



# THE TOWER



FEBRUARY 2019

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, TITUSVILLE, PA

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Dear Church family,

Please mark your calendars! Beginning on March 13, we will have the fantastic opportunity to embark on an exciting, 12-week thematic overview of the Bible. In this study we will be using a book entitled, ***The Drama of Scripture*** by Craig Bartholomew and Michael Goheen.

The Bible is a long book, and it is easy to get so focused on details that we miss the big picture. *The Drama of Scripture* is the best solution to that problem I have ever seen, and the popularity of this book in both churches and colleges shows that many thousands of other people also find this book extremely valuable. *The Drama of Scripture* will guide us in connecting the dots, seeing the big picture, and understanding the key themes of God's Word to us!

This study will do more than present information. For those who wholeheartedly participate this study can function as an instrument of transformation!

Whether or not they recognize it, all people have fundamental assumptions about the world and their place in it. These fundamental assumptions influence our perceptions, our decisions, and our actions. Inaccurate fundamental assumptions lead to many problems, both for individuals and for entire cultures.

Because our fundamental assumptions influence our perceptions, our decisions, and our actions, one of the greatest needs in the church is for Christians to think **biblically**. By that, I mean that as Christians, our fundamental assumptions—the conceptual framework through which we view and seek to understand ourselves and the world around us—need to be rooted in God’s revelation, God’s truth, as it is recorded in the Bible. We need to see people, events, the world, and even ourselves through the spectacles of Scripture.

Thinking biblically does not require us to reject science. When we think biblically, science becomes a way to understand some of how God works. For example, I believe in the Big Bang, and I know who lit the fuse.

One of the reasons that thinking biblically is so important is because thinking biblically is the only way to correctly answer the biggest questions of life, questions like:

- Who am I?
- Why is the world the way it is? What is the real problem?
- What is the real solution?
- Where is history headed?
- What is the meaning of life?

If we fail to think **biblically**, then by default, our thinking will be **worldly**. Worldly thinking destroys the church and cripples the spirituality of Christians. Through Paul, God says to us, “*Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind*” (Rom 12.2, NIV).

In addition to showing us God’s answers to the biggest questions of life, this 12-week study will help to renew our minds and open us to God’s transforming power! I hope to see each of you on March 13.

Love, grace, and peace in Christ to us all!

Vaughan

# Session News

## **Fundraiser Scheduled to Help Ford Family**

On Sunday, February 17, from 12 noon to 2 p.m., in Scheide Hall a fundraiser will be held to help the Ford Family.

Congregational members Charlie and Pandi Ford need help from their church family in order for them to visit their children, Logan and Vicki, who attend the Milton Hershey School in Hershey, PA, in March (3/7-3/11). This is one of the three times throughout the year that parents can visit.

In addition to the upcoming fundraiser, the church is collecting monetary donations. Envelopes can be found on the Apostles Table in the hallway, on the table next to the church office, and on the library table. Checks should be made payable to the First Presbyterian Church (memo "Ford family"). Envelopes can be placed in the "Finance" mailbox in the office, or placed in the offering plate on Sundays. We will be collecting until February 24, 2019.

## **New Officers Elected**

On Wednesday, January 23, at the Annual Meeting, the following members were nominated to be ordained and installed as your new elders and deacons on Sunday on January 27, 2019.

### **Ruling Elders (Class of 2021)**

Ellen Stover,  
Marcia Garrett,  
Michael Seefried

### **Deacons (Class of 2021)**

Charlene Eggleston,  
James McGinnis,  
Christy Snyder,  
Penny Gustavson

### **At-Large Nominees (2019 Nominating Committee)**

Arthur McIntyre,  
Richard Zimmerman,  
Lynne Stover

# Session Meeting Highlights

## Session Meeting Highlights

Your Session met to discern God's leading for our congregation on Monday, January 14, 2019. During the meeting, the spiritual leaders of the church:

- Approved Listening Sessions on February 10 and 17 to discuss Flags in the Sanctuary.
- Building and Grounds to present a policy and procedure in regards to church key loaning.
- Building and Grounds reported that the refrigerator seal will be replaced; Austin Kolaja would like to put a bid in for snow removal; request from Nathaniel Licht paint a wall in a room upstairs, request was granted.
- Spiritual Committee reported that they will change their meeting date to the second (2) Wednesday each month at 12 noon; hope to get two (2) teams for the upcoming Youth Connection Bowling Event; Barb Frye has volunteered to lead the Tuesday Women's Bible Study; Lenten Family Night programs will be a study led by Rev. Smith; Confirmation Class will be held in the Fall of 2019 for 12 to 15 weeks.
- New speakers needed for sanctuary, discussion will go to the Worship, Music, and Building and Grounds Committees as they will share the cost.
- Approved fundraiser for the Ford family to be held in February. Connie McIntyre will be in contact with the family.
- Finance Committee reported that Thompson Fund down \$10,000; John Henne Charitable Trust letter will be mailed in February.
- Approved to reelect Rose Nystrom as the Treasurer for the Church (three (3) year term beginning 2019).
- Fifth Fridays are March 29, May 31, Aug. 30, and Nov. 22; paper and hygiene products will be given in a draw at these meals.

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

## Upcoming Committee Meetings

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

Mission – Wednesday, February 13, at 12 noon

Spiritual Formation – Wednesday, February 13, at 1 p.m.

Deacons – Thursday, February 14, at 7 p.m.

Finance – Thursday, February 14, at 5:30 p.m.

Session – Monday, February 18, at 7 p.m.

## Indoor Picnic Planned

### Indoor Picnic Event

On Wednesday, February 13 at 5:30 p.m., in Scheide Hall, an indoor picnic will take place for all members and friends of the church. Hot dogs, hamburgers, lemonade, and table service will be provided. You need to bring your favorite summertime picnic item to share.

We ask that you sign up in the church office by Friday, February 8, so we can have enough hot dogs and hamburger to share.

Following the meal, we will watch a Sight and Sound presentation of Sampson. This event is hosted by the Senior Adult Ministry.

## Sunday School News

### Sunday School

- Senior High, Middle School, and Adult Sunday school classes meet at 9:45 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. If you are coming to an adult class, please feel free to bring your children as they will be welcomed to our supervised young people's area located in the nursery to wait for you before church begins.
- All children in Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade will meet for Sunday school during the church hour. Children will come to the sanctuary with their families; stay for a short portion of worship (about the first 15 minutes); then be excused to their Sunday school classroom.

# Spiritual Formation

## Women's Bible Study

Ladies have you ever been bad or naughty? If the answer is “yes,” you need to come to this Bible study in March!

Barb Frye has volunteered to lead a study entitled “Slightly Bad Girls of the Bible” by Liz Curtis Higgs, beginning on Tuesday, March 5 at 11 a.m., in the Conference Room.

This study will explore some of the ladies of the Bible that were not so bad, or were they? Come find out.

## Transformation Tuesdays

Transformation Tuesdays, our after-school program, for children in K-5 through 5<sup>th</sup> grades, meets each Tuesday, from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Children will be escorted from Main Street Elementary to the church for snacks, Christian Education, crafts, games, and children's choir. We are always in need of volunteers; so, if you would like to help make this program a success, contact Gail Billig at 827-3122 or Jessica Decker at 827-9078.

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.

## Worship

Communion will be served on Sunday, February 3, as part of the worship service. Communion will be served in the pews.

**Ushers** Rob Seib (captain), Kirk Decker, Rochelle Cressman

# **College/Young Adult Fellowship**

## **College/Young Adult Ministry**

Come join the College/Young Adult Ministry which meets each Sunday evening at 6 p.m., in Scheide Hall. If this is your first time attending, contact Mr. Newcombe through text/cell (814) 547-1760 or at his home 827-6295 as 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.

## **A Note from the Choir Director**

I recently stumbled upon a Facebook post that praised the volunteer church choir. A rather lengthy post, it didn't hold my attention for very long, however, it did place a thought in my head. We have been blessed with some form of volunteer choir at First Church for over 160 years or more! We nurture this legacy with the help of faithful folks who gather to make a joyful noise to the Lord. It made me think about how, tragically, some congregations have decided that the whole business of nurturing and supporting a volunteer choir is just not who they are anymore. Don't get me wrong, "Worship teams" are wonderful and they hold an important place in new age worship. Professional paid choral ensembles are great for what they are... folks paid to sing, and nothing more. However, nothing compares to a volunteer choir. This article suggested four key reasons as to why volunteer choirs are so important: MOTIVATION, INSPIRATION, FELLOWSHIP, and LOVE... get ready, I'm going to elaborate.

A volunteer choir fosters and attitude of motivation. A special dynamic is created among people who gather to do something they don't necessarily have to do. Choir members show up, week after week, their only compensation being the joy of making music together and being part of a unique ministry. This is enough to keep them coming back.

A volunteer choir inspires participants through the music they sing and the opportunity they have to be part of something greater than themselves. One can't experience the thrill of ensemble singing by themselves. Through this ministry "un-trained" people can experience the thrill of a text coming to life through music and harmony.

A volunteer choir creates a true community of faith where members are active in each other's lives. They pray for one another, they celebrate births, mourn deaths, welcome new members, and lament the departure of good friends. A truly healthy choir can be one of the strongest small groups in a congregation.

Finally, a volunteer choir cultures a loving environment: Love of music, Love for each other, Love of the Savior, and most importantly an understanding of God's steadfast and unconditional Love for us. It is this Love that brings college students, single parents, senior citizens, young adults, lost souls, fundamentalists, and even occasionally an atheist together to form these unique and important groups all over the world.

So, I extend this call to you. Consider offering some of your time and effort to God by singing in your volunteer worship choir. Become part of this Love, Faith, and Music centered group. Maybe this can be your hour of rest in an otherwise busy week... Maybe this is where you'll truly meet your savior for the first time... Maybe you just like to sing... in any case, your worship choir meets every Wednesday at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary and THEY HAVE A PLACE FOR YOU.

Respectfully Yours,

Nathaniel F. Licht

# Fellowship News

## Breaking Bread Together

This group will meet on Tuesday, February 12, at 12:30 p.m., Perkin's Restaurant.

To participate, we ask that you call or stop by the church office by Monday, February 11, 2019, before 5 p.m. to make your reservation(s). 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.

### 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 Club Lunch and a Movie

We will meet Friday, February 1 and February 15, at 12 noon, in Scheide Hall, first for lunch and then a movie. Invite a friend and come!!

## Birthdays

Kirk Decker	1	Mary Lou Tucker	14	Ava Hlad	25
Mark Sampson	2	Stan Thompson	15	Art McIntyre	25
Randy Schneider	4	Debbie Newcombe		John Reagle	25
Lakyn Hauptman	5		16	Sheila Schneider	26
Terry Davitt	5	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
Amy Brown	11	Allen Hughes	21		
Matt Sampson	14	Kirt Zimmerman	23		

*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

### Thank You from Associated Charities

Many, many thanks for the Christmas Eve check for \$1,535.00. We are very appreciative. This will help 8-10 persons with utility help this winter. Again Thanks!

Sincerely,

Connie McIntyre, Exec. Director

### Alzheimer Caregiver's Support Group Meeting

An Alzheimer Caregiver's Support Group, led by Marcia Garrett and Carol Morgan, meets on the first and third Tuesday of each month 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, call Marcia Garrett at 827-7404.

### Boy Scout Troop

Boy Scout Troop #97 meets each Monday at 6 p.m. in Scheide Hall. All boys in grades Kindergarten -through 5<sup>th</sup> grade, if 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.

### 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.

## **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. Jessica is at the church a few days during the week to work on her various crafts and tasks and loves company! So, come to “The Lair,” as she jokingly calls it, and check it out! You will find the space warm and welcoming.

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).

## **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

Laura Grazier, Nursery Attendant

Nathaniel Licht, Director of Music

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

Tom Newcombe, Sr. Adult Ministry Leader

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

Rev. Dr. Vaughan Smith, Pastor

Email: [vsmith@pts.edu](mailto:vsmith@pts.edu)

JOIN US!

FUNDRAISER  
*Spaghetti*  
**DINNER**

**RAISE A FORK** *for a*  
**GREAT CAUSE**

**SUNDAY**  
**FEB. 17**  
**12 PM UNTIL 2 PM**

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
216 N. FRANKLIN ST.  
TITUSVILLE, PA

**\$10**  
ADULTS



**\$5**  
KIDS

SHARE A HEARTY MEAL AND  
HELP THE FORD FAMILY SPEND  
A WEEKEND WITH THEIR CHILDREN  
AT THE MILTON HERSHEY SCHOOL

