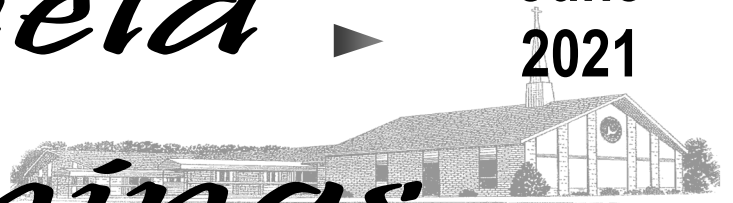


# Highfield Happenings

June  
2021



**Congratulations to:**

**Brenden Summerhill** - Brenden graduated from Slippery Rock University on the dean's list and honors with a Bachelor's degree in Exercise Science. He plans on continuing his education.

*CONGRATULATIONS & BEST WISHES!*

## **CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CONFIRMANDS**

**(June 27)**

**Evan Artman**

**Josalyn Collini**

### **THE ORIGIN OF FATHER'S DAY**

One Sunday in 1909, Sonora Smart Dodd listened to a sermon honoring mothers. Her mother had died some years before, so her father had raised her by himself. Dodd wondered why there wasn't a day to honor fathers, so she arranged a tribute to her father at a church in Spokane, Washington. The date was June 19, 1910. Many people believe this was the beginning of Father's Day.

Another account holds that a West Virginia church held a tribute service for fathers in 1908, following a mine explosion that killed 360 men. Regardless of which story is correct, President Calvin Coolidge was the first president to designate a special day to honor fathers. In 1924, he proclaimed the third Sunday in June as Father's Day.

**HAPPY FATHER'S DAY JUNE 20, 2021**

**St. Paul's Highfield Lutheran Church**  
Congregation of the Southwestern PA Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
1595 Dime Road, Vandergrift, PA 15690  
Phone: 724.567.7462  
Email: [hifielts@comcast.net](mailto:hifielts@comcast.net)  
[www.stpaulshighfield.org](http://www.stpaulshighfield.org)



## **Vision Statement**

Spreading the good news of Jesus Christ by living out our faith in worship, support, and service to all people.

## **Mission Statement**

**SPHLC—**  
Spiritual People Helping Lead others to Christ

## **Parish Staff**

Reverend Ryan N. Pusch— Pastor  
215 Main Street

Leechburg, PA 15656

St. Paul's Church Office: 724-567-7462

Hebron Church Office: 724-842-0801

Cell phone: 262-707-3038

Email address: [rpusch001@luthersem.edu](mailto:rpusch001@luthersem.edu)

Sandi Summerhill—Organist  
724-845-1234

Clarence Brown—Financial Secretary  
724-567-5571

Nicole Ashbaugh—Sexton  
724-842-7376

Janine Ballish—Secretary / Treasurer  
724-567-7462

Office hours: Wednesdays and Fridays  
9:00 am-3:00 pm

*Hours are subject to change for holidays,  
etc.*

*If you have questions  
or concerns, please  
discuss them with  
one of the members  
listed below.*

---

**Pam Neale—President**  
**Sandy Rossi—Vice President**  
**Rebecca Cappo—Secretary**  
**Jim Ferguson Wally Daugherty**  
**Clarence Brown Leland Brown**  
**Gail Holm Nicole Ashbaugh Judy Grinder**



### **From Hebron:**

Pauline Bish Kasey Boarts  
Nancy Fondrk

### **From St. Paul's Highfield:**

Amy Rossi—President  
Leland Brown Bonnie Shuster

# STEWARDSHIP

## Contributions



### GIVING VS. BUDGET FIGURES 2021

**NEED \$1,432.84 WEEKLY TO BREAK EVEN**

	CURRENT DEPOSIT	NEEDED	OVER / (SHORT)	YTD OVER/(SHORT)	ATTENDANCE
January	\$8,810.00	\$7,164.20	\$1,645.80	\$1,645.80	Online
February	\$5,660.00	\$5,731.36	\$(71.36)	\$1,574.44	Online
March	\$6,521.00	\$5,731.36	\$789.64	\$2,364.08	44 / Online
April	\$6,460.00	\$5,731.36	\$728.64	\$3,092.72	112 / Online

The above totals do not include any designated giving for specific ministries. They only include the money given to support the 2021 budget. If you have any questions, please call me ~ *Janine Ballish, Treasurer*

**Second Sunday after Pentecost, June 6, 2021**—*And looking at those who sat around him, [Jesus] said, ‘Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.’ – Mark 3:34-35*

When God gives us opportunities to forge new relationships, whether within and outside of our church and family circles, take the time to cultivate and tend them. We can take the cue from Jesus, who was always expanding his circle of friends and family.

**Third Sunday after Pentecost, June 13, 2021**—*“So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new.” – 2 Corinthians 5:17*

As we emerge from our Covid cocoons, we are all new creations, changed in a variety of ways. In addition to renewing existing relationships, we can look for new ones that will help us deepen our faith walk, challenge our biases and prejudices, and love our neighbor.

**Fourth Sunday after Pentecost, June 20, 2021**—*“We have spoken frankly to you Corinthians; our heart is wide open to you. There is no restriction in our affections, but only in yours. In return—I speak as to children—open wide your hearts also.” – 2 Corinthians 6:11-13*

The give-and-take of relationships rarely stays in perfect 50/50 balance, but rather shifts constantly. Sometimes we give more, and sometimes we need more from others. How do you see your relationships playing out in this post-Covid world? Are you willing to be more flexible?

**Fifth Sunday after Pentecost, June 27, 2021**—*“But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth.” – Mark 5:33*

Jesus was walking through a crowd when a sick woman, without asking first, touched him to be healed. When she was discovered, instead of a rebuke Jesus offers her love. How wonderful when we, too, can find strength and love to meet the needs of others in our daily lives.

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Grace, mercy, and peace to you in the power of the Holy Spirit! As I write this, we are preparing for the celebration of Pentecost, the day we remember the Holy Spirit blowing in on the followers of Jesus and giving birth to the church. It's also on this day that we usually celebrate the power of the Holy Spirit shaping the faith of our catechism students as we celebrate the affirmation (or confirmation) of their faith. This Pentecost I'll be in Minnesota visiting family and friends after this long period of quarantine, but I wanted to share with you some observations about our students because they've impressed both Pastor Jim and I so much this year, and I think they are going to impress you too.

Because of the pandemic, we've had to change the way we've conducted confirmation class. We went virtual this last year and a half, and that has had both upsides and downsides, as anyone who has kids or has interacted with the educational system this last year would know. The upside has been that we've had more students than ever before this last year- 18 students across 6 congregations! And we'll be confirming 8 of them this year alone, with 4 of those coming from SPH and Hebron: Evan Artman, Josalyn Collini, Johnathan Toy, and Kendra Smail. All of these students have demonstrated their persistent desire to grow in their faith by participating in 2 years of bimonthly classes, most of which has been conducted on zoom. Allowing our students to tune in to class through zoom has allowed more of them to fit their faith formation into their already busy lives, and it wasn't uncommon for at least one or more of our students to be tuning into class while they were on the road or between other activities and sports that they were involved in. It's not easy being a student in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, is it? But they are doing it, and teaching us more and more about new ways to learn.

The downsides to virtual confirmation class, just like virtual worship, are obvious. Something was certainly missing, and when you're looking at a screen of others' faces, it's a lot harder to build up relationships of trust, care, and concern for one another. Nevertheless, Pastor Jim and I did our best to incorporate ice breakers, games, stories, faith inspired music, and video clips to get us thinking about what it means to be a follower of Jesus.

In the last few gatherings we finished the catechism year by focusing on the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion, and then conducting a year-end review for the first year students, and time to work on faith statements for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year students. For these last classes, we were able to gather most of the students out doors at Burrell Park and SPH's pavilion. What a sight for sore eyes it was to see many of them gathered safely together to reflect on the Holy Spirit working through their lives. I am looking forward to reading our students' faith statements as they dig down deep to communicate what is most important to them about their faith. Our emphasis over these last years of teaching has always been the way God touches all of our relationships with one another- just as Jesus touches our world by living among us, dying and rising out of love for us, and sending us with the power of the Spirit to serve God's world. We'll print our students' faith statements in the next newsletter and they will read them to us during their confirmation services, which will be June 6<sup>th</sup> at Hebron, and June 27<sup>th</sup> at St Paul's Highfield. Please say a prayer of thanksgiving for these young people and their families who have made sure that their faith remained a priority in their lives throughout a tumultuous year.

In Christ's Peace.



Pastor Ryan



**@ ST. PAUL'S HIGHFIELD**

Don't forget to include our confined members in your prayers. Names, addresses, and birthdays are listed below.

**Charlotte Held**  
Ross Memory Meadows  
321 Godfrey Road  
Leechburg, PA 15656

**Lou Bozzarelli** (July 9th)  
112 Oregon Avenue  
Vandergrift, PA 15690

**LaRue Ciuca**  
1147 Crawford Avenue  
Vandergrift, PA 15690

**Veryl (Jack)** (Feb. 24) &  
**Ruby Clark** (July 24))  
1144 Birch Road  
Vandergrift, PA 15690

**Martha Abarbanell**  
(May 31)  
1166 Pleasant View Drive  
Vandergrift, PA 15690

**Bob Shellhammer, Sr.**  
(May 10)  
Pleasant Ridge  
981 Pleasant Hill Road  
Room #218  
Leechburg, PA 15656

**Alice Moses**  
(July 10)  
Concordia Lutheran Minis-  
tries  
615 North Pike Road  
Room #208A  
Cabot, PA 16023

**JUNE**



**Birthdays:**

- 8<sup>th</sup> Betty Rishel
- 13<sup>th</sup> Bailey Neale
- 16<sup>th</sup> Katie Hepler
- 19<sup>th</sup> Bonnie Shuster
- 21<sup>st</sup> Jacob Schrader
- 30<sup>th</sup> Pastor Richard Grance

**Anniversaries:**

- 6<sup>th</sup> Jackie & Ray Nauyokas
- 11<sup>th</sup> Jane and Dave Geltz
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Gina and Jason Artman
- 25<sup>th</sup> Jenny and Ira Summerhill,  
Jim & Judy Ferguson

**St. Paul's Highfield Prayer List**

- Ray Brannon
- Mary Reed
- Shirley Walker
- Marianne Rossi
- Alice Moses
- Bob Shellhammer, Sr.
- Jim Ferguson
- Debra Byrum
- Betsy
- Betty Winship
- Alma Pearson
- Jaycee
- Samantha Cribbs
- Marge Shannon
- Southwestern PA Synod
- Jeff Pollick
- Bob Shirley
- Jason Held
- The Defalco Family
- Family of William Brasco

- Family of Shirley Rishel
- Bill Muffley
- Betty Camp

**Military**

- Matt Moses
- Ray Nauyokas Jr.
- Stephen Wax
- Sara Moses
- Nick Hopkins
- Garrett Shaffer
- Maria Dinunzio
- Jeffrey Toy
- Cody Kinnan
- Zach Horner
- Ryan Uhing



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**American Red Cross Blood Drives—** Council has approved the request from our local chapter of the American Red Cross to host their blood drives at St. Paul’s Highfield Lutheran Church. Blood drives have been scheduled at SPH on Mondays, August 16, October 11 and December 20. Leland Brown has graciously agreed to be the SPH coordinator. We are in need of volunteers to assist on the days of the blood drives. Please call Leland Brown (724-571-7949) for details on what volunteers are asked to do. The more volunteers we have, the more flexibility we have! Please consider becoming a part of this important community ministry.

**SWPA Synod Assembly—June 10-12, 2021—**this year’s Synod Assembly is again being held virtually. We can have one male and one female represent SPH with Pastor Ryan. Bailey Neale has stepped up to be the female representative. Reach out to Pastor Ryan if you are interested in being our male representative this year.

*The altar flowers for May were given by Glenda & Stan Givens in memory of Our Loved Ones.*

*In Sympathy—We express our deepest sympathy to the family of Shirley Rishel who died on Sunday, May 2. “I am the resurrection and the life,” says our Lord. “Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.” (John 11:25-26, NRSV).*

**Midweek Outdoor Worship Schedule**  
**Thursdays 6:00 pm BYOD**  
**(Bring Your Own Dinner)**  
**7:00 pm Worship Service**  
 June 3  
 July 15  
 August 12

**Calendar of Causes—**Each month we will raise up a social ministry supported within our Synod. The loose offering collected the first Sunday of the month will go to this cause. Also, envelopes are located in the narthex for you to make a donation at any time during the month. June’s cause is Seminarian Development and Support Fund.

**LOOKING AHEAD**  
**Confirmation Sunday - June 27**

Please join us as we celebrate the Confirmation of Evan Artman and Josalyn Collini

**Thank you...**to all who helped with the Hoagie/Soup Sale. Our net profit was \$1,187.11, which will be added to our Community Outreach Fund.

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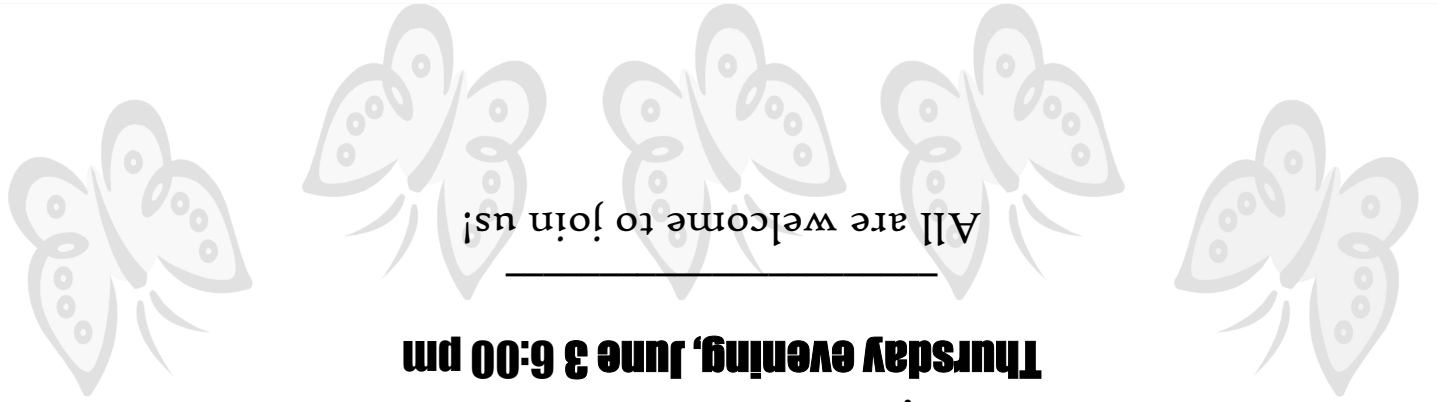
**Stewarding Our Relationships: Rehab, Renew and Repair**

Doctors order rehabilitation – intensive exercises and therapy -- for patients to regain muscle strength and flexibility after a serious illness or injury. The time is right for us to use the same approach for our friendships and family relationships after Covid-19. The worst seems over now that the vaccines are percolating through our nation, and we are entering the summer, when it is comfortable to gather in the relative safety of the outdoors. It will take serious rehab to repair and renew the friendships and family relationships that Covid-19 forced us to neglect. Hunkered down in our homes for safety, we ceased gathering for friendship, fellowship and recreation – the very activities that keep relationships strong. Churches put worship and social gatherings on hold. The pandemic’s impact on relationships wielded a double whammy: It left us stressed and needing friends at the very time that Covid-19 prevented us from tending to our relationships. It has left us disconnected and hurting. Keeping in mind that the Covid-19 risk is diminished but not gone, as summer unfolds, you can look for safe ways to rehab, renew and repair your relationships. **Reach out:** Go through your list of friends and contact them by phone, email, text – whatever’s best. Tell them you missed them and want to get together. **Make plans:** Don’t put it off. Be creative and find safe ways to get together. Outdoors is safer. Backyard barbecues, coffee at a sidewalk café, a walk, a game of bocce, iced tea on the porch. It’s all good. Every little step you take will help your relationship “muscles” to get stronger, and in the process you’ll become healthier as the love, support and joy of friends and family flows into your heart.

--**Rob Blezard**

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All are welcome to join us!

**Thursday evening, June 3 6:00 pm**

**For midweek worship**

**Sunday Mornings 8:30 am in person**

**Join us for worship**



**St. Paul's Highfield Lutheran Church**  
1595 Dime Road  
Vandegrift, PA 15690

**Address Service Requested**

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