

MAY 2024

# The CORNERSTONE

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A publication of Westfield Presbyterian Church - An ECO Congregation

## We Need You!

In case you hadn't noticed, something big is happening at Westfield! The new addition is coming right along and exciting times are ahead! One of the first events to happen will be the dedication weekend that will likely happen early this fall.

We are looking for a few volunteers who are able to give some of their time, energy and ideas to help plan an amazing weekend! Any age is welcome to join this team as we need fresh ideas from young to young at heart.

If you would like to be a part of this team, please contact Phyllis McCullough at 724.651.6285 or Pat Byers at 724.674.5193 by May 12.



## Mother's Day Diaper Drive

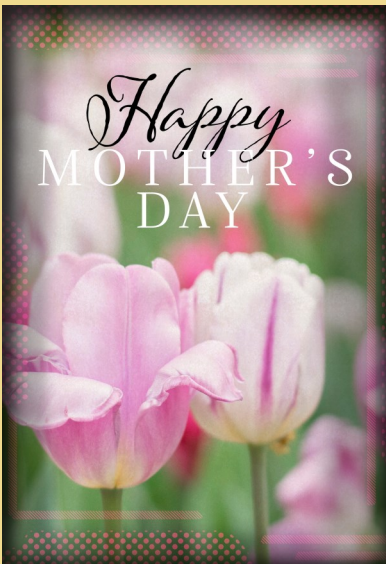
by Jean Workman

The Deacons invite you to participate in a diaper Drive for the Promise of Life Network now through Mother's Day, May 12.

New Beginnings is the parenting division of [Promise of Life Network](#), a life affirming, Christian organization, and currently is serving over 150 moms, dads and families with children three and under. Every participating parent has a Parenting Mentor who guides and encourages them on their parenting journey through the early years. Participants are asked to complete weekly video lessons addressing anything from prenatal development to car seat safety to toddler discipline techniques, and so much more. As they complete lessons they earn points to be used in New Beginnings' Parent's Shops These boutiques are stocked with new and gently used baby and toddler clothing, toys, and baby furniture, etc. And, of course, diapers and wipes.

Can you help these babies and families? Please drop off baby wipes or size 4, 5, 6, or 7 diapers (Huggies, Pampers or Luvs preferred) at church on Mother's Day or before. Look for our Pac-n-Play and place your donations inside.

If you have any questions, please see me, Deacon Jean Workman, and thank you for blessing New Beginnings.





**Margie Benson**  
at The Grove—Harmony

**Bonnie Ernst**  
at Masternick Memorial

**Hazel Pence**  
at Quality of Life—New Castle

**Janet Davis**  
at her residence

**Ann Fox**  
at her residence

**Bob Kenny**  
at his residence

## A Place to Flourish

by Pastor Bobby Griffith, Jr.

In the midst of the excitement of the upcoming completion of our new building, we find ourselves at a pivotal moment—a time to envision a future molded by a vision of community. The wisdom of Proverbs reminds us that “without a vision, the people perish.” This ancient proverb emphasizes the necessity of a guiding vision not just for individual lives but also for our collective journey as a faith community.



As we stand on the threshold of this new chapter, our new building project is not just a physical structure; it represents a beacon of possibilities—a place where we can foster deeper connections, extend our hospitality, and enhance our outreach. It’s a space where we can invite people to find common ground together. It’s a place where kids can grow up with good memories, where we can worship together, play together, eat together, and so many things.

The completion of this building is not the end of our journey but a fresh beginning. It offers us the unique opportunity to expand our ministries, to reach out more effectively to those in need, and to provide a sanctuary where both weary souls can find rest and joyful hearts can celebrate. Just as the Lord’s table is open to all, so too will our church doors open

wide, welcoming individuals from every walk of life into a shared space of worship and community.

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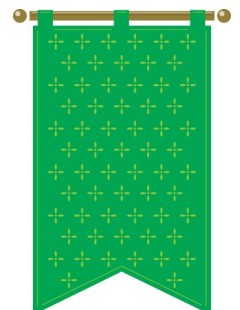
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It is crazy to think that the end is nigh! Maybe this fall? As we see the progress each day, we need to keep in mind God is giving us this space for ministry, to build community, to invite others to be a part of our story. He is also giving us this place so we can play an important role in other people’s stories. Think about the weddings and meetings and parties. Think about basketball leagues, pickleball tournaments, and volleyball matches.

As we get closer, we need to latch onto a vision that transcends the walls of our church—a vision that propels us forward, compels us to serve passionately, and binds us together in the love of Christ. As we prepare to step into this new era, let us embrace the potential to have space where not only our congregation but also the surrounding community can come together to grow, serve, and live out the gospel in tangible ways. Let us hold fast to our vision, for with it, we flourish.

## Christian Symbol

**GREEN** — Green is the traditional liturgical color for the weeks after Pentecost (as well as the season of Epiphany). The Pentecost season largely overlaps with spring and summer, which is fitting because green symbolizes growth: growth of plant life and crops, and growth of the church in discipleship and faith.

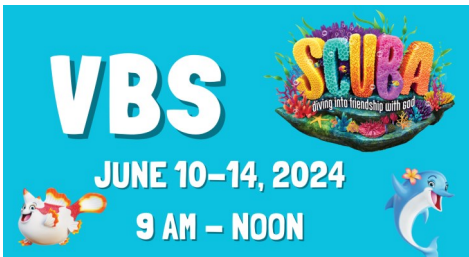


# SCUBA is Our VBS Theme!

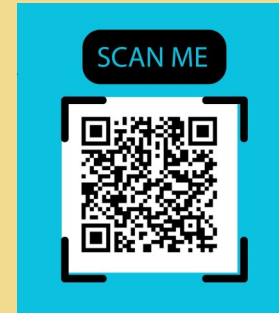
by Jennifer Griffith, Director of Children & Family Ministries

This month is all about VBS! At the time of print, there are only six weeks until the biggest kid min event of the year at Westfield. This year's theme is SCUBA – an underwater adventure that helps kids dive into friendship with God. They will explore what it means to have a friendship with a real, loving, trustworthy God. We can expect a week full of faith discoveries, memorable music, and epic adventures that help kids grow in faith. The dates are June 10-14 and we will meet from 9 A.M. to noon each day. Because of our building project, we will not be able to have our end of the week outdoor picnic, but we will end our week with a celebration during the worship service.

Every year we are so fortunate to have so many wonderful and willing volunteers. There is a place for everyone! Please speak to me if you are able to help in any way. We need station leaders, crew leaders, and decorators. If you can't do that, will you pray for us? There are prayer cards available. Can you shop? We have a wish list on Amazon with specific needs to make the week happen. This event really takes the entire church to make it happen. We need (and want!) all of you, Westfield. Thank you!



## VBS Amazon Wish List!



New this year - an Amazon Wishlist for VBS! Shop from home! Perfect for those who aren't able to help the week of Bible School. There are items of all price points. Please consider purchasing supplies to make this event happen. The list is ongoing so please check back often. Thank you!

## First-Team Followers

Jesus' ascension into heaven shortly after his resurrection was "one of God's most audacious ploys," according to Pastor Frank Ramirez. "Jesus, resurrected, is Master of space and time, yet he passes on the work of spreading the Good News to his imperfect disciples, who ultimately pass it on to us (who are also imperfect disciples)."

By contrast, most Old Testament patriarchs often stayed on the throne until they died. Many of them could have

benefited from a timely "exit strategy," Ramirez notes.

"As a child, I always felt that the world would have been a better place if the resurrected Lord had just taken over everything," Ramirez continues. "But though Jesus is active with us ('For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them' — Matthew 18:20, NRSV), we're part of the first team now."



## A Prayer for Families

Dear heavenly Father, we come as your children to praise you for putting us in our family — and in our church family. Thank you for the love and nourishment we receive from the people in whose presence you've placed us. We confess our need for your guidance in our families and congregation. Please grant us harmony in our homes and church body. In all situations, help us show love, patience and respect for one another. In your name we pray. Amen.

## Don't Be Root-Bound

As a new gardener, Jan Riggenschach used to treat bedding plants with extreme care, setting them into soil without disturbing the roots. Eventually she learned that rough — even ruthless — treatment is better in the long run.

“If the plant has been growing in its pot so long that the roots are circling the bottom, I jab my finger into the bottom of the soil and pull down to untangle the roots,” Riggenschach wrote in her gardening column. “If the whole pot is filled with circling roots, I have to be merciless. I don't worry if I break some of the roots. That's

better than allowing the roots to continue to circle when the plants are growing in the garden.”

In the same way, it's easy to grow complacent and inward-focused in our walk with God. But bunched-up roots can't reach out for sustenance. So for maximum faith growth, dare to let God shake you up from time to time!



“See how the flowers of the field grow.”

Matthew 6:28, NIV

JOY (Just Older Youth) for those 50+ meets every Thursday. Exercise with Jan and Jean at 11 A.M. Lunch at noon followed by activities and fellowship.

## Cultivating Faith: Growing Closer to God Through Seeds

by Jessie Yauch, Director of Senior Adult Ministries

As spring blooms around us, we are reminded of the beauty and wonder of God's creation. In the same way that we witness seeds sprouting into vibrant plants, we can also experience the growth of our faith in God.

Just as a seed requires nurturing, watering, and sunlight to flourish, our spiritual journey also requires care and attention. When we allow God's love to take root in our hearts, we open ourselves to growth and transformation.

When we plant seeds in the soil, we trust that God will provide the necessary conditions for them to grow. Similarly, as we sow the seeds of faith in our lives, we trust in God's guidance and provision along the journey. Let us reflect on how God plants seeds of love and grace in our souls. These seeds have the power to transform us, teaching us to trust in God's timing and to find joy in the process of growth.

In April, we enjoyed a variety of engaging activities together. We celebrated the wonder of the cosmos with a Solar Eclipse Rock Painting event, embraced laughter and camaraderie with a game of Charades, and explored the beauty of nurturing life by planting houseplant cuttings.

As we look forward to the month ahead, we have an exciting lineup of activities planned to foster fellowship and spiritual growth: Star Wars Bingo Day, a day to help Jennifer with VBS décor, and Trivia Day. We will plant vegetable seeds to get our gardens started.

Just as we eagerly anticipate the harvest of our garden, let us eagerly anticipate the spiritual fruit that God is cultivating within us. May we continue to nurture our faith, knowing that God is always faithful to bring about growth and renewal in our lives.

## Bible Quiz

What two rivers that we still know today are named in the Creation account in Genesis 2?

- A. Nile
- B. Yangtze
- C. Jordan
- D. Tigris
- E. Ganges
- F. Euphrates

Answer: D & F (See Genesis 2:10-14.)





1 Rev. Bobby Griffith  
2 John Long  
3 Cara Itle  
8 James McDowell  
10 Hannah Koty  
12 Jim Boots  
Bob Hammond

16 Doug Rossi  
Cyrus Jones  
17 Bob Kenny  
Ashley Rossi-Hopper  
21 Grace Byers  
22 David Clark  
24 Kristy Bailey  
27 Dessie Murberger  
29 Paul Matsukas

## Special Days This Month

6 Heather & Eric Brenner  
12 Tammi & Parke Harman  
13 Angela & Mark Hogue  
16 Joann & Tom Drane  
Taylor & Nick Osman  
20 Mandi & Mike McBride  
21 Bonnie & Evan Ernst  
23 Evelyn & James Boots

24 Amy & David Juang  
Cyndee & Rich Patton  
25 Kay & Wendell Harman  
Diane & Andy Shillingburg  
26 Joelene & Jim Bingham  
28 Leilani & Jeremiah Shillingburg  
29 Marian & Greg Spieker  
Abby & Andrew Stambul