

The monthly newsletter of the
First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood

September 2016

news from the

FALL KICKOFF

The school buses have started back on the road, students are back to school, it's almost time for pumpkin-spiced everything, so that means it's time to kick off a new year of church programming. On Sunday, September 11, 2016, our worship and fellowship resume at the 11 o'clock hour, with choir rehearsal at 9:30 and adult class at 9:45. FROGS fall session has begun again, the Wednesday night Bible study group will start, Tuesday morning book club resumes, Session and the Deacons are back to their monthly meetings, and ministry teams are doing their work as well. We have a 125th anniversary celebration to plan, one more community meal on the lawn this month, and musical guests to welcome later in the year at our women's choral festival and the ESO holiday concert. In worship over the next several weeks and months, we'll honor the events of 9/11, celebrate justice/peacemaking, hear about local mission from the Wilkinsburg Community Ministry, remember the saints lost in the past year, and rejoice in the long history that is the Edgewood congregation.

There is a lot to be thankful for and excited about in our corner of the kingdom. We hope that you'll plan to be a part of as much of it as possible. As the song says, "see you in September..."

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SCHEDULE



SEPTEMBER 4 (Last 10AM Summer service)

A field trip with the powerful prophet Jeremiah. What does it mean to be submitted to the will of God? Let's visit a potter's workshop. See Jeremiah 18: 1-11. (Labor Day weekend.)

SEPTEMBER 11

BACK TO 11:00 A.M. WORSHIP TIME.

This will be a powerful worship experience:

1. The choir will return and we will celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.
2. We will have a service of memory for the events of September 11, 2001.
3. We will continue our journey through the gospel according to Luke. Introducing the good shepherd. Luke 15:1-10

WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND HERE.

SUNDAY MORNINGS

SEPTEMBER 18

Emerging Worship. The Praise Ensemble will lift us up and we will read one of the most befuddling of Jesus' parables. (Luke 16:1-13)

SEPTEMBER 25

A classic worship service. Did you know there are two Lazarus stories in the gospels? Same name, different guys. Both have powerful stories.

OCTOBER 2

World Communion Sunday. For me, the incarnation of Christmas and the resurrection of Easter lead to this Sunday. *God so loved the world...*



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

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

Pastoral Assistant:

Jeff Nine
jeffrey.nine@outlook.com

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,
Cleaning 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
Pastor

Greetings COGs!

"Good morning COG!" is the way songwriter, singer, poet, and mischievous theologian David Bailey greeted his children as they bound down the stairs for breakfast - "Good morning COG!" ("Good morning Child of God!") So.....greetings Children of God!

The poet Robert Dunn played with words and delivered acute social commentary as only a poet can: "We're doing asbestos as we can!" I believe Mr. Dunn. I do believe all of us most of the time are doing the best we can. It is not easy. I am sure all of us know all too well what it is like to be overwhelmed by life at times. That is why I am heartened by the words of Isaiah 43: 1-2.

**Do not fear, I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through the fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.
For I am the Lord your God.**

The past couple of years have stretched me. Pushed me. Befuddled me. Drained me. With a grateful heart many of my family members from Ohio, Heather, Desmond, and I arrived at our beach house in early August for a week's vacation on the shores of the Outer Banks of North Carolina. I allowed the waves of the Atlantic to toss me around for a few days before waving the surrender flag. By Thursday I was spending most of the day sitting on a rocking chair in the shade of the second story porch. I rocked and I prayed, and I knew it was time for me to turn the page. For months my prayer life has gone something like this:

Me: HELP!

God: I'm here, Michael...right beside you.

Me: HELP!

God: I said I was here, will you relax and focus please?

Me: HELP!

God: Michael, BE STILL and know that I am God. All will be well.

Me: Really?

God: Yes Michael, really.

We've all been there, haven't we? Wondering, "how can I be saved from the waters that threaten to drown me and the fire that is about to consume me?" The answer to that question came to me in spite of my swirling thoughts and confusing emotions; it is hardly new news: "**Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.**" (Luke 10:27) Those timeless words of wisdom straight from the heart of God spoke to me with refreshing clarity. I experienced a quiet, unexpected peace.

The good news of the gospel is that God sent us a mentor who lived that kind of life in our world, a world of raging floods and consuming fires. That mentor's name is Immanuel. God with us. Jesus of Nazareth, who lived, laughed, and suffered with us, died for us, and was raised as Jesus the Christ. That good news is our gift to the world. Really, it is our only gift of lasting value.

Good people. Being the church is not about community dinners (which are awesome), great worship services, (also awesome), a renovated facility (though that would be nice), or meaningful Bible studies (which feed our minds and hearts.) Those things are the good fruits of a disciple's life faithfully lived. But at the heart of it all, being the church is all about "being." Being people who ask themselves a question every morning - *"How can I do it, Lord? How can I love you with all my heart, with all of my soul, with all of my strength, and with all of my mind?"*

I wonder what FPCE would become if all of us did that together?

Pastor Michael

communitydinner



What has become our signature summer outreach program, our monthly community dinners, ends this month. Weather dependent, we will always try to be out on the side lawn to show our hospitality to the community. Dinners run from 6:00-8:00PM, and each time we welcome help for set-up, donations of side dishes, and clean-up. This month we could use some extra help, so everyone come!!!

Please join us for this last meal on **Wednesday, September 7.**



FOCUS 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 Mornings

- **SUNDAY SCHOOL** resumes on Sunday, September 11. Children's Sunday School meets during worship, and our Pollyanna Club is at 9:45 in the Gathering Place
- **ADULT CLASS** resumes at on Sunday, September 11 as well. The Adult Class will be picking up the "Tour of the Bible" with Song of Solomon at 9:45 in the Lounge.
- We will recognize our teachers and volunteers on September 18 during morning worship.

Men's Group

The Men's Group will meet at its usual day and time, which is 2nd and 4th Mondays at 7:00 PM at Foli's Place, 1050 Brinton Rd, (next to the GoGo's).

Tuesday Morning Book Club

The Jesus I Never Knew by renowned author Philip Yancey lives up to its title. This book opens our eyes up to the world in which Jesus lived and moved and had his being. We will uncover new insights in the life and death of the Risen Lord. This group meets Tuesday mornings at 10:00AM at Rhonda Apossos' home (361 Maple Ave.)

Wednesday Night Bible Study

The Wednesday evening Bible study will begin at 7:00PM in the Lounge on September 21. Pastor Michael is considering a number of areas of study. More information to come.

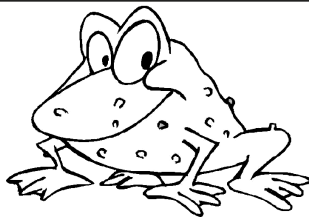
BLOCKS

BLOCKS resumes this fall with a session on Tuesday, September 20 at 6:30 in the Nursery. At BLOCKS, we **Believe Little Ones Can Know and Serve**. This is a casual "Intro to Sunday School" for our youngest members and friends, with programming aimed at toddlers and preschoolers. Simple songs, stories, and activities are presented to help children feel comfortable at church and learn the basic foundations of Christianity. Children (babies to kindergartners) should attend with a caregiver.



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 Thursday, September 1. Our after-school program operates Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:15-6:00pm in the lower level of the church building. Students are walked over from Edgewood Elementary School. The program includes snack, homework, reading, craft, outdoor play or games, and dinner. Currently we have 8 students returning from last session and 2 new registrants. The cost is \$25/month, with some scholarship help available, with 6 full-time volunteers and many part-time helpers.

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 call at 412-241-4613. 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!

Why do YOU sing?

I started this school year in my choir classes by having my students fill out an index card answering this question. I asked them to really think about it and not say something like "because I like it." The answers were varied and impressive. The most common answer was "it makes me happy." Other notables were "singing brings everyone together and is one of the creators of joy," "I can express who I am," "because it frees your soul," "because music is a beautiful thing and I want to use my voice for something beautiful," and of course my favorite... "why not?"

While I know not everyone in the congregation shares my passion for singing, I hope that you appreciate the way we use our hymns and songs each week to enhance the Word proclaimed, helping us to have a deeper worship experience. Thank you to Chris, Tim, Jim, Lisa, Mandy, Tyler, and Sunny for helping us to lead the music throughout our summer worship services in the Gathering Place.

We move back to 11AM worship in the Sanctuary, and that means the Sanctuary Choir will start up on Sunday mornings again at 9:30 in the Choir Room. We're always looking for extra voices to help us "make a joyful noise" in worship. We'll be looking for at least one more section leader as well. Our friend Tyler got a new job that will make him unavailable on Sunday mornings to sing with us. I'll be reaching out to local universities to see if any music students might be able to help with music leadership. If you know anyone who might enjoy making music with us, please let me know.

And if the joyful noise you make is with instruments, consider joining our worship ensemble. Emerging services are on the 3rd Sunday of each month, and the worship ensemble rehearses typically the Wednesday night prior in the sanctuary. I send out a PDF packet of the music usually a day or 2 ahead of the rehearsal in case you might want to practice ahead of time. Again, if interested, let me know.

Looking ahead to this fall, we'll host the Women's Choral Festival for the 3rd year in our sanctuary on Sunday, November 13 at 3PM. Participating choirs include Duquesne University, University of Pittsburgh, Belle Voci community women's choirs, and the high school women's choirs of Fox Chapel and either McKeesport or Riverview (awaiting confirmation). And in December, my North Hills Singers will return to worship.

I look forward to seeing you in worship, and challenge you the next time we're raising our voices in a song of praise or beloved hymn...why do YOU sing?



Shaun Cloonan
Minister of Music

Renovation Progress Update

We have received the final drawings from LGA Partners Architects along with specifications. After reviewing the drawing and working with LGA to make the necessary changes. We have asked two contractors for pricing. Each contractor has visited FPCE with their subs and are working on their bid. It was hoped these would be available by this date but with summer vacation and the general tardiness of contractors, we are still waiting.



The HVAC—which will encompass the whole building—is a separate project and pricing is complete. The session and congregation will be presented the pricing and alternatives when all the prices are received.



Wilkinsburg Community Ministry Has New Executive Director

Ruth Kittner is the WCM new Executive Director and we are looking forward to her leadership as we go forward. Ruth has helped WCM in the past with grant applications and she will continue working on grants in addition to leading WCM as Executive Director. Ruth has a PhD in history, teaches at Carnegie Mellon and speaks fluent German. She lives in Regent Square and has been a long time supporter of WCM.

Ruth visited our campers at Camp SOS and talked about the service opportunities available right in our back yard. She will also visit the Adult Class later this fall and will join us for worship to do an extended moment for mission to update us on WCM and how we as members of FPCE can help beyond just our financial contributions.

For more information on WCM, check our website www.wcm15221.org or visit us on Facebook. The latest fundraiser “Feed Wilkinsburg’s Hungry” provides information on the needs of the poor in Wilkinsburg and collects funds for the emergency food pantry.

WCM sincerely appreciates and depend on the continuing support for FPCE. Thank you very much.



Ruth speaks to Camp SOS about WCM

125th Anniversary Celebration Set for November 20

Originally scheduled for Sunday, September 11 (sorry about the change in date, we needed more time to prepare.) Please take part in this celebration.

EVERYONE—young and old, former members and current members, friends and neighbors and every former pastor will be encouraged to be with us. The worship service will be followed by a delicious luncheon. And this is just the tip of the iceberg....the planning committee hopes to create a dignified, crazy and meaningful celebration.

If you have suggestions or would like to be on the planning committee, please call the church office.



Financial News

Year to Date July 31, 2016

A LOOK at the BUDGET

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
Income received:	\$125,771.46	\$145,830.95
Expenses paid:	\$141,529.58	\$150,931.60

At the end of July FPCE is under budget for both income and expenses. Income is under budget primarily due to donations. 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. We will have to keep a close watch for the remaining months and hope that donations improve. At this time, there are no extraordinary expenses expected for the remainder of the year.



A Round of Thanks!

Our little idea back in the fall came to life in ways we couldn't have imagined! The 10 campers we welcomed received a week of

learning about service and fun making puppets to share what they learned.

It truly does take a village, and our FPCE family came out in full force to support this endeavor. Thank you to all who prayed for the success of our camp, and thank you to our many volunteers: Chris Baldwin, Bill Baldwin, Shaun Cloonan, Elaine Cloonan, Martha Crean, Lorraine Douthett, Mary Ann Hartman, Emily Lilly, Rick Masten, Tyler McGuigan, Dan Mielke, Ruth Miller, Sallie Monk, Judy Mysels, Tina Nine, Flo Raisig, Mary Ross, Michael Rucker, Lisa Segedy.

And to the service organizations we included in the week: C. C. Mellor Library, Edgewood Fire Department, Edgewood Police Department, Wilkinsburg Community Ministry, FPCE FROGS & Deacons, Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf. Thank you!!!



Looking Ahead to October...

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.

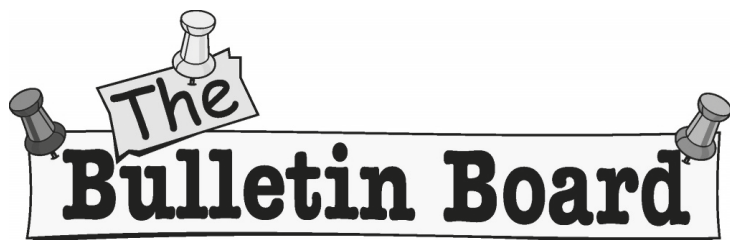
CROP WALK: October 9

On Oct. 9, the Pittsburgh East community will celebrate its 39Th 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 16

Mark your calendars for Sunday, October 16, 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. 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.



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

- The granddaughter of Ruth Miller, Ericka Keef, is going to be a Professor at Carlow College beginning on August 29. Ericka received her doctorate in Computational Math the beginning of April, 2016. Needless to say, Grandma Ruth is sooooo proud of her !!!!
- HAPPY WEDDING ANNIVERSARY!
Bill and Luella Broe celebrated their 25th on August 17
Bill and Donna Stineman celebrated number 49 on August 19.
- Prayers of support and condolence for Jim Segedy and family. Jim's mother, Esther, lived 100 years in this world before slipping into the arms of God early August 19.
- A great big thanks to everyone who represented FPCE during the Edgewood Community Day on Saturday, August 27.
- A prayer and blessing for all the students and teachers who returned to school at the end of last month.
- We received word from former FPCE Pastor Mike Wilson. He has been serving the Downtown Presbyterian Church in Nashville as their temporary supply pastor for more than 2 years. The DPC Session has decided to recommend to the congregation that they name him designated pastor with a 4-year contract. Congrats to our brother Mike on his continued ministry!

If we missed any occasion in your lives, our apologies. Please do not hesitate to call us if there is joy or concern of the month you would like to share. Thank you.

SEPTEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
A=Apessos' Home C=Choir Room F=Foli's GP=Gathering Place L=Lounge O=Office PS=Pastor's Study S=Sanctuary SC=Scout Room SR=Social Room				1 3:45 FROGS (SR)	2 8:00 AA (SR)	3 Sophia's B.D. Party Rhaina's Photoshoot 8:30 AA (SR)
4 10:00 Worship (GP)	5 LABOR DAY - OFFICE CLOSED 7:00 Scouts (SC)	6 10:00 Book Club (A) 3:45 FROGS (SR) 7:00 Deacons (L) 7:00 AA (SR)	7 6:00 Community Dinner (Side Lawn)	8 1:00 PW Circle (L) 3:45 FROGS (SR)	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)	12 7:00 Mens Group (F) 7:00 Scouts (SC)	13 10:00 Book Club (A) 3:45 FROGS (SR) 7:00 Session (L) 7:00 AA (SR)	14 7:00 Worship Ensemble (S)	15 3:45 FROGS (SR)	16 8:00 AA (SR)	17 8:30 AA (SR)
18 9:30 Worship En (S) 9:45 Pollyanna (GP) 9:45 Adult Class (L) 11:00 Emerging (S) 12:15 Fellowship (L) 12:15 Worship Team Meeting (PS)	19 7:00 Scouts (SC)	20 10:00 Book Club (A) 3:45 FROGS (SR) 7:00 AA (SR)	21 7:00 Bible Study (L)	22 1:00 PW Circle (L) 3:45 FROGS (SR)	23 8:00 AA (SR)	24 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)	26 7:00 Men's Group Joy Circle (L) 7:00 Scouts (SC)	27 10:00 Book Club (A) 3:45 FROGS (SR) 7:00 AA (SR)	28 7:00 Bible Study (L)	29 3:45 FROGS (SR)	30 8:00 AA (SR)	October 1 8:30 AA (SR)



First Presbyterian Church of
EDGEWOOD
The Community Church

120 E. Swissvale Avenue • Pittsburgh, PA 15218



Sunday Mornings

9:45 Adult Class "Gifts from God"

11:00 Morning Worship (begins 9/11)

Tuesday Mornings

10:00 Book Club at Apessos Home

2nd & 4th Monday Nights

7:00 Men's Group at Foli's

September

1: FROGS Begins

4: Last 10AM Summer Worship in the Gathering Place

5: Labor Day: Office Closed

7: Community Dinner

11: Communion, 11AM Worship Begins

18: Emerging Worship

October

2: World Communion Sunday

9: Crop Walk

16: Potluck Lunch after Emerging Worship

30: Planning Meeting after Worship

November

6: All Saints' Recognition/Communion Sunday

13: Women's Choral Festival, Manger Tree kick-off

20: 125th Anniversary Celebration

23: Thanksgiving Eve Service

27: Hanging of the Greens service

Keep up on our social media platforms:

Website:

www.fpcedgewood.org



Facebook:

facebook.com/fpcedgewood



Twitter:

[@fpcedgewood](https://twitter.com/fpcedgewood)

