

A Note from Pastor Norma Murphy

The Lord be with you all!

Happy New Year! No, I am not kidding, nor am I confused. November 27 is the beginning of a new church year on the lectionary calendar. Ask the Transformation Tuesday kids about it, they are learning the calendar!

This year, Year C (Luke) will end with Christ the King Sunday on November 20, the Sunday before Thanksgiving. Then Year A (Matthew) will begin the following week.

But we begin the month with a celebration of All Saints' Day, which is always November 1, but is typically recognized on the first Sunday of November. That is November 6th this year. In addition to serving communion we will name and remember those who have died from our church family since last November.

Christ the King Sunday celebrates 'Christ reigning in power' until he comes again. Jesus' crown of thorns has been replaced with a regal crown, and he is now the kind of king that the Jews have been waiting for.

And then we turn our attention to Advent – a time of waiting and preparing. Preparing to celebrate Christmas AND to be ready to meet our Lord. Various groups in the church will open worship by leading us in lighting the Advent wreath candles, reading from Isaiah, singing and praying together. We will hear again the familiar texts foreshadowing the birth of Christ many centuries before it happened.

This is an exciting time of the church year, and I look forward to seeing you in worship to experience it all. May we take advantage of these opportunities to leave the shopping and busyness behind and revel in God's gracious, abiding love for us in Jesus Christ.

Grace and peace,
Norma

Session News

Your Session met to discern God's leading for our congregation on Monday, September 26, 2016. During the meeting the spiritual leaders of the church:

- Heard a report from David Fitz regarding the September meeting of the Presbytery of Lake Erie
- Heard the reports of the various committees
- Congregational Care Ministry has obtained a free telephone with a minimal monthly contract fee to advertise as a number to call if you have any kind of need and you will be directed to the proper person. They are ordering 500 magnets to hand out to advertise the number.
- Finance Committee made us aware of our expected deficit, about \$103,000, for 2016. This is made up by withdrawing funds from the principal moneys of our endowments.
- Voted to make Eryn Lavery Director of Christian Education at 20 hours per week. This will begin mid-October.
- Approved a FFF activity, 'Thankmas,' on Sunday, December 11, following worship
- Approved changes to the By-Laws to be taken to the congregation in January at the annual meeting. Minor language updates were included with the addition of a new section on Deacons and their ministry.
- Approved a Covenant of Leadership to be read at the opening of each Session meeting.

Remember To Turn Clocks Back

Turn your clocks back one hour before you retire on Saturday, November 5th, or you will arrive early for Sunday School and morning worship. Not to worry, though, if you do arrive early – we will have the coffee brewing.

Sunday, November 20: Commitment Sunday

On Friday, November 4, our Stewardship Committee, chaired this year by Mr. Phil Cauvel, will mail a STEWARDSHIP PACKET to all members and friends of the congregation. If you do not receive one, call the church office at 827-3665 and we'll send one immediately.

The packet contains a letter about this year's stewardship campaign, One-Step Giving Chart, and a pledge commitment card. We invite you to do four things with this packet:

- 1.) Pray carefully about the work of God's kingdom through our church.
- 2.) Encourage the spirit that prompts a thankful and generous response to the "love so amazing" of Jesus Christ. Using the following chart, we invite you to think in terms of percentage giving.
- 3.) Make your pledge commitment to our Lord's work on your pledge commitment card.
- 4.) Bring it with you to church on Sunday, November 20. If you cannot be with us, drop it in the mail.

Upcoming Meetings

Nominating Committee – Thursday, November 3, 7 p.m., Conference Room

Christian Education - Wednesday, November 9, 11:30 a.m., Conference Room

Teacher's Meeting – Sunday, November 13, 12 noon, Conference Room

PW Board - Monday, November 14, 4 p.m., Conference Room

Heritage Committee - Sunday, November 20, 12 noon, Conference Room

Worship Committee – Sunday, November 20, 12 noon, Emerson Parlor

Finance Committee - Monday, November 21, 4:30 p.m., Conference Room

Session - Monday, November 28, 7 p.m., Conference Room

Upcoming Advent and Christmas Events

Advent Candle Lighting Tradition

Advent begins on Sunday, November 27, and every year during this time we ask individuals, families, groups of the church, to honor us by lighting the lovely Advent wreath designed and constructed by Bill Brady. This year, we are asking different weekly program groups, from our church, to light the candles each Sunday.

Christmas Poinsettias

You can purchase a Christmas poinsettia in memory or in honor of a loved one or friend by completing the form on the last page of this newsletter, by picking one up in the church office, or by calling the office at 827-3665. Order deadline is Sunday, December 4. See second to last page for order form.

Hanging of the Greens Wednesday, December 7 at 4 p.m.

We will hang the greens in our Sanctuary Wednesday, December 7, beginning at 4 p.m. Come help decorate the sanctuary and stay for dinner. Donations of fresh fruit for Hanging of the Greens can be brought to the church office by December 4.

Sock and Mitten Tree

The Sock and Mitten Tree will be found inside the Narthex, by the Franklin Street entry, beginning on Sunday, November 27. The new mittens, gloves, socks, hats, and scarves that will decorate the tree this year will be passed on to Associated Charities on December 19 to be shared with others in our community.

Christmas Treat for Sunday School Classes to be Distributed Sunday, December 11

The Lee Green Class will sponsor the Christmas candy treat for our Sunday school classes which will be distributed on December 11. Since prices for candy ingredients have skyrocketed again this year, Mr. Gadsby is hoping that folks will be able to contribute generously. Anyone wishing to contribute to this project is invited to mail a check marked "Christmas Treat" to Mr. Jack Gadsby, Class Treasurer, P.O. Box 217, Titusville, PA. 16354.

Sunday School Opportunities

New "Seekers" Sunday School Class Underway

The Bible. So much wisdom. So many, many questions.

This adult Bible study, led by Pastor Norma, is designed for the seeker in all of us – that spiritual side of us that's a little curious or maybe even yearning to better understand faith, the Bible, and Christianity as we understand it. Meeting 9:45-10:45 Sunday mornings in the pastor's study, the Seekers group is open to anyone college-aged or older. (Pitt Students – this is a great opportunity to broaden what you study in Campus Ministry with Tom!) Currently the group is reading through Paul's 2nd letter to the Corinthians. If you have a Bible or Bible app feel free to bring it, but if not there are plenty of Bibles to borrow at the church.

Whether you're seeking to know just a little about Christianity or have been a life-long follower of Christ, the Seeker's class will help you dive deeper into God's Word.

Available Adult Sunday School Classes

Did you know, that besides our Sunday School classes for K4-12 grades, we also have classes for any parent(s) who might want to get plugged into a class, while their child(ren) is/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 each Sunday, and is currently studying from Presbyterian: “Present Word”.
2. Lee Green – This class meets in Scheide Hall. They are currently studying the Gospel of Luke.
3. The Seeker's Class meets in Pastor Murphy's office. They are currently studying II Corinthians.

Church Mission Statement

First Presbyterian Church

A Christian community, 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 – Jim McGuire, Kirk Decker, Todd Garrett

Worship and Music

The Worship and Music Committee has met with Pastor Norma Prina Murphy and begun planning for Advent Sunday (November 27) and the Advent Season. The congregation at First Presbyterian Church will find the services during that time to be moving, meaningful, and inspirational.

We thank Pastor Norma for introducing us to "gathering around the table" communion. A lot of positive feedback has been received regarding that style of communion.

Our next Communion will be served on Sunday, November 6, 2016 (All Saints' Sunday), in the pews.

First Presbyterian Church is blessed with an amazing mixture of musicians and musical groups: chancel choir, bell choir, and children's choir, along with very talented directors. Several have asked about the praise band. People are needed; therefore, if participating in the praise band is of interest and/or speaking to your spirit, contact Jesse Lavery. The praise band still holds promise and possibilities.

Eastern Standard Time begins on Sunday, November 6, 2016! We "fall" back one hour in time. Don't be early; don't be late!

Peace,

Sandy Smith, Moderator, Worship and Music Committee

Christian Education

Fall Family Nights

The last Fall Family Night Dinner and Program will be held on Wednesday, November 2, at 5:30 p.m., in Scheide Hall. Dinner will be served promptly at 5:30 p.m. with the evening's program beginning at 6:30 p.m. All who come are asked to bring a theme food, plus their own table service.

November 2: Game Night Theme: Mexican Cuisine

This event will end by 7:30, so the choir can practice and the kids can get home to go to bed!

Women's Bible Study

This Bible study meets every Tuesday from 9:30 a.m.-10:45 a.m. in the conference room. The group is currently studying the parables of Jesus, understanding them in their historical/cultural setting, who they were written to, and how we can apply them in our lives. The only materials needed are your Bible and a heart ready to fellowship. Childcare is provided.

Contact Shannon Grinder at 564-1330 if you have any questions. Hope to see you there!

Transformation Tuesdays

Transformation Tuesdays will not meet on Tuesday, November 22, 2016. Happy Thanksgiving!

Transformation Tuesdays, after-school program for children in K-5 through 5th grades, meets each Tuesday. Walkers escort children from Main Street Elementary to the church for snacks, Christian Education, crafts, games, and children's choir. Consider joining us! Registration forms are available in the church office. Check out our Facebook Page at Transformation Tuesdays at First Presbyterian Church for more pictures and updates about our program.

Questions? Contact Filippa Duke, who will be working with the program in the fall, at the church office phone or by email at fduke.presby@gmail.com.

Note: After-school Programs follow the School Calendar. No School – No After-School Program

Mark your calendars today!
2nd Annual Advent Open House
Tuesday, December 20, at 4 p.m., in Scheide Hall

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/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. Any questions can be directed to facilitator, Tom Newcombe.

Prayer & A Pint Time

Prayer and a Pint will meet on Thursday, November 10, and then again on December 1, 2016.

A Bible study designed to get the Word of God beyond church walls, this small group will extend its ministry through at least the end of the calendar year. Meeting times will be every other Thursday from 7-8 p.m. at the Blue Canoe Brewery. Anyone over the age of 21 is invited to join the discussion, regardless of faith or personal belief. See Jesse or Eryn Lavery for any questions / further information.

Moms' Small Group to Meet

A small group for moms of young children is meeting every other Thursday from 7-8 p.m. at the home of Mrs. Shannon Grinder. Moms will take turns bringing a devotion/Bible passage to share with the group, and children are welcome to attend. See Shannon Grinder or Eryn Lavery for more information.

Youth Group News

New time for 6th -12th grade youth groups

Beginning October 30, middle and high school youth groups will be combined into one youth group from 6-8 p.m. All 6th - 12th grade students are invited to join us in the prayer room Sunday evenings for prayer, fellowship, and fun!

Special "Steelers" Youth Group on Nov. 6

On Nov. 6, our 6th - 12th grade youth group will meet at Eryn's house (124 E. Bloss St.) at 12:30 p.m. to watch the Steelers game at 1 p.m. Bring a snack to share, and call Eryn (657-4817) for directions/questions. See you there!

Note: Youth group will not meet on Sunday, November 27. Have a great Thanksgiving holiday.

Christian Ed Corner

Spotlight On: MISS VICKI FORD

“So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers. You are citizens along with all of God’s holy people. You are members of God’s family. Together, we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself.”

Ephesians 2: 19-20

Name: Vicki Lynn Ford

Age: 8

Grade/School: 2nd grade at Main Street

Favorite Food: Ice cream

Favorite Movie: *Mary Poppins*

Favorite Music: “The Rockets”

What extra-curricular activities do you like to do?

I like to do fun activities in the summer with my friends, and I love doing gymnastics. I did gymnastics last summer, and I’m going to start again in February and stick with it.

What do you do at First Presby?

I go to Sunday School and Children’s Worship, sing in the Children’s Choir, and I go to Transformation Tuesdays.

What are three things that you absolutely love?

I love to exercise, do gymnastics, and have my friends over or go to my friends’ houses.

What is one thing you want to ask God?

Is heaven a good place for me? And will I get to see my mom and dad when I’m in heaven?



****NOTE:** Each month a different young person from our church family will be chosen at random to be spot-lighted. We’ll share basic information, along with a photo, of that young person with the hope that you will take time to introduce yourself to that child or youth when you see them in church, and maybe even comment on what you read about them in The Tower. It is the CE Committee’s prayer that we build up the Body of Christ at First Presby, from the very youngest to the very wisest, to bring glory to God.

Music Ministries

A Note from the Choirmaster

I read the story some time ago of a little girl named Mary who had just received a dollar bill. She was quite excited because she had never had a dollar of her very own. After carrying it around for a few days she sat down on her porch and stared intently at the bill in her hands. Her mother noticed her sitting there in contemplation and asked, "What are you going to do with your dollar? Are you going to buy some candy or a toy?" "No," Mary replied. "I'm going to take it to Sunday School." "Are you going to show it to your teacher?" Mary's mother asked. "No," Mary shook her head. "I'm going to give it to Jesus. He'll be just as surprised as I was to get something that's not small change." I've noticed over my years of service to various churches and organizations that, when it comes to the talents and abilities that God has given us to use for His glory, most folks are content with giving God small change.

You see, God doesn't give us these talents at their most extraordinary. He expects us to take the seed-talent He has "planted" in us and nurture it and develop it so it can be used by Him and for His glory. Many of us have the mistaken notion that we don't have talent, in this case musical, unless we can naturally sing like Pavarotti. We don't stop to think that Pavarotti didn't start out as the world's greatest tenor. He started as a junior high kid with a squeaky, changing voice. He then developed that voice over many years and with a lot of effort into the glorious instrument it is today.

God expects us to build on that little seed of talent He has given us, investing time and energy to bring honor and glory to Him. We are, after all, His hands and feet in this world. So, I extend this call to you. Consider offering some of your time and effort to God by singing in your chancel choir. We rehearse every Wednesday at 7 p.m. and every Sunday at 10:40 a.m.

Someday, when you stand before the Creator and give an account of your stewardship, you'll be glad you chose to join the choir when you hear the Father say, "Well done, good and faithful servant!"

Respectfully Yours,

Nathaniel F. Licht, Organist and Choirmaster

Children's Choirs I and II

The Children Choirs I and II will lead worship on Sunday, November 20, 2016, through song and instrumental music. We will meet at 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary for a warm-up and sit together at the first two pews. What inspiring young musicians! There will be no Transformation Tuesday on Tuesday, November 22, 2016. Happy Thanksgiving!

Memorial Handbell Choir

The Memorial Handbell Choir will lead worship on Sunday, November 20, 2016. We will meet at 9:15 a.m. in the Sanctuary for our warm-up. There will be no bell rehearsal on Tuesday, November 22, 2016. Happy Thanksgiving!

You're invited to join the bell ringers. No prior ringing experience is necessary, but it is helpful to have a bit of musical reading under your belt. Rehearsals are on Tuesdays from 6:30-7:30 p.m. We will ring during worship once a month. Adults and youth in grades 5 and above are welcome. Any questions should be directed to Filippa by calling the church office or by email at fduke.presby@gmail.com.

Presbyterian Women's News

Potato Bar and Cookie Sale Fundraiser Planned to Raise Money for New Hymnals

The Presbyterian Women will be hosting a fundraiser luncheon and cookie sale on Saturday, December 4, immediately following the morning worship in Scheide Hall. This fundraiser is to raise money for new sanctuary hymnals.

The luncheon menu will be a potato bar, tossed salad, dessert and beverage.

We will also be having a cookie sale at the same time as the luncheon, so bring extra money so you can take home some delicious goodies.

Campus Ministries

College Fellowship Meetings Here at the Church

The College Fellowship Meetings are held each Sunday in Scheide Hall at 8:30 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

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, November 4, 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, November 18, then every other Friday.

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.

Contact Tom Newcombe if you have any question regarding the SAM's Ministry.

SAM's Club Plans Trips:

Tamarac Lake Wildlife Center

On Wednesday, November 16, at 10 a.m., the SAM's Club Ministry will meet in the church parking lot to embark on a unique opportunity. They will travel to the Tamarac Lake Rehabilitation and Wildlife Center. While at the wildlife center, they will see many of the birds of prey, turtles, opossums, and adult seed-eating songbirds from our area. For lunch we will go to Family Ties Restaurant in Townville. For more information about this event, speak to Jim McFarland.

Tara – A Country Inn

On Wednesday, November 30, at 3 p.m., meet in the church parking lot to travel back in time to Tara – A Country Inn, located in Hermitage, PA. We will eat dinner in what is called the Stonewall's Tavern. Afterwards we will have time to walk the grounds and sightsee. Menus are available upon request.

If interested in participating in either of these upcoming events let Tom Newcombe (827-3665) know no later than November 9 for Tamarac, and no later than November 23 for Tara. He will see that you get a seat on the bus!! Space is limited.

Triple F

Thankmas Party Planned

Triple F (**F**un, **F**aith, and **F**ellowship) will host a “Thankmas Party” on December 11, at 6:30 p.m., in Scheide Hall. This event is open to adults 18 year and over, plus their families. (Note: Children must be accompanied by an adult.).

The concept of a “Thank-mas Party” came about by throwing together our two most favorite holidays **Thanksgiving** and **Christmas**.

So for this “Thankmas Party, we will first share a delicious turkey dinner together with all of the trimmings; then it will be followed by song singing, laughter, and possibly a gift to give away.

To participate in this event, each family unit is asked to bring a salad, vegetable, or a dessert to share with dinner. This year, instead of getting a gift, we are asking that each attendee bring a gift card, of their choosing, to the party. This gift card will then be given to The Associated Charities to help needy families in our community at this time of year.

If you would like to come to this fun evening, *sign up in the church office by November 30*. Terry Davitt is the contact person and can answer any question, you may have.

Holy Land Pilgrimage Offered

Did you know that Rev. Norma Murphy, has been to the Holy Land 3 times, most recently last October? It is a part of her personal calling to co-host these pilgrimages as a way to make it possible for others to go on this journey of a lifetime.

She wants to make you all aware that the next pilgrimage has been scheduled for late October, 2017. It will include 2 days in Jordan to see Petra and Amman Citadel, as well as Mt. Nebo and other biblical sites on the east side of the Jordan River, 9 days in Israel and Palestine, and 2 traveling days (going and coming home). We will spend our first night in the wilderness of the Negev at a kibbutz and 2 nights within the Old City of Jerusalem. There will be the opportunity to worship on Sunday morning in Jerusalem as well as many other times of prayerful worship as we travel.

We spend an extra 3 days over ‘basic tours’ because, for most people, this is a once in a lifetime opportunity, and there is much expense in time and money just getting there. We think it is worth the extra investment in both to be able to visit places that are more remote and less commonly seen while you are there.

Birthdays

Steve Harrison	1	Joy Wallace	9	Diana Hughes	21
Gail Billig	1	Debra Spence	11	Sandy Swanson	23
Frances Reese	3	Sandy Hasbrouck	12	Shanley Seybert	24
Gary Finlan	4	Amy Alcorn	13	Susie McCall	25
Becky Schmidt	5	Mike Seefried	14	David Newcombe	26
Eryn Lavery	6	Tyler Harrison	14	Matt Keebler	26
Marlee Schneider	7	Carl Graff	14	Tom Chatham	29
Jackie Samonsky	7	Stephanie Hoback	15	Dick Zimmerman	29
Julie Titus	7	Lexi Hauptman	16	Betty Prody	30
Jodi Greer	8	Dale Goodman	18		
Lauren Long	8	Bailey Seib	20		

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.

Community

A Food Pantry

With the holidays fast approaching, 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 1-493-3852.

Contact us:

First Presbyterian Church

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

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Cut along dotted line

**"Christmas began in the heart of God.
It is complete only when it reaches
the heart of man."**

This Christmas place a poinsettia plant in our church sanctuary in memory or in honor of your loved ones.

Please fill in this 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, December 4, 2016.

There are two sizes of quality, potted poinsettias available to you through the church at special, low prices. The poinsettia plants will be delivered directly to the church from Acorn Acres.

\$13.00 – Single (1) stem potted poinsettia

Red _____ White _____

\$24.00 – Triple (3) stem potted poinsettia

Red _____ White _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Given by: _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

I will take my plant home on Christmas Eve or
pick it up the week after Christmas.

Please throw it away.

