



# THE TOWER



OCTOBER 2017

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, TITUSVILLE, PA

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## A Note from Pastor Norma Murphy

The Lord be with you all!

One of the hardest things I find for good church folk to do is to receive help or assistance from others. We are good at GIVING, but pretty poor at RECEIVING.

If a neighbor is home from the hospital, we are pretty good at visiting or taking a meal in for them. We are happy to give a ride to someone to a medical appointment or the store or to church if it is needed. We give regularly at church and give more to extra commitment opportunities like One Great Hour of Sharing or last spring's Soul Hope fund drive or the Food Pantry.

However, turn the tables and let US be the ones on the needy end, the receiving end, and we become very uncomfortable. Our identity is as givers, not as receivers, and it is a very difficult identity to change.

I was reading the gospel of Matthew for the bible study I am leading and came across a verse that clearly speaks to this situation. It is at the end of the 10<sup>th</sup> chapter, and in The Message (a paraphrase) it reads: "Accepting someone's help is as good as giving someone help."

This is Jesus' teaching to the 12 disciples, to the faithful followers. He has just sent them out on their first mission trip, with instructions to travel light and look for hospitality in each town. It is an important reminder that all people can't be givers all the time. There will always be occasions when those who are died-in-the-wool givers will be in a position of needing to receive.

To receive assistance with grace and humility is a blessing and a gift from the receiver to the giver. Whether it is something made needful post-operation during a time of healing and rehabilitation or something made needful by life circumstances or aging, it is offering the other an opportunity to be able to give.

Beggars in the Hebrew culture were seen as doing a service for the community in offering the people who comprised it the opportunity to give. Do we feel that way in this day? Not usually!

If a sense of pride is keeping you from asking our deacons, elders, or staff for assistance in any way, shape, or form, know that you are blocking the opportunity for us to serve you. And this goes especially for good friends you may have in the congregation.

Some days we are mostly givers, some days we are mostly receivers, and some days we are a little of both. As long as it is done with love in the name of Jesus Christ, it is exactly what Jesus would have us do.

Grace and peace,  
Norma

## Session News

Your Session met to discern God's leading for our congregation on Monday, August 28, 2017. During that meeting the spiritual leaders of the church:

- ❖ Prayed for a number of our members with health issues
- ❖ Approved the June 26, 2017 minutes
- ❖ Approved Erin Lavery as an inquirer to ministry
- ❖ Approved Study Leave for Pastor Norma Prina Murphy, October 18 through October 31.
- ❖ Pastor officiated a wedding for Maggie Rapp and Cameron Nicols on August 19, 2017
- ❖ Approved Theresa Davitt as new Assistant Treasurer
- ❖ Approved to repair 3 windows in the church
- ❖ Approved the 2017/2018 Sunday School
- ❖ Transfer of Steven and Tanya Zahn to Pleasantville Presbyterian Church
- ❖ Removed from the Church Roll: Maggie Rapp per her request
- ❖ PNC Committee will meet in September
- ❖ Closed with the Lord's Prayer

The next meeting of the Session is scheduled for Monday, October 16 at 7 p.m.

## Upcoming Committee Meetings

Mission – Thursday, October 12, 12 noon., Conference Room  
Christian Education – Thursday, October 12, 1 p.m., Conference Room  
Deacons – Thursday, October 12, 7 p.m., Conference Room  
Finance – Thursday, October 19, 5:30 p.m., Conference Room  
Heritage – Sunday, October 29, 8:30 a.m., Conference Room  
Session – Monday, October 16, 7 p.m., Conference Room  
Worship – TBD

## I Have Great Faith, But Sometimes I Feel Very Alone. What Can Help Me Feel More A Part Of This Church?

This question is not uncommon, especially after a person has gone through a deep loss, such as the loss of a spouse, parent, or sibling. There is a distinct void that now exists and even if you know in your head that the triune God is always with you, you can still feel at times that you are totally alone.

The first thing I would suggest is to envision your heart with a ragged-edged, gaping hole in it. At least that is my image for such a time of loss – you may have another one. But try to picture this, and then in everyday language ask for the Holy Spirit to come and fill that empty space up. Keep praying this until it happens, and I believe it will.

As to how you can feel more a part of the church – or any group, for that matter – I suggest that you prayerfully go through the calendar, pausing at each entry and pray for that activity. Pray for their love and joy for God to overflow. Pray for the right people – the ones God would choose! -- to be part of that activity. Pray for guidance if you might be one of the ones God might be calling to participate in it. Then go on to the next event.

There are groups and committees within this church that would love to have a person just show up and volunteer to be part of it. And in fact this has happened recently, and a wonderful new mission idea was born!

The best way to feel more a part of something is to become more involved in it. I am praying that some of you choose this path!

# Sunday School News

## Adult Sunday School Classes Being Offered

Each Sunday there are 3 Adult Sunday School Classes being offered from 9:45 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

Commissioned Women meets in the Conference Room and is facilitated by Marcia Garrett and Nancy Roeder

Lee Green meets in Scheide Hall and is class led.

An Intergenerational Sunday School Class meets upstairs in Room 204 and is facilitated by Terry Davitt and class led.

Come explore these great opportunities to continue to expand your understanding of the Bible.

If you are coming to an adult class, please feel free to bring your children as they will be welcomed to our supervised young people's area located in the nursery to wait for you before church begins.

## Youth Sunday School

- Middle School, Senior High meet at 9:45 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.
- All children in Kindergarten up to the 5<sup>th</sup> grade will meet for Sunday school during the church hour. Each child will come to the sanctuary with his or her family; stay for a short portion of worship (about the first 15 minutes); then be excused to their Sunday school classroom.

# Christian Education

## Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible study meets every Tuesday from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the conference room. Currently they are studying a series entitled "Who Is Jesus? What a Difference a Lens Makes" by Judy Yates Siker.

Pastor Norma Prina Murphy and the group are on a journey to expand their understanding of who Jesus was and is – a journey of their hearts and minds, a journey that they are taking together.

Norma invites you to come along and experience the various lenses and how these different perspectives impact your understanding of who Jesus is.

Books are needed for this class at a cost of \$6. Norma will see that you get a book on your first visit to the study.

For any questions contact Pastor Norma at 827-3665.

## **Transformation Tuesdays**

Transformation Tuesdays, our after-school program for children in K-5 through 5<sup>th</sup> grade meets each Tuesday from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Adult volunteers escort children from Main Street Elementary to the church for snacks, Christian Education, crafts, games, and children's choir. We also love our family of volunteers who help make this program a reality. Consider joining us!

For Registration forms and questions about the program contact Gail Billig at 827-3122 or the church office at 827-3665.

Note: After-school Programs follow the School Calendar.

No School – No After-School Program

## **Transformation Tuesdays Learn About Generosity**

**Fall Food Drive** – The shelves of the Food Pantry at Associated Charities are almost bare. It has been a tough few months for donations and the need is great. We would like to fill these shelves abundantly for the holiday season.

The Transformation Tuesdays kiddos have been learning about generosity and action. They would like to take these lessons learned another step further by applying them, by making this food drive a fun and exciting challenge.

On October 3, we will weigh each child from the Super Tuesdays Program and tally their total weight to make a challenge to the congregation. The challenge will be for the congregation to bring in the total weight of all the children in pounds of food to donate.

We will involve the children in the collection and distribution of this food and look forward to filling the Food Pantry' shelves throughout the month of October. October 31 will be the final collection date for these donations. Be sure to look for the display table in the hallway.

Items needed are canned/boxed items like cereal, fruits, vegetables, pastas, rice, soups, peanut butters, jellies, tuna, chicken, baking supplies. Also, desperately needed are napkins, paper towels, toilet paper, Kleenex, dish soap, laundry detergent, shampoo, and deodorant. Monetary donations are welcome, but we ask that you take them to Associated Charities.

Thank you for your generosity in advance!

## **Men of First Breakfast Bible Study**

MOF meets each Wednesday at 7 a.m. in Scheide Hall. Men of the church and community, come for a Bible Study, a delicious breakfast, good fellowship, and conversation on a passage of the Bible, leaving well-nourished and fulfilled.

If you would like to help prepare the morning breakfast, speak with Tom Newcombe.

## **Fall Family Nights**

Fall Family Nights will start on Wednesday, October 4, at 5:30 p.m., in Scheide Hall. Dinner will be served promptly at 5:30 p.m. with the evening's program beginning at 6:30 p.m. This year, instead of meat, veggie, or dessert, each night will have a food theme. All who come are asked to bring a theme food, plus their own table service.

October 4: Game Night Theme: Pizza and Salad Bar

October 11: Guest speaker Jennifer Wellington will speak  
on Mental Health Issues

Theme: Tailgate Party Food

October 18: Mission Trip to Broad Street in Philadelphia

Gail Billig, Eryn Lavery, and Brenna Hannold will speak on  
this year's mission trip.

Theme: Soup and Sandwiches

October 25: Music with Nathaniel Licht

Theme: Comfort Food

November 2: The Holy Land experience with Pastor Norma

Theme: Italian Cuisine

Each evening will finish by 7:30. This way the choir can practice and the kids can get home to go to bed!

## Music News

### Chancel Choir

At First Church the worship choir is a major part of the “Sunday Experience.” I encourage anyone with a heart for worship and a song in their heart to consider joining this long-standing ministry! The choir meets every Wednesday at 7 p.m. from September through May.

They sing a wide variety of anthems that please most musical tastes, as well as lead the Sunday hymns. No experience is necessary and I am always available for “on-the-job training” for any choir member, not only in vocal production, but in ear training, music theory, sight-reading, and Christian understanding. As Marty Haugen wrote, “All are welcome in this Place!”

Nathaniel Licht,  
Director of Music

## Mission News

### Church World Service Hygiene Kits to be Collected

The Mission Committee is currently collecting supplies for hygiene kits for disaster relief. With all the recent world-wide disasters, ie. hurricanes, fires, earthquakes, etc., Church World Services supplies have been depleted and are in desperate need of resupplying.

For donations, we are asking for the following:

If your last name begins with A-L,

- One washcloth
- One wide-tooth comb

If your last name begins with M-Z,

- One bath size bar of soap in the wrapper
- Ten standard size Band-aids

The following items are for anyone to bring in, along with their donated items from above,

- Hand towels (measuring 15” x 28” to 16” x 32”)  
(no fingertip, bath, dish towel or micro-fiber)
- finger nail or toe nail clippers
- one toothbrush in the package

All that is collected will be assembled into kits by our Transformation Tuesday kids on Tuesday, October 31<sup>st</sup>.

If you wish to package your own kit at home, all items will need to fit inside a one-gallon plastic zipper closure bag.

Do not add any extra items or toothpaste. A tube of extended expiration date toothpaste will be added to each Hygiene Kit just prior to its journey.

Monetary donations are welcome, as there is a \$2.00 processing fee for each kit. You can put this donation in the offering plate on Sunday and in the memo put "KIT".

Let's see how many hygiene kits we can make!

(Note: Any leftover supplies from the kit making will be distributed locally.)

## **Breaking Bread Together**

"Do you like eating out? Do you like big crowds? Do you like to fellowship with people from the church?" If you said "yes" to any of the above questions, then you are invited to come and break bread together, Tuesday, October 10, at 12:30 p.m., at Perkin's Restaurant located on Central Avenue.

To participate, we ask that you call or stop by the church office by Monday, the 9<sup>th</sup>, before 5 p.m. to make your reservation(s). Children, college students, and the young at heart are all invited.

Our hope is to be able to dine together each month on the second Tuesday at a different restaurant in the area. When we meet on October 10, we will decide where our next outing will be held.

## **College / Young Adult Fellowship**

The College/Young Adult Fellowship meets each Sunday evening at 6 p.m. This group usually meets at facilitator Tom Newcombe's home located at 308 North Fourth Street. If this is your first time attending, contact Mr. Newcombe at (814) 547-1760 or 827-6295.

Our hope is to achieve an atmosphere of spiritual growth, exploration, support, fostering, and challenge for young adults to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



## **SAM's (Senior Adult Ministry) Programs**

All those 55+ are invited to participate in all SAM's Club events. If you have a suggestion for a movie/event, would like to make the soup for the day, or need a ride, call Tom Newcombe at 827-3665.

Each Wednesday, join the SAM's Club group at 1 p.m. for an afternoon of needlecrafting.

Each Thursday, join the SAM's Club group at 1 p.m. for an afternoon of card playing.

On Friday, October 6, at 12 noon, in Scheide Hall, join the SAM's Club for Lunch and a Movie. This group will also meet again on October 20.

## **Worship**

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has a new Book of Order (2017-2019). The Book of Order is meaty reading; and, under Directory for Worship, we read:

"Christian worship gives all glory and honor, praise and thanksgiving to the holy, triune God. We are gathered in worship to glorify the God who is present and active among us--particularly through the gifts of Word and Sacrament. We are sent out in service to glorify the same God who is present and active in the world.

God acts with grace; we respond with gratitude. God claims us as beloved children; we proclaim God's saving love. God redeems us from sin and death; we rejoice in the gift of new life.

This rhythm of divine action and human response--found throughout Scripture, human history, and everyday events--shapes all of Christian faith, life, and worship."

The Worship Committee met most recently on September 17. Our current focus has been on stewardship. You will soon receive a letter from Titusville First Presbyterian Church regarding stewardship. The letter was thoughtfully drafted by Phil Cauvel, Deb Kirvan, and Nat Licht. Please take time to prayerfully read and ponder the letter; then, respond as you are so moved.

Pastor Norma will be on Study Leave October 18-31. The pulpit will be filled by:

Rev. Sheldon ("Tim") Logan, North East, Pa. - October 22;

Rev. Craig Cashdollar (honorably retired), Erie, Pa.

- October 29

Ushers for October are: Dede Kerr, Andy Stover, and John Schultz.

Communion will be served on October 1 (by intinction).

With "comings and goings," the next Worship Committee is to be announced.

Peace.

Sandy Smith,

Moderator, Worship Committee

## Church Mission Statement

### First Presbyterian Church

A Christian community that welcomes all people and equips them to proclaim, witness, and teach the good news of Jesus Christ through worship, prayer, and caring service.

## Flowers for the Sanctuary

If you would like to place flowers in the Sanctuary on any Sunday throughout the year, let Terry Davitt know at the church office (827-3665) by the Wednesday prior to them being in the sanctuary. This way, she can place the dedication in the bulletin.

## Birthdays

Sally Brown	2	Kathy Fitz	11	Steve Bodamer	24
Bill Webb	3	Audrey Cole	11	Ruth Roeder	24
Eric Mowrey	4	Barb Schneider	12	Jackie Thompson	27
Ruth Martin	4	Carolyn Bromley	12	Pat Walker	27
Jennifer Warner	7	Rob Seib	13	Gloria Fenton	28
Dennis Barker	7	Donna McAllister	21	Betty Harrison	29
Brenda Tarr	11	Shane Schneider	24	Tom Eggleston	30

***If we have missed your birthday – please let us know.***

# Community

## **Alzheimer Caregiver's Support Group Meeting**

An Alzheimer Caregiver's Support Group, led by Marcia Garrett and Carol Morgan, meets the first and third Tuesdays of each month (October 3 and October 17) at 2:30 p.m. in Emerson Parlor.

A difficult challenge to face alone, Marcia and Carol have participated in special training to equip them to lead the group. All those who live with or care for those afflicted with Alzheimer or dementia of any kind are welcome to participate. If you have questions about the group, call Marcia Garrett at 827-7404.

## **Lions Club to Host Annual AMBA Wellness Program**

On Saturday, October 7, 2017, 6 a.m. to 10 a.m., the Titusville Lions Club will once again host the AMBA Wellness Blood Screening here in our Scheide Hall.

Anyone interested in having these tests done should call (800)234-8888 Monday-Friday (8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) to schedule an appointment.

The cost is \$40.00 and it includes testing for coronary disease, anemia, diabetes, kidney disease, liver disease, calcium, magnesium, chloride, potassium, sodium, uric acid, TIBC, and transferrin saturation. There are optional tests available at additional fees. Note: all optional tests require a separate script from your doctor.

## **Titusville Ladies Conference October 20 and 21**

Due to construction at the Free Methodist Church, the Annual Titusville Ladies Conference (TLC) will be held here this year in our sanctuary on October 20 and 21. The speaker for this event will be Robyn Dykstra. For more information, a brochure can be found on the table located across from the church office.

Mark your calendar now and invite a friend!

## **A Food Pantry**

The Food Pantry needs our help. They are always collecting food items for its shelves. Gift cards, for personal hygiene items and toiletries, are always appreciated, too.

## **Boy Scout Troop Meets on Mondays**

Each Monday evening at 6 p.m., the Boy Scouts meet in Scheide Hall. All boys in grades Kindergarten - 5<sup>th</sup>, interested in joining a great club for boys, are invited to come and check it out. Any questions should be directed to Geri Whitney at (814)564-1179.

## **Crisis Hotlines**

Drug and Alcohol Crisis Line: (844)643-5766

Case manager available 24/7 to assist in seeking treatment and to get screenings/assessments and appointments made

Mental Health Crisis Line: (814) 724-2732 or (800) 315-5721

To access help in case of an emergency

Warm Line: (800)951-2055

When you need someone to talk to on a bad day.

## **Contact Us**

### **First Presbyterian Church**

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(814) 827-3665

Email: [firstpresby216@verizon.net](mailto:firstpresby216@verizon.net)

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## **Staff**

Kai Baldwin, Accompanist

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