



# THE TOWER



JANUARY 2018

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, TITUSVILLE, PA

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## A Note from Pastor Norma Murphy

The Lord be with you all!

January 6 is always a special, though often overlooked, Christian holiday. It is the day of the Epiphany, the revelation of Jesus as the Messiah, the new king. It falls on the day after the end of the Christmas season (12 days!) and so is the 13<sup>th</sup> day after Christmas.



Epiphany is a celebration of the Magi arriving in Bethlehem to worship the baby Jesus. Epiphany is the celebration of the Light of the World being revealed to more than Jewish shepherds in fields, but to Gentiles from a foreign land.

Scholars today think that those Magi were actually Nabateans from Petra. They were a people who traded goods from the spice trade in Asia. They were sea going folks who navigated by the stars, and did that as easily over the desert as they did the sea. They were a people who paid attention to the stars all the time, and would have noticed immediately the new star in the east.

This Epiphany, how will you see the Light of the World anew? How will Jesus shine afresh in your life? How will God's love made manifest in Jesus be seen by others, especially those who do not share your faith?

And as we live into the season after Epiphany until Lent, how will the love and light of Christ's birth shine forth in this congregation? How will this amazing love and light continue to shine forth to other people through us? Because that is the whole point of celebrating Jesus' birth year after year!

I pray that we will grow as a church that reaches out to our neighbors in love. I pray that we will grow as a church that reaches out to each other in love. And I pray that we will grow as a church that shines forth the Light of the World in and to the world.

Grace and peace,  
Norma

## Session News

Your Session met to discern God's leading for our congregation on Monday, November 27, 2017. During that meeting the spiritual leaders of the church:

- ❖ Prayed for a number of our members with health issues
- ❖ Approved the October 16, 2017 minutes
- ❖ First reading of the 2018 Budget
- ❖ Heard report of several options of obtaining funds for the stained glass windows project
- ❖ Personnel and Christian Education Committees decided to put the hiring of a new CE Director on hold. It was felt that when we call a new pastor s/he should have a voice in this decision.
- ❖ Christian Education Committee reported that a youth fundraiser dinner will be held on December 10 to aid in their upcoming Erie City Mission trip
- ❖ Mission Committee reported that 25 hygiene kit have been sent to Church World Services; \$170.00 was sent to the Presbyterian Disaster Association and \$170.00 to the African Ghana Vehicle Fund.
- ❖ Nominating Committee met and is working on Elder and Deacon nominees
- ❖ Tye Cressman transferred to Meadville First Presbyterian Church

## Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) Update

The PNC Committee has completed the Ministry Information Form (MIF). It was approved by the Session and will be forwarded to the Presbytery of Lake Erie's Committee on Ministry for a final approval in January. At that time, it will be able to be filed with Presbyterian Church (USA) in Louisville, KY, and the PNC Committee will begin receiving pastors' personal information forms.

# Annual Congregational Dinner/Meeting to be Held on January 24

The Annual Congregational Dinner/Meeting will be held Wednesday, January 24, at 5:30 p.m. in Scheide Hall. This year we are going to have a potluck supper coordinated by The Activities Committee where everyone is to bring either a casserole or a dessert to share. The meat, beverage, and table service will be supplied by the church.

Annual Reports will be available on Sunday, January 21 and at the meeting.

Stop in or call the church office to make a reservation. This way we will know how many to setup for.

## Upcoming Committee Meetings

Mission – Thursday, January 11, 12 noon., Conference Room

Christian Education – Thursday, January 11, 1 p.m., Conference Room

Deacons – Thursday, January 11, 7 p.m., Conference Room

Finance – Thursday, January 18, 5:30 p.m., Conference Room

Session – Monday, January 22, 7 p.m., Conference Room

Congregational Meeting, January 24, 6 p.m., Scheide Hall

Worship – TBD

## Sunday School News

### 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 Sunday School**

All children in Elementary grades (Kindergarten up to the 5<sup>th</sup> 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**

### **Women's Bible Study**

The Women's Bible study will meet on January 9, 2018, at 11 a.m. in the Conference Room where they will begin a new study entitled "Peacemaking Among the Early Followers of Jesus." Books are free.

### **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

### **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.

## **A Note from the Choirmaster**

I read the story some time ago of a little girl named Mary who had just received a dollar bill. She was quite excited because she had never had a dollar of her very own. After carrying it around for a few days she sat down on her porch and stared intently at the bill in her hands. Her mother noticed her sitting there in contemplation and asked, "What are you going to do with your dollar? Are you going to buy some candy or a toy?" "No," Mary replied, "I'm going to take it to Sunday School."

“Are you going to show it to your teacher?” Mary’s mother asked. “No,” Mary shook her head, “I’m going to give it to Jesus. He’ll be just as surprised as I was to get something that’s not small change.” I’ve noticed over my years of service to various churches and organizations that folks are content with giving God small change.

You see, God doesn’t give us these talents at their most extraordinary. He expects us to take the seed-talent He has “planted” in us and nurture it and develop it so it can be used by Him and for His glory. Many of us have the mistaken notion that we don’t have talent, in this case musical, unless we can naturally sing like Pavarotti. We don’t stop to think that Pavarotti didn’t start out as the world’s greatest tenor. He started as a junior high kid with a squeaky, changing voice. He then developed that voice over many years and a lot of effort into the glorious instrument it is today.

God expects us to build on that little seed of talent He has given us, investing time and energy to bring honor and glory to Him. We are, after all, His hands and feet in this world. So, I extend this call to you. Consider offering some of your time and effort to God by singing in your chancel choir. We begin rehearsals Wednesday, January 17<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.

Someday, when you stand before the creator and give an account of your stewardship, you’ll be glad you chose to join the choir when you hear the Father say, “Well done, good and faithful servant!”

Respectfully Yours,  
Nathaniel F. Licht, Director of Music

## Worship

Happy 2018 from the Worship Committee.

Here is more from our Book of Order:

“In Jesus Christ, the Church is called to be a royal priesthood, giving glory to God in worship and devoting itself to God’s service in the world. Worship is a collective activity of the people of God and an expression of our common life and ministry. It demands the full, conscious, and active participation of the whole body of Christ with heart, mind, soul, and strength.

Christian worship and service do not end at the conclusion of the Service for the Lord’s Day; we go forth to love and serve the Lord in daily living. In doing so, we seek to fulfill our chief end: to glorify and enjoy God forever.”

Communion will be served on January 7 with David and Linda Steinbuhler; Gail Billig; and Katie Witosky serving. If you are interested in serving on the Worship Committee, please make known your interest.

Sandy Smith

## Ushers

The Ushers for January will be Barb Frye (captain), Connie McIntyre, Sandy Smith.

## 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, January 9, 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, January 8, 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 Club to Hold Potluck Supper with Guest Speaker Clyde Willey

On Wednesday, January 10, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. in Scheide Hall, the SAM’s Club Ministry will have a potluck dinner.

The evening program will feature Clyde Willey, owner of the Medicine Shoppe. Clyde will address questions or concerns on your prescription medicines, plus what mixing certain drugs together can do to a person.

All are welcome to come and join the SAM’s Club Ministry. Invite a friend or offer someone a ride to this fun filled event. Any questions, please contact Tom Newcombe or Jim McFarland.

## **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, January 12, at 12 noon, in Scheide Hall, join the SAM's Club for Lunch and a Movie. This group will meet again on January 26.

## **Birthdays**

Adam Schwab	2	Laura Scott	9	Terry Warner	19
Tom Newcombe	2	Phil Cauvel	11	Robbie Herps	20
Cassie Rago	2	Karen Sampson	12	Bill Warren	20
Sean Clark	3	Debi Sutley	14	Kay Locke	22
Nadine Harrison	5	Ray Crawford	15	Kathy Barker	23
Haley Jamison	7	Sharon Evans	17	Jillian Nellis	23
Nancy Chappel	7	Patti Jo Young	17	Matt Sutley	27
Jack Samonsky	8	Bill Love	18	Kevin Harroun	30
Sandy Smith	9	Sasha Archer	18	Dean Chappel	31

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

## **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.

## **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 (January 2 and January 16) 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.

### **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**

216 North Franklin Street, Titusville, PA 16354

(814) 827-3665

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

Website: [titusvillepresbyterian.com](http://titusvillepresbyterian.com)

## **Staff**

Kai Baldwin, Accompanist

Vickie Corey, Housekeeper

Terry Davitt, Administrative Assistant

Email: [tdavitt.presby@gmail.com](mailto:tdavitt.presby@gmail.com)

Kelly Evans, Sexton

Nathaniel Licht, Director of Music

Email: [mistalicht@gmail.com](mailto:mistalicht@gmail.com)

Rev. Norma Prina Murphy, Interim Pastor

Email: [prnorma93@gmail.com](mailto:prnorma93@gmail.com)

Tom Newcombe, Sr. Adult Ministry Leader

Email: [newcombe.presby@gmail.com](mailto:newcombe.presby@gmail.com)