

From the Desk of Pastor Kelly

Last week I spent two very full days at a gathering of ministry leaders from across North America at the Ascent Curators Conference. We heard from believers in Cuba and Canada, Austin (TX) and Alaska, as they spoke of the movement of the Holy Spirit in raising up disciples who are committed to sharing the Gospel across the globe. We prayed for church planters & missionaries and made a million networking connections.

But the most significant part for me was a sermonette that was delivered late one evening. It began when the preacher of the hour asked us all to close our eyes and imagine ourselves as sheep. "Pick the color of your wool," she said, "maybe yours will be pink or polka-dotted, tie-died or neon yellow." I snorted. And then chose royal purple. I mean, why not?

She led us through a visual exercise where we 'sheep' pictured Jesus, our Good Shepherd, leading us to green pastures, beside still waters and even down a path into the deepest, darkest valley we had ever seen. Along the way there were twists and turns and even snacks! It was quite the story.

When we finished, she invited this room filled with adults to open our eyes. Truth be told, some in our midst were a bit perturbed. They came for a traditional sermon, ready to be taught something, not envisioning themselves as colorful livestock! After all, most in the room were pastoral leaders – the worst audience to try to preach in front of.

Our preacher smiled, sensing our discomfort with her method and said, "do you know why we began that way? Because, friends, all of us are sheep before we are shepherds. Beloved, named & known sheep who must learn the voice of the Shepherd and entrust ourselves to His care before we ever try to lead others."

I wrote that down: Kelly, you are a sheep before you are a shepherd. That simple truth is why I asked our leadership team to allow me to take a sabbatical this summer. It's why May – July I will be 'offline' and unavailable. Not to take an extended vacation, though there certainly will be travel involved. Certainly not to write a book or take formal coursework. And, no, friends, not to dust off my resume either!

To be a sheep. To create the space in each day to simply be with the Shepherd in prayer and Bible study, silence and solitude. To listen without the nagging to-do list. To re-anchor my soul in the beautiful truth that my identity is bound up in who I am in Christ, not in serving as your pastor. To drink of still waters & eat from verdant pastures, as the Shepherd leads.

So I can return in August ready to follow Him with you. Refreshed and reset. You'll hear more about the sabbatical in the coming weeks. For now, would you join me in praying that this sheep will simply follow the Shepherd first?

Love ya, Pastor Kelly



Birthdays

- 2 Stephanie Strock 20 Aubrey Klock
- 22 Joe Wincovitch 5 – Carson Stine
- 5 Michael Stine

- 27 Coleen Chin LeQuire
- 10 Pastor Kelly Legg 29 Anne Bihl
- 10 Bella Adeyemi

April 20th!

- 19– Tyler Lewis
- 29 Linda Fleming

Anniversaries



13 – Mark & Holly Kindig 14 – Bill & Linda Neubaum 26 – Mike & Bethany Malykh



April 19 8:00 am – Men's Breakfast West Shore Plaza Family Restaurant 8:30 am – Ladies' Breakfast Camp Hill Cafe

April Meetings

Jesus is risen indeed!

Advisory Council Meeting: Mon, Apr. 7, 6:30pm Board of Trustees Meeting: Mon, Apr. 14, 6:30pm Board of Deacons Meeting: Tues, Apr. 8, 6:30pm Missions Board Meeting: Tues, Apr. 15, 6:00pm Christian Ed Board Meeting: Tues, Apr. 15, 7:00 pm

Advisory Council

Search Committee:

We are taking a temporary hiatus from our Associate Pastor search until after Pastor Kelly returns from her sabbatical this summer. Her return will coincide with spring/summer graduation from seminary schools, too, and timing should be more appropriate for finding candidates. We will not incur additional expense to post our ad while we're on hiatus, but it will remain active where we're not having to pay an additional monthly fee. I'll respond appropriately to any relevant applications that arrive during our hiatus, and have them ready for discussion once we resume.

Thank you very, very much for all the work you completed to get us here. Please continue to pray for the person God wants to assume this role, and for Pastor Kelly as she readies for her upcoming restorative time away.

Don't hesitate to contact me with any questions.

In Christ, Charlie Alford, Chairperson

The Deacon Board

Benevolence Fund:

Managing the church's Benevolence Fund is an important part of the deacon board's responsibilities. We are grateful for the many people in our congregation who contribute to this impactful ministry. Your generosity allows us to feed the hungry in our community and help struggling families get through tough times. **Our next collection will be held April 13.**

Fellowship/Coffee Café:

Do you have a favorite item or treat you'd like to share on Sunday mornings for our coffee café? Donations are greatly appreciated.

Parents' Prayer Group:

There will be no Parents' Prayer Group for the month of April. We will resume meeting on May 18th.

Prayer Ministry:

Our trained prayer ministers, identified by their yellow buttons, are happy to pray with you at any time and will be at the front of the sanctuary at the end of the service. You may also submit prayer requests for our prayer team on our church center app.

Church Center:

Have you visited westshorebaptist.churchcenter.com or downloaded the church center app on your smart phone or tablet yet? You'll find event sign-ups, group registration, online giving, prayer request submission forms, our pictorial directory (please opt-in) and much more!

Deacon's List:

To better serve and care for our congregational family, each Deacon will take responsibility to watch over a set list of individuals & families within our church for 2025. Your Deacon will connect with you regularly and serve as your point person for congregational care needs.

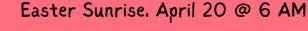
2025 HOLY WEEK AT WEST SHORE BAPTIST

Palm Sunday. April 13 @ 10:30 AM

Our children will lead us in song as we consider the King, gentle & lowly, who demands a response. Either crown Him your Lord or kill Him as a threat to your lordship. He cannot be ignored.

Maundy Thursday. April 17 @ 7 PM

The night began with 13 people gathered around a table. The Master presented each with bread & wine, signs of broken body & blood. By the end of the night? The Master would stand alone, so that you never have to. Join us for this experiential service. Note: Nursery care provided. No livestream.



Come to the Upper Pavilion of Negley Park in Lemoyne in the dark as we await the dawning of light. Through song, prayer, and scripture, we will declare "He is risen indeed!" Dress casually and comfortably - it may be chilly!

Easter. April 20 @ 10:30 AM

He is risen! And the resurrected Savior wears wounds, scars mar His glorified body. There is a beauty & profound promise in that simple fact.



Easter Offering:

This year's Easter offering will go to Church World Service which is a faith-based organization transforming communities around the globe through just and sustainable responses to hunger, poverty, displacement and disaster. For more information, please visit: <u>https://cwsglobal.org/</u>

We've Been Asked ...

What's up with the pews?

The Trustees put the question of replacing the pews before the congregation at the January business meeting, in part to update the look of the sanctuary and in part to recognize that the pews are now – literally – 50 years old. We have a 1975 photo of Al Sweigard assembling and arranging them! The cushioning is worn and some have issues with stability and wear.

Why now?

We had a solid financial year in 2024 and have also received unbudgeted federal funds, both of which allow us to consider non-critical projects such as this. The funds we have on hand are sufficient to make the purchase, based on the samples we are testing out. We will not be reaching into any other funds or asking for donations.

Has the decision been made to replace the pews with chairs?

In a sense it has, not by our deliberations but because of the market. Modular pews, like we have currently, are far more expensive than chairs and, candidly, are not all that attractive. Regular pews are custom built and so even more expensive. Apart from market considerations, church seating companies recognize the tradition of pews but highlight the flexibility, affordability, versatility and ease of maintenance using chairs – including seating layouts, adding seating as they grow, and transitioning seating to other areas of the facility.

Why not reupholster the pews we have?

Reupholstering would be more expensive than replacement, and given the age is somewhat analogous to putting a fresh coat of paint on a 50 year old car. We've also been advised that the design of our pews is such that, although we've not had a significant incident in their decades of use, they should be anchored to the floor.

The sample chairs we have seem to have high seats.

The samples are a standard height for upholstered chairs. The samples are different models, from different companies, and specs for other models come in at the same relative heights. You'll find the same height in any commercial setting – your doctor's waiting room for example – and the other upholstered chairs in the church lobby are comparable. The height does admittedly contrast with the height of the current pews, but the pews are actually low, even in comparison to unupholstered chairs.

The sample chairs feel like I'm sitting too close to my neighbor.

To give everyone comfortable seating room we asked for widest-available samples. Most of those on display are 21 inches wide, exactly half the width of our current pews. So, sitting next to a neighbor is the same as sitting next to them in a pew. We also just got in a sample that's 22 inches wide, as an additional alternative. And as to sitting next to each other, one company notes a study showing that individuals are much more comfortable taking an empty church chair as opposed to filling an empty space on a church pew.

Will chairs make the sanctuary look more like a hotel ballroom?

All chairs of this design are actually called "pew chairs," intended for a more formal and contemplative setting. The design, unlike hotel chairs, includes a wide upholstered back for an attractive visual. And when ganged together the wide backs, combined with the flat seats, present a uniform flat surface across the row that has the look of pews – see the attached photos from Grace Baptist Church.



The cushions of the samples feel pretty rigid.

Compared to 50 year old foam, agreed. There is some initial feel difference among the samples which can be taken into account, but all will break in over time.

Will the congregation be voting on the replacement seating?

The congregation voted at the January business meeting to authorize the Trustees to expend funds needed to replace the pews, with the Trustees acknowledging the funds on hand are sufficient without budget modification or fundraising. The motion was not specific on pews vs chairs, but as noted the market for pews has distinct disadvantages and so the only true option, if we are replacing the pews, is an appropriate chair. That said, there is not a rush on making the replacement and so we have time to evaluate and build consensus, and we can bring in more samples.

Who should we talk to about our questions and preferences?

We encourage you to chat with any member of the Trustees or Advisory Council. Each body has kept this project on their monthly agendas, and comments are shared and discussed.



Community Groups:

Community Groups are small groups who gather to apply the Bible to their lives, pray and build relationships. If you are interested in joining or launching a new group, contact the church office for more information.

Kid's Club:

Kid's Club meets every Wednesday from 6:30-7:45pm. Open to students in grades $1^{st} - 6^{th}$. See Maura Bihl or Pastor Kelly for details.

Men's Community Group:

Men's group meets every other Thursday at 8am in Davidson Chapel. Please sign up on Church App.

Musical Theater Camp:

Mark your calendars! Musical Theater Camp will be August 4-8 (with performances on Aug. 9). Camper Registration for students in grades 1-12 (in the '25-26 academic year) will open on April 1st and we will need Many volunteers to serve. This year campers will perform *Aladdin, Kids* and learn that our true identity is found in Christ, as His love transforms us into "diamonds".

Walton-Wall Scholarship:

The CE Board is once again accepting applications for the Walton-Wall Scholarship. This scholarship is able to provide partial reimbursements for summer camp experiences for children who regularly attend WSBC and are entering grades K-11th in the fall of 2025. The application deadline is April 13 and scholarship recipients and amounts will be announced by the end of the month. As a reminder, this scholarship reimburse (partially) the expense of camp and is contingent upon turning in a receipt and report of the camper's experience after camp. Completed applications may be left on Donna Hess's desk in the Church Office.

Life Groups:

Summer Life Groups will soon be open for registration. These affinity-based groups meet June – August and we hope to host a variety (from puzzles and games to hiking!) be on the lookout for the opportunity to sign up on Church Center by early May.

The Missions Board

Clothes Closet:

The clothes closet will be open this month on Saturday, April 12^{th} from 9am - 12 pm. Thank you to all who donated clothes to refill the closet. Volunteers are welcome and needed both mid-week and one Saturday a month. Please contact Dawne Strock for details.

Free Little Pantry:

Don't forget about our outdoor community pantry. Thank you to those who have contributed. Next time you are shopping, consider buying an item or two to place in the pantry on your way into church.

Red Cross Blood Drive:

There will be a Red Cross Blood Drive held at WSBC on **Tuesday, April 29th from 12pm-6 pm**. If you wish to donate, visit their website at <u>www.redcrossblood.org</u>.

Blessing Bags:

Filled bags can be found in the lobby. These bags can be shared wherever there is a need.

Puzzles:

Like a good puzzle? Jigsaw puzzle that is? You're in luck. We now have a Puzzle Cabinet located at the Welcome Center! These puzzles are free to take and put together then return for someone else's enjoyment. Feel free to add to the collection.

Mission Possible:

Save the Date! Mission Possible is Saturday, June 7th. Breakfast will be served at 8am and then there will be opportunities for all ages and stages. More details coming soon!

Blessing Bag Drive: All of our supplies for blessing bags were used by our Kids' Club crew to fill our current Bags. The Mission Board is requesting donations to prepare for our next round of bags. Donations of new gallon-size Ziplocks, 6 to 10-ounce empty reusable water bottles, travel-size toothpaste, toothbrushes (preferably with covers), nail clippers, chapstick, socks (of all sizes), hand wipes, plain deodorant and bandaids May be left in the lobby throughout April.

Volunteers Needed

The Link 4 Youth (formerly Medard's House) is a nonprofit organization where kids can go after school. The center is located in New Cumberland and has between 20-40 kids attend each day after school; they always have a Bible lesson and are served dinner. Our Missions Board is looking for 6 volunteers to help us "adopt a night" where we will provide a Bible lesson to the kids and then serve dinner on May 12 from 4:00-6:30 PM. You can teach, hang out with teens, meal prep and/or help serve. Sign-up on Church Center. See Sue Sweigard or Bethany Malykh for details.



2025 Market St. Camp Hill, PA 17011 www.wsbc.org

SUNDAY SERVICES:

Worship Service — 10:30 AM

Live streaming online and at church

Staff

Senior Pastor:	Rev. Kelly Legg	Cell: (610) 755-8203	Email: pastorkdl@gmail.com
Associate Pastor:			
Children's Ministry Director:	Maura Bihl	Cell: (267) 949-6064	Email: maura.giannone@gmail.com
Choir Director:	Carol Saltzer	Cell: (717) 383-9740	Email: carolsaltzer@hotmail.com
Office Manager:	Donna Hess	Church: (717) 761-0942	Email: wsbcmail@gmail.com
Organist:	Gary Stefanic	Home: (717) 856-0748	Email: garystefanic1@comcast.net
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