



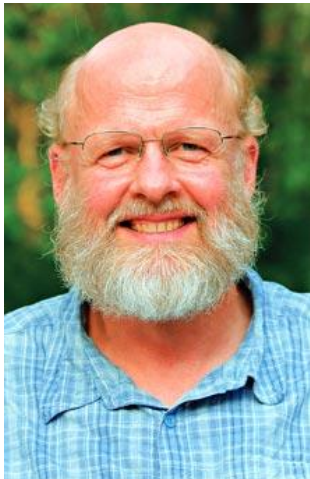
The Exciter

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

No. 572

March/April 2018

THE PASTOR'S PEN



Rev. David Hansen

Join us for a special Sunday worship service on March 18 at 10:30 A.M. as we are happy to welcome Rev. David Hansen to preach. Rev. Hansen is the recently retired Pastor of Heritage Community Church in Cincinnati, Ohio. He also pastored in Montana, the setting for many of the stories in his book, *The Art of Pastoring: Ministry Without All the Answers* (IVP). Rev. Hansen is also the author of *Loving the Church You Lead: Pastoring with Acceptance and Grace* (Baker) and other books. He has been a contributing editor for *Leadership Journal* and is a frequent speaker at pastoral ministry conferences.

Speaking of ministry conferences, you are also invited to a big event hosted by the Lake Erie Presbytery. Aptly named, "The Big Event: Discovering Joy Right Where You Are," this conference is an all-day biennial opportunity to fellowship with a community of believers, learn about our Christian faith and deepen our vital relationship with the Triune God. "The Big Event" is slated for Saturday, March 10 from 9:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M. at the Church of the Covenant, located at 250 West 7th Street in Erie. The cost is \$15 which includes lunch and workshop options. It is necessary to register in advance, preferably by February 28. For detailed information and to register online, go to www.pbylakeerie.org, or use a paper form available in the Assembly room.

God bless you. See you Sunday!

Pastor Gregg

FAMILY GAME NIGHT COMING!

YOU ARE INVITED to join your church family for a FAMILY GAME NIGHT!

WHO: **You!**

WHEN: Saturday, March 17 from 6:00-9:00 P.M.

WHERE: FPCNE Fellowship Hall

WHAT: A time to bring your family, enjoy a light meal and play board games!

HOW: Sign up in the Assembly room and show up!



Anyone who has a game they would like to play and share with others please bring it.



Remember to "spring ahead" one hour for
daylight savings starting at 2:00 A.M., March 11.



Pastor Gregg D. Townsend

VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.FPCNE.ORG

CLERK'S CORNER



Greetings to my church family,

I hope that this article finds you well as we enter this season of renewal.

We have been very busy around the Session table endeavoring to make decisions that will honor God while preserving the rich legacy of our church. Here is what's happening!

When Session voted to reduce the number of Elders, it goes without saying that there are now fewer Elders to chair committees. So, we tried to reconfigure the committees to best meet our needs. For example, some of the committees meet only one time a year and the Session felt it made sense to combine these committees with other like-minded committees. Thus, the Sustaining Gift Fund and the Capital Campaign Fund now reside under the umbrella of the Finance Committee.

The Mission Committee and the Membership Development Committee were also combined in the hopes of fostering our members with a heart for the work of mission. Stay tuned for exciting news coming on that!

It made sense to disband the Personnel Committee as they only meet when there is a personnel issue. Session will therefore form a committee when needed.

The Fellowship Committee has not had anyone to chair it for a while. The Session decided to make any upcoming events the general task of all Session members and members of the church. For example, the Worship and Music committee held a family movie/dinner night in December and is planning a family game night/dinner for March 17. The Christian Education committee had a pizza party on Rally day and hosted the Advent dinner and our Annual Super Bowl of Caring luncheon. They also typically host our graduates' luncheon. These are ALL fellowship events and can be led by anyone in the church, they do not need to be chaired by an Elder. A great example of this is a future luncheon being planned by Barb Blount to honor our members who are 80-years old and over! We are all very excited about that upcoming occasion!

Committee assignments for 2018 are the following:

1. Christian Education – Cindy Lilly
2. Finance Committee (Sustaining Gift Fund, Capital Campaign) - Dave Poor
3. Mission and Membership Development – Steve Seymour
4. Nominating – Rodger Hazen
5. Stewardship – Craig Carlson
6. Worship and Music – Marcia Regan
7. Deacon Representative – Cindy Lilly
8. Trustee Representative – Joe Spacht

If you have any ideas or questions for a committee, please contact the committee chair.

Your church has so many wonderful occasions planned to worship and praise God this Lenten Season. Holy week alone offers five (5) different opportunities! Maybe a Bible study is up your alley! Plan on joining Pastor Gregg and the Hip Happening Theology class on Thursday evenings at 7:00 PM during Lent for a study on Luther.

In all that you do, it is my hope that you find time to reflect anew this season, experiencing the magnitude of God's love given to us in Christ Jesus.

Marcia Regan

Clerk of Session.



A SPECIAL THANK YOU

My family and I want to thank you, my church family, for your many expressions of support during our time of sorrow and loss. I thank Pastor Gregg for a most meaningful service of worship and memories. Thanks to Jane for the beautiful solo and the Deacons for the wonderful luncheon.

~ Dave Randall

MUSIC MINISTRY UPDATE



“Upon a Life I Have Not Lived”

This year’s Lenten hymn is “Upon a Life I Have Not Lived.” The version we are using was arranged and recorded by the musical group Indelible Grace. Indelible Grace is an artist collective based in Nashville, Tennessee, that has led a movement to restore the historic practice of writing new melodies to old hymn texts. (Check them out at igracemusic.com.)

The original hymn and poem was written in 1881 by the Horatius Bonar, a Reformed Pastor from Scotland. Bonar came from a long line of ministers who, together, served a total of 364 years in the Church of Scotland. Called the “Prince of Scottish Hymn Writers,” Bonar was a prolific and popular author of richly theological hymns and books. One of his most well-known hymns are “I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say” and “Blessing and Honor” (hymn # 147 in The Presbyterian Hymnal). He died in 1889.

Bonar’s entire poem, “Upon a Life,” containing several additional stanzas, is below for your reflection and enjoyment.

*On merit not my own I stand;
On doings which I have not done,
Merit beyond what I can claim,
Doings more perfect than my own.*

*Upon a life I have not lived,
Upon a death I did not die,
Another’s life, Another’s death,
I stake my whole eternity.*

*Not on the tears which I have shed:
Not on the sorrows I have known,
Another’s tears, Another’s griefs,
On them I rest, on them alone.*

*Jesus, O Son of God, I build
On what Thy cross has done for me;
There both my death and life I read,
My guilt, my pardon there I see.*

*Lord, I believe; oh deal with me
As one who has Thy word believed!
I take the gift, Lord look on me
As one who has Thy gift received.*

*I taste the love the gift contains,
I clasp the pardon which it brings,
And pass up to the living source
Above, whence all this fullness springs.*

*Here at Thy feast, I grasp the pledge
Which life eternal to me seals,
Here in the bread and wine I read
The grace and peace Thy death reveals.*

*O fullness of the eternal grace,
O wonders past all wondering!
Here in the hall of love and song,
We sing the praises of our King.*

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN UPDATE

The Spring Gathering of Presbyterian Women is in the making for a special day in April! Watch for more information to follow soon!

The Presbyterian Women’s Book Club will meet on Thursday, March 8 at 2:00 P.M. in the conference room next to the Pastor’s study. March’s selection is *At the Edge of the Orchard* by Tracy Chevalier. Read ahead for the month of April, as the book club will be discussing *Salt to the Sea* by Nancy Ruta Sepetys. April’s book club meeting will be Thursday, April 12 at 2:00 P.M. Join our group! We’d love to have you come!



SOLAS



LENTEN 2018 WORSHIP SERVICES

at First Presbyterian Church of North East

Sunday, February 18 at 10:30 A.M.

1st Sunday in Lent Worship Service

Worship with us on the First Sunday in Lent as we begin our journey to the cross. Each Sunday during Lent, we will continue to explore the 5 SOLAS OF THE REFORMATION. On this first Sunday, Pastor Gregg Townsend will offer a special message on the SOLA SCRIPTURA or "Scripture Alone." The Worship Team will provide music, and we'll sing our Lenten songs, "Upon a Life" and "In Christ Alone." We will also have some special artwork in the sanctuary to aid in our Lenten reflection.

Sunday, February 25 at 10:30 A.M.

2nd Sunday in Lent Worship Service

Join us on the Second Sunday in Lent as we continue our journey to the cross and our study of the 5 SOLAS OF THE REFORMATION. Pastor Gregg will offer a special message on the SOLA CHRISTUS or "Christ Alone." The Bell Choir will provide special Lenten music.

Sunday, March 4 at 10:30 A.M.

3rd Sunday in Lent Worship Service

On the Third Sunday in Lent, we will celebrate communion and carry on with our study of the 5 SOLAS OF THE REFORMATION. Pastor Gregg will offer a special message on the SOLA GRATIA or "Grace Alone." The Chancel Choir will provide music, and we'll sing our Lenten songs.

Sunday, March 11 at 10:30 A.M.

4th Sunday in Lent Worship Service

On the Fourth Sunday in Lent, we will welcome author and guest preacher, Rev. David Hansen. Rev. Hansen is the author of "The Art of Pastoring: Ministry Without All the Answers." The Chancel Choir will provide special music.

Sunday, March 18 at 10:30 A.M.

5th Sunday in Lent Worship Service

Join us on the Fifth Sunday in Lent as we continue our journey to the cross and return to our study of the 5 SOLAS OF THE REFORMATION. Pastor Gregg will offer a special message on the SOLA FIDES or "Faith Alone." The Kids Praise Choir will provide special music, and guest musician and violinist Abby Hakel-Garcia will sit in with the Worship Team to share her extraordinary gifts.

Sunday, March 25 at 10:30 A.M.

PALM SUNDAY Worship Service

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





HOLY WEEK AND EASTER WORSHIP SERVICES

at First Presbyterian Church of North East

Sunday, March 25 at 10:30 A.M.

PALM SUNDAY *Service*

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

Thursday, March 29 at 7:00 P.M.

MAUNDY THURSDAY *Service*

Worship with us on Maundy Thursday as we celebrate communion. Pastor Gregg will offer a special message as we continue our journey through the Gospel of Mark. The Chancel Choir will provide several poignant and extraordinary music selections.

Friday, March 31 at 7:00 P.M.

FPCNE GOOD FRIDAY *Service*

Holy Week concludes with a moving worship service to conclude our Journey to the Cross. Pastor Gregg will lead us in this reflective worship experience, and the Worship Band and Jane Livingston will offer music.

Saturday, March 31 at 7:44 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 Gregg will light the Paschal candle and lead us into the sanctuary for worship. The Bell Choir will offer special music.

Sunday, April 1 at 10:30 A.M.

EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP *Service*

The Hallelujahs will fill the air as we rejoice in the Resurrection! Join us on Easter Sunday as Pastor Gregg offers a special Easter message, and our entire Music Ministry provides several "Hallelujah-filled" music selections!



ANGEL TREE BOOKS

ARE NOW READY TO CHECK OUT!

The titles are as follows:

Love Big, Be Well: Letters to a Small-Town Church

by Winn Collier

The Remarkable Ordinary

by Frederick Buechner

➤ Given in honor of Brittany and Peter Seymour

When God Doesn't Make Sense

by Dr. James Dobson

Destiny the Republic

by Candice Millard

ADHD Nation

by Alan Schwarz

Wonder

by R.J. Palacio

➤ Given in honor of May Logan from Karen and Jon Logan

Not Quite Narwhal

by Jessie Sima

➤ Given in memory of Dawn Andrews by Doty Wagner

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Angel Tree!

If you would like to donate in honor or in memory of a loved one,

please speak with Jan Trojanowski.



EASTER FLOWERS

If you would like to order flowers for Easter this year, all orders must be placed by *Sunday, March 18*.

Please make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church and put "Easter Flowers" on the memo line.

ALL FLOWERS ARE \$9.50.

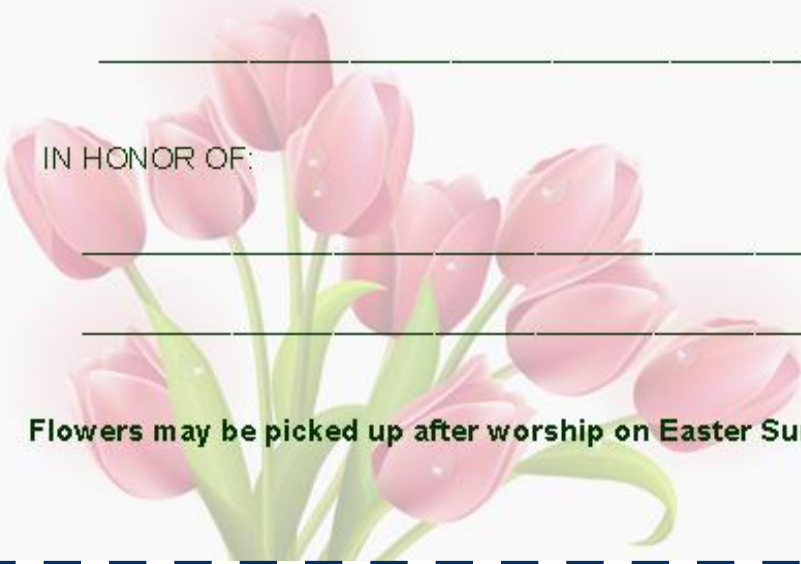
Qty: _____ Tulips _____ Daffodils _____ Mums

FLOWERS ARE GIVEN BY:

IN MEMORY OF:

IN HONOR OF:

Flowers may be picked up after worship on Easter Sunday.



TITHING MADE EASY

Do you find it challenging to remember your gift to the church? Is it becoming cumbersome to write a paper check? Consider direct deposit! It's easy and you never have to worry about forgetting. You can stop anytime, and choose your own frequency of giving: monthly, weekly, or some other interval.

If you are interested, please speak with Jean Bahm, our Financial Secretary. Jean will set you up quickly and easily!



SERVICE SCHEDULES

| DATE | USHERS | READER | NURSERY |
|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| March 4 | Dave Meehl, John Wilcox, Roger Meehl, Dianne Tyler, Sophie Tyler | Jean LaFuria | Marcia and Tom Regan |
| March 11 | Ron Blosser, Al Mohnkern | N/A | Selina and Dave Uglow |
| March 18 | Vern & Kitty Hurlburt, Joe & Sue Spacht, Garrett Connors | Dave Meehl | Bob and Mary Ann Reid-Boyd |
| March 25 | Kathy & Lynn Peterson, Steve Seymour, Cole Elkin | Jessica Albney | Jaimee and Andy Knight |
| April 1 | Dave Meehl, John Wilcox, Roger Meehl, Dianne Tyler, Sophie Tyler | Cody Regan | Dave Meehl |
| April 8 | Ron Blosser, Al Mohnkern | Char Manison | Beth and Steve Seymour |
| April 15 | Vern & Kitty Hurlburt, Joe & Sue Spacht, Garrett Connors | Kyle Regan | Deanna Ott and Christy Mayes |
| April 22 | Kathy & Lynn Peterson, Steve Seymour, Cole Elkin | Paul Zorzie | Leila Zorzie and Matt Shields |
| April 29 | Jerry Weinheimer, Bob Murray, Tom Schenker | Mary Ann Reid-Boyd | Cathy and Tom McClure |

