

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

September 2018

FALL KICKOFF

Welcome back!

We are on the brink of something new. Every beginning can be as fresh and new as we allow it to be, true? Septembers will always be a time of beginning again for me. Sure, we have sat in the same sanctuary (now air-conditioned!) walked the same hallways, sipped coffee and delighted in the tasty treats Lorraine provides, and gathered in the same Gathering Place before. Those places are not new (renovated but not new)—but you are.

Over the summer we all have had experiences that touched us, changed us, challenged us, or encouraged us—God longs to speak to us through every one of those experiences. We are not the same person this September that we were three months ago. If we pay close attention to what is going on around us and within us, we will discover that God, indeed, is not finished with us yet. God constantly and faithfully speaks to us. Whispering words of love, guidance, correction, comfort, and wisdom. Our only “to-do” is to take time to listen. To enter the heart of prayer—stop talking. That is how I have changed over the summer. My new prayer. “*God, help me to listen. Teach me to discern.*” Then I sit quietly. Perhaps that prayer can become our prayer: “*Speak Lord, for your people are listening.*”

Pastor Michael

WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR SEPTEMBER

On Sunday, September 9, we will return to the sanctuary and to the 11:00 a.m. worship hour. Throughout the summer, people have said that worship has been warm, uplifting, and inspiring. Those meaningful worship experiences will continue. Your presence will only make them better!

September 2 (still in the Gathering Place at 10:00 a.m.)

On this Labor Day weekend we turn to some wise words of advice that will help us regain our strength and rekindle our spirits. (see Matthew 5: 14-16; 11:28-30) The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be served.

September 9 (11:00 a.m. in the sanctuary)

When so many nations in the world are trying to find a way to cope with millions of immigrants and refugees, we will read two stories about how Jesus dealt with “outsiders.” See Mark 7: 24-37.

September 16

We will worship in the emerging style! The Praise Ensemble always leads us into joyful and meaningful praise. May the words from Proverbs 2 prove to be true: “*wisdom will come into your heart.*”

September 23

What does God require of us during our earthly journey? What is the path of greatness God's kingdom? God, it turns out, is happy with the-salt-of-the-earth way. See Mark 9: 30-37 for some directions.

September 30

Remember how the disciples complained that Jesus spoke in riddles? Let's untangle one together, see Mk 9: 38-50.

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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

God bless all members and friends of FPCE!

One of the blessings of belonging to a smaller congregation is that each one of us has an opportunity to be themselves, to be heard, and to be loved for who she or he is. It is impossible to “get lost in the crowd.” Each one of us is able to stand among people (who do love them) and declare along with the Apostle Paul, “*I am who I am...and the Lord saw fit to use me anyway!*”

Another way to put it is that each one of us has a song to sing. Each one of us has a story to tell. Each one of us has a story that others need to hear. In a smaller congregation there is a greater chance of our story being heard.

The longer I am a pastor the more clearly I see that though all our individual pathways are headed in the same destination, the roads we navigate are many and varied. Every one of our journeys to God is important, holy, and inspirational. As the old Jewish story says, *A disciple named Jonas said to his Rabbi, ‘Oh, that I could be more like Moses in my walk with God.’ The wise Rabbi replied, ‘God has not called you to be like Moses, God calls you to be like Jonas.’*

There are many smaller groups that you can become part of here at FPCE—and be yourself! Come to Sunday morning adult Sunday School. Join the choir or a Presbyterian Women’s circle. Attend the Wednesday evening classes (which will begin in October). Read along with the Tuesday morning Book Group that is hosted by Rhonda Apossos. Help us in one of our mission or ministry projects. Agree to serve as a Deacon or Elder. Join the ever faithful group of Prayer Warriors. Each one of these groups will receive you. Accept you. And listen to your story.

Finally, ***I am going to open this newsletter*** to the entire community. At this point, the newsletter is written by staff and people in leadership positions. The articles they write are good ones. But in order for every one to share their story, ***I encourage all of you to consider submitting something to be published*** in the monthly *News from the Edge*. My only request is that the articles submitted be encouraging, honest, uplifting, and positive. Please be aware that the submissions may be edited a bit in order to fit the available space. I look forward to hearing from you. May God bless you with a rich and full fall season.

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. Look for upcoming bulletin inserts. Please join us for this last meal on

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5 AT 6:00 PM



EVENTIDE FOR FAMILIES

a new worship experience!

BEGINNING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

5:30 p.m. in the Gathering Place

THE VISION: an informal time of worship for the entire family; very child friendly.

THE HOPE: to create a worship experience that is flexible, accessible, and meaningful.

THE REASON: to provide a worship service that fits into the ever-changing and challenging time demands of families.

This is what it will look like:

We will meet in the Gathering Place. Chairs will be arranged in a horse shoe shape.

The young people may sit on the carpet in the middle of the horseshoe.

The liturgy will be simple yet heart-felt.

The prayers will be from the hearts, minds, and lips of all who are present. Stories will be told.

The music will be provided by cd's and/or iphone. Those gathered will make joyful noise to the Lord!

The service will conclude by 6:30 at the latest.

New ideas and directions will come from the worshippers themselves.

Please join us.



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

- Sympathies to the family of Kay Connolly, who passed away on August 8; and the family of Andrew Neilson, grandson of former church treasurer, Pete Peterson, who died unexpectedly on August 27.
- Cyrus Butler, former FPCE attendee and son of Missy (Butler) Slaathaug, and his wife, Anna, gave birth to a son, Theo, on June 27. Cyrus and family reside in St. Paul, MN.
- Sympathies also to Connie Black whose nephew, Carl, died after struggling with cancer.
- Many thanks to Jim Segedy and Tyler McGuigan in hosting the Community Dinners throughout the summer, plus those who provided side dishes, desserts, etc. who fed many community people.
- Our Community Day presence thanks to Judy and Mariah Mysels, Michael Rucker, Hannah (a new guest in our worship services!), Jon and Rhonda Apessos, and Tom and Connie Ochs for "manning" the FPCE booth.

CHURCH NEWS

GROWING IN FAITH GROWING TOGETHER

9:45 a.m. every Sunday morning in the lounge

You are invited to participate in a stimulating and friendly conversation every Sunday morning at 9:45 a.m. in the lounge. We call it Adult Christian Ed, but that sounds a bit too formal.

We agree to an area of study and discussion, read a little bit during the week, then meet to discover how we can grow our faith and grow together.

For Sunday, September 9 we will take a look at a few of Jesus' more intriguing parables (see Matthew 13: 44-53) and discuss what direction we want to take during the fall classes.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN END OF SUMMER PICNIC

All are welcome!

Saturday, September 15

1—4 p.m.

150 Lloyd Avenue (home of Lisa and Jim Segedy)

Please bring a side dish!

WILKINSBURG COMMUNITY MINISTRY BACKPACK PROJECT A HUGE SUCCESS!



This is what over 400 freshly packed backpacks looks like!!

Members of FPCE and the Edgewood and Wilkinsburg communities rallied together on August 11th to pack 441 backpacks with new school supplies donated by the FPCE community for Wilkinsburg schoolchildren. Nancy Ernst and Rhonda Apossos did yeomans' work organizing the project, and the enthusiastic packers included:

Lorraine Douthett, Nancy Ernst, Rhonda Apossos, Judy, Rob, and Mariah Mysels, Elita Tolliver, Chris and Charlie Baldwin and Charlie's girlfriend Kellie, Micaelah St. Johns, Michael Rucker and Heather Wilson, Amy Moore, Chris Koesel, Mary Rose Rudman, Sallie and Glenn Allen Monk, Liz Held, Amy Moore, Lisa and Jim Segedy, Tim Carr, and Tom Ochs.

Many thanks to all who donated and helped!!

**REMEMBER—YOU ARE INVITED TO SUBMIT AN ARTICLE FOR THE OCTOBER ISSUE OF
"NEWS FROM THE EDGE!"**



Renovation Progress Update

Renovation Building Fund

The Building Renovation Fund was approved by Session in 2017 to help fund the church building renovations of which the HVAC upgrade is in progress. It is a three year fund, and there were 27 donors that pledged support.

The pledges for each year were as follows:

2017 - \$40,910 2018 - \$19,950 2019 - \$17,950

The total pledged is \$78,810, and to date the cash receipts total is \$52,143.33. The remaining pledged balance is \$30,217.00.

We are in year 2, and everyone is reminded to meet your pledge for 2018. New pledges are also welcome for 2018 and 2019. Thank you to everyone that has participated in this important fundraiser.

HVAC Renovation Update

By Labor Day the HVAC Renovation Project will be complete. The electrical and plumbing portion was completed August 21st. Installation of the Sanctuary furnaces are in the final stages. The total installation included six furnaces: two for the daycare on the second floor, one for the core area of the first floor (men's, women's bathrooms, choir room and halls), one for the basement Social Room, and two for the Sanctuary.

Four ductless units were installed with individually operated fan units for the Pastor's office, Judy's office, Christian Ed office, Gathering Place, Lounge, Nursery and one room on the second floor. This will provide heat for the building and replace the steam boilers and radiators. Individual parts of the building can be heated when in use and returned to a lower temperature when empty: most are of the church is empty most of the time. All areas are air conditioned.

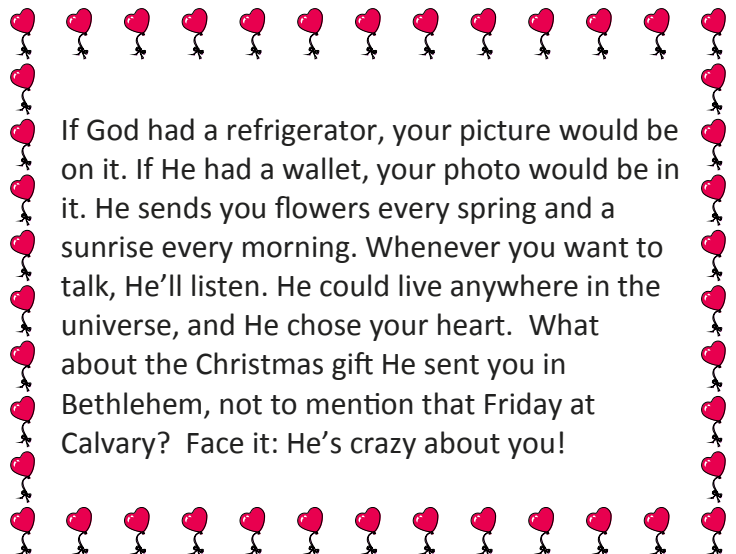
We can all help to control the church's electric and gas expenses by treating the heat and air conditioning in the same manner as the lights in the room. Turning down the heat or turning up the A/C temperature when leaving will help reduce costs.

Year to date contributions:

July 2018	July 2017	July 2016
\$61,967	\$73,384	\$80,062

12 month target for contributions:

2018	2017	2016
\$133,000	\$160,000	\$163,000



If God had a refrigerator, your picture would be on it. If He had a wallet, your photo would be in it. He sends you flowers every spring and a sunrise every morning. Whenever you want to talk, He'll listen. He could live anywhere in the universe, and He chose your heart. What about the Christmas gift He sent you in Bethlehem, not to mention that Friday at Calvary? Face it: He's crazy about you!

Fall FROGS Hop Back into Action

Fall FROGS begins **Thursday, September 4.**

Our after-school program operates Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:35-6:00pm 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 9 students returning from last session and are looking for 1 or 2 more registrants. The cost is \$25/month, 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!

Judy Mysels, *FROGS Program Director*



F.R.O.G.S.

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

FRIENDS, READING, & OTHER GREAT STUFF

Looking Ahead to October...

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY: October 7

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 14

On Oct. 14, the Pittsburgh East community will celebrate its 41st 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.

And on Sunday, November 11...

Sunday, November 11 marks the 100th' anniversary of the dedication of our sanctuary. Worship will include guest speakers. Armistice Day will be remembered. Many people in our community will be invited to attend and participate. The worship service will be followed by a luncheon. More details forthcoming...



SEPTEMBER



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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 10AM-1PM McGuigan Party(GP) 8:30 AA (SR)
2 10:00 Worship 11:15 Worship Comm. Mtg.	3 LABOR DAY OFFICE CLOSED 7:00 Scouts (ScR)	4 3:45 FROGS 7:00 AA (SR)	5 5-8PM Scene 75 Interviews (GP) 6-8:00 Community Dinner	6 3:45 FROGS 5-8PM Scene 75 interviews (GP)	7 8:00 AA (SR)	8 1:00PM Neilson Memorial Service 8:30 AA (SR)
9 9:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:45 C.E. 11:00 Worship 12:15 Fellowship	10 7:00 Scouts (ScR)	11 10:00 Book Club 3:45 FROGS 7:00 Session Mtg. 7:00 AA (SR)	12	13 1:00 Daytime Circle 3:45 FROGS	14 8:00 AA (GP)	15 1-4 p.m. P.W. Party (Segedy's) 8:30 AA (SR)
16 9:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:45 C.E. 11:00 Worship 12:15 Fellowship	17 7:00 Scouts (ScR)	18 10:00 Book Club 3:45 FROGS 7:00 AA (SR)	19	20 3:45 FROGS	21 8:00 AA (SR)	22 8:30 AA (SR)
23 9:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:45 C.E. 11:00 Worship 12:15 Fellowship	24 7:00 Scouts (ScR) 7:00 Joy Circle (L)	25 10:00 Book Club 3:45 FROGS 7:00 AA (SR)	26	27 NO FROGS	28 8:00 AA (SR)	29 8:30 AA (SR)
30 9:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:45 C.E. 11:00 Worship 12:15 Fellowship 5:30 Worship (GP)						



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120 E. Swissvale Avenue • Pittsburgh, PA 15218

dates
to
Remember

Sunday Mornings

9:30 Choir Rehearsal
9:45 Adult Class
11:00 Morning Worship (begins 9/9)

Tuesday Mornings

10:00 Book Club at Apessos' Home

4th Monday:

7:00PM Joy Circle (church lounge)

September

2: Last 10AM Summer Worship in the Gathering Place
Planning Meeting after Worship
3: Labor Day: Office Closed
4: FROGS Begins
5: Community Dinner
9: Communion, 11AM Worship Begins
16: Emerging Worship

October

7: World Communion Sunday
14: Crop Walk

November

4: All Saints' Recognition/Communion Sunday
21: Thanksgiving Eve Service
25: 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)

