

2019

**Gerrardstown Good News**

**Mending Fences**

by Pastor Karen

When I was a little girl, my parents would often have to go out to my grandfather’s farm and help fix fences when the cattle had pushed, leaned or otherwise broken through. Grandpa’s farm ran alongside a busy country road so it was especially dangerous for cars and cows alike if the fence was broken there. His farm also bordered another farm. His neighbor was none too pleased if Grandpa’s cattle came tromping or chomping on his crops. Keeping fences mended kept everyone happier and safer! I realize now what an important practice this was for a farm.

Interestingly when I googled ‘mending fences’ I found the description was all about mending relationships. There was no mention of any wood or barbed wire fences around a piece of property that needed repairing! However, upon researching the origins of ‘mending fences’ I found that another saying ‘good fences make good neighbors’. This is thought to be the genesis of ‘mending fences.’

Recently I attending a training about boundaries in our lives and relationships. Just like on farms, people need good fences or boundaries to be healthy and have healthy relationships. If we look to scripture we see that boundaries have been in place since the very beginning.

NRS Job 38:1-11 Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind: "Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? Gird up your loins like a man, I will question you, and you shall declare to me. "Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements-- surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone when the morning stars sang together and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy? "Or who shut in the sea with doors when it burst out from the womb? when I made the clouds its garment, and thick darkness its swaddling band, and prescribed bounds for it, and set bars and doors, and said, 'Thus far shall you come, and no farther, and here shall your proud waves be stopped'?

God set boundaries for creation and for people as we read in Genesis: “And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die." (Gen. 2:16-17 NRS)

If we are honest, we know that we have more in common with those cows on my grandpa’s farm that we might like to think. They were always reaching outside the fence trying to grab some grass or leaves that they thought would be a more tasty morsel than the 50 acres they roamed! Just like Adam and Eve, we are tempted to go places and try things that we have been told aren’t good for us and will bring about death in one way or another.

Breaking boundaries can come in so many different ways: drifting away from good health by not caring for ourselves or eating a good diet, not exercising or getting enough sleep; straying beyond the bounds of our marriage; by not keeping a good fence on our mouths or our posts on social media and falling into the temptation to gossip, slander or say/write hurtful malicious comments; wandering from God by not reading and studying the Bible regularly, not joining in worship or not being in a small group that will encourage and help us grow in our faith; or when our work begins to crowd out our family, our friendships, our faith or our personal time. These ‘fences’ need some attention if we want to live the abundant life God offers us.

God has given us boundaries for our good health and a good life. God showed us what good boundaries looked like in Jesus. I encourage you to read the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke or John and look for Jesus’ boundaries. You will find that he often took time away to be alone with God, time away to talk to and teach his disciples, time to eat and time to sleep even in the midst of a storm as well as spending time ministering to and teaching people about the good news that God’s Kingdom has come to earth.

You may also notice that Jesus didn’t do all the ministering: he allowed people to minister to him – Mary who poured the special perfume on him, the woman who anointed his feet with her tears, the women who followed him and cared for him and he delegated ministry to his disciples. Jesus also tried to help those who had lost their boundaries: the woman caught in adultery, Martha who was distracted by many things, and even Peter who denied Jesus when he was arrested.

I invite us each to ‘walk our fences‘ looking at the areas of our lives and see if there are places that need to be restored or mended. Jesus can help us set healthy boundaries in all areas of our lives so we can live the abundant life we are promised in him every day.



**All are welcome!**

**Sunday Worship at 11am with Children’s Church at about 11:15am** after the Children’s message.

**Sunday April 14 Palm Sunday** with Fellowship meal to follow in the Hall.

**Thursday April 18 Maundy Thursday Worship** Service with communion at 7pm in the Sanctuary.

**Good Friday Prayer Vigil April 19 -April 20** Sign up for an hour to pray wherever you are!

**Easter Resurrection Sunday Worship April 21** at 11am with Easter Egg Hunt for the children during Children’s Church at 11:15pm

**Easter Family Make and Take Saturday April 27** from 4-6pm in the Hall

**Community Dinner Tuesday April 30th** from 4:30-6:30pm in the Hall.

**GPC Vision Statement:** We are followers of Jesus who make disciples by loving, sharing, serving, praying and believing.

**Good Friday Prayer Vigil**

On Good Friday you are invited to join in a prayer vigil that begins at 6am and continues to 6am Saturday. You can take part wherever you are during that 24 hours. If you’d like to join in or leave a prayer request please go to our Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/Gerrardstown-Presbyterian-Church-Life-1741871242694671/> or our Website under the events page: <http://gerrardstownpc.com/upcoming-events/good-friday-prayer-vigil-2/1555653600/>

and sign up to pray for an hour and/or leave a prayer request. On the website there is also a list of scriptures and prayers that may be helpful.

**Easter Family Make and Take**

A Resurrection Appearance of Jesus on a Beach Saturday April 27 4-6pm Join us for crafts, a story, and family dinner as we continue the fun of Easter! Please let us know how many people will be coming by calling 304-229-2816 and leave a message or go to Facebook page and let us know how many are coming <https://www.facebook.com/events/2212845462087308/>



Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Rev. Ken Walker – Trinity UMC Martinsburg – hrt attack

Jean – vein surgery April 3

Julie Smith – stage 4 ca

Scottie – frozen right shoulder – will see a specialist

Sandy Bender

Hayley Cline

Tim and Carla Brannon

Amy, cancer

Bill Sharp

Beverley Kane

Miami Light

Dick LeDane

Michel and Rachel Weller (Mission Co-Workers)

Laila Kavaldjian

Dozer Cogar (Becca Sturm)

Genevieve Pitzer

Bill and Janet Starr

Eileen Pettersen (friend Sandy Sherrard)

Janet Sherrard

Amelia Sturm

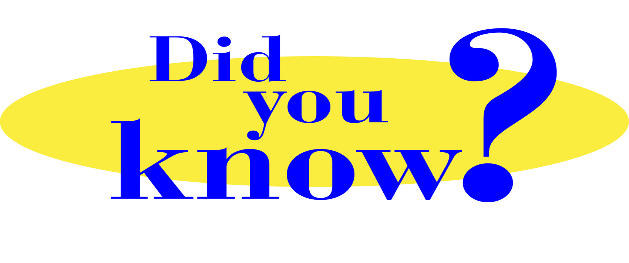
Samatha Oester

Jim and Kenda Butts(Cindy Butts son/Jane Wasson daughter)

Leonard McDaniel

Linda Stilwell

Peter Housel (uncle of John Oester)

Those struggling with addictions and their families, those who are grieving or suffering with the effects of hurricanes, especially our own Rev. John & Helen Robinson, who reside in New Bern, NC.

Gerrardstown PC has a Giving Page on our website. We offer Paypal as a secure, online way to give to the church. Check out it out at:[**http://gerrardstownpc.com/giving/**](http://gerrardstownpc.com/giving/)

If you or someone you know needs help with housing and shelter, behavior health services, utility assistance, children are or other needs call 2-1-1 For substance abuse and behavioral health needs call 1-844-HELP4WV



**March 21, 2019**

**Stated Session Meeting Highlights**

Session approved buying new sturdy plastic tables for the Hall and donating 10 wooden tables to Connections Community Church and another person in the community in need of tables. The tables are expected in early April.

Session approved the Palm Sunday Fellowship Dinner April 14, after church where we plan to dedicate, bless and eat off the new tables.

Session approved a 7 day automated thermostat for the sanctuary to help regulate the heat and AC.

Session approved a suspended choir mic in rear of sanctuary to help with announcements and video recording.

Session approved Make and Take change of date to April 27 from 4-6pm in the Hall and VBS dates to be June 17-21.

Session approved a Mini-Mission Trip in conjunction with Tuscarora PC, Hedgesville PC, and Tomahawk PC July 28-31 in Craigsville, VA. and 3 Coffeehouses this summer for mission fundraising.

Session approved putting updates in the bulletin the first Sunday of each month regarding worship attendance, monthly giving and Community dinner donations and attendance.

# **Partners In Christ -- 2019 Mission Trip**

# **You Are Invited!**

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**What:** Mission trip to Craigsville, VA

**When:** Sunday, July 28 through Wednesday, July 31, 2019

**Where:** Craigsville Presbyterian Church, Craigsville, VA

**Who:** Members and friends of Tuscarora, Hedgesville and Gerrardstown Presbyterian Churches. Ages 4-104! (Children under 12 must have an accompanying parent/guardian).

**How:** The Mission Team will travel to Craigsville mid to late Sunday afternoon. We will begin work Monday morning and work 3 full days, before leaving late afternoon on Wednesday to head home.

A typical day will include breakfast, daily orientation and devotions, travel to work site for 3+ hours of work (with breaks), lunch, more work and/or after-lunch activities, recreation, supper, evening discussion and devotions, lights out.

Team #1 (teens age 14 and up and adults) will be working with Renewing Homes of Greater Augusta doing home maintenance and repair, which in the past has included flooring, roofing, painting, etc.

Team #2 (all ages – children, youth and adult) will be doing age and skill appropriate community mission work including such things as visiting elderly, gardening, clothes closet, food pantry, etc.

**Cost:**  Registration Deadline: May 31, 2019.

A Non-refundable DEPOSIT of $25 per person or $50 per family and a signed Commitment Form is due.

The cost of the trip is $100 per person. This includes food, travel, lodging, etc. There will be fundraising efforts to help defray the cost per person. Participation in fundraising is required of all trip participants. More information about fundraising to come.

**Why:** Christ said “I came not to be served, but to serve.” As Christ’s disciples, we share in that commitment to service.

**SAVE THE DATE:**

Friday June 28th – 6-8pm Mission Information Meeting & Teambuilding @ Tuscarora Presbyterian Church 6-8 pm. Pizza dinner provided.

Wednesday July 10th – Last minute info and teambuilding @ Hedgesville Presbyterian Church 6-8 pm. Picnic dinner.

Contact: For information Contact Pastor Karen Greenawalt 407-619-2821