



# THE TOWER

FEBRUARY 2016

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, TITUSVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

## Letter from Reverend David Oyler

Greetings in Christ,

'Now the LORD said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup>I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.' -Genesis 12:1-2

Increasingly as I read the Scriptures I am struck by the fact that life is found in the journey and not in the destination. You see it in the story of Abram as he set out from Ur of the Chaldeans to Canaan. But instead of settling in Canaan he ended up in Haran.

The theme of journeying is laced throughout Scripture. Joseph, given up for dead, becomes a leader in Egypt and prepares a way forward for the Israelites. Surprised by the grace of God (and a few challenges) the Israelites live in Egypt for 430 years. And then 40 years in wilderness wandering. Then a long time in the Promised Land. Then Babylonian captivity. And then...

If you were to set out on a journey from Titusville to New York City but instead ended up in Chicago you might be quite surprised (and maybe a bit frustrated). Chicago is a splendid city. But it is not New York. And New York is a splendid city. But it is not Chicago.

Perhaps the image of a journey is one that also serves us well in the church just as it did for the Israelites. They headed for Canaan and ended up in Haran. They desired the Promised Land and ended up for 40 years in the Sinai Peninsula. It is my privilege to walk along with you for a period of time in the Titusville Presbyterian Church as a part time temporary pastor. No one knows how long that will be. Your Session is seeking a full time interim pastor who will also journey along with you discovering what God is up to next in our midst.

It is an exciting journey but one also filled with some uncertainty and perplexity. But in the meantime – until that full time person can join with you in the journey – I will walk with you. The plan is for me to serve with you in ministry about 20 hours a week in this ‘in between’ time. I will preach most Sundays and be in the church building two days a week. Every effort will be made to include when I will be in Titusville each week. Due to my schedule the days will vary from week-to-week. If you desire to talk with me I will make every effort to do so in as timely of a fashion as possible.

Life is a journey. And I am most intrigued in this short period of time to learn how God is at work in your spiritual journey. What is God teaching you? What are you pondering? What is God up to next as you journey together as a community of Christian believers? Those are important questions as the journey continues. I am privileged to partner with you in this season of the Titusville congregation. And I am eager to see how the Spirit is working among you and through because you are very special people.

In the journey together,  
Rev. David Oyler

**Office Hours for Pastor David Oyler**

Pastor Oyler will be in the church office this week late Tuesday afternoon, February 9; afternoon and evening Wednesday, February 10 and Thursday afternoon, February 11. He welcomes conversation as we seek to serve Jesus Christ together.

## Session News

### Highlights of Annual Meeting

On Wednesday, January 27, at the Annual Meeting, the following members were nominated to be ordained and installed as your new elders for the classes of 2017 (two positions) and 2018 (six positions). They were ordained and installed on Sunday, January 31, 2016.

#### Class of 2017

Rhonda Clark                      C.J. Kirvan

#### Class of 2018

Gail Billig                              Barb Frye  
Rose Nystrom                          Jim McFarland  
Sandy Smith

### Session Votes to Work with Lombard Mennonite Peace Center

On January 23, Session voted to engage in a long-term relationship with Lombard Mennonite Peace Center to help benefit "First Church".

You will be receiving information in the mail shortly.

### Moderators for Session Committees

At their annual reorganizational meeting that was held on January 23, 2016, the following Elders volunteered to be the moderator of the following Session Committees:

#### **ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE**

Sandy Swanson, moderator  
Patti Paden, vice-moderator

#### **BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE**

John Schultz, moderator  
Dede Kerr, Kirt Zimmerman

#### **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Gail Billig, moderator  
Polly Deitz, vice-moderator  
Dede Kerr, Jessica Decker

#### **CLERK OF SESSION**

Gloria Taylor

#### **CONGREGATIONAL CARE COMMITTEE**

Jim McFarland, moderator

#### **FINANCE/ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE**

David Fitz, moderator  
C.J. Kirvan, Rose Nystrom

#### **HERITAGE COMMITTEE**

Rhonda Clark, moderator  
Gloria Taylor

#### **MISSIONS COMMITTEE**

Jessica Decker

#### **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

Joe Thompson, moderator  
David Fitz, Marcia Garrett  
Sandy Smith, Tanya Zahn

**SENIORS COMMITTEE**

Sharon Evans, moderator

**STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE**

Phil Cauvel, moderator

Rose Nystrom

**WORSHIP COMMITTEE**

Sandy Smith, moderator

## Upcoming Meetings

Christian Education - Thursday, February 4, 6 p.m., Conference Room

Finance/Admin. Meeting: Tuesday, February 16, 5 p.m., Conference Room

Presbytery Meeting – February 20, 9 a.m., Here in our Church

PW Board Meeting- Monday, February 22, 4 p.m., Conference Room

Session Meeting – Monday, February 18, 7 p.m., Conference Room

## Christian Education

### Lenten Family Nights to Begin

The Lenten Family Night Dinners/Programs will begin, February 10 and will be held each Wednesday night through March 9 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's program will begin at 6:30 p.m. and they are listed below. The Christian Education Committee has lined up for everyone to enjoy, so plan to come and have a great time!

February 10: Program: Ash Wednesday Service                      Theme: American

February 17: Program: Music Night led by Filippa Duke      Theme: Asian

February 24: Program: Mission Work: The Grinder Family      Theme: BBQ

March 2: Program: Game Night    Theme: Italian

March 9: Program: to be announced                                      Theme: Mexican

### **Transformation Tuesdays**

Each Tuesday, from 3 p.m.- 5 p.m. all children in grades Kindergarten-5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to participate in Transformation Tuesdays. This program is chalked full of fun!! We have a prayer time, a snack, art and crafts, plus music and singing. Volunteers from the program escort children from Main Street Elementary to the church each week.

Follow the action on Facebook: Transformation Tuesdays at First Presbyterian Church, Titusville, PA.

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

### **Women's Bible Study**

Tuesday Ladies' Bible Study meets each Tuesday from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Conference Room and led by Tanya Zahn and Eryn Lavery.

Beginning Feb. 16, the women's Bible Study will study the book, *Horizontal Jesus: How our Relationships with Others Affect Our Experiences with God*, by Dr. Tony Evans. If you wish to have Eryn order you a copy, the sign-up sheet is in the office. Cost of the book is \$10. Deadline to sign up for a book order is Feb. 11.

Currently they are reading through the Book of Proverbs. Childcare is provided by Pandi Ford in the nursery for infants through preschool-age children.

### **Men of First Breakfast Bible Study**

On Wednesday mornings at 7 a.m. in Scheide Hall, men of the church come to a Bible Study that offers a delicious breakfast, good fellowship, and conversation on a passage of the Bible.

### **Middle School Youth Fellowship**

M.S.Y.F. meets each Wednesday at 5:30 p.m., upstairs in the Prayer Room. If you have any question speak to, email, or call Eryn Lavery at [eryn@erynlavery.com](mailto:eryn@erynlavery.com) or 657-4817.

### **Senior High Youth Fellowship**

S.H.Y.F. begins at 6 p.m., each Sunday, upstairs in the Prayer Room. If you have any question speak to/email/or call Eryn Lavery at [eryn@erynlavery.com](mailto:eryn@erynlavery.com) or 657-4817.

## Music Ministry

### Sounds from the Loft

Filippa Duke

This February, I want to bring your focus to the bright sounds ringing out from the loft of First Presbyterian. The Memorial Bell Choir is a musical ensemble that meets every Tuesday night for rehearsal. We are made up of many ringers who are members and friends of the church and range from fifth grade through seasoned adulthood. Most recently, we have had four of our newest, and youngest, ringers join our ranks. They have done an amazing job absorbing how to ring bells and read music in just one short month!

I find many people are quite interested in ringing bells, but often have many questions about the craft, in general, and our ensemble, in particular. In no particular order, I'll do my best to answer several of these. And, if you have more questions, please feel free to ask me or one of our ringers!

**Question:** How many bells do we have?

**Answer:** We have a full three octave set of bells (12 notes are in each octave) so we have 36 bells in that set. We also have several bells that extend our set to nearly four octaves. Plus, we have doubled bells of many of the middle positions. Yes, that's a *lot* of gear!

**Q:** The bells look heavy. How much do they weigh?

**A:** The bells vary in size, based on how large or small they are. Some of the very smallest (and highest) bells only weigh a few ounces. Some of the larger (and lower) bells weigh several pounds). Some bell choirs have extremely low bells that can weigh as much as 10-18 pounds: No need to go to the gym if you ring those!

**Q:** What are the bells made of?

**A:** They are made of a bronze alloy with leather or plastic handles. Our bells have plastic handles.

**Q:** How were handbells invented?

**A:** The first set of tuned bells were invented by a pair of English brothers, Robert and William Cor around 1696-1724. These bells were used by change ringers, who needed to rehearse the complicated patterns of ringing the tower bells without alienating all of the neighbors (talk about de-valuing your real estate!).

The first sets usually had 6-12 bells, which was the number of bells in a tower. Handbells were first brought across the pond in 1902 and have since become a musical phenomenon in their own right. There are handbell choirs across the world!

**Q:** How many bells does a person play?

**A:** Generally speaking a person plays two notes (one in each hand) that are beside each other in the scale. (Think, two white notes beside each other on the keyboard). For example, a person might play a C in the left hand and the D in the right hand. Sometimes, if there is an accidental in the music, a bell-swap might need to be made, so a ringer may have several bells in front of them. Often groups color-code the music to help give cues to people getting used to reading music. For advanced ringers, there is a technique for ringing four bells at once. A ringer can also become a solo ringer or a small group where they are responsible for all of the notes in a piece!

**Q:** Where were our bells made?

**A:** There are two main makers of handbells: Malmark and Schulmerich. Both are based in our own state of Pennsylvania!

**Q:** I want to ring bells. How old do I need to be?

**A:** Our group is open to those in fifth grade and above.

**Q:** I don't know how to read music (or I did *many, many* years ago). Is bell-ringing for me?

**A:** Yes! Bell-ringing is actually a great way for you to learn (or remember how) to read music in a fun group setting. It's a particularly good way to sharpen your rhythm skills because we work on counting as a group (so we can all stay together!). Also, I meet with each new bell ringer to give them a one-on-one introduction to ringing before they dive into rehearsal.

**Q:** Are there still spots available in our bell choir at First Presbyterian?

**A:** Yes! Let Filippa know if you are interested or if you know of someone else who is!

We rehearse on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. and welcome new ringers!

### **Chancel Choirs**

You are invited to add to the ministry of music by joining the Chancel Choir on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. during Lent. If you have interest or questions, Dr. Filippa Duke is happy to visit with you.

## **Presbyterian Women**

### **PW Association to hold Book Sale**

The PW Women will be holding their annual book sale on Tuesday, March 8 and Wednesday, March 9. Anyone who has gentle used books and would like to donate them for the sale are asked to bring them to the church office or place them in the Dobb Doors.

## Senior Adult Ministry (SAM's Club) Ministry

### SAM's Exercise Plans to Renew

Our own Heidi Wonderling who is a PT at Keystone Physical Therapy and Tom Newcombe are trying to organize an exercise class. Heidi will lead the class on Tuesdays at 1 p.m. in the Children's Pavilion for anyone interested. Please sign up by calling the church office (827-3665) or stopping by.

### SAM's Lunch and a Movie

On February 5, lunch will be served at 12:00 noon in Scheide Hall with a movie to shortly follow in Emerson Parlor. All are welcome to attend. The last time this group met there were 16 people in attendance.

You can suggest a good movie to watch, make the soup (or the whole meal), or simply just come and eat. All we want is you to join us.

This group will meet again on Friday, February 19, 2016.

## Birthdays

Marty Rowe	1	Amy Brown	11	Ava Hlad	25
Kirk Decker	1	Jeff Burton	12	Art McIntyre	25
Mark Sampson	2	Charles Ford	14	John Reagle	25
Randy Schneider	4	Matt Sampson	14	Sheila Schneider	26
Andy Osborn	4	Mary Lou Tucker	14	Lisa Conner	26
Lakyn Hauptman	5	Stan Thompson	15	Tammey Dunlap	27
Terry Davitt	5	Eric Fenske	17	Bette Harrison	27
Kelly Evans	7	Jessica Harshbarger	20	Craig Ludwick	27
Ardelle Hutchison	8	Char Eggleston	20	Haley Schneider	28
Dick Peebles	9	Allen Hughes	21		
Karen Schlack	9	Kirt Zimmerman	23		

## This Month's Ushers

Rochelle Cressman, Kirk Decker, Dede Kerr, Rob Seib

## Flowers

### Chancel Flowers

If you would like to place flowers in the Sanctuary on any Sunday throughout the year, let Terry Davitt know in 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

The Food Pantry can still use our help. They are in need of most food items and will gladly take donations.

### Boy Scout Troop Meets on Mondays

All boys in grades 1st - 5th interested in joining the cub scouts are invited to come each Monday night at 6 p.m. in the Scheide Hall. Contact Chad Rugh (814) 673-6364 or Steve Coleman (814) 827-3686.

### Girl Scout Troop Meets Here

Did you know? Any girl in 2 and 3 grades is welcome to become part of a Girl Scout Troop. On Thursdays from 3 p.m. to 4:45 p.m., this group will meet upstairs in the Jonathan/David Room. Leaders are Rhonda Clark, Jessica Decker, Jacqui Sampson, and Gina Watkins. Contact Jessica Decker (814) 827-90778.

## Contact us:

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## Staff:

Vickie Corey, Housekeeper

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Email: [tdavitt.presby@gmail.com](mailto:tdavitt.presby@gmail.com)

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