



The Exciter

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NORTH EAST
25 West Main Street • North East PA 16428 • (814) 725-8641

No. 557

April 2016

CLERK'S CORNER



Greetings to my church family! I hope you all had a blessed Easter!

With great joy and thankfulness to the Lord our God, I share with you that approximately \$2,000 was distributed to various organizations from the Sustaining Gift Trust Fund. The following organizations received a distribution: CHOSEN Mission Project, CAPNWP (camping), Women's Care Center, Presbyterian Homes Caring for Life, Common Ground, and SIM Kirschner Mission.

Your Session is beginning to discuss how to finance large-ticket building projects. Currently, the break wall south of the church is in need of repair. Also, the brickwork on the main church building needs attention. Did you know these bricks are from the year 1880? It's also a softer style of brick than what was used decades later for the Christian Education wing. We are investigating grants and considering a capital campaign. Currently, these projects are estimated at \$90,000 total.

Christian Education will be starting a new group for parents with young children. Also, a new class will be offered soon on the Islamic faith.

Some dates you will want to keep in mind are April 17, which is Blanket Sunday, June 18 for a Seawolves game at 7:00 P.M., and hold August 6 or 7 for a Fellowship picnic at Freeport beach.

Grace and peace to you all,
Patti Kuna, Clerk of Session



SAVE THE DATE FOR AN UPCOMING MISSION CONVOCATION

The Christian Education (CE) Committee is pleased to present the upcoming Mission Convocation. Kris Wamsley of World Vision in West Virginia will be joining us on Sunday, April 10 to share her experiences and mission with World Vision. Kris will speak to both adults and youth during the Sunday School hour with short introductory snippets in both the 8:30 and 11:00 A.M. worship services. The CE Committee will host a coffee hour in honor of Kris following the 11:00 A.M. service.

MAY 15 IS TEACHER RECOGNITION SUNDAY

Please join us on Sunday, May 15 during our 11:00 A.M. worship service as we honor our Sunday School and Bible Study teachers, facilitators, and substitutes. We will celebrate and recognize all their hard work and dedication they have given each Sunday to both the Christian Education program and our students over the past year. Be sure to keep them in your prayers as they complete their classes to make disciples out of our children, young people, and adults.

★ The last day of Kids' Sunday School is May 15. ★

TEACH
encourage
instruct
MENTOR
PRAISE
influence
GUIDE
INSPIRE



Pastor Gregg D. Townsend

VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.FPCNE.ORG

FLOWER AND COFFEE HOUR CHARTS

Please take a few moments to stop by and sign up to bring flowers in honor of an occasion, in memory of a loved one, or just to praise God. Also, please consider signing up to host coffee hour. Both charts are posted on the bulletin board outside of the church office. Speak with Jennifer Spencer in the office for details.

FELLOWSHIP AND FAITH

The Fellowship Committee had their Spring Fling Brunch on Saturday, March 19. We had 24 people attend the event where we had beautifully set tables of spring colors and bouquets. June Peters catered the event, and we had enough to serve after church service on Sunday. Door prizes were given out with enough for everyone to get a prize. It was a wonderful time of food and fellowship.



IF YOU HAVE A PRAYER REQUEST, speak with Pastor Gregg, call Jennifer in the church office (814-725-8641), or email our prayer chain (jlivingston@neo.rr.com OR jspencer@fpcne.org). Email us if you'd like to be added to our email prayer chain.



THE PRAYER CHAIN

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN NEWS

Presbyterian Women Lake Erie Presbytery Spring Gathering "Celebrate and Discover the Gifts of Women"

Wayside Presbyterian Church

1208 Asbury Road, Erie PA 16505

Saturday, April 30, 2016 from 9:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M.

Ronee Christy, pastor of the Oil City First Presbyterian Church, will lead us in looking at several women in scripture who differ in their gifts, ages, and circumstances in life. We will take time to recognize personal and individual gifts of women. In addition, we will spend an hour with a portion of the Tennessee Backporch Band — Julie, Chris and Rebecca Moore — as they lead us in a spirit-filled musical journey!



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

Registration begins at 9:30 A.M., a continental-style breakfast will be provided by New Hope Presbyterian Women. Lunch will be \$6.00, but if you are a first time attendee at a Presbytery level PW event, **it will be free**. All Presbyterian women are welcome.

NOTE: Free childcare will be available, but you must request and RSVP by April 17. Please pack a lunch for your child; juice or milk will be provided.

The Mission Project for this event is in support of the Second Harvest Food Bank. Please bring a food item with you to support Wayside PW in their collection efforts for the Second Harvest Food Bank. The most needed items are: spaghetti sauce, peanut butter, and cereal.

**RSVP to Wayside Presbyterian Church office at (814) 833-7653.
Reservation deadline is Wednesday, April 20.**



VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.FPCNE.ORG

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN! LET'S CELEBRATE OUR BIRTHDAYS!

April is your special birthday month! Yes, it all began in 1922 when Presbyterian Women were asked to celebrate the years of their lives by giving a penny for each year of their life to help an orphanage in Japan. The birthday offering, given by Presbyterian Women of Faith, began a tradition of meeting the needs of God's children through acts of mission.

Today, we are joining Presbyterian Women throughout our country to raise \$500,000 for the 2016 mission recipients. The selected programs include: *Heartland 180* in Overland, Kansas, which serves boys and girls between the ages of 11 and 17 who have been part of the criminal justice system; *Habitat for Humanity East Bay/Silicon Valley* who will partner with 100 individuals and families to repair the manufactured homes of low income families—many who are elderly or disabled;

Direct Action and Research Training Center (DART) who will train clergy and lay leaders to build powerful local justice ministries; and *Building Minds in South Sudan*, which invests in girls' education by funding the construction of a girls' primary school for grades one through eight in South Sudan. The school will serve some 600 girls.

In April, we will celebrate our birthdays at our Spring Gathering. (See article above.) At this time, we will receive our "birthday offering," welcome a speaker, and disburse funds.

How much is each year on earth worth to those for whom you care each day? Ask them to join in your birthday contribution so that we can give generously to meeting the needs of these worthy 2016 mission recipients!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS



Kids' Choir News

Under the direction of Jenn McClure and assisted by Donna Banks, Kids' Choir will soon be starting to meet the week of March 28, so we can begin to prepare for our latest upcoming performance on Youth Sunday. The Youth Choir will meet for our first time on Wednesday, March 30 from 4:30 to 5:15 P.M. We will continue to practice on Wednesday afternoons as well as Prayer and Praise time on Sundays up until April 24. The Kids' Choir will perform on Sunday, April 24 for Youth Sunday.

Plans Being Made for Youth Sunday

Plans are currently underway for this year's Senior Luncheon and Youth Sunday celebration. The luncheon, where we will honor graduates Brenan Burch, Nathan Mayes, Jesse Magee, Amber McKenery, and Brittany Jones, will take place on Sunday, April 24. The Christian Education Committee will provide meat, potatoes, various salads, rolls, and butter and cake for desert. Members are welcome to bring an additional dish to share if they wish. We will have a special speaker for the luncheon. Look for future announcements with more details.

Early Easter Celebration & Fun

The children enjoyed a meaningful, fun-filled time on Palm Sunday with an early Easter celebration. The Middle and High School Youth presented a program to the younger children, which included the reading of two Easter stories, an Easter egg hunt, games, and relay races. Our older youth did a phenomenal job with the program!

2016 Youth Mission Trip Plans

The Christian Education Committee is currently in the process of making final plans for the 2016 Youth Mission trip. Part of this process includes raising additional funds to support the trip. Our first silent auction fundraiser was a huge success and raised over \$900.

Our second fundraiser will be a Bake Sale on Sunday, April 17 following the 11:00 A.M. worship service. We are currently requesting donations of bagged items to sell at the bake sale. All profits will be directly applied to expenses surrounding the Mission Trip to Philippi, West Virginia this coming July.

Please note that if baking is one of your favorite activities but bagging is not, we would be happy to bag your items. We request that you make note if there are any peanuts or tree nuts in your special treats.



Upcoming Christian Education Opportunity

The CE Committee will be offering a new Sunday School class beginning Sunday, April 3. The class will be a seven-week study and take place during the 9:45 A.M. Sunday School hour. There will be three sessions in April and four in May. This class entitled, "She Reads Truth," will be facilitated by Lesley Hazen and will include video segments with great opportunity for group discussion. The study will be facilitated from a Reformed Doctrine perspective, which will focus on a Presbyterian perspective of the Scriptures. The class is open to anyone interested in exploring and growing in their faith. For additional information and to order materials, please speak to Lesley Hazen or Donna Banks.



DISCOVERING THE DEEP BLUE SEA

Vacation Bible School

June 20 to 24

9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

Get ready to dive deep and discover the *Deep Blue Sea* where kids will learn that "God Is With Them Wherever they Go!" We will be exploring God's presence in our lives beginning on June 20 at 9:00 A.M. and going until about noon. All kids Preschool to sixth grade are welcome to join us as we discover a whole new world. Come early to check in and get your t-shirt, so you are ready to go when our ocean creatures come alive. This step back into time will take place daily right here at the FPCNE!

Each day will begin with large-group music, a skit, and fun, where kids will be introduced to a specific Bible story. Then after kids experience the other activities of the day, kids will regroup to review, to be encouraged, and to be motivated to serve others!

Other activities will include exploration of selected Bible stories in a variety of interactive ways; learning about applying the story by completing the "It's Your Serve" service challenge. Kids will also enjoy a time for creating crafts, fun and games, and interactive snack time. All of these fun activities connect to the Bible story, Bible Memory, and the Life Focus of the day.

Preregistration will be available in the Assembly Room after the 11:00 A.M. worship services throughout May and June. It will also be available on our church website at WWW.FPCNE.ORG, or call our church office (814) 725-8641.

Please see Donna Banks for questions.

Looking for Volunteers for the 2016 Vacation Bible School

We wouldn't be able to provide such an amazing experience for the children and youth of our church and community without our wonderful volunteers. So consider this the call for your services!

We are looking for volunteers for setting up, tearing down and experiencing VBS week. This year's VBS will begin on Monday, June 20, with set-up on June 19 and take-down on June 26. Please look for the volunteer sign-up sheet in the Assembly Room or see Donna Banks. Remember, there are jobs for everyone. Come and enjoy the experience of a lifetime, and join us for VBS!



Pastor Gregg D. Townsend

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LIBRARY SPOTLIGHT



Congratulations to Marge Campbell and Charlotte Magill, winners of “Let’s Get Sea-rious about Reading Promotion.” The Library Board wishes to thank everyone who participated.

The following books were donated by Jean Bahm, Florence Croscut, Marge Campbell, Sue and Jeff Hinman.

1. *The Emerald Book of Faith* by Elaine Creasman – Sayings and quotes from the Bible
2. *Chicken Soup for the Christian Soul* by Jack Canfield – Stories to open the heart and rekindle the spirit.
3. *Together Is Forever* by Word Publishing – Quotations from the Bible
4. *Holy Bible* (NKJV)
5. *Bonhoffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy* by Eric Metaxas – A biography
6. *A Sister’s Secret* by Wanda E. Brunstetter – What effect will her secret have on the community?
7. *A Cousin’s Challenge* by Wanda E. Brunstetter – Find out what happens when an accident leaves an Amish girl deaf.

The Library Board

BELL CHOIR NEWS

Bell Choir Celebration Tour

This is the third year our FPCNE Bell Choir, along with Director Jack Salter, will be ringing on the road. It all started two years ago, when Sibyl Hinman, a resident of Manchester Commons asked if we would come and play because she missed hearing us ring. That first year, we traveled to Manchester Lodge and gave a concert to the folks there on a Saturday morning in the spring.

Last year, we added Ball Pavilion at Brevillier Village to our schedule and made an entire day of it. Everyone had a great time! The ringers got to see the beautiful new skilled-care area at Manchester and made a special point to visit Sibyl in her room — much to her delight. The residents loved listening and watching as we warmed up just as much as our concert!

We even have a few “roadies” as Steve Seymour, Jeff Hinman, and Scott and Ashley Connors helped with setup and teardown and enjoyed both concerts. So off we will go on Saturday, April 30 for our third FPCNE Bell Tour as we ring at Manchester Commons in the morning and Ball Pavilion in the afternoon. It’s one little way we can bring some sunshine and joy as we share God’s love with the residents there.

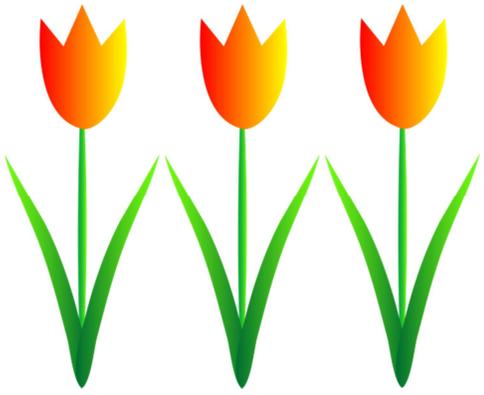


SERVICE SCHEDULES

DATE	USHERS	READER
April 3	Dave Meehl, John Wilcox, Roger Meehl, Dianne Tyler, Evelyn Daughrity	Beth Seymour
April 10	Bob & Sandy Nelson, Ron Blosser, Al Mohnkern, Vivian Daughrity	Cody Regan
April 17	Vern & Kitty Hurlburt, Garrett Connors, Joe & Sue Spacht	Dave Meehl
April 24	Kathy & Lynn Peterson, Barb Blount, Steve Seymour, Cole Elkin	Wanda Cochrane
DATE	NURSERY	ACOLYTE
April 3	Lisa and Marissa Kelly	Tommy Hartner
April 10	Tracy and Ashley Connors	Tessa Bemiss
April 17	Christy Mayes and Cindy Lilly	Ava Alcorn
April 24	Deanna Ott and Becky Oyler	Madison Thomson



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EASTER FLOWERS

FLOWERS ON EASTER SUNDAY WERE GIVEN IN HONOR OF:

Our children: Mark, Stephanie, Nate & Ben Murray; Jeff & Lisa Murray by Bob & Sally Murray
Our family and friends by Dave & Vicki Williams
Patricia Livingston by Jane Livingston
My granddaughters, Amber and Alyssa McKenery, by Yvonne Peck
Our dear church family by the Northrup, McClure & Weber families
Lois Siverling by Billie and Ron Blosser
Kay Tyler by the Tyler Family
Richard Gilbert by the Tyler Family
Colleen Gilbert by the Tyler Family
Our moms, Audrey Moore and Sibyl Hinman by Susan and Jeff Hinman

FLOWERS ON EASTER SUNDAY WERE GIVEN IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Bob & Lois Norris; Bob & Louise Murray by Bob & Sally Murray
Our loved ones by Dave & Vicki Williams
Mary Ann Boyd by Robert C. Boyd
Robert S. & Helen M. Reid by Mary Ann Reid-Boyd
Hal Olson by Emelyn Olson
Meryl & Sara Bemiss; Al & Virginia Walz by Bev & Al Walz
Kim & Corine Johnson; Marlene Chase by Clark & Abby Johnson
Walter & Dorothy Walworth by Clark & Abby Johnson
Catherine & Doug Reid by the Family
C. Maurice Youngs & Genevieve Youngs Steadman by Deanna Ott
Melvin & Ann Ott by Deanna Ott
Cleon Livingston by Jane Livingston
Birdie Campbell by the Regan Family
Donald Campbell by his Family
Anna K. Luchs by John Luchs
Walter Sr. & Walter Jr. Luchs by John Luchs
Ted Peck by Yvonne Peck
Alan "Papa" McClure by the Northrup, McClure & Weber families
Joan Spacht by Carl Spacht
Douglas Burch by the Burch Family
Esther Neil by the Burch Family
Lucy and Frank Crouch by Jean Burch
Ross and Martha Orton by Roy and Carol Orton
Dan Reese by Carol Reese
Our Loved Ones by Andy, Jaimee, Emma and Alivia Knight
Robin "Nana" Nagle by Ali and Amelia Nagle
Roberta Louise Nagle by Jan A. Nagle
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Laing by Fred and Barb Brostmeyer
Mr. and Mrs. Quincy Brostmeyer by Fred and Barb Brostmeyer
Susan Zahner by Richard Zahner
Marty Kelly by Marissa and Lisa Kelly
David Lee and William P. Banks by Donna Banks
Cliff and Eleanor Taylor; Virginia Whitney by Kathy and Dean Taylor
Howard and Ruth Wagner by Pauline Fisher
Christopher Paul Fisher by Pauline Fisher
Paul Leroy Fisher by Pauline Fisher

