



The Exciter

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

No. 562

December 2016

THE PASTOR'S PEN

Advent is about the future.

Many think of this season as a time to look back in an annual attempt to remember and even recreate Jesus' birth. We decorate the sanctuary with a Nativity set. Some years our youth dress up and perform a play, each of them playing the part of one of the people present on that holy night (complete with a doll in the manger). We sing hymns and songs about Jesus' birth.

Advent, however is about the future. Yes, we do and we should look back to Jesus' first Advent – his first coming. Yet we do so in anticipation of his second Advent – his return. WE look back to see what has begun in Jesus Christ. We look forward in the season of Advent to see what shall be. Advent is about the completion of what began at Jesus' birth. Advent is a time when we purposefully and hopefully look forward to the consummation of God's Kingdom and the fullness of God's righteousness, healing, peace, love and joy. This year, I hope that you will take part in our celebrations.

Come! Come each Sunday to hear from God's word and worship our coming King. Our theme throughout the season will be "What Star is This?". Also, there are a number of special events planned. There will be a special Advent Program and Dinner on Sunday afternoon, December 4 at 4:00 P.M., a Christmas Cantata on December 18, our annual Candlelight Service on December 24 at 7:30 PM, and a Christmas Morning Worship Service at 11:00 A.M. where we will fill the service with Christmas readings and carols. You can see further details in the inserted Advent and Christmas Calendar. Post it on your fridge so that you won't miss being here and sharing in the joy!

Face forward! Look ahead! Hope and pray for all that God has promised us in his Son and our Lord Jesus!

Pastor Gregg



2016 ANNUAL FAMILY ADVENT DINNER

As you are planning your holiday schedule, mark your calendar and plan to attend our annual Family Advent Program and Dinner on Sunday, December 4 following the Advent Program at 4:00 P.M. Please bring a large dish to share. We hope to see you there!

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS SERVICE SCHEDULE

- Sunday, December 4 at 4:00 P.M. – Annual Advent Program and Dinner
- Sunday, December 18 at 11:00 A.M. – Christmas Cantata and Worship Service
- Friday, December 24 at 7:30 P.M. – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
- Saturday, December 25 at 11:00 A.M. – Christmas Morning Worship Service



Pastor Gregg D. Townsend

VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.FPCNE.ORG



SAMARITAN'S PURSE – "OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD"

Operation Christmas Child, sponsored by Samaritan's Purse, was a success! How wonderful it is to know that our church participated in spreading the love of Jesus and the message of love, joy and hope to so many children in other countries who would normally not have a Christmas. Sponsored by the Christian Education and Mission Committees, the youth and adults from our church filled almost 70 boxes! Thanks to all who helped with this mission project.

ADVENT IS HERE!

Attention all those young and old who enjoy the festivities of holiday and reflecting upon the gift of our Lord Jesus Christ! You are cordially invited to our Annual Family Advent Program on Sunday, December 4 at 4:00 P.M. The children and youth of our church have a meaningful program planned.

In addition, plan to join your church family for dinner downstairs in Fellowship Hall following the program. We ask that you bring a large dish to share.

CHRISTMAS COOKIES

The Youth will once again be your bakers for the Christmas season. We will be taking orders after the 8:30 and 11:00 A.M. worship services through December 4. You may also contact the church office to place an order.

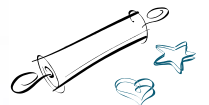
The price has been frozen at \$10 for a scrumptious plate of 2-dozen cookies and goodies. You are asked to pick up your cookies on Sunday, December 11.

Youth group members are invited to the church for baking on Saturday, December 10 from 10:00 A.M. until about 2:00 P.M.

The youth are requesting donations of all sorts of baking supplies (flour, sugar, butter, sprinkles, etc.) to help defer the cost of our cookie baking project. If you are able to help, please drop off your donations in the church office.

Please see Donna Banks if you have any questions or would like to help.

B★KING
for GOOD



COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS BOXES

North East Community Christmas Boxes provide many families with food during the Christmas season. You can support this mission by making a financial contribution and by volunteering. Our church is responsible for providing about 175 cans of green beans for this year's boxes. If you know of someone in need, please pick up an application in the church office. Fill it out and return to the office by December 5.

2017 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN NEEDS YOU!

CALLING ALL MEMBERS!

Have you made a financial pledge to your church? Initial pledge cards were sent several weeks ago. In order to write a responsible and balanced budget, the Session needs to be able to anticipate giving for the coming year. We cannot do this without the pledges of our membership.

As it says in Luke 6:38, "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

Thank you in advance for your gift!

The Stewardship Committee

MISSION COMMITTEE NEWS

The Mission Committee has been active in the past month. We partnered with the C.E. Committee on Samaritan's Purse "Operation Christmas Child." We set our goals high and had great results, with almost 70 boxes sent to children all over the world.

We were blessed with the opportunity to prepare and serve a meal to the homeless in Erie at the Church of the Covenant overflow shelter on November 19. You (our congregation) were very supportive of this endeavor by providing an abundance of food and a small army of volunteers. Thank you to everyone who contributed.



PLACE YOUR ORDER FOR CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

We are taking orders for red poinsettias from Luke’s Greenhouse to help beautify our sanctuary for the Christmas season. Please complete the order form below, and submit, along with your payment, to the church office by **Sunday, December 11**. The price is **\$9.75**. Checks should be made payable to “First Presbyterian Church” with “poinsettia” on the memo line. If you would like to designate your poinsettia(s) in honor or memory of a loved one, **submit the name(s) to the church office no later than Sunday, December 11** for printing in the bulletin.



_____ Poinsettias @ \$9.75 each

The poinsettia is “IN MEMORY OF” _____

The poinsettia is “IN HONOR OF” _____

This form is submitted by _____

You may pick up your poinsettia after the Christmas Eve Service on December 24. Any poinsettias left at the church will be taken to shut-ins.

✂ Cut here and submit to the church office by December 11 - - - - -

LIBRARY SPOTLIGHT: ANGEL TREE GIFTS

Books for all ages are on display and ready to be given to the library in honor or memory of a loved one. All you have to do is fill out a nametag and place it on the Angel Tree. Checks may be made out to “Gertrude Bostwick Memorial Library” and given to Jan Trojanowski.

May you and your family have a blessed Christmas!

REACH OUT TO OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

We have several members who are homebound and who would treasure a note, phone call or prayer from you.

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| ★ Raymond Baybrook | ★ Bert Page |
| ★ Evelyn Hammer | ★ Carolyn Luebke |
| ★ Lee Lampkin | ★ Betty Stone |
| ★ Betty Page | ★ Judy Wassink |
| ★ Ann Higgins | ★ Dick Zahner |
| ★ Sybil Hinman | |

TANGIBLY HELPING LOCAL STUDENTS IN NEED

Did you know that our church houses funds to address the unmet needs of children within the North East School District? It is known as the North East Children’s Fund and can be used for purchases such as haircuts, clothing, underclothing, winter wear, shoes, boots, backpacks, school supplies and hygiene items. Students Kindergarten through 12th Grade are eligible.

If your own children have needs, or if you know of others who might be assisted by this fund, please contact the respective Guidance Counselor below:

Kindergarten – 5th Grade
Allison Buttaccio, Guidance Counselor
(814)725-8671 ext. 3300
abuttaccio@nesd1.org

6th – 8th Grade
Mr. Jon Sedelmyer, Guidance Counselor
(814)725-8671 ext. 2005
jsedelmyer@nesd1.org

9th AND 11th Grade
Mr. Matt Puskar, School Counselor
(814)725-8671 ext. 1005
mpuskar@nesd1.org

10th AND 12th Grade
Ms. Laura Panek, School Counselor
(814)725-8671 ext. 1015
lpunek@nesd1.org

This resource has been historically funded by the Presbyterian Women’s Association, the church’s Sustaining Gift Trust Fund, church members and individuals from the community. If you wish to contribute to the fund your gift is tax deductible.

Thank you!
Sally Murray, Deacon at FPCNE
Shelley Allen, Secretary to the NESD Superintendent
Patti Kuna, Treasurer at FPCNE



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN BOOK CLUB



The Presbyterian Women (PW) will not gather for their monthly Book Club in December. However, the club looks forward to reconvening on January 12, 2017 at 2 P.M. in the conference room. They will be discussing When Breath Becomes Air by Paul Kalanithi.

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS



Westminster College in New Wilmington, PA is one of 56 Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) colleges and universities in the United States. There are two (2) significant college scholarships available, each worth \$19,000 annually for a total of \$76,000 over four years per award.

Rising high school students are eligible if they possess at least a 3.5 cumulative grade point average, are members of the PC(USA) and are formally nominated by the pastor/congregation. Applications for “The Young Presbyterian Scholars Program” are in the church office, or may be found online at: www.westminster.edu/yps. Pastor/congregation nominations are due February 1, 2017. Student applications are due February 15, 2017.

This scholarship program address two important needs. First, it helps families in meeting college affordability challenges. Second, it helps keep our young people involved in the PC(USA). Students will be involved in a program that quickly connects them with a mentoring program, fellowship and growth opportunities that are faith-based. It also provides them with leadership development programming that will benefit them and the church for years to come.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



Send some unexpected birthday love to this month to our beloved members.

Dorothy Larson
Betty Page

December 23
December 24

This is a new feature of “The Exciter.” If you or a loved one would like to be included, please forward the pertinent information to the church office at: 814-725-8641 or office@fpcne.org. Thank you!

SERVICE SCHEDULES

DATE	USHERS	NURSERY
December 4	Dave Meehl, John Wilcox, Roger Meehl, Dianne Tyler, Sophie Tyler	Dean and Kathy Taylor
December 11	Bob & Sandy Nelson, Ron Blosser, Al Mohnkern, Vivian Daughrity	Dennis and Sandy Drab
December 18	Vern & Kitty Hurlburt, Joe & Sue Spacht, Garrett Connors	Payton and Sherri Lanahan
December 25	Kathy & Lynn Peterson, Barb Blount, Steve Seymour, Cole Elkin	Dave Meehl
January 1	Dave Meehl, John Wilcox, Roger Meehl, Dianne Tyler, Sophie Tyler	Jean, Ali, and Brendan Bahm
January 8	Bob & Sandy Nelson, Ron Blosser, Al Mohnkern, Vivian Daughrity	Selina and Dave Uglow
January 15	Vern & Kitty Hurlburt, Joe & Sue Spacht, Garrett Connors	Krissy Lane and Julie Cole
January 22	Kathy & Lynn Peterson, Barb Blount, Steve Seymour, Cole Elkin	Paul and Barb Zorzie
January 29	Jerry Weinheimer, Bob Murray, Tom Schenker, Peggy Walsh, Evelyn Daughrity	Heidi and Tessa Bemis





WHAT STAR is this?

Advent and Christmas

at First Presbyterian Church of North East

Worship with us each Sunday throughout Advent as we reflect on the theme, "What Star Is This?"
Pastor Gregg Townsend will offer thoughtful and inspiring messages on each Advent theme.

Sunday, November 27 AT 8:30 & 11:00 AM

ADVENT WORSHIP SERVICES

Join us for worship on the first Sunday of Advent at 8:30 or 11:00 AM. We will light the first Advent candle, and Pastor Townsend will offer a message on "A Star of Dominion."

Sunday, December 4 AT 8:30 & 11:00 AM

ADVENT WORSHIP SERVICES

Join us for worship on the second Sunday of Advent at 8:30 or 11:00 AM. Pastor Townsend will offer a message on "A Star of Glory," and we will light the second Advent candle.

Sunday, December 4 AT 4:00 PM

ADVENT PROGRAM AND DINNER

Join us in the Sanctuary at 4:00 PM for our annual Family Advent Program. Dinner follows in Fellowship Hall. Please bring a large dish to share and your own place setting.

Sunday, December 11 AT 8:30 & 11:00 AM

ADVENT WORSHIP SERVICES

Join us for worship on the third Sunday of Advent at 8:30 or 11:00 A.M. We will light the third Advent candle, and Pastor Townsend will offer a message on "A Star of Power."

Sunday, December 18 AT 11:00 AM ONLY

CHRISTMAS CANTATA AND WORSHIP SERVICE

Share in this music-filled service on the fourth Sunday of Advent as we will light the fourth Advent candle and our Chancel Choir offers the cantata, "Come, Let Us Adore." Pastor Townsend will continue our star theme with "A Star of Hope" message.

Saturday, December 24 AT 7:30 PM

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Join us for our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. Pastor Townsend will share a special message on "A Star of Joy," we will light the Christ candle, and our choirs will fill the air with music.

Sunday, December 25 AT 11:00 AM ONLY

CHRISTMAS MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

Pastor Townsend will lead us in a special Christmas Day service, including various readings and carols.

Sunday, January 1 AT 11:00 AM ONLY

NEW YEAR'S DAY WORSHIP SERVICE

Begin the New Year by joining us for worship and celebrating communion, as Pastor Townsend resumes his series on Mark.

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

"LIKE" US ON FACEBOOK, AND KEEP UP ON THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH. We post important news and church happenings and upload lots of great photos and videos. Have something you'd like to share? Send it to Patti in the church office at office@fpcne.org, and we'll post it for you.



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