



## A Note from Pastor Norma Murphy

The Lord be with you all!

Fall has arrived and with it cooler nights and less humidity. The grass doesn't need to be mowed as often and the leaves are ripe to change colors soon. It is my favorite season of the year with its crispness and beauty. Winter had always been my favorite, but as I get older, I recognize the inconvenience snow and cold can bring, so fall is a good compromise.

How often do our likes and dislikes change through the years? The china pattern I chose as a bride at 21 is not at all what I chose to buy at our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. My favorite flavor of ice cream has changed many times throughout the years. Favorite songs, favorite colors, favorite hobbies --- all have changed through the various seasons of my life.

But these changes are not uniform --- they are distinctly individual. Even people who are the same age don't share the exact same favorites because each one has progressed through life at their own pace with their own unique experiences.

Why should it then be any different with worship? Some will embrace certain changes but not others. Some will resist any changes. Some can't get enough change. And you, yourself, will change in how you react to the changes from one month to the next.

I once served a church which had begun to sing 'Let There Be Peace on Earth' during Desert Storm to bring people back to their pews from sharing the peace. It was now 9 years later, and they were still singing it every Sunday. So the worship committee and I made the bold decision to sing a different song for a season, and then return to 'Let There Be Peace on Earth' and then switch off to something else, and so on.

Two women were serving on the session at the time. Both had become widows at about the same time. Both had become dear, close friends. Both came to me to talk about the changes in worship.

The one said, 'Don't you dare change that song!' while the other said, 'God bless you! I am so SICK of singing that song!' Neither knew the other had come to talk with me. They were completely chagrined when I told about them at the next session meeting, pointing out that neither was right, neither was wrong. They just felt differently about the issue at the moment.

How often do you embrace a new hymn or practice in worship? A change in programming or staffing? Some will touch you warmly and some will leave you cold. That's life! Some will affect you deeply and at the same time upset a dear friend. The reality is that 'it' isn't about you alone. 'It' is about everyone, and helping all to grow. Sometimes that means you grow and sometimes that means others grow.

It's not just about you and your personal feelings, which may change by next month or next year anyway. It's about the whole body of Christ and those who aren't yet a part of that body. So what to do?

Give thanks to God for the commitment to touch all people deeply at some point or another. Give thanks to God for the times when you are fed and grown, and for the times when others are being fed and grown. Give thanks to God all the time and in all ways!

And know that there are more than a handful of committees who would welcome your participation in planning and leadership if you would like to put in more than 2 cents.

Fall is upon us! Let us rejoice and be thankful for the change of seasons that is taking place in all areas of our lives.

Grace and peace,  
Norma

## Session News

Your Session met to discern God's leading for our congregation on Monday, August 22, 2016. During the meeting the spiritual leaders of the church:

- Responded to a request from Eryn Lavery for elders to sign up to come to Youth Group on one Sunday evening from 5-8 p.m. to build relationships with the youth
- Took action on a motion from Personnel Committee, approving Nathaniel Licht as organist and conductor of the adult choir
- Elected David Fitz as our elder commissioner to the September 20 meeting of the Presbytery of Lake Erie at Hasson Heights PC, Oil City
- Approved the motion of the task force on Deacons to reinstate the office of deacon at FPC, with specific responsibilities, concurrent with the Congregational Care Committee which will act primarily as a central steering committee to assist people in contacting the right person for each particular situation
- The Interim Pastor distributed a summary report of the Elder Chats to be discussed at our next meeting, as well as a Covenant of Leadership for the Session
- Heard the reports of the various committees
- Approved the Curriculum and Teachers for Sunday School and Transformation Tuesdays for the 2016-17 program year
- Were encouraged to sign up to attend the Saturday, September 10, session with Lombard Mennonite Peace Center and to fill out the worksheet on problem solving
- Approved the request of Presbyterian Women to hold a fund-raiser in December to begin a fund for new hymnals, and to hold a Town Meeting following worship in October to discuss this need

## **World Communion Sunday, October 2**

### **Special Offering to be Collected**

On World Communion Sunday, October 2, “The Peace and Global Witness Offering” will be collected. Below is information on this special offering. An envelope will be in the bulletin on October 2 for your convenience.

### **Peace & Global Witness Setting the Table of Peace**

Every day, we are witnesses to conflict. We read news stories of violence and supposedly irreparable divides. Angry rhetoric fills our airwaves, inboxes, and social media feeds. We see conflict tear apart communities, families, even people we know. Surrounded by this strife, it’s easy to see the world through a dark lens of discord. We may even come to share the doubt expressed in Psalm 78:19: “Can God spread a table in the wilderness?”

Yet our faith tells us, despite our doubts, sins, distrust, or even anger, God not only sets a table, but invites us to join it and partake in an abundance of peace.

The Peace & Global Witness Offering challenges us to look at the world not as a place where conflict is inevitable, but where Christ’s peace is possible. The programs supported by the Peace & Global Witness Offering help bring people tables of peace, justice, and reconciliation even in the wilderness of war, violence, and division. In places of abiding conflict, the Peace & Global Witness Offering supports the work of Presbyterian mission co-workers to bring together former enemies and begin healing the spiritual wounds of war. In congregations closer to home, support from the Offering enables efforts to turn back the tide of gun violence that claims too many American lives. In other communities, it’s facilitating a transformative dialogue about the difficult subject of race to find new common ground. And everywhere, this Offering supports witness because, by sharing the abiding love and mercy of Christ, more people can find their way to a seat at God’s table.

Your support of the Peace & Global Witness Offering acknowledges that a wilderness of conflict may surround us, but we are not abandoned there. If we open our eyes to the possibilities of peace, we see God has set a table for anyone willing to take a seat.

Please give generously to the Peace & Global Witness Offering:

- Through your congregation
- Text PEACE to 20222 to give \$10
- [presbyterianmission.org/give/peace-global](http://presbyterianmission.org/give/peace-global)

## **The Lombard Mennonite Peace Center Problem Solving Meeting**

A meeting of the LMPC Problem Solving Phase will take place on October 8, 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in Scheide Hall. If you have come to any of the prior meetings, we highly recommend that you attend this problem solving process. You can sign up by stopping at the church office or by calling 827-3665.

## **Upcoming Meetings**

Christian Education - Wednesday, October 12, 6 p.m., Conference Room

Finance Committee - Tuesday, October 18, 5 p.m., Conference Room

Heritage Committee - Sunday, October 16, 12 noon, Conference Room

PW Board - Monday, October 24, 4 p.m., Conference Room

Session - Monday, October 24, 7 p.m., Conference Room

## **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.

You can see our tentative itinerary and dates on the attached brochure. You will also hear more about it at the Fall Family Night when I am speaking. I am hopeful that some of you will want to be a part of this amazing adventure!

## 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** - Andy Stover, Dede Kerr, John Schultz

## Christian Education

### Fall Family Nights

Fall Family Nights will start on Wednesday, October 5, 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. This year, instead of meat, veggie, or dessert, each night will have a food theme. All who come are asked to bring a theme food, plus their own table service.

October 5:	Meet Pastor Norma	Theme: Italian Cuisine
October 12:	Youth Mission Presentations	Theme: Comfort Food
October 19:	Pastor David Oyler Missions Video	Theme: Heritage Cuisine
October 26:	Game Night	Theme: BBQ / Picnic Food
November 2:	Laugh Night (Christian funny video)	Theme: Mexican Cuisine

Each evening will finish by 7:30. This way the choir can practice and the kids can get home to go to bed!

### Youth Group

Youth groups are open to all students in 6th through 12th grades. Youth group is a blend of service, worship, study and fellowship that meet each Sunday from 5-6:30 p.m. for middle school and 6:30-8 p.m. for high school. If you are new to youth group, follow the signs to the upstairs to the prayer room. Friends are welcome, too! For more information, speak with youth leaders, Pandi Ford or Eryn Lavery.

### 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, after-school program for children in K-5 through 5<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:fduke.presby@gmail.com).

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

## **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.

## **Prayer & A Pint Time/Date to Change**

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.

## Music Ministries

Welcome to Nathaniel Licht and Kai Baldwin from the Worship and Music Committee!

### Chancel Choir

If you like to sing, come join the Chancel Choir each Wednesday evening at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. New voices are always welcome. If you have any questions speak to Nathaniel Licht, Choir Director.

### Memorial Handbell Choir

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

## Presbyterian Women's News

### Presbyterian Women of Lake Erie Presbytery Fall Gathering Set

This year's "Fall Gathering" of the Presbyterian Women of Lake Erie Presbytery will be held on October 15 from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Wayside Presbyterian Church in Erie, PA.

This year's theme is **Mission Matters** with keynote speaker – 2015/2016 Northern Ireland YAV (Young Adult Volunteer) – Emma Haas. Emma will share her experiences volunteering with the Presbyterian Church as a YAV of Northern Ireland; some of its tragic history of communal violence; and how the YAV's work with local churches and community projects address the legacy of division and help lay foundations for a positive, shared future (particularly through work with youth and children).

Anyone wishing more information or who would like to register should call Terry Davitt at 827-3665. Registration Deadline is October 3, 2016.

## Campus Ministries

### College Fellowship Meetings Here at the Church

The College Fellowship Meetings are held each Sunday in Scheide Hall at 5:30 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.

## 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, October 14, 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, October 28, 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.

## Triple F

Triple F (Fun, Faith and Fellowship) for all adults over 18 (single or couples) will have its first gathering in December. See November's newsletter on what fun activity has been planned.

## Birthdays

Kevin Vinson	1	Brenda Tarr	11	Shane Schneider	24
Sally Brown	2	Kathy Fitz	11	Steve Bodamer	24
Bill Webb	3	Audrey Cole	11	Ruth Roeder	24
Kirk Boemmel	4	Barb Schneider	12	Jackie Thompson	27
Eric Mowrey	4	Carolyn Bromley	12	Pat Walker	27
Ruth Martin	4	Rob Seib	13	Gloria Fenton	28
Jennifer Warner	7	Don Mowrey	17	Betty Harrison	29
Dennis Barker	7	Donna McAllister	21	Tom Eggleston	30

***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.

## Community

### Lions Club to Host Annual AMBA Wellness Program

On Saturday, October 1, 2016, 6 a.m. to 10 a.m., the Titusville Lions Club will once again host the AMBA Wellness Blood Screening here in our Scheide Hall. Anyone interested in having these tests done should call 1(800)234-8888 Monday-Friday (8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) to schedule an appointment.

The cost is \$40.00 and it includes test for coronary disease, anemia, diabetes, kidney disease, liver disease, calcium, magnesium, chloride, potassium, sodium, uric acid, TIBC, and transferrin saturation. There are optional tests available at additional fees. Note: all optional tests require a separate script from your doctor.

### Hospice of Crawford County to Host Fall Bereavement Series

Beginning each Wednesday, October 12 through November 16 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Hospice of Crawford County will be hosting a bereavement series for all who would like to attend.

These classes are designed to aid in healing the pain associated with the death of a loved one, offering educational information as well as a time of sharing.

There is no fee for this class, but pre-registration is preferred by calling 827-0330.

### Free Prostate Screening

UPMC Northwest is offering free prostate screenings on Wednesday, October 5, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the UPMC Northwest Specialty Office of Titusville located at 401 West Spring Street. According to the American Cancer Society, prostate cancer is the most common cancer among men (after skin cancer); but, it can often be treated successfully.

### Titusville Ladies Conference October 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>

The Annual Titusville Ladies Conference (TLC) will be held on October 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> at the Titusville Free Methodist Church. This year's speaker is Carol Kent. For more information call Ann Hulse at 589-1031 or The Free Methodist Church at 827-3617.

Mark your calendar now and invite a friend!

## **A Food Pantry**

The Food Pantry needs our help. It is in need of most food items and will gladly take donations.

## **Boy Scout Troop Meets on Mondays**

Each Monday at 6 p.m. in Scheide Hall, all boys in grades Kindergarten - 5<sup>th</sup> 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**

216 North Franklin Street

Titusville, PA 16354

(814) 827-3665

[firstpresby216@verizon.net](mailto:firstpresby216@verizon.net)

Visit us on the web at

[www.titusvillefirstpresbyterian.com](http://www.titusvillefirstpresbyterian.com)

## **Staff:**

Kai Baldwin, Accompanist

Vickie Corey, Housekeeper

Theresa Davitt, Administrative Assistant

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

Dr. Filippa Duke, HandBell/Children's Choir Director

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

Kelly Evans, Sexton

Eryn Lavery, Coordinator of Youth Ministry Intern

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

Nathaniel Licht, Organist/Choir Director

Email: [mistalicht@gmail.com](mailto:mistalicht@gmail.com)

Rev. Norma Prina Murphy, Interim Pastor

Email: [prnorma93@gmail.com](mailto:prnorma93@gmail.com)

Tom Newcombe, Sr. Adult Ministry Leader

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