

Church Meetings

COMMUNION BAPTISM—Arya Clark	July 2
Trustee Meeting— 4 p.m.	July 10
PW Bible Study - 10:30 am F & T Lunch - Noon	July 12
Mission, Outreach, and Advertising Meeting— 6 p.m.	July 18
NO Session Meeting	July 25

JULY SERVERS

LAY LITURGIST:

Darleen Fox

GREETER:

DENNIS SHEPHERD

USHERS:

Dennis and Susan Wilson

REFRESHMENTS:

Judy Rust

COUNTERS: Marilyn Woods &

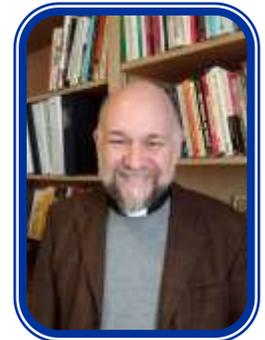
Dennis Shepherd



PASTOR LAWRENCE

Monastic Retreat FAQ

This month I'm going to spend two weeks on monastic retreat. I've been doing this for many years and it's one of the highlights of my year. Monasticism is not part of our Presbyterian experience and people often have a lot of questions. I welcome your questions and I'm going to try to anticipate them with this FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions).



Q: Where is this monastery?

A: It's located just outside Three Rivers, Michigan and it's called St. Gregory's Abbey. It's just over the Michigan border and it's about a four-hour drive from Greensburg.

Q: What do you do there?

A: In short: pray, work, study, and rest. I live as one of the monks on their schedule. They pray seven times a day starting at 4 a.m. I will be assigned work shifts, and I'll probably be mowing, gardening, cleaning, sweeping, and so on. I'll also have plenty of time to rest, read, and take walks

Q: Something something... Catholic?

A: Not all monastics are Catholic. This is a common misperception. In fact, this community is Episcopalian. As such, I'm free to receive Holy Communion there, which is important, since we celebrate the Eucharist daily.

Q: Can you talk?

A: Yes. It's a quiet monastery, but not a silent one. They do request that silence is kept between compline, the last service of the day, and mass the next day. Of course, we speak while doing the liturgy. They do ask that guests respect the stillness of the monastery at all times.

Q: Where do you stay?

A: They have a dormitory for guests. It is very basic but comfortable. I will have my own room with a bed and a desk and they provide clean linens. There are shared bathrooms.

Q: What do you eat?

A: I eat with the monks and other guests. The meals are prepared for us and it's a take it or leave it affair. Most meals are vegetarian, but not all. We tend to eat meat on Sundays and feast days.



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Presbyterian Women

P.W. Bible Study meets Wednesday, July 12 at 10:30 a.m. in the Memorial Room. Kathy Denny will lead the study with Lesson 4- WHO IS JESUS? *According to John*. Part of the lesson is a most interesting DVD introduction to the lesson. Please join us.

Friendship & Talent

Following the P.W. Bible Study is our monthly Friendship and Talent lunch and meeting downstairs in Fellowship Hall, at 12 noon. A delicious lunch will be prepared by Polly Matlock, and Pat Smith will give devotions.

Sisterhood of the Traveling Presbyterians

We will travel to have lunch with Pat Rooker in July. The date is set for Wednesday, July 26th and we will leave the church at 9:30 a.m. Call the church if you would like to join us. Reservations must be made by July 12th.



It is time to collect items for the upcoming Rummage Sale. Our annual P.W. Rummage Sale will be Thursday, October 12th and Friday, October 13th. Please

bring Rummage Sale items to church and put them in the North-East corner classroom in the basement of Fellowship Hall.



IN THE CHURCH LIBRARY

Mike Gommel

THE SHACK

By Wm. Paul Young

Mackenzie Philip's youngest daughter, Missy, has been abducted during a family vacation and evidence that she may have been brutally murdered is found in an abandoned shack deep in the Oregon wilderness. Four years later, in the midst of his Great Sadness, Mack receives a suspicious note, apparently from god, inviting him back to that shack for a weekend. In a world where religion seems to grow increasingly irrelevant, THE SHACK wrestles with the timeless question: Where is God in a world so filled with unspeakable pain?

THE DAY I WAS CRUCIFIED, as told by Jesus the Christ

By Gene Edwards

Other books have recorded the crucifixion and resurrection, but never before has the reader seen the story as imagined in the words of Jesus himself. A unique "autobiography" that will reveal new meaning in Jesus' death.

Prayer Circle, July 2017

Why pray? For many, a prayer is said only when a dire need is in one's life. For others, a prayer is said only when one needs or wants something for others or for themselves. For some, a prayer is said only as a table grace or as a bedtime prayer. For several, a prayer is said so one will receive enlightenment, understanding, direction, nearness to God. Prayer is also a means to offer praise, adoration, honor, and thanksgiving to God.

Why pray? A large sum of people do not feel they are worthy of God to take notice. Or, they feel inadequate as to how they are to talk with God; how to say what they feel.

So, what is prayer? It is developing a friendship with God just the same as when one builds a friendship with a life-long confidant.

Dennis Shepherd, Care of Parish



BAPTISM

July 2

Join us for the baptism of

Arya Rose Clark

Parents: Phillip & Katie
Clark

Grandparent: Larry Clark

Monastic Retreat FAQ— Continued from page 1

Meals are eaten in silence while a designated reader reads from a book chosen by the Abbot, the leader of the community, though books can be suggested by any monks. The books are non-fiction, but not always overtly religious. They tend to like histories. Last year they were reading a study of conspiracy theories from the 1950s to the present day.

Q: Are women allowed?

A: Yes and no. Yes, women are welcome to attend as guests and worship there, but cannot formally join the community. **The July program I'm part of is just for men.**

Q: How many monks live there?

A: **Not many, just seven at the moment. They've never been a big community.** While interest in visiting monastic communities has been on the rise, the commitment to make life vows has gone down greatly since the spike in the 50s and 60s. Part of this July program is to let people who think they might have a vocation to monastic life give it a try for a few weeks. Monasticism is not for everyone.

Q: How do they support themselves?

A: **They don't have an industry like beer-making or farming.** They do own a lot of property that they lease out to area farmers and their wooded property is sustainably farmed for lumber. They also have publications that they sell. Their needs are rather modest and no one there has a salary, though they do have some on-site staff they pay, including a grounds keeper and an office worker. Like most churches, they depend a great deal on offerings.

Q: You worship seven times a day?

A: Yes! This pattern of prayer is set out in the Rule of St. Benedict, which is over 1500 years old. The outline of the daily services at St. Gregory looks like this:

4:00 a.m.	Matins	2:00 p.m.	None
6:00 a.m.	Lauds	5:00 p.m.	Vespers and Meditation
8:15 a.m.	Terce and Mass	7:45 p.m.	Compline
11:30 a.m.	Sext		

Other Benedictine monasteries vary this schedule, though it will look similar.

During the week the community reads and chants through all 150 psalms. Matins is the longest service of the day, running 45 to 50 minutes. Terce, Sext, and None are the shorter services, only lasting about 10 to **15 minutes each. Prayer is the primary work of the monastery. That's what we are there to do. We pray in our silence and our speech, in our singing and our chanting, in our movement and our stillness.**

The services there might look very odd to you. There are almost no hymns, except usually one during mass on Sundays or feast days. Likewise with preaching, sermons only Sundays and feast days. There are plenty of **psalms and scripture reading and prayers. You'd recognize the Gloria Patri which is repeated numerous** times during the day, at meals, at the end of almost every psalm, at the beginning and end of worship, and this is usually accompanied with bowing.

If you look at the Presbyterian order for Daily Prayer – Morning Prayer, Midday Prayer, Evening Prayer, etc. – you will see something that looks more like these monastic services. You can find these liturgies in our Book of Common Worship, which is downloadable for free online as a PDF. You can also find the **Presbyterian Daily Prayer app for your smart phone or tablet. It's a free app.**

Q: Why?

A: **It recharges my batteries. It's a still point in the midst of busyness. It's a reset. It's Sabbath time. It's spiritual boot camp.** Whatever metaphor works for you, I have found this yearly pilgrimage to be beneficial for my soul. **Again, it's not for everyone and I wouldn't recommend it to most people, but it's helpful for me.**

Other Questions?

Feel free to ask me before I go or when I get back!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Lawrence 218-591-9686

pastor.lawrence.lee@gmail.com



Photo by : Rev. J. Barrett Lee

PRAYER FOCUS FOR JULY: July 4th

July 4th commemorates the day in 1776 that our nation declared itself to be an independent nation and no longer a colony of England. On that date, a number of our leading citizens signed the Declaration of Independence stating our determination to become a free country.

Our independence did not come easily; only after several years of war would it be won. Nor were our first years as a nation free from problems and controversies. The Declaration of Independence, our Constitution, and the Bill of Rights became the foundation for a free and democratic system of government. They have stood the test of time, and on July 4th we give thanks for the wisdom, faith, and courage of those long-ago leaders.

Although it is not a religious holiday like Christmas and Easter, for many Americans the 4th of July is a time to reflect on God's goodness to us as a nation. Molded into the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia are these words from the Bible: "Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof." (*Leviticus 25:10, KJV*)

While we look with gratitude to the past this July 4th, may we also look in faith to the future and commit it and our lives to God and His will. The words of the Psalmist are still true: "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord." (*Psalm 33:12*)



Kathy Denny—Care of Parish

Session & Committee News

Session

- * MARY STRADLEY was happily greeted at her first session meeting June 27.
- * The transfer of a new member, WENDY WHITEHEAD, was overwhelmingly approved!
- * GIDEONS will be at the church on July 30th.
- * Copies of a new WORSHIP BOOKLET that has been "in the works" for several months was presented, discussed, and approved with the recommendation that it be "re-visited" by the end of the year.
- * TRUSTEES are working on a schedule for fees for use of the building and facilities.

Trustee Committee

- * The church has replaced seven old FIRE EXTINGUISHERS. The cost was \$7 per extinguisher above the recharge fee that would have been due. This will save us money in lower costs for the future.

Mission Committee:

- * We will have our annual 4th of July WATER DISTRIBUTION during the parade on Tuesday. We need wagons or coolers on wheels, volunteers to help load the wagons with ice and water bottles and we would welcome donations of water. We begin loading the wagons about 9:15 a.m. Please let the office know how you can help or contact Marilyn and Ron Woods, 812-663-6624.

- * ICE CREAM FUNDRAISER is on the calendar for Friday, July 28 from Noon until 5:00 p.m. Although last month's fundraiser was cancelled, we hope to have a good total for the purchase of Aldi gift cards to be donated to AGAPE.

- * BREAD OF LIFE COOKBOOK- Melissa hopes to have 700 recipes. Ladies, and men too, get out your favorite recipes. If they are in good order and easy to read, you don't need to re-write them. Just bring them to church to be photocopied and we will be able to type them into the book. They hope to have the book ready by fall.

PW/Friendship & Talent and the church is donating \$100 for an ad in the Bread of Life Cookbook and also \$100 to the backpack project.

- * We still need many of your photos and information for the PICTORIAL DIRECTORY. By mid-July we will begin contacting members and attendees who have not given a photo or information (only provide what you want to share, birthdays: month and day only). If you can't come to church to have your photo taken, we can arrange with you to have it taken at your home. Please call the church, 812-663-2197, if you need to be photographed at your home.
- * Roy and Linda Simpson have agreed to lead us in this year's DAY OF CARING. The date has been set for Sept. 30.
- * We raised a total of \$375 for PENTECOST. \$150 will go to the Edelweiss House here in Greensburg to help children.



God's Green Earth: Preserving Habitats

Preserving natural habitats has never been so important. Habitat loss is among the greatest threats to species diversity and the natural world. This occurs when natural land cover is destroyed, fragmented, or degraded, usually as a result of human activity. The world is approaching a "state shift" in Earth's biosphere where once 50% of the natural landscape is lost, there may be an ecological collapse, threatening the web of life, including humans. While we are facing species loss and habitat destruction, it is easy to feel overwhelmed and powerless to change things for the better. But any action you take, no matter how small, will help restore the world to its natural balance. If millions of other people do the same, there's hope that we can permanently reverse current trends.

Things You Can Do to Help Preserve Wildlife Habitats

***Think twice when landscaping your yard:** If you own property, you may be tempted to chop down unsightly trees, pull up weeds and ivy, or drain puddles and swamps. But unless you're confronting a genuine safety issue-- **bear in mind that what's unpleasant to you is "home sweet home" to squirrels, birds, worms, and other animals that you may not even know are there.** If you must landscape your yard, do so gently and thoughtfully, in a way that won't drive away native wildlife.

Keep your cats indoors: It's ironic that many people who profess to love wildlife have no problem allowing their cats to roam freely outside--after all, cats are animals, too. The fact is, cats don't think twice about killing wild birds, and they won't even necessarily eat their victims afterward.

Don't feed any animals other than birds: Giving food to animals makes them accustomed to human contact, and not all human beings are as warm-hearted as you are. Feeding wild birds, on the other hand, is perfectly okay, as long as you don't have any outdoor cats and you provide a meal in keeping with the bird's natural diet.

No Bug Zapper: No one likes to be plagued by mosquitoes or flies on their front porch, but that doesn't always justify the use of bug zappers and tiki torches. The light and heat of these contraptions will attract far-away bugs that never had any intention of visiting your house. When they get fried, this deprives other wildlife (frogs, spiders, lizards, etc.) of their accustomed meals. If bugs are really a problem, consider screening off your porch or applying a topical bug spray to your arms and legs instead.

Clean Up Litter: If you're concerned about protecting wildlife, keep the trash and litter cleaned up wherever you see trash. The reason is that small animals can easily get trapped in, or injured by, these artifacts making them easy pickings for any predators that come along or dooming them to a slow death. When garbage accumulates beyond anyone's control, the result is near-complete habitat loss.

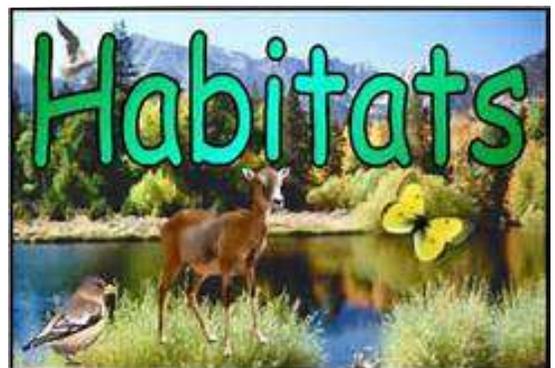
Plant a wildlife garden and build shelters: There are web resources that will teach you how to plant gardens that nourish and protect bees, butterflies, birds, and many other animals. Consider building a shelter on your property for birds, bees, or other animals. (You can construct birdhouses to hang and stock them with the right food.)

When habitats are threatened, so are the animals who live there. **By protecting habitats, we're protecting wildlife.**

For more information and references, go to:

www.everythingconnects.org/preserve-habitats.html

www.thoughtco.com/wildlifeconservation/



2017 Session

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*Seeking to Live God's Word
by Serving Others*

2017
Per Capita
\$38.55

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Marilyn Woods — Mission, Outreach, and Advertising
Katy Prairie
Betty Zillick — Personnel
Dennis Shepherd — Care of Parish
Mary Stradley
Rev. Lawrence Lee — Pastor
Darleen Fox — Clerk



THINKING ABOUT VOLUNTEERING YOUR TIME TO HELP A LOCAL ORGANIZATION?

- Bread of Life • 812-662-4887
- New Directions • 812-662-8822
- Meals on Wheels • 812-663-6099
- AGAPE Center • 812-222-4273
- Big Brothers, Big Sisters • 812-663-7556
- Kids Closet • 812-663-2084
- Decatur County Special Olympics • 812-663-4690
- Decatur County United Fund Adult Literacy Program • 812-560-3820

PLEASE KEEP THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR CONTINUED PRAYERS:

Tuesday, July 4

FPC Mission
Committee's

Water

Give-away

During the Parade

Sunday, July 30

2 p.m.

**Ice Cream Social
at Kingston
Presbyterian Church.**

Shut-ins

Aspen Place, 2320 N. Montgomery Rd., Greensburg, IN 47240

Anna Clemenz— Room 405
Bill Baumgartner— Room 517

Hazel Shonk
At Home, 1029 E. Tara Rd.,
Greensburg, IN 47240

Barb Blare
At home, 207 Orchard Drive,
Greensburg, IN 47240

YOUR PRAYERS DO
MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



Prayers

**Nancy Bockover
Claude Bilbrey
Cathy Crelin
Jonathan Friend- infant
Monique Rust-Metzing
Alice Rust
Michael Yarmuth
Brenda Oldham
Clinton Shepherd
Steve Gookins
Carolyn Adkins
Larry Skinner
Gary Miller**

2017 High School GRADUATES



Our first Ice Cream Fundraiser of the year



Traveling Presbyterians went to Steam Cliff Herb Farm in June

