

# 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

**November 2019**

## PASTOR'S POINT OF VIEW



Michael P. Rucker  
Pastor

Greetings on this month for thanks giving!

*The Lord is able to do wonderful things with whatever we  
are able to give him.*

Years ago I played in a church sponsored father-son basketball game. The game was close, the fathers won, I scored all of 2 points. As I bemoaned my meager contribution to our victory, our coach, who played basketball at a major college, said, "But Michael, we really needed those two points to win."

**If you have faith the size of a mustard seed...like a pinch of yeast in a big dough of bread...like the poor widow who could only put a couple of cents into the offering plate....God takes whatever we are able to give and creates something new and wonderful.**

"As Christians we believe that the Kingdom of God has already been established by Jesus, it is something that is and something that will be." (from pray-as-you-go blog) The river of the water of life (Revelation 22:1) is already flowing. The kingdom of God is strengthened and moves closer to its fulfillment whenever we contribute our treasure and talent to it.

This coming month you will be asked to contribute to the mission and ministry of this congregation. Please give as generously as you can, knowing that God will use whatever you are able to give.

*Happy Thanksgiving!*

*Pastor Michael*

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR NOVEMBER



### **November 3 (Daylight Savings Time ends!!! Fall back one hour.)**

Our lives are lived in the long shadows of the faithful who have received their eternal reward. On this All Saints' Sunday, we will commune with them and one another as we celebrate the Lord's Supper. All Saints' Sunday challenges us to prayerfully consider our stewardship of the Christian faith, ministry, mission our ancestors have passed on to us.

### **November 10 – Stewardship and Veterans**

Two commitments will be recognized and honored this Sunday. First, we will prayerfully and intentionally consider our financial commitment to the mission and ministry of FPCE. Second, at 1:00 p.m. that afternoon, I will help lead a special service recognizing Edgewood's military veterans with the dedication of two new plaques listing those residents who served during the Korea and Vietnam eras.

### **November 17 – Emerging Worship**

The scripture passage in Luke 21 paints a frightening scenario about the future. Yet, in spite of the fear and trembling, Christians will be empowered and emboldened to give a faith-filled testimony for the world.

### **November 24 – Christ the King Sunday**

We have come to the end of the church calendar year. Kings and queens rise to their thrones with celebratory flourish and a magnificent ceremony. Presidents in our nation stand before the nation and are inaugurated into office with a dignified, solemn oath. The coronation of Jesus still surprises us and mystifies the world. A crucified king? (see Luke 23: 33-43)

## STAFF DIRECTORY

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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](mailto:office@fpcedgewood.org) by the 15th of the prior month. Sponsorship is available for \$40 per month.

## STEWARDSHIP MATTERS



### A passage from scripture & a thought on stewardship

#### *The Parable of Talents (NIV, Luke 19-12-27)*

*He said: "A man of noble birth went to a distant country to have himself appointed king and then to return. So he called ten of his servants and gave them ten minas. 'Put this money to work,' he said, 'until I come back.'*

*"But his subjects hated him and sent a delegation after him to say, 'We don't want this man to be our king.' "He was made king, however, and returned home. Then he sent for the servants to whom he had given the money, in order to find out what they had gained with it.*

*"The first one came and said, 'Sir, your mina has earned ten more.' "Well done, my good servant!' his master replied. 'Because you have been trustworthy in a very small matter, take charge of ten cities.' "The second came and said, 'Sir, your mina has earned five more.' "His master answered, 'You take charge of five cities.' "Then another servant came and said, 'Sir, here is your mina; I have kept it laid away in a piece of cloth. I was afraid of you, because you are a hard man. You take out what you did not put in and reap what you did not sow.'*

*"His master replied, 'I will judge you by your own words, you wicked servant! You knew, did you, that I am a hard man, taking out what I did not put in, and reaping what I did not sow? Why then didn't you put my money on deposit, so that when I came back, I could have collected it with interest?' "Then he said to those standing by, 'Take his mina away from him and give it to the one who has ten minas.' " "Sir," they said, "he already has ten!"*

*"He replied, 'I tell you that to everyone who has, more will be given, but as for the one who has nothing, even what they have will be taken away. But those enemies of mine who did not want me to be king over them—bring them here and kill them in front of me.' "*

In my recent reading, I noticed that there were 7 other servants who were given minas. I wonder what happened to them. Were they slain? What if a servant took a risk and lost his investment? What would have happened to him? I hope he would have been forgiven.

# Our Church Community



**DEACON MEETING: Sunday, November 3, following worship, side transept of Sanctuary**

## **SESSION NOTES...**

Approved the use of the Lounge by Lisa Segedy on Oct. 5, 12, 7-9PM.

Approved the use of the Gathering Place by Mary Barr for an art class on Oct. 12, 19, 26, Nov. 2, 20AM-Noon.

Approved the use of the Gathering Place by the East End Singles Group for a potluck dinner on Oct. 19, 4-8PM.

Discussed the proposed budget for 2020.

## **THANK YOU CROP-WALKERS!**

They had a great time participating in the 2018 Crop Walk. Walkers were Judy and Mariah Mysels, Rhonda and Jon Apossos, and we are still accepting donations by sending into church office or via on-line giving. Thank you for your support.



November is a short month for FROGS because of school days off and holidays, but we are still "hopping".

We did Halloween/fall crafts/activities, played outside a lot during our beautiful Fall weather. On Oct. 17, we took a field trip to the Edgewood Fire Dept. so they could learn about fire safety. Officer Fred Livingston of the Edgewood Police presented a Halloween safety program on Oct. 24.

Also many thanks to the wonderful volunteers who help make this program so successful, especially during homework time.

Huge thanks for the donations of snacks and drinks from the wonderful FPCE family, especially Wayne Dean and the Board of Deacons. Also thank you to Glenn Allen Monk for donating his TV for the kids to watch videos, play video games/WII.

*Judy Mysels, Director*

## **HANGING OF THE GREENS**

Following the worship service on November 24, we will pull out the boxes and unpack the festive decorations. Banners will be hung, and a Chrismon tree put in its

place. The entire congregation is invited to take part in our annual "hanging of the greens". We dress the sanctuary (and a few other rooms as well!) for the season of Advent.



## **EDGEWOOD VETERANS' DAY**

Join us for a salute to our veterans.

**On Sunday, November 10, 2019,** we will recognize Edgewood's military veterans with the dedication of two new plaques listing those residents who served during the Korea and Vietnam eras. The ceremony will

take place in Memorial Park at 1:00 pm following the church service.

Research over the past two years by the Edgewood Veterans' Committee has yielded over 75 additional names of those who served. The effort to replace the current plaque was made possible by donations from Edgewood High School graduates, community and family members.

Refreshments will be served in the Gathering Place of the church following the ceremony.

## **Do you ever wonder if all this being good and doing the right thing is worth it?**

People are often unreasonable, irrational, and self-centered. Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives. Be kind anyway.

If you are successful, you will win some unfaithful friends and some genuine enemies. Succeed anyway.

If you are honest and sincere people may deceive you. Be honest and sincere anyway.

What you spend years creating, others could destroy overnight. Create anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness, some may be jealous. Be happy anyway.

The good you do today, will often be forgotten. Do good anyway.

Give the best you have, and it will never be enough. Give your best anyway.

In the final analysis, it is between you and God. It was never between you and them anyway.

*attributed to Mother Teresa*

However, I do not know, and there are multiple interpretations. I believe the message here is that we are all given minas (whether we realize it or not). The objective is to put it to good use. Some ventures involve risk, but whatever the outcome, the Lord knows our heart and intent.

- Paul is working with the Upper Room church which meets in the Wilkins Community Center. Upper Room is a small group of devoted disciples. All under the age of 40. Paul does make the point that we share some similarities and differences in our worship style. Though small, the congregation has strong musical gifts. Paul has talked with the student intern leading that church, Brendan Ashley. Pastor Michael has had lunch with Brendan, as well.



## STRATEGIC PLANNING (cont'd.)

- A relationship with the two churches is unfolding. The hope is that the Upper Room Church could use our Gathering Place on Sunday mornings for their style of worship service. FPCE would meet in the sanctuary. Also, FPCE may be able to financially support the Upper Room to some degree.
- Paul has invited Brendan and a few elders to the November session meeting to get to know one another better and to develop our relationship. Pastor Michael is having lunch with Brendan on Monday, October 21, to talk more about this idea.  
(UPDATE – Heather and I did meet with Brendan for lunch on October 22. Brendan is in conversation with his elders/congregation about the possibility of attending our November session – Brendan will respond to Paul's invitation soon.)

### Thoughts from JIM SEGEDY:

- Jim is convinced that other organizations such as the ESO and the Edgewood VFD are looking for more space. The ESO is seeking a permanent rehearsal site and a "home." VFD has outgrown their facility.
- Jim will urge the organizations to contact Judy/Michael about the next steps.  
(UPDATE – FPCE has heard from the ESO. After conversation, it was decided that a long-term relationship is not possible.)

### Thoughts from TIM McKEE

- Tim makes the point that this facility is used by many more groups than our congregation. These groups provide excellent community services. As we think about the direction the church is going, the needs and services of these other organizations must be taken into account.
- Tim also makes the interesting point that with the rent paid by the Edgewood Day Care and interest earned by our investment accounts, the church facility is paid for even without the financial support of a congregation.

The meeting concluded with the planning team feeling positive about the possibilities before us.

## IT'S A SIGN OF THE TIMES

Gleanings from various periodicals, websites, blogs, church studies

The following are a few news snippets taken from some of the resources I turn to as your pastor. I hope the following stirs some thinking and conversation. I do not endorse or agree with what I post; simply a few insights about how much our world is changing.

### **Coming to your cell phone soon – forgivemojis. Vote for your favorite! (Christian Century, 10/9/19)**

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland is asking people around the world to come up with a "forgivemoji"; an emoji that denotes forgiveness. "There was much discussion about reconciliation and forgiveness in Finland, and one observation was that there was no emoji that could be used to express forgiveness." You, too, can go to [www.forgivemoji.com](http://www.forgivemoji.com). You will be able to vote on your favorite emoji to expresses forgiveness and reconciliation.

### **82% of millennials and younger say society facing a leadership crisis. (the Barna Group research firm which focuses on the intersection of faith and culture)**

Our society is facing a crisis in leadership because there are not enough good leaders right now. When asked, "What do you think are the biggest challenges to leadership?"

50% - everyone is too busy and distracted

43% - everyone has to compete in a global marketplace

41% - society is becoming so fragmented

38% - older adults are not letting younger leaders actually lead

35% - younger adults do not want to put in the time to become great leaders



# November



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
					5:30 wedding reh. 8:00 AA's	10-12 Art Class 4:30 wedding 8:30 AA's
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<b>DAYLIGHT SAVINGS DAY</b>  9:30 Choir Reh. 9:45 Adult Class 11:00 Worship 12:15 Fellowship <b>Deacon Mtg.</b>	6:30 Scouts	10:00 Book Club  NO FROGS  7:00 AA's		3:45 FROGS	8:00 AA's	10-12 Art Class  8:30 AA's
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9:30 Choir Reh. 9:45 Adult Class 11:00 Worship <b>Veteran's Day Celebration/ Fellowship</b>	6:30 Scouts	10:00 Book Club  3:45 FROGS  7:00 Session Mtg 7:00 AA's		3:45 FROGS	8:00 AA's	10-12 Art Class  8:30 AA's
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9:30 Choir Reh. 9:45 Adult Class 11:00 Worship 12:15 Fellowship	6:30 Scouts	10:00 Book Club  3:45 FROGS  7:00 AA's		3:45 FROGS	<b>1-4 Home School Co-Op (GP)</b>  8:00 AA's	8:30 AA's
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
9:30 Choir Reh. 9:45 Adult Class 11:00 Worship 12:15 Fellowship <b>Hanging of the Greens</b>	9:00 Shadyside Academy bring donations  6:30 Scouts	10:00 Book Club  3:45 FROGS  7:00 ESO reh.  No AA's		<b>THANKSGIVING DAY</b>  <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>  8:00 AA's	8:30 AA's





120 E. Swissvale Avenue • Pittsburgh, PA 15218

### December Events

Sunday, Dec. 1: First Sunday of Advent, a Taize style worship including Holy Communion.

Saturday, Dec. 7: ESO Holiday Concert, 7:30PM

Saturday, Dec. 14: P.W. Holiday Party, 1-4PM in the Lounge

Sunday, Dec. 8 or 15: Congregational Meeting (election of officers, receive budget)

Sunday, Dec. 22: Our annual Service of Lessons and Carols will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Worship

Keep up on our social media platforms: