



THE TOWER

MARCH 2017

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, TITUSVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

A Note from Pastor Norma Murphy

The Lord be with you all!

The Directory for Worship, part of the Book of Order that forms half of our denomination's Constitution, speaks to the discipline of daily personal worship in several places.

In W-5.2001 we hear:

Daily personal worship is a discipline for attending to God and accepting God's grace. The daily challenge of discipleship requires the daily nurture of worship... An aspect of the discipline of daily personal worship is finding the times and places where one can focus on God's presence, hear God's Word and respond to God's grace in prayer ...

And in W-5.4001:

Prayer is a conscious opening of the self to God ... Prayer is receiving and responding, speaking and listening, waiting and acting in the presence of God.

Do you think consciously about your prayer life? Is it mostly a cry out to God in a moment of difficulty? That is certainly typical! The second most common is probably a 'thank you!' when some disaster is avoided or grace is received. I pray these kinds of prayers often throughout the day.

But what about listening prayer, time to sit in contemplation or meditation, time to listen for what God is saying to you? That takes a real sense of intentionality to practice daily, or even several times a week. But it is the real essence of a full prayer life.

You could begin by setting a kitchen timer and spending 5 minutes in a quiet, comfortable place praying the ‘Yahweh’ prayer. It is a breath prayer, prayed breathing through your mouth, thinking ‘Yah’ as you inhale and ‘weh’ as you exhale. With practice, I can now do 20-30 minutes at a time, focusing on keeping a mind free of other thoughts but God. Most of what I ‘hear’ from God comes during these times.

Ash Wednesday is March 1 this year, and the season of Lent will most likely be off and running by the time you are reading this. But it won’t be too late to begin a Lenten practice. Instead of thinking in terms of giving something up, why not think of giving something extra to God? Why not set aside just 5 minutes, usually early in the morning, at noon, or in the evening, and give God the gift of your presence?

You might bring specific questions or topics to God that you would like direction on in your life. Or you can simply bring yourself to worship and adore the Lord your God as people have since biblical times. And that may change from time to time as you live into this style of praying.

Lent is a time when we try to move closer to God. Lent is a time to be more open to God’s presence and activity in our lives. Later this spring we will be starting a prayer ministry to accompany the prayer box that will be located outside the Franklin St. entrance to the church, where anyone from the wider community can request prayer for themselves or for another. This prayer ministry will pray much in silence, but gathered together, focusing on lifting up the one for whom prayer has been asked. As you pray during Lent, I would ask that you listen to see if God might be calling you to such a prayer ministry. One thing we will always include is time to pray for this congregation and for our life and ministry.

I pray for us all to experience a blessed and holy Lent, full of God’s grace to us and our response of devotion to God.

Grace and peace, Norma

Session News

Your Session met to discern God's leading for our congregation on Monday, February 27, 2017. This newsletter went to print before the actual meeting, so its news will be forth coming next month.

Ash Wednesday Worship Service

On Wednesday, March 1, all are invited to attend Ash Wednesday Service at 6:30 p.m. in our Sanctuary. Come, have dinner at the Lenten Family Night Dinner (5:30 p.m.), and then celebrate the Lord with us!

New Pew Hymnals Have Been Purchased

Thanks to the generosity of Presbyterian Women's Association of our church, and all the women who have given monetarily to this organization in the past, we have been able to procure 110 new "Glory to God" Presbyterian Hymnals for our sanctuary.

Each year this organization gives monies for missions. As part of their mission giving for last year and this year, they felt it was important to also give to their own church when a need arises. The new hymnals are now in the sanctuary.

Stephen Ministry Introductory Workshop to be Offered

On March 25, 2017, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., the Saint Paul's Lutheran Church in Erie, PA, will offer a Stephen Ministry Introductory Workshop.

The Stephen Ministry Workshop is a half-day event that will equip laypeople to minister to the hurting through outreach. We sometimes call these laypeople the "after people," who can come alongside a person after a crisis occurs and walk with that person for as long *after* as necessary.

If you think you would be interested in attending this workshop, at no cost to you, stop by the church office and sign up by March 19, 2017.

Upcoming Meetings

PW Board Meeting – Monday, March 7, 4 p.m., Conference Room

Mission Committee Meeting – Thursday, March 9, 12 noon., Conference Room

Christian Education – Thursday, March 9, 1 p.m., Conference Room

Worship Committee - Sunday, March 12, 12 noon, Emerson Parlor

Heritage Committee - Sunday, March 19, 12 noon, Conference Room

PW Board Meeting – Monday, March 27, 4 p.m., Conference Room

Session - Monday, March 27, 7 p.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, and uses the “The Present Word, by PC(USA).”
2. Lee Green – This class meets in Scheide Hall.
3. The Seeker's Class – This class meets in Pastor Murphy's office.

New Nursery Worker Welcomes All Children Age 5 and Under

First Presby Church was recently blessed with the addition of Miss Amanda Sterling, who has taken over full-time care of our littlest ones in the church nursery this year. A mother of three herself, Miss Amanda welcomes any child age 5 or under into the nursery every Sunday morning between the hours of 9:30 a.m. and 12:00 noon. To ensure the safety of youngest members, we ask that parents sign their children both into and out of the nursery. We also ask that no one over the age of 5 be in the nursery during the Sunday School and the worship service hours, so Miss Amanda can devote her full attention to our busy little ones. If you have a moment after worship, stop by and welcome her into our faith community!

Christian Education

CE Committee Moves Meeting Time/Date

The CE Committee recently moved its meeting time and date to the 2nd Thursday of every month, at 1 p.m. in the Conference Room. This new time/date will immediately follow Missions committee's meetings, which are held monthly on that same Thursday from 12 noon to 1 p.m.

Director of Christian Ed Attends National APCE Conference

Last January, our Session members generously allowed me the privilege and pleasure of traveling to Denver, CO, for the Association of Presbyterian Christian Educators (APCE) Conference. This annual event is hosted in a different U.S. city each year, drawing between 500-600 Presbyterian Christian educators and pastors to five days' worth of worship, corporate plenaries, and break-out workshop sessions.

Over the course of the five days, I was introduced – whirlwind-style! – to a multitude of best-practice ideas, theories, and issues surrounding faith formation and formal Christian education in the Presbyterian Church. Stand-out workshops I participated in included “Equipping Parents for Christian Education in the Home,” “Don't Call These Games! Recreation with a Purpose,” and “Transitional Chaos: Leading During Times of Staff Transition.”

Not only did I return home with a slew of new ideas flooding my brain, I also brought with me new connections made with Christian educators and pastors from all across the U.S., many of whom have traveled a similar path as mine in their own faith walks and who are able to support me (and my many, many questions) via email now.

I'd like to offer my heart-felt thanks to our First Presby Session members for allowing me this incredible opportunity to not only learn some new tricks of the trade, but also to connect with a larger community of Presbyterian Christian educators who can now continue to help guide me as I seek to serve the Lord and this congregation.

Lenten Family Nights to Begin

The Lenten Family Night Dinners/Programs will begin March 1, and will be held each Wednesday night through March 29 at 5:30 p.m., in Scheide Hall. Those attending are asked to bring a dish to share according to the food theme of the week. The evening programs will begin at 6:30 p.m. and they are listed below. The Christian Education Committee has lined up programs for everyone to enjoy, so plan to come and have a great time!

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|--|-------------------------------|
| March 1: Program: Ash Wednesday Service | Theme: Soups and pies |
| March 8: Sole Hope Mission Project, led by Jessica Decker | Theme: Soul Food (comfort) |
| March 15: Pastoral Transition: What to Expect, led by Rev. Greg Gillespie
of the Lake Erie Presbytery | Theme: Italian food |
| March 22: Holey Jeans Community Youth Choir | Theme: Picnic Dinner |
| March 29: Family Feud Night | Theme: Bring Your Best Recipe |

Women's Bible Study

The Tuesday Women's Bible Study led by Eryn Lavery is currently studying a book on the building of relationships and community in the Body of Christ. Weaving together God's Holy Word and sage anecdotes from contemporary Christian leaders, the study takes a look at biblical definitions and examples of community in the Bible that are applicable to our daily walk as Christians.

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, under the direction of Dr. Filippa Duke, 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.

Prayer and a Pint Bible Study

Prayer and a Pint Bible Study will meet on March 9 and March 23 at 7 p.m., at the Blue Canoe Restaurant, and will be studying the book of Ephesians. Our regular table is located in the far back corner of the dining room area. Anyone interested in participating in this ministry is welcome to attend. Contact Jesse Lavery via email at jesse@jesselavery.com with any questions.

Moms' Small Group to Meet

The Moms' Small Group, for moms of young children, will meet on a new day and at a new venue beginning March 3. On the first Friday of every month this group will meet at the Blue Canoe Restaurant from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Each mom will take a turn in bringing a devotion/Bible passage to share. If interested in joining this group or seeking more information, speak with Shannon Grinder or Eryn Lavery.

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.

Christian Ed Corner

Spotlight On: Lakelynn Foltz

Full Name: Lakelynn Marie Foltz

Nickname: "Margo"

Age: 6

Grade/school: K5/ ECLC

Parents: Brannndi Hasbrouck and Jacobi Foltz

Grandparents: Mike and Heidi Wonderling and
Howard and Syleste Foltz

Great grandparents: Mike Seefried and Annabelle Anthony
-Lakelynn insisted on including them

Favorite food: meatball stew & garlic bread

Favorite movie: Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles

Favorite book: Mr. Putter and Tabby Bake a Cake

Activities at First Presby: S. School

Favorite thing to do on break from school: go to the Erie Children's Museum

Friends: Piper and Mallory. "We like to play together."

3 things I could not live without: 1) my family, 2) my home, 3) God

Something unusual about me: I have been able to build things really well since I was very little

Question I would like to ask God: "When can I see Mammi (great-grandmother) again?"



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 Dean Chappel, John Clark, and Eric Mowrey(captain)

Worship and Music

Ash Wednesday arrives on March 1, 2017. Pastor Norma will lead an Ash Wednesday service, along with imposition of ashes, in the sanctuary following the 5:30 p.m. Lenten family night dinner.

The next Lord's Supper (by intinction) at FPC will be on Sunday, March 5. Communion offers us the opportunity to experience the meaning of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection and draw inspiration from his sacrifice.

A request was submitted to the Worship Committee to hear prayer requests from the congregation on Sunday mornings. The Worship Committee will have one basket at the Walnut Street entrance and two baskets at the rear of the church (Franklin Street side), along with slips of paper, for deposit of prayer requests. The ushers will collect the written prayer requests and give them to Pastor Norma during the singing of our first hymn.

Our handbells will be ringing on March 12. This is a joyful music ministry; and, if you are interested, contact Dr. Filippa Duke.

Ushers for March are Eric Mowrey (Captain), John Clark, and Dean Chappel. Ushering is a serving ministry; and, if it is of interest to you, contact Sandy Smith.

Rev. Ellie Johns-Kelly, of the Presbyterian Foundation, will be in our pulpit on Sunday, April 2. Her sermon will revolve around "whole self" stewardship (time, talent, and treasures).

Many thanks to the PW Women for the purchase of our new pew hymnals!

Peace.

Sandy Smith,
Moderator, Worship Committee

Music Ministries

Chancel Choir

“What then, brothers? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up.” 1 Corinthians 14:26

The Chancel Choir meets each Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. We would love to have you join us!!

Children's Choirs I and II

The Children's Choirs I and II will lead worship on Sunday, March 12, 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 Filippa Duke (fduke.presby@gmail.com) or the church office. The Memorial Handbell Choir will lead worship on Sunday, March 12, 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 in Scheide Hall at 7 p.m. All from the college community are welcome to participate in this 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.

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, March 3, 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, March 17 and March 31.

Presbyterian Women Events

PW Fundraiser

The PW Women are currently holding a Jane Stromboli Fundraiser until March 19. Anyone wishing to purchase pies, strombolis, apple dumplings, or pumpkin rolls should see the order forms located in the church office. If you have any questions, please speak with Sandy Swanson or Terry Davitt. Orders will be in just in time for Easter.

Books Needed for Annual PW Book Sale

The PW Women will hold its annual book sale on Tuesday, March 28, and Wednesday, March 29. Anyone who has gently-used books and would like to donate them for the sale is asked to bring them to the church office or place them in the Dobb Doors.

On Tuesday, March 28, you will be able to purchase your books from 10 a.m. -5 p.m., and again on Wednesday, March 29, from 12 noon to 5 p.m. Come, buy some books!!

Spring Gathering Scheduled

The annual PW Spring Gathering will be held on Saturday, April 22, from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Meadville First Presbyterian Church. All women of the church are welcome to attend.

This year's guest speaker will be Rev. Tim Solomon. Rev. Solomon will speak on the basic tenets of Islam and teach us more about our brothers and sisters from the Muslim community.

If interested sign up in the church office by April 2, 2017.

Birthdays

Kasey Harroun	2	J. L. Love	14	Tammy Root	23
Claude Lemley	3	Donna Yoas	15	Heidi Wonderling	23
Diane Sharer	4	Betty Kriner	16	Barb Frye	24
Cheri Finlan	6	Julie Patterson	16	Adam Sutley	24
Ernie Axton	7	Uriah Sampson	18	Becky Keebler	26
Martha Warren	9	Helen Boemmel	19	Lynn Cressman	28
David Fitz	10	Desirae Patterson	20	Tom Tarr	30
Terry Funk	11	Libbi Ford	22	Robert Herps	30
Dion Young	12	Dan Long	23	William Martin	31

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

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.

Easter Flowers

Easter flowers, for placing in the church sanctuary, can be purchased by filling out the order form found on the next page of this Tower. Ordering deadline is March 26.

Community

Titusville Ministerium Plans Lenten Service

During the season of Lent, the Titusville Area Ministerium (T.A.M.) has planned six noon-time worship services to be held at the First Methodist Church at the corner of Walnut and Perry Streets.

Each 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 each week (such as Kenya, Africa Orphanage, Heaven's Loving Hands Puppet Ministry, Nazarene Missions, and Relay for Life).

The following speakers will be featured:

March 1st - Pastor Larry Reitz of First United Methodist Church

March 8th – Pastor Norma Prina Murphy, Interim Pastor

of Titusville First Presbyterian Church

March 15th - Rev. Robert Luther of Wesleyan Methodist Church

March 22nd – To Be Determined at time of printing

March 29th - Pastor Brian Borger of First Baptist Church

April 5th - Jim Moore of Church of Christ

A collection will be taken each week. These monies will go towards 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.

A Food Pantry

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

Boy Scout Troop Meets on Mondays

Each Monday at 6 p.m. in Scheide Hall, all boys in grades Kindergarten - 5th who are interested in joining a great club for boys, are invited to come and check it out. Any questions should be directed to Ashley Peterson at 493-3852.

Contact us:

First Presbyterian Church

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

Staff:

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Email: mistalicht@gmail.com
Rev. Norma Prina Murphy, Interim Pastor
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Tom Newcombe, Sr. Adult Ministry Leader
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Heather Wilson, Assistant Treasurer
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cut along dotted line

The beauty and fragrance of the Easter flowers
proclaim the message of hope and joy . . .

Christ is risen!!!

This Easter place an Easter plant in our church in
memory or in honor of your loved ones.

Please fill in the order form and place it in the offering
plate or bring it to the church office along with your
check made out to The First Presbyterian Church.
Order forms must be received by Sunday, March 26,
2017.

Choose from:

- _____ \$12.00 – Single stem lily (5-7 blooms)
- _____ \$10.00 – 6" Potted Tulip (assorted)
- _____ \$10.00 – 6" Potted Daffodil
- _____ \$15.00 – 6" Cyclamen (assorted)

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Given by: _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

*Please take your flower(s) home after Easter Sunday
Worship to share with loved ones.*

