



THE TOWER

SEPTEMBER 2016

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, TITUSVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

A Note from Pastor Norma Murphy

The Lord be with you all!

¹These are the words of the letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the remaining elders among the exiles, and to the priests, the prophets, and all the people, whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon.

⁴Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: ⁵Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. ⁶Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. ⁷But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

¹⁰For thus says the Lord: Only when Babylon's seventy years are completed will I visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. ¹¹For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7, 10-11

These words were written to exiles – refugees! – from Jerusalem who were now in Babylon after being defeated by the Babylonian army. They were forced to travel to Babylon and settle there where a strong eye could be kept on them by their oppressors.

Jeremiah writes that they are to settle in to Babylon, to make themselves at home there. This in a place that feels decidedly UN-homey. This in a place that feels totally foreign.

Our world often feels totally foreign to us, as well. It is not at all ‘like it was’ back in the day. It can make our heads spin at best and make us want to scream and run off and hide at worst. What would you most like to change about the world in 2016?

Despite all the changes in our lives – at home, at work, at school or at church – God is with us everywhere and at all times. We can never go where God is not with us (see Psalm 139!). That matters far more than if worship changes or we move or change jobs or schools. Because those things are bound to change, some of them might in the next month or two, we have to accept that the only constant in life, besides God, is change! Yet we still rail against it, and fight it with all our might.

What new place is God calling you to be ‘at home’ in this new church season? And what new place is God calling First Presbyterian Church to be ‘at home’ in for the future? These and other questions are the work of our interim time together. At the least, perhaps we can gain some true empathy for refugees here and abroad, who must leave their homes and find a way to settle afresh in a new country. And at best, we can find together a way forward to new life at FPC.

Grace and peace,
Norma

Session News

Your Session met to discern God’s leading for our congregation on Monday, July 18, 2016. During the meeting the spiritual leaders of the church:

- Discussed the role of the office of Deacons, appointing a Task Force of Gloria Taylor, Jim McFarland and Interim Pastor Norma Prina Murphy to make a recommendation
- Received a report from Tom Newcombe on the College Ministry
- Heard from Christian Education Committee that there will be a new curriculum for Sunday School and also there will be a curriculum for Transformation Tuesdays. Also reported that the combined youth group with Pleasantville PC have done a variety of mission activities, including collecting litter in the community, making cookies for the police and fire fighters, and weeding for the elderly or shut-in.
- Heritage Committee reported that the committee is working to collect data and planning training of persons to lead historical tours

- Mission Committee is sponsoring a fundraiser for Associated Charities “Back to School” items and money
- Stewardship Committee plans to have a guest speaker in the fall
- Finance Committee estimates that \$120,000 will need to be drawn from the endowment account to balance the budget for 2016. They have requested a meeting with Building and Grounds to discuss long term and short term needs.
- Expressed that members felt more positive, leading to increased attendance

And 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-p.m. to build relationships with the youth
- Took action on a motion from Personnel Committee, approving Nathaniel Licht as service 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
- We’re 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

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

The Lombard Mennonite Peace Center Problem Solving Meeting

A meeting of the LMPC Problem Solving Phase will take place on September 10, 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 into the church office or by calling 827-3665.

Rally Day - September 11

We'll be celebrating Rally Day on Sunday, September 11th, this is the time each year when we go back to our regular schedule of Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. and Worship at 11 a.m. Come join us in the sanctuary!

Upcoming Meetings

Christian Education - Thursday, September 8, 6 p.m., Conference Room

Finance Committee - Monday, September 12, 5 p.m., Conference Room

History Committee - Sunday, September 18, 12 noon, Conference Room

PW Board - Monday, September 26, 4 p.m., Conference Room

Session - Monday, September 26, 7 p.m., Conference Room

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

Art McIntyre, Adam Middleton, Bob Schneider, and Dick Zimmerman

Christian Education

Sunday School to Begin on September 11th

The Christian Education Committee has been working hard to find a new curriculum that will be engaging for our children and adults. Rally Day is the term we give for the first day of Sunday school for all ages. All classes (except Nursery) will meet in the sanctuary at 9:45 a.m. on this first morning. Following a brief opening, all classes will go to their individual classrooms to get better acquainted and celebrate their first day together. Engraved Bibles will be presented to the incoming 6th graders.

The Sunday School Teachers for 2016-2017 year are:

Resource Consultant:	Allan Hughes
Preschool/Nursery:	Tammy Evans and Amanda Sterling
K4 – Fourth Grade:	Susan Atteberry, Eric Fenske, Kiev Hargest, Heidi Wonderling, Jennifer Warner, and Polly Deitz (aide)
5 th – 8 th Grades	Terry Davitt and Pandi Ford
9 th – 12 th Grades	Toby Cressman, Dede Kerr, and Tanya Zahn
Lee Green Class:	Bruce Smith and David Fitz
Commissioned Women:	Marcia Garrett and Nancy Roeder
Inquirer's Class:	Ruling Elders

Fall Youth Group to Begin

It's that time again! School is starting up, and so are the youth groups of First Presbyterian Church in Titusville. Open to any students in 6th through 12th grade, youth group will be a blend of service, worship, study and fellowship. Our first meeting will be September 11, 2016, from 5-6:30 for middle school and 6:30-8 for high school. If you are new to youth group, follow the vanilla scent (or signs) upstairs to the prayer room and bring a friend! See Pandi Ford or Eryn Lavery, youth group leaders, for more information.

Women's Bible Study

Welcome to a new season of fellowship! The women's Bible study will resume September 13th. We will be meeting every Tuesday morning from 9:30-10:45 in the conference room. We will be 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.

For any questions contact Shannon Grinder at 564-1330. We look forward to seeing you!

Transformation Tuesdays to Return on September 13th!

It's time to sharpen your pencils, pack a lunch, and start back to school! Transformation Tuesdays, our after-school program for children in K-5 through 5th grades will return begin on Tuesday, September 13, 2016.

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

Registration forms may be found in the church office, or by contacting Filippa Duke. 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

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 pm at the Blue Canoe Brewery, beginning 9/15/16. Anyone over the age of 21 is invited to join the discussion, regardless of faith or personal belief. Please pray for this group as they seek to not only study God's Word, but also to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to the wait-staff and other patrons at the Blue Canoe. See Jesse or Eryn Lavery for any questions / further information.

Moms' Small Group to Meet

A small group for moms of young children will begin meeting every other Thursday from 7-8 p.m. beginning 9/22/16 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.

Up, In & Out Service Report

The combined youth groups of Pleasantville Presby and First Presby in Titusville have had a very satisfying summer of serving in the name of Christ! Meeting weekly all summer long, this group had the privilege of doing yard work for the elderly, picking up trash after the Oil Festival in Titusville, baking and distributing cookies to Titusville fire/police, delivering invitations to church to each family living on the church's block, serving at the Erie City Mission, and sharing hot dogs and fellowship with senior citizens who live alone. We've developed a taste for serving those in need, which will carry on monthly throughout the school year in youth group. Anyone going into 6th through 12th grade is invited to join us Sunday evenings in the prayer room from 5-6:30 for middle school, 6:30-8 for high school. See Pandi Ford or Eryn Lavery, youth group leaders, for more information.

Chancel Choir

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

Memorial Handbell Choir to Begin on September 6th!



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.

2016 Music Camp a Success!

On August 8-12th, we welcomed 13 children into our first annual Children's Music Camp. Campers sang, played handchimes and Orff instruments, learned to read music, played games, made crafts, and enjoyed delicious snacks each day. At the end of the week, there was an Open House where the campers sang and played instruments for friends and family. To see daily updates from the week, check out our Facebook Page (Transformation Tuesdays at First Presbyterian Church).

This week would not have been possible without the help of our volunteers who helped each day and provided snacks. An enormous thank you is extended to James McGinnis, Eryn Lavery, Dede Kerr, Debbie Kirvan, and Sandy Smith!

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 and some of its tragic history of communal violence and how the YAV's work with local churches and community projects to 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 September 30, 2016.

Campus Ministries

College Fellowship Meetings Here at the Church

The College Fellowship Meetings will continue here in Scheide Hall on Sunday, September 11, at 5:30 p.m. An atmosphere of spiritual growth and exploration; to support, foster, and challenge those in the college community to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ, is what we hope to achieve.

Senior Adult Ministry (SAM's Club) Ministry

SAM's Club Potluck Dinner

On Wednesday, September 21, SAM's Club will host a potluck dinner with guest speaker will be Ray Szalewicz. Ray is a longtime columnist writer of "Second Growth" for the Titusville Herald.

Bring a tureen to share. Tableware and beverage will be provided.

SAM's Club to Continue 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 event take place in Emerson Parlor at 1 p.m.

SAM's Club Lunch and a Movie Returns

Beginning on Friday, September 16, at 12 noon in Scheide Hall, the SAM's Club Lunch and a Movie will return. Potato soup will be served, followed by the movie Zootopia" by Disney.

Lunch and a Movie will meet again on Friday, September 30th, and 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.

Triple F

Start Up Meeting

Triple F (Fun, Faith and Fellowship) for all adults over 18 (single or couples) will begin to meet again, but not until we have a planning meeting first. A meeting for anyone, who would like to be part of the committee, will be held at Maria's Italian Restaurant on Wednesday, September 7 at 6:30 p.m. You can order dinner at this time at your own cost. Hope to see you there! If you can't make the meeting, but would like to be part of the committee, please call the church office at 827-3665.

Birthdays

Evelyn Kelley	1	Kristin Arendash	11	Bob Schneider	18
Mike Nystrom	2	Nancy Roeder	11	Jane Watson	21
Sherry Stover	3	Barb Kocher	12	Cid Paden	22
Bud Root	5	Amanda Enright	14	Mike Langer	22
Shawn Harrison	5	Jane Morrison	14	Judy Scott	27
Joan Foley	6	Jessica Decker	15	Becky Middleton	27
Tye Cressman	6	Jim McFarland	15	Ken Spence	28
Todd Greer	7	Jim Pattison	16	John Shoup	29
Marc Bodamer	7	Stacie Warner	16	Barb Reagle	29
Terry Wonderling	10	Jena Sutley	16	Audrey Renn	29
Susan Atteberry	10	David Sutley	18	Sandy Chandler	30

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

We missed Robert Kelley's birthday on August 29th. Happy belated birthday Bob!

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

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.

Titusville Ladies Conference October 14th and 15th

The Annual Titusville Ladies Conference (TLC) will be held on October 28th and 29th at the Titusville Free Methodist Church. This year's speaker is Carol Kent. For more information, look in future bulletins or call The Free Methodist Church at 827-3617.

Mark your calendar now and invite a friend!

A Food Pantry

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

Boy Scout Troop Meets on Mondays

Beginning Monday, September 12, at 6 p.m., in Scheide Hall, all boys in grades Kindergarten - 5th, 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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Email: eryn@erynlavery.com

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