



# THE TOWER



MARCH 2018

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, TITUSVILLE, PA

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## A Note from Pastor Norma Murphy

The Lord be with you all!

March this year ends with Holy Week, culminating on Easter which is April 1. No fooling, check your calendars!

This year instead of just focusing only on Palm Sunday for March 25, we are going to celebrate Palm/Passion Sunday. The difference is fairly obvious in the titles. Palm Sunday uses only readings and a sermon and hymns that focus on Jesus's triumphal entry into Jerusalem. The whole service follows that theme.

But Palm/Passion Sunday has two themes. It begins with a liturgy of the Palms, singing and reading scripture about Jesus's entry into Jerusalem, but after the Small Talk we will read the whole story of the Passion – the account of Jesus's arrest, trial, torture and death. It covers almost 2 chapters of scripture, and will be followed by a short meditation, a second anthem, and hymns of the Passion.

On Maundy Thursday, the service will celebrate the liturgy of the Upper Room. It will focus on the Last Supper and stripping the church of all adornment, removing the candlestick holders, communion elements, cross, paraments, and covering the fixed Presbyterian cross over the pulpit chairs with black fabric. The stripping of the church is to symbolize the disciples' abandonment of Jesus after his arrest.

Good Friday is a somewhat shorter, but very intense service when we hear again the Passion of Christ, read in 7 parts, with lights being turned off after each reading. The service ends in a minute of total, silent darkness. A few lights are turned back on and the congregation leaves in silence.

All of which leads to the 'foolish' surprise of Easter! The tomb is empty! Rejoice and sing Alleluias! AND celebrate the sacrament of Communion since it is on the first Sunday of the month! This time we will gather in groups of 6 or 7, wrapping around the sides of the communion table, and be served together. I will act as host and invite new groups to come forward as the group before is dismissed with a blessing.

I encourage you all to make the effort to come to both of these services. Yes, only two services because Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter are traditionally one extended service known as the Triduum (try-dew'-um). There is no blessing at the end of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday because they are being continued the next time we gather.

Holy Week is the 'High Holidays' of the Christian Church. Be blessed by the fullness of these services. And bring your families and friends who want to know what Christianity is truly about.

Grace and peace,  
Norma

## Session News

### Session Meeting Highlights

On Monday, January 24, our church leaders and congregation met for the Annual Congregation Meeting. During the meeting, the following was voted on and approved:

- that Session approve the 2018 Annual Congregational Minutes at its next stated meeting.
- Recommended changes in the Church By-Laws
- Ruling Elders (Class of 2020): Nancy Roeder, David Steinbuhler, Sandy Swanson and Gloria Taylor
- Deacons Class of 2020): Jessica Decker, Kelly Evans, Debbie Kirvan, and Heidi Wonderling; Class of 2018: Lynn Nicols
- 2018 Nominating Committee: Jack Gadsby, Linda Steinbuhler, and Mike Wonderling
- 2018 Budget was presented.

With thanksgiving to God for the singular privilege of serving in the Titusville community, Your Session

## Upcoming Committee Meetings

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

# Upcoming Easter Events

## **Palm Sunday Worship with Lake Erie String Quartet**

On Sunday, March 25, at 11 a.m. in the sanctuary, the Lake Erie String Quartet will play in our sanctuary. In the past they have played on Maundy Thursday, but it was decided that perhaps our Sunday worshippers would enjoy them as well.

## **One Great Hour of Sharing to be Collected on Palm Sunday**

On Palm Sunday, March 25, One Great Hour of Sharing Offering will be collected. Inserts describing this year's special offering will be placed in the Sunday bulletin, as well as an envelope on Palm Sunday for your convenience.

## **PW Lenten Salad Bar Luncheon for All**

On Wednesday, March 28, at 12 noon, the Presbyterian Women will host its annual Lenten Salad Bar Luncheon in Scheide Hall. We ask that anyone who attends bring a salad to share and some change for the birthday offering.

This year we have invited author, Rhea Fish, to share her testimony and speak about her novel entitled, "Room in the Inn". Rhea will read portions from her novel, which has much discussion centered around Titusville's rich history of the Underground Railroad during the time of the emancipation of slaves. This local history is interwoven into the novel.

Copies of the book will be for sale following the program, as well as at the Titusville Area Chamber of Commerce and on Amazon.com.

Rhea is a member of Grace Fellowship Church and lives in Pleasantville with her husband, David.

Although this event is put on by the PW Women, we strongly encourage men and families to attend.

**Maundy Thursday Service Here at our church – March 29, 7 p.m.**

**Good Friday Service Here at our church – March 30, 7 p.m.**

**Easter Sunrise Service at Pleasantville Presbyterian Church – April 1, 6:30 a.m.**

**Easter Service at Titusville Presbyterian Church – April 1, 11 a.m.**

# Sunday School News

## Sunday School Classes Being Offered

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 will meet once a month during the 11 a.m. worship service.

The Senior High Class meets upstairs

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 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

## Lenten Family Nights Continue

The Lenten Family Night Dinners/Programs will continue for the next two weeks in March before coming to an end. They are held each Wednesday night 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 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!

March 7: Chuck and Donna Cammaratas – “Presbytery’s Ghana Partnership”  
Theme: Italian

March 14: Greg Gillespie – “Presbyterian Polity” Theme: Soup, Salad, Sandwich

## Movie Night was a Great Success

On Friday, February 23, at 7 p.m., in Scheide Hall, a group of 30+ people came together to watch a special viewing of the movie, “Wonder” that the Christian Education Committee had sponsored.

A good time was had by all! The popcorn was delicious! Many thanks to the United Methodist Church for lending us their popcorn machine.

In the near future, we plan to have more movie nights and our hope is that even more people will come out for an evening of enjoyment.

## **Women's Bible Study**

The Women's Bible study that meets on Tuesdays is currently engaged in a study entitled "The Great Ends of the Church." All women of the church are welcome to attend.

Books are available for \$5.00. It's not too late to join in!

## **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!

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 30<sup>th</sup>, 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 (a signup sheet can be found in the church office). 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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

As Nathaniel Licht will probably also share with you, the organ has been "refreshed." He is pleased with the results.

The next Communion at First Presbyterian will be on March 4. Communion will be served in the pews by Toby Cressman, C. J. Kirvan, James McGinnis, and Joe Thompson.

Palm Sunday is on March 25. The Erie String Quartet will again be with us. The Quartet and Nat Licht have been working together to present glorious music during our hour of worship.

Maundy Thursday is on March 29. Pastor Norma will lead the service at 7:00 p.m. The service will include communion and stripping of the chancel.

Good Friday is on March 30. Pastor Norma will lead the service at 7:00 p.m.

Ushers for the month of March are: Eric Mowrey, Captain, John Clark, and Dean Chappel.

From our Book of Order, we read: "Through two thousand years of Christian worship, the Church has developed ways of keeping time--many of them adapted from the feasts and fasts of Israel that Jesus kept. This pattern of the Christian year keeps us centered in Christ as we seek to proclaim the story of our faith, grow as Jesus' disciples, and serve Christ's mission. At the heart of the Christian year is the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection, with the seasons of Lent and Easter. The Church continues to gather, to hear the gospel, and break bread in Jesus' name, with the confidence that the risen Lord is with us."

March is going to be a busy month, followed by Easter on April 1!!!

There will be an ad in The Titusville Herald announcing the Holy Week services at First Presbyterian; and, the community is invited to worship with us.

Peace.

Sandy Smith  
Moderator

## Ushers

Eric Mowrey, (captain), John Clark, Dean Chappel

# 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, March 13, at 12:30 p.m., at Perkin's Restaurant.

To participate, we ask that you call or stop by the church office by Monday, March 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, March 9, at 12 noon, in Scheide Hall, join the SAM's Club for Lunch and a Movie. This group will meet again on March 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.

## Birthdays

Kasey Harroun	2	J. L. Love	14	Heidi Wonderling	23
Claude Lemley	3	Donna Yoas	15	Barb Frye	24
Diane Sharer	4	Betty Kriner	16	Adam Sutley	24
Ernie Axton	7	Julie Patterson	16	Becky Keebler	26
Courtney DeDionisio	7	Uriah Sampson	18	Lynn Cressman	28
Martha Warren	9	Helen Boemmel	19	Tom Tarr	30
David Fitz	10	Desirae Patterson	20	Robert Herps	30
Terry Funk	11	Dan Long	23	William Martin	31
Dion Young	12	Tammy Root	23		

*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 (March 6 and March 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. Between the "Worship Center" and the "Prayer Room."

Please call Jessica at 814-827-9078 (home) or 814-449-4681 (cell) or text her at 449-4681 or e-mail her @ [jessicadecker73@icloud.com](mailto:jessicadecker73@icloud.com).

## **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.

## **Food Pantry**

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

## **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)

# Purchase Easter Flowers of our Sanctuary

*The beauty and fragrance of the Easter flowers proclaim the message of hope and joy . . .*

## Christ is Risen!!!

This Easter place an Easter plant in our church in memory or in honor of your loved ones.

Please fill in the order form, tear off, and place in the offering plate or bring it to the church office along with your check made out to The First Presbyterian Church. **Order forms must be received by Sunday, March 11, 2018.**

Choose from:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$12.00 – Single stem lily (5-7 blooms)

\_\_\_\_\_ \$10.00 – 6” Potted Tulip (assorted)

\_\_\_\_\_ \$10.00 – 6” Potted Daffodil

\_\_\_\_\_ \$15.00 – 6” Cyclamen (assorted)

In Memory of : \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Take your flower(s) home after Easter Sunday Worship to share with loved ones.*

