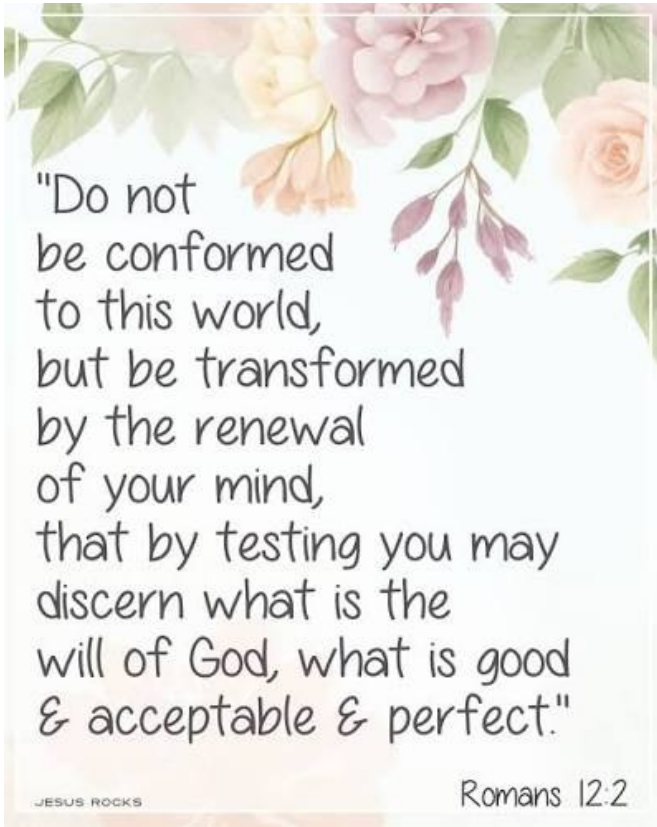


Mt. Pisgah Presbyterian Church

The View

JULY 2026



Purpose: To inform, encourage, and promote engagement in Mt. Pisgah's mission in the community, and opportunities for spiritual transformation. To invite reflection on the process of personal spiritual growth. To emphasize the bond that holds us together, and avoid magnifying the differences that separate us.

Worship Service 9:45 am (see back cover for location)



Mt. Pisgah
VIEW
July 2026

¹¹ To this end also we pray for you always, that our God will count you worthy of your calling, and fulfill every desire for goodness and the work of faith with power, ¹² so that the name of our Lord Jesus will be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Thessalonians 1:11–12 (NASB95)

Dear Friends,

I encourage you to continue in prayer for wisdom as the Session prayerfully discerns our future as a congregation. We have indicated our intention to our landlord to renew our lease for six months. The renewal will begin November 1, 2026, and run to the end of April 2027. In the months ahead, we will be slowly and methodically working towards bringing our time in our current space to a close. We anticipate our concluding worship in our current space to coincide with Easter celebration at the end of March 2027. That will give us the month of April to disperse the remaining equipment in the space.

What life will look like after March 2027 is the most pressing question for the Session. The Session plans to come to a decision by the end of 2026. The two options under consideration are continuing to worship in a more cost-effective space, such as the arrangement we had with Unity Church in the months before our current space was ready, or dissolving as a congregation with thanks to God for Mt. Pisgah's nearly 200-year witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

In the weeks of July, we will shift our focus for our study of Paul's letters to the theme of calling/election. Unfortunately, election has been misconstrued as a debate between predestination and individual free will. As we will see, that characterization of election misses the mark. For now, I want to encourage you to cling to our election as participants in the household of God as a source of strength and security in these uncertain times. Whatever the decision about the future of our little congregation, we may trust that we will be found worthy of our calling in Jesus Christ as God fulfills our desire to live faithfully in the power of the Spirit. Our God is faithful to his covenant promises in Jesus Christ – of this we may be assured. Let's live into that calling in these months ahead.

Peace...Tom

Prayer Corner

You will keep him
in perfect peace
whose mind is stayed
on you, because
he trusts in You.

-Isaiah 26:3

If you ever find yourself feeling anxious about your circumstances or worrying about tomorrow, you are not alone. It's human nature to allow problems to become our primary focus at times. But this is not

the Lord's desire for us. In John 14:27, Jesus provides these words of comfort and reassurance to the disciples, "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." In Christ we have a Wonderful Counselor, Everlasting Father and Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6); and with His help, we can allow His peace to rule in our hearts (Col. 3:15).

So how do we learn to abide in the peace of God? Start by bringing it to the Lord in prayer. Release your worries to Him and ask for His wisdom, guidance and strength in taking every thought captive (2 Cor. 10:5). In his book, Taming Your Thoughts, Max Lucado writes, "He has not

left us alone in this battle of the mind. Our Maker wired us in such a way that healing happens when we seek it."

Ask the Lord to direct you to Scripture, readings and other resources to help you challenge negative thoughts and replace them with God's truths. My study Bible offers this commentary: "Let God's peace act as an umpire, overruling doubts and overthrowing the Adversary's lies that aim to defeat or deter you. Perfect peace is available when the heart and mind keep focused on God's promises, power and Presence. Trust Him."

If you are interested in learning more about managing worry, self-criticism or negative thinking from a Biblical perspective, please join us Sundays in July from 3:30 - 4:30 PM for a video discussion series based on Max Lucado's book.

Blessings,
Cindy

Prayer Corner Team: Cindy Grindel,
Luann Walton & Marta Pletz

July Breath Prayer

Breathe In: Lord, when anxiety overwhelms me,

Breathe Out: Your peace gives my soul rest.

(Psalm 94:19)

Session News . . .

AfterSchool:

Please plan to attend worship on *Sunday, July 19th* when we will recognize JaCinda Rice and Georgia Feild for their fine work with the AfterSchool students.

Please be reminded that per capita payments continue to be received. The amount is \$40/adult member. Envelopes can be found on the Malawi Room table.

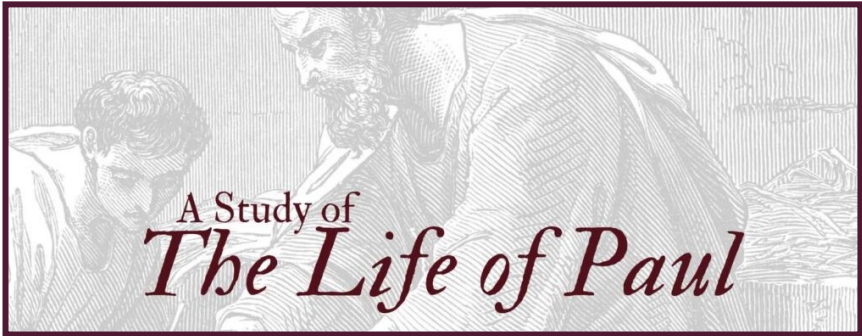
Mt. Pisgah owns two cemetery plots at Jefferson Memorial Cemetery located on Curry Hollow Road. These plots will be offered for sale to the public beginning in July. You may purchase both plots for \$2,128.00. If you are interested in just one, please contact the church office.

You will notice in the Coffee Fellowship area of the church a bookshelf with free books. Feel free to browse and take any you would like. Also, watch for other items that will soon be available for free or a nominal cost.

As the Session continues to plan for Mt. Pisgah's future, you are invited to attend their meetings on the 3rd Monday of the month at 4 pm.

For the Session who are in His Service,
Marta Pletz, Clerk

From the Worship, Learning and Prayer Team:



Please join us after worship on the first and third Sundays of each month as we continue to study Paul – his life, his teaching, and his example.

It would be our blessing to fellowship around tables with you for this most wonderful study of the Apostle Paul!

July worship services will be based on the following scripture readings:

- | | |
|------|-------------------------|
| 7/5 | Galatians 5:16-25 |
| 7/12 | Tom is away |
| 7/19 | Ephesians 1:15-23 |
| 7/26 | Romans 4:13-25, 5:12-17 |

**DEADLINE FOR
NEWSLETTER ARTICLES**

***Please email August VIEW
articles to
37.s.devey@gmail.com
by July 19.
Thank you!***

Words Matter

Follow the clues below by crossing off the words in the grid. Some words might be crossed off by more than one clue. When you are finished, the remaining words form a saying, reading left to right.

1. Cross off all names of colors.
2. Cross off all words that rhyme with pan.
3. Cross off all foods and beverages.
4. Cross off all words containing 2 sets of double letters.
5. Cross off all words that are names of flowers or trees.
6. Cross off all words that contain the word ant.

MILK	TWO	BUTTRESS	PLAN
THINGS	ROSE	ARE	GRANT
BAD	TEAL	CAN	FOR
PIE	THE	COMMITTED	PURPLE
HEART	OAK	RUNNING	PALM
UPSTAIRS	YELLOW	AND	RUNNING
PLEASANT	DOWN	AZURE	POMEGRANATE
SPAN	CORN	PEOPLE	ABBESS

Saying: _____

Answer on page 13



PRAYER FOCUS FOR JULY

Dear family and friends of Mt. Pisgah . . .

In addition to your own prayers of thanksgiving and petitions to our most capable Father in Heaven, creator and master of all things seen and unseen, all praise and glory be to Him who reigns victorious now and throughout eternity – “O, what a Savior!”

Prayer Focus for July:

High King of Heaven, remind us that our true citizenship is in a Kingdom that is not like the kingdoms of this world.

Hope to see you in worship Sunday morning, 9:45 am.
Submitted by the Worship, Learning and Prayer Team.

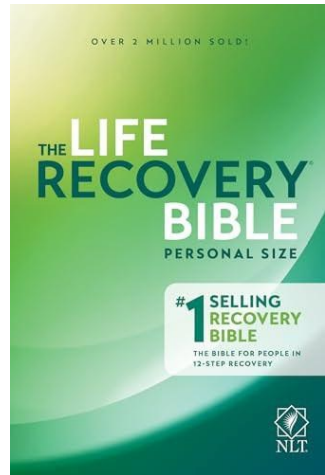


A Mt. Pisgah Bible Story

Some time ago a memorial gift was given with a request for new Bibles. Session advised memorial gifts be decided by Session. Some years later, another memorial gift requested Bibles. The response was positive.

At that time, the DayTimers had a guest speaker from the jail indicating a need for Bibles. Peg Dalessandro and Chuck Balog delivered the donated Bibles to the Allegheny County Jail.

Presbytery is currently conducting a Life Recovery Bible Campaign. You can participate by providing **Life Recovery Bibles** (NLT version – soft cover only) for those who are incarcerated. Other ways to participate can be found on the next page. The Bibles will be collected at the October Pittsburgh Presbytery meeting at Crestfield.



Please note the request is for **Life Recovery Bibles (NLT version – soft cover only)**. More information about where they can be donated can be found on the next page.

Let me know if you are interested in helping to release the pressure of living behind bars.

Submitted by Luella Brazier

**Life Recovery Bible Campaign
(NLT version - soft cover only)
for the Allegheny County Jail**

*They said, “When did we see you in prison and visit you?”
Jesus replied, “When you did for the least of these,
you did for me.” (Matthew 25)*

The Allegheny County Jail sits in the middle of our presbytery and the chaplains at the Jail have asked for our help in providing Life Recovery Bibles (NLT version – soft cover only) for those who are incarcerated. (Please DO NOT donate other types of Bibles! It is the Life Recovery Bibles they are low on and which are in demand.)

1. Churches/Individuals may order Life Recovery Bibles (NLT, soft cover) online to be delivered to:
Foundation of HOPE, Suite 3
901 Pennsylvania Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15233
(Please include a note with the church’s name so a thank you may be sent.)
2. Churches/Individuals may send money to Foundation of HOPE, designated for the purchase of Life Recovery Bibles.
3. Churches/Individuals may drop off Life Recovery Bibles (NLT, soft cover only) to the Foundation of HOPE offices on the North Side during working hours. (901 Pennsylvania Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15233)
4. 4. There will be a van at the October 1, 2026 Pittsburgh Presbytery meeting at Crestfield to receive Life Recovery Bibles (NLT, soft cover only) brought to the meeting.

IMPORTANT – Please DO NOT donate other types of Bibles. It is only the Life Recovery Bibles (NLT, soft cover only) that are being requested.

Memory Verse Challenge for July

You may have noticed that the memory verses for the 1st half of the year tend to follow the theme of being “changed” for a life in Christ:

Receiving specific virtues to live by, becoming new, transformed from one degree to another, being in unity with the Spirit, emanating holiness.

Of course, this world poses challenges to our life in Christ in that it is frequently in opposition to what Jesus taught as Truth and His Way.

July’s memory verse addresses the challenge:

Romans 12:2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, (that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.)

Try to memorize the whole thing. Tackling the 1st part, “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind” is a good start! But the (parenthetical) portion encourages us to go deeper. Discerning requires the discipline of regular prayer, thoughtful Bible study, and giving time to hear God’s voice...in other words, by being mindful your mind may be renewed!

For the Worship, Prayer, and Learning Team,
Marta Pletz



The Worship team is offering a study series titled, "Tame Your Thoughts" by Max Lucado which explores biblically-based tools for managing worry, self-criticism and other negative thought patterns.

Remaining sessions will be held Sundays through July 26 from 3:30 - 4:30 PM. If you cannot attend them all, come when you can and join in the discussion. All are welcome.

Solution to Words Matter Puzzle on page 8:

Two things are bad for the heart.

Running upstairs and running people down.

Memory Verse Challenge Quiz

We are now at the half point of our 2026 memory verse challenge. Let's review with a few questions:

January

The challenge was to memorize the Fruit of the Spirit.
How many virtues are listed as part of the Fruit?
In which Book is the verse found?

February

2 Corinthians 5:17 addresses being "in Christ". In this verse what is said about creation?

March

Being transformed is the essence of 2 Corinthians 3:18.
What word describes our faces as we behold God's Glory?
To what extent are we transformed?

April

In Romans 5:8, Paul describes God's love for us through Christ. How is Christ's grace and selflessness described?

May

With humbleness, gentleness, patience, and bearing with one another, what should we make every effort to do?

June

From a Roman prison, Paul writes to Timothy. What life have we been called to?

(Answers to follow on page 16)

Steadfast, resilient, and increasingly happy (2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12)

I'm wary of any teaching that implies that God desires human suffering, but I'm learning to dig for wisdom in the scriptures behind the harmful interpretations of my upbringing. Today's lection skips the most challenging bits—Jesus coming in a fiery flame to judge the people's enemies, for example. (When I read it in the form we hear on Sunday I thought of the scene in *The Princess Bride* when Prince Humperdink, rushing through his wedding to Princess Buttercup, urges the priest through gritted teeth to “skip to the end.”)

But because we skip to Paul's words of encouragement for a community under duress, we miss the part where their suffering is key to their growth in holiness; it is making them worthy and enabling God to fulfill God's power in them.

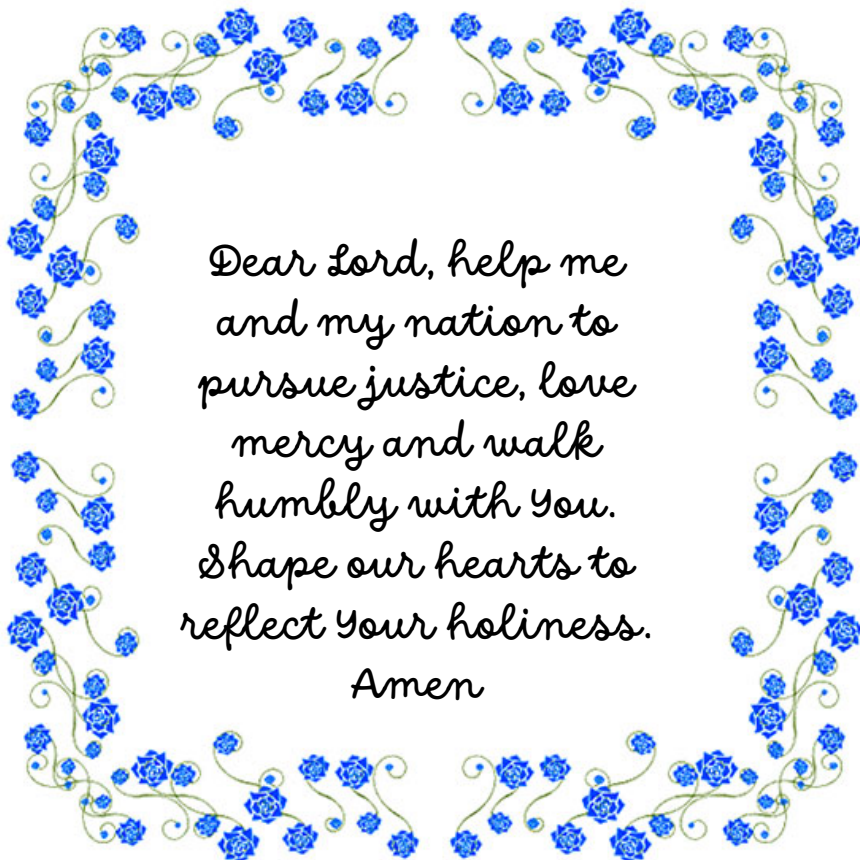
I won't lie; I don't like it. It runs suspiciously close to the old saw “what doesn't kill you makes you stronger.” But there's a hard truth about existence here that both social science and Christianity bear out.

It's also a hopeful truth. Hard times will come, but when we endure them, we grow more resilient. Our increasing happiness is born of that resilience and steadfastness, which Paul marks as worthy of praise. With those gifts we can also become better equipped to act with empathy and compassion, and to fulfill, by God's power, every good resolve and work of faith.

By Jessica Mesman in *The Christian Century*

(*The Christian Century* is a progressive, independent religious magazine devoted to helping people think critically and live the Christian faith thoughtfully.)

~Submitted by Sharon Devey



Dear Lord, help me
and my nation to
pursue justice, love
mercy and walk
humbly with You.
Shape our hearts to
reflect Your holiness.
Amen

*This prayer will appear at the end of the BUZZ each week.
~Submitted by Marilyn Costentino for the Prayer Team*

Answers for Memory Verse Challenge Quiz on page 14

January: 9, Galatians

February: Old is gone, the new is here.

March: Unveiled faces, one degree to another

April: While we were still sinners, he died for us.

May: Keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace

June: a Holy life

On the Lighter Side . . .

Submitted by
Sharon Devey



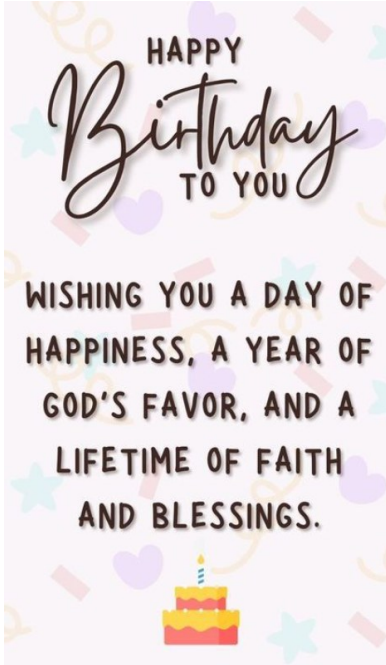
"If good things lasted forever, would we appreciate how precious they are?"

-Hobbes

OUR CONGREGATION CONNECTS . . .

1 Thessalonians 5:16 “Rejoice Always!”

Who will receive a **July**
birthday wish from **you**?



5th ... Will Sherman
7th ... Lila Cox
8th ... Larry Dugas
10th ... Linda Hamm
10th ... Donna Virgin
14th ... Jackie Finch
15th ... Paisley Cox
19th ... Rich Polaski
23rd ... Chuck Balog
25th ... Rich Yevak
26th ... Rita Wicht
31st ... Mary Beth Bunner

Bless this your child, Lord, in the year to come. May they know the comfort of your presence, the certainty of your purpose, and the consolation of your love at work in their life.

**“Let each of us please his neighbor for his good,
to build him or her up.” Romans 15:2**

JULY



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Mark your calendar . . .

- 5th Adult Class following worship
- 19th Recognition of Afterschool Program teachers
- 19th Adult Class following worship
- 19th August VIEW articles due *(see page 7)*
- 20th Session Meeting, 4:00 pm
- 26th Worship, Learning & Prayer Team Meeting following worship
- 26th SCRIP Order Placed

Weekly

Sundays in July, Tame Your Thoughts, 3:30 - 4:30 pm
(see page 13)

Wednesday, Prayer Group online 5:30 pm

Mt. Pisgah Presbyterian Church

Noble Manor Shopping Plaza

2350 Noblestown Road, Suite 200

Pittsburgh, PA 15205

412-921-8444 / www.mtpisgahgreentree.org