

The monthly newsletter of the  
First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood

**October 2016**

news from the

## Harvest OF BLESSINGS

As the temperature cools and the beauty of autumn leaves surrounds us, we give thanks for the many blessings God provides. In October at FPCE, we celebrate World Communion, participate in the CROP Hunger Walk, talk about the future of our building, and begin preparations to honor our past in anticipation of our 125th anniversary celebration. Join us in worship, fellowship, study, and prayer.

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### SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SCHEDULE



#### October 2

##### **World Communion Sunday**

Does it not feel as though the world is crashing in ? The good news? On this day, at the invitation of brother Jesus, we will join brothers and sisters around the world and gather to celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Join the song! ***Congregational meeting to follow: a proposal regarding the building renovation.***

#### October 9

People on the fringes. People we run from. Do you know anyone like that? How did Jesus handle those people? Read Luke 17: 11-19. We will celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism.

#### October 16

Would you say that racial tensions are running high these days? What does God have to say about all of the racial and ethnic groups that coexist uneasily in this world? Answer: a lot. Please join us for this Racial/Social Justice Sunday. The Praise Ensemble will lead this Emerging Worship service.

#### October 23

FPCE is a community church. One of the community organizations we support is Wilkinsburg Community Ministries. The new Director, Ruth Kittner, will join us as we worship.

#### October 30

A disreputable man climbed down from a tree. Jesus joined him for lunch. And there is a message for us in that encounter. (See Luke 19: 1-10 for details.)



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.

## STAFF DIRECTORY

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### Pastor:

The Rev. Michael P. Rucker  
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### 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

Grace and peace to the faithful members and friends of FPCE,

In the early 1990's I enjoyed a brief friendship with a writer and journalist who loved his work. One evening he excitedly announced that he was being sent to South Africa to interview Desmond Tutu. If you recall those were the heady days when the cruel system of apartheid fell as hard as the Berlin Wall and when Desmond Tutu worked tirelessly to bring racial reconciliation in that divided, violence-exhausted land. My friend was not particularly religious (a non-practicing Jew) yet he was very much anticipating a fruitful conversation with this religious leader about the central role he maintained through the revolution.

A week or so after his return, I had dinner with him. I looked forward to and evening of being regaled with stories and anecdotes. But throughout the dinner my friend was quiet, even reticent. Finally, I asked him if the interview went well. *"Not at all,"* he said, voice tinged with frustration, *"the only thing Desmond Tutu wanted to talk about was his faith. When I asked political questions, his answers were short. But his face brightened and his voice rose when he talked about how great God is. He loves God...he loves the Bible...he loves theology."*

Without realizing it, my friend had discovered the secret of the Archbishop's profound, international influence. Desmond Tutu's life was deeply, faithfully, submissively rooted in God. The world will miss this short-in-stature, towering-in-character Christian saint.

So what's the point?

Hang on brothers and sisters, the next few months will be quite a ride!

- We will be deciding what to do with the amazing and aging facility we call our church home.
- We will be electing the next President of the United States of America along our senators and representatives.
- We will be rededicating ourselves to the financial stewardship of the ministries and missions of FPCE.
- We will be celebrating the 125 Anniversary of our congregation.

These are significant events for all of us. Not as earth-moving as overcoming apartheid and striving for national justice and peace. But very important for us. May all of us allow Desmond Tutu's life to inspire us. Like him, let us be deeply, faithfully, and submissively rooted in God.

*Pastor Michael*

## World Communion Sunday: October 2

It's not about us. It's about the world. On this Sunday, Christians in every nation and time zone, ethnicity and race will gather around the table of our Lord. A table large enough to accommodate everyone.



## Congregational Meeting on Building Renovation October 2

As members of the First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood, we will meet immediately following worship on Sunday, October 2 to discuss a proposal from session on the renovation of the church facility.

The session will recommend the renovation of the program area on the first floor of the church facility. This renovation will include an updated heating and air conditioning system for the entire building except the proposal does not include the air conditioning of the sanctuary. The session will present two funding proposals for this ambitious project.

**ALL OF YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO COME TO WORSHIP AT 11:00 A.M.  
AND REMAIN FOR THE ENSUING CONGREGATIONAL MEETING.**

## Sunday, October 9 Pittsburgh East CROP Walk

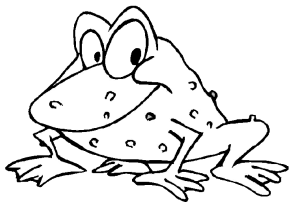
On October 9, the Pittsburgh East community will celebrate its 38th year of walking to end hunger one step at a time. The oldest walk in the country is sponsored by Church World Service. 25% of what we raise is returned as grants to East End Common Ministries and Wilksburg Community Ministry. You can participate by either walking or sponsoring a walker. Judy and Mariah Mysels are representing FPCE. We will gather at the South Avenue United Methodist Church 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. Donation envelopes are in the pews marked "Crop Walk", donation sign-up sheets are at side entrance or call the Church Office at 412-241-4613. Electronic sponsoring is available through their website: <http://www.crophungerwalk.org/pittsburgheastpa>



## Did you know?

FPCE is featured in a book published by the Pittsburgh History and Landmarks foundation in 2008. Many of the stained glass windows in our sanctuary were designed by Charles J. Connick. The book is titled "Charles J. Connick: His Education and His Windows in and Near Pittsburgh," and it highlights the many locations in and around our city where Connick's windows can be seen. FPCE is included in this, along with beautiful color photos of the windows we see each Sunday. You can purchase the book on Amazon or on the Pittsburgh History and Landmark foundation website at [www.phlf.org](http://www.phlf.org) and click on the store link.





# F.R.O.G.S.

## AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

### FRIENDS, READING, & OTHER GREAT STUFF

**FROGS need your help...**snacks are needed: fruit snacks, crackers, chips, cookies, and/or drinks: Capri Sun, juice, etc.

A huge thank you to Emily Lilly for developing our theme of safety and kindness and organizing a workshop for FROGS staff in August.

We have a great group of FROGS this term with 8 returning youth and 2 new ones. If anyone is interested in sharing their talents/jobs with us, please contact Judy Mysels at [frogs@fpcedgewood.org](mailto:frogs@fpcedgewood.org) or 412-241-4613.

*Judy Mysels, Director*



## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

### Sunday School for All

Christian Education is for everyone. You are never too old or too young to learn. We prove that in many ways here at the First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood. We have classes and opportunities for everyone.

- **SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR OUR YOUNG** occurs during the morning worship service. The young people will worship with the congregation for the opening liturgies and hymn, then be excused to the class after the Passing of the Peace. This year's Sunday School will focus on active ministry as well as the Sunday School lessons. The class will choose service/mission projects and collect or create items to support those ministries.
- **THE ADULT CLASS** is led by Jeff Nine. "A Tour through the Bible" gives class members an opportunity to see the work of God as understood by the inspired authors of the biblical books. The class meets in the lounge—and feel free to join at any time.

### Wednesday Night Bible Study

Pastor Michael and class members will be choosing to read and study from a variety of resources. It may be the book entitled "The Jesus You Never Knew", or a six week course on "Faith and Science" or "Faith and Politics", a ten week course of study on the Ten Commandments. New members are always welcome. Bring your Bible and come to the Lounge at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday evenings.

## BLOCKS

Join us on **Tuesday, October 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.



stewardship

sharing the gifts we have been given

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.

### 125th Anniversary Celebration: Nov. 20

Histories and Memories Needed: SHARE YOUR FPCE stories, memories, and anecdotes! The planning committee for FPCE's 125th celebration is pulling together as much information as it can to help us make November 20 a day to rejoice and be glad! We continue to seek volunteers to help with planning. If interested please call the church office.







# Deacons' Doings...

Thank you to all those who support our pantry. We can always use cereal, peanut butter, jelly, tuna, tuna helper, spaghetti sauce, pasta, pancake mix, syrup, personal care items, toilet paper, paper towels. These items can be dropped off at side entrance.. (we have plenty of beans).

We have several upcoming projects: Harvest baskets, 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. 13, 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 . 11** 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](mailto:mprucker@fpcedgewood.org); Judy Mysels at 412-241-4613 or [office@fpcedgewood.org](mailto:office@fpcedgewood.org); Sallie Monk at 412-371-4344; Patti Mielke at 412-350-8442 or [pgmielke@hotmail.com](mailto: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 6, following morning worship.**



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

- Thank you to those who helped "man" the booth at Edgewood Community Day, August. 27: Mariah, Judy Mysels, Tina/Jeff Nine, Michael Rucker, Marcia Haley, Jon Apossos, Spencer Lehrian. Special thanks to Jeff and Tina Nine for helping Mariah and Judy Mysels set up the booth; also staying an extra hour on the hottest day of the year!
- We offer our prayers of support to the family of Richard Hurrell who died on the evening of September 23.
- Any questions/concerns regarding Presbyterian Women, should be directed to Tina Nine.

## *Coming Up in November...*

### **Sunday, November 6**

All Saints' Observance & Communion Service  
11:00AM, Sanctuary

### **Monday, November 7**

For people of all faiths or uncertain faith:  
"A Time for the Things that Make for Peace"  
A service of worship, music and prayer for peace  
for our nation on Election Day. The service is open  
to people of all faiths and will be non-partisan.  
Please join us to share your hopes, your thoughts,  
and your prayers. Light refreshments will be  
served. 7:00PM in the Sanctuary.

### **Tuesday, November 8**

An Election Day Vigil  
Our sanctuary will be open to all who would like to  
sit in the quiet with your thoughts and your  
prayers for as long as you would like. A  
commitment will be made to keep the sanctuary  
quiet and peaceful. The vigil will begin at 8:00AM  
and continue through 6:00PM. All people are  
invited to join us.

### **Sunday, November 13**

Women's Choral Festival  
3:00PM, Sanctuary  
FPCE hosts this festival for the 3rd year, which will  
feature women's choirs from Duquesne University,  
the University of Pittsburgh, the Belle Voci  
Community Choir, Fox Chapel and McKeesport  
High Schools.

### **Sunday, November 20**

125th Anniversary Celebration  
Begins with a worship service honoring our  
traditions while looking ahead to the future on this  
Christ the King Sunday. A luncheon follows in the  
Gathering Place. Invite friends and family, past and  
present, to be a part of this historic day!

### **Wednesday, November 23**

Join us for an interfaith community Thanksgiving  
worship service. This informal service will include  
familiar songs, prayers, holy readings, and brief  
reflections. Light refreshments will be available.  
7:00PM, Sanctuary or Gathering Place (TBD)

## **A POWERFUL TESTIMONY OF HOPE**

As all of you know, there are some remarkable  
people in our church fellowship. None of us are  
perfect, we are all on a journey of faith. One of the  
remarkable people I have come to know is a man  
named Bill Wright. Bill is a survivor. He endured  
painful loss in his growing up years. He is a veteran  
of the Vietnam war. Some of you were part of the  
community Memorial Day Service ceremony this  
past May 29. Bill surprised those in attendance and  
gave a moving tribute to our nation by singing *The  
Star Spangled Banner*. Recently Bill shared the  
lyrics to a new song he has written. May his words  
touch all of us.

### *A POEM*

*written by Bill Wright  
transcribed by Matthew Bouchar*

How many times do we let things get in our way?  
But with God's help, they will not stay.  
In times of doubt, I will be bold  
For I have God's promises to hold.

He loves us so very much,  
That Jesus, God's son, paid the price for us.  
With love that no one can touch.

To do his work, no matter what the cost  
And to say what he wants me to say  
In times when all seems lost  
For we must bear our cross.

Lord, give me love, day by day  
To help others along the way  
And not do say things to hurt or deceive  
But to do those things which are pleasing to thee.

**LOVE GOD  
EACH OTHER  
OUR NEIGHBORS**

# October

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2  9:30 Choir (C) 9:45 Adult Class (L) 11:00 Worship (S) Communion 12:15 Fellowship (L)	3	4  10:00 Book Club  3:45 FROGS (SR)  7:00 Deacons (L) 7:00 AA (SR)	5  7:00 Bible Study (L)	6  3:45 FROGS (SR)	7  8:00 AA (SR)	8  8:30 AA (SR)
9  9:30 Choir (C) 9:45 Adult Class (L) 11:00 Worship (S) 12:15 Fellowship (L)  <b>CROP WALK</b>	10  <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>  7:00 Men's Group 7:00 Scouts (SC)	11  10:00 Book Club  3:45 FROGS (SR)  7:00 Session (GP) 7:00 AA (SR)	12  7:00 Bible Study (L) 7:00 Worship Ensemble (S)	13  1:00 PW Circle (GP)  3:45 FROGS (SR)  7:00 Anniversary Planning Team (GP)	14  8:00 AA (SR)	15  8:30 AA (SR)
16  9:30 Worship En (S) 9:45 Adult Class (L) 11:00 Emerging Worship (S) 12:15 Fellowship (L)	17  7:00 Scouts (SC)	18  10:00 Book Club  3:45 FROGS (SR)  7:00 AA (SR)	19  7:00 Bible Study (L)	20  3:45 FROGS (SR)	21  8:00 AA (SR)	22  8:30 AA (SR)
23  9:30 Choir (C) 9:45 Adult Class (L) 11:00 Worship (S) 12:15 Fellowship (L)	24  7:00 Men's Group 7:00 Scouts (SC)	25  10:00 Book Club  3:45 FROGS (SR)  7:00 AA (SR)	26  7:00 Bible Study (L)	27  1:00 PW Circle (GP)  3:45 FROGS (SR)	28  8:00 AA (SR)	29  3:00 Eagle Scout Recognition/Dinner  8:30 AA (SR)
30  9:30 Choir (C) 9:45 Adult Class (L) 11:00 Worship (S) Communion 12:15 Fellowship (L) Planning Mtg. (GP)	31  7:00 Joy Circle (L) 7:00 Scouts (SC)	1  10:00 Book Club  3:45 FROGS (SR)  7:00 Deacons (L) 7:00 AA (SR)	2  7:00 Bible Study (L)	3  3:45 FROGS (SR)	4	C=Choir Room GP=Gathering Place L=Lounge O=Office PS=Pastor's Study S=Sanctuary SC=Scout Room SR=Social Room



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120 E. Swissvale Avenue • Pittsburgh, PA 15218

Keep up on our social media platforms:



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