



MONTEREY and BEULAH

eNewsletter

September, 2023

SEPTEMBER CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays

September 2 – Stone Chambers
September 8 – Lillian Dever
September 10 – Bill Cox
September 12 – Barbara Hevener & Mary Winters Blanchard
September 14 – Troy Baxley
September 16 – Ann Foster
September 20 – Mark Swecker
September 26 – Mary Lou Cox

Anniversaries

September 10 – Mike and Sally Humphries
September 14 – Joe and Phyllis Brock
September 27 – Rick Hill and Judy Roberts
September 29 – Lloyd and Kimberly Bird

PRAYER LIST – Mike Armstrong, Amy Vaus, Barbara Hevener, Ruby Swecker, Ray Mueller Lillian and Garland Dever, Marlene Reynolds, Bill and Mary Lou Cox and others each of us carry in our hearts.

Condolences to the Chambers family at the passing of Heath's aunt, Billie Perrin, who lived in Texas.

PDA and Maui (information provided by Shenandoah Presbytery)

As we see the news and hear the stories of the devastating fires consuming parts of Maui, Hawaii, our hearts are filled with sadness. Authorities are calling the fires the deadliest natural disaster in state history. More than 2,000 buildings have been significantly damaged – over 80% of those residential homes, with thousands of families displaced – and wildlife habitats have been destroyed, their environment in jeopardy. More than 100 deaths have been confirmed, and sadly, the number keeps increasing.

In collaboration with the Presbytery of the Pacific and its leadership, PDA has been in communication with pastors in the affected communities and elsewhere in Hawaii. PDA has already released emergency grants to meet the urgent needs of the communities and to provide immediate care. The magnitude of the event will require the development of long-term projects and assistance, both for the physical and emotional long-lasting effects. Presbyterians from Oahu are participating in coordination calls with other nonprofit and faith-based disaster organizations to ensure that no one is forgotten. PDA affirms our commitment to accompany those affected by this disaster.

GIVE: Financial gifts can be made by phone at (800) 872-3283, or by check made payable to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) with "**DR000165-Hawaii**" written on the memo line and mailed to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), PO Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.

PRAY: As we work together with our colleagues in the United Church of Christ (UCC), who have many churches on Maui, we share a prayer from the Rev. Dr. David K. Popham, UCC Hawai'i Conference minister:

It came so fast God, relentlessly driven by winds and we were so vulnerable. Escaping with the clothes on our backs. Lives in tatters. Homes gone. Businesses gone. Jobs gone. Lives lost. Where do we go to even raise our prayers when our hale pule became a burnt victim to the ravages of the fire? There is so much loss, so much that one day was there and is now ashes. Comfort us in our tears and carry our heavy hearts in our time of sorrow.

Eventually Ke Akua, our energy will turn to rebuilding our homes, our businesses, our jobs, our lives. Walk with us during the long recovery that lies ahead. We will become frustrated by bureaucratic red tape and supply chain delays and price gouging. We will fume and shake our fists and we will cry even more tears. Yet, the journey will not be as overwhelming with you by our side.

Bless O God, those fighting these wildfires and those fires yet to come during this dry season. Grant wisdom and insights to our government officials—county and state—as they navigate how best to administer the government response. Lift up on wings our pastoral leaders as they give spiritual nurture to those depleted by these fires.

May we root ourselves in you God, knowing your Spirit groans with ours. Grant us succor in this time and in the days ahead. 'Amen.

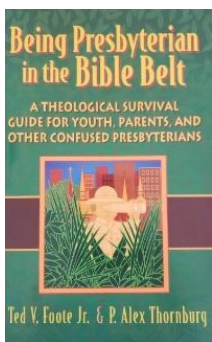
A big "thank you" to our youth in grades 8-12 who led worship at Monterey on August 27; Autumn Warner, Hannah Meyerhoeffer, Steven Rogers, Levi Warner, Mary Anne Rogers, and Jack Herold. They met throughout the month of August to prepare, and had assistance from Karl Sax, Cash Chambers, Stone Chambers, Anna Chambers and Holden Chambers, who weren't physically present on the 27th, but helped write the service and encourage their friends. You can find the youth service, as well as the Beulah service on the 27th, posted on our Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/MPCandBPC> and our website - <https://beulahmontereypres.org/>



Please see Elizabeth Lohr-Myers if you are interested in singing in a church choir. Our next practice will be Sunday, September 17, following the worship service at MPC.

Training for youth and adults interested in video/streaming special events at Monterey Presbyterian Church will be after worship on Sunday, Sept 10, 2023. We need volunteers for this activity so our worship services and special events can be live-streamed or filmed and posted on the Facebook page and church website.

MONTEREY PRESBYTERIAN - September cleanup & winterizing project is Saturday, September 16 at 10 A.M. with lunch served after. Projects will include; organizing the storage building, straightening up the pastor's office, weeding and winterizing the garden beds, preparing meals to freeze and more! There will be something for everyone to do. The more volunteers, the more we can get done in a shorter period of time.



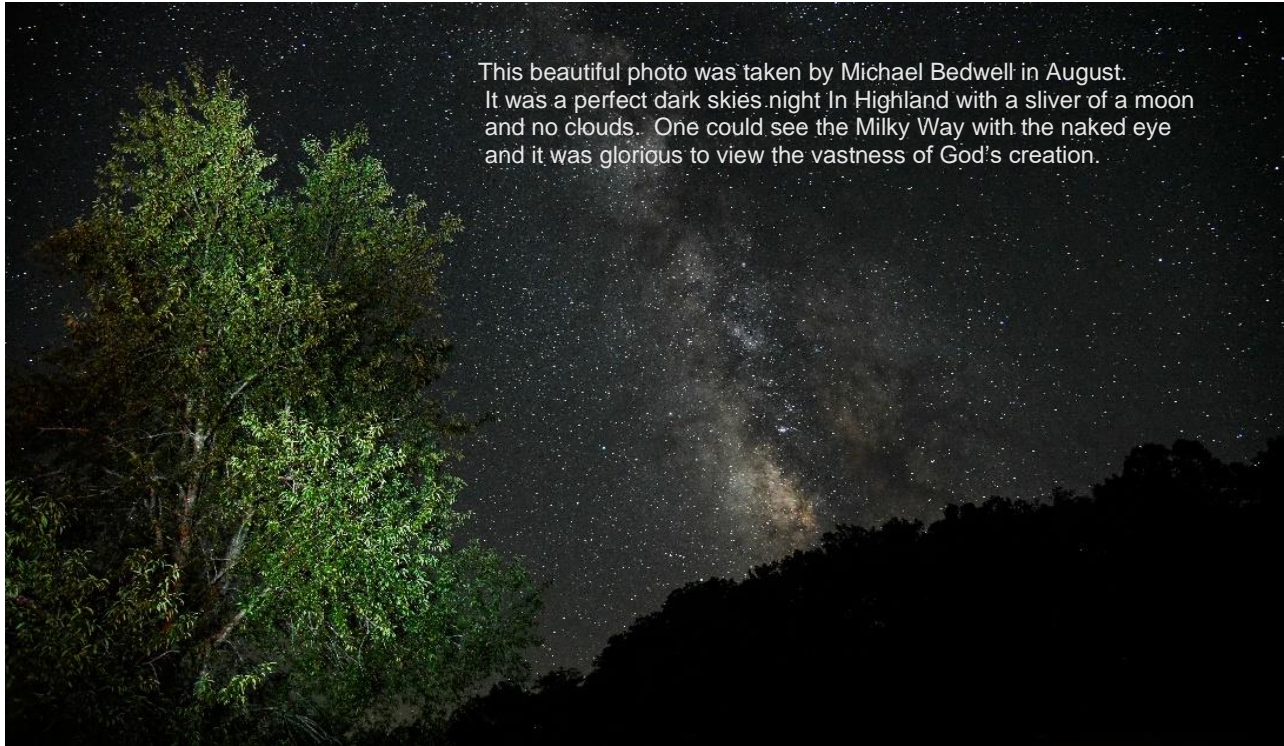
MONTEREY PRESBYTERIAN BOOK STUDY for potential new members, as well as anyone else wanting a better understanding of what Presbyterians believe. After reading on your own, we will meet to discuss. Copies of the text will be provided at no cost.

New books for children in the library at MPC



If you would like to send a card to Garland and Lillian Dever, their new address is:
 Shenandoah Valley Health and Rehab
 Room 113
 3737 Catalpa Avenue
 Buena Vista VA 24416

(Lillian's birthday is September 8)



This beautiful photo was taken by Michael Bedwell in August. It was a perfect dark skies night in Highland with a sliver of a moon and no clouds. One could see the Milky Way with the naked eye and it was glorious to view the vastness of God's creation.

A similar experience is planned for Saturday, September 16, when the public is invited to the **2023 Highland County Star Party**. The event will be held at the Skip Jones property at 923 Sounding Knob Road, Monterey. From US 250, turn south onto Sounding Knob Road and drive up the steep gravel road for approximately a mile and a half. The address will be marked on the left. High clearance vehicles are recommended. If the weather is not cooperative, a cancellation will be announced that day by 4:00 pm on WVLS and on the Highland County Stargazer Facebook page, the Highland County Chamber of Commerce website and The Recorder Facebook page. An additional star party is planned for 10/14. No charge for attending and it is life changing to experience.

2023 Highland County Fair Photos





These photos were taken by Tomi Herold, Shelly Bratton Thomas, and/or posted on Facebook.