



The Exciter

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

No. 556

March 2016

THE PASTOR'S PEN



Why Jesus? Who exactly is Jesus? What difference does it make in my life that he was crucified? Did he really rise from the dead? Why does it matter if he did? How should I live my life in light of his life, death, and resurrection? If you have ever wondered the answers to these questions — and who hasn't? — then plan on joining us for this year's Holy Week services. I'd like to ask you to attend each service this year. I know that our schedules are full and that we are a busy group of people, but I promise that it will be worth your while! The music at this year's services will be excellent and inspiring, prayers will be genuine and heart-felt, and I'll do my best to deliver the best message from God's word that I possibly can. Here are some of the details:

- **Palm Sunday, March 20, 8:30 A.M. and 11:00 A.M.** We will celebrate Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem and celebrate him as our King, a King who gave up his life for us.
- **Maundy Thursday, March 24, 7:00 P.M.** On this night we remember the Lord's Supper and the manner in which he served his closest followers by washing their feet.
- **Good Friday, March 25, 7:00 P.M.** This gathering will be a special time of music and reflection centered on the crucifixion of Jesus.
- **Holy Saturday, March 26 is our Easter Vigil Service.** We will gather on the church steps — yes, the church steps! — at **7:39 P.M.** — yes, 7:39! Come and find out why there and why then! On that night, we will celebrate the resurrection, rehearse the story of salvation, and renew our baptism.
- **Easter Sunday, March 27, 8:30 A.M. and 11:00 A.M.** Christ is Risen!

Keep walking in the Spirit. God is doing great things in our midst!

In the service of the King,
Pastor Gregg

LIFE LESSONS: Learning to live all over again.



LENT 2016

►► **ONLINE SERMONS:** You can catch up on Pastor Gregg's sermon series on Galatians by listening to his sermons on our church website. Visit us at FPCNE.ORG.

►► **DON'T FORGET TO "SPRING AHEAD"** to Daylight Savings time at 2:00 A.M. on Sunday, March 13.



Pastor Gregg D. Townsend

VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.FPCNE.ORG

CLERKS CORNER



Greetings to my church family!

I'm writing to update you on what we are talking about at Session. (I don't have a long report, as much of what we've been working on was covered at the annual meeting.)

One development is a surprise gift of \$214 from the Presbytery's Congregational Life Committee. The purpose for this gift is to act as seed money for a new outreach and evangelism ministry project. The number 214 represents the years the Presbytery of Lake Erie has been in existence. Currently, our committees are thinking on how to most creatively and effectively use this unexpected gift for Christ. I'll let you know what was decided soon!

Here are some dates to keep in mind: The Pastor's study leave will be April 12-18 at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, CA. Also, he will be taking vacation on June 9-15 and August 8-28. Pastor Gregg always provides for pastoral care during his absence.

The Christian Education committee will be kicking off a young families group in April. They may have a mini-progressive meal with child care available at the church.

Roger Meehl, Dianne Lucore and Dick Zahner (liaison) are new members of the Sustaining Gift Trust Fund. The Fund will be choosing its own chairperson.

Regarding the Presbytery meeting, there is ongoing controversy with the definition of marriage. It will again be discussed at the General Assembly meeting this summer.

Committee chairperson assignments were delineated at our February 22 meeting. Please get in touch with these folks if you have a suggestion, concern, or a heart to help out:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Nominating – Rodger Hazen | 9. Sustaining Gift Trust Fund liaison – Dick Zahner |
| 2. Stewardship – Craig Carlson | 10. Presbytery liaison – Dick Zahner |
| 3. Membership Development – Pauline Fisher | 11. Deacon liaison – Dick Zahner |
| 4. Fellowship – Doty Wagner | 12. Finance – Paul Zorzie |
| 5. Mission – Scott Connors | 13. Trustee liaison – Roy Orton |
| 6. Worship & Music – Marcia Regan | 14. Clerk – Patti Kuna |
| 7. Personnel – Vern Hurlburt | |
| 8. Christian Education – Tom McClure | |

Thank you and God Bless You,
Patti Kuna

A PERSONAL THANK YOU

I would like to thank everyone for all the prayers, cards, and the wonderful support that I received at the passing of my sister, Sandy. It has been very difficult for me to accept that she is gone, but I do not feel alone because my church family has been there for me. I will see her again someday in heaven. God Bless! — Jean Bahm and Family

A NOTE FROM OUR TRUSTEES

Have you seen something in the church that needs to be fixed, but not sure who to talk to? There is a Trustee Job List by the bulletin board across the hall from the church office. The Trustees will check this list weekly. Please fill out the date, your name, and the job description columns. We will do the rest. — Thanks from your Trustees



Make 2016 the year that you begin to TITHE and set aside 10% of your income to the Lord's house.



VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.FPCNE.ORG

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

There will be a Spring Fling Fellowship Brunch on Saturday, March 19 from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. catered by June Peters. The cost per person will be \$9.50 for adults and \$5.00 for children 12 and under. Bring your family and friends! Look for the sign-up sheet in the Assembly Room.



YOUTH FELLOWSHIP HELPS FIGHT HUNGER

Jesus told the disciples to show their love for him when he said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat."
(Matthew 14:16) And that is exactly what our Youth, with the help of the Christian Education and Mission Committees, helped to do as they participated in both the collection of food and serving of a meal during the *Souper Bowl of Caring*.

The Great Souper Bowl of Caring is a nationwide youth program that works to fight hunger and poverty in local communities around the time of the Super Bowl football game. The FPCNE Youth Fellowship donates 100% of the food they collect each year through the *Souper*

Bowl of Caring directly to the local North East Community Food Pantry.

The Youth took food donations with the goal of surrounding the perimeter of the sanctuary with soup, canned goods, and other nonperishable food items. They indeed met their goal as our congregation met the challenge. The abundance of food collected was boxed and delivered to the North East Community Food Pantry. These generous donations will help provide nourishment for many members of our community. Blessings overflow from this congregation. We should be proud! Thanks to everyone who donated, attended, and planned this successful event.

AND EVERYONE ATE SOUP...

The Soup was on! In celebration of our successful collection of the non-perishable food items donated to the North East Food Pantry, our Christian Education Committee, along with the Youth of our Church, warmed up winter for our congregation by serving people delicious homemade soups and hearty bread. Members of the congregation shared in consuming three delicious soups: a hearty beef vegetable, broccoli cheese, and creamy potato.

Thanks to the cooks who volunteered their gifts by cooking the soup (Jenn McClure, Beth Seymour, Katie Gallagher, McKyle and Jessica Albney, and Donna Banks). Members of the Christian Education and Mission Committees and their families baked yummy deserts and helped set up for our event. Thanks goes to Scott and Tracy Connors; Don, Dianne and

Sophie Tyler; Tom and Jenn McClure; Katie Gallagher; and Beth Seymour.

In addition, kudos to all of our energetic, dedicated youth members who not only helped serve the meal and clean-up, but also conducted our latest addition to Souper Bowl Sunday — "The Grocery Cart Race Games" and "Fill the Soup Pot." It was a great event for everyone to come together in fellowship and faith.



"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 Jennifer in the Church Office at jspencer@fpcne.org and we'll post it for you. Or feel free to post to our wall.



VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.FPCNE.ORG



Palm Sunday

The Children and Youth Sunday School of our church will participate in the presentation for the Procession of the Palms at the 11:00 A.M. worship service on Palm Sunday.

In addition, during the 11:00 A.M. service, the children are invited to enjoy a special Easter Puppet Show program entitled, "Why God Gave Us Easter," which will be followed by a fun Easter Egg Hunt. Children from pre-school age through fifth grade are invited to participate, as our Middle-High School Youth Sunday School class will direct this event.

Make A "Change" With Fish Banks

As part of our Lenten reflection, Sunday School children received "Fish Banks" on Sunday, February 14 during the 11:00 A.M. worship service. Our children were challenged to "find some change" so they can help make a "change" in the lives of so many others who are without food, water, and shelter. The children are asked to try to fill their banks and then bring them back to church on Palm Sunday or Easter Sunday where they can help fill the net, to help fulfil the needs of others.

Additional Fish Banks are available in the Assembly Room for anyone who would like to participate or needs another bank! We invite both children and adults to take part in this special Lenten mission.

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 30, so we can begin to prepare for our latest upcoming performance on Youth Sunday. The Kids' Choir will meet for our first time on Wednesday, March 30 from 4:30 to 5:15 P.M. Other dates include April 6, 13, and 20. If the Wednesday rehearsal times don't fit your schedule, we will also practice during Prayer and Praise Time and Kirk Kids on Sunday mornings. We want as many kids as possible to be able to participate! The Kids Choir will perform on Sunday, April 24 for Youth Sunday.

2016 Mission Trip Silent Auction Fundraiser Update

The Mission Committee, along with the Christian Education (CE) Committee, recently sponsored a "Silent Auction" to raise funds in support of the 2016 Youth Mission trip to Philippi, West Virginia. The auction was a huge success. Between bids and donations from some very generous church members, we were able to raise more than \$800.

We were able to offer more than 25 "Theme" baskets that church members and friends could bid on thanks to the support of church members and members of the CE and Mission Committees. Some of the baskets included favorites from *Osborne* books, Panera Bread, a special "Indulge Yourself", doggie and pet supplies, gardening, and many more unique themes. Our basket contributors were artistic and creative. Thank you to everyone who created, donated, and participated in bidding!

2016 Mission Trip Plans

The Christian Education Committee is currently in the process of making plans for the 2016 Youth Mission trip. Part of this process includes a few different fund raisers. Our next fundraiser will take place in April and will include a Bake Sale during the coffee hour. In addition, those who are interested in joining us for the trip must have their applications into Donna Banks by March 13.

Plans Being Made for Youth Sunday

Plans are currently underway for this year's "Youth Sunday and Senior Luncheon" celebration. The worship service and luncheon, where we honor graduates and celebrate our youth, will take place on Sunday, April 24. The CE Committee will be providing meat, potatoes, various salads, rolls and butter and cake for dessert. Members are welcome to bring an additional dish to share if they wish. Look for future announcements and more details as we come closer to the date.

New Bible Study Planned: Islam and Christianity

Keep your eyes and ears open, so you can mark your calendars and join us for our newest Bible Study. Pastor Gregg will be offering a Bible Study entitled "Islam and Christianity" an evening, sometime in early Spring. The study will include some lecture, some visuals and video, and thoughtful discussion.



HOLY WEEK AND EASTER WORSHIP SERVICES

at First Presbyterian Church of North East



Sunday, March 20 at 8:30 and 11:00 A.M.

PALM SUNDAY Services

Worship with us on Palm Sunday as we wave our palms to welcome the King into Jerusalem. Pastor Townsend will offer a special Palm Sunday message, and the Worship Team and Chancel Choir will provide music.

Thursday, March 24 at 7:00 P.M.

MAUNDY THURSDAY Service

Worship with us on Maundy Thursday as we celebrate communion. Pastor Townsend will offer a special message, and the Chancel Choir will sing.

Friday, March 25 at 7:00 P.M.

GOOD FRIDAY Service

Holy Week concludes with a reflective Good Friday service. Pastor Townsend and others will offer a dramatic retelling of the events of holy week, entitled, "Nothing But the Blood." The Worship Band and Jane Livingston will offer music.

Saturday, March 26 at 7:39 P.M. (Sunset)

EASTER VIGIL Service

Meet us on the front steps of the church at sunset for our observance of the Easter Vigil. Pastor Townsend will light the Paschal candle and lead us into the sanctuary for worship. The Chancel Choir will offer special music.

Sunday, March 27

EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP Services

Easter Sunday Contemporary Worship at 8:30 A.M.

Celebrate Easter Morning at our early contemporary worship service, as Pastor Townsend offers an Easter message. The Worship Team will lead us in song, as we rejoice in the good news that Christ has risen!

Easter Sunday Worship at 11:00 A.M.

Join us at our later worship, as Pastor Townsend leads us in worship, and the Chancel and Bell Choirs sing and ring to celebrate the Risen Lord!

Make plans to join us for every Holy Week service this year.



Pastor Gregg D. Townsend

VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.FPCNE.ORG

ORDER YOUR EASTER FLOWERS NOW



If you would like to order flowers for Easter this year, all orders must be placed by March 20. Make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church and put "Easter Flowers" on the memo line.

ALL FLOWERS ARE \$9.00.

_____ Tulips _____ Daffodils

FLOWERS ARE GIVEN BY _____

IN MEMORY of _____

IN HONOR of _____

Flowers may be picked up after worship on Easter Sunday.

✂-----

SERVICE SCHEDULES

DATE	USHERS	NURSERY	READER
March 6	Dave Meehl, John Wilcox, Roger Meehl, Dianne Tyler, Evelyn Daughrity		Joe Spacht
March 13	Bob & Sandy Nelson, Ron Blosser, Al Mohnkern, Vivian Daughrity	Lisa and Marissa Kelly	Selina Uglow
March 20	Vern & Kitty Hurlburt, Garrett Connors, Joe & Sue Spacht	Bob Boyd and Mary Ann Reid-Boyd	Sue Spacht
March 27	Kathy & Lynn Peterson, Barb Blount, Steve Seymour, Cole Elkin	Dave Meehl and Donna Banks	
April 3	Dave Meehl, John Wilcox, Roger Meehl, Dianne Tyler, Evelyn Daughrity	Lisa and Marissa Kelly	Beth Seymour
April 10	Bob & Sandy Nelson, Ron Blosser, Al Mohnkern, Vivian Daughrity	Tracy and Ashley Connors	Cody Regan
April 17	Vern & Kitty Hurlburt, Garrett Connors, Joe & Sue Spacht	Christy Mayes and Cindy Lilly	Dave Meehl
April 24	Kathy & Lynn Peterson, Barb Blount, Steve Seymour, Cole Elkin	Deanna Ott and Becky Oyler	Wanda Cochrane

A FEW IDEAS FOR THINGS TO DO AT FPCNE

- 1 GET UP EARLY ON SUNDAY MORNINGS AND COME TO THE MEN’S GROUP. They meet at 7:30 A.M. in the boardroom next to the Pastor’s Study.
- 2 SIGN UP TO BRING FLOWERS in honor of an occasion, in memory of a loved one, or just to praise God. OR HOST A COFFEE HOUR. While the Connors family and various committees help host coffee hours, anyone is welcome to host. Both charts are posted on the bulletin board outside the church office.
- 3 SIGN UP FOR OUR “PRAYER WARRIORS” E-PRAYER CHAIN. Simply send your email address to jspencer@fpcne.org or jlivingston@neo.rr.com.
- 4 JOIN THE SOUND/AV TEAM. We are losing two of our team members over the next few weeks, and really need help for both our 8:30 and 11:00 A.M. worship services. You’re scheduled in advance and only need to help on one or two Sundays each month. It’s a great way to serve. Speak with Jane Livingston.
- 5 HELP THOSE IN NEED BY BRINGING IN HOUSEHOLD AND PERSONAL CARE ITEMS for the Deacon’s ongoing project in cooperation with the 4 NINE Thrift Store. Speak with Tracy Connors.

