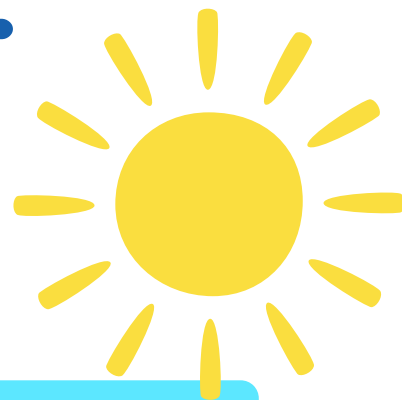


JULY & AUGUST NEWSLETTER

HAPPY SUMMER!



Upcoming events

- **Friday, July 3 & Saturday, July 4:** Brentwood Fourth of July celebrations (see below)
- **Tuesday, July 14:** Session meeting @ 7 pm
- **Wednesday, July 15:** Food pick up
- **Saturday, July 18:** Food distribution
- **Sunday, July 19:** Coffee hour after church
- **Saturday, August 1:** Brentwood yard sale (see page 3)
- **Wednesday, August 12:** Food pick up
- **Saturday, August 15:** Food distribution
- **Sunday, August 16:** Coffee hour after church
- **Monday, August 17:** Session meeting @ 7 pm
- **Sunday, September 6:** Last day of summer worship hours
- **Sunday, September 13:** Sunday school starts again @ 10 am
- **Sunday, September 13:** Worship at 11 am

Fourth of July

Friday, July 3: Free hamburgers and hot dogs on the lawn, starting at 5 pm, as part of the borough festivities.

- **Saturday, July 4:** The food pantry will be walking in the parade! Talk to Cindy Smith to walk.
- **Saturday, July 4:** Help needed with the concession stand before, during, and after the parade. Talk to Terry for more details or to volunteer.

Contact the pastor!

Cell phone:

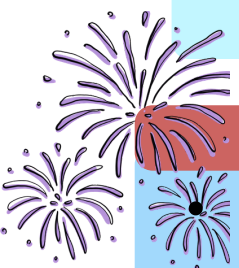
(520) 390-2854

Email:

akanaski@pts.edu

Office hours: 10 am-2 pm every Thursday

Or contact me to set up another time to meet!



Pastor's letter

Happy summer, officially!

I hope all of you have plans you're excited about, whether that is a vacation or sitting with a cool drink, a big holiday party or a book. I hope all of you stay cool and find moments of rest.

I admit, I don't have anything clever to say about summer. It's a bit of an odd time in the church year, at least for me: programs mostly shut down so everyone can have well-deserved times of rest. There's less people in worship because of the heat and vacations and the earlier service time. It's quieter, even as I'm looking ahead to September when things get busier again. We are scattered in a way we aren't the rest of the year.

As we scatter and rest and explore, my prayer for all of us is that we remember what we come together to celebrate and act upon each week: that we are called to worship the Lord our God, love the people we meet, and follow where God leads. May we all go out and do so, wherever our summers may take us.

Blessings,
Alina

Thank you!

Thank you to everyone for their prayers, concern & donations to Brentwood Food Pantry. I really appreciate it. I know Joe would have wanted that also.

Thank you & God bless,
Marian Lytle



Other announcements

July liturgists

July 5–Terry Brown
July 12–Shirley Skala
July 19–Cheryl March
July 26–Debbie Sheehan

August liturgists

August 2–Deb Campbell
August 9–Marla Moore
August 16–Carlianna Connors
August 23–John Crowder
August 30–Pat Campbell

Brentwood Yard Sale

The date for the Brentwood yard sale is Saturday, August 1st. Anyone can rent a table and 2 chairs for \$20. We cannot with help with anything physically. You can set up inside or outside and you can't use our dumpster. We will have a snack bar in Knox Hall. Anyone who can help in the kitchen, see Cheryl March (412) 600-8579 or (412) 885-4989.

Office hours date changes

Alina will not be having office hours on Thursday, July 16 or on Thursday, August 20. **There will be office hours on Wednesday, July 15 and Wednesday, August 19 from 10 am-2 pm.**

Paused for the summer

Sewing circle will next meet on Thursday, September 11 @ 10 am

Teen Bible study is also paused for the summer.





An update on General Assembly

The PC(USA), the denomination that Brentwood is a part of, holds a national convention every other year to make decisions. This event is called General Assembly and it will take place from Monday, June 22-Thursday, July 2.

Since the pandemic, the assembly has included a week of Zoom meetings for the committees to meet and make decisions that then will lead to the discussions and votes at the national assembly in person the following week, this year in Milwaukee, WI.

There are ten committees that met that first week:

- Climate and Environmental Justice
- Constitutional Interpretation
- Financial Stewardship and Witness
- General Assembly Operations
- General Assembly Relationships
- Gender and Sexuality Justice
- Theological Education and Ordination
- Racial Justice
- Reformed Identity Around the World
- Reformed Identity in the United States

Each committee met to deliberate, hear from experts, the authors of overtures, those who agree and disagree with overtures, and others.

Some of the major topics being discussed:

- A new confession has been written for the PC(USA) *Book of Confessions* (Visit <https://www.pc-biz.org/search/3001517> to read the proposed confession.)

- Ongoing needs related to the restructuring at the national level a few years ago.
- Justice issues, including how the denomination invests their money, global warming, LGBTQ+ inclusion, healthcare, what it means to be a good citizen, and global conflicts.
- A new proposed structure for the Ordination Exams for potential pastors.
- The way that the mission-coworkers (missionaries) were dismissed in the midst of the restructuring of the denomination over the last two years.
- There is one highly controversial overture for an Authoritative Interpretation (similar to a President's Executive Order) instructing that only monogamous relationships are appropriate among ordained people (elders, deacons, and pastors). Most of the advisory committees have rejected this overture as poorly written, for going beyond what an Authoritative Interpretation does, or for being vague. The denomination has already started a study and conversation about family structures that would address, among other dynamics, polyamorous families. This overture has led to a lot of online discussion in the denomination and outside it, including an article on Fox News.

This is far from everything! The gathering will also do acts of service, fellowship together, worship, and pray. This sort of careful deliberation of important questions is at the heart of being Presbyterian.

Let us pray for our fellow Presbyterians as they gather, deliberate, discuss, and make decisions that will impact us at Brentwood, our church as a whole, and the world:

Gracious God of the church, we pray for those at the 227th General Assembly of the PC(USA). Be with everyone as they work, listen, share, and make decisions for our church. Give them strength and stamina for long meetings. Allow them to be heard when your spirit moves them to speak, and allow them to listen with the heart of Christ when they disagree. Be with each delegate, staff person, advisory member, and observer. May they enjoy one another's company and share in holy conversation. In the name of Christ who sustains us. Amen.

Many thanks to the Rev. Jessica Dixon, pastor at Prospect Presbyterian Church in Maplewood, NJ for allowing me to use her original letter. I have made some edits.

Want more information or have questions about any of the above? Feel free to reach out to Alina. The following websites are also good resources:

For news, visit pcusa.org/news and <https://pres-outlook.org/>

For the nitty-gritty about what's happening and being discussed at GA, visit <https://www.pc-biz.org/>.

Looking for God

Over the summer I am inviting all of you to look for God in your life. You are surrounded by reminders of God's grace: the voice of a friend, the cardinal outside your window, a meal you've gifted or received, or any one of the other thousands of ways that God reminds you: You are loved. You are precious. God will always be with you.

In this newsletter are two things: first, a bingo card filled with ways God is working in the world. Where do you see God working? The idea isn't to find them all; I can promise God is with you, but I cannot promise where or how God will show up for you in your life. The idea is to look for God, in these places and wherever your summer takes you. These are just some ideas to get you started. And, second, there is a sheet where you're invited to write down where you've felt God show up in your life.

I invite you to both be on the lookout for God, but also to bring that report back to BPC. There will be a box to return slips and scavenger hunt sheets, and at the end of the summer we can remember together all the ways God has shown up for us.

I am so excited to hear about how God shows up for you this summer!

Where did you feel God in your life?

Where did you feel God in your life?