y	U	T	F	E	H	N	B	V
L	N	M	W	F	L	U	C	E	V	K	E
E	S	U	Z	H	N	A	A	A	J	P	G
M	W	H	Q	R	E	B	C	E	O	Y	O
O	I	C	S	B	I	A	I	O	X	W	J
N	M	T	K	W	T	Q	L	P	I	K	U
A	M	T	P	I	O	S	W	C	T	G	I
D	I	A	O	W	Z	H	E	A	T	C	B
E	N	N	E	U	Q	E	B	R	A	B	Y
R	G	E	O	U	T	S	I	D	E	R	Z
M	P	W	W	I	G	S	Y	V	A	J	P
S	U	N	S	C	R	E	E	N	U	Y	E

BARBEQUE  
BEACH  
HEAT  
LEMONADE  
OUTSIDE  
POOL  
SUNSCREEN  
SWIMMING  
VACATION

ELDER ON CALL

AUGUST

DAVID WILLIAMS



AUGUST

BIRTHDAYS

If we missed your birthday I very sorry. Please let the office know the date so I can add it to my list.



Children's Church

Children's Church is being held for children from the ages of 4 through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Following the Children's Sermon children will go with the leader to the children's area for worship.

Parents are asked to pick their children up after the worship service is over.

- 1 Kathy Derby, J.L.Green,
- 3 Brayden Castillo, Stenson Sanders II
- 6 Mary Alice MacDonald
- 14 Tom Petersen
- 17 John Michael Gainer
- 20 Bobby Castillo
- 21 Bill Rutherford
- 22 Joe Rutherford
- 23 Dot Warren
- 29 Kathy Petty, Craig Waters, Toby Lester

GREETERS  
FOR AUGUST

August 6 Marcie Hardaway

August 13 Amy Morgan

August 20 Jane Goulding

August 27 Sharon Leonard



## Safety Team Members

### **John Wasson - Leader**

John Hill  
Silas Hill  
Jon Geer  
Anthony Morgan  
Bob Mudie  
Vicky Stauff  
David Williams



## Medically Trained Congregation Members

Tannie Brooks  
Stephanie Hogue  
Rachel Lancaster  
Joe Rutherford

### Safety Team Member Responsibilities

Two Safety Team members will be designated to perform certain duties in the sanctuary, commons area and church perimeter. These members will be listed in the bulletin insert and will wear safety team badges.

**Sanctuary Team Member** – This team member knows the locations of fire extinguishers, fire alarm pull boxes, first aid kits and the Automated External Defibrillator (AED). They are knowledgeable of escape routes and sheltering procedures in case evacuation is necessary. If a medical emergency occurs, they will assist medically trained personnel as directed and call 911 if necessary.

**Commons/Perimeter Team Member** – This team member will ensure the nursery is safe and will lock doors not used as primary entrances. All locked doors can still be opened from the inside. The safety checks include other areas such as the kitchen, classrooms and open closets. This member will remain in the commons area during the service and occasionally check the parking lot.

## NOISY/QUIET OFFERING

The Noisy Offering for July, August, and September 2023 will go to Bras for the Cause. You can drop your coins in the bowls every 2nd Sunday of the month.



**ATTENTION!**

**THIRD QUARTER  
2023  
NOISY OFFERING**



The noisy offering for July, August, and September, 2023 will go to Bras for the Cause. You can drop your coins in the bowls beginning July 9, ( and every 2nd Sunday of the month) .



Don't forget to like the church's Facebook page! Search United Presbyterian Church - Greenville follow and like. Then invite all your Facebook friends!



**Find us on  
Facebook**

**Upper Room Devotional Books**

The Upper Room daily devotional is available for free at [www.upperroom.org](http://www.upperroom.org). Perhaps church members who use their computers daily would rather use an electronic device to read the upper room.

Don't forget. . .  
The third Sunday of  
the month to support  
Goodland Academy



“Devote yourselves to  
prayer, being watchful  
and thankful.”  
\*Colossians 4:2\*

**OFFICE HOURS**

**Monday - Thursday 9 am to 12 pm 1pm to 5pm**

**Wednesday 9 am to 2:30 pm**

**Friday office is closed**



## Special Event Checklist United Presbyterian Church

**When preparing for a special event to occur on the UPC property, please be sure to:**

\_\_\_\_ Contact the administrative assistant to make sure there is no calendar conflict.

\_\_\_\_ Send event information to the administrative assistant to be added to church communications in a timely manner.

\_\_\_\_ If the event is open to the public, coordinate promotion as appropriate.

\_\_\_\_ Notify the chair of the safety team to coordinate the safety needs of the event.

\_\_\_\_ Identify someone to open and close the event. (Locks, lights, and alarm)

\_\_\_\_ **The sponsoring church group or member for the event** will be responsible for setting up, breaking down, and cleaning up.

\_\_\_\_ The sponsoring church group or member for the event is responsible for any necessary food and drink purchase, preparation, and clean up.

\_\_\_\_ **Coordinate any A/V** needs with the Tech Team chair.

\_\_\_\_ If you have any music needs, please contact the music coordinator.

\_\_\_\_ If you have any receipts that require reimbursement, please fill out an Expense Voucher and turn it into the administrative assistant.

\_\_\_\_ If this event involves fundraising, session approval is required first.

\_\_\_\_ If the event is a non-church event whether from an outside group or members of the church, get a building usage form from the administrative assistant. It must be submitted and approved by the session, prior to scheduling the event.

\_\_\_\_ If money is collected, **then the money and the monies received form** must be turned into the administrative assistant ASAP.

## NOTES FROM THE OFFICE

### OFFICE PROCEDURES:

#### Procedure for purchases or expense reimbursement

1. Member or staff person must obtain and complete an "Expense Voucher" and return it to the Administrative Assistant prior to purchase.
2. Administrative Assistant will review and confirm that enough money is in the appropriate budget category.
3. Administrative Assistant will make the purchase using church accounts thus saving sales tax and taking advantage of any church discounts.
4. **If the purchase is going to be made by someone other than the Administrative Assistant that person should get the UPC tax number and present it to the seller to avoid paying sales tax.**

### EQUIPMENT AND FACILITY MANUALS:

**Forms are in the office to be filled out for the follow:**



Equipment checkout book (to keep track of equipment used/removed from UPC property)

Facility use manual (forms/information for parties, weddings or anniversaries etc.)

### DEADLINES:

**Newsletter articles need to be turned into the office by the 24th of each month.**

### GENERAL INFORMATION:

**If you are in need of an IRS letter for taxes, please turn in your receipts to the office and a letter will be mailed to you.**

## OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday

9 am to 12 pm

1pm to 5pm

Wednesday 9 am to 2:30 pm

Friday OFFICE CLOSED

## BE VIGILANT

*"For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit."*

*Romans 16:17*

What we put in our bodies is certainly important---after all, our bodies are the temples of God's Spirit. Yet, we know that being obedient and pleasing to God requires more than just watching what we eat and drink, or watch and hear. We must also remain diligent about our minds and hearts, the thoughts and feelings that rise up in us and how we respond to them, especially with our actions.

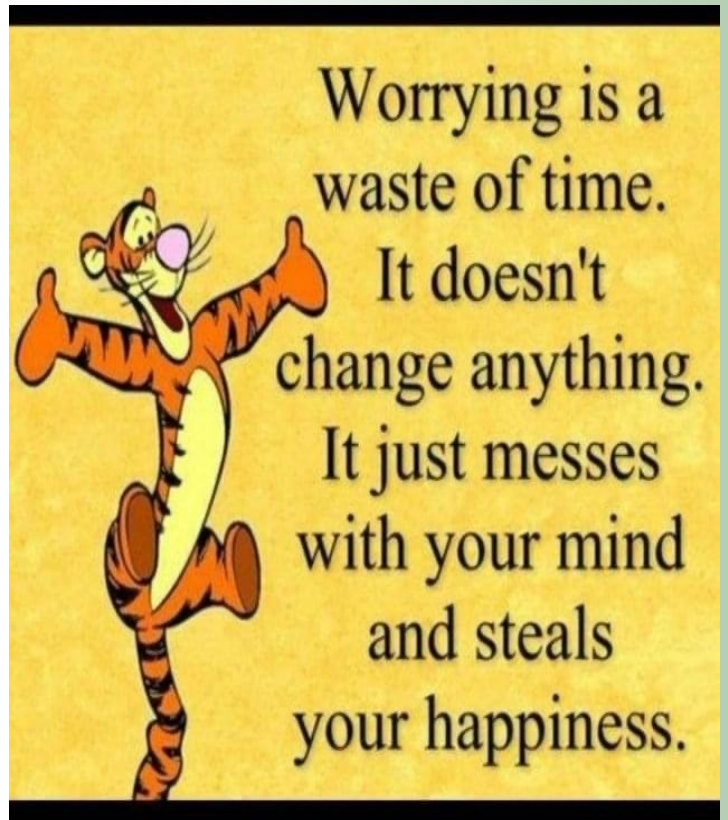
With so much information clamoring for our attention, with so many pop-ups, ads, and seductive sales pitches aimed at us, we're constantly taking in more than we realize. More images, more ideas, more sensations---and yes, often more temptations---than we realize.

As our world becomes even more digitalized and media-saturated, you must take responsibility for what you see, hear, think, and feel. Don't let your default setting be one without filters. Seek to please God by all you allow into your mind, heart, and soul.



**I can BEE  
WISE**

**by showing good  
judgment and making  
good decisions.**



Worrying is a  
waste of time.  
It doesn't  
change anything.  
It just messes  
with your mind  
and steals  
your happiness.



## AUGUST OPENINGS AND CLOSING

**August 6**

**August 13 Ann Jarvis**

**August 20 Ann Jarvis**

**August 27 Marsha Fincher**



**United Presbyterian Church**  
**5905 Stonewall Street**  
**Greenville, TX 75402**

## **AUGUST 2023 NEWSLETTER**