



# THE TOWER

JULY AND AUGUST 2016

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, TITUSVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

## A Note From Our Departing Part-time Interim Pastor

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. <sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you...’  
-Genesis 12:1-2

The Judeo-Christian faith began with a journey by Abram and Sarai. Some of you might recall that this Genesis passage was included in my article in the April Titusville Tower as well. It is still relevant – and important. In so very many ways the Titusville Presbyterian Church continues on a journey. I have been privileged for the last five months to travel with you in that journey as a part time interim pastor. I have learned more than words can express about the journey of this congregation, and what the Lord is up to in your midst. This journey shapes and re-shapes each one of us in profound ways. Journey language is woven in to the Scripture in other places as well. The faith begins with this journey of Abram and Sarai. Then the Israelites went to Egypt, through the Red Sea, into the wilderness, and after that into the Promised Land. Yet even then they had not arrived. The journey continued to Bethlehem and Jerusalem and beyond, just as the journey of faith continues in this congregation.

As I write this final Tower article as your part time interim pastor I am in Portland, Oregon participating in the 222<sup>nd</sup> gathering of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA). It was a literal one way journey of 3,000 miles to arrive here. Even more it is a spiritual journey in which I have already participated in dozens of conversations. Some are with people who have enriched my spiritual journey across more than four decades. Some discussions are with people I did not know 24 hours earlier.

Your spiritual journey continues although I will no longer be serving as your part time interim pastor. In my particular case I will still have interaction with the Titusville Church as General Presbyter – but not as your pastor. Your new interim pastor is clearly Rev. Norma Prina Murphy. Some of you who read this paragraph may see my words as ‘splitting hairs’ in some obscure way about my relationship with you. It is not intended as such.

Rather, it is the clear intent to say that the pastoral role is now passed from Interim Pastor David Oyler to Interim Pastor Norma Prina Murphy. Friendships continue but the pastoral mantle is clearly passed.

From a distance I shall pray with you and for you in the continual journey of discovery. I am most eager to hear of how you engage Scripture, pray together and model talking with one another in the style the Lombard Institute has taught. God is doing something powerful in your midst. Listen well. Love deeply. Live compassionately.

In Christ,

Pastor David Oyler, Part-time Interim Pastor

The Lord be with you all!

## **A Message From Our New Incoming Interim Pastor**

Let me begin with a bit of introduction of myself and my family. I am Norma Prina Murphy and moved to the suburbs of Pittsburgh when I was 14. That became home after having lived in 8 homes in 7 states from Idaho to New Jersey before arriving in Pittsburgh.

My father was a nuclear engineer and my mother was able to stay at home. I have a younger sister Carrie who still lives in Murrysville, next door to Monroeville. I went to Indiana University of PA, graduating with a degree in Music Ed and married my high school sweetheart. We owned bicycle shops for a dozen years while I taught private music lessons and was music director at our church.

We had one child, a son Drew, who lives in Dormont on the south side of Pittsburgh with his wife, Amy and their 3 year old daughter Abiageal. Abby is definitely the light of my life these days!

My husband, Keith, died from a heart attack 14 years ago. He was my staunchest supporter and is still very missed, but life must and does go on.

I graduated from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary in 1993 and was ordained that September to serve as Interim Pastor of a nearby church. I was well suited to it for some specific reasons, but not certain that Interim ministry was my calling until I got into it. As I debated and worked on discerning it within myself Keith sealed the deal, pointing out how 'low a threshold for boredom' I had!

Seven Interims and one installed Transitional Ministry later here I am in Titusville, ready to begin afresh with all of you. On Sunday, July 3 I will enter the sanctuary with my walking stick --- and it will remain visible in the sanctuary until I walk out with it at the end of my last service with you. It will serve as a visual reminder to us all that my sojourn with you is temporary, just for a time. By the grace of God we will embrace one another and engage in ministry together. By the grace of God we will rejoice and laugh and cry together. By the grace of God we will all grow together.

And one day down the road, some time after these cheerful hellos, will come the time to say good byes. But that is what my whole life has been --- the joy of meeting and getting to know yet more people, enriching my life in countless ways. And by then we will all be ready for new hellos --- me to yet another congregation and you to a new installed pastor.

Great is Thy faithfulness, great is Thy faithfulness,  
Morning by morning new mercies I see.  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided,  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.

Grace and peace,  
Norma

## **Mark Your Calendar for Continuing Lombard Conversations!!**

If you have been unable to join the important Lombard conversations in recent months we invite you to join with us now. God is up to something quite profound in our midst as many in your church family have been engaging with each other in deep conversation! After taking a break in the summer time you are warmly encouraged to engage conversation with your brothers and sisters in Christ – on September 10 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

In our shared work with them we have learned a great deal. On September 10 we will move into the problem solving stage of our discussions. In the spring time we have had the opportunity to voice some of our concerns/hurts/anxieties/uncertainties. Given those insights, and given the insight that we do have differing perspectives, the problem solving conversations encourage us to think insightfully and creatively about how we can best be the body of Christ together. It will continue to involve us in a new way of being as we embrace God's future for us.

You may think you have relatively little to add to this conversation. But even if you speak little you can gain great insights on one another – how we relate, how we read Scripture, how we might work together to claim God's preferred and promised future.

You will hear more about this as we approach the end of the summer. But for now, mark your calendar! Your church is strengthened by robust participation by as many of us as possible!

## Session News

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

- spent time, once again, in Dwelling in the Word from Luke 10:1-12.
- reviewed the June 4 conversations with Lombard and began to prepare for the important Lombard conversations on September 10. (Plan to attend!!)
- received an interim pastor report that addressed several items including reflections on Rev. David Oyler's perspectives on the congregation's leading into the future.
- received reports from committees as they continue to discern God's work for the present and future ministry of our congregation.
- discussed the ministry of the church and those to whom God is calling us in this community.
- concluded by offering hopeful words the elders perceive about the ministry of the Titusville Presbyterian Church.
- agreed to meet for their next meeting on Monday, July 18 with our new pastor Norma Prina Murphy moderating.

With Thanksgiving to God for the privilege of serving in the Titusville community,  
Your Session

## Upcoming Meetings

Christian Education –	Wednesday, July 6, 6 p.m., Conference Room
	Thursday, August 4, 6 p.m., Conference Room
Finance/Admin. –	Tuesday, July 12, 4:30 p.m. Conference Room
Session Meeting –	Monday, July 18, 7 p.m., Conference Room
	Monday, August 22, 7 p.m., Conference Room

## Missions

### Summer Mission- Associated Charities Back-to-School Backpack Fill-Up

Most of us have experienced the excitement a new school year often brings and felt the anticipation of a fresh new start right after a summer of fun in the sun. Parents and grandparents make sure their children have everything they need to get the new school year off to the best possible start: shiny new shoes, jackets, sharpened pencils, fresh backpacks, lunch boxes, notebooks -- and everything in-between!

But while some of us have only two or three kids to send off to school, Connie McIntyre and her many dedicated volunteers at Associated Charities have the daunting task of preparing anywhere from 125 to 200 school-aged children in the

Titusville Area School District. Through donations and local support from the community, these dedicated Christians fill a staggering number of backpacks with supplies and toiletries for children ranging in age anywhere from 3 to 18 (Head Start to High School).

But perhaps the most incredible part of their service is that in addition to collecting, packing, and handing out countless school supplies for these children, they invite them and their families into the building to "shop" for their items. Instead of being handed over clothing that is roughly the right size, these kids have the privilege to actually try on and choose what clothing suits them and their individual tastes best. The excitement and appreciation shown by these children and their families is overwhelming.

Our Missions and Outreach Committee has asked Associated Charities for the privilege to help send these students back to school ready for success. Because school supplies are cheapest in the month of July, we at First Presby will use that month to collect notebooks, pencils, erasers, folders, glue sticks, scissors, toiletries, etc. Look for collection baskets placed near entrances to the church.

But that's not all!

The Missions and Outreach Committee would also like to extend an invitation to the congregation to participate in a special offering for this Back to School Backpack Program, collected as cash, checks, or gift cards for the Associated Charities to purchase clothing, shoes, and any other essential school supplies for families in need.

The most exciting part?

The Missions and Outreach Committee will **MATCH** the monies collected in these special offerings. If your gift is \$5, we will match it with \$5, and our combined gift to Associated Charities is now \$10. Think of what a huge difference we can make by working together on this!

We will present our collected school supplies and monetary donations to Associated Charities on the last Sunday of July. Look for updates on this project in the weeks to come.

Thank you in advance for your kindness and generosity as we share the blessings we have received in Christ to bless the children and families right here in our community.

Items needed: Pencils, pens, pencil boxes, notebooks, backpacks, erasers, markers, crayons, folders, binders, highlighters, rulers, scissors, calculators, etc. (Wal-Mart typically has a huge display set out.) Packages of socks and underwear for children in all sizes are appreciated throughout the year. Shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, soaps and body washes, razors, toothbrushes, and toothpaste are always important items in ensuring a child's success at school.

## Christian Education

### Transformation Tuesdays to Return on September 13<sup>th</sup>!

It may be a hot, lazy summer day, but it's never too early to begin thinking about the fall! Transformation Tuesdays, our after-school program for children in K-5 through 5<sup>th</sup> grades will return begin on Tuesday, September 13, 2016.

Walkers escort children from Main Street Elementary to the church for snacks, prayer time, children's choir, crafts and activities. We also love our family of volunteers who make this afternoon a reality. Consider joining us!

More information will follow in September's Tower, but check out our Facebook Page at Transformation Tuesdays at First Presbyterian Church for more updates.

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](mailto:fduke.presby@gmail.com).



## Music Ministry

### Summer Choir

La-la-la! You're invited to join the Summer Choir on the first two Sundays of the summer months:

Sunday, July 3, 2016 at 9:15 a.m. (10:00 service)

Sunday, August 7, 2016 at 9:15 a.m. (10:00 service)

This is a great way to sing in a low-pressure environment. We will meet in the Sanctuary to rehearse a simple piece prior to the service and then lead worship through singing at 10:00 a.m. Past, present, and future choir members are invited. No experience is necessary! Adults and youth grades 6<sup>th</sup> and above are invited. There will be no robes or scary solos. All are welcome!



## Children's Music Camp: August 8-12<sup>th</sup>!

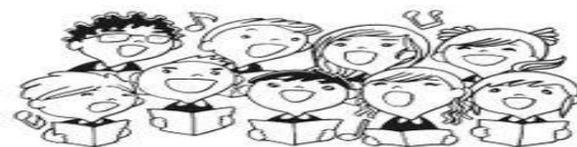
We are hosting our first Children's Music Camp this summer at First Presbyterian! Snack will be provided. There will be time for learning to sing, to read music, playing instruments, snacks, crafts, games, meeting new musicians, and experiencing new instruments. You're invited!

Who: Children in rising 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grades

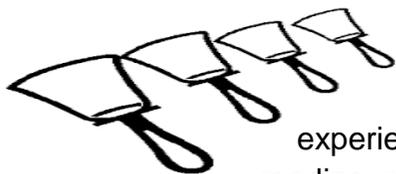
When: August 8-12, 2016

Time: 9:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.

Registration: Registrations are due by Monday, August 1<sup>st</sup> from the church office or via email. Contact Filippa Duke at [fduke.presby@gmail.com](mailto:fduke.presby@gmail.com) if you'd like a digital copy. Spaces are limited, so reply early!



## Memorial Handbell Choir to Begin on September 6<sup>th</sup>!



You're invited to join the bell ringers at First Presbyterian: The Memorial Handbell Choir will have several openings in the fall and we welcome new ringers! No prior ringing experience is necessary, but it is helpful to have a bit of musical reading under your belt. If you haven't had this, Dr. Duke is happy to meet with you to give you a basic introduction to music-reading and bell-ringing before you dive in. In fact, one of the best ways to improve your musical skills is to make music in a group! Additionally, we have "doubles" of several bell parts which allows new ringers to begin ringing without the pressure of being solely responsible for their notes. You are welcome here!

We are a light-hearted group who rehearses once a week on Tuesdays from 6:30-7:30 p.m. We lead worship about once a month though ringing in the service. Adults and youth in grades 5 and above are welcome. We also are open to those outside of the church that may wish to join our bell group, so if you read this, and have a friend or family member that is interested in learning to play bells, please invite them!

Questions about joining the bell group in the fall? Contact Filippa Duke (Director of the Memorial Handbell Choir) at the church office phone or by email at [fduke.presby@gmail.com](mailto:fduke.presby@gmail.com).

## **A Letter of Gratitude from Filippa Duke**

Dear Friends,

As many of you have by now heard, in the fall my position at First Presbyterian will be changing a bit as I shift to part-time work. While I will no longer be working with the Chancel Choir and serving as Director of Music and Organist, I will be serving as the Director of the Memorial Bells and continue directing the Children's Choirs I and II during Transformation Tuesdays. I will still be here on Tuesdays and one Sunday a month when the children and bell ringers lead worship, so I am glad to continue our work together!

I am grateful for the support and friendships that I have made thus far at First Presbyterian as we have begun new ministries together. And, I am even more excited about what is to come in the fall: welcoming even more children into our choirs, welcoming more bell ringers into our group, and continuing with the creative education of the youth of Titusville! As with all transitions, this change will bring a period of adjustment, but I look forward to continuing my ministries here at First Presbyterian. It will be an exciting fall!

In Christ,  
Filippa

**July's Ushers:** Carol Cauvel, Eryn Lavery, Ray Zahner, Kirt Zimmerman

**August's Ushers:** Phil Atteberry, David Fitz, Jack Gadsby, Dede Kerr, David Steinbuhler

## **Campus Ministries**

### **College Fellowship Continues to Meet During the Summer Months**

The College Ministry continues during July and August with the following Sunday events:

July 3, at the church, Faith Formation discussion, 5:30 p.m., Scheide Hall

July 8, Road Trip Bible Study, 7 p.m., church parking lot

July 10, at the church, Faith Formation discussion, 5:30 p.m., Scheide Hall

July 17, Road Trip Bible Study, 5:30 p.m., church parking lot

July 24, at the church, Faith Formation discussion, 5:30 p.m., Scheide Hall

July 30, Road Trip, 9 a.m., church parking lot

August 7, final Bible Study at the church, 5:30 p.m., Scheide Hall

Anyone who is home for the summer and would like to come to this great fellowship of spiritual growth and exploration are more than welcome. Contact Tom Newcombe for more information.

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

### SAM's Summertime Events

Below is a list of upcoming event for our Senior Adult Ministries.

Wednesday, July 20: Potluck Dinner, 5:30 p.m., Game Night

Wednesday, August 17: Potluck Dinner, 5:30 p.m.,

Guest speaker: Phil Atteberry

Each Wednesday at 1 p.m., Needle Crafts

Each Thursday at 1 p.m., Card playing

If you have any questions, speak with Tom Newcombe.

## Birthdays

### JULY BIRTHDAYS

Kathy Mitcham	3	Paula Hlad	12	Lynn Nicols	21
Chana Hopkins	4	Ellen Stover	14	Mike Brown	21
Courtney Rowe	4	Wayde Spence	14	Adam Bodamer	22
Donna Roessner	6	Jennifer Sampson	14	Casey Shoup	23
Mike Wonderling	7	Maggie Thompson	15	Phyllis Rapp	25
Suzanne von Tacky	7	Rhonda Clark	16	Todd Garrett	28
Andrew Stover	8	Darrell Hauptman	17	Travis Burton	29
Chris Finlan	10	Devon Chappel	17	Duane Schlack	30
Sharon Lemley	11	Jane Harrison	17	Melissa Harroun	31
Ashley Snyder	11	Jacqui Sampson	19		

### AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Tyler Patterson	2	James McGinnis	13	Rose Nystrom	22
Austin Kolaja	4	Olivia Garrett	15	Dian McKeown	24
Maggie McPeak	4	Susana Herps	18	Katie Nellis	26
Grace Canady	5	Joe Thompson	18	Robert Youngkin	29
Steve Zahn	5	Damaris Hetrick	18	Ava Warner	29
Ruth LaDonne	6	Gerry Rhoades	18	Pauline Deitz	30
Tanya Zahn	10	Chelcie Alcon	19	John Shoup	31
Joan Jones	13	Bruce Renn	19		
		Ralph Osborn	21		

## 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.

## Contact us:

### First Presbyterian Church

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Visit us on the web at

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## Staff:

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Theresa Davitt, Administrative Assistant

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Dr. Filippa Duke, Director of Music

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Kelly Evans, Sexton

Eryn Lavery, Coordinator of Youth Ministry Intern

Email: [eryn@erynlavery.com](mailto:eryn@erynlavery.com)

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Dr. David Oyler, Temporary Pastor

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