



THE TOWER

JUNE 2017

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, TITUSVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

A Note from Pastor Norma Murphy

The Lord be with you all!

Several decades ago the Office of Theology and Worship of the Presbyterian Church USA in Louisville, KY made bumper stickers available that said:

Worship and Service, Always in Season

Think about that -- is there ever a time when we are NOT supposed to worship God and serve God and others? I think not! Any moment at any time and place is an opportunity to worship and serve.

Not convinced? According to my Google search, the definition of 'worship' is:
"The feeling or expression of reverence and adoration for a deity"

How do we reverence and adore God at any moment? By doing what God is willing us to do for starters. By visiting the sick, feeding the hungry, clothing the poor, showing compassion to the widows, orphans, and refugees (the voiceless), and any other act of love and concern (see especially Matt. 25).

What does that mean for you? Of course, worship includes the time of corporate worship on Sunday mornings. That is the time when we come together to practice, to rehearse, what we are to be about in our daily lives 24/7. We practice praising God, confessing our sin, sharing the Word, and giving of ourselves. Lastly, we are sent out to 'love and serve the Lord,' blessed to go out and be God's blessing to the world. The time of formal worship is important to our being held accountable and encouraged to grow in our faith.

God does not take the summer off from loving and caring for us. I want to encourage you all to do likewise, and attend worship wherever you are, here in Titusville or in your travels. Continue to give your regular offering whether you are here or not, because the bills don't go on vacation, either. And then continue your worship as you compassionately serve others and God day in and day out.

Let us make this a summer to look back on with joy and thanksgiving for our growth in worship and service to the Lord our God.

Grace and peace, Norma

Session News

Your Session met to discern God's leading for our congregation on Monday, March 27, 2017. During that meeting the spiritual leaders of the church:

- ❖ Approved vacation for the Interim Pastor from Thursday – Monday, July 20-31, 2017;
- ❖ Approved a motion to welcome the Cressmans back to worship and social activities of the church;
- ❖ Discussed the procedure for re-activating the PNC;
- ❖ Approved the request of Pandi, Charlie, and Libbi Ford to be removed from the roll, as well as the transfer of Ken Spence to the Pleasantville PC;
- ❖ Heritage Committee reported that they are scheduling a work day to organize the collection, and hopes to have a docent ready for Oil Days;
- ❖ Approved the fund-raiser concert for Sole Hope on May 7, 2017, and several baskets to be raffled;
- ❖ Heard a report from the Seniors Committee about upcoming activities;
- ❖ Heard a report from Worship Committee about Youth Sunday on May 7, 2017; supply preachers have been arranged for June 11 and 18.

The next meeting of the Session is scheduled for Monday, June 26 at 7 p.m.

Am I Good Enough?

A few Sundays ago, I had the ushers hand out index cards and during the sermon asked you to write out a question that, if it were answered satisfactorily, would help strengthen your faith. Some who handed the cards in did not actually ask a question, but I am going to address the ones that did have a question. This month I will address: Am I good enough?

The short answer is no, you are not, if you mean good enough to be saved or good enough to go to heaven. But to be more explicit, none of us are good enough for that. From the best to the worst of us, we are all flawed and broken in ways that leave us short of being 'good enough.'

But we have such hope of a good ending because God IS good enough. God has decided in love for us to make a way for us to be saved. That's an act of grace, and it's all God, not us.

So, while the short answer is 'no,' the long answer is 'yes' if you love God and accept God's love and grace. But it is all on God.

Upcoming Meetings

Mission Committee – Thursday, June 1, 12 noon., Conference Room
Christian Education – Thursday, June 1, 1 p.m., Conference Room
Deacons – Thursday, June 8, 7 p.m., Conference Room
Finance Committee Meeting – Monday, June 12, 5:30 p.m.
Heritage Committee – Saturday, June 17, 9 a.m. to 12 noon, Conference Room
Worship Committee – Sunday, June 25, 11 a.m., Emerson Parlor
Session – Monday, June 26, 7 p.m., Conference Room

Presbytery News

African Partnership

A pregnant woman is being rushed to the hospital. The baby is coming and the woman is hemorrhaging. The hospital is not like any you have been in. It is a series of dilapidated cinderblock buildings where electricity is unreliable, there is no indoor plumbing, the water supply is non-existent half the year, and the main roof is infested with both bats and bees.

You and I would never set foot in such a hospital, but in the village of Wapuli in Northern Ghana in West Africa, it is the only medical facility, serving more than 24,000 people. The emergency vehicle being used to transport the young woman is a small motorcycle because the hospital has no ambulance. Nor does it have a doctor. The young man who runs the place, Paul Mahama, is the equivalent of an RN. The clinic/hospital in Wapuli is woefully under-resourced, and Paul is drastically overworked, but he is passionate about his people and his work, so he soldiers on.

We met Paul at a Ghana Mission Network meeting in 2014 in Ho, a small city in eastern Ghana. Our introduction to him was when he told the story of the young woman being rushed to his clinic just a couple of days before we arrived in Ghana. The young woman bled to death and Paul was broken-hearted; and he was determined to do all he could to prevent such tragedies from occurring in the future.

At that meeting in Ghana three years ago, our Presbytery's mission team decided that we needed to help Paul. In the months following our return, we committed our Ghana Partnership to working with him, the people of Wapuli, and the leaders of the Upper Northern Presbytery of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Ghana, to bring better medical care to the region. Today the Wapuli Clinic has a new roof, fresh paint and long needed repairs because of funds provided through Lake Erie Presbytery's congregations and members. They also now have reliable electrical service and an ambulance, but there is still much more to do.

In September, Lake Erie Presbytery is sending a nine-member team back to Ghana to continue building the Partnership with the Upper Northern Presbytery, with an emphasis on working with the leaders of the village of Wapuli to assist in making the Clinic there more modern and functional.

If you have an interest in: traveling to Ghana, financially supporting this ministry, receiving updates on the Ghana Partnership, or having a team member come to your church to better inform your congregation, contact:

Donna Cammarata 814-873-4860 donna.camm@gmail.com

New Members Joining

New members will be joining our church on Pentecost Sunday, June 4, at our 11 a.m. service. Classes have been held for the last few weeks preparing those in 9th grade and older by teaching them about our church and Presbyterian traditions.

Please welcome our new members when you see them. They are:

Charlie Evans

Kayla Huber

Leanne Howard

Daniel Uterhark

Christian Education

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 6, 2017.

Any questions can be directed to facilitator, Tom Newcombe.

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

Dan Nicols, Mike Seefried, Mike Wonderling (captain), Terry Wonderling

Worship

May quickly flew by; June is upon us, followed by what we've been waiting for: summer! It is time to plant and nourish.

We are looking for a volunteer to run the soundboard, along with Austin Kolaja. Please contact me if this is of interest to you.

The Lord's Supper will be celebrated and served on June 4 (by intinction). Servers will be Sandy and Bruce Smith and Carol and Phil Cauvel.

June 4 is Pentecost, a celebration of the Holy Spirit's sustaining grace and power. It takes place each church year on the 50th day following Easter Sunday. The English word "Pentecost" comes from the Greek words "pentekoste hemera," meaning "the fiftieth day." It is an occasion to claim once again the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives and our faith community. It is a time to recall how Jesus' followers were strengthened and united when the gift of the Holy Spirit came upon them at the first Christian Pentecost.

June 4 will also welcome new members to First Presbyterian Church of Titusville.

PLEASE NOTE: SUMMER WORSHIP SERVICE TIME OF 10:00 A.M. AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN OF TITUSVILLE WILL BEGIN ON SUNDAY, JUNE 11, 2017!!!

Ushers for the month of June are: Dan Nicols, Mike Seefried, Terry Wonderling, and Mike Wonderling (captain).

Pastor Norma will be on retreat this month and away from the pulpit on June 11 and 18. David Fitz will be in the pulpit on June 11; Rhonda Clark will be in the pulpit on June 18.

The next meeting of the Worship Committee will take place after the worship service on Sunday, June 25, in Emerson Parlor.

Sandy Smith,
Moderator, Worship Committee

Campus Ministries

College Fellowship

College Fellowship Ministry will meet on Sunday, June 4 and continue to meet each Sunday through the summer. Each meeting will begin at 6 p.m. at Tom Newcombe's home located at 308 North Fourth Street. This group will meet each week, but may be on different days and at different time, so whatever you do, text or call Mr. Newcombe at (814) 547-1760 or at his home 827-3665.

All from the college community are welcome to participate in this fellowship ministry. Our hope is to achieve an atmosphere of spiritual growth, exploration, support, fostering, 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.

A Day at The McFarland Camp

Jim and Connie McFarland have graciously invited all seniors to come to their campsite located at 2 Mile Run State Park for a day of picnicking and fun on Wednesday, June 7, 2017. Each person is to bring a favorite picnic food to share, plus a lawn chair to sit in.

This group will meet at 10 a.m. in the church parking lot to carpool.

Call Tom Newcombe to confirm that you will be attending and what you will be bringing.

Annual Strawberry Festival for All Ages

On Wednesday, June 21, 2017, 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.

SAM's Club Needlecrafts and Cards

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

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, June 2, at 12 noon, in Scheide Hall, join the SAM's Club for Lunch and a Movie.

Presbyterian Women Events

PW of the Synod of the Trinity to Host Women's Retreat June 15-17 in Altoona, PA

We have 1 woman going to this retreat that will be hosted by the PW of the Synod of the Trinity. Terry Davitt has decided to go to this retreat as part of her yearly continuing education. In the past she has gone to a secretarial retreat at Olmstead Methodist Conference Center in Ludlow, PA., but when the opportunity arose to participate in a Presbyterian sponsored program, she decided this was a better fit for her since these retreats are not offered by the Synod of the Trinity each year.

Terry is very much looking forward to the retreat and looks forward to coming back energized and with tons of information.

We wish Terry safe traveling mercies.

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

Sam Bodamer	1	Jerry Harroun	6	Dan Dunlap	22
Branndi Hasbrouck	1	Nancy Mowrey	8	Brittany Love	23
Tammy Schneider	2	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	Brittni Wonderling	27
Doreen Snyder	5	Cindy Owens	20	Jacob Rash	29
Andrew Zahn	6	Shirley Webber	21	David Gavin	30

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

Community

A Food Pantry

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

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
 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

June 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 12 noon Mission Committee Mtg. 1 p.m. CE Committee Mtg 1 p.m. SAM's Card Day	2 Lunch and a Movie	3
9:30 a.m. Fellowship Time 9:30 a.m. Nursery Opens 11 a.m. Pentecost Sunday New members join	5	6 7 a.m. Men of First Bible Study 10 a.m. Staff 10 a.m. SAM's Day Trip	7 1 p.m. SAM's Needle Craft 7 p.m. Chancel Choir Dinner	8 1 p.m. SAM's Card Day 7 p.m. Deacons Mtg.	9	10
6 p.m. TV Broadcast of Service	12 5:30 p.m. Finance Committee Mtg.	13 4 p.m. Lake Erie Presbytery Committee on Ministry Meeting	7 7 a.m. Men of First Bible Study 10 a.m. Staff 1 p.m. SAM's Needle Craft	15 1 p.m. SAM's Card Day	16	17 9 a.m. - 12 noon Heritage Committee Workday
9:30 a.m. Fellowship Time 9:30 a.m. Nursery Opens 10 a.m. Worship	19	20 2:30 p.m. Alzheimer Care Giver's Support Group Meeting	21 7 a.m. Men of First Bible Study 10 a.m. Staff 1 p.m. SAM's Needle Craft 6 p.m. SAM's Strawberry Social for all	22 1 p.m. SAM's Card Day	23	24
6 p.m. TV Broadcast of Service						
9:30 a.m. Fellowship Time 9:30 a.m. Nursery Opens 10 a.m. Worship 6 p.m. TV Broadcast of Service Youth Mission Trip Begins	26 7 p.m. Session	27	28 7 a.m. Men of First Bible Study 10 a.m. Staff 1 p.m. SAM's Needle Craft	29 1 p.m. SAM's Card Day	30	