



In an effort to strengthen our Presbytery network of relationship and communication, The Presbytery of Carlisle is launching **Digital Disciples**, a new on-line ministry initiative! Initially, we're making use of Facebook to widen our reach and generate interaction among leaders and congregations. From there, we'll branch into other social media platforms. Let's get connected! **It's as easy as 1 - 2 - 3.**

**1 - Like us on Facebook:** Have you been to The Presbytery of Carlisle Facebook page recently? We're stepping up our use of this page to share news of what's happening among our congregations, to promote events of special interest to churches and their leaders, to share ideas, articles, and resources of interest to Presbyterians, and to celebrate what God is doing among us! If you have not already done so, please go here [https://www.facebook.com/carlislepby.org/?epa=SEARCH\\_BOX](https://www.facebook.com/carlislepby.org/?epa=SEARCH_BOX) and "like" us.

**2 - Join The Presbytery of Carlisle Pastors Group on Facebook:** The purpose of the group is, "connecting pastors and CREs serving congregations to support and nurture one another." The group is open to all clergy and CREs of the presbytery. It is, however, what Facebook calls a Closed Group, meaning people can see that the group exists, but CANNOT see what is posted or commented, unless they are members of the group. You can join the Presbytery of Carlisle Pastors Group by clicking this link - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2159523031026751/>

As a member of the group, please feel free to use the group in the following ways:

- To share what you are doing in your church and/or within the presbytery
- To take a poll and/or ask for suggestions, recommendations
- To wish someone Happy Birthday, congratulate them,
- To invite other pastors to meet up for lunch, dinner or for coffee, etc.
- To share pictures, videos and music, events, etc.
- To share articles, training opportunities, strategies, outreach ideas, changes in procedures and important updates
- To barter, exchange, give away and/or share equipment, supplies and other resources to maximize funds

The group is NOT a place for sharing personal matters that are of a confidential nature. And, it does not replace our need for face-to-face interaction and support among colleagues, as individuals and in groups.

**3- Get Your Congregation Connected:** To date, five congregations\* plus the presbytery are working with consultant John Fong (a member of the Metuchen Presbyterian church in NJ) to strengthen their use of Facebook as an outreach tool. These congregations are learning how to use social media to reach beyond the walls of their churches to connect with people who don't know about them and don't yet know about the life we find in following Jesus. John works directly with church staff and/or volunteers churches to:

- a) create a Church Facebook page (if the church does not already have one);
- b) train those who administer the church's use of social media with strategies and best practices for expanding the congregation's reach;
- c) establish benchmarks for the number of people the church may expect to reach on-line and for visitors welcomed to the church.

Participants learn how to track results, create super-users to maximize interaction between the church and those the church wants to reach, and use this on-line ministry as a tool for cultivating discipleship and mission, within and beyond the walls of the congregation.

Congregations receive a year of support and training from John for a fee of \$500.

Want to know more? Watch for our invitation coming soon to Moderators and Clerks of Session, describing how your church can sign up. Plan now to attend one of the workshops John will offer: **Tuesday, March 19th at 7:00 p.m.** you can join John from the comfort of your home or office, via Zoom (an internet-based conferencing tool). On Tuesday, **March 26th, at 11:00 a.m.** (location to be announced) John will meet in person with pastors, church administrators and others, who want to know more about the Digital Disciples Initiative. The purpose of these gatherings is to describe how Digital Disciples is helping churches connect with people on-line and in person, through the congregation's ministries. Along with answering your questions, John will share data and stories from the pilot churches and will help you get your on-line ministry started.

\*Participating pilot churches include: First Presbyterian Church of Carlisle, The McConnellsburg Presbyterian Church, The Warfordsburg Presbyterian Church, Middle Spring Presbyterian Church, and Middletown Presbyterian Church