



PASTOR'S POINT OF VIEW



Michael P. Rucker
Pastor

OPEN HEARTS. OPEN MINDS. OPEN DOORS.

It happened so fast. In one generation. Those of us who have attended church since we were wee little ones feel very at home when we gather in a sanctuary, a church lounge, a large social hall and kitchen, a Sunday School class. One generation later, to people in their 20's and 30's it feels like a foreign country. Something must change. No new news here. The church has been talking about change since I was ordained in to ministry in 1983. I believe change – positive, hopeful change – is occurring right now. Some evidence:

On two occasions this past month our congregation provided ministry to people who are not church members.

The first occasion was a difficult one. On Saturday,

September 8, the family and friends of Andrew Neilson, grandson of our former church treasurer, Pete Peterson, gathered in the sanctuary to remember and celebrate his life. Sadly, Andrew died as a young man. On September 8 our sanctuary was nearly full of people who are not regular church-goers. FPCE opened our hearts and doors to a grieving family. The people in the pews heard the gospel preached, but more importantly, they experienced “gospel hospitality” during the reception that followed the service.

The second occasion occurred on Saturday, September 22. Two young adults celebrated their wedding ceremony in our sanctuary. They were not members. I assisted in preparing for the service, but I did not lead it. Yes, this is unusual and probably would not have happened twenty years ago. But the people who attended that service were warmly welcomed, they loved the sanctuary, they left the service joyfully...this church made a good impression. For the generation of people who are known as “nones” (that is the block they check when asked for religious affiliation) an open door may sound like a small thing to do. But it makes a difference.

OPEN HEARTS. OPEN MINDS. OPEN DOORS.

Worship Schedule for October

October 7

“Take and eat. Take and drink. Do this in remembrance of me.” These words of Jesus resound through the centuries. On this World Communion Sunday we will join brothers and sisters from every nation, gather around the table of communion, and, as children of God, share in this mystery of faith.

October 14

A successful man who longed for eternal life approached Jesus with a question. Jesus' answer unsettled him. He turned around and walked away. Do you believe we would be less unsettled today? What would we do? Read Mark 10: 17-31 to read the full story.

October 21

As Jesus walked the walk and talked the talk of his life's mission, he drank from a bitter cup and endured a dark valley. Jesus asked his disciples then, and asks us now, are we ready to walk that walk?

October 28

During this emerging worship service we will meet one of the more memorable characters in Jesus' ministry. Bartimaeus is not one to hide his feelings – what a liberating way to be! See Mark 10: 46-52 for details.

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News from the Edge is the monthly newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood. If you have information you would like to include in the next issue, email Judy Mysels at office@fpcedgewood.org by the 15th of the prior month. Sponsorship is available for \$40 per month.

A COMMUNITY OF CONGREGATIONS?

Following the worship service on Sunday, September 23 elders Tyler McGuigan and Paul Otori joined Pastor Michael and attended a luncheon at the Grandview Golf Course Restaurant to discuss some ways for this congregation to move into the future. Elders and pastors from four other congregations, 2nd Presbyterian of Wilkinsburg, Waverly Presbyterian Church, Forest Hills Presbyterian, and Beulah Presbyterian, joined us. An energetic hour long conversation ensued.

First of all, each church shared the missions and ministries to which they are have been called. An impressive breadth of mission work is being done! We shared the challenges each of us face: small congregations compared to the “glory days” of the ‘50’s and early ‘60’s, giving down, and aging facilities that are costly to maintain. The good news is that each church loves God and remains committed to the ministry of Jesus Christ.

In other words, the call and desire to serve is clear, but our resources are dwindling.

We asked ourselves: Could we find a way to mutually support our stories, challenges, and mission? Are there ministries that we could do together? Could we share resources? Could we share staff?

These are important questions to address. The conversation is just beginning. Please keep this effort at cooperative ministry in your prayers.

ENCOURAGEMENT FROM STEWARDSHIP

Just as we depend on the Lord for Salvation, He depends on us for the support of His embodiment on earth - the Church. Stewardship is a Spiritual matter and a matter of our life priorities.

Worship Schedule for November (preview) (cont'd.)

November 4

Our lives are lived in the long shadows of the faithful who have received their eternal reward. On this All Saint’s Sunday, we will commune with them and one another as we celebrate the Lord’s Supper.

OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY



SESSION NOTES

- . Session approved the use of church facilities by Scene 75 for interviews and orientation on 9/10, 11, 15, 16.
- . Use of the Gathering Place by BNI (Corporate) on 9/25, 8AM-noon was approved.
- . A Congregational meeting was held after church on September 23 to elect 3 members from the congregation to serve on the 2018 nominating

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The newly elected nominating committee would like to hear from you if you have any interest in serving as either a Deacon or Elder. *Rhonda Apessos, Session Rep, Sallie Monk, Deacon Rep., Michelle Santo, Mary Ross, Lisa Segedy*

Some of you may be receiving phone calls or emails from the Nominating Committee asking if you would like to serve on the board of Deacons or Session. I decided to serve a one-year Session term (taking Luella Broe's spot on Session) and have been surprisingly enlightened. We are all very busy with our own lives and considering joining one more board/meeting time is unthinkable; but I would like to tell you how important this is to the future of our church and ongoing programs here. I'm sure any of the Deacons/Session members would be more than happy to tell you of their experience serving on their boards. The Deacons no longer meet every month for their meetings, but are active with the Strawberry Festival, writing and visiting shut-ins, monthly Sunday greeters during worship; so if this might be of interest to you, please think about it. The Session does meet the 2nd Tuesday of each month and is usually involved with one of our many church committees, but this is also optional if necessary? Consider seriously when asked to serve on one of these boards before saying "no". You and your fresh ideas may be the exact thing they are looking for to fill their slot...*Judy Mysels*

DECEMBER 9, 2018: BRING A FRIEND TO CHURCH DAY

In an effort to deck the halls and fill the sanctuary, we are asking that members bring a friend to Church on December 9, 2018 to join us for the second Sunday of Advent. At the close of worship, we will sing Christmas Carols and enjoy hot cocoa and Christmas cookies. Hope to see you and a friend!

SPECIAL CENTENIAL CELEBRATION: NOVEMBER 11th

Dear Members,

On November 11, 2018, we will hold a special worship service where we welcome several guest speakers and the Boy Scouts to Rededicate our sanctuary building and Commemorate the centennial of the Armistice, marking the end of World War I.

The service will open with Bells Of Peace. On November 11, 2018 at 11:00 am, Americans across the Nation will toll bells in remembrance of those who served and sacrificed in the War that changed the World. FPCE joins our brothers and sisters by tolling our bells in remembrance.

An anniversary luncheon will be held immediately following service in the Gathering Place. Please RSVP to Judy Mysels at (412)241-4613 OR office@fpcedgewood.org. Suggested Donation\$10.00

Please join us for this interdenominational worship service and invite your friends, neighbors and countrymen.



- ◆ We raise prayers for healing for Glenn Allen Monk, Elaine Cloonan, and Carol Hartman after their recent surgeries.
- ◆ Helen Ebken's son, Howard better known as Howie, died September 26. Reverend Rucker conducted a funeral service at Wolfe's Funeral Home on Saturday, September 29. Please keep Helen and her extended family in your prayers.

WE ARE IN NEED...

The church is currently in need of a member who would be available to act as assistant to our treasurer Tom Ochs. Some knowledge of computers is required. If you feel you could help in this ministry, please contact Tom at **412-952-8242**.

DECLUTTERING/DOWNSIZING SUPPORT GROUP

Will meet on Tuesday, October 9 and 30, from 5 to 6 p.m. in the Lounge. All are welcome. We are also creating a list of Pittsburgh organizations that accept donations.

Serving Others



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CROP WALK: October 14

On Oct.14, the Pittsburgh East community will celebrate its 41th year of walking to end hunger one step at a time. The oldest walk in the country, is sponsored by Church World Service (www.churchworldservice.org). 25% of what we raise is returned as grants to East End Common Ministries and Wilksburg Community Ministry. Youth and adults from this congregation will gather at the South Avenue United Methodist Church at 1:00 to gather in preparation for the 10K loop through Squirrel Hill and back. The walk distance is 6.2 miles. Walking time is approximately 2.5 hours.

You can participate by either walking or sponsoring FPCE walkers. You can also go to their website: <http://www.crophungerwalk.org/pittsburgheastpa> to electronically send money or sponsor a walker

YEAR OF MISSION PROJECT WITH WILKINSBURG COMMUNITY MINISTRY

PLEASE JOIN US TO MAKE BLANKETS FOR WCM

After our successful back pack campaign, we are now devoting our energy to making blankets for our neighbors in need. On **Saturday, October 20, 2018 at 1:00 pm**, Lorraine Douthett will lead us in the fine art of blanket making. This is an easy and fun project for the entire family. Everything needed to make a beautiful blanket will be supplied. We hope to see you on October 20!

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF LEIGH SCIULLI

FPCE will be hosting a commemoration for Leigh Sciulli on **October 21, 12:30PM**. For those of you who don't know her, she has been a crossing guard in Edgewood here on various corners for 38 years. There was a short celebration at Community Day on August 25 and also at one of the latest council meetings honoring her, but most people didn't know about these. Since she has impacted so many of our lives, we thought it was only right to have our own salute and to let as many people know about it as possible. We are putting up flyers, inviting Edgewoodians, Leigh's family, etc. and asking RSVP's to come into FPCE via phone and email.

F.R.O.G.S.
AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM
FRIENDS, READING, & OTHER GREAT STUFF



FROGS began its Fall session on September 4 with 7 returning tadpoles and 2 new ones. We also have a fantastic group of volunteers: Flo Raisig, Dan Mielke, Ruth Miller, Mary Ross, Rick Masten, Ed Masten. We have been getting acquainted and re-acquainted so far in September, and have been trying to take advantage of the last nice weather, playing on the church side lawn. A huge thank you to Emily Pocratsky for presenting a program on Sept. 20 on kindness and filling "our buckets" with good thoughts and kindnesses. Emily is a true FPCE treasure.

Snacks are needed: crackers, chips, cookies, and/or drinks: Capri Sun, juice, etc. Thank you to those who already supplied snacks, they are very much appreciated by all.

If anyone is interested in sharing their talents/jobs with us, please contact Judy Mysels at frogs@fpcedgewood.org or 412-241-4613. Also, volunteers are needed to help with homework, 3:45 to 4:15PM, so we can continue to have a one on one help. Clearances are needed. Anyone interested, please call or email.

Judy Mysels, Director

A LETTER FROM EDGEWOOD DAY CARE TO THE FPCE COMMUNITY

Greetings from Edgewood Day Care, your always grateful occupiers of the upstairs' classrooms! We would like to thank all of you, and especially Tom Ochs and Tim McKee for changing the boiler system over to an HVAC type which included air-conditioning our floor. I can certainly attest (especially during the final days of August) that the staff and children are much, much happier working and playing in the cooler temperatures. Even our youngest classroom of little ones are noticeably more pleasant and are sleeping better at naptime.



We have been caring for the children in the Edgewood and surrounding communities since 1982. We provide experienced and certified teachers that plan many great learning opportunities for our students.

We provide special programs that include music, exercise, dance and sign language. Our days are filled with art projects, singing, learning activities, storybooks, gym time, outdoor excursions and of course, supervised free-play with our friends.

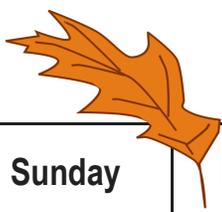
Our most important program we provide is with the Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf. We combine our preschool classes and alternate visits at each school every month. The friendships our children make are very special. In addition, each year Edgewood Day Care employs a deaf student as an intern enabling them to get experience working in a child care center.

EDC is also special in that over the years we have been blessed with many of our alumni returning to work in our classrooms while they attend high school or college. This past year we have been especially blessed with the beautiful, bright and hard-working daughter of Rob and Judy Mysels. Mariah shows great patience and loving care to the children in our young toddler room.

Every morning when I open the back door to our center, I look up and see the beautiful stained glass window picturing Jesus with his sheep. I am then reminded to give thanks to God and all of you for allowing me to care for God's littlest lambs all these years.

Love in Christ,

Linda Stagon



OCTOBER



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wedn.	Thursday	Frid	Saturday
	1 7:00 Scouts	2 10:00 Book Club 3:45 FROGS 7:00 AA	3	4 3:45 FROGS	5 8:00 AA	6 8:30 AA (SR)
7 9:30 Choir 9:45 Adult Class 11:00 Worship 12:15 Fellowship Deacon Mtg.	8 OFFICE CLOSED 7:00 Scouts	9 10:00 Book Club 3:45 FROGS 7:00 AA 7:00 Session Mtg.	10	11 1:00 Daytime Circle 3:45 FROGS	12 3:00 Rehearsal 8:00 AA	13 3:30 Foster Wedding 8:30 AA (SR)
14 9:30 Worship En 9:45 Adult Class 11:00 Emerging Worship 12:15 Fellowship CROP WALK	15 7:00 Scouts	16 10:00 Book Club 3:45 FROGS 7:00 AA	17	18 3:45 FROGS	19 8:00 AA	20 8:30 AA (SR)
21 9:30 Choir 9:45 Adult Class 11:00 Worship 12:15 Fellowship	22 7:00 Scouts	23 10:00 Book Club 3:45 FROGS 7:00 AA	24	25 3:45 FROGS	26 8:00 AA	27 8:30 AA
28 9:30 Choir 9:45 Adult Class 11:00 Worship 12:15 Fellowship	29 7:00 Scouts 7:00 Joy Circle	30 10:00 Book Club 3:45 FROGS 5:00 Declutter Workshop 7:00 AA	31			

Autumn Dates to Remember



Sunday Mornings

- 9:30 Choir Rehearsal
- 9:45 Adult Class
- 11:00 Morning Worship
- 5:30PM Eventide for Families (GP)
(last Sunday of the month)

Tuesday Mornings

- 10:00 Book Club at Apessos' Home

4th Monday:

- 7:00PM Joy Circle (church lounge)

October

- 14: Crop Walk

November

4: Daylight Savings Time Ends!!!

- 4: All Saints' Recognition/Communion Sunday
Prayer Chain Mtg.
- 11: Manger Tree kick-off
- 25: Hanging of the Greens service

Keep up on our social media platforms:

Website: www.fpcedgewood.org

Facebook: facebook.com/fpcedgewood

Twitter: [@fpcedgewood](https://twitter.com/fpcedgewood)

