

**In the
Spotlight****Wednesday, March
25th****7-7:15**

Join us for prayer and reflection with Pastor Gregg via Facebook Live.

Sunday, March 29th**10:30**

Join Pastor Gregg and Jane for a Facebook Live worship.

STAY ALERT with email and Facebook communications for other live and recorded events!**Contact Us:**Tel: 814-725-8641
25 West Main Street
North East, PA 16428
www.fpcne.org**The Pastor's Pen**

Pastor Gregg D. Townsend

March 23, 2020

“Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, as it goes well with your soul.”

III John 1

We are in a Lenten season like no other...so let's make this a Lent like no other!

Although we cannot be together physically, there is no reason why we shouldn't be together in every other way possible. Today we celebrate the return of our church newsletter *The Exciter* as a way of keeping you apprised of all that is happening in the life of our congregation and in our ministry to the world. Some have suggested changing the name “Exciter”, saying that it is dated. I prefer to think of it as “classic” or perhaps “vintage” and therefore well worth keeping! As a newsletter name, *The Exciter* gets right to heart of its intention which is to encourage you to become more active in the mission of our congregation which is to be and make devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

What will be new is the format of *The Exciter*, which we might experiment with until we get it just right. For now, look for a page one with a Pastor's Pen or brief article from a church staff member or leader and a couple of announcement spotlights on upcoming mission opportunities and events. When life returns to normal (whatever that is!) page two will offer a church calendar for the next month so that you will know all the information you need about upcoming events.

Get excited people! God is doing great things right in our midst. Look around and take part in what's happening, and God bless you as you do.

Pastor Gregg

Deepen Your Faith

The Lenten season is a time when we Christians traditionally expand our commitment to Jesus Christ and put that faith in display by building up the church and bearing witness to the salvation, healing, empowerment, and the hope found in Jesus. *You can do this right now!* Deepen and broaden your prayer life. In addition to praying for family and friends, pray each day for wisdom and encouragement for our congregation and its leadership. Pray for those who are especially vulnerable right now. Pray for our world. Pray! Pray as specifically and by name as you can. Prayer is the beginning of the spiritual life and its most powerful tool. Nothing can stop us from praying. As Karl Barth said, “To clasp the hands in prayer is the beginning of an uprising against the disorder of the world.”

Many have asked how they can financially support our congregation, after all, no plates are being passed in church on Sunday! There are three easy ways to give at this time: 1. You can send in your financial support via the mail (25 W. Main Street, North East, PA 16428). 2. You can contact the church office about setting up a direct deposit from your bank account to the church (814-725-8641). Many of you have done this already. Thank you! 3. There is also a smart phone app which makes giving simple. You can download “Give Plus Mobile”. It takes about five minutes to set up your account. You will be asked to put in the zip code in which you wish to give (16428). Choose First Presbyterian Church and make your donation. Thank you for your support!