



The Exciter

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

No. 566

April 2017

THE PASTOR'S PEN



This month I continue to share with you several “wishes” I have for our congregation for 2017. My hope is that our church will serve our Lord Jesus more and more faithfully by living according to God’s instruction.

Last month we considered the importance of attending worship services each Sunday. God commands us to do this and does so because it honors Him and is beneficial to ourselves and to others. Beginning this month, I would like to explain each of those desires with you in a bit more detail. This month our subject is the need for the involvement of our members in our witness to God through service to the world.

I wish that you would get actively and deeply involved in the ministry of our congregation. On the cover of our bulletin each Sunday we list the goal of our congregation. We exist to follow Jesus Christ in a devoted manner and to help others to do the same. Our mission is his great commission: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:19, 20). The only way for us to accomplish this mission is for each of us to be actively and deeply involved in the ministry of our congregation.

Here’s the reality of our situation: not only do most of our members not actively attend worship, even fewer participate in the activities, mission efforts, and leadership of our congregation.

There is, however, good news! God has given each of us gifts, talents, and abilities. Everyone has something to offer and a duty to use what God has given to strengthen our congregation and extend its outreach to our community and the world. This is why the Bible, when it talks about these gifts and abilities says that, “To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good,” (1 Corinthians 12:7). You have something to offer! Your time and abilities are needed!

I’d like to encourage you to find one way to deepen your commitment to making devoted followers of Jesus through our congregation. You might do this by serving on a committee or participating in a special outreach event like feeding the homeless or going on a summer mission trip or by teaching Sunday school or helping with Vacation Bible School, or....well, you get the idea! If you would like specific ideas of how to be more involved I’d be glad to talk with you as would Elder Marcia Regan, who is the Chair of our Membership Development Committee.

That’s it for this month. Let’s get busy!

In the Service of the King,

Pastor Gregg



VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.FPCNE.ORG



HOLY WEEK AND EASTER WORSHIP SERVICES

at First Presbyterian Church of North East

Sunday, April 9 at 8:30 and 11:00 A.M.

PALM SUNDAY *Services*

Worship with us on Palm Sunday as we celebrate communion, and welcome the King into Jerusalem. Pastor Townsend will offer a special Message, and the Worship Team and Bell Choir will provide music.

Thursday, April 13 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 on Psalm 116, and the Chancel Choir will sing.

Friday, April 14 at 12:00 P.M.

COMMUNITY GOOD FRIDAY *Service*

This year, FPCNE will host the Community Good Friday service. Pastor Eric Leonard from Park United Methodist Church will offer the Message, and our Music Ministry will provide special music.

Friday, April 14 at 7:00 P.M.

FPCNE GOOD FRIDAY *Service*

Holy Week concludes with a special worship service based on Psalm 22. Pastor Townsend will lead us in this reflective worship experience, and the Worship Band and Jane Livingston will offer music.

Saturday, April 15 at 8:01 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 Bell Choir will offer special music.

Sunday, April 16 at 8:30 and 11:00 A.M.

EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP *Services*

Spend Easter Morning with us, as Pastor Townsend offers an Easter message. The Worship Team will lead us in praise at 8:30, and Chancel and Bell Choirs will help us celebrate the Risen Lord at 11:00!

MISSION NEWS

FPCNE will be participating in the Community Yard Sale on May 13 (Saturday only). Please begin setting aside and pricing desirable used items. Proceeds from the sale will go toward the 2017 World Vision mission trip.

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.



THE PRAYER CHAIN



VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.FPCNE.ORG

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN NEWS



Presbyterian Women of Lake Erie Presbytery Spring Gathering – Saturday April 22nd 9:30-1:30 Meadville First Presbyterian Church “Who is My Neighbor?”

“And Why Do They Dress, Think, and Act in Ways That Might Make Me Worried About Them Moving into the Neighborhood?”

“And who is my neighbor?” “He said, ‘The one who showed him mercy’.
Jesus said to him, ‘Go and do likewise.’” Luke 10:29, 37



Explore the topic of “Who is My Neighbor” with **Keynote speaker- Rev. Tim Solomon**. Tim will help us to understand the basic tenets of Islam and learn more about our Muslim neighbors. He will particularly focus on Muslim women, including discussion on special clothing that they may wear (the hijab or al-khimar).

Rev. Solomon is Pastor of Emmanuel Church and part time interim pastor of Presbyterian Church of the Redeemer. Both of these churches are in Meadville, where for the past 23 years Tim has lived with his family. Tim is the product of Presbyterian mission efforts in Syria in the late 1800’s! He has a bachelor’s degree from Allegheny College in Mid-Eastern Studies, his M.Div from Princeton Seminary and his D.Min from Hartford Seminary’s Macdonald School of Islamic Studies and Christian/Muslim Relations. He has taught classes about Muslims and their faith at Allegheny, Behrend and Pitt-Titusville.

In addition, we will enjoy the **wonderful music of Rev. Joel DiAnqi**. Joel is a pastor of Christian Assembly Church in Greenville. He is an extremely talented pianist and is fluent in both Italian and modern-day Hebrew. He often travels throughout the US, Canada and Italy to bring God’s Word to those hungry to hear him.

***** You will not want to miss this outstanding program!! *****

This is a great opportunity to learn about the Islamic Faith and our Muslim neighbors. You will get basic information and get the chance to ask questions! **You will be inspired and blessed by wonderful piano music and scripture.**

You will have several opportunities to show mercy and be a neighbor through donations to special mission projects and by sharing a favorite mission project of your church!

Enjoy the fellowship of PW from all over our Presbytery! **SAVE THE DATE! Saturday April 22nd.** If you have questions or would like to carpool with friends, please call Billie Blosser at 899- 8575 or Charlene Baird at 725-8424

Mark the Date!

Presbyterian Women’s Birthday Tea

will be Sunday, May 7, 2017 in
Fellowship Hall following the
11:00 AM. worship service

The PW Book Club will meet on
April 13 at 2:00 P.M.

in the conference room next to the Pastor’s study.

We will be discussing
Jodi Picoult’s *Leaving Time*.

Come join us!



VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.FPCNE.ORG

CALLING ALL YOUNG COUPLES & ADULTS WITH SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN

Are you looking to experience worship and relevant teaching with people in your same stage of life?

Perhaps you have been coming to church but just aren't feeling that connection. Possibly you would like to participate in a Bible study but don't feel like you fit in with the "old" people class. Maybe you have the heart to serve. Or perchance you would like to simply hang out with people your own age who may be dealing with some of the same life issues you are.

There is a place for you!

We would like to create a group opportunity for you to grow in your relationship with Jesus Christ while building community with your peers. Join us on Sunday morning April 23rd at 9:45 a.m. We will meet in the room next to the downstairs kitchen. We would love your input!

CLERK'S CORNER



Greetings to my church family!

Here are some updates from Session:

The biggest news is that our congregation will be moving back to **one worship service** on Sundays starting June 4, 2017. The time is yet to be determined. The format will be what is known as a "blended" service, as it will have both traditional and contemporary music. One reason Session decided to have one service is because it is difficult for members to stay in touch with each other if they attend different services. Another reason is that having just one service will reduce the struggles incurred with not having enough volunteer help, particularly for the audio/visual sound team. With the combination of services, Kirk Kids will be eliminated and children will be encouraged to stay with their parents during the worship hour.

Another change is Pastor Gregg will be starting a young couples/families group in our church. The group will get together for prayer, study and fellowship. This may entail the start of another Sunday School Class/Fellowship Group which Pastor Gregg will lead. The class will begin after Easter and extend until Pentecost and then begin again in the Fall. Activities will extend into the summer. The Membership Development committee will be polling the individuals and families to find out what their needs and wants are.

In addition to the group for young families, Pastor Gregg will be teaching two new classes this spring. The first is an adult theology class at 7:00 P.M. on Thursdays starting April 20 and continuing through June 8. This class will be based on C.S. Lewis's book

Mere Christianity and a supplemental DVD. This is a very accessible book and the format is discussion oriented. It is expected this class will be highly interesting and fun! The required book is inexpensive. (Please speak with Pastor Gregg if purchasing a book prevents you from attending.)

The second class is an Old Testament Bible Study. It will meet each Wednesday at 10:00 A.M. beginning April 19 through June 7.

Session approved moving long-term funds of the church to Edward Jones (currently with Covenant and State Farm). Joellen Nelson will be our local fund manager. This came as the result of a recommendation from the Finance committee. It is anticipated that working with an active financial manager will result in higher and more consistent returns.

Looking way ahead, Session set the date for the 2018 annual meeting. It will be February 11, 2018. Prior to that, the election of officers will be November 19, 2017.

Here are two other dates for you to be aware of:

- April 8 - Spring Fling Brunch hosted by the Fellowship committee
- April 14 – Community Good Friday worship service at 12:00 P.M. Our church is hosting this year.

I wish you all a meaningful Lenten season and a blessed Easter.

Grace and peace,
Patti Kuna, Clerk of Session

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

Kids' Choir News

Kids' Choir has begun! Practices are held on Thursdays from 4:30 – 5:15 P.M. through April 20. (No practice during Holy Week.) We will also be practicing during Sunday School. Kids' Choir will sing for the Lord on Youth Sunday, April 23 at the 11:00 A.M. worship service. If you have any questions, please see Jenn McClure or Donna Banks.

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 Nate Carlson, Zach Rogers, Mark Townsend and Ryan Trevelline, will take place on Sunday, April 23. All members are invited and welcome to attend. We will have a special speaker for the luncheon. Look for future announcements with more details.



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

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

Charlene Baird	→	April 1
Betty Stone	→	April 6
Ann Higgins	→	April 16
Evelyn Hammer	→	April 17
Emma Sue Cherico	→	April 18
Lee Lampkin	→	April 20
Florence Croscut	→	April 23



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!

PRAYER CONCERNS

- † Pray for wisdom in the serious conflict in the community of Bimbilla, Ghana. This area is within our sister presbytery, the Upper Northern Presbytery of Ghana. A dispute among tribal leaders erupted in early February that led to the death of 10 people. Schools are closed. Business and medical care has been disrupted. Bimbilla is the community in which Rev. David Bindati was engaged in ministry.
- † Pray for Ruth Mills, wife of Rev. Bill Mills, Honorably Retired. Ruth continues to deal with the impact of Alzheimer's on her life, though she is resting comfortably at home.
- † Pray for the continuing conversations around racism and violence that the power of God might be brought to these difficult conversations.
- † Pray for wisdom to engage radical missional thought in each of our communities. The time to act for the Kingdom of God is NOW!

SERVICE SCHEDULES

DATE	USHERS	READER	NURSERY
2-Apr	Dave Meehl, John Wilcox, Roger Meehl, Dianne Tyler, Sophie Tyler	Kendell Poor	Lisa Kelly and Marissa
9-Apr	Bob & Sandy Nelson, Ron Blosser, Al Mohnkern	Deanna Ott	Tracy and Ashley Connors
16-Apr	Vern & Kitty Hurlburt, Joe & Sue Spacht, Garrett Connors	Cody Regan	Donna Banks and Dave Meehl
23-Apr	Kathy & Lynn Peterson, Barb Blount, Steve Seymour, Cole Elkin	Youth	Bob & Mary Ann Reid-Boyd
30-Apr	Jerry Weinheimer, Bob Murray, Tom Schenker, Peggy Walsh, Evelyn Daughrity	Joe Kuna	Christy Mayes and Cindy Carlson
7-May	Dave Meehl, John Wilcox, Roger Meehl, Dianne Tyler, Sophie Tyler	Marcia Regan	Evelyn Daughrity and Makayla Albney
14-May	Bob & Sandy Nelson, Ron Blosser, Al Mohnkern	Beth Seymour	Kathy & Lynn Peterson
21-May	Vern & Kitty Hurlburt, Joe & Sue Spacht, Garrett Connors	Jessica Albney	Cathy, Tom and Jenn McClure
28-May	Kathy & Lynn Peterson, Barb Blount, Steve Seymour, Cole Elkin	Tom McClure	Dave & Kristen Streeper

