



# The Exciter

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

No. 576

December 2018

## THE PASTOR'S PEN

Where are you going? Where are we headed? There are a lot of ways that each of us could answer those questions! This Advent our congregation will take a journey toward Bethlehem. Each Sunday we will read the words of the Prophet Isaiah, "Prepare the way of the Lord," and "Make straight in the desert a highway for our God." As we travel, we trust that God's glory will be revealed among us, that we will find comfort, direction, confidence, strength, and encouragement.

Here's the Plan:

Sunday mornings December 2, 9 and 16 at 10:30 A.M. will be filled with heart-touching music, inspiring decorations, and God's faithful, hope-filled, and ever-lasting Word.

Sunday afternoon, December 2 at 4:00 P.M. is our annual Advent Program and Pot-Luck Dinner. It is a joyous and laughter-filled way to usher in the season.

On Sunday morning December 23 at 10:30 A.M. the Chancel Choir, Bell Choir and Worship Team will give us the gift of a Cantata. I'm sure you'll leave that day with deep joy and gratefulness in your heart for all that God has done in Christ.

On Christmas Eve, December 24 at 7:30 P.M. we will have our annual Candlelight Service.

God bless you! Prepare the way of the Lord!

*Pastor Gregg*

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## 2018 ANNUAL FAMILY ADVENT DINNER



**YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR ANNUAL ADVENT PROGRAM AND DINNER on Sunday, December 2 at 4:00 P.M. Following the program, plan to join your church family for dinner. If you are able, please bring a dish to share. Set aside this time for reflection upon the gift of our Lord, Jesus Christ, and fellowship through the Holy Spirit.**

**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.**

**"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.



Pastor Gregg D. Townsend

VISIT US ONLINE AT [WWW.FPCNE.ORG](http://WWW.FPCNE.ORG)

# CLERK'S CORNER



Greetings to you my church family!

As we embark on another Advent season, anticipating the joyous celebration of our Savior's birth, I hope that you will reflect on your church and your church family in a positive fashion. This I know without a doubt; our congregation truly has the spirit and the temperament of a servant! We need only to look around to see that God is working in wonderful ways in our members' hearts and with their hands!

Recounting just a few of the amazing events that have taken place, or are about to take place, within the walls of our church warms my heart! In early November, we held a free clothing drive accompanied by a free lunch for those in need. This event was a much needed and appreciated event in our community. Over 70 of our members helped out in some capacity for this gratifying affair.

On November 29, our church once again made and served a tasty meal to the homeless in Erie. Those who have participated recently and in the past remark on the heartening experience this event brings.

As I write this article, the Samaritan Christmas boxes have been piling up on the pulpit steps ready to be mailed out to children around the world hoping to bring some measure of joy during the holidays.

This year our church is coordinating the Christmas Community baskets. This is a labor-intensive project spread out over several days the week of December 9-15. There are countless opportunities to help each and every day! Perhaps you hear God calling you? Would you like to help out? Sign-up sheets are in the Assembly room or speak to Cindy Lilly or Jerry Weinheimer to lend a hand.

As hardship continues to rear its ugly head all around us, it is gratifying to know that working together we can make differences in the lives of others. From these experiences we learn obedience and true humility. We should continue to serve as God commands us and give back some measure of the abundance of which God has so readily afforded us.

I also want to encourage you to Come Worship the King! Worship with your church family this holiday season as Pastor Gregg gives inspiring messages based on **Isaiah 40** and the sanctuary is transformed into the "**Road to Bethlehem**".

The first Sunday in Advent, **December 2**, is also the **Advent Dinner/Program starting at 4:00 P.M.** This time-honored celebration always promises to put you in the right frame of mind for the upcoming season. It inevitably proves to be a wonderful evening of worship and fellowship.

Of special note among these Sundays of Advent, our Chancel Choir will offer their annual **Christmas Cantata on December 23 at the 10:30 A.M. service.** This year's cantata is entitled "**Shine On Us**". It promises to be a singular event!

Other special worship dates include our annual **Christmas Eve Candlelight service December 24 at 7:30 P.M.** and our **Christmas Day Service December 25 at 10:30 A.M.**

It is my sincere hope that you will consider all that the Lord has blessed you with and pass that joy forward as we journey through this Advent season.

In Christ,

*Marcia Regan*

*Clerk of Session*



VISIT US ONLINE AT [WWW.FPCNE.ORG](http://WWW.FPCNE.ORG)

# FPCNE HOSTS COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS BOXES

This is the time of year when our thoughts become focused on those in our community who are in need. The North East Council of Churches "Community Christmas Boxes" is a long-standing ministry that provides many families with food during the Christmas season. Last year, over 150 families were cared for.



This year, FPCNE is the host church for this worthwhile outreach. It is a sizable effort with many hands needed. Here is how you can help:

- † **PRAY:** Pray that God would supply food, monetary donations and volunteers to serve, so that this project will bring glory to Him as we reach out and tangibly bear witness of Christ's love to those in need.
- † **VOLUNTEER:** Sign up to assemble cardboard boxes, gather products, pack food, make phone calls and/or deliver. (See specific schedule below.)
- † **DONATE APPLESAUCE:** Our congregation is asked to donate 200 jars of applesauce. As you are able, consider purchasing and dropping off applesauce to the church.
- † **GIVE:** Consider a financial gift to this project. Although area businesses do donate funds and products, the largest amount of contributions come from the churches within our community. If it is on your heart to make a financial donation, you may do so during our worship service. Simply make your check payable to "Community Christmas Boxes" and place in the offering plate. Alternatively, you may mail your gift to:

Anne Bardol  
 c/o Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross  
 51 West Main Street  
 North East, PA 16428

Thank you.

## Schedule of Christmas Boxes

*We need help on the following days and times.  
 If you are able to help with any part of the schedule, please contact:*

*Cindy Lilly: 725-4818 OR Jerry Weinheimer: 725-3061  
 OR First Presbyterian Church Office: 725-8641*

### SHIFTS AVAILABLE

|                 |   |   |
|-----------------|---|---|
| December 9      | 6:30 P.M.   | Assembly of boxes                                   |
| December 10, 11 | Daytime   | Picking up donations                                |
| December 11, 12 | Daytime/early evening                                 | Calling recipients                                  |
| December 14     | 8:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.                                | Packing boxes w/ non-perishables & finishing set-up |
| December 15     | Early Pick Up of Perishables<br>8:00 A.M. – 9:00 A.M. | Packing perishables, delivery & registration table  |
| December 15     | 9:00 A.M.– 11:00 A.M.                                 | Pick-up and delivery of boxes                       |
| December 15     | 11:00 A.M.- 12:00 P.M.                                | Clean up!   |

## WE STILL NEED APPLESAUCE

Our congregation is responsible for providing 200 units of applesauce for this year's Community Christmas Boxes. We have collected about 100 so far. If you are able to donate some jars of applesauce, please do so by Wednesday, December 12. Thank you in advance for your generosity.



# PLACE YOUR ORDER FOR CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

We are taking orders for red poinsettias from Luke's Greenhouse to beautify our sanctuary for Christmas Eve. Please complete the order form below, and submit, along with your payment, to the church office by **Sunday, December 16**. 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 16** 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 17 - - - - -

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB



The Presbyterian Women will not gather for our monthly Book Club in December. However, the club looks forward to reconvening on January 10, 2019 at 2:00 P.M. in the conference room. We will be discussing *The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry* by Gabrielle Zevin. Our discussion leader for January will be Becky Oyler. Consider joining us. It won't cost you a cent, as several copies of this title are available at the McCord library.

Looking forward into February, our club will be discussing *Mrs. Mike* by Benedict & Nancy Freedman. Beth Poor will lead the conversation.

The March meeting is a "mystery book". The title will be announced at a future date. What we do know, is the author of the book is Elizabeth George. Bev Walz will lead the review.

### SERVICE SCHEDULES

| DATE   | USHERS  | NURSERY                                      |
|--------|---|--|
| 2-Dec  | <i>Dave Meehl, John Wilcox, Roger Meehl,<br/>Dianne Tyler, Sophie Tyler</i> | <i>Lisa Kelly and Marissa</i>                |
| 9-Dec  | <i>Ron Blosser, Al Mohnkern</i>   | <i>Marcia &amp; Tom Regan</i>                |
| 16-Dec | <i>Vern &amp; Kitty Hurlburt, Joe &amp; Sue Spacht,<br/>Garrett Connors</i> | <i>Selina and Dave Uglow</i>                 |
| 23-Dec | <i>Kathy &amp; Lynn Peterson, Steve Seymour,<br/>Cole Elkin</i>             | <i>Bob Boyd &amp; Mary Ann<br/>Reid-Boyd</i> |
| 24-Dec | TBA   | TBA  |
| 25-Dec | TBA   | N/A  |
| 30-Dec | <i>Jerry Weinheimer, Bob Murray,<br/>Tom Schenker</i>                       | <i>Beth &amp; Steve Seymour</i>              |
| 6-Jan  | <i>Dave Meehl, John Wilcox, Roger Meehl,<br/>Dianne Tyler, Sophie Tyler</i> | <i>Deanna Ott and<br/>Christy Mayes</i>      |
| 13-Jan | <i>Ron Blosser, Al Mohnkern</i>   | <i>Matt &amp; Leila Shields</i>              |

