



# The Exciter

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

No. 569

September 2017

## CLERK'S CORNER



Hello to my church family!

I have much to share!

First, I wish to share with you that all churches within our presbytery will soon be assigned a "Congregational Advocate." The Congregational Advocate model will replace the Triennial visits from the Committee on Ministry. This new model seeks to be a proactive approach to avoiding problems within congregations versus the Triennial visits which were more reactive in nature. It is expected that our Congregational Advocate will be named sometime this Fall.

Our Membership Development committee sent out a letter earlier this summer to absentee members inquiring about their membership intentions and desires. As a result of that letter, 77 people were removed from membership because they indicated they have moved, unable to attend worship, or there was no response.

Regarding the care for our building, this summer the brickwork began and is nearly finished. Old mortar and loose bricks were extracted and replaced. And, all of the brickwork has been sealed. In addition, there was also a drain downspout on the east side that has been repaired. Finally, the Education Wing is now secure with new locks and new security procedures. You can read more about this in the article from the Trustees found in this newsletter. The Trustees have been very busy coordinating these projects. When you see a Trustee, please extend a big thank you to them for all of their sweat equity.

One of the things the Session is considering is on-line giving. There is a program available through the Presbyterian Foundation that would enable people to give electronically via our website. The Session is studying the information, and expects to revisit the topic soon.

As you may know, for the past few years I have been taking classes through the Theological Seminary at Duquesne University. My coursework (for now) is complete. And now I have joyful news! On June 20, 2017, I was appointed Commissioned Lay Pastor to the First Presbyterian Church of Sugar Grove. It is a wonderfully warm and open-armed congregation located in Warren County. Their membership is about 50 folks, and about half come to worship our Lord each Sunday. It is a very humbling and intimidating opportunity to serve God in this capacity. Please pray for me.

As my studies were winding down, the Presbytery's committee that had oversight of me, asked me what I was going to give up in order to take on this new, huge responsibility in Sugar Grove. After prayer, I decided to step down from Session. At our June 26 Session meeting, I resigned from the board with a mix of thankfulness and nervousness.

I am thankful for the opportunity to serve our congregation as Clerk for the past four and a half years. The experience afforded me a broader view of our denomination. In fact, it was during my term as Clerk that I began to significantly hunger for God more than ever before in my life. It was also during this time that I received a postcard about coursework to become a Commissioned Lay Pastor. I looked into it, and the rest is history.

For now, it is my intention to continue serving you all as the office secretary and treasurer. For this, I am also thankful, because I get to see and speak with many of you during the week.

I am so happy to also inform you that Marcia Regan is the new Clerk of Session. Marcia will doubtlessly do an outstanding job.

In closing, I wish to encourage you, as a member of this congregation, to immerse yourself within the many leadership and service opportunities available through our church. Doing so is different from other types of volunteerism, because being steeped in the church develops one's relationship with the Lord, and transforms a tepid faith life into something so alive, so dear, and so paramount.

God bless you and thank you,  
Patti Kuna



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## RALLY DAY AND SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES BEGIN SEPTEMBER 10 AT 9:15 A.M.!

It's that time of year again - new beginnings, fresh starts and another exciting year of opportunities with your church family. On Sunday, September 10 a new Sunday School year will begin at the First Presbyterian Church of North East. Classes will begin at 9:15 A.M. for children and adults of all ages. The theme this year is, *"I am the light of the world, whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."* John 8:12

Make a plan take advantage of the enriching Christian Education opportunities available to you and your family members. (Also, please note the grade school classes are divided a little differently this year, as detailed below.)

## SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS OFFERINGS

### GODLY PLAY: AGE 4 & KINDERGARTEN

(Led by Beth Seymour, Becky Oyler and Billie Blosser)

*Godly Play* is a method of Christian education and spiritual direction for preschool and Kindergarten-aged children. The goal of *Godly Play* is to teach children to become more fully aware of the mystery of God's presence in their lives. This Montessori approach to education will help your child learn the building blocks of faith through reenacting Bible stories and other play techniques while being open to others, to new ideas, and to the future in creative ways.

### GRADES 1, 2 AND 3 (Lead by Judy Schenker and Kitty Hurlburt)

Grade 1 & 2 curriculum focuses on learning to read while exploring Bible stories and verses that children can understand and recall. Children learn that God wants our trust and obedience, which leads them to Jesus, their Savior. Gospel Light confidently guides the teaching of the Bible—pure and simple, in contemporary and creative ways that will lay God's Word as the foundation for your kids' lives.

### GRADES 4, AND 5 (Lead by Al and Bev Walz)

The curriculum for this class is designed to use Bible stories and verses that the children understand and in addition, help them to develop meaningful relationships and an understanding of Jesus as our Savior. Students also discover what the Bible says about popularity, success, failure, friendship, rules and more. Kids develop Bible study skills, grow in Christian maturity and respond by serving Jesus in church and the community.

### FAITH AND FELLOWSHIP CLASS: YOUTH GRADES 6 THROUGH 12

(Lead by Tom McClure and Steve Seymour)

Sundays at 9:15 am in the Youth Room. Details to come!

### ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS: (FOR ALL ADULT LEARNERS)

(Lead by Pastor Gregg)

This class is designed for those who are life-long learners in God's word. Join the group as they continue to study the Word of God; as well as additional resources.

### YOUNG ADULTS & PARENTS OF YOUNG CHILDREN CLASS

The planning for this group in progress. Expect to get together by the end of this month! Watch the bulletin and your mailbox for details.

## PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

### ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS 9:15 A.M. BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 10

Bring your Bible and join adults of all ages for a time of studying God's Word. If you do not have a Bible, please let Pastor Gregg know and one will be provided for you.

### EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 10:00 A.M. FROM SEPTEMBER 13 THROUGH NOVEMBER 29

Join Pastor Gregg in the conference room for a survey of the Old Testament.

### EVERY THURSDAY AT 7:00 P.M. FROM SEPTEMBER 14 THROUGH NOVEMBER 30

Plan to attend this class called, **"Hip Happenin' Theology!"** Group members will dive into the works of 20<sup>th</sup> century theologian and martyr for the Christian faith, Dietrich Bonhoeffer. No book purchase is required for this class.

# PLEASE NOTE NEW SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

EFFECTIVE SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10:

9:15 A.M. – 10:15 A.M. – SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES

10:00 A.M. – 10:30 A.M. – Choir practice

10:00 A.M. – 10:30 A.M. – Fellowship/Coffee/Refreshments

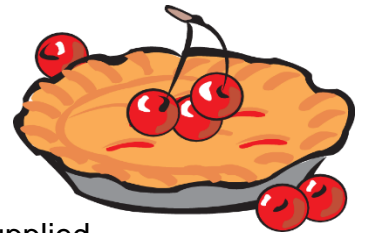
10:30 A.M. – 11:30 A.M. – Worship



Mark your calendars for September 17. You don't want to miss Bible Sunday. During the 10:30 A.M. service, children in Godly Play, Second Grade, and Sixth Grade will receive a new Bible from the Christian Education Committee.

## THANKS FROM THE "PIE LADY"!

First, I would like to say because of all of you wonderful volunteers, we made close to 1,100 pies! I also want to thank each and every one of you for volunteering during "Pie Week." I'd especially like to thank my right-hand person, Mary Ann Reid-Boyd, for all of your devotion and help. I'd also like to thank John Luchs who was our tent advisor and transportation person. Thank you, too, to the Wagner family for the pints of cherries they supplied to the tent all week. Finally, thank you to Jean LaFuria for being so brave to take on the task of selling coordinator this year.



**THANK YOU ALL!**

Ashley Connors

**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](mailto:jlivingston@neo.rr.com) or [office@fpcne.org](mailto:office@fpcne.org)). Email us if you'd like to be added to our email prayer chain.

## MUSIC MINISTRY NEWS

### Our Music Ministry Needs Your Help

Our Worship Team is losing most of our band members due to college, moving and other commitments. We need a drummer, bass player, guitar players, and vocalist(s). We have been blessed to have two of our youth, Zach Rogers and Mark Townsend, on drums and bass for the past few years. They've been playing with us during summer worship, but they are now at college. If you have these skills or know of someone who does, please speak with Jane Livingston. We meet for practice before worship services on Sundays so there are no additional practice commitments.

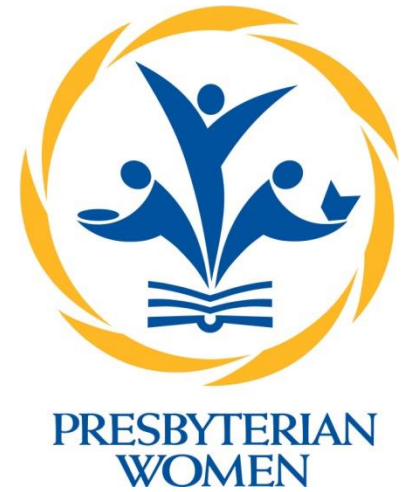
Our Chancel and Bell Choirs have been enjoying a much-deserved hiatus

during the summer months. We have a core group of very dedicated members but we'd love to add some new folks this year. Our numbers have been dwindling, and we've had very few folks join us over the past few years. We need your help! Bell Choir practice will resume on Thursday, September 7 at 6:00 PM and Chancel Choir is at 7:30 p.m. Getting involved in the FPCNE Music Ministry is a fun and rewarding way to serve the church and glorify God. Speak with our Director of Music Ministry Jane Livingston for more information.



## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN NEWS

Greetings all Presbyterian Women of North East! We had such a wonderful and successful cherry pie week and time of sharing and fellowship and hard, hot work!!! We have many people to thank beyond our own women. The many men who arrived each day to put on aprons and head gear and gloves and enable this awesome task of producing over a thousand cherry pies is so appreciated. I will name just a few of you wonderful helpers: John Luchs, Fred Lucore, Scott Connors, Bill Heaton, Tom Schenker, Bob Boyd, Bob Murray, Ron Blosser, Jerry Weinheimer, Garrett Connors, Jordan Connors and several others I have not listed. The reality is we would not be so successful without you! And on that note, we must give a big thank you to Ashley Connors who has taken on this huge project with her positive and talented self! It is a joy to have you at the helm of our endeavor!! Thank you again for all the helping hands, the laughter and the fellowship that we shared!



When I look at those cherry pies I think of mission dollars and all the opportunities to serve others! We will be good stewards in meeting the needs of those whom we will serve financially both at the local and wider horizons. We will be led by prayer and thoughtful deliberation as a faithful Fellowship of Women. We do not save our money but trust that if we are doing His will, He will provide the funds and means to replenish our funds.

The fall season will soon be here and all our circles will once again be active! The Square Circle will begin September 20th with an evening "out" for dinner and discussion of what we will study for the coming year. What a great way to begin! If you would like to join, please call or speak to Deanna Ott for details.

The Book Club will meet again the Second Thursday of each month. First meeting is Sept. 14th at 2:00 P.M. in the conference room. The selected book is entitled, *The Summer Before the War*, by Helen Simonson. You might remember this author as she also wrote *Major Pettigrew's Last Stand*. If you have time, please also read *Everyone Brave Is Forgiven* by Chris Cleave. These two books present a wide scope of the conditions, responses, duties, and fears that the British people faced during World War Two. We hope you might join us for our second year of exploring in modern literature themes that relate to our theology of God.

Pauline Fisher has set the date of September 21<sup>st</sup> at 1:00 P.M. to begin our Quilting Circle. This year she says we are going to make quilts, and she will have a few to choose from utilizing some of the things we learned last year. If this sounds like fun, and you have always wanted to try, please come join us. We have great fellowship and often share a small dessert or some soup! We have some fun ideas and plans for a little road trip, too, so don't miss our first meeting!

The Knitting for Peace Circle will begin on Sept. 20th at 2 pm. at Billie Blosser's home. We will continue our study of *The Friendship of Women – the Hidden Tradition of the Bible* by Joan Chittister. Come see our blanket that is ready to pattern together for the Sioux Indian Reservation. Bring your projects and enjoy knitting and fellowshiping together. If you are a beginner, we will help you - so no excuses! 😊

The PW coordinating committee is in the process of planning for our fall special program with a guest speaker. It will be a wonderful event, so watch the bulletin and the October Exciter for details! We hope you will join our ranks of learners and servers of our Heavenly Father.

*Submitted by Billie Blosser*

## LIBRARY SPOTLIGHT: FALL INTO READING

Come visit us in the library! Take a minute to browse through the variety of books, DVDs, CDs and sermon tapes. Feel free to check them out for two (2) weeks. The ladies of the library look forward to seeing you!

The Library Board



Pastor Gregg D. Townsend

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## MEN'S GROUP

Men's group will resume at 8:00 A.M. on Sunday, September 10. Join a great bunch of men for meaningful conversation about the Bible and what it means for a guy to follow Christ in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

## NEW OFFICE HOURS



**THE CHURCH OFFICE HOURS HAVE CHANGED** with the start of the new Preschool year. The hours are as follows:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday      9:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.  
Tuesday, Thursday                      9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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

**September 5** Al Mohnkern  
**September 22** Evelyn Daughrity  
**September 23** Joe Kuna  
**September 29** Carl Spacht



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](mailto:office@fpcne.org). Thank you!

### Lake Erie Ghana Mission Trip Update

Thank you for your ongoing interest, commitment and support of the Lake Erie Ghana Partnership. Did you know that a team of six members from our Presbytery will be leaving for Ghana on September 5<sup>th</sup>? The team has a very full ten-day schedule including lots of relationship building, meetings, travelling and visits to our Partnership communities. Please remember the Ghana Trip and Team in prayer. If you would like to financially support the trip and the Ghana Partnership, gifts may be sent to the Presbytery of Lake Erie, 2816 Elwood Ave. Erie PA 16508. Thank you.

## SERVICE SCHEDULE

DATE	USHERS
September 3	Dave Meehl, John Wilcox, Roger Meehl, Dianne Tyler, Sophie Tyler
September 10	Bob & Sandy Nelson, Ron Blosser, Al Mohnkern
September 17	Vern & Kitty Hurlburt, Joe & Sue Spacht, Garrett Connors
September 24	Kathy & Lynn Peterson, Barb Blount, Steve Seymour, Cole Elkin
October 1	Dave Meehl, John Wilcox, Roger Meehl, Dianne Tyler, Sophie Tyler
October 8	Bob & Sandy Nelson, Ron Blosser, Al Mohnkern
October 15	Vern & Kitty Hurlburt, Joe & Sue Spacht, Garrett Connors
October 22	Kathy & Lynn Peterson, Barb Blount, Steve Seymour, Cole Elkin
October 29	Jerry Weinheimer, Bob Murray, Tom Schenker

**“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](mailto:office@fpcne.org), and we'll post it for you.



# September

## 30 DAY SCRIPTURE WRITING PLAN

EACH OF THE SCRIPTURES BELOW TAKES TEN MINUTES OR LESS TO COPY OUT. COMMIT TO SPENDING TEN MINUTES EACH DAY LISTENING TO GOD'S VOICE AS YOU SIMPLY COPY THESE TEXTS OUT OF YOUR BIBLE.

### Week 1

DAY 1- PSALM 121: 1-4  
DAY 2-PSALM 121: 5-8  
DAY 3-PSALM 62: 1-4  
DAY 4-PSALM 62: 5-8  
DAY 5- PSALM 62: 9-12  
DAY 6-AMOS 4:13  
DAY 7- PSALM 93: 1-5

### Week 3

DAY 15- PSALM 32:4-6  
DAY 16- 2 TIMOTHY 1: 9-11  
DAY 17- 2 TIMOTHY 1: 12-14  
DAY 18- COLOSSIANS 3: 1-4  
DAY 19- COLOSSIANS 3: 5-10  
DAY 20-COLOSSIANS 3: 12-14  
DAY 21- COLOSSIANS 3: 15-17

### Week 2

DAY 8-MATTHEW 22: 34-40  
DAY 9- MATTHEW 11: 25-27  
DAY 10-MATTHEW 11: 28-30  
DAY 11- ISAIAH 53: 1-4  
DAY 12-ISAIAH 53: 5-8  
DAY 13-ISAIAH 53: 9-12  
DAY 14-2 TIMOTHY 1: 6-8

### Week 4

DAY 22-COLOSSIANS 3: 18- 21  
DAY 23-COLOSSIANS 3: 22- 25  
DAY 24-MATTHEW 7: 1-3  
DAY 25-MATTHEW 7: 4-6  
DAY 26-MATTHEW 7: 7-12  
DAY 27-MATTHEW 7: 13- 20  
DAY 28-MATTHEW 7: 21-23

### Week 5

DAY 29-MATTHEW 7: 24-29  
DAY 30- CHOOSE YOUR OWN VERSE

*Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your love.*

*Psalms 119:18*

