



Rally Day Celebrates “Back to Church 2015”

The buses are back on the road. The crossing guards are back at the intersections. Kids are waiting on the street corners early in the morning. It can only mean one thing: back to school! And

with back to school comes Back to Church...worship returns to the 11:00 hour, Sunday School for all ages begins again, the Sanctuary Choir rehearses and takes their place back in worship, Session, Deacons, and

ministry teams resume their regular meetings, and our FROGS program kicks off.



It all starts on **Sunday, September 13 with our Rally Day Kick-off event.** Come and make a joyful noise at 9:30 with the Sanctuary Choir as they resume rehearsals in the Choir Room. Or join the Adult Class at 9:45 in the Lounge. Our youngest members can participate in the Pollyanna Club in the Gathering Place while their parents are in class. We'll come together as a family of faith to worship at 11:00 in the Sanctuary, and then go to the Gathering Place to celebrate our reunion and the beginning of a new year. Bulletin inserts with specific needs such as side dishes and desserts can be completed and turned in to the office. Nancy Ernst is spearheading this year's kick-off event, so see her with questions about how you can help to join the party!

SEPTEMBER 2015 WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Services begin at 11am starting September 13

September 6 (Labor Day weekend)

last worship at 10:00

We will come to the Lord's table and celebrate communion with Him. Ironically, "Crumbs Under the Table" is the title of Pastor Michael's message. We will read one of the more unexpected and baffling stories about Jesus. We will also pray for the "forgotten" people who serve us—grocery clerks, secretaries who work for our doctors and insurance companies, the men and women who hold the "Slow" and "Stop" signs at road repair sites... laborers.

September 13 (worship at 11:00)

Rally Day! Our Christian Education program begins. A luncheon will be served following the worship

service. Pastor Michael will be talking about our faith and our expectations. Do we expect too much or not enough?

September 20

Our Worship Ensemble will lead us in singing both joyous and meaningful—it is Emerging Worship Sunday! "A New World Order" is the focus of today's message. How new do really want it to be?

September 27

We are going to call this "Justice Sunday." What do we really mean when we pray: "*on earth as it is in heaven...*" Sometimes our faith confronts us with challenging truths.

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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
Pastor

Hello brothers, sisters and friends of FPCE,

God is trying to teach me something. God is discovering (as if He didn't already know) I am a very stubborn student.

God has been trying to get through to me for a long time. God's first effort to reach me with this truth began when my mother sang to me, a child, before I went to sleep.

Jesus loves me, this I know.

For the Bible tells me so.

Little ones to Him belong;

They are weak, but God is strong....

STOP!

That's the lesson.

When I am weak—and admit it—God is strong.

I have a distant relative. A young man, in his mid-30's now. As Tony (not his real name) grew up, he never felt like he was "man enough." When he reached high school, he decided to do something about it. He tried out for football; made the team, as a running back—first string. He was in a couple of games and did very well. Then—during a running play, he was hit hard. Knocked out. Concussed. He had to quit football. So he moved to the wrestling team. Again, wrestled a few matches; did very well. Third or fourth match he had his arm pulled out of its socket. Had to quit. So he joined the Marines. Served two tours of duty in Iraq. He was honorably discharged. He's home now. Still striving. Still trying to be "man enough." He refuses to admit to any weakness.

But, ironically, that's where God gets is! In our weakness, we discover that God is strong. Until we run smack-dab into our weaknesses; until we reach our limits; until we bottom out and come to the end of our self-made fuel supply; until that happens – we will never understand the truth of that childhood song we all know: *"They are weak; God is strong."*

Tony; striving, striving, striving to be a man. It is a story we know too well, isn't it? We strive. We strive to be good enough, strong enough, successful enough. We strive to be independent, self-reliant

people. That's the American dream!

But in our striving, we are running away from a God who is our strength. A God who finds our weakness to be an open door. When that door is finally open—God who is our refuge and strength—walks in.

A poem by Joyce Rupp expresses this truth very well:

*When we live out of our weakness
You intervene with your grace
And draw us back to you.
When we fail to live as you desire,
You negotiate our turning 'round
And coming home to your love.
When we step aside from our principles,
You urge us to return to what is true.
You never give up on our inborn ability
To live the best of who we are.*

There's an important lesson in those words. I am a stubborn student. No doubt. But the good news is—God is a patient and persistent teacher.

Pastor Michael

Sunday School Resumes for All Ages

"Teaching the Scripture and Demonstrating a Christian worldview is how we integrate faith and learning."

Author Unknown

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 resumes 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).
- We will recognize our teachers and volunteers on September 13 during Morning Worship.
- Our Tuesday Morning Book Club continues with its studies.

Wednesday Night Bible Study

Come join Sallie Monk and Jeff Nine for a weekly, church-wide bible study from 7:00-8:15PM in the Lounge. This group has been meeting faithfully all year as they have been working their way through all of the books of the Bible. 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, September 15, 6:30–7:30 in the Gathering Place.*

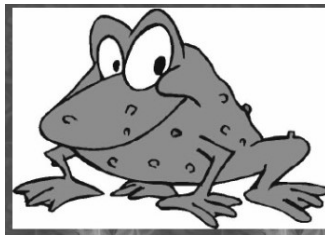
BLOCKS is for children ages 6-months to kindergarten with a caregiver. This gathering of the young is taught by Emily Lilly.

CHRISTIAN
EDUCATION



Fall FROGS Hop Back Into Action

Judy Mysels
FROGS Program Director



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

Fall FROGS begins Tuesday, September 8. Our after-school program operates Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:45-6:00pm in the lower level of the church building. Students are walked over from Edgewood Elementary School or may be brought to the church by family. The program includes snack, homework, reading, craft, outdoor play or games, and dinner. Participation is limited to twenty students in kindergarten through third grade. The cost is \$25/month, with some scholarship help available.

Volunteers find participation a rewarding experience and really make this program possible. If you are interested in volunteering or visiting to share a craft or special interest, we'd love to have you join us. For information on registering or volunteering, please contact me at frogs@fpcedgewood.org or speak with her at church. All the info about the program, as well as application forms, can be found on the FPCE website.

F.R.O.G.S. serves the children a snack and dinner. We get the dinner from the Wilkinsburg Community Ministry. We will gratefully accept donations of juice boxes or juice bags, as well as individually wrapped snacks such as peanut butter or cheese crackers, fruit rollups, pretzels, etc. for snack time. The children enjoy doing crafts. If you like crafts too, we'd love to have you visit and share your talent with us. Of course we can always use help at homework time too!



You Are the New Day

Shaun Cloonan
Minister of Music



While we all work to get ourselves into the routines of the "back to school" life, I often find inspiration in the songs chosen for any of the choirs I lead. The weeks before school starts are filled with stacks of music on the piano, me feverishly listening to recordings and YouTube videos and playing through new songs. Thinking about the beginning of my 14th year of teaching at North Hills, the text to a beautiful song called "You Are the New Day" entered my mind.

I found the words could have many meanings, from the loss or beginning of a love or friendship, to hope for the future, to a metaphor for our relationship with God. A deeper search thanks to the wonders of Google brought me to what the actual composer was feeling at the time he wrote it, and it surprised me.

"You Are the New Day" was composed by multi-talented Welsh rock musician John David. However spiritually moving the listener might find the music, "You Are the New Day" is a secular song. David wrote it for Airwaves in 1978 during a time when personal difficulties and threats to world peace caused him to look for hope within himself. In John David's own words:

"The inspiration for New Day was quite simple; I had just had a major blow in my personal life, and was sitting alone late at night on the settee feeling very low, and watching an ominous story on the news about the very real possibility of nuclear war.

"I started singing to the (hopefully) soon-to arrive New Day like it was an entity, that would rescue me from the depths. If the sun came up and the birds started singing as usual then I could believe that it really was the new day in which life would go on, and in which hope would survive.

"The tune and the words popped into my head at the same time, and it was all written in about 10 minutes, which is why (to me at least) it's not perfect. But I didn't feel I had the right to change anything."

The British a cappella group The Kings' Singers recorded a gorgeous arrangement of this piece, and I performed it a few years ago with my North Hills Choir. The text to the song is on page 6 for you to ponder, but the sentiment "You Are the New Day" brings about excitement for the beginnings of our new year together. The new day and hope promised to us in the Gospel. Will you be a part of our "new day" in the music ministry?



P.W. Corner

Lori Stutz
Moderator



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

This week has still been filled with hot summer days. But today, there's a nice breeze in the air that says fall is calling. I regret that I haven't had the opportunity to be at church as much as I would've liked to be this summer. Which brings me to this, soon we will be starting back to school and 11am services. And even though we may have been separated throughout the summer, fall is almost like the beginning of the new church year. So, whether we have had any of you ladies attend any PW functions or not. Please consider coming and joining us this fall. The invitation is open to all woman in the church and/or woman friends of the congregation. We are having a Woman's Fall Retreat at antiochianvillage.org/.

This is a camp and conference center right outside Ligonier. The retreat will be the weekend of **September 25,26,27, 2015**. Hotel like accommodations, beautiful scenery, fellowship with other woman, and our key note speaker will be Rev. Page Creach.

Rev Creach lives in Franklin, Pa, and is known for her humorous, down to earth, relatable messages. Originally, she told me she was going to pray about our program, she came up with the theme, "**Begin Again**". What a wonderful theme and time that we will have. Now, some of the details, PW will provide transportation to and from the church to the center. We will have free time, movies, a program, and 4 meals are all included in the program. As far as cost, we suggest a donation to off set costs. The spaces are limited!!!!!! So please let us know as soon as you can so that you get a spot. If you have any questions please let me know via email xyyzzdesertroad@aol.com or phone 412-829-1410. Let me know or the church office if are interested in attending, please leave your necessary info, Name, address, phone number, email. If you need transportation. We are happy to accommodate people to help them come with us. It will be an unbelievable weekend of fun, fellowship and renewal. So, even if it's a maybe or possibility let me know. Ladies, if your anything like me, you always put yourselves at the end of the list and that's how God made us. But we need time for ourselves to come together and renew, so that we may come back stronger and happier for God, ourselves, our loved ones and the church. I look forward in hearing back from you soon.



WEDNESDAYS

**September 2, October 7
6:00-8:00PM, Side Lawn***

We will continue our outreach to the community this summer and into the fall with several more dinners on the lawn. 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, Tyler McGuigan or Jim Segedy. Make sure to sign up on the lists in the side entrance to bring dishes, too!

**If inclement weather, we will move into the Social Room.*



Building Renovation Update

August was a month of vacations for some of us and our architect. So there is not much to report. The two work or subcommittees—"Building Design" and "Fundraising" will be meeting soon. We will be working closely with the architect. More news later—and your questions are always welcome. Please continue to pray for God's wisdom and guidance as we consider this project.

CROP WALK: October 11

On Oct. 11, 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 (www.churchworldservice.org). 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. You can also go to their website: <http://www.crophungerwalk.org/pittsburgheastpa> to electronically send money or sponsor a walker. Watch for upcoming bulletin inserts, emails and/or announcements.

Potluck Dinner, October 18

Mark your calendars for Sunday, October 18, following worship for a fun pot luck luncheon. All details haven't been finalized yet, but look for upcoming bulletin inserts and October newsletter info.

Judy Mysels is steer-heading this event and is thinking about having a bring your favorite comfort-food dish.

If you can, bring it with you when you come for church, take it to the kitchenette on main floor. Luncheon will be in the Gathering Place, following morning worship.

You are the new day

I will love you more than me
and more than yesterday
If you can but prove to me
you are the new day

Send the sun in time for dawn
Let the birds all hail the morning
Love of life will urge me say
you are the new day

When I lay me down at night
knowing we must pay
Thoughts occur that this night might
stay yesterday

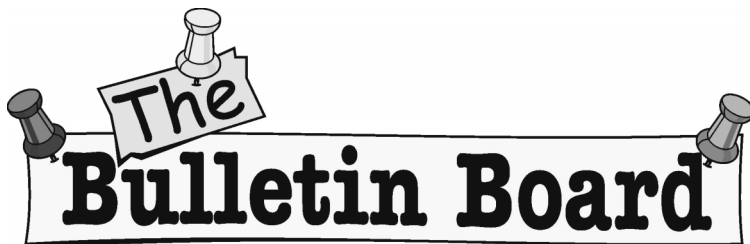
Thoughts that we as humans small
could slow worlds and end it all
lie around me where they fall
before the new day

One more day when time is running out
for everyone
Like a breath I knew would come I reach for
a new day

Hope is my philosophy
Just needs days in which to be
Love of life means hope for me
borne on a new day

You are the new day

*Peter Knight, John David, Philip Anthony Lawson
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Warner/Chappell Music Ltd.*



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

- If you like to eat, visit and sit outside on a lovely summer night – the Community Dinners in June, July and August was the place to be. A lot of community people came and mingled among FPCE members. A big thanks to the outreach team (**Jim Segedy, Chris Baldwin and Tyler McGuigan**) for making these events happen! Also, thanks to the many volunteers who helped set up, serve and clean up.
- Cyrus Butler and Anna Waugh were married in Rhode Island on August 1st. Cyrus is the son of Missy (Butler) Slaathaug - formerly of Edgewood - and the nephew of Martha Crean. Cyrus and Anna reside in Minneapolis, MN.
- The Melfard Douglass Scholarship was awarded to Riley Ochs, granddaughter of Connie and Tom Ochs. She will be attending Western Carolina University School. Best of luck and our prayers are with you!
- Congratulations to Rachel (niece of Mary Ann Hartman) and best wishes to Brandon on their August 29th wedding.

SEPTEMBER

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		1 10:00 Book Club (L) 7:00 Deacon Mtg. 7:00 AA (SR)	2 6-8PM Community Dinner	3	4 8:00 AA (SR)	5 12-3PM Sophia's B.D. Party 8:30 AA (SR)
6 10:00 Worship (S) 11:15 Worship Ministry Team (PS)	7 LABOR DAY - OFFICE CLOSED 7:00 Scouts (SC)	8 10:00 Book Club (L) 3:45 FROGS 7:00 Session Mtg 7:00 AA (SR)	9 7:00 Bible Study (L)	10 1:00 PW Circle (L) 3:45 FROGS	11 8:00 AA (SR)	12 8:30 AA (SR)
13 9:30 Choir (C) 9:45 Pollyanna (GP) 9:45 Adult Class (L) 11:00 Worship (S) 12:15 Rally Day Luncheon (GP)	14 7:00 Men's Group 7:00 Scouts (SC)	15 10:00 Book Club (L) 3:45 FROGS 6:30 BLOCKS (GP) 7:00 AA (SR)	16 7:00 Worship Ensemble (S) 7:00 Bible Study (L)	17 3:45 FROGS	18 8:00 AA (SR)	19 8:30 AA (SR)
20 9:30 Worship Ens. 9:45 Pollyanna (GP) 9:45 Adult Class (L) 11:00 Emerging Worship 12:15 Fellowship/Personnel Comm. Mtg.	21 7:00 Scouts (SC)	22 10:00 Book Club (L) 3:45 FROGS 7:00 AA (SR)	23 7:00 Bible Study (L)	24 1:00 PW Circle (L) 3:45 FROGS	25 P.W. Retreat 8:00 AA (SR)	26 Hamlin Wedding 8:30 AA (SR)
27 9:30 Choir (C) 9:45 Pollyanna (GP) 9:45 Adult Class (L) 11:00 Worship (S) 12:15 Fellowship (L)	28 7:00 Men's Group 7:00 Scouts (SC)	29 10:00 Book Club (L) 3:45 FROGS 7:00 AA (SR)	30 7:00 Bible Study (L)	October 1 3:45 FROGS	2 8:00 AA (SR)	3 8:30 AA (SR)
	8:30AM-4:30PM Pittsburgh Watercolor Society (GP)					
		10:00 Book Club (L)				
	7:00 Men's Group	3:45 FROGS				
	7:00 Scouts (SC)	7:00 AA (SR)	7:00 Bible Study (L)		8:00 AA (SR)	8:30 AA (SR)



First Presbyterian Church of
EDGEWOOD
The Community Church

120 E. Swissvale Avenue • Pittsburgh, PA 15218

FALL KICKOFF

Sunday, September 13 marks the beginning of Fall programming at FPCE. Join us for any of the following on this day and every Sunday after:

- 9:30 Choir Rehearsal in the Choir Room
- 9:45 Adult Class in the Lounge
- 9:45 Pollyanna Club in the Gathering Place
- 11:00 Worship in the Sanctuary (Sunday School during worship)
- 12:15 Rally Day Luncheon in the Gathering Place