



THE TOWER

MAY 2017

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, TITUSVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

A Note from Pastor Norma Murphy

The Lord be with you all!

It is May! Spring has finally arrived and we have celebrated another Holy Week culminating with Easter. The Lord is risen! He is risen, indeed!

Jesus remained on earth for 40 days after his resurrection and appeared to many, many people during that time besides the disciples and the women. On the 40th day he ascended into heaven – the day we call the Ascension – and just 10 days later, on Pentecost (the 50th day after resurrection), Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to fill all believers. But that's for June this year!

Luke writes of the Ascension:

⁵⁰Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵²And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; ⁵³and they were continually in the temple blessing God. Luke 24:50-53

They went a couple of miles out of Jerusalem to Bethany where Mary, Martha, and Lazarus lived. He gave them a final blessing as he was carried up to heaven. And the followers' response? They worshiped him, went back full of joy, and kept going to the temple to praise God.

What is our response to the Ascension of Jesus Christ? He has blessed us; and not just one time, but manifold times! How do we respond to such an abundance of blessings? Is it with worship, and joy, and praise?

Jesus doesn't stop blessing us because Easter is over for another year. He doesn't stop blessing us because he is seated on his heavenly throne now instead of being visible here on earth. He doesn't even stop blessing us when we don't deserve his blessing! And our response tells it all.

So count your blessings each and every day. List them in your head or on paper. I know you are all blessed with a home to live in, food to eat, clothes to wear, family and friends who care about you, work to do or a school to attend (or both!), a church to worship with, and on and on. Count your blessings and rejoice and worship the Lord Jesus Christ and God every day.

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 Study Leave at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary for Monday - Sunday, June 5-11, 2017, for the Interim Pastor, and her remaining vacation time from Monday – Wednesday, June 12-21, 2017
- ❖ Recorded the birth of Bonnie Dale Cressman
- ❖ Heard a report from Administration Ministry regarding normal maintenance items and the resignation of Filippa Duke to accept a full time position in Raleigh, NC
- ❖ Heard a report from Christian Ed that they are discussing having monthly fellowship dinners beginning in the fall
- ❖ Mission Ministry reported on the progress of Sole Hope (over 80 pairs of shoes cut out); also, there will be a collection for Love Thy Neighbor from Easter to Pentecost
- ❖ Approved the request of Terry Davitt to attend the PW Synod Gathering in June instead of the Methodist Retreat she usually attends
- ❖ Heard that revised By-Laws were ready to be proofread

The next meetings of the Session are scheduled for Monday, May 22, at 7 p.m., and Monday, June 26, at 7 p.m.

Upcoming Meetings

Mission Committee – Thursday, May 11, 12 noon., Conference Room
Christian Education – Thursday, May 11, 1 p.m., Conference Room
Deacons – Thursday, May 11, 7 p.m., Conference Room
Finance Committee Meeting – Thursday, May 18, 5:30 p.m.
Heritage Committee – Sunday, May 21, 8:45 a.m., Conference Room
Worship Committee – Sunday, May 21, 12 noon, Emerson Parlor
Session – Monday, May 22, 7 p.m., Conference Room

New Members Class to be Held in May

A new members' class will begin May 7 for anyone 9th grade or older interested in joining the church. The class will be led by Pastor Norma on Sunday mornings from 9:45 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. in the pastor's study throughout the month of May. Contact the church office for more details.

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 3 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? They are Commissioned Women's Class, Lee Green, or The Seeker's Class. If you are interested in joining one of these classes, ask anyone and they will steer you in the right direction.

Christian Ed Corner

Spotlight On: Ella Lavery

Age: 7

Birthday: February 17

Grade/School: 1st grade @ Main Street Elementary

Favorite Food: Chicken Alfredo

Favorite Movie: Disney's "Moana"

Favorite Music: Classical

What do you do at First Presby Church?

I do Sunday School, Transformation Tuesday, and Children's Choir.

What activities do you like to do?

I love to listen to my teacher read books, do any kind of art, and read.

What are three things you absolutely love?

Mommy, orange blankie, and kittens

What is one thing you would want to ask God if you could have lunch with Him?

Why do people die?

If someone wanted to know the real you, what should they know? I'm a kind kid.



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.

May 30 will be the last meeting for this group for the summer. They will meet again in August.

**Transformation Tuesday to present
“Jonah and the Whale”**

You are invited to an exciting musical and dramatic collaboration this May! The children of Transformation Tuesdays will be teaming up with the Memorial Handbell Choir to present “Jonah and the Whale” twice during the month of May (Children’s Sunday and the final Open House of the year). All are invited to see and hear the story of Jonah! The play will be accompanied by music from the Memorial Handbell Choir. We hope to see you there!

Spring Open House –Tuesday, May 2, 2017, at 4 p.m.

and again at

Children’s Sunday –Sunday, May 7, 2017, at 11 a.m.

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.

This group will be taking their study on the road beginning on June 7, 2017, and meeting each week at 7 a.m. at Sam’s Restaurant. If you have any questions, speak with Tom Newcombe.

Youth Group News

Car Wash Fundraiser

On May 13 First Presby will be holding a fundraiser car wash at Tractor Supply from 12-3, benefiting the youth group's upcoming mission trip to Broad Street Ministries in Philadelphia. Members will be receiving letters in the mail with more details. Anyone wishing to make a donation to support this fundraiser may do so in the church office Attn: Gail Billig, CE Committee Chair.

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 John Frye, Allen Hughes, and Bill Martin(captain)

Worship

Spring is glorious in NWPA! We are surrounded by beauty and new life.

April was a busy month at FPC. Many thanks to Pastor Norma and many others for a very meaningful Holy week.

The handbells are regrouping with the loss of Dr. Filippa Duke and some ringers. Nathaniel Licht is now directing the handbells. If you are interested in join this joyful ministry of ringing handbells, contact Nathaniel Licht or one of the handbell ringers.

Remember to attend "Jonah and the Whale" on May 2 (4 p.m.) and May 7 (11 a.m.) Eryn Lavery, our Christian Education Director, will be in the pulpit on May 7. The Lord's Supper will also be served (by intinction).

Ushers for May are John Frye, Allen Hughes, and Bill Martin (captain).

The Worship Committee will meet again on May 21.

Sandy Smith,
Moderator, Worship Committee

Campus Ministries

College Fellowship

The College Fellowship is taking a short break, but will start to meet the first week in June. This way all college students coming home for the summer will be able to take advantage of this ministry from the beginning.

Meetings will continue to be held each Sunday at the home of Tom Newcombe (308 North Fourth Street) at 7 p.m., but that doesn't mean we won't meet on different days at different times.

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.

Barber Shop Quartet Offered in May

Join us on Saturday, May 13, at 6 p.m. in Scheide Hall, when a Barber Shop Quartet will entertain us. Refreshments will be served. Friends and family of all ages are encouraged and 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, May 5, 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, May 19.

Presbyterian Women Events

Church Family Picnic

Each year, the Presbyterian Women plans 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.

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

Pete Thompson	1	Leigh Cressman	9	Dan Nicols	20
Lori Baker	2	Linda Steinbuhler	10	Dr. James Wilkens	23
Cathy Griffin	3	David Snyder	11	William Gallagher	26
Shaun Zimmerman	4	Robert Buchan	13	Abbe Popescu	27
David Snyder, Jr.	5	Richard Roeder	14	Jane Yingling	29
Kathy Brady	7	Maxine Gollehon	16	Clare Smith	30
Bruce Peterson	7	Jane Wilkens	16	Janet Gadsby	31
Carol Cauvel	9	Christina Patterson	19		
Bruce Smith	9	Christy Snyder	19		

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

Community

Oil Region Alliance Preservation Workshops to be Held

On Saturday, May 20, at the First Presbyterian Church, the Oil Region Alliance will host its 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.

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