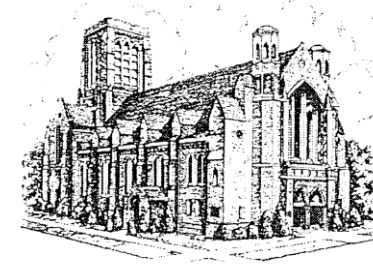


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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PERMIT NO. 428



February 2012

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP 9:30 & 11:00
Sunday School 9:30
Children & Worship 11:00

FIRST NEWS: A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

A CHANGELESS FOUNDATION ... A CHANGING CHURCH

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”

“The church affirms Ecclesia reformata, semper reformanda secundum verbum Dei, that is, ‘The church reformed, always to be reformed according to the Word of God’ in the power of the Spirit.”

These two quotes may be familiar to you. The first obviously comes from the Bible and speaks to the unchanging nature of the foundation of our faith: the person of Jesus of Nazareth.

The second quote comes from the Book of Order of our denomination and speaks to the underlying principle of change in the life of Christ’s church. The Latin formulation quoted within the quote dates as far back as the 16th century Reformation that brought the world the Protestant revolution and eventually, the Presbyterian Church.

The point to be made from pairing these is not that they stand in opposition to each other, but rather to embrace a principle of life within the church that all-too-often we fail to see: In Jesus Christ, we have a firm, unchanging foundation. God’s word to us in the person of Jesus of Nazareth does not change. It is to this person, this salvific event in Jesus the Christ, that the church is to bear witness in this world. This does not change.

However, the Church of Jesus Christ is called to be open to change and reformation continually by our involvement in both the hearing of God’s word to us and our practice of the faith. Change is too often seen as threatening within the church for whatever reason that may be. As Reformed Christians, as members of the Presbyterian Church, Christ’s work in this world is best served when we remember that though our foundation in faith never changes, the way that we are called to be the church in this does and needs to change ... to continually be reformed by our approximation to God’s word and will in our lives.

Jesus Christ does not change; thanks be to God ... Christ’s people (the Church) is always in the midst of change; thanks be to God as well!!

Grace and peace,
-Martin

DEADLINE FOR MARCH ISSUE: MONDAY FEBRUARY 20, 2012
Email submissions to fpcgreensburg@comcast.net or mail to church office.

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Mr. Martin R. Ankrum, Pastor / Head of Staff
Rev. Mr. Michael A. Pacelli, III, Minister to Youth
Rev. Dr. Douglas E. Holben, Minister of Visitation
Edgar B. Highberger, Minister of Music and Organist
Janet L. Schuchman, Director of Christian Education
Joseph O’Malley, Seminary Assistant for Campus Ministry
Cheryl A. Kirsch, Executive Secretary
Lu Ann Peters, Financial Secretary
Keith L. Huey, Sexton
Stacy A. Somers, FPC Preschool Supervisor
Wendy H. Matchett, FPC Preschool Teacher
Joan L. McGinley, 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 and Jenea E. Craig, Assistant Sextons
Kelli M. Doran and Courtney M. Hutchins, Nursery Care



Board of Deacons

HELP SAVE LIVES. FPC will be hosting a Red Cross blood drive from 8:30 am to 1:30 pm on Sunday, February 19 in the Assembly Room. Please volunteer to give blood. Sign ups will be at coffee hours. Plan a random act of kindness today!

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.

SECOND SUNDAY SUPPER REPORT: It was warm and sunny on January 8th. The entree was bubbling in two roasters and the dining room was not filling up. The optimists in the kitchen filled bowls, washed large potatoes and cut cakes. When Martin visited to give the blessing people were busy choosing their seats. Using the knowledge that "if it was good once, it will be good again", the serving began. Forty seven guests enjoyed fresh bread, kielbasa smothered in special sauerkraut, a dish of fruit, a baked potato and cakes made by our church members. Maybe you recall that Lois Watson made this for us last year. The empty plates proved that it was just as good the second time. Many folks were able to take home some tasty left-overs. What a great start for this new year. Our work will continue on Sunday, February 12th.

LEADERSHIP RETREAT REPORT: On Saturday, January 14, the members of the Session and the Board of Deacons met with members of the staff and with each other to prayerfully begin their work of leadership in the church for this year. The theme was "Always Reforming ..." and Rev. Ankrum lead the retreat. The boards separated to re-organize into committees and sub-committees and begin their work. The Session was divided into the following committees:
Education: Linda Dickson, Jill Gaetano & Susan Walker; **Membership & Evangelism:** Janice Heming, Bill Lingis, Dick Baker & Jean Hurst; **Mission:** Gary Wilkins & Ann Bagley;
Stewardship: Cal Pollins & Megan James; **Property & Finance:** Betsy Hoeldtke, Steve Ross, Geoffrey Atkinson, Tom Carnahan, Dave Snyder & Art Caramella; **Worship:** Chris Terrill, Linda Turin, Alice Ann Templeton & Jeff Ruff; **Personnel:** Jeff Ruff. Jean Blice was re-elected to serve as the Clerk of Session, while David Snyder was re-elected as the Church Treasurer for another term. Rev. Ankrum moderates the Session. Watch next month for a report on the Board of Deacons!



OUR CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

PRAYER LIST: Virginia Abraham, Paul Aberetske, Linda Anderson, Eva Andrews, Mary Asa, Nelda Ashbaugh, Tom Baird, Kathleen Barnett, Donald Bergman, Mary Ann Berkey, Kit Bickerton, Gayle Blansett, Hazel Booher, Jillian Bowman, Frank Bryan, Ruth Cannon, Suzanne Clemens, Thomas P. Cole, II, Anna Crouse, Michelle King Cushey, Paige Dent, Michele Domenick, Charles Eckman, Betty Elder, Maggie Elder, Loretta Enterline, Al Essey, John and Elizabeth Felice, Carolyn Foster, Dave Gibson, Edward Garr, Heddy Garr, Tom Gehm,

Brenda Gessman, Janet Glover, Nevin Gray, William Hayden, Jim Herrington, Ruth Hershey, Evelyn Hockeborn, Neal Hooker, Shirley Howard, Charlotte Jinkner, Laura Johnson, Carolyn Jones, Pat Jones, Ruth Kimmel, Leslie Luhovey, Robert MacRill, Gloria Marion, Louis Maser, David Marsh, Carol McDowell, David McNair, Jean Nicholson, Joe and J. P. Pancioli, Tom Peters, Larry Randolph, Ron Russell, Amanda Wood Samit, Tim Sarver, Lou and Joanne Semach, Mark Andrew Senay, Liam Sherman, Sally Smail, Robert Stahl, Jared Stern, Janet Sutherland, Heather Thomas, Marge Thurston, Lynda Turin, Elsie Vanetta, Michael Washil, and Virginia White

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. February birthdays are: Helen E. Murray, 8 Garden Center Drive, Apt 215, Gbg (2)
Bob MacRill, 2655 Fitzpatrick St., Grapeville, 15634 (18)

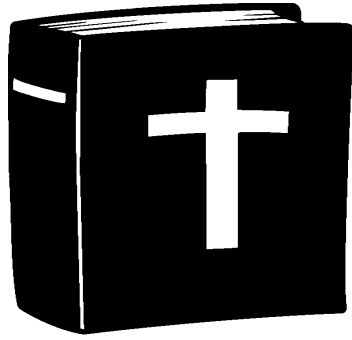
BAPTISMS: December 25, 2011 – Falon Himmel, daughter of Nathan and Arrienne Barclay

IF YOU HAVE ANY ADDITIONS to "Our Church Family News" page, please notify the church office as soon as possible for inclusion in next month's First News!

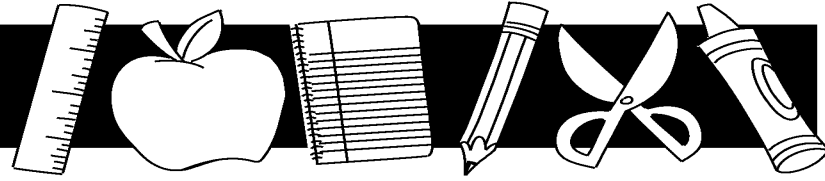
MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTION since December 19, 2011

Art and Sheila Caramella, Moore & Morford, Inc., Marquis Smith, Jr., Terence L. Graft Family, Jane and Jeff Williams, Scott and Gretchen Brown, Dennis and Susan Bennett, Jim and Linda Bennett, Candace Cassidy, Dennis and Mary Ann Matthews, Claire B. Horning, Doris J. Marsh, Robert and Patricia Adams, B. Patrick and Mary L. Costello, Keystone Waterproofing Inc., Tom and Sandy Cole, Phyllis L. Pack, Franklin W. and Donna Jo Teacher, Elma Jean and Edward E. Kovalik

| Stewardship Report | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| Total Disbursements through 12/31/11 | \$623,022.55 |
| Total Receipts through 12/31/11 | \$617,601.52 |
| Total Income over/under Expense | (\$5,421.03) |



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



SUNDAY SCHOOL – Children and youth (to 8th grade), please join us on Sunday mornings. Come up for the Children’s sermon and then head off to classes! Adults and Sr. High classes begin in their classroom spaces at 9:30. The younger classes get to enjoy time for music, Bible stories/lessons, games/crafts to help support the theme for the day. Please pick-up at 10:45 at the classrooms.

PINE SPRINGS VISIT on Sunday, February 19, 2012; Mike Hurley will be joining us to talk to the congregation and to our students about the summer offerings for camp this year. Please plan to join us!!

CHILDREN AND WORSHIP: We welcome the Smedleys back as leaders for this program. It occurs during the second service, with children age 4 to 4th grade coming forward for the children’s sermon and then adjourning to class. The lessons are based on Bible stories with other projects to reinforce the message. If you are interested in assisting, please talk with Jan Schuchman.

7:06-DEEP END: Try joining us on Wednesday evenings for these programs. Children and youth ages 1st grade thru 12th grade are encouraged to attend. Our evening begins with dinner at 5:30, and continues with music, devotion time and recreation along with fellowship. We will not be meeting on February 22nd as there will be Ash Wednesday services.

CENTS-ABILITY: We are doing very well with our donations to the hungry. Keep up the good work. We hope our congregation will participate along with you, as we do have the ‘newer look bottles’ too!! **February collections date is February 26th!!**

WANT TO BE AN ACOLYTE? Attention 4th– 12th graders: If you are not already helping with this ministry and you would like to, call Mike at the office (724) 832-0150 and let him know. A short training session will be offered.

Y-Fi* Connections in February

*Youth of First Pres.

Our Sunday Schedule looks like this:

5:30 – 6:30 pm Middle School

6:30 – 7:00 pm Dinner

7:00 – 8:00 pm High School

Each Sunday, we ask for parents or anyone else who would like to volunteer to make a meal for our students. We serve dinner at 6:00 PM and you don’t have to get too fancy. Pizza, burgers, tacos, ham BBQs, chips, drinks, and desserts are the order of the day. We typically serve anywhere from 10 - 20 people. We provide the plates, silverware, cups and napkins and you bring the rest.

**February Cooks Schedule: Feb. 5th : Superbowl Party / Feb. 12th: Cooks needed
Feb. 19th : Cooks Needed / Feb. 26th: Cooks needed**

Upcoming Events:

February 5th – Super Bowl Party – 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM* - Middle and High School
It’s that time of year again but unfortunately, there will be no black and gold this year. That doesn’t mean we still can’t get together and watch the most exciting set of commercials to be found on TV, right? Join us at 6 PM in the Youth Room. **We are asking parents to provide your favorite snacks to share.** *Parents: you can pick up your child at any time given that it can be a late night before the school week starts.

Tubing @ Seven Springs / Saturday, February 25th! Winter got you down? Snow Problem! Price: \$25.00 Time: Meet at the church at 2 PM (Session is 3-5 pm) with dinner afterwards. We should return to the church by 7PM. Call Mike to reserve your spot*
*You must sign a waiver in order to go! See Mike

LOOK FOR SPAGHETTI DINNER ANNOUNCEMENT ELSEWHERE>>>>

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH THIRTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL MUSIC SERIES

At the First Presbyterian Church of Greensburg, music enriches our worship celebrations by reinforcing the meaning of Scripture and by deepening the focus of our prayers and praise. Our music series continues to strive to make a special contribution to the religious and cultural life of the Greensburg area. Some of the events are presented in cooperation with the Seton Hill University Sacred Music Program and the Seton Hill University Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26 (Single Service at 10 A.M. in the Sanctuary)
THE LENTEN JOURNEY—A FESTIVAL OF HYMNS AND ANTHEMS
with Readings from Susan Palo Cherwein's book "Crossings".

FRIDAY, MARCH 23, 2012 (7:30 P.M. in the Sanctuary)
BASICALLY, BRITISH!

Seton Hill University Performing Arts Center Students from the Studios of Edward Kuhn and Edgar Highberger perform music from the British Isles. The concert begins with a rousing rendition of "God Save the Queen".

SUNDAY, MARCH 25, 2012 (4 P.M. in the Sanctuary)
LENTEN CHORAL CONCERT presented by the
WESTMORELAND CHORAL SOCIETY

With Thomas Octave, Director and Nancy Sheehan, Accompanist Tickets are available from the Choral Society or at the door.

SUNDAY, APRIL 15, 2012 (4 P.M. in the Sanctuary)
DR. MELISSA PLAMANN, ORGANIST, IN RECITAL

Dr. Plamann, Assistant Professor of Music and University Organist at Oklahoma City University, performs organ works on the Austin Organ of 3,512 pipes in 61 ranks. Dr. Plamann holds degrees from Valparaiso, Emory, and Indiana (Bloomington) Universities. This is the annual grant recital sponsored in cooperation with the Seton Hill University Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. Suggested contribution to the grant fund, which benefits Seton Hill organ students, is \$10.

PLEASE REMEMBER OUR Y.A.V. IN MISSION ON OUR BEHALF IN NEW ORLEANS! Jillian Manning has begun her work as a YAV in New Orleans with two projects: Mid-City Ministries and Global Maritime Ministry. Jillian invites all of you to keep informed with her year in mission by visiting her blog: littlepostcardsfromnola.blogspot.com. Please keep Jillian in your prayers! Also, if you wish to contribute toward her work, please call the church office for more information!



ARE YOU BUSY THIS WEDNESDAY MORNING?!?! IF SO, YOU MIGHT WANT TO CHANGE YOUR PLANS AND JOIN US! Each Wednesday morning a group of men from our church gather to fellowship, share breakfast and spend time in God's Word. The group meets at Eat 'n Park on US 30 at 7:45 A.M. each Wednesday and is led by Rev. Ankrum. No need for reservations, big Bibles or well-polished answers, just come as you are ... P.S. bring money for breakfast; there is no free lunch here!

Last Tuesday Book Club ... Feb. 28: 7 – 8 p.m. Cat's Cradle by Kurt Vonnegut

Join us on Tuesday, Feb. 28 at 7 p.m. in the PW Lounge for our discussion of this month's selection. "*Cat's Cradle* is the fourth novel by American writer Kurt Vonnegut, first published in 1963. It explores issues of science, technology, and religion, satirizing the arms race and many other targets along the way." Join us for an interesting discussion!

The Biblical Book of the Month Class ... Feb. 27: 7 – 8 p.m. The Epistle to the Philippians

This class meets once a month to discuss a single book of the Bible for one hour. There is a presentation on the topic by Rev. Ankrum with plenty of space for questions and discussion. We meet in the Assembly Room. Please join us on Monday, February 27 to discuss The Epistles to the Philippians.

THE FLOWER GARDEN: The Flower Garden invites all women to this month's gathering. We are going to Carnegie Museum of Natural History on Tuesday, February 14th, leaving the church parking lot at 9:15 a.m. We will pray our way through the gem room and also see Madeleine Albright's pin collection on display before going to lunch. If you have questions, call Bobbie Hine (724-850-9342).

CORNERSTONE: We will be dining at Giannilli's, 408 Thomas School Rd (Carbon), on February 11th at 6:30. Adults are welcome to join us. Just sign up at coffee hours, or by contacting the church office (724-832-0150) or Jan (724-989-6449). PLEASE do so by Wednesday, February 8th so I can RSVP.

HIGHLANDERS: No meeting in February. Next meeting on March 4, 2012.

preschool registration



The Presbyterian Preschool Registration

Because of our outstanding reputation in the community, our program tends to fill up quickly. Registration for Fall 2012 is in progress. You may call the church office at 724-832-0150 if you have any questions regarding our program, if you would like to observe a class, or if you would like to register your child. A teacher will return your call as soon as possible. We encourage you to share this information with friends and family who may also be looking for a quality educational program for Fall 2012.

Spaghetti Dinner February 23rd - 4-7 PM

This dinner benefits Vacation Bible School
Come out and support this great ministry!!!

Don't miss your chance to help give the children of FPC the best VBS Program this summer. \$6.00 gets you all the spaghetti you care to eat as well as bread / salad / drinks / cake! We need volunteers and if you need an incentive - they eat for free! See you then!



A Gift for the King Report! Thanks be to God!!!

During the closing 6 weeks of 2011, we were challenged to bring a "gift for the King" in order to help reduce a projected \$54,000 budget deficit for 2012. Here are some figures to help you understand the

great leap forward you, as a congregation, have made in faith!

December Worship Offerings: 2010: \$48,000 2011: \$73,500

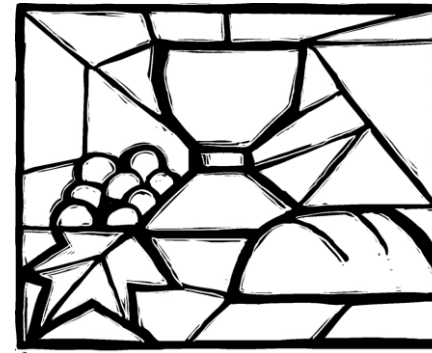
Total Annual Worship Offerings: 2010: \$403,200 2011: \$463,700

The total income for 2011, once other sources (i.e. Misc. donations, Preschool tuition, etc.) are included, reached \$617,600!! The total deficit that was realized in 2010 was \$49,000 ... the prediction for 2011 was a deficit of \$54,000. However, in 2011, due to the great effort of our congregation, we ended the year with only a \$5,400 deficit! Thank you for all your faithfulness to God and to Christ's church!



From Death to Life: 2012 Lenten Journey

"This is my body and blood, given to you for the forgiveness of sins."



Ash Wednesday: February 22 - 7:00 p.m. The

Sanctuary Join us as we re-dedicate ourselves to walking in the way of Jesus Christ at the opening of this year's Lenten season. Any journey requires preparation and nourishment ... this is where we start for Lent as God's people; won't you join us?

First Sunday in Lent: Special Observance: Single Service @ 10 a.m. "The Lenten Journey: A Festival of Hymns and Anthems" We will begin our Lord's Day observance of Lent with a single, combined service focusing upon the witness of music and poetry to inform this holy time of the Christian year!

Five Wednesdays in Lent: February 29, March 7, 14, 21 & 28 - 7:00 p.m. The Memorial Chapel Each Wednesday evening in Lent (except Holy Week), we will meet for a quiet, reflective service in our beautiful Memorial Chapel. Music and the spoken word will help to direct our journey with Jesus through the Lenten season.

Upcoming Worship Changes



After careful study by the Worship Committee and approval of the Session, the schedule for the Lord's Day will be changing earlier than usual this year. On Sunday, April 15, we will change to a single service at 10 a.m. with Sunday school at 9 a.m. We want to see what it would be like to worship together and provide education opportunities for both the children and the adult

membership of our congregation. You will be learning more about this alteration to our usual course in the next First News and subsequent editions of our weekly First View newsletter.