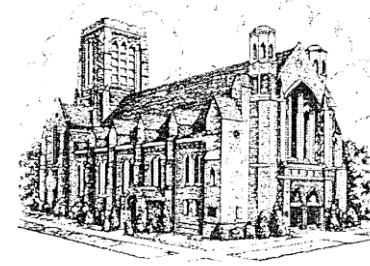


First Presbyterian Church
300 South Main Street, P. O. Box 1038
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August 2017

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

Sunday School at 9:00 a.m.
Worship 10:00 a.m.
Nursery Care provided

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

DEADLINE FOR SEPTEMBER ISSUE: MONDAY, AUGUST 21, 2017
Email submissions to fpcgreensburg@comcast.net or mail to church office.

*The Coulter Society asks that you please consider
remembering our church in your will!*

CHURCH STAFF

Dr. Martin R. Ankrum, Pastor / Head of Staff
Rev. Nicole C. Atkinson, Associate Pastor for Youth and Educational Ministries
Lu Ann Peters, Financial Secretary
Kimberly A. Stoner, Executive Secretary
Keith L. Huey, Sexton
Shannon M. Reid, FPC Preschool Supervisor
Wendy H. Matchett, FPC Preschool Teacher
Wendy McCann, FPC Preschool Teacher
Anita M. Garr, Director of Elementary Music
Michelle Stefl Harbaugh, Assistant to the Minister of Music
Carol A. Scherff, Housekeeper
Richard P. Fabery, Assistant Sexton
Candy S. Ross, Assistant Sexton
Katie Morella, Nursery Care

Mr. Edgar B. Highberger, Minister of Music, Emeritus

FIRST NEWS: A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Gifts*

Gifts. They can be memorable like an Alaskan cruise. They can be fleeting like the latest gadget from Best Buy. They can be over the top like a new car for a milestone birthday. They can be unexpected like an invitation for lunch from an old friend. They can be simple and without cost like the beauty of a sunrise. They can be infinite like God's love.

Unlike the gift itself, which can be material or spiritual or heartfelt or any combination thereof, our response tends to be universal. Gratitude. Happiness. Feelings of abundant joy.

We are blessed with countless gifts in life though sometimes they can be heavily veiled and bittersweet. In our family, we faced a crisis that began on a beautiful fall morning in 2014. It was a sunny, warm day full of promise and hope and God's palate of colors painting the Earth. With a single phone call, that beauty was shattered like a glass of water tumbling to the tile floor. The response to that challenge is indeed a gift unto itself. Amidst that initial devastation, we found hope in ourselves and others.

We found gratitude that we live in a community with enviable resources when it comes to medical treatment, happiness that we have been given a good prognosis, and joy that we can now appreciate the many gifts we often overlook daily.

The beautiful sunset, the soothing sounds of the babbling brook, the phone call from a distant grandchild, the love of so many people, a love previously unrecognized.

While no one looks at a medical diagnosis as a gift, our faith and approach to handling it is absolutely a gift. Our realization of what's important in life is a gift. Our friends and family and their unwavering support are the best gifts. The outpouring of love and prayers from our church community is a gift.

Our gifts matter. They can make an impact far surpassing the sacrifices with which they were given. Our gifts can change the world for a person, for a community, and perhaps most importantly, for ourselves.

The popular movie of some years ago, *Pay It Forward*, helped to spur an attitude of giving and helping others. You still see posts today on social media about pulling up to the drive-through window at Starbucks only to find out your latte was paid for by the lady in the Honda ahead. Silly a bit, yes. But not really when you think about it.

We are so blessed in our lives. Isn't it time to pay it forward?

Nick Fazi

*For the next few editions of First News articles written by members of our Stewardship Committee will appear in this space. Thanks to the Stewardship Committee for the "personal testimonies" about generosity!



OUR CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

PRAYER LIST: Linda Anderson, Debbie Babb, Rona Beluschok, Raeann Berger, Sue Brown, Lisa Bulger, Dorothy Casteel, Roger Colby, Tom Connelly, Regina Cooley, Edna Mary Cox, Michelle King Cushey, George DeCaro, Chris Dieck, Dom & Anna DiPalato, Gregory Dolan, Janie Dowdy, Joanne Doyle, Claire Emery, Richard Enterline, Elizabeth Felice, Jim Fore, Jean Genes, Charles Hart, Ruth Hershey, Edgar Highberger, Roy Houser, Grace Howard, George Hritz, Jack Karasack, Bob Kemerer, Larry Kempert, Charlotte Kolbosky, Ray and Reta Kuyat, George Love Sr., George Maser, Joe Nock, Alex Noel, Bill and Trish Noel, Leslie Pelzer, John Pollins IV, Pam

Reinhardt, Mary Alice Riley, Judy Rugh, Ron Russell, Lucas Sanders, Lt. Col. Brian Saul, Sean, John Sember, Liz Sember, Thelma Shaver, Ellen Sheehan, Liam Sherman, Janet Sutherland, David Tart, Tom Taylor, Lynda Turin, Elsie Vanetta, Anh Vu, Debbie Widdows, Quinn Williams, Cheryl Woods

BIRTHDAYS: Each month we observe the VIP and fourscore or more birthdays: If you are 80 or older, and would like to be listed in the monthly newsletter, please contact the church. August birthdays are:

- Richard Morford, 759 College Ave., Gbg (1)
- Betty Hammer, 302 Redmont Place, Gbg (12)
- Frank Hodges, 605 Pennsylvania Blvd., Jeannette, PA 15644 (18)
- Carolyn Falcon, 220 W. 4th St., Gbg (21)
- Marjorie McNair, 119 Industrial Park Rd. Room 110, Gbg (24)

IN MEMORIAM: Delores E. Brown, May 2, 2017; Jean George, May 29, 2017
David R. Marsh, June 20, 2017

BIRTHS: Owen Albert Runco, born July 2, son of Aaron & Jaci Runco, brother of Evelyn, granddaughter of Dave & Karen Cole, great-granddaughter of Mo & Wilma Anthony; Emilia Morgan Evanitsky, born July 13, daughter of Jennifer & Zach Evanitsky, granddaughter of Dave & Nora Kemp

CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES – If you don’t receive contribution envelopes and would like a set or if you currently receive envelopes for yourself or a family member and do not wish to receive them please let me know. Lu Ann Peters, Financial Secretary.

MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS since June 28 , Rebecca DeMuth

Stewardship Report	
Total Disbursements through 6/30/17	\$328,172.18
Total Receipts through 6/30/17	\$291,043.68
Total Income over/under Expense	(\$37,128.50)

If you would rather receive an electronic version of the First News, please let us know at fpcgreensburg@comcast.net and we'll add you to our email list and remove you from the paper copy list. Then you will receive the First News through your computer rather than the mail box, but you'll have to let us know!! A copy of the latest First News can also be found at our website: www.fpcgreensburg.com



VIPS ARE MEMBERS of our congregation who are unable to attend church services on a short-term or long-term basis. The Board of Deacons, along with the pastors, provide these members with visits, phone calls, cards and reminders of their connection to our congregation, including the sacrament of communion, as requested. Please contact the church office (724-832-0150) for more information and/or to request to be added to our list.

A NEW ARRIVAL in the family is amazing, exciting and can be overwhelming. The Deacons are offering a meal for the family on a busy day with appointments, etc. The new mother, or a family member, can contact Peggy Taylor (724-547-6851), Darlene Nagrosky (724-837-4157) or the church office. We do not have a formal network to know of births at the regional hospitals; however, the church office will forward information as received. Anyone wishing to provide a meal may also contact Peggy or Darlene. Thank you for your help with this ministry.

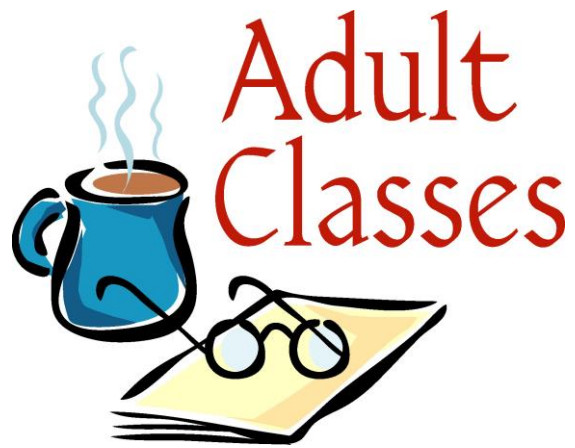
THE PASTORAL CARE COMMITTEE of the Board of Deacons is asking church members with family or friends who are hospitalized, have health conditions that have changed, and/or have other concerns that you wish the church to know about, to please inform Kim Stoner at the church office at 724-832-0150 and your concern(s) will be directed to the proper person(s).

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED SPONSORING A COFFEE HOUR? Provide your own cookies, muffins or pastries or underwrite the refreshments for \$35. Use the sign-up sheet on the Dining Room bulletin board. Your contributions and participation are greatly appreciated.

Celebrating the Journey ...

When making a contribution to the capital campaign, please place your donation in an envelope and write on it “Capital Campaign” or write “Capital Campaign” on the memo line of the check. This is to insure it goes toward the proper account. Thank You! LuAnn Peters, Financial Secretary.

Also, please visit our microsite for Celebrating the Journey ... you can reach this site either through our website and selecting the link or you can reach it directly by going to: <http://fpcthejourney.com/> You can become informed about the projects and process and even make a commitment online. Please take the time to visit this informative and important site!



Adult Classes

STARTING IN SEPTEMBER!

THE FAITH & FAMILY GROUP meets on the Third Floor of the CE Wing at 9 a.m. every Sunday during the academic year (Sept. – May) to discuss topics related to our faith and family relationships. The group is composed of young couples, singles and any in the church who are concerned about issues related to faith and family. We'll reconvene on September 17th!

WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE BIBLE?

JOIN US MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25 AT 7 P.M.

THE ASSEMBLY ROOM

Many folks have a rudimentary knowledge about the scriptures, but would like to have more familiarity with God's Word ... If this is something you are interested in, please join us each month for **THE BIBLICAL BOOK OF THE MONTH CLASS**. Each month we survey one of the books of the Bible under the leadership of Dr. Ankrum. It is always helpful to have read the book prior to the class, but it is not a necessity. **Gather with us on Monday, September 25 at 7 p.m. in the Assembly Room for our survey of Paul's Letter to the Ephesians.**

THE LAST TUESDAY BOOK CLUB is open to anyone who loves literature and loves to talk about it a bit. We have gathered as a group for over fifteen years and continue to enjoy both good fiction and each other's views on the particular novel discussed. We are a friendly group that is always anxious to add new voices to our discussion. We gather on the last Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. and discuss a pre-selected novel. We have been concentrating recently on shorter works of famous authors. We meet in the PW Lounge (near the chapel) of our church and usually meet for only an hour. Here's a list of the books selected for this coming year:

September 2017 - *The Stranger*, Albert Camus

October 2017 - *Cannery Row*, John Steinbeck

November 2017 - *A Christmas Carol*, Charles Dickens

January 2018 - *Munity on the Bounty*, Charles Nordhoff & James Norman Hall

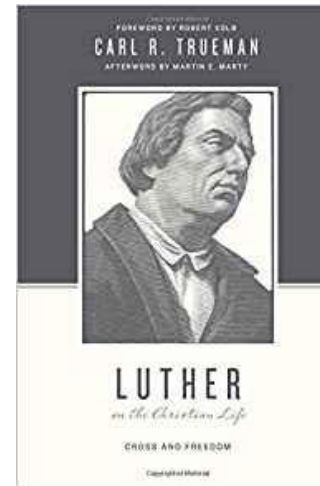
February 2018 - *The Great Divorce*, C.S. Lewis

March 2018 - *A Month in the Country*, J.L. Carr

April 2018 - *Being There*, Jerzy Kozinski

May 2018 - *The Captain's Daughter*, Alexander Pushkin

You are welcome to join us for our first meeting back from summer on Tuesday, September 26 at 7 p.m. in the PW Lounge to discuss *The Stranger* by Albert Camus.



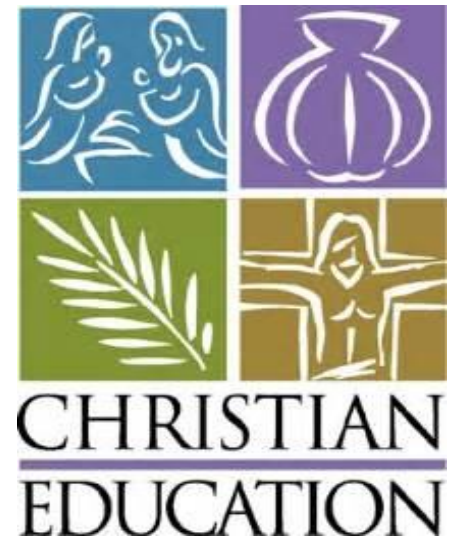
MARTIN LUTHER ON THE CHRISTIAN LIFE SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 9 A.M.

ON THE CHRISTIAN LIFE is a well-attended Sunday morning Adult Education class that seeks to provide a greater understanding of the Christian faith through examination of the life and thought of a great theologian. Our group has studied Dietrich Bonhoeffer, John Calvin and Jonathan Edwards in the past. We are excited to begin our new study of Martin Luther, partly to see what this great mind of the faith has to offer us in our own faith development and partly in celebration of the five hundredth anniversary of the beginning of the Protestant Reformation this fall. Our class is lead by Dr. Ankrum and we begin our walk through Luther's life and thought on Sunday, September 17.

THE MEN'S BREAKFAST & BIBLE STUDY meets at Eat'n Park on Rt. 30 E. each Wednesday morning at 7:45 a.m. for a time of fellowship, study and, of course, breakfast. We are now studying the Ten Commandments under the leadership of Dr. Ankrum.

PRESCHOOL HAPPENINGS... Check us out at www.fpcgpreschool.weebly.com The website contains lots of information about our preschool, including upcoming events, our education methods, and more! Know someone looking for a preschool next year? Recommend us to a friend!

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS AND MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS! Mark it on your calendars! We'll have training for our children's and youth ministry volunteers and teachers on Sunday, **August 20th** @ 11:30am in the youth room. Lunch will be provided as well. And don't forget to get your clearances done! Talk to Niki if you need some help understanding the requirements and what you need to do. Thanks!





**CORNERSTONE GATHERING:
ALL ARE INVITED!
SATURDAY, AUGUST 12, 6:00 P.M.**

Cornerstone is a gathering of folks from FPC on a monthly basis for dinner and conversation. This month we will meet at Pasqualinos, 4430 William Penn Highway (Route 22), Murrysville. This restaurant specializes in homemade breads, pasta and desserts (like spumoni and tiramisu.)

Please call either Kim (at the church) or me by Wednesday, August 9th if you wish to be added to our list. I will also have a sign-up sheet at coffee hour. See you there, Sandy Beauregard.

Mission Committee News

SECOND SUNDAY SUPPER... Puffy white clouds and a clear blue sky welcomed about 50 guests to supper. Baskets of bread were placed on each table, then hearty slices of watermelon were enjoyed. The main dish, noodles covered with beef, vegetables and tasty sauce was appreciated by all. Ice cream on top of brownies or a pastry completed the meal. Louie hardly had to scrape a plate as smiling guests made their way home.



Would You Like to Help with Second Sunday Supper??

We could always use a little help on a Second Sunday of any month ... there are more than enough jobs to do from helping prepare the meal, to serving, to clean up, to visiting with our guests. We would love to see you join us any Second Sunday after 2 p.m. in the Dining Room. THANKS!

FAITH NIGHT W/ THE PIRATES AT PNC PARK... Join us on August 17th for a great game between the Pirates and the St. Louis Cardinals (division rivals!) Tickets are \$30 and get you a seat in section 105 and \$10 to be used at any concession or pro shop in the park. After the game, hear from McCutchen, as well as other players and coaches about how their faith has impacted their lives. Sign up with Niki soon, as we have limited seats! Meet at church at 4:45pm (if you'd like to carpool). ***We only have 7 tickets left!!! Ask Niki to sign up!***

Y-Fi* Connections in August

***Youth of First Presbyterian**

WELCOME BACK TO OUR WOONSOCKET, RI YOUTH MISSION TEAM! Thanks to all who prayed for our team while we were away July 22nd - July 30th! Ask anyone on the team about the trip to hear more about how God used each of us on this journey! Our team members were Geoff Atkinson, Niki Atkinson, Ben Clark, Lizzy Dickson, Michael Dalansky, Paul Dalansky, Katie Morella, Austin Pascarella, and Julia Schaming.

Y-Fi TOPICS
5:30-6:30pm – Dinner
6:30pm-8:00pm – Growing Together! (6th-12th grade)
Get ready for a new year of Y-Fi, starting on September 10th with our 3rd Annual Messtival!



August 20th @ 11:30am - Children's & Youth Ministry Volunteer Training
September 10th @ 11:30am – Youth Parent Meeting
September 17th @ 11:30am – Confirmation Info Mtg. (Open to 7th grade and above)

COMING SOON! SUNDAY, SEPT. 10TH @ 5PM



WANT TO IMPACT THE LIVES OF OUR KIDS? How about helping them grow in faith!? In this format, a Bible story is taught for 4 weeks using a variety of methods (art, drama, cooking, music, games, etc.) Our kids love it, teachers enjoy the flexibility, and most importantly, our children are growing in their faith! Want to help out this year? Talk to Niki by calling the office, emailing her, or seeing her during coffee hour! Here's a preview of what we're doing this year...

Abraham & Sarah	Gather 9/17, Class 9/24, 10/1, 10/8
The Plagues	Gather 10/15, Class 10/22, 10/29, 11/5
Ruth	Gather 11/12, Class 11/19, 11/26, 12/3



Stephen Ministry is a way for our congregation to train and mobilize those who feel called to provide Christ-centered care and support to people experiencing many different kinds of life difficulties, including grief, divorce, cancer, unemployment, a spiritual crisis, infertility, and other challenges.

Here are some steps you can take as we begin this journey together:

1. Give thanks to God for the life-transforming ministry ahead of us!
2. Watch a couple of three-minute videos at www.stephenministries.org/stories to learn more about the difference this caring ministry makes in people's lives.
3. Give thanks to God for those whom the Spirit has moved to become our first Stephen leaders: Rev. Niki Atkinson and Sandra Beauregard. Pray for them as they attend the Leader's Training Course in Pittsburgh on July 30th-August 5th, 2017.
4. Pray for the Spirit to raise up men and women who will become our first Stephen Ministers. Prayerfully consider whether God might be calling *you* to this ministry!

Fellowship Opportunities From Membership & Evangelism Committee!!!



MORE UPCOMING EVENTS ... MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!

SUNDAY, AUGUST 27 – 12 NOON

CHURCH PICNIC....Join this fun event on Sunday, August 27 at Mt. Odin Park, Heather Lund Pavilion, at 12:00 p.m. Enjoy hamburgers and hot dogs on us! You bring your favorite picnic food or dessert to share. Have a favorite game? Bring it along too! Sign up during coffee hour or call the church office.

Our Annual Fall Bus Trip!!!

Saturday, November 11 – Christmas in Dover, Ohio

This fall, the Membership and Evangelism Committee is planning a special day excursion to the quaint village of Dover, Ohio to get properly into the Christmas spirit! We will be touring the Warther Museum which is known for sixty-four of Ernest Warther's ebony, ivory, and walnut hand-carved masterpieces, including a large amount of trains. In addition to his carvings, the collection contains his wife, Frieda's 73,000 piece button collection. As well, we will visit an authentic Amish home and enjoy a luncheon feast. Then we will have time to visit the Christmas shoppes of the Dover area. Cost for the trip is \$110 per person which includes travel by bus, the visit to the museum and the feast at the Amish home. Sign-up opportunities will begin soon!!!



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PRESCHOOL WELCOMES ITS NEW 3-YEAR-OLD CLASS TEACHER, MRS. WENDY MCCANN!

Beginning August 1st, there will be a new, yet familiar, face in our preschool classrooms. After interviewing some excellent candidates, our search committee and Christian Education committee unanimously recommended Wendy McCann to our Session for approval. Mrs. McCann earned a Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and served in two preschools in Maryland as teacher, assistant director, and director. She has also served as a parent volunteer in two Greensburg area preschools, as well as a volunteer and Sunday School teacher at First Presbyterian Church. Mrs. McCann is married with three children who have loved having her as a stay-at-home mom. She is excited to get back into her career as a preschool teacher here at First Presbyterian Church Preschool. (Also, her favorite book as a child was "I Am A Bunny" by Ole Risom.)



Minister of Music Search Update

The members of the Minister of Music Search Committee continue in their work of finding a new Minister of Music for our congregation. At the time of this writing, the committee has received around 25 resumes and interviewed five candidates. The committee will be narrowing their search towards the end of July and the beginning of August with a hope of having the new Minister of Music in place as soon as possible. Members of the committee are: Robin Jennings, Jeff Ruff, Lee Matchett, Wendy McCann, Heather Crowe, Vance Booher and Don White, chair. Dr. Ankrum serves as the staff resource to the committee.