



THE TOWER



JUNE, JULY, AND AUGUST 2018
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, TITUSVILLE, PA

A Note from Pastor Norma Murphy

The Lord be with you all!

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.
⁵ Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre,
with the lyre and the sound of melody.
⁶ With trumpets and the sound of the horn
make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD.
⁷ Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
the world and those who live in it.
⁸ Let the floods clap their hands;
let the hills sing together for joy
⁹ at the presence of the LORD,
for he is coming to judge the earth.
He will judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with equity. Psalm 98:4-9

In a conference I attended a few years ago called 'The Spirituality of Water' we spent time outdoors each day beside water, reflecting on God and God's presence. We also considered throughout the time what in our lives most praised God? We concluded that it was being most completely that which we were created to be.

And so we enjoyed the praise of the birds in their 'birdiness,' the willow trees in their 'willowiness,' the ducks in their 'duckiness,' ... And each of us in our own being 'us-ness!' Just as flood waters come crashing together in a loud clapping and winds sing through the hills for joy and seas roar and crash, so we sing, pray, shout, clap and love in ways that praise God by being the person God created each of us to be – unique and beautiful as we are.

I invite you to take advantage of this summer weather to get outdoors, especially to go to a lake or river nearby, and drink in nature's praise of God this summer. And while there, take a moment to ponder how you are being that special creation of God in and of yourself, and in that way praising God just as loudly and wonderfully as any other part of creation does!

Grace and peace,
Norma

Session News

Session Meeting Highlights

On Monday, May 21, your Session met to discern God's leading for our congregation. During that meeting the spiritual leaders of the church approved the following:

- Approved the sale of DVD recordings of the Great Hymns of Faith service of worship. They will be \$10 each and net the church \$5 each toward the restoration of the stained glass windows.
- Heard a report from Christian Education that Graduate Sunday is taking place June 3 and that Vacation Bible School is going to be held Sunday, June 24 through Thursday, June 28 from 6-8 p.m.
- Heard a report from Finance that the proceeds from the Great Hymns of Faith service of worship received \$1432 toward the stained glass windows restoration.
- Heard a report from Mission ministry about plans for the next two Fifth Fridays which will occur in June and August.
- Approved the request of the Worship ministry to allow graduates who are baptized to serve communion on Graduate Sunday. Also concurred with the ministry's plan to reinstate acolytes once a month after training for those interested who are in 4th grade or older.
- Approved a proposal to not meet in June or July this summer, and to change our stated meeting day to the third Monday of the month beginning August 20, 2018.

Upcoming Committee Meetings

All Meetings take place in the Conference Room unless indicated otherwise.

Mission – Thursdays: June 7 and August 9, at 12 noon.

Christian Education – Thursdays: June 7 and August 9, at 1 p.m.

Deacons – Thursdays: June 14 and August 9, at 7 p.m.

Finance – Thursday, August 16, at 5:30 p.m.

Session – Monday, August 20, at 7 p.m.

Worship – TBD

Sunday School News

Sunday School Breaks for the Summer

Sunday school will end on June 3 and start back up on September 9.

Graduate Sunday to be Held on June 3, 2018

Graduate Sunday will be held on June 3, 2018, at 11 a.m. Brant Enright, Jack Garrett, and Chase Middleton will be the speakers for this year's senior Sunday school class, with the rest of the class assisting in the worship service. The seniors assisting in the worship are Jordan Seib, Colin Hofmester, Max McAllister, and Signe Jonsson.

A reception to honor our graduates will follow the service in Scheide Hall.

Senior Scholarships to be Awarded

On July 29, both the J. Annette Mitchell and the Mabel K. Clark scholarships will be awarded to all eligible seniors during the 10:00 a.m. worship service.

We are very blessed to have the example of two fine ladies who endowed the congregation with their generosity – Ruth Mitchell who gave generously in memory of her aunt J. Annette Mitchell, and Miss Mabel K. Clark, who was loved and admired by all. Their love of young people and their interest in education prompted them to leave us a legacy to be passed on. Scholarship recipients will receive a letter prior to the 29th.

Christian Education

\$100.00 Gifted to the Stain Glass Window Project

The Christian Education Committee is gifting \$100.00 to the stained glass window project in honor, and with thanks, to all those who volunteered their time to teach Sunday School and Transformation Tuesdays.

Susan Atteberry

Eryn Lavery

Jessica Decker

Jennifer Warner

Marcia Garrett

Kelly Evans

David Fitz

Rhonda Clark

Bruce Smith

Gail Billig

Toby Cressman

Su Ricke

Terry Davitt

Tom Newcombe

Heidi Wonderling

Nathaniel Licht

Any adult interested in helping with the elementary, middle and high school programs in September, see Gail Billig. You will need your clearances.

Vacation Bible School to be Held June 24 through June 28

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.

Men of First Breakfast Bible Study

All men from our church, their friends, and friends of the community are welcome to attend Wednesday morning's breakfast/Bible study held in Scheide Hall at 7 a.m.

This group will meet during the months of June and July, taking the month of August off, and will reconvene on Wednesday, September 5, 2018.

Any questions can be directed to facilitator, 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.

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

The next Fifth Friday meal will be held on June 29. The meal will be hot dogs, hamburgers, macaroni salad, potato salad, baked beans and ice cream.

We once again are asking our church family to step forward and help make this event a possibility. We need macaroni salad, potato salad, baked beans, and hamburger makers. If you are not a maker, perhaps you would consider being a purchaser of hotdog or hamburger buns, or being a host/hostess for this event. Monetary donations are always welcome. Whatever you can do to help would be greatly appreciated. Sign up in the hallway to indicate what talent you would like to perform. God bless you all and many thanks!!

On August 31, the menu will be pulled pork sandwiches, mac 'n cheese, tossed salad, and dessert.

Summer Mission- Associated Charities Back-to-School Backpack Fill-Up

Most of us have experienced the excitement a new school year often brings and felt the anticipation of a fresh new start right after a summer of fun in the sun. Parents and grandparents make sure their children have everything they need to get the new school year off to the best possible start: shiny new shoes, jackets, sharpened pencils, fresh backpacks, lunch boxes, notebooks -- and everything in-between!

But while some of us have only two or three kids to send off to school, Connie McIntyre and her many dedicated volunteers at Associated Charities have the daunting task of preparing anywhere from 125 to 200 school-aged children in the Titusville Area School District. Through donations and local support from the community, these dedicated Christians fill a staggering number of backpacks with supplies and toiletries for children ranging in age anywhere from 3 to 18 (Head Start to High School).

But perhaps the most incredible part of their service is that, in addition to collecting, packing, and handing out countless school supplies for these children, they invite them and their families into the building to "shop" for their items. Instead of being handed over clothing that is roughly the right size, these kids have the privilege to actually try on and choose what clothing best suits them and their individual tastes. The excitement and appreciation shown by these children and their families are overwhelming.

Our Missions and Outreach Committee has asked Associated Charities for the privilege to help send these students back to school ready for success. Because school supplies are cheapest in the month of July, we at First Presby will use that month to collect notebooks, pencils, erasers, folders, glue sticks, scissors, toiletries, etc. Look for collection baskets placed near entrances to the church sanctuary.

But that's not all!

The Missions and Outreach Committee would also like to extend an invitation to the congregation to participate in a special offering for this Back to School Backpack Program, collected as cash, checks, or gift cards for the Associated Charities to purchase clothing, shoes, and any other essential school supplies for families in need.

Throughout the month of **JULY**, there will be a designated envelope in the pews for your monetary offerings.

We will present our collected school supplies and monetary donations to Associated Charities on the last Sunday of July. Look for updates on this project in the weeks to come.

Thank you in advance for your kindness and generosity as we share the blessings we have received in Christ to bless the children and families right here in our community.

Items needed: Pencils, pens, pencil boxes, notebooks, backpacks, erasers, markers, crayons, folders, binders, highlighters, rulers, scissors, calculators, etc. (Wal-Mart typically has a huge display set out.) Packages of socks and underwear for children in all sizes are appreciated throughout the year.

Shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, soaps and body washes, razors, toothbrushes, and toothpaste are always important items in ensuring a child's success at school.

College / Young Adult Fellowship

Community Carnival for Children to be Held

On Saturday, July 21, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the church parking lot, the College/Young Adult Ministries will host a free Community Carnival for all children under the age of twelve (12). See attached flyer.

Fundraiser Dinner Planned for the Back-To-School Backpack Fill-Up Mission

The College/Young Adult Ministries program will host a fundraiser dinner on Sunday, August 12, after church in Scheide Hall. This fundraiser is to support the Associated Charities Back-to-School Backpack Fill-Up in conjunction with the Mission Committee's outreach. More information will be forthcoming in church bulletins.

College/Young Adult Ministry

Come join Casey, David, James, Katie, Austin, Sarah, Jim, Nat, and Deb for summer College/Young Adult Ministry 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 through text/ cell (814) 547-1760 or at his home 827-6295, for some of the activities will take place at different times and days throughout the week.

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

Worship

Spring is beyond beautiful in NWPA!

A request has been made for return of the acolytes at FPC. I think they have been missed by many, including me. For reasons of safety and because of the issue of handling fire, the Worship Committee and Session members have recommended that children be in fourth grade to begin acolyting. Yes, the acolytes will go through some training. If anyone is interested, please contact Pastor Norma or me. We are looking forward to having the acolytes again participate in our worship service at FPC.

Graduate Sunday (always a special Sunday) is on June 3. Among other things, the graduates will be ushering and serving communion (by intinction).

The worship hour will change back to 10:00 a.m. for the summer, beginning on JUNE 10. Take note as you will be missed if you are not with us! The worship hour will return to 11:00 a.m. on September 9.

We are discontinuing the use of prayer baskets at FPC. Pastor Norma will continue to ask the congregation if anyone has a request for prayers and/or praises during worship. If there is a request, Austin will hand the microphone over so the speaker is accurately heard.

Discussion was held (among committee and session members) regarding the Erie String Quartet being at FPC in 2019. Most likely, the Quartet (with its beautiful music) will be with us for Palm Sunday in 2019. We are always blessed by the Quartet being with us; and, it is an opportunity for us to share our blessing with our community.

If you are interested in serving as an usher, please let me know. There is no requirement for being a member of FPC.

Pastor Norma will be away from the pulpit on June 24. We are looking forward to David Fitz being in the pulpit at day.

Our General Assembly convenes on June 16; and, I suggest that we lift up the General Assembly in prayer.

Happy Father's Day to all our fathers on June 17!

Summer officially arrives on June 21!

Peace.

Sandy Smith, Moderator

Ushers

For June: Mike Wonderling, Mike Seefried, Terry Wonderling

Updates can be found in the July and August bulletins.

A Note from the Director of Music

A Note from the Director of Music

I wish to extend a sincere note of thanks to all of the folks who have made the music ministries here at First Church possible. Across the choir, special services, the children's chorus and the various guest musicians, this past season brought about more meaningful worship through song, learning new and exciting anthems and hymns, and looking to the future, finding how to better use our musical resources to reach out to the surrounding communities.

I wish to extend thanks to those who were willing and ready to make "Great Hymns of the Faith" happen. Sunday, May 20th, a community choir of 43 came together along with George Wilbur on the organ, Kai Baldwin on the piano, Rhonda Clark on the Trumpet, and Ellen Stover on the trombone, to lead a congregation in song celebrating the 130th anniversary of the dedication of our sanctuary and raising funds to assist in the repair of our stained glass windows as well as associated charities. By the end of the evening, a crowd of 140+ were in attendance and all were in awe of the splendid chorus' full sound. Performing two anthems, "Bless this House" and "Thrive," the group lifted new and exciting song to the Lord. A total of 1420.00 was raised in two hours and, after expenses of \$100, associated charities will receive \$132 and the capital campaign will receive \$1188. Plans are in the works for special concerts through the fall and winter seasons. Stay tuned for news on these in future editions of The Tower.

The worship choir will resume rehearsals Wednesday, August 22nd, at 7 p.m. in the chancel. If you are interested please contact me, or grab one of our rack cards from the resource table outside of the office, fill out the attachment, and turn it in! Also enclosed is a rack card for your convenience. ALL ARE WELCOME!!!

Nathaniel F. Licht, Director of Music

Fellowship News

Breaking Bread Together to Meet During the Summer

Do you like to fellowship with people from the church?" If you said "yes," then you are invited to come and break bread, as a group, on any of the following Tuesdays: June 12, July 10, and August 14, 12:30 p.m., at Perkin's Restaurant.

To participate, call or stop by the church office to make your reservation by the Monday (by 5 p.m.) prior to the luncheon. Note: Children, college students, and the young at heart are all invited.

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.

Annual Strawberry Festival for All Ages

On Wednesday, June 20, 2018, at 6 p.m., SAM's Club Ministries will host the Annual Strawberry Festival in Scheide Hall. Come enjoy strawberry shortcake along with ice cream and different kinds of toppings, while Mr. Steve Winslow plays tunes on the piano from yesteryear.

Potluck Dinner with Guest Speaker Clyde Willey

On Wednesday, July 18, a potluck dinner will be served in Scheide Hall at 5:30 p.m. Clyde Willey, pharmacist and owner of The Medicine Shoppe, will be here to speak on medications and what mixing them will do.

Picnic at Rose Nystrom's Home (507 Bank Street)

On Wednesday, August 8, 2018, at 5:30 p.m., Rose Nystrom will host SAM's Club Ministry at her home for a picnic. Each person is to bring a favorite picnic food item to share. Hot dogs and hamburgers will be provided along with beverages and table service. We promise the grill will work this year!!

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.

Birthdays

June

Brannndi Hasbrouck	1	Martina Love	9	Jesse Lavery	23
Connie McFarland	3	Nancy Brown	10	Owen Mowrey	24
George McDonald	3	Lynne Stover	10	Cathy Buchan	24
Jeff Jones	3	Benjamin Rapp	10	Tylere Webb	26
William Evans	4	Ava Young	16	Brittini Wonderling	27
Doreen Snyder	5	Cindy Owens	20	Jacob Rash	29
Andrew Zahn	6	Shirley Webber	21	David Gavin	30
Jerry Harroun	6	Dan Dunlap	22		
Nancy Mowrey	8	Brittany Love	23		

July

Jeff Jones	3	Paula Hlad	12	Mike Brown	21
Kathy Mitcham	3	Ellen Stover	14	Greg Sterner	22
Chana Hopkins	4	Wayde Spence	14	Casey Shoup	23
Courtney Rowe	4	Maggie Thompson	15	Phyllis Rapp	25
Donna Roessner	6	Rhonda Clark	16	Todd Garrett	28
Mike Wonderling	7	Darrell Hauptman	17	Duane Schlack	30
Suzanne von Tacky	7	Devon Chappel	17	Brant Enright	30
Andrew Stover	8	Jane Harrison	17	Melissa Harroun	31
Joe Fitz	11	Jacqui Sampson	19		
Emilee Langer	11	Penny Gustavson	20		
Sharon Lemley	11	Lynn Nicols	21		

August

Tyler Patterson	2	Olivia Garrett	15	Rose Nystrom	22
Austin Kolaja	4	John Wiley	16	Dian McKeown	24
Maggie McPeak	4	Susana Herps	18	Katie Nellis	26
Grace Canady	5	Joe Thompson	18	CJ Kirvan	27
Ruth LeDonne	6	Damaris Hetrick	18	Robert Youngkin	29
Kristin Arendash	11	Gerry Rhoades	18	Ava Warner	29
Joan Jones	13	Chelcie Alcorn	19	Robert Kelley	30
James McGinnis	13	Bruce Renn	19	Pauline Deitz	30

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.

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.

Community

Letters Received for Hosting Rev. Bidwell's Funeral and Luncheon

On April 25, we hosted a funeral and luncheon here at our Church for the late Rev. Terry Bidwell of the Assembly of God Church here in Titusville. Over his many years in ministry, he befriended so many people that his church was too small to house his many friends and family. We were blessed to be able to help out our fellow Christians in their time of need.

Here are a couple of thank you letters that were received.

Dear Pastor and Congregation:

I would like to thank you from the bottom of my heart for the use of your Sanctuary for my husband's funeral. I truly was so blessed by your show of love and kindness to us. Words cannot express my gratitude.

Yours in Christ,

Diane Bidwell and family

To the Family of the First Presbyterian Church,

We wish to thank you all for the wonderful dinner and all you did to make us feel comfortable. We really appreciate all your hard work and effort. Your friendship and hard work showed what a loving and Godly people you are.

Thank you again,

The Bower family

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 (June 5 and June 19), (July 17 . . . only meeting once in July), and (August 7 and August 21) 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's 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.

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

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