



Nitro First Presbyterian Newsletter

“Living in the Son”

May/June/July 2018

Mark your calendar for the first Self Study Luncheon to be held after church on Sunday, May 20th.

The first in a series of after church luncheons will be held on Pentecost Sunday with the purpose of gathering and sharing information relevant to planning for the next chapter in the life of the Nitro First Presbyterian Church. Some of the topics include: What are your goals for our church? Where do you want us to be five years down the road? What do we have, as a congregation, to offer the community? What can we do better than any other church in the Nitro area? What are some of our strengths? What are some of our weaknesses?

Hopefully, the process of self-study and evaluation will be completed by World Commission Sunday, Oct. 7th, 2018.

Summer VBS

Saturday July 21st, 4pm-7:30pm

This will be an all ages, one day, Vacation Bible School. We will begin with a lesson in the sanctuary. Then move into the multipurpose room for dinner. Next will be music, crafts, and games. At the end of the night, we will meet back in the sanctuary for the concluding activity and the benediction. Loads of fun and laughter are to be expected!

****We will not observe the 5th Sunday in September because of its close proximity to the church picnic.****

Grace and Peace!

If we've not had the chance to meet in person, and if you're not following the Nitro First Presbyterian Church on Facebook, I'm Jim Walther, your Interim Pastor. It's been a busy six weeks since our journey began on March 15, so this is my first opportunity to share with all of you something of what we'll be doing together. If you do follow the church on Facebook most of this will be familiar, but I know a bit more now than I knew when I first shared these thoughts. At least I hope I do! So think of the Social Media posts as a 'first draft' and this as the 'revised' edition!

OK - So exactly what is an Interim Pastor? In the Presbyterian Church (USA) Interim Pastors ordinarily (we Presbyterians love that word!) have specific tasks related to the unique circumstances of the congregation they serve. In our case, here at 1st Presbyterian Nitro, I have two primary tasks. First, I am your Pastor. The word means "Shepherd" and I'm certain it refers to sheep, not cats! The shepherd looks after the flock, takes care of their needs. For a church this includes but is not limited to leading worship, moderating the Session, working with the committees and being the primary spiritual resource for the congregation.

"Spiritual resource?" Yes. We have this funny idea that we're supposed to actually care for each other. "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:35 NRSV) We need to let each other in, to open ourselves to share in each other's happiness and sorrow. No one should sit alone feeling abandoned. No one should feel trapped and hopeless, caring for a loved one. No one should wait by themselves in a hospital.

Doreen and I live 26 miles from the church, but this is a 'full time job' and I will be available for you wherever and whenever you need me. Here's the catch - somehow in the 37 years since I was ordained I have not yet learned to read minds! Nor do I have a 'direct line' that keeps me up to date on what's important in your lives. I (and all Pastors, by the way) depend on you to tell us what you need. I shared this with the Session Tuesday evening and I say it now to you - I would much rather be told about a need 3 or 4 times, than to find out after the fact that I've missed an opportunity to be of service.

Now that we've established at least the bare bones of the Pastoral relationship, we're ready begin the serious Interim work. On the most basic level, Christians are always in an 'interim' as we wait for the return of our Lord. We know it will happen, we do not know when! We just shared a fabulous Easter celebration, and now we're looking forward to Pentecost. Luke gives us a glimpse of this first 'interim' with Jesus and his friends, after the resurrection but before the ascension and the empowering of the Apostles by the Holy Spirit. Already, but not yet!

Interim Pastors seek intentionally to be temporary. It's a 'time between the times' for us, not unlike those '40 days' between Easter and Pentecost. A 'successful' Interim Pastor prepares a congregation for the next chapter, helps a church 'turn the page' so that their story can continue. This involves completing the following five specific tasks:

1. Coming to terms with our history, both as a church and a community;
2. Discovering our identity – what are we here to do?
3. Adapting the leadership and congregational power structures to meet new realities
4. Rethinking and revitalizing our denominational linkages – We're Presbyterian. So What?
5. Preparing the way for the next pastor to lead the congregation into its new future.

How long will this take? Only God knows! Presbyterians, as you know, are big on the "decently and in order" thing. (Thanks, Paul!) Our process is slow and may seem cumbersome, unnecessarily complicated. As with other aspects of our life together, we seek a delicate balance between being responsive to the Holy Spirit and being responsible stewards of the gifts God has given us. I look forward to continuing getting to know you, learning about your gifts and the ministry of your church. Hope to see you in church!

Pastor Jim

May/June/July

Birthdays

May

- 2 Carmen Kostelansky
- 4 Penney Ryan
- 8 Sandy Gray
- 10 Shelley Kostelansky
- 13 James Hamilton
- 14 Ruth Gibson
- Austin Goff
- Nancy Gilmore

June

- 2 Isaac Helmick
- 8 Frances Arthur
- 11 Sally Atkins
- 13 Ashlee Martin
- 15 Sarah Helmick
- 21 Sally Kinder
- 28 Barry Jordan



July

- 4 Summer Harris
- 7 Charles Brady
- 8 Robert Kautz
- 10 Randy Humphreys
- 13 Jack Van Dyke
- 14 Steve Atkins
- 15 Kristin Humphreys/Putnam
- 18 Judy Sutherland
- 21 Gray Cochran
- 24 Cliff Sutherland
- 25 Tilly Mynes
- 27 Jill Hindle
- 28 Vicki Hamilton

10 Ways to Be More Like Christ

By Christi Brown

As Christians, we all want to be more like Jesus. We all know that this life is really about seeking after that one goal, every day, so that others might see Jesus in us and want to come to Him. Here are some practical ways to achieve the goal in your daily life, of making Christ greater and greater, and yourself, less and less. "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

Galatians 2:20 (ESV)

Read the Bible

To be like Him, you have to know Him. How do you know Him? Study Him, and that means studying His teachings and His Word. It means knowing how He treated people, and how He handled life. The only way to do that is to get out that Bible, and read it, every day!

Action

Now that you have the knowledge, it's time to obey the convictions that the Holy Spirit puts on your heart, through that knowledge and understanding. No more putting it off or pretending not to have felt the conviction. Just go where He is leading you to go and trust that He will show you what to do, when you get there. No more excuses. Just go.

Humility

Humble yourself. Put away selfish ambition and focus on the needs around you. Put other people at higher priority than your own desires. As the Bible says in Philippians, we must count others as higher than ourselves.

Do Right

Don't go along with what the world tell you is right. Do what you know God has said in his word is right. This one is hard, but it sets you apart from the world. We have to live in it, but we don't have to participate in the things of this world that are harmful to our faith.

Be Kind

Walk in love. Show kindness to the people around you, even if they aren't showing it to you. Stop and learn to recognize people's pain, and be the one that offers help to those who need it.

Giving Thanks During Trials

Praise God in every circumstance and give Him control of the trials that you are going through. Jesus did this, when He asked God to take His cup from Him, but at the same time, telling His Father that He would do what God asked of Him, regardless of what that was. He trusted the will of His Father and recognized the greater good that would come from His own suffering. As a result, He glorified God and saved every one of us, with His sacrifice.

Unwavering

Be firm and strong in your resolve to follow Christ fully. Don't waver or get distracted, but keep your focus on God at all times. This takes courage, discipline and sacrifice but is an important step in being more like Christ.

Wisdom

Chose wisely who you go to for advice. Make sure they are grounded in the Word of God, and test everything they give you, against God's Word. Even the most devout Christian will get it wrong sometimes. It is up to you, to know the Word of the Lord, so that when you hear something contrary to it, you can make wise decisions, instead of following a false path.

Repent

Repent of your sins, once you are made aware of them. Repent means not only to be sorry, but also to turn your back to that sin and no longer follow in that direction. To completely change course, back on the path your Father in Heaven has set out for you. We should all be doing this daily.

Pray

Pray. Converse with God often through the day. He is your strength and your guide through life. You need to talk to Him.

<http://www.beliefnet.com/ilovejesus/features/10-ways-to-be-more-like-christ.aspx?p=11>

Keeping the Church Clean

Yes, I know we have a custodian, but only two days a week. Think about the size of our building. Each one of us needs to do our share. For example, after the worship service be sure to put hymnals and Bibles back in the pew racks. Green hymnals go at the end of the pews. If you don't want your bulletin, please deposit it in the trash can in the narthex as you leave. No one should have to pick up used, dirty tissues. If we can all do a few little things, it allows the custodian to do things that are more pertinent.

I'd like to thank those of you who have cleaned different areas of the church. The sanctuary, parlor, kitchen, and foyer have been cleaned. Storage areas are also being cleaned. Afterall, it is Spring cleaning time!

Now that the weather is warmer, there is outside work to do. Larry's crew is keeping the grass cut, but there are always weeds to pull and sidewalks to sweep. Please don't wait for someone else to do it. If you see areas that need attention, please let me know.

Thanks! Lynne Kibler

Nitro Mission Team News

--HELP NEEDED on May 12th at St. Paul's UMC. Postal Workers Food Pickup will be delivered between noon and 5pm.

--More help needed on Monday, May 14th at St. Paul's at 10am for sorting and storing.

--May 12th Horse Parade in Nitro—A band will play at 1pm and a special ceremony and speaker at 2pm at Memorial Park

--Wed. May 23rd—Run to the Wall coming through Nitro again this year at approx.. 4pm

--Sat. July 14th—Taste of Nitro—a fund raiser to benefit the programs of the Nitro Mission Team such as the Christmas Basket & Toy Campaign, Food Pantry, Children's Backpack Program and Utility Assistance Program

DON'T FORGET THE NITRO FOOD PANTRY "ITEM OF THE MONTH"

May is toilet tissue.

Watch the church bulletin for upcoming months.

“There’s a squirrel in the house!!!!!!”

One quiet afternoon, Beth was rocking Iris, trying to get her down for her nap, when Eli, her second son, reported that he spotted a baby squirrel in the yard. He brought it in the house, and... then... dropped it!

Imagine the chaos and confusion to insue!!

Eventually, the squirrel was successfully removed from the house and released back from whence it came. Beth posted this story on social media and the entire internet community enjoyed Beth’s anecdote. In other words, the story became viral!

Poor little Eli now says that he is part of the “crazy family” in Red House.

~Retold with Permission of the Squirrel Lady



ELDERS OF THE MONTH 2018

January	Jon Pitzer
February	Peggy Melton
March	Larry Harris
April	Sally Atkins
May	Steve Adkins
June	Gray Cochran
July	Suzie Humphreys
August	Ed Hamilton
September	Jim Westlund
October	Lynne Kibler
November	Beth Criner
December	Dane Ryan

ANNIVERSARIES

- MAY 2 TRAVIS & BETH CRINER**
- MAY 14 JON & ANESSA PITZER**
- JUNE 14 JAMES & MEGAN ANKERS**
- JULY 2 CLIF & JUDY SUTHERLAND**
- JULY 17 LARRY & MARGIE HARRIS**

Strengthening Church Vitality through Partnership

Meeting held at Highlawn Presbyterian, St. Albans

Churches in attendance were members from: Dunbar, Highlawn, McKinnon, Nitro, Riverlawn, Rock Lake, South Charleston, and St. Albans

Jim Westlund, Lynne Kibler, and Ed Hamilton attended from Nitro First Presbyterian.

Out of these eight churches, one pulpit is vacant, one has an interim, three have pastors possibly retiring at the end of the year, and three have pastors in place for the foreseeable future. So, there is potential that 5 out of 8 churches in the area will have vacant or temporary pulpits for 2019. This can be seen as a daunting reality for many reasons. With the encouragement and guidance of the Presbytery and the newly formed Congregational Development Team, Highlawn called this meeting to have a conversation about how we might strengthen our churches through partnership.

Discussions at the meeting centered on Partnering (churches share mission and/or pastors) and potential Yoking, which is a more formal relationship where two churches have one pastor.

Highlawn and McKinnon are actively looking to Partner or Yoke.

We were approached by McKinnon Presbyterian on the matter of Partnering or Yoking; since their pastor will be retiring. Their Clerk realizes their geography and congregational characteristics seem to point to a need to pursue arrangements to continue their mission. It makes sense to entertain these discussions, explore the concept and possibilities.

Partnering or Yoking can increase the ability to expand the diversity of staffing and mission, such as adding a youth minister or other 'ministerial specialists.'

It makes sense to explore any such possibilities during the self-analysis process associated with forming the Church Self-Study and while beginning the pastoral search.

~Submitted by Ed Hamilton



Bluestone Summer Camp Summer 2018 Schedule

<http://bluestonecamp.com/>

Week 1: June 10-June 16

Week 2: June 17- June 23

Week 3: June 24-June 30

Week 4: July 1-July 7

Pioneer Camps—This is a half-week version of our younger Discovery Camp for rising 3rd graders. This is an excellent choice for first time campers. Pioneer Camps begin on Wed. during Week 1 and Week 4.

Discovery Camps—Discovery 1 is for rising 4th and 5th graders. Discovery 2 is for rising 6th and 7th graders.

Venture Camps--VENTURE 1 is for rising 7/8 graders. VENTURE 2 is for rising 9/10 graders.

Sojourner Camps-- for rising 8/10 graders

Adventure Camps-- for rising 10/12 graders

Bluestone offers a Three-Tier Fee Structure. All fees include minimum deposit amounts.

Tier 1—You may be surprised to learn that *our lowest prices reflect the cost of offering a week of summer camp.* These rates are made possible by mission dollars given each year by the Presbytery of WV.

Tier 2—*These prices are partially subsidized.* By choosing to pay a little more, you help support the ongoing summer camp ministry of Bluestone.

Tier 3—*This amount most closely reflects the true cost for a week of camp at Bluestone.* This price includes things like utilities, grounds upkeep, etc. By choosing this tier, you enable us to do more with the mission dollars we receive. You help us make needed upgrades and repairs, and you enable Bluestone to grow in the future.

A choice to support Bluestone with a payment over and above our required minimum fee is voluntary and will in no way influence the camp experience children receive.

See: <http://bluestonecamp.com/summer/tier-pricing/>

We believe that every child should experience the powerful impact that summer camp provides regardless of income. Please do not hesitate to contact us if our fees present a challenge for your family!



Is it possible to live like Jesus?

Written by Irene Abraham

We are human. We sin. End of story?

It's a question I have read. It's a question I have been asked. It's a question I myself have asked. "Is it possible to live like Jesus?"

Maybe I should start by saying that I believe Jesus is God's Son. I believe He came to earth, as a man. It says pretty clearly in Hebrews that He was made like us, in all things, in every respect. But the Bible says that Jesus didn't sin, and I wonder why. (Hebrews 2:17-18; Hebrews 4:15-16)

"We are just human"

My whole life I have heard that, "God looked down at us sinners, and had compassion on us. He loves us, so of course He wants to spend eternity with us. But, being the wretched bunch of sinners that we are, He can't exactly just let us all into heaven, can He? So God sent His Son (or Himself, as many believe) to earth. He came to take the punishment for our sins and die for us, to forgive us our sins, so that we who believe in Him can spend eternity in heaven! Because of His goodness towards us, we love Jesus, and we try to live in such a way that brings praise to His name. But we are just human. We sin."

Isn't God powerful enough?

Every time I heard this, I would get a nagging feeling that something just didn't add up. Can't God help us to stop sinning? Isn't He the Almighty God? Isn't He powerful enough? Then one day I heard a different story that finally made sense:

God looked at the world, at the men and women He Himself created. He saw all kinds of people. He saw people living openly in sin. He also saw people who were trying to keep His commandments – people who were desperately trying to be obedient to the laws He had made for them. All these people had something in common.

Because God *does* love us so much that He actually wants to spend eternity with us, He was full of sorrow. But because of His own laws, laws that are unchangeable, God simply cannot allow people who live in sin to enter His kingdom, a kingdom that consists of righteousness, peace and joy. (Romans 14:17)

So, God sent His own Son down to earth to save us. Jesus died for our sins, and God promised to forgive us our sins if we accept Jesus as Lord in our lives. But that was only the beginning of God's plan!

The most important part of the story of Jesus wasn't the fact that He died on the cross for us. It was the life He lived! He was here, He was a man, and He was tempted—in *all* points, just like us. (Hebrews 4:15) But He didn't sin! He hated the lusts and desires in His human flesh. He hated them so much that He denied and crucified them—every day He put sin to death. That's why the death on the cross on Calvary didn't have power over Him, and He rose from the dead and showed Himself to His disciples, before returning to heaven to be with His Father!

Footsteps we can follow!

Jesus is our forerunner; He lived the life, and made footsteps for us to follow. (1 Peter 2:21-23) It says clearly that, as His disciples, we are called to follow in the footsteps of a man who committed no sin. That means that we can also live without committing sin!

You see, Jesus didn't just go back to heaven to hang out with His Father, and leave us here struggling in our own sin and unhappiness. He promised to send the Holy Spirit to help, teach and give us power to overcome. Not just anybody receives the Holy Spirit, though. God sends Him to those who are tired of their own sin, and who obey Him. (Acts 5:32)

We need to pray for help to stop doing that which we know is wrong—to stop doing our own will instead of God's will. Jesus rejoices when He sees that we long to serve Him with our whole heart, and He sends His Holy Spirit to help us further on the way of salvation, and little by little, shows us more things that need to be crucified. In this way, we become more and more like Jesus; we become full of righteousness, peace and joy. The virtues of the Kingdom of Heaven become our life, and we can look forward to spending eternity with our forerunner, the one who lived and died for us!

This story—this story that makes so much more sense to me—well, I don't think it's just a story. I believe it is the truth. I believe it's for me. This is why I am a Christian.

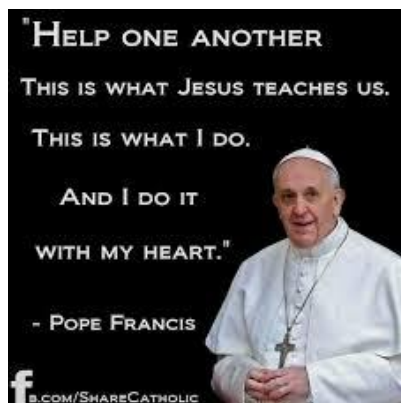
“But as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, ‘Be holy, for I am holy.’” 1 Peter 1:15.

<http://activechristianity.org/is-it-possible-to-live-like-jesus>

While the choir is taking a break this summer, Carmen needs you all to volunteer to do special music!



Please let her know if you would be willing to share your talent on one of those Sundays in July and August.



The annual Church Picnic has been scheduled for September 16th at Nitro City Park



Thanks to everyone who helped organize or contributed to another 5th Sunday potluck. Always a blessing!

On the night of Saturday, June 30th, our church will be hosting a youth group from Danville Community Church in new Jersey as they travel to Kentucky for their annual Appalachian Service Project.

They will be joining us for worship and communion on Sunday July 1st.

Christian Education Committee Update

April 30, 2018

This newsletter article provides an update on the recent activities of your Christian Education Committee, and previews future activity. The Adult Sunday School Class has continued taking a break from our study of the Psalms; we have completed through Book Three of the Psalms, previously finishing Psalms 89. The Psalms, consisting of a total of 150 chapters, are divided into five books. Despite the background in which the Psalms were written, it's amazing how they can be applied to the everyday situations, issues, and struggles that we face today. We will resume this study in a few more months. Following up on the recent 500th anniversary of the Reformation in the Fall of 2017, we completed reviewing the DVD titled *Martin Luther, The Idea That Changed the World* (originally aired last year on PBS). We are still reviewing the lives and impact on the Reformation of a number of individuals, and this history is really fascinating after having watched the DVD. This will probably take us two months to complete, so please come out and join us.

Jean Summerfield has continued teaching the Children's Sunday School Class and they are having a great time, as evidenced by the loud noises we hear coming from upstairs on Sunday mornings! Jean has the kids involved in a variety of things, including Bible stories, games, crafts, snacks, and music. We welcome all kids, grandkids, neighborhood kids, etc., who may attend the class; and for you adults bringing the children, please come join our Adult class on Sundays!

That concludes this update on Christian Education, and I again ask you to please become more involved with our activities. It's never too late to join us, and you will experience spiritual growth as we all learn together!

Kevin Whipkey, Chairman

SHEPHERD LISTS 2018

BETH CRINER – JON PITZER

Dana Angell
 Jeff Barton
 David Condee
 Evan Condee
 Beth Criner
 Travis Criner
 Mary Ann Persinger Nease
 Sharon Paxton
 Tom Paxton
 Anessa Pitzer
 Jon Pitzer
 Jean Pitzer
 Katie Roberts

JIM WESTLUND – DANE RYAN

Peggy Dawson
 Mary Lou Fisher
 Nancy Gilmore
 Bob Kautz
 Brandi Lopez
 Darlene Luck
 Jerry Luck
 Ashlee Martin
 Chuck Martin
 Dane Ryan
 Penney Ryan
 Jack Van Dyke
 Sheila Van Dyke
 Betty Williams

SALLY ATKINS – STEVE ATKINS

Francis Arthur
 Bradley Atkins
 Sally Atkins
 Steve Atkins
 Jaci Dixon
 Clyde Mynes
 Tilly Mynes
 Garnett Galloway
 Sally Kinder
 Paul Martin
 Alice Stahl
 Rylee Stoler
 Stan Summerfield
 Jean Summerfield

ED HAMILTON – PEGGY MELTON

Joyce Armentrout
 Roland (Rusty) Cook
 Ruth Gibson
 Ed Hamilton
 Vikki Hamilton
 Rebecca (Pete) Hamilton
 Betty Hamilton
 "Ham" Hamilton
 Betty Melton
 Peggy Melton
 Ruth Phalen
 Drema Scott
 Sabrina Snead
 Sharon Snead

LARRY HARRIS – LYNNE KIBLER

Charles Brady
 Marsha Condee
 Janet Bostic Cunningham
 Clifton Farley
 Mary Farley
 Roger Hardway
 Summer Harris
 Larry Harris
 Margie Harris
 Carmen Kostelansky
 Amanda Parker
 Ravi Parker
 Cliff Sutherland
 Judy Sutherland

SUZIE HUMPHREYS – GRAY COCHRAN

Megan Goff Ankers
 Bill Clark
 Karen Cochran
 Austin Goff
 Barb Goff
 Lauren Goff
 Sandra Gray
 Randy Humphreys
 Suzie Humphreys
 Judy Whipkey
 Kevin Whipkey
 Tanner Whipkey
 Tyler Whipkey



Jeremiah 3:15

"Then I will give you shepherds after My own heart, who will feed you on knowledge and understanding."

Chopped Kale and Beet Salad

Ingredients:

- 4 medium beets, grated (or 2 cups grated beets)
- 2 bunches kale, washed and ripped away from stems into bite size pieces and then finely chopped.
- 1/3 cup pumpkin seeds
- 6 medjoul dates, chopped (remove the pit)

Dressing:

- ½ cup fresh lemon juice (from 1 lemon)
- ½ cup extra virgin olive oil, to taste
- 2 Tbsp honey
- ½ tsp sea salt

Instructions:

1. Chop the kales and combine with beets, pumpkin seeds, and dates in a large bowl.
2. Whisk dressing ingredients together.
3. Pour dressing over salad, mix, and enjoy.

Submitted by Beth Criner



Raspberry Icebox Cake

Ingredients:

- 24 graham crackers, crushed
- 1/3 cup butter
- ¼ cup packed brown sugar
- 1 (6 ounce) package raspberry flavored Jell-O® mix
- 1 cup boiling water
- 15 oz frozen raspberries
- 20 large marshmallows
- 1/3 cup milk
- 1 cup heavy whipping cream, whipped

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F

Mix graham cracker wafer crumbs, butter and brown sugar until well combined. Set aside 1/4 cup of this mixture for a topping and press the remainder into one 9x13 inch pan.

Bake at 350 degrees F (175 degrees C) for 10 minutes. Set aside to cool.

Dissolve raspberry gelatin in the boiling water and add the frozen raspberries, stirring until melted. Chill until partially set and spread on wafer base.

Melt marshmallows with the milk. When cool, fold in whipped cream and spread on top of raspberry mixture. Sprinkle with remaining crumbs. Chill for 3-4 hours before serving.

Submitted by Anessa Pitzer

Nitro First Presbyterian Newsletter

111 21st Street
Nitro, WV 25143

The Session

Class of 2018

Steve Adkins
Beth Criner
Jon Pitzer
Jim Westlund

Class Of 2019

Ed Hamilton
Larry Harris
Lynne Kibler
Peggy Melton

Class of 2020

Sally Atkins
Gray Cochran
Suzie Humphreys
Dane Ryan

Trustees

Jon Pitzer, Chairperson
Larry Harris
Darlene Luck
Peggy Melton

Staff

Minister- All Members
Secretary- Alice Stahl
Music Director-
Carmen Kostelansky
Accompanist- Frances Arthur

Office Hours:

Tues-Thurs 9am-12pm

Church Phone: 304-755-3242

Email:
nitrofirstpresby@yahoo.com

Website: nitrofirstpres.org

Services: 9:30am Sunday School
11am Sunday Morning Worship