



FROM THE
PASTOR'S DESK

Rev. Dr. Doug Rehberg



Heaven

For four Sundays this summer, Bill Martin led us through a brief, but an illuminating discussion of what heaven will be like for those who know and trust Christ. Drawing on Scripture, and the writings many godly saints over the millennia, Bill was able to go far beyond what most modern writers tell us about what heaven will be like.

Perhaps the most poignant New Testament reference to heaven is the one Paul cites in I Corinthians 2:9, "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered the heart of man, the things which God has prepared for those who love Him" (NKJV). What is so very clear is that heaven will not be anything like a polished-up earth. Heaven will be a totally new reality. In fact, dwelling in the unveiled presence of God will be an entirely different dimension than anything you and I have ever known. And no one seemed to grasp this fact any better than French philosopher, writer, political activist, and Christian mystic, Simeon Weil (1909-1943). Several years before her death she uttered a line I've never forgotten. Before I give it to you, two stories.

More than 43 years ago, Barb and I traveled to Scotland for our honeymoon. It was a great trip. We traveled over 2,500 kilometers in a rented sub-compact. We saw countless sights, visited family, and even golfed. But among all the memories is one from the night we spent in a St. Andrews B&B. To say that it looked far better in the brochure than in person is an understatement. The place was devoid of the normal, modern creature comforts, but worst of all were the synthetic bed sheets. Unlike anything Mike Lindell would sell, these sheets were pilling to such an extent that the discomfort is still a memory!

I have a friend who was Director of Economic Development under Governor Tom Corbett. Through his tireless hard work and travel, Alan Walker was able to bring a \$14 billion Shell Oil Cracker Plant to Beaver County. That's just one of the many profitable business expansions Alan was able to bring to the state. In those four years, Walker crisscrossed the state. He spent time in every county. After it was over, and he returned to his home in Clearfield County, he wrote cryptically of his time in office in his Christmas letter, "I've determined that for the rest of my life I will never spend another night in any hotel with a number in its name."

Simeon Weil was only 42 years old when she starved herself to death in solidarity with the Christians and Jews who were being starved to death by the Nazis. Though she wrote profoundly and prolifically of her faith in Jesus Christ, there is one statement that I've never forgotten. She wrote, "I am convinced that one moment in heaven will make all our days on earth seem like one night in a cheap hotel." I can't think of a greater truth than that. No matter what is facing us today, the future we have in Christ Jesus is without parallel. PTL!



GriefShare will begin again!!

Monday, September 14th at 6:30 PM

Grief turns your world upside down, making it difficult to know which way is forward and where to turn for help. It's understandable that your thoughts are scattered, your days are disorienting, and everything around you feels off. It can help to view grief as a journey. But since this is a journey you're never prepared for, you'll want to know what to expect along the way—and how to handle the emotional twists and turns and daily challenges. GriefShare will help you to understand the common emotions people often feel in grief and share practical tips you can use to begin to find peace as you cherish your loved one's memory.

A GriefShare group is a safe, welcoming place where people understand the difficult emotions of grief. At this 13-week support group program, you'll discover what to expect in the days ahead and what's "normal" in grief. Each session is "self-contained," so you do not have to attend in sequence.

Remarks from individuals who have participated in past GriefShare groups:

"GriefShare is not a magic fix but it is a thorough program and the support of others going through a similar situation is invaluable."

"The support and lessons are valuable tools in the grief process. I'm struggling and found this to be beyond anything I imagined. I'm blessed in going through the process."

CPR CERTIFICATION CLASS

Saturday, September 19th

10:00am – 12:00pm

Brenzia Room

All Ages

Registration Required

You will receive a certification certificate.

Includes AED training

Fee: \$40

Registration due upon sign up

Cash or check can be written out to "NHEMS Rescue"

Sponsored by: The Deacons

GriefShare cont.

"I would have to say that the primary things that helped me by attending the Griefshare series were:

- 1. Having someone to talk to other than family*
- 2. Talk to someone who has experienced the same things I was feeling and understood*
- 3. Having an organized process to understand the grief, emotions, and sorrow I was experiencing*
- 4. Realizing that there really wasn't anything wrong with me; what I was experiencing was normal*

If you are considering Griefshare, I would recommend attending sooner than later. Griefshare will help you understand your emotional swings and how to deal with them. It can also help you deal with what I refer to as "first's", birthdays, anniversaries, holidays, etc. since your loved one passed away."

"You must come. It is the best"

We will meet Monday September 14 through December 7, 2026 at 6:30 PM. If you have any questions or would like to register, contact the church at 724-863-5910.

Youth Fellowship shops for Food Pantry



STORY TIME ~ GENEROSITY IN THE GROCERY STORE ❤️😭

Youth Fellowship went shopping for the Food Pantry this past month. We have made this a regular occurrence because the Food Pantry needs it and the kids love doing it.

We break up into teams to cover the list of items that we get to shop for - usually middle school versus high school. They each get the same dollar amount to shop with and the team that is the closest without going over is the winner. This encourages team work and also helps them learn how to budget and make the most out of the money they have to spend.

As middle school was making their way up to the cash registers to check out, they passed Kyle (who was shopping with the high schoolers) who said that they might be a minute because they still had \$100 to spend. Turns out, they had struck up a conversation with someone during their shopping (because why would 3 high school boys be filling a grocery cart with cases and cases of food?!) and when the person found out they were shopping for the Food Pantry, they reached into their pocket and handed them \$100 to add their allowance!!

So to that person we say THANK YOU for your spontaneity and generosity!



September Events

- 9/1 M-Team Meeting
- 9/7 Labor Day - Office Closed
- 9/8 Fellowship Meeting
- 9/9 Youth Choir Practice Starts
Youth Club Starts (K-5 & 6-8)
- 9/10 Bell Choir Practice Starts
- 9/10 D-Team Meeting
- 9/13 RALLY DAY!!
- 9/13 Youth Fellowship Starts (9-12)
- 9/13 St. Vincent Summer Theater Trip
- 9/14 GriefShare Starts
- 9/14 Christian Ed Meeting
- 9/14 Finance Meeting
- 9/17 Session Meeting
- 9/19 CPR Class
- 9/22 Circle 3 Starts
- 9/25 Movie Night "Patch Adams"
- 9/26 Pick up for the Blessing Board
- 9/30 Norwin Art League Show



10/11 Octoberfest All Church Festival

10/16-18 The Carpenter Apprence Fall Fix Up Weekend

10/25 Lance's Heart Strings Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

Internet Security Awareness Class



In an age where we are always connected via the Internet, we need to know how to keep ourselves and our loved ones safe. In this class you will find out what tools are out there to help along on this journey. You can join no matter what level you are in technology.

This Class will be starting on Monday, October 12th @ 6:30 PM.

Thank you :)

- Thank you to Susan and Glenn Harmon for cleaning until our new custodian starts.
- To all those who have shared their musical talents for our summer worship services: Hannah & Sybil Hoffman, Hillary Buell, Parry Adams, Logan Mazzei, Robin & Seth Toops, Nina Dibacco, Dianne Waddell, Isabella & Sullivan Novicki, Rick & Noah Bennett, and Jeff Wright
- To all those who helped in any way with our Peach Festival.
- To Paula & Andy McFarlane, Diane & Keith Johnston and Cheryl & Earl Kiser for serving for the funeral dinners.
- To the Deacons for hosting the cheapest lunch in August.
- To our youth for shopping for our food party
- To all those who continue to donate items for our food pantry.
- To all those who taught Jumpstart and Refresh classes this summer.

College Outreach

2026-2027
School Year

For our FirstPresby college students while they are away from home in college study.

Each month they receive a "letter from home" and/or a small gift.

Contact Heather Duckett to add your student:
heather@firstpresbyirwin.org

PLEASE INCLUDE:

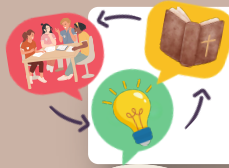
- ✓ Student Name
- ✓ Year of Study
- ✓ College Address
- ✓ Birthday

student. We also encourage our church family to consider becoming involved. Students regularly seek us out when they are home from school to let us know what a difference it makes to receive that support throughout their school year.

Through this ministry, it is hoped that our young members will both reflect back on their time in our church and come visit when they can, in addition to knowing our concern, love, and prayers are with them while they are away from home.

STUDENTS: [CLICK HERE to be added!](#) (This is a quick 5-ish minute survey to give ideas on what students would appreciate receiving while away. You can also access the survey on our website: www.firstpresbyirwin.org/college-outreach-program.)

YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY - AGES 21-35^{ISH} SEPTEMBER Events



Friday 6:00pm-8:00pm

Bible Study

Join us for a Bible study! We will continue reading the gospels together.

First Presby Irwin - Room 108

Sept
4
2026

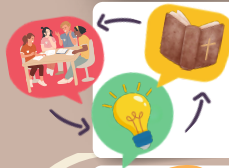


Friday

Group Outing

TBD
Watch the calendar for updated activity information

Sept
11
2026



Friday 6:00pm-8:00pm

Bible Study

We will continue reading the gospels together!

First Presby Irwin

Sept
18
2026



Friday 6:00pm

Group Outing

TBD
Watch the calendar for updated activity information

Sept
25
2026



@table21faith



Together, the Discipleship Team and the Deacons give life to this ministry as a way to remind our college students who are living away from home that their church family cares about them and we are cheering them on no matter how far they are. Participating students receive monthly letters or cards of encouragement, prayers, or packages.

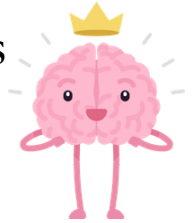
We are grateful to those individuals and committees who have sponsored a



1000 Bible Questions in Rhymes, Puzzles, Quizzes & Games

by Mildred Olive Honors

What Do These Have In Common?



- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| _____ All born in Bethlehem | A. The butler, the baker, Pharaoh |
| _____ Biblical cities of refuge | B. Zebulun, Gad, Naphtali |
| _____ Cities of Galilee | C. Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites |
| _____ Divisions of Herod's temple | D. Hosea, Micah, Amos |
| _____ Eighth century prophets | E. Cloverdale, Wycliffe, Tyndale |
| _____ Enemies of the Hebrews | F. Cubit, palm, span |
| _____ Famous European churches | G. Kedesh, Shechem, Hebron |
| _____ Famous pools in Jerusalem | H. Jael, Deborah, Barak |
| _____ Furnishings of the tabernacle | I. Jehoshaphat, Jehoiakim, Ahaziah |
| _____ Gifts of the wise men | J. Purim, Passover, Tabernacles |
| _____ Hebrew measures of length | K. Gold, frankincense, myrrh |
| _____ Jewish festivals | L. Cana, Nazareth, Bethsaida |
| _____ Kings of Judah | M. Hezekiah, Siloam, Bethesda |
| _____ Dreams interpreted | N. Altar of incense, table of showbread, Golden candlestick |
| _____ Names applied to Jesus | O. Court of the Gentiles, Court of the Women, Holy of Holies |
| _____ Wives of David | P. St. Paul's, St. Peter's, Notre Dame |
| _____ Caused the death of Sisera | Q. Light of the World, Prince of Peace, Good Shepherd |
| _____ Translators of the Bible | R. David, Obed, Jesus |
| _____ Wives of Abraham | S. Hagar, Sarah, Keturah |
| _____ Sons of Jacob | T. Michal, Abigail, Bathsheba |

Answer Bank: R, G, L, O, D, C, P, M, N, K, F, J, I, A, Q, T, H, E, S, B

Drop in on a committee meeting to see
if it's the right one for you 🤔

Join a



Meeting Schedules

Worship & Sacrament meets 1st Monday of the month
Evangelism meets 1st Monday of the month
Fellowship meets 2nd Tuesday of the month
Christian Education meets 2nd Monday of the month
Stewardship & Finance meets 3rd Monday of the month

D-Team meets the 2nd Thursday of the month and is comprised of Christian Ed, Fellowship, Evangelism, and Worship & Sacrament.

M-Team meets the 1st Tuesday of the month and is comprised of Mission and Deacons.

Joining a committee is a great way to make an impact in your church! The relationships formed as you work together with your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ are priceless. By bringing your talents and expertise to your chosen group, you get to give valuable input to help further the mission of each committee. Every committee welcomes new members throughout the year. Even if you can only help for a couple events, all help is greatly needed and appreciated!

***Any changes to the schedule will be noted on the church calendar on our website.*

September 13th is **RALLY DAY**

Come together to pray over the start of a new season of learning for
 Jumpstart ♥ Youth Clubs ♥ Refresh ♥ Young Adult Bible Study
 Men's & Women's Bible Study Groups

Sundays at 9:15

Jumpstart Class Breakdown

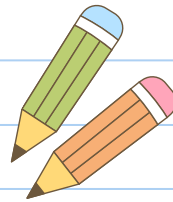
Pre-K3 - K.: Room 308, Michelle & Bill Beecy
 Grades 1-2: Room 307, Ed & Cheryl Schock
 Grades 3-5: Room 306, Susan & Glen Harmon
 Grades 6-8: Room 309, Kyle Dynys
 Grades 9-12: The Dwelling Place, Eric Batchelor

Fall Refresh Classes

9/13 - 11/22

"The Church in the Middle Ages"
 Led by: Bill Martin, Fireside Room

"Freedom in Christ"
 Led by: Jerry Detar, Room 120



Norwin Men's Fellowship

every Wednesday 7:30am - 9am

Working Women's Bible Study

every Tuesday 6:30pm - 7:30pm

Circle 1 Women's Fellowship

3rd Tuesdays 1pm - 3pm

Circle 3 Women's Fellowship

4th Tuesdays 10am - 12pm

Table 21 Faith (ages 21-35)

every Friday 6pm - 8pm

Youth Club (K-5 & 6-8)

every Wednesday 6pm - 7:30pm

Youth Fellowship (9-12)

every Sunday 6:30pm - 8pm

Attn Parents: Rally Day please have all kids report to the Brenzia room at 9:15 for class pictures and some get to know you games before we break into our classrooms. Join us at the 10:30 service for a blessing and a special fellowship celebration after service.

Join us... AT REFRESH CLASS 9:15-10:15 STARTING 9/13 THRU 11/22

"Freedom in Christ"

Location: Room 120

Led by: Jerry Detar

We are offering you an opportunity to explore a pivotal chapter in the gospel of John. This time it's chapter 8. Here Jesus, speaking near the temple in Jerusalem, identifies Himself as the Light of the World. The contrast between Jesus and the dark religious culture of his day couldn't be more striking. In verse 12 He says, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life." But He doesn't stop there. A few verses later, He says, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples and you will know the truth and the truth will set you free." So, what is it this freedom that He's talking about? Join us, we'll talk about it.

"The Church in the Middle Ages"

Location: Fireside Room

Led by: Bill Martin

The Church in the Middle Ages presents an overview of key events between 600AD and the Protestant Reformation. Topics include: the Rise of Islam, Charlemagne and the Holy Roman Empire, the Investiture Controversy, the Crusades, the Rise of Scholasticism, and more! This is a period of Church History most know little about but its happenings and their ramifications have left their imprint upon both church and world to this day! Join us and see how through many obstacles God preserved His church.

Prayer Requests

Bill Allen, John Anker, Jan Antos, Kitten Barnhart, Jan & Russ Batchelor, Diane Brosnahan, Jacqueline Chandler, Betty Comer, Frank D., Dana, Scott Diffenderfer, Cheryl Dufford, John Duncan, Selma Duncan, George Family, Grace, Megen Harmon, Mark & Lisa Harvey, Richard Himler, Inna & family, Becky Jadlocki, Joe & Linda, Troy & Briana Joseph, Kevin, Kim, Larry & Sharon Kramer, Sandy Kutz, Vicki Luehm, JoAnn McKnight, Bob Magill, J. Alan Minter, Tom Mosler, Isobel Nelson, Jack Noonan, Marnie Russell, Shirley Schmidtke, Steve, Steven Signaigo, John Smith, Bev Sowash, Addie Spehar, Sam Strohm, Suzanne, Brian Trumble, Tom, Bob & Pat Vaughn, and Jeff Youell*

Praise and Thank You

All God's People, Thanksgiving for improved and healing health, & recovery. Adult September classes: Freedom in Christ led by Jerry Detar, The Church in the Middle Ages led by Bill Martin, Working Women's Bible Study –topic: Worship, Circle One: Aging with Grace, and Circle Three: Angels – Finding Hope in God who Reigns over Heaven and Earth.

Our Service Personnel

Jeff Cmar, Master Sgt. Zachary Coleman, SFC James Davis, Dominic Duke, Vaughn Estepp, Sgt. Luke Frye, Sgt. GY Sgt. Chris Keba, 2nd LT Andy Marlin, CDR Timothy Minor, Sr. Airman Zane Moore, Sgt. Noah Rady, Connor Ramage and Col. Brian Trumble

Church Outreach Programs

The Carpenter's Apprentice, The Blessing Board, Church Food Pantry, GriefShare, College Outreach project. Refresh Classes for all ages. Prayers for the volunteers and the families supported by these programs.

*If the person you placed on the prayer list has been **removed** or moved to **Praise and Thank You** in error, please contact either Taska Smola at tsmola@verizon.net or Ginny Pellis at Ginny@firstpresbyirwin.org with updated information. Thank you.

Summer Music Reel



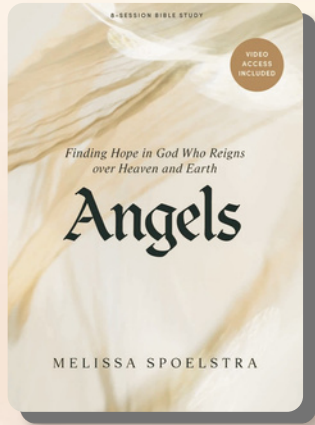
PINE SPRING CAMP Upcoming Event dates:

Please visit the website www.pinesprings.org for all info and to register now!

- Fall Fusion Retreat for 4th- 6th graders: Sept. 12-13 "Ask, Seek, Knock"
- Women in the Woods: Oct. 2-3 "Abide in Christ"
- Sporting Clays Fundraiser: Oct. 6th @Rockwood, PA
- The Big One Retreat for 6th- 12th graders: Oct. 16-18
- Fall Friend's Dinner: Oct. 25th @Core Event Center



Attention Ladies of First Presby!



Circle 3 would like to invite you to join us this year for our study of *"Angels - Finding Hope in God Who Reigns over Heaven and Earth"* by Melissa Spoelstra.

This series explores Scripture from Genesis to Revelation to learn about angels—who they are, what they do, and what they have to do with us.

**We meet on the 4th Tuesday of the month from 10am - 12pm
Room 308, Starting September 22nd**

Circle 1 invites women of all ages to join us at the church for study and fellowship on the **third Tuesday of each month, from 1pm - 3pm**. Our first meeting will be Tuesday, September 15th. This year, we are studying ***Aging with Grace*** by Sharon W. Betters & Susan Hunt.

Whatever season of life you're in, God has equipped you to flourish—to live in the transforming power and beauty of His grace. As we age, we can easily lose sight of this message as cultural ideals glorifying youth take center stage. We will explore present-day and biblical examples of women who rediscovered gospel-rooted joy later in their lives. Equipped with a biblical view of aging, *Aging with Grace* will help you encounter a fresh the gospel that "is big enough, good enough, and powerful enough to make every season of life significant and glorious."

For more information or to join this study, please contact Taska Smola (724-864-1331) or Barb Rehberg (412-477-2489).

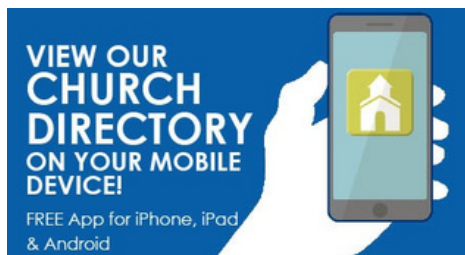


There's Music in the Air...

Bell Choir Bell Choir rehearsals Thursdays at 7:00 PM in Room 206.

Chancel Choir Chancel choir rehearsals Wednesdays at 7:00 PM in Choir Room.

Youth Choir All kids in Kindergarten through 8th grade, rehearsals are Wednesdays at 5:30pm in the upstairs assembly room.



- **Always have an up-to-date directory at your fingertips!**
- All members, active contributors, and families that filled out a photo card are currently in the directory.
- **You must have an email address listed with us in order to gain access to the directory.**
- After downloading the app, if you have difficulty accessing, please call 724-863-5910 x110 or email karen@firstpresbyirwin.org for your email address to be added to your account.
- **Please log in to check or update your contact information and upload (or update) a family photo.**

*Your photographs
are needed!*

Any photo on your phone's camera roll will work - it does not have to be a studio photo. We can't print a photo directory without photos!



Thank yous!

A great big thank you goes out to all the wonderful church members who helped make our peach festival a success!

By the numbers, we had a fantastic turnout, welcoming folks not only from right here in Irwin but even from as far as Monroeville, as you can see by the smiling ladies in the accompanying picture.

I would be remiss if I didn't personally acknowledge John, Kathy, Paula, Cindy, Rick, and Ginny. Year in and year out, they strive to show what true fellowship is all about. This year was a much heavier lift due to the significant difficulty in obtaining peaches, but their dedication never wavered.

Our committee takes great pride in putting the Heart of Jesus in the Heart of our church and the Heart of Irwin. Thank you all for your hard work and faithful service! Gratefully,
Fred Westcoat,
Fellowship Committee



starts
9/9 Youth Club K-5th & 6th-8th
Every Wednesday 6:00pm

dinner provided,
bible study, games & crafts

starts
9/13 Youth Fellowship 9th-12th
Every Sunday starting 9/13
bible study, snacks, games & crafts

We will work on fellowship and mission projects throughout the year and field trip/activities outside the church. Watch for information on those if you are unable to join us during our weekly meetings. We post to facebook & have events scheduled on the church calendar which you can find on the homepage of our website.

Love & Sympathy

Love and sympathy to John ,
Donna, Lance & Megan Duncan
family and friends of
Arley Duncan
who died August 6, 2026

Love and sympathy to family,
friends, Sunday School and adult
Bible Study students, of
Marge Anke
who died August 7, 2026

Love and Sympathy to daughters
Sharon Weston & Sue Burd,
family and friends of
June Hart
who died August 20, 2026

: : : : FIRST PRESBY OF IRWIN : : 

OKTOBERFEST

✦ ALL CHURCH FESTIVAL ✦

SAVE THE DATE: OCTOBER 11TH 12:00PM

DRINK .
FOOD .
MUSIC .



There's still time to sign up for the last theater trip of the summer series.

ST VINCENT SUMMER THEATER

Sunday, Sept. 13th

Curtain call is 2pm, we'll be leaving the church at 12:30 you can sign up to ride in the van or drive yourself. We'll be stopping for dinner at DeNunzios afterwards. Tickets are \$25 due day of event (cash please).

Rounding Third by Richard Dresser...is A tumultuous, hilarious journey of two Little League coaches through an entire season, from their first tentative meeting to the climactic championship game. Don is the tough, blue-collar, win-at-all-costs veteran coach whose son is the star pitcher. Michael is a newcomer to baseball, who believes that the job of the coach is to make sure everyone has fun. Don thinks they should be teaching the kids how to win. As they clash over philosophies on competition, parenting, and life, they eventually bond, navigating personal struggles and the pressures of preparing children for a tough world.

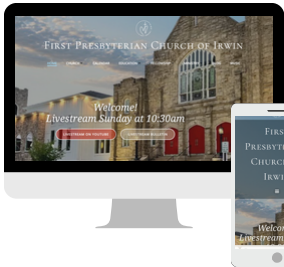
*Join us for a fun afternoon
with a show and dinner!*



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF IRWIN
617 MAIN STREET
IRWIN, PA 15642
www.firstpresbyirwin.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

September
2026
NEWSLETTER



Visit [our website](#) for
the most up-to-date
calendar
information!



CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Dr. Douglas Rehberg	Minister x115
Rev. Sam Strohm	Ministry Associate
Daniel Miller	Business Manager x114
Karen Crissman	Administrative Assistant x110
Ginny Pellis	Receptionist/Secretary x113
Heather Duckett	Children’s Ministry Leader x116
Kyle Dynys	Youth Ministry Leader x117
Katie Redmond	Childcare Supervisor
Judy Baker	Youth Choir Director
Diane Johnston	Bell Choir Director