



## Inside Renovations Top Discussion at Congregational Meeting

The annual meeting of the congregation took place on Sunday, January 25 to receive ministry team reports and the 2015 budget approved by Session. During the new business section, a presentation was made to the congregation about proposed changes to the interior of the church.

### *The times, they are a changin'*

With all due respect to Mr. Dylan, our church, as beautiful as it is, is starting to show signs of age. Major roof repairs, ALWAYS boiler repairs, not handicapped accessible, not air conditioned, and so forth...

The Elders have been dealing with these issues, and a not very functional layout for a long time. Session charged Tom Ochs (the money side and building guy) and Jim Segedy (former institutional architect) to look into possibilities and options. After talking to FPCE's neighbor, Bob Grubb, AIA, he prepared some ideas (JUST IDEAS) to use as a starting point for more serious discussions.

The obvious starting point was functionality, primarily with the near death boiler/heating system. Reconfiguration to accommodate a "zoned" forced air system, with a relatively easy add-on of air conditioning would require the moving of some walls in the "office wing" of the church. While we were at it, we looked at other use/organizational changes: keeping the "public side" on the north of the building (lounge, up-to-code restrooms, a slightly reconfigured "Gathering Place" and a serving kitchen (no food prep - that requires a special license).

*Continued on page 3...*



## FEBRUARY 2015 Worship Schedule

### **FEBRUARY 1**

Join us brothers and sisters as we celebrate the Lord's Supper. The Bible story will describe the first encounter Jesus has with a person full of unclean spirit. What spirit is it that makes this man so defiant and angry? Is that same spirit alive and well in today's world?

### **FEBRUARY 8**

We will honor Boy Scout Troop 23 during this Scout Sunday service. Come and support our scouts, meet their families and the really cool, hard-working scout leaders. Many are members of our congregation.

### **FEBRUARY 15**

Our Praise Ensemble will help lead us in our "emerging worship" style. The disciples Peter, James and John have an amazing vision of Jesus on a mountain top. What can we learn from their unlikely, barely believable story?

### **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18**

Join us for the Ash Wednesday service in the lounge.

### **FEBRUARY 22**

We've all experienced those long, dusty, dry times when our spirit is about to bake away. Or, like a smelter with impure silver, is God testing us? Are we being purified?

# STAFF DIRECTORY

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Monday–Friday  
9:00AM–2:00PM



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.

# PASTOR'S POINT OF VIEW



Michael P. Rucker  
Pastor

Hello everyone,

I write to you from my home office, still recovering from a nasty, stubborn cold or flu bug. I know a number of you are all too familiar with fever, aches, cough and body weariness this wintertime malady visits upon us. Outside the very dead, tree twigs and branches are bending toward the ground, bearing the weight of cold, beautiful, white snow. Late in the 19th century, the poet Christina Rossetti found inspiration in this lifeless-looking winter.

*In the bleak mid-winter, frosty wind made moan,  
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;  
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.*

*Our God, Heaven cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain;  
Heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign.  
In the bleak mid-winter a stable place sufficed;  
The Lord God almighty, Jesus Christ.*

Amazing things are happening beneath the heavy weight of snow. At this very moment, new life is preparing to bud from the trees when invited to by the warmth of the spring sun. An acid within the tree's chemistry is sending a message telling cells to not even try to grow but to focus its efforts at storing and holding on to the small amount of water there is beneath the bark. The tree is clinging to what life there is. All the while, each miraculous tree is preparing to grow once more when invited to by the warmth of the spring sun.

As I recover, amazing things are happening beneath the aches, pains and coughs of my cold. A sophisticated and powerful immune response is calling upon billions of various white blood cells to attack, destroy, inhibit or mark for destruction the invading viral cells. Happily, my white blood cells have won the battle—again. I am beginning to feel like my normal self.

Beneath the iron hard earth and the stone like frozen water; beneath the aches, weariness, sniffles and fever of the viral infection—life is clinging to life; hope is clinging to hope.

I believe there is an important spiritual lesson to be learned during these cold, dull winter days. For within the long, dark and beneath the weighty burdens of concern and worry that can freeze our spirits; the Holy Spirit is hovering over us and silently struggling within us—waiting once again for the Lord God to command: **Let there be light!**

*Pastor Michael*

# Renovations *(continued from page 1)*

The south side (current lounge area) would host church offices, nursery, etc. We would add a wheelchair/stroller ready lift in the side (north) Narthex with direct access to the “Public” areas (Lounge, restrooms, Gathering Place with serving kitchen).

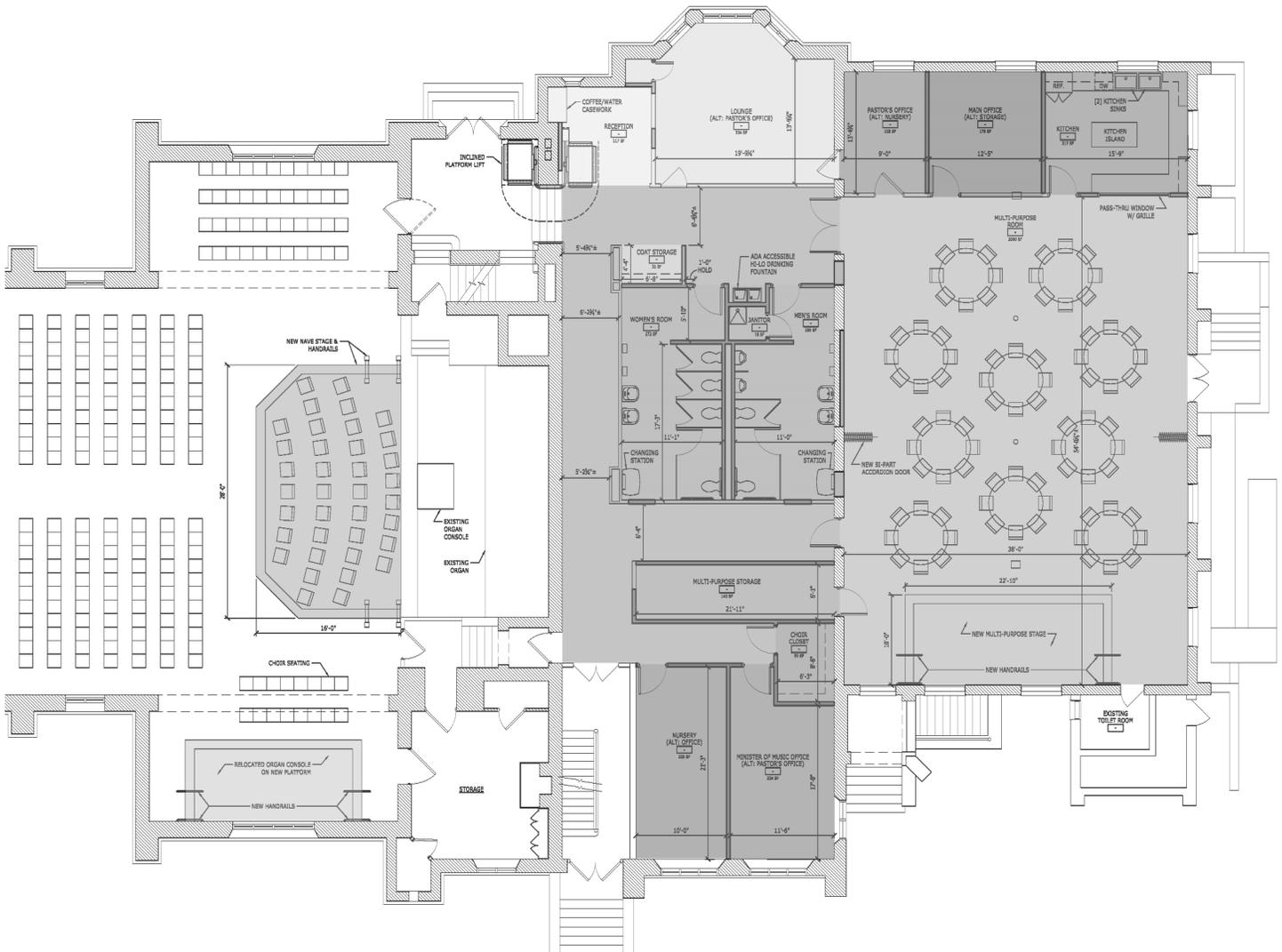
With the new HVAC systems, minor changes would need to be made to the Sanctuary as well. Essentially, the Pulpit/Lectern area would be “movable” to allow the officiants to be closer to the congregation, with the platform and choir loft being somewhat movable as well allowing for reconfiguration to a variety of performance-ready platforms. The organ console (which is digital and only connected to the pipes by a few cables) would be moved – and movable, to the side where the choir now sits (or someplace more prominent for special performances) and so the organist can be an active participant in the services instead of relying on mirrors and a video camera (what we’re doing now – not so good). NONE of the beautiful wood would be sacrificed, just reconfigured by a team of ecclesiastical restoration specialists to be used in the new Sanctuary structure.

## Costs...

Estimates are that the new HVAC system will offer approximately 30%/year savings – right away, and it will actually work. The rest of the costs (\$500,000 total) will be covered in a variety of ways – still under investigation.

Other areas under discussion refurbishing/upgrading the downstairs kitchen to bring it up to code (it is NOT currently, why we couldn’t do the Thanksgiving Dinner). Discussions are in process with the Edgewood Fire Department and a member of our congregation to address this critical issue. Along with that will be the installation of an accessible ramp from the Church Street entrance (yes, that is a public street that we are allowed to use as our parking lot), and other landscape enhancements.

Stay tuned. This is just the beginning of the discussions.



# Lent



Journey of  
the Heart

The season of Lent is a time of prayer, fasting and self-examination in preparation for the celebration of the resurrection of the Lord at Easter. It is a period of 40 days — like the flood of Genesis, Moses' sojourn at Mount Sinai, Elijah's journey to Mount Horeb, Jonah's call to Ninevah to repent and Jesus' time of testing in the wilderness. (The Sundays in Lent are not counted in this reckoning of the time between Ash Wednesday and Easter, as every Lord's Day is a celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.)

In the early church, Lent was a time of preparation for the celebration of baptism at the Easter Vigil. In many communities of faith it remains a time to equip and nurture candidates for baptism and confirmation and to reflect deeply on the theme of baptismal discipleship.

## ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18

7:00PM in the Lounge

We invite all of you—and urge you to bring your neighbors and friends—to an evening of reflective worship as we enter the season of Lent. We will pray, sing, hear the transforming word of scripture read and applied to our lives today. The service will conclude with the Imposition of Ashes.

### Wednesday Night Lenten Gatherings

*(We Are a Work in Progress)*

Lent is a time for discipleship. In the earliest days of the church, the season of Lent marked the time for new Christians to be trained in the way of Christ, then the new disciples rose to their feet along with the rest of the faithful on Easter morning and affirmed—“*Christ is risen!*” That period of devotion and training for new members has become a time of devotion, teaching and disciple training for all the church.

This year Pastor Michael invites participants to read, through each week, a book of biblically based meditations entitled *Wondrous Encounters*. The intent of these meditations is nothing less than a transformation into our original "image and likeness," which is the very image of God. What always and finally matters for all of us is encounter.

If time permits and there is interest we will think about lessons learned from the encounters some biblical figures had with a God who called them on a spiritual pilgrimage: a pilgrimage all of us can take through the Lenten season. (We will talk about the food and fellowship part of these evenings at our first class on **February 25 at 7PM in the Lounge.**)

### Adult Sunday School Class Focuses on Lent

Lent is a time for reflection and renewal; a time to think about our spiritual commitments and to reaffirm them or to make changes if we see the need. It is a time which is very personal to us, and, at the same time, one we share with our Christian brothers and sisters. This year, the Adult Church School Class will use The Lord's Prayer as our basis for our Lenten Study. We all know The Lord's Prayer by heart; we repeat it every Sunday during morning worship. But do we really know the prayer? Do we know what it says and what it means? Or do we simply recite it by rote because that's what we've *always* done? Beginning on February 22, we begin a 6 week look at the Lord's Prayer and find out what it says to us in our lives, and use it as the lens through which we see the Lenten season as we move towards Easter. Lesson topics include: *The Prayer of Complaint, The Prayer for Security, The Prayer Perfect, The Prayer We Will All Answer, and Everybody's Prayer*. Please join us on Sunday mornings at 9:45am in the Lounge as we prepare for Easter. This may be just what you've been looking for. We hope to see you there. See Pat Carrick for a study guide.

## Wednesday Night Bible Study - "An Eagle's Eye View of the Bible"

Each Wednesday from 7:00-8:00PM in the lounge we will be taking a week-by-week tour of the books of the Bible. We will start with Genesis on January 21st and go through one book each week for the next year and half or so. If you are looking for a new Bible study to be part of, now is the time to join us. It is low key and you don't need to study anything beforehand. Just bring your favorite Bible and join us as we unwrap the story of God in a fun and interesting way.

**Note: This group will take a break during Lent while Pastor Michael leads special Wednesday evening discussions, and will resume after Easter.**



### P.W. Corner

Lori Stutz, Moderator

Can anyone believe it's February already? With thoughts of Valentine's, and spring coming it's a short, yet hopeful month. We are hoping that you will think of us when you start your spring cleaning. If you'd like to donate, help for the Flea Market or be on the committee, please contact, Sallie Monk. We will not be doing a springtime bible study, because we want everyone to check out Jeff Nine's "Bird's eye view of the Bible" on Wednesday nights at 7pm! Please make note of the events coming up this year listed below for your calendar's. And finally, our thoughts and prayers go out to Kay Masten and her family in the loss of husband, Brad.

#### Upcoming Events/Meetings

Daytime Circle every 2nd and 4th

Thursday of the month, 1-230pm, Gathering Place

Joy Circle, the last Monday night of every month  
7pm in the Lounge

All business meetings take place after church  
in the Gathering Place

Winter Meeting: March 22, 2015

Spring Meeting May 17, 2015

Summer Meeting July 19, 2015

Fall Meeting October 26, 2015

*Planning meetings for business meetings will be  
announced via the bulletin/email*

Keep us in mind for the Flea Market,  
donate or help or just come:  
Friday, Preview Sale: April 24  
Saturday, Dale of Sale: April 25  
Sunday, April 26 after church  
Sallie Monk, chair.

Looking forward to another great year!

## FPCE Supports WCM

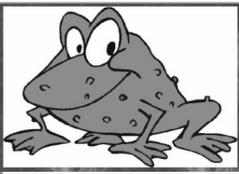
FPCE supports the Wilkesburg Community Ministry (WCM) with mission funding and Pastor Michael and Tom Ochs serve on the Board of Directors. Wilkesburg is a community only blocks away from FPCE that has many residents in need of your prayers and support.

Wilkesburg Community Ministry provides services on approximately 4500 occasions per year to senior citizens, citizens with disabilities, at-risk youth, and families who are economically challenged, unemployed, or underemployed. WCM's programs and their respective outcomes are critical to the Wilkesburg community, a highly-distressed area plagued by drugs and crime. The current economic climate has wrought its toll on the poor and underserved among us. Wilkesburg's 15,000 residents are especially hard hit. This urban community has an estimated per capita income of \$20,961 (2011), and the unemployment rate is 6.8%. Although unemployment is slightly lower than the state average (7.8% in July 2013), the 57% of the population that lives at or below poverty level makes Wilkesburg a community of the working poor. The high population of women (55.7%) makes the Borough among the highest density of women living in urban areas in the state; 51% of Wilkesburg females live below the poverty level and 28 percent of those live 50% below the poverty level. Eighty one percent of households below poverty are headed by females. Even more horrifying, 36% of the children living in the Borough are technically homeless, having no stable address, and the truancy rate at the Wilkesburg Public Schools is the highest in Pennsylvania. In this environment of instability and food insecurity, Wilkesburg Community Ministry provides emergency food services to the Borough's residents and ongoing food services through Meals on Wheels and meals for children and youth.

Many of WCM's outcomes are intangible: How are smiles on children's faces measured? Or the health and quality of the life of a senior citizen? How measurable is an individual's anger-reduction from having a social worker to listen and help solve the immediate problems? Still, WCM takes great care to ensure that every penny donated is spent wisely and not wasted. The number of clients served and the use of limited resources (by bringing together the community) serve as a benchmark for the progress of our programs.

Thanks to FPCE for your support of the WCM mission.

*Cathy Brundage, WCM Executive Director*



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

The FROGS After-School Program is hopping along nicely. At the beginning of the January session (Jan. 6), FROGS has a new director, Judy Mysels, under the tutelage of Flo Raisig. A million thanks for FROGS helpers: Connie Black, Ranger Tim Manka, Dan Mielke, Ruth Miller, Nozomi Sakai, Mary Ross.

FROGS are in need of snacks such as: individual juice boxes/bag, individual snack packages such as peanut butter/cheese crackers, fruit roll-ups, pretzels, chips, Rice Krispy bars, etc. Thank you!

## SOUPER BOWL OF CARING Sunday, February 1

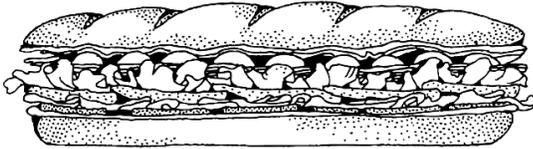
SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY: In 1990, a Super Bowl Sunday prayer inspired a group of young people to do something more than celebrate a football game. They created the Souper Bowl of Caring, and have mobilized youth across the country to raise more than \$71 million since '91 for people in need. *ALL THE MONEY RAISED* goes directly to a charity of our choosing—no administrative costs are deducted. Please drop at least \$1.00 in a soup pot that will be at the exits of the sanctuary this morning.



[tacklehunger.org](http://tacklehunger.org)

## Deacons Triangle Hoagie Sale Ends Feb. 16

The Deacons are selling the famous Triangle Hoagies.



- 8" Italian \$7.00 with/without oil
- 8" Corned Beef \$8.00 with/without oil
- 8" Turkey \$8.00 with/without oil
- 8" Roast Beef \$8.00 with/without oil

Orders are being taken now. Call the Church Office at 412-241-4613 to place order, send in check made payable to FPCE with "hoagie sale" in memo line. Deadline is February 16 by 2PM. Pick up will be at the church on Thursday, February 19 from 11AM-1PM, and 4-6PM.

Questions, contact Rick Masten at 412-371-4984.



*Sharing in the  
 joys and concerns  
 of our family &  
 friends at FPCE*

- Continued prayers for Sudsy, Mary Ann Hartman's brother-in-law
- Diane, Mary Ann Hartman's sister received a good report from the doctor
- The Hartmans would like to thank Lorraine for the beautiful ornament in memory of our mom and dad
- We offer our support and prayers to Suzie Inglefield, daughter of Dorothy Denton for her passing
- We are all feeling the loss of a wonderful man and faithful brother, Brad Masten. Continue praying for the Lord to comfort Kay, Rick, Ed, Scott, and the rest of the Masten family.
- We rejoice with our brother Jim Segedy, who after several years of searching has found employment as the new Land Use Planner for Peters Township. (Which also means no moving from Pittsburgh!) Congratulations, Jim!
- Thank you to Flo Raisig for her time as Interim FROGS Director during the fall session, and welcome to Judy Mysels as the new director of our community after-school program.
- Thank you to the Deacons for providing our pancake brunch after, and to Judy for compiling the annual report discussed at our congregational meeting.

# February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
C=Choir Room GP=Gathering Place L=Lounge O=Office PS=Pastor's Study S=Sanctuary SC=Scout Room SR=Social Room	 <p>All shall give as they are able, according to the blessing of the Lord your God that he has given you. (Deut 16:17, NRSV)</p> <p>Blessings, Paul Ohori</p>					
1 SOUPER BOWL COLLECTION 9:30 Choir (C) 9:45 Pollyanna (GP) 9:45 Adult Class (L) 11:00 Worship (S) 12:15 Fellowship (L)	2      7:00 Scouts (SC)	3  10:00 Book Club (L)   3:45 FROGS  7:00 Deacons (L) 7:00 AA (SR)	4     7:00 Bible Study (L)	5     3:45 FROGS	6     8:00 AA (SR)	7     8:30 AA (SR)
8 SCOUT SUNDAY  9:30 Choir (C) 9:45 Pollyanna (GP) 9:45 Adult Class (L) 11:00 Worship (S) 12:15 Fellowship (L)	9   7:00 Men's Group 7:00 Scouts (SC)	10  10:00 Book Club (L)   3:45 FROGS  7:00 Session (GP) 7:00 AA (SR)	11   7:00 Worship Ensemble (S) 7:00 Bible Study (L)	12   1:00 PW Circle (GP)  3:45 FROGS	13    8:00 AA (SR)	14    8:30 AA (SR)
15  9:30 Worship Ens. 9:45 Pollyanna (GP) 9:45 Adult Class (L) 11:00 Emerging 12:15 Fellowship (L)	16 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>  <i>Hoagie Deadline</i>  7:00 Scouts (SC)	17  10:00 Book Club (L)   3:45 FROGS  7:00 AA (SR)	18 <b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b>   <b>7:00 Ash                      Wednesday                      Service (L)</b>	19  11:00 Hoagie Pickup   3:45 FROGS 4:00 Hoagie Pickup 7:00 Grief Group (L)	20    8:00 AA (SR)	21    8:30 AA (SR)
22  9:30 Choir (C) 9:45 Pollyanna (GP) 9:45 Adult Class (L) 11:00 Worship (S) 12:15 Fellowship (L)	23  7:00 Men's Group 7:00 Joy Circle (L) 7:00 Scouts (SC)	24  10:00 Book Club (L)   3:45 FROGS  7:00 AA (SR)	25    7:00 Lenten Gathering (L)	26   1:00 PW Circle (GP)  3:45 FROGS	27    8:00 AA (SR)	28    8:30 AA (SR)



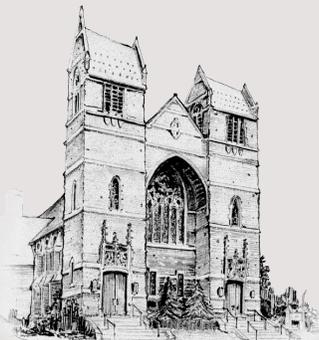
First Presbyterian Church of

**EDGEWOOD**

*The Community Church*

120 E. Swissvale Avenue • Pittsburgh, PA 15218

**A monthly support group  
for people surviving the  
loss of a love**



First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood  
Rev. Michael Rucker, Pastor  
120 East Swissvale Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15218

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## GRIEVING SPACE

at the First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood

Here, we understand that finding the space to grieve can sometimes be every bit as challenging as the loss itself.

Should you need us, our support group is here.

Meetings: every third Thursday of the month, 7pm

Call us to let us know you are coming: 412-241-4613

Individual support with a certified grief counselor is also available through:



**Edgewood Psychological Services**