



The Exciter

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

No. 559

Summer 2016

CLERKS CORNER



Happy summer to my church family!

I would like to update you on what we are accomplishing on Session.

First, as you likely know already, our Bell Choir Director Jack Salter accepted a full time position in California. So, the search is on for his replacement. The opportunity will be advertised.

This fall, we are discussing the possibility of having a “mission opportunities fair,” perhaps in conjunction with Rally Day. The fair would introduce people to the plethora of ways the congregation may live out their faith lives. This fair is in direct response to the congregational survey taken last year. One of the results of the survey indicated that a large percentage of regular attendees to worship services are not otherwise engaged by church activities.

Discussion continues on the needs of the building and church property. The two biggest projects are the reconstruction of the creek’s break wall to the south of the church, and the resealing of the oldest bricks of our building. A special sub-committee has been set up comprised of both Session and Trustee members to discern the best way to resolve and pay for these projects. Also, bids are being accepted to seal the blacktop driveway.

There is a new, young families group starting. The first gathering is June 25 at Pastor Gregg’s house, 20 Gibson Street. And of course, Vacation Bible School was held on June 20 – 24.

The finance committee sent out Request For Proposals (RFPs) to local financial managers. The committee is looking for more expertise and engagement from a money manager for our various investments.

Session will have a meeting in June, but we are taking July off. We will resume our work in August. Have a blessed summer season!

Patti Kuna
Clerk of Session



THE PRAYER CHAIN

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.

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.



VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.FPCNE.ORG

SUMMER WORSHIP

WE HEARD YOU!

Several of you have asked that we try a single, blended service during the summer months. The Worship and Music Committee decided that it might make sense to do so during the summer when families are taking vacations and resources tend to be tight.

Here's what we have planned:

- One service at 9:30 each Sunday from June 5 – September 4. The time is a compromise between the two usual summer worship service times in the hopes of capturing both audiences.
- A blended music service which will include equal amounts of traditional and contemporary hymns and musical arrangements. Jane, as always, does a wonderful job of mixing it up to satisfy everyone's taste in music.
- Worship in Gibson Park on September 4, pending borough approval and if the renovations in the Park are completed.



This will be an exciting opportunity for worship and fellowship while allowing some members of our church family to become reacquainted with others who might be attending "the other" service!

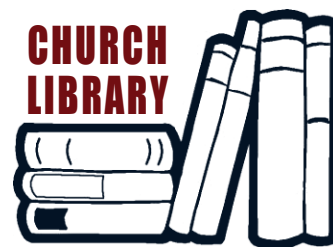
MEN'S BIBLE STUDY SUMMER SCHEDULING Starting June, Men's Group will meet at 8:15 A.M. – 9:15 A.M. for the months of June and July. We have just started to study the book of Colossians. Men, feel free to join us on any of these Sundays for good Christian fellowship.



LIBRARY

In the Olympic tradition, let's unite with an inspirational book for the summer. Check out Susan's Cart and the library for that special book. Books can be checked out for 2 weeks.

1. *A Woman and Her God* by Beth Moore
2. *Brush of an Angel Wings* by Charlie Shedd
3. *I am Running to Win* by Ann Kiemel – Ann Confronts the reality of faithfulness in running and life.
4. *The Complete Gardener's Guide*



Have a great summer!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

Teacher Recognition Day

On Sunday, May 15, the Christian Education Committee had the pleasure of celebrating and honoring our Adult and Youth Sunday and Bible School teachers, facilitators, and substitutes. Our volunteers were recognized for all of their hard work and dedication given each Sunday to both the Christian Education program and our students over the past year. Educators received Chamber of Commerce gift cards and geraniums for their service.



Pastor Gregg D. Townsend

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VBS - More than 90 Kids Discovered that God is with them Wherever They Go!

"I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you. Genesis 28:15

It was a week of fun and adventure as more than 100 campers and helpers dove to the bottom of the *Deep Blue Sea* to discover that not only is God always with them; but He also KNOWS them, HEARS them, STRENGTHENS them, LOVES them and wants to SEND them out into the world to proclaim His message of Love and Faith. This year's Vacation Bible School took place during the week of June 20 where more than 80 children, from pre-school through 6th grade learned about our amazing Lord and the Love He both provides and has for each of us. Children were blessed by the many messages and support provided throughout our daily camp experiences by all of our wonderful, giving, volunteers. Children learned about all of the great things God does for them and that they can always count on God. They heard stories of how Noah obeyed God and prepared for the Great Flood; Jonah's response to God when he ended up in the belly of the whale; how Peter came to trust God; about the disciples' abundant catch of fish when they also listened to what God wanted; and finally how God sent Paul out into the world to make Disciples of children and adults. All those children who attended were able to create snacks and crafts; participate in team building games, activities, and Bible studies; as well as sing and dance praises to our Lord and King; all the while learning about God's love. It was a fun, inspirational and spiritually filled week for campers and volunteers alike (for whom we are extremely grateful of the volunteering of their time and patience throughout the week). We were truly blessed and look forward to next year, when we can continue to spread and fulfill God's Word.

Mission of Vacation Bible School Campers

"Keeping Bodies and Hearts Sparkly Clean"

A huge thank you to all of those Vacation Bible School campers and helpers who participated in our Mission project of *Keeping Bodies and Hearts Sparkly Clean*. Our kids were able to collect more than 500 personal and household cleaning items for those less fortunate. We collected these items during this year's *Deep Sea Discovery VBS*. We were able to overwhelm members of the North East Food Pantry and Five-Nine store with our generous donation of personal care and household cleaning supplies. All because of "You," many children and families will have lots of things we sometimes take for granted. Thank you from the bottom of the Deep Blue Sea and our Hearts for your generosity.

Mission Trip

We have 12 people headed out to Philippi, WV on July 10-15. The youngest member of our team is 12 years old! The FPCNE team will be fixing up a house that is in disrepair for a family of five. Please keep them all in your thoughts and prayers. Look for lots of photos on the church's Facebook page detailing their progress. If you haven't liked the FPCNE Facebook page, now is a good time to do so!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR CHERRY PIE WEEK

This year's cherry pie week is July 18-23.

Cherry Pie Week is the primary fundraiser for the Presbyterian Women to fund our mission giving each year. We are supported by many of our youth, husbands, fathers, and even friends and family from out of town who return for the great fellowship and "just plain fun" that we have rolling, filling, popping out tops, crimping, baking, laughing, and sharing good stories.



Everyone is cordially invited to come to our church kitchen from July 18-23 for Cherry Pie Week to help make cherry pies for this year's Cherry Pie Festival. We will begin each morning at 8:00 A.M. and finish up around noon. There are sign-up sheets in the Assembly Room. You don't have to have any special skills. We'll give you one job that you'll be able to master. If you have any questions, please speak with Ashley Connors. Come and join in the fun!



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FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

About 18 of us enjoyed a beautiful evening at Jerry Uht Park for a Seawolves game on June 17, which was sponsored by the Fellowship Committee. It was church night at the stadium, and we're proud to say we had the loudest cheer when our name was announced! Our team won, and we had a great time!

The Fellowship Committee is happy to announce another summer activity.

On August 7 after the 9:30 A.M. service, there will be a picnic at Freeport Beach. The Fellowship Committee will supply the hot dogs, buns, and condiments. Members and guests are asked to please bring a dish to pass, table settings, and folding chairs. Thank you.

We hope to see all you there!

SERVICE SCHEDULES		
DATE	USHERS	READER
July 10	Bob & Sandy Nelson, Ron Blosser, Al Mohnkern, Vivian Daughrity	Fred Lucore
July 17	Vern & Kitty Hurlburt, Joe & Sue Spacht, Garrett Connors	Kathy Taylor
July 24	Kathy & Lynn Peterson, Barb Blount, Steve Seymour, Cole Elkin	Tom McClure
July 31	Jerry Weinheimer, Bob Murray, Tom Schenker, Peggy Walsh	Joe Spacht
Aug 7	Dave Meehl, John Wilcox, Roger Meehl, Dianne Tyler	Jean LaFuria
Aug 14	Bob & Sandy Nelson, Ron Blosser, Al Mohnkern, Vivian Daughrity	Jessica Albney
Aug 21	Vern & Kitty Hurlburt, Joe & Sue Spacht, Garrett Connors	Don Tyler
Aug 28	Kathy & Lynn Peterson, Barb Blount, Steve Seymour, Cole Elkin	Christy Mayes

DATE	NURSERY
July 10	Beth and David Poor
July 17	Doty Wagner and Jessica Albney
July 24	Carol Orton and Vivian Daughrity
July 31	Donna Banks
Aug 7	Peggy Walsh and Logan
Aug 14	Terri Andrews
Aug 21	Katie Gallagher and Ali Nagle
Aug 28	Tom and Cathy McClure

“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.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

There are two available positions here at the First Presbyterian Church. We are need of a Bell Choir Director and a Secretary. If interested, please see Pastor Gregg or contact the Church Office.

