



THE TOWER

APRIL 2017

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, TITUSVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

A Note from Pastor Norma Murphy

The Lord be with you all!

We begin April with a week of Lent, then Holy Week beginning April 9, and finally arrive at Easter on April 16. The season of Easter will continue until Pentecost on June 4. April is a transition month, when we get to experience a wide variety of themes and emotions.

On **April 2**, we will have a guest speaker, the Rev. Ellie Johns-Kelley from the Presbyterian Foundation. She will speak on the stewardship of our whole lives during worship, and briefly following worship on legacy giving. There will be time for questions and answers at the latter, so plan on staying after the service ends for a cookie and good information.

April 9 is Palm Sunday and this year the Lake Erie String Quartet will play at this service. The children will process with palms and we will remember Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

April 13, we will host the Pleasantville PC for a joint Maundy Thursday service at 7 p.m. We will gather for our Passover Feast at the Lord's Table (served in the pews), then have the opportunity for foot-washing after supper, and finally will follow Jesus to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray as the church is stripped of all adornment and the communion elements. There will be special music by the choir and by Nat Licht at this service, and all will depart in silence.

April 14, we will gather again at 7 p.m. for our Good Friday Service that is part of the Triduum service (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter) which together form one extended service. The Good Friday service will be somber and dark, including a Tenebrae or service of shadows. Seven scripture readings of Jesus' passion will each be followed by candles and lights being turned off until we are in the utter darkness of the tomb. Again, all depart in silence.

April 16, we will break the silence with 2 joyous services! The first is a joint sunrise service, hosted by Pleasantville PC outdoors at 6 a.m. and followed by a delicious breakfast. The second will be our usual 11 a.m. service in the sanctuary of the Titusville PC. Again, the choir will sing, the sound of a trumpet will lead our hymns, and the Alleluias will ring out loud and clear. Come to one or come to both! Celebrate that the Lord is risen, he is risen indeed!

One of my greatest disappointments in the church is the great number of people who attend the Palm Sunday and Easter services, but never come to Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. I realize that they are not ‘happy’ services, but a great deal of life is not ‘happy,’ especially the death of a loved one. These services remind us that God did truly become a human being like we are, and that he was tempted and was cruelly treated and finally died a worse death than most of us will. All so he could be raised to a new, eternal, forever life.

If all we know is excitement and joy, how do we deal with pain and sorrow when it hits? If all we are equipped to respond to is happiness, how will we know ways to respond to sorrow? Maundy Thursday and especially Good Friday services are there for that reason. To practice how to deal with betrayal and cruelty and death. We deal with it by hearing Jesus’ words from the cross: Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.

On Good Friday, the darkest of nights in the life of the church, we learn about the art of forgiveness. And once we begin to practice that art more and more we find ourselves experiencing the peace that passes understanding. And our ‘Alleluias’ have a fuller, more magnificent ring to them! We celebrate Easter in a whole new way.

If you come to those two services and don’t experience anything different about your Easter, just let me know and I will not bug you about it again. But I am willing to make that deal with you because I have experience with people who have taken me up on it! I find that these tend to become two of peoples’ favorite services of the year.

Sound crazy? So does the good news of the gospel if you have never experienced its grace and power. As the Samaritan woman said to her people: Come and see! Come and see for yourself how close God is in every breath you take. Every hymn you sing. Every prayer made. Come and see the Lord!

Grace and peace, Norma

Session News

Your Session met to discern God’s leading for our congregation on Monday, February 26, 2017. During that meeting the spiritual leaders of the church:

- ❖ Heard from Committee on Ministry member Dave Pickens that the COM is close to beginning its new model of Church Advocates who will develop a more proactive relationship with a church instead of holding Triennial visits once every 3 years
- ❖ Approved a Car Wash Fundraiser for the Youth Group to raise money for their Mission Trip to Broad Street PC in Philadelphia, PA

- ❖ Heard a report about plans for the Lenten Family Nights March 1-29
- ❖ Approved receiving the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering during Lent and being dedicated on Easter Sunday
- ❖ Heard a report about the Lenten Family Night program on March 8 for Sole Hope, making shoes for children in Uganda who suffer from jiggers
- ❖ Heard a report from the Seniors about coming activities, including bringing the Canoe building group from Tionesta in to talk in April and a Barbershop Quartet in May
- ❖ Approved the transfer of membership of Ardelle Hutchison to St. James Episcopal church

The next meetings of the Session are scheduled for Monday, March 27 at 7 p.m., Monday April 3 at 7 p.m. for Lombard work, and Monday, April 24 at 7 p.m.

Raindrop Challenge to Congregation as Part of One Great Hour of Sharing

All congregational members are being challenged to give a donation to help support people in need of clean water. A chart will be hanging in the church hallway. For each amount given in support of this mission a raindrop will be placed on it. Our hope is to fill the chart with a multitude of raindrops! Help us to do this by supporting this mission. Envelopes will be in the bulletin or on the table in the hallway for your convenience.

Upcoming Easter Events

Palm Sunday Worship with Lake Erie String Quartet

On Sunday, April 9, at 11 a.m. in the sanctuary, the Lake Erie String Quartet will play in our sanctuary. In the past they have played on Maundy Thursday, but it was decided that perhaps our Sunday worshippers would enjoy them as well.

PW Lenten Salad Bar Luncheon for All

On Wednesday, April 12 at 12 noon, the Presbyterian Women will host their annual Lenten Salad Bar Luncheon in Scheide Hall. This year we ask that anyone who attends bring a salad to share, some change for the birthday offering, and come listen to Bob Orner, storyteller speak to us about the last days of Jesus Christ as he portrays Judas. Although this event is put on by the PW Women, we strongly encourage men and families to attend.

Maundy Thursday Service Here at our church – April 13, 7 p.m.

Good Friday Service Here at our church – April 14, 7 p.m.

Easter Sunrise Service at Pleasantville Presbyterian Church – April 16, 6 a.m.

Information on these services is available in the “Note from Pastor Norma Murphy” on page 1.

One Great Hour of Sharing to be Collected on Easter Sunday

On Easter Sunday, April 16, One Great Hour of Sharing Offering will be collected. Inserts describing this year’s special offering will be placed in the Sunday bulletin, as well as an envelope on Easter Sunday for your convenience.

Upcoming Meetings

- Session – Monday, April 3, 7 p.m., Conference Room
- PW Board Meeting – Tuesday, April 4, 4 p.m., Conference Room
- Mission Committee Meeting – Thursday, April 13, 12 noon., Conference Room
- Christian Education – Thursday, April 13, 1 p.m., Conference Room
- Finance Committee Meeting – Tuesday, April 18, 5:30 p.m.
- Worship Committee - Sunday, April 23, 12 noon, Emerson Parlor
- Session - Monday, April 24, 7 p.m., Conference Room
- Heritage Committee - Sunday, April 30, 8:45 a.m., Conference Room

Sunday School Opportunities

Available Adult Sunday School Classes

Did you know that, along with our Sunday School classes for K4-12 grades, we also have classes for parents who might want to get plugged into a class while their children are busy learning about the Bible and God's love? We currently have three classes that are open for any adult to attend, and they are:

1. Commissioned Women – This class meets in the conference room.
2. Lee Green – This class meets in Scheide Hall.
3. The Seeker's Class – This class meets in Pastor Murphy's office.

Christian Education

Women's Bible Study

The Tuesday Women's Bible Study is currently studying the Gospel of John led by Tanya Zahn.

All women from this congregation and/or local community are invited to join the group each Tuesday, 10 a.m. to 11:15 a.m., for fellowship, prayer, and study. Free baby-sitting is available in the nursery during the study, provided by Pandi Ford. See or email Eryn Lavery for more information @ eryn@erynlavery.com.

Transformation Tuesday

The Transformation Tuesday program takes place after school each Tuesday. Students K-4 - 5th grades are invited to the church from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. for a snack, Bible story, music, and craft.

In addition, this spring students will be teaming up with the church's memorial handbell choir to present "Jonah and the Whale." The children will perform the play at the Open House on Tuesday, May 2, at 4 p.m., and again during morning worship on Youth Sunday, May 7, 2017. Any and all members of the congregation are invited to attend both the Open House and Youth Sunday to support these youngest members of our church family.

Men of First Breakfast Bible Study

All men from our church, their friends, and friends of the community are welcome to attend each Wednesday morning's breakfast and Bible study held in Scheide Hall at 7 a.m. A delicious breakfast is always served, along with good fellowship and great conversation on a passage from the Bible. The facilitator for this study is Tom Newcombe.

Youth Group News

Meeting Time

All 6-12 grade students are invited to join us in the prayer room Sunday evenings at 6 p.m. for prayer, fellowship, and fun! If you have questions, contact Eryn Lavery via email at eryn@erynlavery.com.

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.

This Month's Ushers Charley Evans, Kelly Evans, Dick Peebles and Dave Snyder(captain)

Worship

As mentioned in the March issue of The Tower, Rev. Ellie Johns-Kelly of the Presbyterian Foundation will be in our pulpit on April 2. Her sermon will revolve around "whole-self" stewardship (time, talent, and treasures). April 2 will include communion (in the pews).

Easter will soon be here as we celebrate our risen Jesus Christ! April is a busy month at FPC with services on Palm Sunday (including the Erie String Quartet), Maundy Thursday (including communion in the pews), and Good Friday. There will also be an Easter Morning Sunrise Service at the Pleasantville Presbyterian Church with Rev. Jamie Fowler and Rev. Norma Prina Murphy.

Our handbells will be ringing on April 23. Anyone interested in participating in this joyful music ministry may contact the church office or speak to one of the bell ringers.

Ushers for April are Charley Evans, Kelly Evans, Richard Peebles, and Dave Snyder (captain). Anyone interested in participating in this serving ministry may contact Sandy Smith.

The Worship Committee has a new member: James McGinnis. Welcome, James! Sandy Smith, Moderator, Worship Committee

Music Ministries

A Letter from Filippa Duke, Director of the Bell Choir/Children's Choirs I & II

Dear Friends at FPC,

I am writing to you with exciting news. I have accepted a call to serve a church in Raleigh, North Carolina and my husband, Michael, and I will be moving in late April. While Michael and I will be sad to leave Pennsylvania, we are excited to have found an opportunity to live close to family, something that we have sorely missed! It has been wonderful to work with you and your children to make music and grow our ministry at FPC. I am so appreciative of our time together, and of all of the talent, time, effort, and heart you have given to the music ministry here. I wish you blessings as you continue on learning, growing, and serving in Titusville.

In Christ,
Filippa

Chancel Choir to Sing and Lake Erie String Quartet to Play on Palm Sunday, April 9

This year's Palm Sunday service will be on April 9th at 11 a.m.. It will feature our Chancel choir directed by Nathaniel Licht and the Lake Erie String Quartet composed of members of the Erie Philharmonic and the Erie Chamber Orchestras.

Although the service will not begin until 11 a.m., the String Quartet will begin their prelude at 10:45 a.m.

The Lake Erie String Quartet features: Howard Lyon and Louis Nicolica playing violin, Ted Smeltz, the viola, and Marian Byard, the cello.

Chancel Choir

As has become a tradition at our church, this year's Holy Week services come as a meaningful opportunity to be part of your Chancel Choir! Absolutely zero experience or particular ability is needed to participate. Rather, a heart for praise and a spirit for song are all you'll need to muster. We are working on some beautiful music for the season featuring titles such as "Via Dolorosa," "I Believe," a rousing version of "Ride on in Majesty," culminating with "the Hallelujah Chorus" Easter Sunday morning. I hope that you will hear and accept this call to "move our worship higher" and join the choir, even if just for the season of Easter!

We Meet on *Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m.* in the sanctuary to practice.

Children's Choirs I and II

The Children's Choirs I and II will lead worship on Sunday, April 23, 2017. We will meet at 10:30 a.m. to rehearse in the Sanctuary.

Memorial Handbell Choir

The Memorial Handbell Choir rehearses on Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m., in the Sanctuary. If you are interested in joining, contact the church office or speak to one of the bell ringers. The Memorial Handbell Choir will lead worship on Sunday, April 23, 2017. We will meet at 9:15 a.m. to rehearse in the Sanctuary.

Campus Ministries

College Fellowship Meetings Here at the Church

The College Fellowship Meetings are held each Sunday at the home of Tom Newcombe (308 North Fourth Street) at 7 p.m. All from the college community are welcome to participate in this fellowship ministry. Our hope is to achieve an atmosphere of spiritual growth and exploration and support, foster, and challenge those in the college community to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Any questions, speak with Tom Newcombe.

Senior Adult Ministry (SAM's Club) Ministry

All those 55+ are invited to participate in all SAM's Club events. If you have a suggestion for a movie, would like to make the soup for the day, or simply need a ride, don't hesitate to call Tom Newcombe at 827-3665.

Potluck Supper planned

A Potluck Supper is planned for Wednesday, April 19, at 5:30 p.m. in Scheide Hall. Everyone is asked to bring a dish to share. A program with the Tionesta Correctional Ministry will follow.

Barber Shop Quartet Offered in May

Join us on Saturday, May 13, at 6 p.m. in Scheide Hall. Come and listen to a Barber Shop Quartet and have some refreshments. Friends and family are welcome to attend.

SAM's Club Needle Crafts and Cards

Each Wednesday, join the SAM's Club group for an afternoon of needle crafting.

Each Thursday, join the SAM's Club group for an afternoon of card playing.

Both events take place in Emerson Parlor at 1 p.m.

SAM's Club Lunch and a Movie

On Friday, April 7, at 12 noon, in Scheide Hall, join the SAM's Club for Lunch and a Movie. Soup will be served, followed by a movie yet to be determined.

Lunch and a Movie will meet again on Friday, April 21.

Presbyterian Women Events

PW Spring Gathering

The PW Spring Gathering will be held on Saturday, April 22nd at the Meadville First Presbyterian Church from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. All women are encouraged to attend this gathering as keynote speaker, Rev. Tim Solomon speaks to us about Islam and our Muslim sisters. He will speak primarily on Muslim women, including discussion on the special clothing that they may wear (the hijab or al-khimar).

Rev. Solomon is Pastor of Emmanuel Church and part-time interim pastor of Presbyterian Church of the Redeemer. Both of these churches are in Meadville, where for the past 23 years Tim has lived with his family. Tim has a bachelor's degree from Allegheny college in Mid-Eastern Studies, his M. Div. from Princeton Seminary, and his D. Min. from Hartford Seminary's McDonald School of Islamic Studies and Christian/Muslim Relations. He has taught classes on Muslims and their faith at Allegheny, Behrend, and the University of Pittsburgh here in Titusville.

Music by Rev. Joel DiAngi will also be offered. Joel is a pastor of Christian Assembly Church in Greenville. He is an extremely talented pianist and is fluent in both Italian and modern-day Hebrew. He often travels throughout the U.S., Canada, and Italy.

You will not want to miss this outstanding program!!

Sign up today in the church office to make your reservation. There is no fee for this event, but you must register by Wednesday, April 12, 2017.

Church Family Picnic

Each year the Presbyterian Women plan a Family Picnic for the whole church and community on Young People's Sunday. With that said, this event will be held on Sunday, May 7, 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 be collected.

Please sign up in the church office by coming in, calling in, emailing in, etc., as we would like to have an estimate of how many to prepare for.

Flowers

Chancel Flowers

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.

Birthdays

Becky Gavin	2	Maryellen Arendash	14	Caroline Wilkens	25
Samantha Schneider	3	Sharon Hoban	15	Ray Zahner	27
Sarah Sampson	3	Marjorie Seybert	16	Elaine Muirhead	27
Andrew Clark	4	Andrea Fenske	17	Jon Walker	27
Tim Roessner	4	Marcia Garrett	18	Shawn Sampson	27
Dede Kerr	5	Patti Paden	18	David Steinbuhler	28
John Proano	8	Aaron Mowrey	19	Jean Spence	28
Megan Arendash	10	Elaine Osborn	19	Scott McAllister	28
Allison Seib	10	B.J. Webb	21	Denise Seib	28
Earl Yingling	11	Connie McIntyre	21	Katelyn Garrett	28
Carrie Zahn	12	Adam Middleton	21	Susan Webb	29
Courtney Zahn	12	Billie Gilbert	22	Russ Yoas	30
Toby Cressman	12	Audrey Snyder	23	Lisa Bodamer	30
Dana Siebel	13	Chase Middleton	25	Jack Gasdsby	30

If we have missed your birthday – please let us know.

Community

Titusville Ministerium Lenten Service

The Titusville Area Ministerium (T.A.M.) Lenten Service held each Wednesday at 12 noon at the First Methodist Church at the corner of Walnut and Perry Streets will come to an end on Wednesday, April 5, with Jim Moore of the Church of Christ as the guest preacher.

This service will be held from 12:00 noon to 12:30 p.m., followed by a luncheon held in the church's social hall. The cost is \$5 and will benefit various missions.

A collection will be taken up during the church service to help the Titusville Hospital visitation ministry, paying Patty Brown (the organist) for her services during the Lenten series, and University of Pittsburgh at Titusville Campus Ministry.

Love In the Name of Christ to Host Dinner Show

Comedian Brad Stine will be the headline on Friday, April 21, at 5:30 p.m., at the Titusville High School Cafeteria. Hosted by Love, INC, a dinner and show will be offered for \$30.00/adult or \$10.00/child (under 10). The menu for the dinner will be Swiss steak, potato, vegetable, salad, and dessert.

Tickets can be purchased at the Titusville Area Chamber of Commerce, LOVE, INC Office, or from any board member.

If you have any questions, contact the LOVE, INC office at 827-4882.

Oil Region Alliance Preservation Workshops to be Held

On Saturday, May 20, at the First Presbyterian Church, the Oil Region Alliance will host their annual Preservation Workshops. Registration is \$50 for non-members and \$40.00 for members of the Oil Region Alliance. This includes all programs, lunch and dinner, and tours of historic homes and buildings. All programs are approved for Act 48.

If interested in acquiring tickets, contact Toni Kresinski, Project Manager, at (800)483-6264 ext. 110 or at tkresinski@oilregion.org.

A Food Pantry

The Food Pantry could really use our help. A donation of a food item or a gift cards is always welcome.

Youth and Family Community Rally Planned

On April 14, 2017, from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m., the Franklin First United Methodist Church (located in downtown Franklin across from Sheetz) will sponsor a Youth and Family Community Rally with guest speaker J J Jasper. JJ Jasper is a veteran morning on-air radio personality, a best-selling author, comedian, dedicated Christian, and family man. JJ Jasper co-hosts a national morning radio show on American Family Radio network; and, when he's not motivating listeners with his unique brand of humor and encouragement, he is entertaining people as a stand-up comedian. JJ and his family live in Tupelo, Mississippi.

Plan to attend this every entertaining and uplifting event.

Contact us:

First Presbyterian Church

216 North Franklin Street, Titusville, PA 16354
(814) 827-3665 firstpresby216@verizon.net

Visit us on the web at: www.titusvillefirstpresbyterian.com

Staff:

Kai Baldwin, Accompanist

Vickie Corey, Housekeeper

Theresa Davitt, Administrative Assistant

Email: tdavitt.presby@gmail.com

Dr. Filippa Duke, HandBell/

Children's Choir Director

Email: fduke.presby@gmail.com

Kelly Evans, Sexton

Eryn Lavery, Christian Education Director

Email: eryn@erynlavery.com

Nathaniel Licht, Organist/Choir Director

Email: mistalicht@gmail.com

Rev. Norma Prina Murphy, Interim Pastor

Email: prnorma93@gmail.com

Tom Newcombe, Sr. Adult Ministry Leader

Email: tnewcombe.presby@gmail.com

Heather Wilson, Assistant Treasurer

Email: hwilsonfinance@gmail.com