

Tidings and Treasures - August, 2021

Dear PVEC Community: August includes its fair share of obscure "holidays" including National Catfish Month, Friendship Week, and Bad Poetry Day. This month is also your chance to celebrate National Make-A-Will Month.

Here's why you need a will:

1. It's an important legal document that everyone should have; a powerful document that lets you distribute your property and protect your loved ones after you pass away.
2. It provides peace of mind to you and your family. Wills aren't just for the rich and famous. They make life (and death) easier for everyone, regardless of socioeconomic status. You may not think you own a lot, but you likely have more property than you realize: your home, vehicles, furniture, clothing, books, sentimental items, and more. Creating a will ensures your assets go to the people you most want to have them. With a will, you can also plan ahead for those who are in your care (children, pets).
3. It lets you create a legacy that lasts beyond your lifetime. None of us live forever. But there are ways to continue making a positive impact on this world long after you leave it. One of these ways is by donating to your church in your will. You can give cash, stock, real estate property, and more. Leaving a gift for PVEC in your will costs you nothing during your lifetime, but will ensure that you can make a positive impact on causes close to your heart for years to come.

Here is a way of giving to the church while you're still alive (and save income tax). If you are 70 ½ or older you can call your broker and ask them to send a QCD (Qualified Charitable Distribution) to you with a check payable to Panther Valley Ecumenical Church. In this way, you get to pay your pledge and satisfy your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from your IRAs; thus saving yourself from paying federal income tax on the money! (I do this quarterly). The one rule is that you need to have the church cash the check before 12/31, so don't delay! Our website www.PantherValleyChurch.org under the WAYS TO GIVE tab explains several ways in which you can financially support our ministries. You too, can be the hands and feet of Jesus - We will do great things for others in need with your money!

PVEC's doors are open for in-person worship! Pew cushions are now in place, and our Bibles are back in their rightful holders. Masks are required (as singing is now happening). We gather in the sanctuary at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday but will continue to stream our services for those who do not feel comfortable coming into the sanctuary at this time.

PVEC's Current Outreach to both our Members and Community:

1. Youth Group activities are starting (ages 10 and up) September 24th with Theater Skit Night (6-8pm)
2. Contemplative Morning Prayer (8:30 – 9:00) is available on our website or Wednesdays in our sanctuary
3. Christian Outreach is holding its annual Backpack program for school supplies to needy families in our area. We are collecting: Spiral notebooks, crayons, pens and pencils, glue sticks, pocket folders (in solid colors). Also Small bag treats: goldfish crackers, pretzels, saltine crackers, or anything similar (they just need to be nut-free). All can be dropped off in the Narthex or outside the office downstairs
4. Our Food Pantry continues to be a place where we nourish individuals and families in need with grocery bags filled with frozen food, canned and packaged goods, and much needed household items.
5. We continue to offer our \$5 Take-out Chicken Dinner once per month – next one is September 9
6. "Friends and Neighbors of Allamuchy" will be using both PVEC's indoor and outdoor facilities to hold their Mega Event on September 25. Tricky Tray, Raffles, Yard Sale, Food – sounds like fun!

A Joke for Sunday School kids: A teacher decided to have her 2nd grade class memorize Psalm 23, one of the most quoted passages in the Bible. She gave the children a month to learn the passage. One little boy was excited about the task, but he just couldn't memorize the Psalm. Although he practiced and practiced, he could hardly get past the first line. The day came for the children to recite Psalm 23 before the congregation. The little boy was nervous. When his turn came, he stepped up to the microphone and proudly said, "The Lord is my Shepherd and that's all I need to know!"

A Joke for Adults: An Irishman goes into the confessional box after years of being away from the Church. There's a fully equipped bar with Guinness on tap. On the other wall is a dazzling array of the finest cigars and chocolates. Then the priest comes in. "Father, forgive me, for it's been a very long time since I've been to confession," says our man. "But I must first admit that the confessional box is much more inviting than it used to be." "Get out," says the priest. "You're on my side."

My Stewardship Prayer for all of us:

Eternal God, we pray that by your grace we will make stewardship a way of life. You are the source of all we have and all that we are. Help us to place you, our loving Creator, first in our lives by becoming more prayerful, more focused on loving and caring for our families and our neighbors in need, and by becoming less preoccupied with material things.

Help us to hear your call to be good stewards, caretakers, and managers of all your gifts by sharing them for your purposes. Help us make your priorities our priorities and to put our faith into action.

Help us to generously share the talents, treasures and time with which we have been blessed. Help us Lord to serve our church, our community, and our world with the gifts you have given us. Teach us how to give with a joyful spirit, with love, and with hope. Amen. **Blessings, Donna Weinberg**