

# WEST ALEXANDER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## Monthly Newsletter-July 2026

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### Greetings Corner

#### Romans 7:13–25

*“For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.” — Romans 7:19 (KJV)*

In this passage, the Apostle Paul the Apostle describes a struggle that every Christian knows well. He delights in God’s law and genuinely desires to do what is right, yet he finds himself battling sinful desires and falling short of God’s perfect standard.

Many believers have read these verses and thought, “That’s exactly how I feel.” We want to pray more faithfully, love more completely, forgive more readily, and trust God more fully. Yet we often find ourselves doing the very things we wish we wouldn’t do.

Paul’s words remind us that this struggle is not evidence that God has abandoned us. In fact, the struggle itself is often evidence that God’s Spirit is at work within us. Before coming to Christ, we may have sinned without much concern. Now, because we belong to Him, we feel the tension between our new nature and the lingering presence of sin.

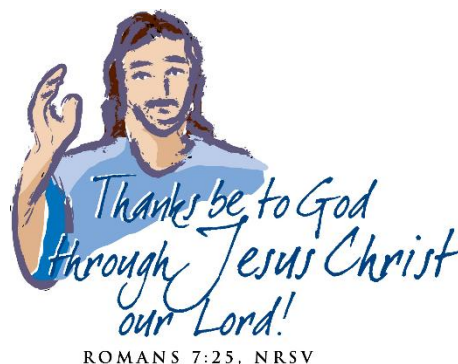
Paul’s cry, *“O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?”* (v. 24), is not the cry of a hopeless man. It is the cry of a believer who knows he cannot save himself.

And immediately comes the answer:

*“I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord.”* (v. 25)

Our hope is not found in our ability to win every battle perfectly. Our hope is found in Christ, who has already won the victory for us. While we continue to struggle against sin in this life, we do so as people who have been redeemed, forgiven, and promised ultimate deliverance.

A comforting truth to remember: the Christian life is not the absence of struggle—it is the presence of Christ in the midst of the struggle.



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## Events Corner

July

NO Committee meetings this month – have a great summer!

### Vacation Bible School Week

VBS Week is almost here, and we are excited to welcome **children ages 3 through grade 5** for a week filled with faith, fun and friendship. Join us **July 26-July 30 from 6-8pm** as kids explore Bible stories through music, crafts, games and hands-on activities. VBS is a wonderful opportunity for children to grow in their faith while building friendships in a safe, joyful environment. This year, the theme is “Snowball Mountain Challenge” here children learn how to find strength in God.

**Volunteers are still welcome**, and prayers are always appreciated as we prepare for a meaningful week together. **Please see Patty Johnson to volunteer!**



### Our Awesome God

*When our lives are focused on God, awe and wonder lead us to worship, filling our inner being with a fullness we may never have thought possible. Awe prepares the way for God's transforming power within us. This transformation of our inner attitudes takes place as awe leads us into wonder, admiration, reverence, surrender and obedience before God.*

*—James Houston, The Transforming Power of Prayer*

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## Birthdays and Announcement Corner

|         |                    |
|---------|--------------------|
| July 5  | Christine McMurray |
| July 11 | Rich Hunter        |
| July 16 | Dylan McCuen       |
| July 16 | Jacob Teagarden    |
| July 23 | Bob Morgan         |
| July 24 | Lou Winters        |
| July 29 | John Mark Hunter   |



### Independence Day-July 4

As we celebrate Independence Day, we thank God for the blessings of freedom—and the hope we have in Christ, who sets us truly free. “So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.” —John 8:36

### “America the Beautiful”

Katharine Lee Bates (1859-1929) wrote, edited and taught English in her native Massachusetts. Occasionally, she wrote hymns, too.

On a trip to Colorado, Bates was greatly impressed by amber waves of grain, fruited plains and purple mountain majesties. She believed that God had definitely shed his grace all across this land. A visit to the summit of Pikes Peak inspired Bates to write her most famous poem-hymn, “America the Beautiful.”

Bates also realized that patriotism was an important part of America. She was grateful for heroes “who more than self their country loved and mercy more than life.” She wanted all Americans to realize how God had shed his grace on them and had crowned what was good “with brotherhood from sea to shining sea.”

Bates embodied the spirit of thankfulness to God for all she had experienced and been given.

## Missions/Outreach Corner

### 10% GIVING REPORT FOR 2026:



As a Church, through the Mission/Evangelism Committee, we give 10% of our monthly tithes to various missions. Listed below are the charities we have supported for 2026:

**January 2026:** Coalition of Christian Outreach (Jubilee) benefiting local college students.

**February 2026:** McGuffey Community Bible Program (Bible Release).

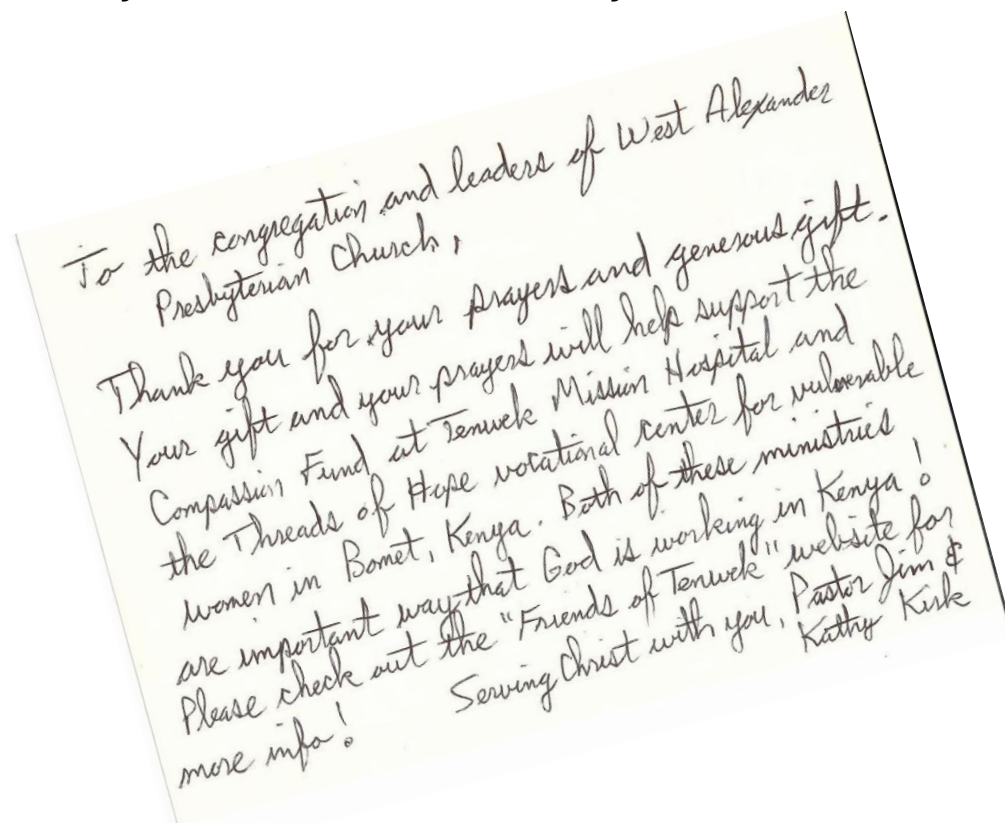
**March 2026:** Bryan Brown Fundraiser as assistance for medical expenses.

**April 2026:** Resurrection Power. Resurrection Power is a Washington County, PA-based non-profit (founded 2001) providing Christian-based recovery housing and support for men and women battling drug and alcohol addiction.

**May 2026:** Bedillion Pizza; This local business provides free pizza and drinks to children during summer recess when they do not have access to school lunches.

**June 2026:** Rev. Dr. Jim Kirk, Pastor from Waynesburg for his mission trip to Kenya. He and his family minister at Tenwek Missionary Hospital where his daughter, will be working in surgery teaching surgical residents there. His Son-in-law is an Anglican Priest and will be working with the local churches. This amazing hospital expresses the Gospel of Jesus Christ to every patient admitted. Their hospital motto is "We Treat, Jesus Heals!"

### **A thank you note from Pastor Jim and Kathy Kirk:**



THANK YOU  
for  
  
GIVING

Hi WARC brothers & sisters!

6/18/26

Thanks for your prayers for us these past couple of months. Things have been quite full!

**Clark**-Clark (13, 6th grade) finished up at school on June 10th after 3 months at the Christian school (homeschooled prior). We are very proud of him (and his 77% in Spanish class! Ha!). I was able to sub the last 4 weeks which was fun because then I saw how everyone knew Clark in the hallways and classes (the Giants' Fan). One junior couldn't remember my last name and called me, "Mrs. Clark's Mom."



**JB**-JB turned 12 and can't stop reading. He recently reorganized his room to make room for a bookshelf of all of his collections. *The Wingfeather Saga* and *Lord of the Rings* series are the faves with the *Prydain* series and *Narnia* close behind. He finished his homeschool curriculum and we celebrated with Clark by driving to the city for a meal at Dairy Queen on June 10th.

**Daniel**-The last day of school for the littles is June 26th. Daniel's been inspired by all the World Cup excitement and is trying to improve his soccer skills. For the past 2 weeks he's been pushing himself to play soccer outside each night, often getting the other boys involved. Clark has mixed emotions about it since "it's backyard baseball season" in his

mind. :)

**Philip**-Philip turned 9 last week and had his first party with friends (4 boys). He was so excited and had it all planned out what they were going to do for the 2.5 hours (which encouraged this momma). It was so hot that the chaos ended with squirt guns, a hose, and buckets of water being thrown. We had to loan out some towels to families for the ride home.

**Ray**-With JB and Philip having birthdays, Ray can't stop talking about his birthday which isn't until Aug 2nd. (he will be 6). He celebrated his finish to Kindergarten on Wednesday and Mrs. Premo is going to miss not having another Nelson to look forward to. He's still the sweetest and asks me often to give him hugs. I'm trying to soak it all up!



**Andy and I** are doing well and recently squeezed a lunch date in while Clark and JB attended a Babysitters Training Course (CPR training and everything)! How awesome it is to have entered this new phase where we won't have to pay babysitters! Woohoo! Andy finished coaching Philip's soccer team and is glad to have a Sunday off when we visit family for the 4th of July weekend. I'd love your prayers as I've applied to work at Clark's school next year. They plan to keep in touch as they figure out openings. I really like the school and am excited to get back to teaching / working in a school setting. We are praying the Lord makes a way for me to work there and for all the boys to attend. Thanks for praying.

**Family Fun Nights, the Ladies' Luncheon and Men's Breakfast** all went well and we were glad to have some visitors at each. We are in final planning mode for our **VBS** which is coming quickly (July 28-31). Please be in prayer for it as you think of us. We've decided to create a 'Youth Group' time for half of each evening so the older kids can do a craft and game just like the younger kids. We hope this will jump start a youth group for next school year (for the first time in 40 years).

Andy has been **preaching through Matthew** since January and is now in chapter 5, diving into the Sermon on the Mount. Matthew 5:17 says, "Don't misunderstand why I (Jesus) have come. I did not come to abolish the law of Moses or the writings of the prophets. No, I came to accomplish their purpose."

We are praying for each of you to have a blessed summer and that the Lord would draw you nearer to Himself. He loves you so much!

Heather and Andy 😊  
10 Legenbauer Rd  
Averill Park, NY 12018  
H: 304-563-0627, A: 518-268-0907

*We will see you  
on July 5th Lord willing 😊  
Heather*

## DID YOU KNOW?

### A dollar bill's message

Look at the back of a dollar bill. On the left circle, which is one side of the Great Seal, are the Latin words *Annuit Coeptis*, which mean "He [God] favors our undertakings."

The pyramid in the left circle represents material strength and endurance. Yet the open spot near the top of the pyramid means there's more good work to be done in our country. The "eye" atop the pyramid represents the "eye of God," watching and reminding us that spiritual matters are more important than material concerns. Under the pyramid, *Novus Ordo Seclorum* refers to a "new order of the ages."

On the right circle is an eagle, our country's national emblem, symbolizing strength and victory. The shield on the eagle's breast signifies self-reliance. One of the eagle's claws holds an olive branch, representing peace. The other talon holds arrows, referring to power and protection.

The center of the bill says "In God We Trust."



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## Connections Corner

Summer Hours---Sunday Morning Worship—10:00 am

Sunday Morning Adult Friendship Class-Choir Room 9:15 am

Sunday Morning Adult Praying Hearts Group-Fellowship Hall 9:15 am

Sunday Morning Children's Time-Youth Room 9:15 am

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## Prayer Corner

To request prayer by the church, call or email the church office. Praying Hearts Group will receive your request and honor it. Also, Elder Jane Noble, Clerk of Session, 304.639.9148 welcomes your prayer requests. Please tell us if your request is to be held in confidence or included in the Prayers for the People in morning worship.

God of freedom, I pray for the time when all "earth and heaven [will] ring ... with the harmonies of liberty" (James W. Johnson).

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## Church Information

### Church Officers

| <u>2026</u>                                                            | <u>2027</u>                                      | <u>2028</u>  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| <u>Session:</u> Mary Lea Dutton<br>Lynne Glessner<br>Jane Noble, Clerk | Patty Johnson<br>Jodi Noble<br>Bob Morgan        |              |
| <u>Deacons:</u> Gino Delbert<br>Lee Ann Delbert<br>Kathy Strawn        | Peggy McCuen<br>Beverly Philabaum<br>Regina Wood | Dianna Smith |
| <u>Trustees:</u><br>Barb Rodgers<br>Lee Rodgers, Pres.                 | Doug Teagarden<br>Bob Wagner<br>Tiffany Wagner   | Will Noble   |



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Website: [www.wapresbyterianchurch.org](http://www.wapresbyterianchurch.org)

Facebook group: West Alexander Presbyterian Church Family and Friends

Church Email: [wapc-admin@comcast.net](mailto:wapc-admin@comcast.net)