



Beaver-Butler Presbytery
Serving God...Serving You



Congregations Connected - Collaboration

"As Presbyterians, we are knit together as the body of Christ in order to bless, encourage and support one another in faithful service in the kingdom of God. Per capita giving is one of the concrete ways we express our mutual commitment to one another; another is in the example of churches in physical proximity coming together for worship and fellowship, despite the recent pandemic."

Rev. John C.R. Silbert, Covenant Presbyterian Church, Butler

Butler Area Presbyterians – BAP

Butler Area Presbyterians have been coming together since 2016. Inspired by the downtown congregations' long-standing efforts to feed the hungry in Butler, Pastors Rev. Merry Hope Meloy, of St. Andrew's, and Rev. James Swanson, of Covenant, widened the collaboration by reaching out to pastors and elders of Faith, The Hill, North and East Butler and Trinity churches. BAP was formed with an inaugural music event featuring musicians from the various congregations. The energy and excitement from this first event inspired continued work together.



Preparing for "Worship Without Walls"

Annual combined worship events include Ash Wednesday (online for 2021) and Good Friday services, Hill's annual "Worship without Walls" service at Alameda Park, and a Blue Christmas service. Opportunities for joint study groups, spiritual formation and a possible combined Stephen Ministry program have also been explored.

Rev. Meloy offers the following, "Building relationships and discovering each other's gifts takes time. Keep working at it and don't be afraid to start small. Coming together is an important witness. In this time of deep polarization and division, the church can offer a powerful contrast – bearing witness to the love and grace of Christ and the distinct nature of a Christian community."

Give your share.

Stronger together. Beaver-Butler congregations.

For more information about Per Capita call 724-452-7515 or visit beaverbutler.org



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Congregations Connected – Collaboration

The Bridge from Beaver Falls to New Brighton

A bridge connects Beaver Falls to New Brighton. Like all bridges it is comprised of a foundation, a substructure, and a superstructure. In 2019, Rev. David Oyler, Interim Executive Presbyter, convened Beaver area church leaders for a conversation that would become the foundation of a new partnership. Building upon that foundation and existing relationships, leaders of First Beaver Falls and First New Brighton began to explore what the structure of shared ministry could look like.



Beaver Falls Soup Kitchen

Enter Rev. Emily Miller...and God! “The Lord placed New Brighton in front of me,” Pastor Emily shared. As she passed First New Brighton on her daily commute to her new church home, First Beaver Falls, her curiosity grew about the congregation with no pastor. Her vision began to build for the superstructure that would bring together the new church partnership and provide New Brighton with its next pastor. Following the simple beginning of providing a link to New Brighton for Beaver Falls on-line services during COVID-19, New Brighton approached Beaver Falls to start conversations about a more formal collaboration. With the guidance of Rev. Rob Swinsburg, pastor of Westminster in Sarver and member of the Ministry and Vocation Committee (MVC) of Presbytery, an agreement was drafted for the shared ministry. The partnership became official on October 1, 2020.

While both churches maintain their identities with separate Sunday services, they are not separate islands. They are bridged by combined worship, bible study, youth programs, and mission projects such as the ongoing Beaver Falls Soup Kitchen and collecting cheer boxes to send to U.S. troops. Pastor Emily feels working together for mission is a moving experience, “It deepens ties and gives us the sense that we are all in discipleship and making an impact to improve our community together.” She and church members revel in the energy, excitement, and additional points of view worshipping, learning, and working together bring.

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