



THE TOWER



FEBRUARY 2018

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, TITUSVILLE, PA

A Note from Pastor Norma Murphy

The Lord be with you!

Easter is a ‘moveable feast,’ a celebration that occurs on a range of dates. It is held on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the vernal equinox (which is March 21). This year Easter falls on April 1, an early date for it. That means Lent begins early, as well.

Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, is February 14 this year. We will mark that beginning with the first of our Lenten Family Nights with a supper at 5:30 p.m. followed by a special worship service at 6:30 p.m. which will include the imposition of ashes. It is a time when we remember that we are dust, and that to dust we shall return. This is a solemn, somber service, and among my favorite services of the year. It grounds me in a way that I need in order to journey through Lent with integrity and humility.

Luke 9:51 says,

When the days drew near for him to be taken up,
he (Jesus) set his face to go to Jerusalem. (NRSV)

Lent is the time we are called to set our faces to go to Jerusalem with Jesus. To walk with him the dirty, dusty road filled with those who love him and those who plot against him. To go all the way to Jerusalem means going all the way to the cross.

How will you travel these forty days this year? I pray that it is in the company of many fellow pilgrims, worshiping and walking together. I pray that because when we are in one another's company we are more likely to be lifted up when we fall or lag behind, when we stall or lose our way. And I pray that because when we are in one another's company we are more likely to be able to lift others up as that happens to them.

I hope to set my face to go to Jerusalem again this Lent. Will you join me?

Grace and peace,
Norma

Session News

Session Meeting Highlights

Your Session met to discern God's leading for our congregation on Monday, January 22, 2018. During the meeting, the spiritual leaders of the church:

- Welcomed the 4 elder candidates as guests for the meeting
- Approved Pastor Norma attending the presbytery's clergy retreat from Monday - Wednesday, February 5-7, 2018 in Dunkirk, NY
- Heard a report from the PNC that they have received their first 10 applicant PIFs (Personal Information Forms) to consider
- Heard a report from the Administration/Finance ministry that a committee comprising of Terry Davitt, Rose Nystrom and Toby Cressman will be coordinating grant letters for the Stain Glass Window Capital Campaign
- Christian Education reported that the main focus right now is the Spring Family Dinners and programs
- Missions reported that a new ministry opportunity will be offered on 'Fifth Fridays' as they occur during the year. It will be a free meal open to the church and community from 4-6 p.m., provided by volunteers from the church. The first dinner will be on the next fifth Friday of the month, March 30, 2018 (Good Friday)

○The session acted to support Eryn Lavery with \$1,000 scholarship aid for her seminary studies; as this money was not budgeted for this year it will come from the Pastor's Discretionary fund line and be budgeted for next year
With thanksgiving to God for the singular privilege of serving in the Titusville community, Your Session

New Officers Elected

On Wednesday, January 24, at the Annual Meeting, the following members were nominated to be ordained and installed as your new elders and deacons. They will be ordained and installed on Sunday, February 4, 2018.

Elders: (Class of 2020)

Nancy Roeder
David Steinbuhler
Sandy Swanson
Gloria Taylor

Deacons: (Class of 2020)

Jessica Decker
Kelly Evans
Debbie Kirvan
Heidi Wonderling

(Class of 2018)

Lynn Nicols

2018 Nominating Committee (Members at Large):

Jack Gadsby
Linda Steinbuhler
Mike Wonderling

Upcoming Committee Meetings

Mission – Thursday, February 8, 12 noon., Conference Room
Christian Education – Thursday, February 8, 1 p.m., Conference Rm.
Deacons – Thursday, February 8, 7 p.m., Conference Room
Finance – Thursday, February 22, 5:30 p.m., Conference Room
Session – Monday, February 26, 7 p.m., Conference Room
Worship – TBD

Sunday School News

Senior High Sunday School Class to Host Fundraiser

On Sunday, February 11, following the morning worship service, the Senior High Sunday school class will host a fundraiser luncheon.

Tom and Debbie Newcombe, along with teacher, Toby Cressman, and the class members will prepare a meal of spaghetti and meatballs, salad, garlic bread, dessert, and beverage, that you know will be good.

The donations from this meal will sponsor the Senior High Sunday School project.

Sunday School Classes Being Offered

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

There are 2 Adult Classes, a Middle School Class, and a Senior High Class being offered from 9:45 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

The Adult Sunday School Classes are:

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

The Lee Green meets in Scheide Hall and is class led.

The Middle School and Senior High Classes meet upstairs in their respective classrooms.

If you would like to come to an adult class and need to bring your children with you, they will be welcomed to our supervised young people's area located in the nursery while they wait for you before church begins.

Elementary Worship

All children in Elementary grades (Kindergarten up to the 5th grade) meet for Sunday school during the church hour. Each child should come to the sanctuary with his/her family; stay for a short portion of worship (about the first 15 minutes); then be excused to their Sunday school classroom.

Christian Education

Lenten Family Nights to Begin

The Lenten Family Night Dinners/Programs will begin February 14, and will be held each Wednesday night through March 14 at 5:30 p.m., in Scheide Hall. Those attending are asked to bring a dish to share according to the food theme of the week. The evening programs will begin at 6:30 p.m., and they are listed below. The Christian Education Committee has lined up programs, so plan to come and have a great time!

February 14: Program: Ash Wednesday Service Theme: Italian

February 21: TBA Theme: Soup, salad, sandwich

February 28: Greg Gillespie – “Presbyterian Polity”

Theme: Comfort food

March 7: Chuck and Donna Cammaratas –

“Presbytery’s Ghana Partnership” Theme: Italian

March 14: Family Feud Night Theme: Soup, Salad, Sandwich

Movie Night

On Friday, February 23, 2018, Christian Education is sponsoring a special viewing of the critically acclaimed movie **WONDER**, at 7 p.m. in Scheide Hall.

The movie is based on a best-selling children’s novel by R. C. Palacio, it is the heartwarming story of a 10-year-old boy Auggie Pullman, born with a facial deformity who has been homeschooled all of his life. He is starting 5th Grade and must show his classmates, that despite his appearance, he is just a normal kid.

It is an awesome story. Schools all over the country are using the book as required reading for its message of kindness. There is even a social campaign coming around to schools nationwide called “Choose Kind.” It is a touching, heartwarming, feel-good movie that will have you laughing and crying and cheering for Auggie!

The film stars Julia Roberts, Owen Wilson and Jacob Trembley, all at their very best. It was just in the theaters over the holidays. We are so excited to be able to share this movie and its important message of kindness with all of you.

This evening is free; we will have popcorn and drinks. Please plan on joining us! Bring a friend, neighbor, children or grandchildren; it is a “wonderful” movie that everyone young and old will enjoy.

“Courage. Kindness. Friendship. Character.
These are the qualities that define us as human beings
and propel us, on occasion, to greatness.”

~R.J. Palacio~ Wonder

Women’s Bible Study

The Women’s Bible study will not meet on February 6. A new study will begin on February 13 entitled “The Great Ends of the Church.” All women of the church are welcome to attend.

Books are available for \$5.00, and can be picked up starting on Tuesday, February 6.

Transformation Tuesdays

Transformation Tuesdays, our after-school program for children in K-5 through 5th 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

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.

Missions

Fifth Fridays

As a new mission outreach project, we will be serving meals for our friends and neighbors in the community and congregation each 5th Friday of the year. Our first 5th Friday Community Meal falls on Good Friday, March 30th, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., before the Good Friday service. We hope to serve a large crowd of people. We will need people of all ages and abilities to prepare, serve, clean-up, donate menu items, and greet and fellowship with our guests. This will be an all-hands on deck event, so please mark your calendar and plan to sign up for a task, or attend and invite a friend from the community as your guest. This is an exciting new ministry for our church; it is a chance to fellowship with others outside of our church and open our doors and hearts to those in our community. We really want it to be successful. Please keep this mission in your prayers in the coming weeks and months. Members of the Mission and Outreach committee will be making Minute for Missions announcements in church and putting information and updates in the weekly bulletins. The 5th Friday's dates for 2018 are: June 29, August 31, and November 30. Please mark your calendars.

~Through love serve one another. ~Galatians 5:13

Worship

Communion will be served on Sunday, February 4, as part of the worship service. Servers will be: Barb and John Frye, Sandy Smith, and Kirt Zimmerman. Communion will be served by intinction.

Ushers

Rob Seib (captain), Kirk Decker, Rochelle Cressman

A Note from the Choirmaster

As has become a tradition at our church, this year's Holy Week services come as a meaningful opportunity to be part of your Chancel Choir! Absolutely zero experience or particular ability is needed to participate. Rather, a heart for praise and a spirit for song are all you'll need to muster. We are working on some beautiful music for the season featuring titles such as "Father, Forgive Them," "You are Mine," a rousing version of "Nothing but the Blood" set to Mozart's "Ein Klein Nachtmusic" and accompanied by the Lake Erie String Quartet, finally culminating with "the Hallelujah Chorus" Easter Sunday morning.

I hope that you will hear and accept this call to "move our worship higher" and join the choir, even if just for the season of Easter!

Respectfully Yours,
Nathaniel F. Licht, Director of Music

Fellowship News

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, February 13, 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, February 12, before 5 p.m. to make your reservation(s). Children, college students, and the young at heart are all invited.

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.

SAM's (Senior Adult Ministry)

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.

SAM's Weekly Programs

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.

SAM's Lunch and a Movie

On Friday, February 9, at 12 noon, in Scheide Hall, join the SAM's Club for Lunch and a Movie. This group will meet again on February 23.

PW News

Gently Used Books Needed

The PW Women will hold its annual book sale. A presale for congregational members will be held on Sunday, March 11, 12 noon to 1 p.m. On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, March 12-14 from 12 noon to 5 p.m. each day the community will be welcome. Anyone who has gently-used books and would like to donate them for the sale is asked to bring them to the church office or place them in the Dobb Doors. Please no encyclopedias or school books.

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

Kirk Decker	1	Amy Brown	11	Allen Hughes	21
Mark Sampson	2	Matt Sampson	14	Kirt Zimmerman	23
Randy Schneider	4	Mary Lou Tucker	14	Ava Hlad	25
Andy Osborn	4	Stan Thompson	15	Art McIntyre	25
Lakyn Hauptman	5	Debbie Newcombe		John Reagle	25
Terry Davitt	5		16	Sheila Schneider	26
Pastor Norma	7	Eric Fenske	17	Lisa Conner	26
Kelly Evans	7	Jessica Harshbarger		Tammey Dunlap	27
Dick Peebles	9		20	Bette Harrison	27
Karen Schlack	9	Char Eggleston	20	Craig Ludwick	27

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

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.

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 (February 6 and February 20) 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.

Arts and Scraps Space

Are you crafty? Do you like to share and fellowship with other ladies over arts and crafts? Do you have a project that you need to spread out to complete? Are you a scrapbooker? Are you limited on space and time? Are you interested in organizing your photos or creating a keepsake? Do you have scrapbook supplies collecting dust? If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, then Jessica Decker has just the thing...The Arts and Scraps Space, right here at First Presbyterian. Jessica is using an underutilized classroom in the upstairs for her crafting and scrapbooking supplies. She is at the church a few days during the week and often on weekend evenings to work on her various crafts and tasks that need a little more table space. She loves company and welcomes visitors to “The Lair” as she jokingly calls it. She can’t wait to share this space crafting and fellowshiping with others. Right now, she doesn’t have set hours but she is able to be in the space anytime anyone wishes to join her. She always has a pot of hot water for tea or hot cocoa, light snacks, soothing scents in the oil diffuser and good tunes on the radio. The space is warm and welcoming. Check it out!

The Arts and Scrap Space is located on the second floor. Just follow the signs for the prayer room; it is the second door on the end of the hallway between the “Worship Center” and the “Prayer Room.”

Please call Jessica at 814-827-9078 (home) or 814-449-4681 (cell).

You may also text her at 449-4681 or e-mail her @ jessicadecker73@icloud.com.

She looks forward to sharing her craft space with you.

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 - 5th, 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.

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.

Contact Us

First Presbyterian Church

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Staff

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