

news from the EDGE

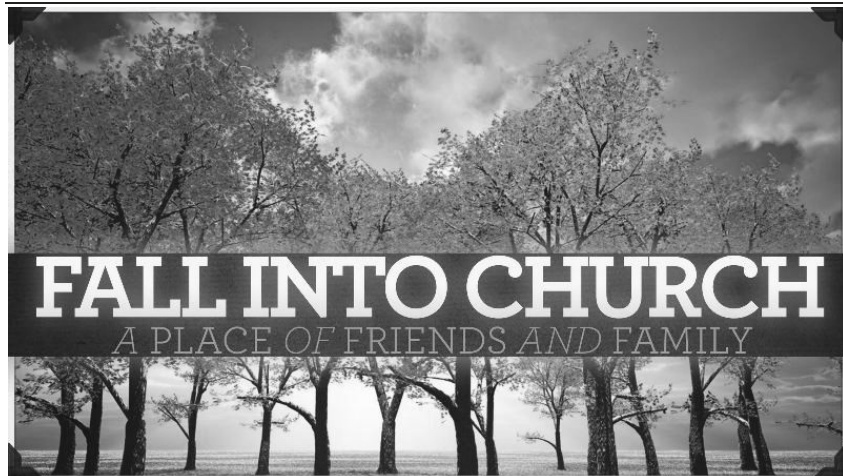


First Presbyterian Church of
EDGEWOOD
The Community Church

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

October 2015



Here at FPCE, we've "fallen" into our routines and are back in full swing with church life. FROGS is up and running with new students and volunteers, Sunday School for all ages is meeting again, Bible studies are gathering, the choir and worship ensembles are rehearsing. After a successful summer of community cookouts, we look toward regularly scheduled fall activities...

October brings us more opportunities to come together and to serve. We gather

around the Lord's Table with brothers and sisters from around the world in our observance of World Communion Sunday. Several members will walk with brothers and sisters from churches in the East End for the Church World Service CROP Walk. And we've made an opportunity for our FPCE brothers and sisters to share in fellowship and food together for an old-fashioned church potluck after worship and Presbyterian Women gatherings.

So come and join us as we FALL INTO CHURCH!

OCTOBER 2015 WORSHIP SCHEDULE

OCTOBER 4

World Communion Sunday!

FPCE will join Christians around the world to remember and honor the One who came not to be served but to serve. A special service is being planned. Music from around the world. Powerful and meaningful liturgy. Read Isaiah 25:6-10a and Mark 8:1-10 in preparation.

OCTOBER 11

The word in the street was (cf. Book of Acts) "these Christians are turning the world upside down!" Find out why.

OCTOBER 18

Our Praise Ensemble will energize us. The Risen One will heal us and raise us up to a life beyond what we ever thought possible. (God's strategy is revealed in Mark 10:35-45 and Hebrews 5:1-10.) Church potluck (following worship) will be a time to enjoy one another's companionship.

OCTOBER 25

"The eye is the lamp of the body... If your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light." What does this mean? All faith traditions affirm this truth—worship with us and find out why.

STAFF DIRECTORY

120 East Swissvale Avenue
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15218
Phone: 412-241-4613
www.fpcedgewood.org

Pastor:

The Rev. Michael P. Rucker
mprucker@fpcedgewood.org

Pastor Emeritus:

Dr. Gerald Hollingsworth

Student Pastor:

Jeff Nine
jeffrey.nine@westernsem.edu

Minister of Music:

Shaun Cloonan
music@fpcedgewood.org

Organist & Pianist:

Sunny Sakai
sunnysakai4@gmail.com

Section Leaders:

Tyler McGuigan
Mandy Rineer

FROGS Director & Office Manager:

Judy Mysels
frogs@fpcedgewood.org
office@fpcedgewood.org

Building Manager:

Rob Mysels
building@fpcedgewood.org

Office Hours:

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

Hello members and friends of FPCE,

YOU ARE IN CHARGE! YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE!

I forget the person's name, but a wise speaker who had a way with words once said, *"God is not going to whisper his will for you into someone else's ear."* In other words, you are responsible for your own spiritual growth. I am responsible for mine. Close friends, spouses, television preachers, authors, a Bible study group, a pastor or priest are important resources. In the end, you oversee you are in charge of your spirit. As the Apostle Paul says:

"work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure." (Phil. 2: 12-13)

No doubt about it, a lot of people have helped me grow in spirit. My wife, Heather, is full of wisdom and compassion. People in the Bible studies I lead challenge me and provide insight that escape me as I prepare for a class. Two websites: www.pray-as-you-go.org and www.sacredspace.ie lead me through periods of prayer and learning every day. Richard Rohr, Tom Wright, Thomas Merton, Frederick Buechner, Joyce Rupp, Eugene Peterson are among the Christian scholars, spiritual directors and authors who have walked with me through many valleys of the shadow of death and led me to green pastures and still waters. I value each of them immensely. But, in the end, I am responsible for my spiritual life. You are responsible for yours. This is heady stuff.

The most helpful and powerful resource I can point you to is prayer. Alone time, quiet time, meditative time with God—that is the single most reliable source of growth. I close with a poem from a woman named Kathy Sherman.

How far down into my secret self do I go?
How far until I find you whom I seek?
How often until I am saturated with love?
Further, always further, so it seems.
Lower the bucket of prayer into the depths,
Slowly bring it forth and taste its treasure.
The constant dipping inwardly to the Source
Can be a slow, tedious, and lengthy process.
At other times, the bucket falls without effort
And I draw forth quickly, drink until I am full.

OCTOBER EVENTS

Wednesday, October 7 **Last Community Meal** **6:00-8:00PM, Side Lawn**

Join us for our last community dinner on Wednesday, October 7. Spread the word that we will be opening our doors for a FREE meal that is open to **ALL** in our Edgewood and surrounding areas. Want to help out? Meet to set up at 5:00, or stay to clean up after. Or Contact Chris Baldwin or Tyler McGuigan. Make sure to bring dishes, desserts, etc. If inclement weather, we will move into the Social Room.



COMMUNITYMEAL



Sunday, October 11 **Pittsburgh East CROP Walk**

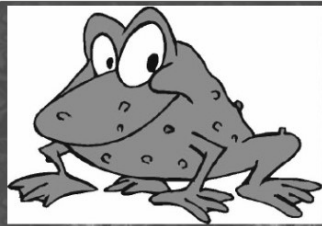
On October 11, the Pittsburgh East community will celebrate its 37th year of walking to end hunger one step at a time. The oldest walk in the country is sponsored by Church World Service. 25% of what we raise is returned as grants to East End Common Ministries and Wilkinsburg Community Ministry.

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 a walker.

Sunday, October 18 **Fall All-Church Potluck**

It's time to get together for an old-fashioned church potluck! We are asking you to share your favorite comfort food recipe (appetizer, side dish, dessert). So, dig out the old recipes and help us enjoy Christian fellowship FPCE style! Watch for upcoming bulletin inserts, asking for help in setting up, bringing your favorite comfort food, and clean up help.





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

FROGS need your help...volunteers are needed to help with FROGS on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30-6PM with homework, supervision, playtime, etc. Clearance papers need to be filled out and are available in the Church Office. Attendance has increased to 15-20 kids and more adult supervision is needed. If you are interested or have any questions, call Judy Mysels at 412-241-4613 or email frogs@fpcedgewood.org. Also snacks are needed: fruit snacks, crackers, chips, cookies, and/or drinks: Capri Sun, juice, etc.

A huge thank you to Emily Lilly and her staff from PACES for coming in for a special presentation on animals and their habitats, then hosting a field trip to Carnegie Museum. We all had a great time. We are truly blessed to have such talented members/friends to share knowledge with our FROGS.

Judy Mysels, Director



As the leaves fall, it is good time to reflect on our blessings and relationship with family and friends, with our church, and with God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. For what are we thankful? For whom do we pray? At times, the world around us appears to be in turmoil and the same may be true for some of our lives. Yet, He is always with us. For this, we cannot thank enough. Where are we in our relationships? Are there areas we need to grow and nurture? The author and theologian, R.C. Sproul wrote a book entitled "Five Things Every Christian Needs to Grow." These five things are Bible study, prayer, worship, service, and stewardship. Each of these elements is related to another – growth in one leads to growth in another. During this season, let us meditate on what we believe and ask what it means to grow.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Sunday School Resumes for All Ages

Christian Education is for everyone. You are never too old or too young to learn. And we prove that in many ways here at the FPCE. We have classes and opportunities for everyone.

- Sunday School resumed on Sunday, September 13 with classes for Adults (9:45 in the Lounge), Children's Sunday School (during worship) and Pollyanna Club (9:45 in the Gathering Place).
- Pollyanna Club meets in the Gathering Place at 9:45AM, during Adult Bible class, every Sunday. Children must be potty trained and willing to separate from parent (though parents are certainly welcome to stay.) We focus on crafts, games and songs; no formal lessons - but we talk about the 'Glad' Bible verses per the Disney movie, Pollyanna, listen to and sing Christian music. This year we are going to talk about mission in terms of helping others in need and work on some service projects.

Wednesday Night Bible Study

Come join Sallie Monk and Pastor Michael for a weekly, church-wide bible study from 7:00-8:15PM in the Lounge. We will be discussing the Book of Nehemiah. New members are always welcome. Bring your Bible and come to the Lounge Wednesday night!

BLOCKS

Believing Little Ones Can Know and Serve

Join us on **Tuesday, October 13, 6:30-7:30 in the Gathering Place**. BLOCKS is for children ages 6-months to kindergarten with a caregiver. This gathering of the young is taught by Emily Lilly.



Deacons' Doings...

Sometimes what the Board of Deacons do is visible and other times not. Our Heavenly Father encourages us to love and serve our neighbors, friends and families with our gifts, abilities and opportunities. I would like to extend an invitation to all who may be interested in becoming a Deacon to join us in October and/or November; the 1st

Tuesday of the month at 7PM in the Lounge. Come and join us and get to know the Deacons and all that we do.

Our Food Pantry was used many, many times this past summer. Thank you to all those who support our pantry. We can always use cereal, dry milk, pancake mix and syrup, tuna helper and sauce (we have plenty of beans).

Are you craving a Triangle Hoagie? No worries, keep your eyes open for bulletin inserts for our hoagie fundraiser, coming soon!

We have several upcoming projects: Harvest baskets, the hoagie sale, our Manger Tree to name a few, so please continue to keep us in your prayers and in your hearts so we can continue these projects to help those who need our help and fellowship.

Project Manger Tree

Beginning Sunday, Nov. 8, the Board of Deacons will be working with Action Housing Homeless Service again this year. We have had an overwhelming response from the congregation in the past and would like to continue this wonderful project.

Please select a tag from the tree and buy an age-appropriate gift. Money can also be donated to buy wrapping paper, gift bags and ribbon. See any Deacon for more information about the project, for help in selecting a manger tree tag and for gift ideas. Please sponsor one of God's children.

We would like your UNWRAPPED gifts along with the tag returned to the church **by Dec. 6**. Thank you for your support of this project.

"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." Ephesians 2:10

Have a great day in the Lord,
*Mary Ann Hartman, Moderator,
The Board of Deacons*

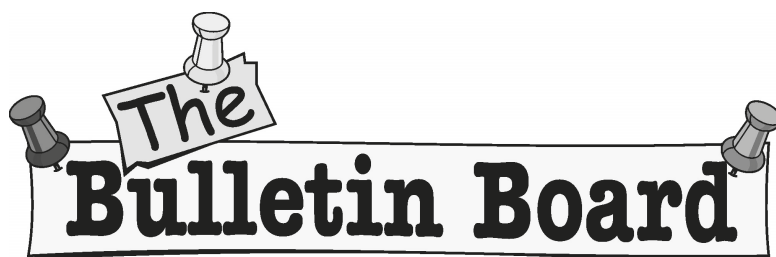


FPCE has an active PRAYER CHAIN with 16 Prayer Warriors. We keep asking

Jesus about your needs and requests. You're welcome to join us. We also give our joy and praise to God with our thanksgiving. If you have a prayer request(s) contact: Pastor Michael at 412-241-4613 or mprucker@fpcedgewood.org; Judy Mysels at 412-241-4613 or office@fpcedgewood.org; Sallie Monk at 412-371-4344; Patti Mielke at 412-350-8442 or pgmielke@hotmail.com

You are welcome to send your requests for prayer. We phone or e-mail current requests as we receive them. If you have any questions, please contact one of us (see above).

Join us as a Prayer Warrior. We send out a prayer list quarterly and meet twice a year to review our prayer list. **Our next meeting is Sunday, November 1, following morning worship.**



*Sharing in the Joys & Concerns
of the Family of FPCE*

- Special thanks to FPCE family who "manned" the Community Day booth, spreading the news about our church: Mariah Mysels, Amber Wilson, Glenn Allen Monk, Sallie Monk, Jon Apessos, Spencer Lenrian, Connie Black, Marcia Haley, Michael Rucker, Heather Wilson, Tyler McGuigan. It was a lot of fun and we met many new friends.
- Rally Day thanks to Nancy Ernst and her crew for a wonderful luncheon celebrating our return to 11AM worship, choir, Church School, etc.



Modern-Day SLAVERY

Prevent Human Trafficking, Protect Human Rights

By Luella Broe

Nellie noticed one house down the street had a lot of comings and goings and nobody looked related to one another. She noticed that the people were not the same people as one would expect. Nellie was sure that these people were coming and going at all hours of the day and the night. Everyone had a look of fear on their face. No one seemed to smile. Nellie knew that the house had been vacated six months ago. Nellie asked a couple of the neighbors if they knew anything and no one seemed know what was going on. No one knew a name for anyone in that house. Nellie called the local police and asked if they knew something about that house down on the corner. The police didn't give Nellie a satisfactory answer. She called the FBI and give them the information.

The trafficking of human beings, modern day slavery, is a multi-dimensional threat that deprives men, women and children, both in the United States and around the world of their human rights. The 2008 GA called for expanded focus on human trafficking. In the 2006 GA spoke out about child sex trafficking. The Presbyterian Church has a HUMAN TRAFFICKING ROUNDTABLE. There are many agencies, Presbyterian and non-Presbyterian, are working together.

There are an estimated 4.5 million people being trafficked worldwide and it is a multi-billion enterprise. The most likely victims of human trafficking are the vulnerable: the impoverished, those on the edges of society. It is the **second largest criminal enterprise in the world**. Most of the time, victims have to hand over their identification, passports, birth certificates and any papers that would make them legal to work in the country. Human Trafficking victims are left without a public identity.

The US Criminal Code defines "Human Trafficking is the act of compelling or coercing a person's labor, service or commercial sex acts. The coercion can be subtle or overt, physical or psychological, but it must be used to coerce a victim into performing labor, services or commercial sex acts."

One misconception is that human trafficking and

human smuggling are the same crime. Human trafficking does not require movement of individuals as does human smuggling. Human smuggling is the act of transporting people across borders. Human trafficking centers on the exploitation of individuals.. U S Immigration and Customs reports that "Victims (of human trafficking) are found in brothels, sweat shops, massage parlors, agricultural fields, and other labors into which they may be forced or coerced to enter."

ICE is one of the principal agencies working to combat human trafficking. ICE is part of Customs and Immigration which is part of Homeland Security. ICE works with its law enforcement partners to dismantle the global infrastructure engaged in human trafficking. ICE has global law enforcement partners as well as collaborating with other law enforcement agencies. ICE partners with non-government agencies to identify, rescue, and provide assistance to trafficking victims. Polaris is an organization headquartered in Washington, DC whose business is working with human trafficking victims.

Law enforcement needs trained to know the difference between the criminal and the victim. While the victim may be committing criminal acts, they are forced into criminality by the human trafficking organization. Victims need to be put on a path that will restore wholeness to them. The human trafficking victim needs wholeness restored to them. Not all human trafficking victims are involved in criminal activity. Victims can be engaged in farming, factory work, or other types of forced labor.

I, personally, do not understand how one human can sell another human being. It is beyond my comprehension. Animals can be sold and used for various purposes, but human beings were never met to be sold and yet, humans are sold every day. In the U. S., humans can not be enslaved by law since the end of Civil War. The 13th Amendment made it illegal to enslave a fellow human being. Slavery still goes on in these United States, and has been illegal since 1865.

Worldwide, millions of men, women and children are victims of human trafficking. However, this is not a problem happening on the other side of the world. It is happening in the US of A in the very state that you live in, not just your state, but it could be in the very county or parish that you call home. Quite possibly in the very town that you call home and even closer to home is the street that you live on. Human trafficking may be closer to home than you realize. That's a scary thought, isn't it?

Is there a house on your street with questionable activity? If there is, maybe it is time to call the FBI.

CONGRATULATIONS TO LUELLA
for being installed as Vice-Moderator of the
Presbyterian Women in Pittsburgh Presbytery

October

| 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 | <div> Daytime Circle Ladies please join us in the Gathering Place for PW's Daytime Circle. Time has been changed to 10AM. Meetings will be every 2nd and 4th Thursday. </div> | | | 1 3:45 FROGS | 2 8:00 AA (SR) | 3 8:30 AA (SR) |
| 4 9:30 Choir (C) 9:45 Pollyanna (GP) 9:45 Adult Class (L) 11:00 Worship (S) Communion 12:15 Fellowship (L) | 5 7:00 Scouts (SC) | 6 10:00 Book Club (L) 3:45 FROGS 7:00 Deacons (L) 7:00 AA (SR) | 7 6-8 Community Dinner | 8 10:00 PW Circle (GP) 3:45 FROGS | 9 8:00 AA (SR) | 10 8:30 AA (SR) |
| 11 9:30 Choir (C) 9:45 Pollyanna (GP) 9:45 Adult Class (L) 11:00 Worship (S) 12:15 Fellowship (L) CROP WALK | 12 7:00 Men's Group 7:00 Scouts (SC) | 13 10:00 Book Club (L) 3:45 FROGS 6:30 BLOCKS 7:00 Session (GP) 7:00 AA (SR) | 14 7:00 Worship Ensemble (S) 7:00 Bible Study (L) | 15 3:45 FROGS | 16 8:00 AA (SR) | 17 8:30 AA (SR) |
| 18 9:30 Worship Ens. 9:45 Pollyanna (GP) 9:45 Adult Class (L) 11:00 Emerging 12:30 Potluck Lunch | 19 7:00 Scouts (SC) | 20 10:00 Book Club (L) 3:45 FROGS 7:00 AA (SR) | 21 7:00 Bible Study (L) | 22 10:00 PW Circle (GP) 3:45 FROGS | 23 6:30 Rehearsal 8:00 AA (SR) | 24 3:30 Coyne wedding 8:30 AA (SR) |
| 25 9:30 Choir (C) 9:45 Pollyanna (GP) 9:45 Adult Class (L) 11:00 Worship (S) 12:15 Fellowship (L) 12:15 P.W. Mtg. (GP) | 26 7:00 Men's Group 7:00 Joy Circle (L) 7:00 Scouts (SC) | 27 10:00 Book Club (L) 3:45 FROGS 7:00 AA (SR) | 28 7:00 Bible Study (L) | 29 3:45 FROGS | 30 6:00 rehearsal/ Dinner (GP) 8:00 AA (SR) | 31 Hart wedding |



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Daylight Saving Time Ends November 1

Be sure to adjust your clocks to arrive at church on time!

