



THE TOWER



MAY 2018

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, TITUSVILLE, PA

A Note from Pastor Norma Murphy

The Lord be with you all!

As I write this it is, (by my count) the 115th day of January ... at least that's how it feels! May is on the doorstep, but spring is not in the air. At least not yet.

May brings a number of secular observances – Cinco de Mayo, Mother's Day and Memorial Day, to name a few. But this year, May 20 is also the 50th day of the Easter Season, or Pentecost. And we will celebrate it by wearing red (or orange or yellow, flame colors) to go with red paraments (pulpit and bible cloths).

Pentecost is the anniversary of the gift of Holy Spirit to all the believers. Up until this day, the Holy Spirit only filled a few select people at a time. Kings and prophets were among the main people who received this gift; but, on Pentecost, the Holy Spirit was unleashed by God and sent throughout the community of faith.

What does Pentecost mean to you? Is it just another 'birthday' party, as in the birthday of the church? Is it a personal thing, the Holy Spirit coming to me? Why should we observe this day as set apart and special?

Holy Spirit is the fuel that powers the church. Holy Spirit is what burns inside us, giving us courage and strength and understanding of God's will and the ability to do it in our lives. Without Holy Spirit, there is no church!

I encourage you to become more aware of the role of Holy Spirit in your life and in the church. Without the leading of Holy Spirit, we are nothing but noisy gongs and clashing cymbals (1 Cor. 13). But with the leading of Holy Spirit, we are the instruments of God making beautiful music together.

This month, I am praying for a fresh infusion of Holy Spirit into this congregation and each person associated with it. I hope you will join me!

Grace and peace, Norma

Session News

Session Meeting Highlights

On Monday, April 23, your Session met to discern God's leading for our congregation. During that meeting the spiritual leaders of the church approved the following:

- Approved Pastor Norma's final week of vacation June 19-25, 2018
- The PNC reported they are holding a Q & A session for the congregation following worship on Sunday, April 29, 2018
- Administration Finance reported on the progress of the stained glass windows, including pictures of the Rose window from Tirpak
- Christian Ed reported the following events: Children's Sunday on May 6, Graduate Sunday on June 3, and Vacation Bible School from June 24-28, 6-8 p.m.
- Heritage is using information from the first worship service held in this sanctuary on May 20, 1888, for the Hymn Sing that will be on May 20
- Mission reported that the next 5th Friday dinner is June 29 from 4-6 p.m. and will be a picnic supper – hot dogs, hamburgers, macaroni and cheese, potato salad, and desserts
- Removed Ralph, Elaine, and Andrew Osborn from the roll per their request
- Approved the use of the building and social hall for a funeral service and meal for Rev. Terry Bidwell of the Assembly of God Church on April 25, 2018
- Set the date of the next stated meeting for Monday, May 21, 2018, 7 p.m., due to the Memorial Day holiday

Inquirer's Class Being Offered

Are you a regular visitor to the Church? Would you like to consider becoming a member of the congregation? Are you a member who would like to know more about the Presbyterian Church, USA?

You are invited to attend an Inquirer's Class in the pastor's study two (2) Sunday mornings, May 6 and May 20, from 9:45-10:30 a.m. We will explore Presbyterian history and beliefs and get to know one another better.

Upcoming Committee Meetings

Mission – Thursday, May 10, 12 noon., Conference Room

Christian Education, May 10, 1 p.m., Conference Room

Deacons – Thursday, May 10, 7 p.m., Conference Room

Finance – Thursday, May 17, 5:30 p.m., Conference Room

Session – Monday, May 21, 7 p.m., Conference Room

Worship – TBD

Sunday School News

Children's Sunday to be Held on May 6, 2018

Children's Sunday will be held on Sunday, May 6, at 11 a.m. Following the worship service in Scheide Hall, the PW Women's organization will host its annual Church picnic. Hot dogs, potato salad, beans, dessert, and a beverage will be served for everyone to enjoy. A free-will offering will be collected.

Sunday School Classes Being Offered

There are two (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 meets 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 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

Vacation Bible School to be Held In June

Vacation Bible School, a Sole Hope Ministry Event, will begin on Sunday, June 24, until Thursday, June 28, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. for children finishing K4 – 5th grade. Please bring your friends, neighbors, anyone who you think would enjoy laughing and having a great time.

Anyone willing to volunteer time should speak with Jessica Decker. It doesn't matter if you can be here one night or all five nights. Your time and talents are appreciated.

Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible study that meets each Tuesday at 11 a.m. in the Conference Room is currently studying the Book of Ruth. Please bring your Bible with you. All women of the church and community are welcome to attend this study.

The last Bible study for the season will be held on May 22, at 11 a.m. We will have a luncheon in Scheide Hall following class. Everyone is asked to bring a favorite dish to share.

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. **May 15 will mark the last gathering for this group until September.**

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. Men's Breakfast Bible Study will come to an end for the season on May 23, 2018, here at the church. MOF will then start going to other restaurants in the area each Wednesday.

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.

The 5th Friday's dates for 2018 are: June 29, August 31, and November 30. Please mark your calendars.

The Fifth Friday meal that was served on Good Friday (March 30) was well received from the community and our congregation. A total of 63 people were served a delicious meal. Thanks to everyone who purchased, prepared, helped, or came to this event. It would not have been possible without your support! Thanks again.

Worship

Next Communion will be on May 6, by intinction.

Sandy Smith, Moderator

Ushers

TBA

A Note from the Director of Music

An exciting celebration of our church's history and music is fast approaching!

As you have heard, our grand sanctuary is turning 130 years old on May 20th, and what better way to celebrate this historic event than with music!

Great Hymns of the Faith, a program presented by First Church's music department, is an ecumenical celebration of the grand old hymns that so many have come to know and love. You are invited to join in this hymn sing, led by a choir made up of folks from Titusville and the surrounding area. It is sure to be a meaningful evening full of fellowship, music, memories, and laughter.

Also, as our chancel choir season comes to a close at the end of May, I'd like to remind everyone that the summer music sign-up sheet will be available at the beginning of May and that you needn't be a member of the choir to participate in this over the summer months.

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, May 8, 12:30 p.m., at Perkin's Restaurant.

To participate, we ask that you call or stop by the church office by Monday, May 7, 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 National Day of Prayer

On Thursday, May 3, 2018, the SAM's Club Ministry group will meet down in Scheide Park at 7 p.m. to participate in the National Day of Prayer celebration. Let Tom Newcombe know if you will be able to attend this event or need a ride.

Potluck Supper with Guest Speaker Police Chief, Harold Minch

On Wednesday, May 16, 2018, at 5:30 p.m. in Scheide Hall, the SAM's Club Ministry will have a potluck dinner.

The evening program will feature Police Chief Harold Minch. He will speak on scams in our area and how to avoid them.

All are welcome to come. Invite a friend or offer someone a ride to this event. Any questions, please contact Tom Newcombe.

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, May 4, at 12 noon, in Scheide Hall, join the SAM's Club for Lunch and a Movie. This group will meet again on May 18.

PW News

Church Family Picnic

Each year, the Presbyterian Women plans a Family Picnic for the whole church and community on Children's Sunday. With that said, this event will be held on Sunday, May 6, immediately following the morning worship service in Scheide Hall.

Families are welcome to attend this picnic lunch of hotdogs, chips, baked beans, potato salad, dessert and a beverage. A free-will offering will collected.

Birthdays

Pete Thompson	1	Bruce Smith	9	Christy Snyder	19
Lori Baker	2	Linda Steinbuhler	10	Dan Nicols	20
Cathy Griffin	3	David Snyder	11	Dr. James Wilkens	23
Shaun Zimmerman	4	Robert Buchan	13	William Gallagher	26
David Snyder, Jr.	5	Richard Roeder	14	Abbe Popescu	27
Kathy Brady	7	Maxine Gollehon	16	Jane Yingling	29
Bruce Peterson	7	Jane Wilkens	16	Clare Smith	30
Carol Cauvel	9	Christina Patterson	19	Janet Gadsby	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 (May 1 and May 15) 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.

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. 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

Website: titusvillepresbyterian.com

Staff

Kai Baldwin, Accompanist

Vickie Corey, Housekeeper

Terry Davitt, Administrative Assistant

Email: tdavitt.presby@gmail.com

Kelly Evans, Sexton

Laura Grazier, Nursery Attendant

Nathaniel Licht, Director of Music

Email: mistalicht@gmail.com

Rev. Norma Prina Murphy, Interim Pastor

Email: prnorma93@gmail.com

Tom Newcombe, Sr. Adult Ministry Leader

Email: newcombe.presby@gmail.com