



The First Presbyterian Church of Sharon, Pa.

E m p h a s i s

 JUNE 2025

“Pentecost is a Party”

It was my grandson Peter’s 8th birthday party. It was a “Nerf Gun Birthday Party,” to be exact. Party goers were to bring a Nerf Gun. I experienced a Nerf Gun Party at my grandson Brixton’s 9th birthday last summer. So I knew what to expect (sort of).

Not wanting to miss any of the fun, I brought my Nerf Gun. It held 10 rounds and shot a long way, both important factors in these Nerf Gun battles. As before it was adults against kids (yes the adults were out-numbered 3 to 1). The game was capture the flag. And if you got shot you had to go back and touch the wall behind your team. There were some boxes to hide behind.

And so the battle was on. Adults charged. Kids charged. Nerf bullets flew. Rules were followed (sort of). And the adults won the first game. We gloated a little.

Round two went the other way. The kids charged from two directions at once. The adults were outnumbered. We couldn’t shoot and load fast enough to beat back the marauding hoards of 8- and 9-year-olds. The kids were pleased.

And then something happened. Rules and order just went out the window. And kids and adults just ran around shooting each other. It was chaos. I was shot with 6 Nerf bullets at once. The kids I had hit earlier decided to get even. And it was all laughter and joy. Something fun, special, and memorable had broken out from the order.

It reminded me of my many squirt gun battles. Everything starts out orderly with squirt guns. And then sooner or later it goes to water balloons and buckets of water. And then finally it’s drenching each other with the hose. Any rules—who cares? And the soaked participants are all smiles.

Presbyterians are orderly types. It’s one of our trademarks as a denomination. We use agendas, committees, and teams, Robert’s Rules, a Book of Order, and proper ways of approval. And there is a strength in that. We are good at planning and process.

But Pentecost is coming and that is something else. Pentecost is the celebration of the gift of God’s Holy Spirit to the Church so to continue the ministry and mission of Jesus. And often the Spirit comes and moves and empowers in surprising ways. Acts 2 describes the Holy Spirit as wind and fire disrupting the order and planning of the first disciples. And with that the surprising mission of the Church begins. We believe it still happens.

(continued on page 3)

Summer 2025 Preaching and Worship Schedule

June

- 1 7th Sunday of Easter. I Samuel 15:1-35
- 8 Pentecost Sunday. **Communion.** Dr. Crooks preaching.
- 15 Summer Worship Begins. **10AM.** Father's Day. I Peter 1:1-12
- 22 Ordination and Installation of Elders and Deacons. I Peter 1:13-21
- 29 Graduation Sunday. Ordination and Installation #2. I Peter 1:22-2:3

July

- 6 I Peter 2:4-10. Dr. Crooks preaching
- 13 Ice Cream Sundae Sunday. Dr. Crooks preaching. I Peter 2:11-17
- 20 I Peter 2:18-25
- 27 I Peter 3:1-7

August

- 3 I Peter 3:8-12
- 10 Summer Communion. I Peter 3:13-17
- 17 I Peter 3:18-22. Dr. Crooks preaching
- 24 I Peter 4:1-6. Dr. Crooks preaching
- 31 I Peter 4:7-11

September

- 7 I Peter 4:12-19
- 14 Mission Sunday
- 21 I Peter 5:1-6
- 28 I Peter 5:7-14. Dr. Crooks preaching

Summer Worship Notes

Summer worship begins June 15. Worship moves to 10AM in Fellowship Hall with a/c, digital projection, and a more casual feel. The choir takes the summer off, and guest musicians add to worship.

Pentecost is June 8th. This is the Church celebration that remembers the coming of God's Holy Spirit, which empowers the Church to continue the ministry and mission of the risen Christ. Worship will include communion. Everyone is encouraged to wear red.



MISSION TEAM PRAYER PROGRAM

Sharon Police Department

June Adopt-a-Cop
Justin C. Wiley

July Adopt-a-Cop
Joseph A. Zajac

August Adopt-a-Cop
Devin J. Fosler



1 Beverley Moyer
1 Justin Ray
2 Sonia Wiley
3 Patrick Oman
5 Betty Bennett
7 Eric Gonano
7 Donna Smith
8 Caden Bender
8 David Reel
10 William McIntyre
10 PJ Nespor

11 Jill Lindey
11 Courtney Smoot
14 Sara Kish
15 Peter Raatz
20 Rebecca Wolf
24 Katherine Sullivan
25 Bob Loch
25 Kaleb Walker
28 Jake Moyer
28 Brandon Pyle
31 Gloria Harakal



4 Ron Eddy
4 John Kish
5 Jean Meyer
7 Robert Ball
8 Bill Fritz
11 James Leone
12 Matt Bartholomew
15 Nancy Fritz
15 Linda Clark
15 Rachel Haney-Myers
16 James Wolf
16 Marilyn Walker
17 Art Reichenfeld

20 Barbara Wilcox
21 Bob Donner II
22 Lyle Bieber
22 Sharonn Edmiston
23 Laura Donner
23 Gail Hink
23 Lindsay Holsopple
25 Ian Connelly
27 Betty Hudson
27 Margaret Patterson
27 Ruth Ann Shearer
27 Roland Evans
29 Owen Raatz



1 Lindsay Buxton
2 Adalyn Jones
3 Alexandria Plyler
5 Glenda Cunningham
5 Sarah Miller
5 Cassidy Miller
6 Lynn Pyle
9 Ralph Robinson
9 Jaxson Holsopple
10 Ron Ruth
11 Bryson Smoot
12 Jackie Bandzak
12 Samuel Plyler
17 Grace Connelly
17 Gail Shuttleworth
18 Inge Amundsen
19 Merry Ann Groves

21 Alec Moyer
21 Katelynn Moyer
22 Barry Kirby
24 Joan Dunlavey
24 Ed Fletcher
26 Earlene McCracken
28 Bruce Hofius
28 Lori Haney
29 Nan Warren
29 Liz Wirth
30 Shari Getway
30 Pam Maloney
30 Chandler Toskin
31 George Warren
31 Jane Schuster



So this Pentecost I'm going to remember the spontaneous joy and chaos of Nerf bullets flying, and kids and adults laughing. I'll remember something that moved us beyond the rules and planning to simple and surprising joy. So I'll pay attention for the moving of the Spirit that might come like a Nerf bullet from heaven.

A Nerf Battle Veteran,
Glenn



1st Church will continue our live stream worship services during the summer. So if you are away on vacation Sunday mornings you can still share in worship at your convenience. To share in worship online simply: Visit the 1st Church Facebook Page, click on the You Tube link, and click on "live;" or visit the 1st Church website, click on "FPC Videos," and click on "live." Either way will take you to our You Tube Channel and our online service.

More Worship Notes

Graduate Sunday is June 29th. If you have a child or grandchild who is graduating from high school, college, trade school, community college, or graduate school and you would like 1st Church to celebrate with you please contact Brenda Hall (Director of Family Ministries) or Nancy Fritz (Office Admin).

Ice Cream Sundae Sunday is July 13th. Everyone is encouraged to stay after worship for free sundaes or root beer floats.

Summer communion is August 10th. Communion is celebrated with the bread and cups on a banquet table in the middle of Fellowship Hall. The experience is 1st Church gathered around a table with each other and the risen Christ at a banquet. There is a strong sense of "community/communion" in this worship service.

Mission Sunday is September 14th. On this Sunday the 1st Church Mission Team will lead worship sharing about some of the missions of 1st Church through stories and digital projection. This is an extra special Sunday at 1st Church.

The summer sermon series will be from I Peter. This book encourages Christians who have become aliens in a hostile pagan and secular culture. In such a situation Christians are to courageously bear witness to the goodness and truth of the Christian faith.

Church Attendance for April 2025

2024			2025			Online
7th	83		6	83		63 views
14th	84	Maundy Thursday	13	108	Palm Sunday	79 views
21st	71	Easter	20	153	Easter	66 views
28th	75		27	115		98 views
	313	29%		459	43%	



Remember Our Shut-Ins

Ridgewood 724-347-0998
One Elston Way, Hermitage, PA 16148

Gail Hink, 206
Shirley Sankey, 303
Mary Ellen Foltz, 305
Maggie Reel, 404

The Meadows
308 W Warren St., RM 202A
Cadiz, OH 43907
Betty Hudson



Puzzle!

A FATHER'S INSTRUCTION

Although babies don't come with instructions, God tells parents how to raise their children.

Directions: Fill in the blanks with letters, using the number grid to find the correct coordinates. The first number goes across, the second one goes down.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	a	L	d	i	j	g	r
2	m	b	o	k	h	u	s
3	e	n	c	x	t	p	f

2,2 7,1 4,1 2,3 6,1 5,3 5,2 1,3 1,2

6,2 6,3 4,1 2,3 5,3 5,2 1,3

5,3 7,1 1,1 4,1 2,3 4,1 2,3 6,1 1,1 2,3 3,1

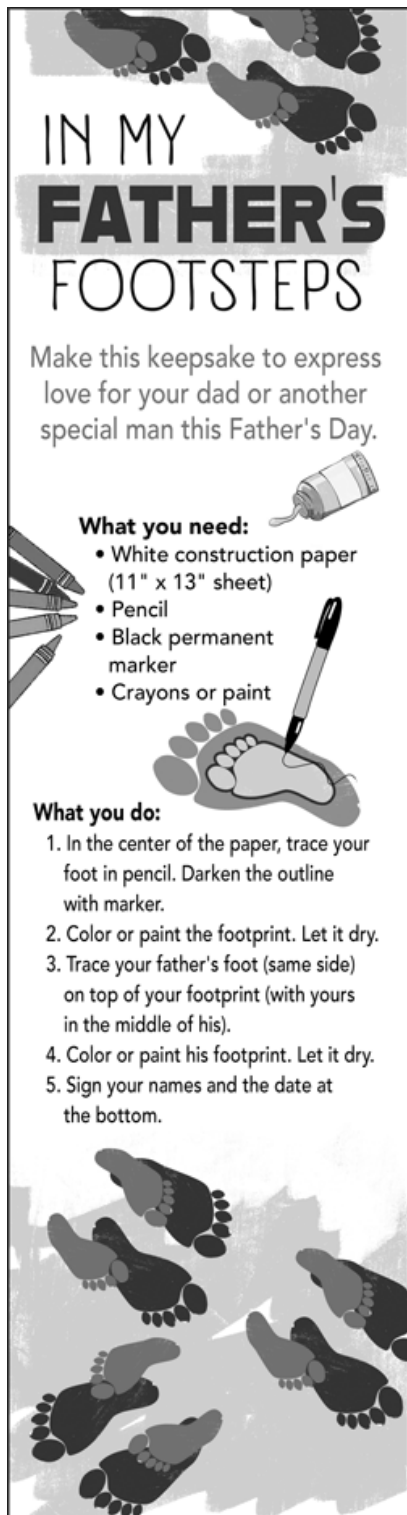
4,1 2,3 7,2 5,3 7,1 6,2 3,3 5,3 4,1 3,2 2,3

3,2 7,3 5,3 5,2 1,3 2,1 3,2 7,1 3,1

Ephesians 6:4, NIV

Special Dates in June

- ♦ Pentecost, June 8
- ♦ Flag Day, June 14
- ♦ Fathers' Day, June 15
- ♦ Juneteenth, June 19
- ♦ First Day of Summer, June 20



Thoughts for Father's Day

A careful man I ought to be; a little fellow follows me;
I do not dare to go astray, for fear he'll go the self-same way.

I cannot once escape his eyes; whate'er he sees me do, he tries —
Like me, he says, he's going to be, the little chap who follows me.

He thinks that I am good and fine, believes in every word of mine:
The base in me he must not see, the little chap who follows me.

I must remember as I go, through summer's sun and winter's snow,
I'm building for the years to be, for a little fellow follows me.

—Author unknown



It's the season of graduations. Graduate Sunday at 1st Church will be June 29th. If you have a child or grandchild graduating from high school, college, trade school, community or graduate school and would like to have them recognized, contact Brenda Hall or Nancy in the church office.



The Community and Economic Development Department of Sharon is responsible for various community and economic development projects and programs. The City of Sharon is an entitlement CDBG municipality, which means Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provides an annual allocation. Funding from this source supports The **Lots to Love** Program. This program is an effort

to revitalize empty lots and decrease blight in the City of Sharon.

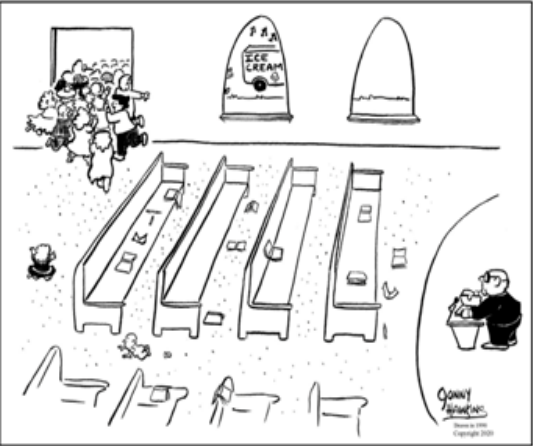
Several years ago, 1st Church decided to adopt the Sponsor a Lot Strategy which allows community members to sponsor the maintenance of a lot, so that the grass is cut and doesn't become overgrown or neglected, becoming an eyesore to the neighborhood. You may have heard about the **Frontlawners**. They are church members that maintain this lot as well as another in the city.

The Mission Team will be hosting a **Block Party Event on June 26th from 5pm – 7pm** at the lot located at the corner of Fifth and Fullerton. Parking will be at 1st Church and the Barnabus will be available to shuttle folks over. There will be freshly grilled food, live music, activities for kids, fun and fellowship. Last year's event was a huge hit with the neighborhood!

All are welcome so mark your calendar and join us as we meet "on the corner of faith and life."

June Jollies

JUNE 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:30 Choir Practice 10:00 Adult Sunday School -FH 11:00 Worship in Sanctuary 12:00 Fellowship@1st	2 6:30 Scouts Pre- Camp Mtg.-Library	3	4 1:00 Staff Mtg.-106	5	6	7
8 9:30 Choir Practice 10:00 Adult Sunday School-FH 11:00 Worship in Sanctuary 12:00 Fellowship@1st 12:00 D&M-Library 12:00 Deacons-106 12:00 Worship Team-Parlor 12:00 Mission Team-FH	9	10	11 7:00 Men's Fellow- ship-Panera	12	13	14 
15 	16	17	18 1:00 Program Staff- CR 5:00 Admin. Team- CR	19	20 First day of sum- mer	21 10:00 SVC Board- Rm. 206
22 2:30 Ridgewood Com- munion 6:00 Session	23 5:00 Presbytery Op- erations Team-CR	24 6:00 Amateur Radio Club-FH	25 7:00 Men's Fellow- ship-Panera	26 5:00-7:00 Lots of Love Event-5th & Fullerton	27	28
29 Graduate Sun- day	30 <i>Sundays in June starting June 15</i> <i>10:00 Worship in Fellowship Hall</i> <i>11:00 Fellowship@First in Fellowship Hall</i> FH = Fellowship Hall CR = Conference Room					