

news from the EDGE



First Presbyterian Church of
EDGEWOOD
The Community Church

Believing we are called together
by God's love through Jesus Christ, our mission as
the First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood is to
love God, to love each other and to love our neighbors.

The monthly newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood

May 2017

PASTOR'S POINT OF VIEW



Michael P. Rucker
Pastor

The 3-Step Resurrection Shuffle

If there is one thing you will never find in a Presbyterian worship service, it is people dancing in the aisles. I can further assure you that, as your pastor, I will never invite you to dance during a worship service. That is our loss. In the Bible, dancing is an expression of pure, uninhibited joy!

Israel, out looking for a place to rest,
met God out looking for them!

God told them, "I've never quit loving you and never will.

Expect love, love, and more love!
And so now I'll start over with you and build you up
again...

You'll resume your singing,
grabbing tambourines and *joining the dance.*"

(Jeremiah 31: 3-4)

If we Presbyterians ever have reason to sing and dance, it would be on Easter Sunday. Resurrection Sunday. If God did not raise Jesus from the tomb, there would be no Christian faith to heal us, redeem us, renew us, save us! But "Christ is risen! He is Risen indeed!" So, in the privacy of your own home, I invite you to dance with me. I call this the "*3 Step Resurrection Shuffle.*"

Step 1: Give thanks! The resurrection is something Christ *did for us*. As ministers proclaim at the grave of a brother or sister in faith who has died but is not really dead – **Christ trampled down death by death giving life to those in the tomb.** By

Worship Schedule for May

May 7

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be at the center of this service. Pastor Michael will read and preach from the Gospel According to John, chapter 10: 1-10. The Easter season reminds us who the real shepherd of the world-wide Christian church truly is.

May 14

Mothering Sunday! God so ordered the world that we all have mothers, grandmothers, aunts, mother-helpers! This is the Sunday we offer our thanks. Mothering is a challenging ministry!

May 21

What did the earliest Christian leaders say to their fledgling congregations? How did the teachings of Jesus help them? Do those early leaders have anything to say to our 21st century technological, fast-paced, interconnected world? If you want to get a head-start answering these questions, read Acts 17: 22-31 and I Peter 2: 2-10 before coming to worship. This will be a classical style worship service.

May 28

The Risen Jesus rises to God his Father in the scripture passages we will read this week. We call it Ascension Sunday. This, too, is part of the mystery of our faith.

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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.

Pastor's Point of View (cont'd.)

by death giving life to those in the tomb. By ourselves, we could never have broken the powers of darkness and death. But the resurrection means that Christ did that *for us*. (So, stretch out your arms, lift your head to the heavens, smile, lower yourself to one knee. This is the thanksgiving step. Go ahead, do it. No one is watching.)

Step 2: Shout “Hallelujah!” The resurrection is something Christ *does to you*. The only real proof we have of the resurrection is that history changed. Which it did. And if history changes, people have to change as well. So let the Risen Christ come to life *in you*. Abandon your heart, mind, body, and soul to the God who raised Jesus and that same resurrection will change you! Renew you! Rebirth you! As Peter writes (1 Peter 1:3): **Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead...** (Push yourself up from a kneeling position and leap into the air, arms outstretched even farther if you can. This is the “Hallelujah!” step.)

Step 3: Rejoice! The resurrection is something Christ *does through you*. Do you remember what happened after Peter preached the first resurrection sermon? **And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them...**not a needy person among them! The resurrection means so much more than each of us getting a ticket into heaven. The resurrection empowers us to live a transformed and transforming life *in this world*. (After jumping into the air, land on both feet. Spin wildly around the room. Throw yourself into the world. Stretch out your arms as widely as you can. This step is called “The Celebration Step”. It is a dance meant to be shared.

You cannot go through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference – and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make. **Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed! Let us live the resurrection faith!**

Pastor Michael

June 4

Remember the rock group Earth, Wind, and Fire? I don't know if they knew it – but holy wind and fire storming onto our earth is what Pentecost is all about. What a joyful, upbeat, Pentecostal Sunday this will be! Our emerging style worship service will include the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

Building Renovation Update

The Fundraising Committee is pleased to announce that we have raised \$100,900 for the building renovation project to date. This includes the \$25,000 bequest from the Marilyn Beaver estate, \$75,700 in pledge cards; and \$200 from fundraising events, i.e., Sunday School Candy Sale.

We have achieved our goal of \$100,000 - thank you! We are hoping for another \$25,000 in commitments so that we meet the \$100,000 goal *without* the bequest. Our final two fundraising events consist of a Progressive Dinner (see article in this newsletter), and Edgewood Music Night, TBA. We hope you will join us for the final two events of the Campaign where we will not only raise money for the renovation but enjoy food and fellowship with our FPCE Family.

If you have not submitted your pledge card, you will be hearing from us. Our goal is to have all members submit their cards and pledge something, ***no matter how small.***

Lastly, if you have any interest in conducting or helping with a fundraising event, please contact anyone on the committee. We thank you for your help and patience during our Fundraising Drive. We are planning on ending this phase of the fundraising in June 2017!

Rhonda Apossos

Progressive Dinner

You are cordially invited to attend a Progressive Dinner in support of the 2017 Building Renovation Campaign. The Dinner will be held on **Sunday, June 11, 2017** beginning at 5:00 p.m. We will eat in groups of ten at four different homes and join for dessert at the Apossos home where we will also have a silent auction, AKA mini flea market. Sign up sheets will be available soon at the Church. Please mark your calendar!



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

- Thank you to Ruth Miller, Flo Raisig for arranging the beautiful Easter flowers in the Sanctuary.
- Thanks to Tim Carr for his many hours in the Food Pantry, organizing, moving out-dated food.
- Congratulations to the family of Jake and Emily MacGregor on the baptism of their daughter, Kathleen Renee MacGregor, on April 23.
- Congratulations to the family of Jake Eiseman, who celebrated his Eagle Scout Rank here at FPCE, April 30.

WORSHIP TEAM UPDATE

First of all, Pastor Michael, Shaun, and Sunny thank all of the people who helped create meaningful worship services through the Lenten and early Easter seasons.

Lorraine Douthett sets the tone for the worship services through banners, plants, crosses, draped cloth, and candles.

Jim and Lisa Segedy share their thesbian gifts with us and bring the biblical story dramatically to life.

The Sanctuary Choir inspires the congregation with singing, powerful and beautiful, each Sunday.

Ruth Miller set the tables for the Passover Seder on Maundy Thursday. Several other members helped clean up afterwards.

On Easter Sunday, Pastor Michael's niece, Liana Westerman, a student at the Baldwin Wallace School of Music, accompanied Sunny on both the cello and flute. Together they raised our spirits in resurrection celebration with their gifts of music.



Camp SOS is Back for a Second Summer of Service

Our inaugural year of the reimagined summer youth outreach program was a success. We had 10 campers with us who learned about what it means to be a helper in the community and the different people and places you can go to make a difference in the lives of those around us.

This year, we're taking the next step. We're planning to have our middle school campers DOING mission work. Our planning team is hard at work connecting with various people and organizations in the area to put together some hands-on community service projects. We're in talks with the Edgewood Library, Wilkinsburg Community Ministry, East End Cooperative Ministries, the Edgewood Borough, and Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf. Our hope is that the campers will be able to spend time doing some work that will help others, teaching the value of serving and making a difference.

The camp runs Monday-Friday, June 19-23 and will take place from 9:00AM-2:00PM each day, with a structured activity, discussion, recreation/game, a provided lunch, and a service-oriented project. We'll need some volunteers to join our amazing staff to assist with snacks and meals, walking to various locations, helping with activities and games, and whatever else comes along! If you feel the call upon your heart to be a part of this important mission outreach of our church, please contact the church office and let us know. Judy will be able to give you the forms we need to make sure you have clearances by the state to work with youth. We'll take help in any shape or format – a few hours one day, helping to set up or clean up on a day or 2, sending in some snacks or lunch items, etc.!

Sending out an SOS...let's get the word out! Flyers are going to the Woodland Hills Intermediate Center, 7th

graders and the Jr./Sr. High, and the Academy, as well as the Environmental Charter School in Regent Square, St. James, and St. Maurice schools. Our camp is geared toward middle-schoolers...those entering grades 5 through 8 in the fall. There is no cost for registration, and a lunch & snack will be provided to the campers each day. If you know someone who may benefit from this week (grandchild, niece or nephew, friend of the family, the next-door neighbor's kid, etc.), let them know about it. They can either call the church office at 412-241-4613 or visit the website at www.fpcedgewood.org and register online. We'd love to have 25 this year, more than doubling last year's group

Also Coming Up in June

Wednesday, June 7

First Community Meal
6-8PM on the Lawn

Sunday, June 11

Worship moves to 10:00AM
Progressive Dinner

Saturday, June 17

Women's picnic at the home of Florence Pickels, 342 Ridge Ave., Forest Hills

Wednesday, June 21

Deacons' Annual Strawberry Festival
6:00-8:00PM on the Lawn



F.R.O.G.S.

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

FRIENDS, READING, & OTHER GREAT STUFF

FROGS will be ending for this session on May 30.

During those last days, we hope to make a few trips down to Koenig Field to play, but also have time to make Mother's Day and Father's Day crafts. We also plan on a pizza/ice cream party on our last day!

We have had a very busy year, with a great group of kids! Our FROGS always seem to have a lot of energy, don't always want to do their homework, etc., but at the end of the day, when hugs are exchanged and they walk out the door with their parents/guardians, we feel a huge sense of accomplishment!

Would like to thank Betty Sheridan, Barb Moyer, Flo Raisig, Heather Wilson and other anonymous contributors of snacks. These are very much appreciated by all!

Many thanks again to our fantastic volunteers: Flo Raisig, Dan Mielke, Mary Ross, Ruth Miller, Rick Masten, Ed Masten, Sallie Monk, Mary Ann Hartman. Special treats from Rick Masten (Easter Egg Hunt) and those yummy little donuts the kids love, Mary Ann Hartman treating them with cupcakes made into Easter baskets, homemade treats from Ruth Miller, goodie bags from Dan Mielke, games and craft projects from Mary Ross, special monthly books, crafts, educational packets from Flo Raisig; *plus any others I might have forgotten*

Judy Mysels, Director

Adult Sunday School

Tour of the Bible meets each Sunday at 9:45 PM (when worship is at 11:00 AM). We are just starting the New Testament and will be discussing the Gospel of Luke. Please join us in the Lounge at 9:45 AM. Bring your favorite Bible and an open heart. When we move to 10:00 AM worship, the class will be at 8:45 AM each Sunday. Here is the schedule for the weeks in May:

- 5/7 Gospel of John
- 5/14 Acts of the Apostles
- 5/21 NO CLASS
- 5/28 Paul's Letter to the Romans

Financial News

Year to Date March 31, 2017

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
Income received:	\$56,803.56	\$64,940.00
Expenses paid:	\$61,853.40	\$66,064.88

At the end of March, FPCE is below budget for both income and expenses. Income is under budget primarily due to donations. Donation are not received evenly each month and April and December are months with higher receipts. Expenses are under budget, which is good for this time of year because we have passed the prime heating season when gas bills are very high. At this time, there are no extraordinary expenses expected for the remainder of the year.

Stewardship is a Spiritual Matter and a Matter of Our Life Priorities

Please contribute to the Per Capita Fund for 2017. FPCE pays the Pittsburgh Presbytery the entire amount of Per Capita for each member each year. In other words, the Per Capita is paid forward by our church. This process is similar to other aspects of our faith journey. Please consider contributing. The amount for each member is \$31.50 (payable to FPCE - please write "Per Capita" in the memo section).

Thank you,
Paul Otori
Stewardship Committee

The Book Corner

Hooray! Anne Lamott has a new book out! If you first met her in *Traveling Mercies* or learned how to pray with her trilogy, *Help, Thanks, Wow* (the only 3 prayers you'll ever need), you'll be delighted to learn she has a new book out called *Hallelujah Anyway*. And if you are just meeting her for the first time....lucky you! She is THE expert in everyday spirituality and telling it like it is.



Music Ministry – May 2017

Easter Thanks

We had a glorious Easter morning worship service full of beautiful music! Thanks to the dedicated members of the music ministry for making the day memorable. Sunny wowed us with the organ, the Sanctuary Choir was in perfect harmony with each other, Lisa strummed along with our Celtic Alleluia, and Michael's niece Liana added a lovely dimension to the service with her flute and cello playing. Thanks as well to the behind-the-scenes crew that helped to make Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services go smoothly. And our Palm Sunday celebration the week before was a meaningful emerging service, even with a skeleton crew in the Worship Ensemble! We are very lucky to have the folks we do share their gifts and talents with us week in and week out.

A Round of Musical Chairs

This month, Sunny has some traveling on her schedule, so I'll be playing the role of music director and organist for half of the month. Then, one Sunday I'll be gone with the high school music department on our performance tour to Cedar Point and the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, so Sunny will be leading the choir in my absence. As a result of this little game of musical chairs, we'll skip our usual third Sunday Emerging Worship service this month and instead have a great celebration with the band for the "birthday of the church" on Pentecost, June 4th! Who's on first? I don't know!

Heidelberg University Choir – Help Needed!

On Monday, May 15, we will host the talented singers from the Heidelberg University Concert Choir & Chamber Singers for one performance as part of their spring tour to Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, and Ohio. They will present a free concert at 7:00PM in our sanctuary, and all are encouraged to come hear them. Spread the word, as a Monday night concert isn't typically the most ideal time, but it's when they are in town – we didn't get to pick the date!

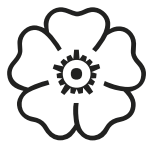
As part of the hosting responsibilities, we are to provide the singers with a dinner before their concert. Ruth Miller has graciously offered to coordinate the meal, but we need help! Donations of side dishes and desserts, a small set-up and clean-up crew are needed to help this go smoothly for the 50 or so college students that will be visiting us. If you are able to help in any way, by providing a dish/dessert, or a helping hand, please either e-mail me (music@fpcedgewood.org) or Ruth (mammyof5@comcast.net) to let us know what you'll be bringing or when you can help out. This should be a pretty easy one for us, considering we know ahead of time how many are coming (unlike the community meals that always amazingly come together with a total guess of how many we will serve!).

Shaun Cloonan, Minister of Music

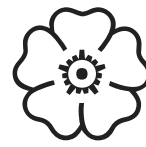
CONGRATULATIONS, SHAUN!

Our own Shaun Cloonan is the Music Director for the North Hills School District. For the fourth year in a row, the North Hills District has been honored as one of the nation's Best Communities for Music Education by the noted NAMM Foundation! NHSD is one of only 527 school districts across the country to be recognized with this honor. The Best Communities for Music Education designation is awarded to school districts that demonstrate exceptional efforts toward maintaining music education as part of the schools' core curriculum.

Did you know? At North Hills School District, eight out of every 10 students has taken part in a music class or related activity during the 2016-17 school year. A total of 12 different classes are taught at North Hills High School, and students can enroll in 10 music class options at North Hills Middle School. All elementary students take part in a general music class and more than 600 fourth, fifth and sixth-graders play instruments in the elementary band or orchestra or sing in the children's choir. Participation in musical ensembles at the elementary level has increased by more than 100 students this year.



May



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 10:00 Book Club 3:45 FROGS 7:00 Deacons 7:00 AA (SR)	3	4 3:45 FROGS	5 8:00 AA (SR)	6 8:30 AA (SR)
7 12:15 Prayer Chain Mtg. (GP)	8 7:00 Men's Group	9 10:00 Book Club 3:45 FROGS 7:00 Session 7:00 AA (SR)	10	11 1:00 Daytime Circle 3:45 FROGS	12 5:00 AA's Ann. Party	13 9:00AM-3PM Boy Scout Flea Market (side lawn) 8:30 AA (SR)
14 12:15 Muffins for Mom	15 7:00 Heidelberg Choir	16 10:00 Book Club 3:45 FROGS 7:00 AA (SR)	17	18 3:45 FROGS	19 8:00 AA (SR)	20 8:30 AA (SR)
21	22 7:00 Men's Group	23 10:00 Book Club 3:45 FROGS 7:00 AA (SR)	24	25 1:00 Daytime Circle 3:45 FROGS	26 8:00 AA (SR)	27 8:30 AA (SR)
28 12:15PM Memorial Day Observance (Memorial Park)	29 MEMORIAL DAY OFFICE CLOSED	30 3:45 FROGS (last one) 7:00 AA (SR)	31			



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Blankets for Mom

Sunday, May 14

Honor your mom by giving the gift of love and hope in her honor or memory. Church World Service (CWS) and FPCE's Mission Ministry Team are sponsoring "Blanket Sunday" on May 14. Your donation of \$5 per blanket will help provide warmth and the knowledge that someone cares to refugees, victims of natural disasters, and many others across the world. Fill out a bulletin insert through May 7 or call the Church Office., 412-24-4613.