



news from the **EDGE**

120 East Swissvale Avenue

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15218

412-241-4613

office@fpcedgewood.org



April 2014

LOVE GOD EACH OTHER OUR NEIGHBORS

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**.

WORSHIP

Sunday Mornings
11:00AM
in the
Sanctuary

www.fpcedgewood.org

This month's news from the **EDGE** is sponsored by

YOU?

Sponsors are needed for upcoming issues. Contact the office.

We've spent the season of Lent in quiet meditation and reflection. From Taize and Iona, to more contemplative prayer and music at our emerging service, to discussion and devotions, we turn our eyes toward Holy Week. As this most important time in our spiritual journey approaches, we rejoice that the story does not end with Jesus dying on the cross. Easter morning brings about the beginning of the rest of our story as Christians — the celebration of our Lord's resurrection! Join us as we travel from the palm-covered road into Jerusalem on Palm/Passion Sunday to the darkest hours after the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday, from the pleading prayers in the Garden of Gethsemane and Judas' betrayal, to the hill of Calvary on Good Friday. We are thankful that we will arrive at the empty tomb on Easter Sunday, when we can joyfully proclaim together: "He is risen! He is risen, indeed!"



April Worship Schedule

SUNDAY, APRIL 6

We'll spend this fifth Sunday in Lent in a more formal setting, sharing in responsive liturgy, singing parts of the service in a "high church" format. We'll also come to the table for the sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

This service begins in the Gathering Place at 7:00PM, focusing on the events of the Last Supper, and then moves into the Sanctuary for a service of shadows, where we remember the arrest, trial, and crucifixion of Jesus. A meaningful service you won't want to miss.

PALM/PASSION SUNDAY, APRIL 13

Holy Week begins with this service that moves from joyful refrains of "Hosanna!" to the dark story of Christ's Passion. Some dramatic reading will take place in this emerging service foreshadowing the events of the coming days.



EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 20

Join in the resurrection celebration at our Easter morning service at 11:00AM. The sanctuary is always beautifully decorated, the songs joyfully uplifting, and the worship spirit-filled. We'll also share Communion together.

MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 17

"Maundy" comes from the Latin word for "commandment." On Thursday we recollect Jesus' commandment that we "love one another just as I have loved you."

SUNDAY, APRIL 27

We relax into classic worship as the Easter season continues.



First Presbyterian Church of
EDGEWOOD
The Community Church



STAFF DIRECTORY

120 East Swissvale Avenue
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15218
Phone: 412-241-4613
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Interim Pastor **Michael P. Rucker**
mprucker@fpcedgewood.org

Pastor Emeritus **Dr. Gerald Hollingsworth**

Minister of Music **Shaun Cloonan**
music@fpcedgewood.org

Organist & Pianist **Sunny Sakai**
sunnysakai4@gmail.com

Section Leaders **Tyler McGuigan**
Mandy Rineer

Office Manager **Judy Mysels**
office@fpcedgewood.org

Building Manager **Rob Mysels**

Nursery Attendant **Kristi Cloonan**
LittleK815@aol.com

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.

Cross-bound

This is typically the space where Pastor Michael would have his article. Due to his car accident and being away from the office for 2 weeks during recovery, we did not ask that he write anything for this month's newsletter.

This Lenten season, Pastor Michael challenged the congregation to read the daily devotional that our denominational magazine, *Presbyterians Today*, published. This small booklet entitled "Cross-bound" takes a detailed look for the entire 40-day period at the last week of Jesus' life. The group on Wednesday night has met to share thoughts about the devotions of the week.

Given that Holy Week is nearly upon us, it seemed appropriate to share the words and challenge set forth in the "Cross-bound" devotion by its author, Chip Hardwick.

"When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem.—Luke 9:51

Jesus has already foretold his coming death—twice—when he sets his face toward his crucifixion. Instead of running away from suffering, he moves toward it, step by step. He is bound for the cross, and by the end of his journey, he will be bound to the cross. He is, in a word, cross-bound.

Along his journey, Jesus challenges those around him to move toward the cross. He marches into Jerusalem on that first Palm Sunday and becomes increasingly cross-bound with every minute, while his followers struggle to bind themselves to him in his passion.

He calls *us* to take up our cross and follow him, too. Jesus challenges us to put others before ourselves and join God's mission to transform the world in love. The cross-bound life seeks not to glorify the Christian but to glorify Christ. The cross-bound life serves and sacrifices and endures. It relies on Jesus' strength in order to follow Jesus' example of setting his face toward Calvary—not for his own benefit but for ours.

Like Jesus' original disciples, we often resist the cross. This Lenten study invites you instead to embrace it. But that embrace does not mean giving into the violence perpetrated on us by an abuser. Neither does it mean justifying the suffering that comes about because of the fallen nature of the world—poverty, illness, or injustice. In fact, a cross-bound life fights against such things.

I pray that this Lent we will not simply read about the cross but be bound for it and bound to it—that, like Jesus, we will learn to live cross-bound lives of sacrificial love as we await the resurrection."

FAITH “Hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts.” (Romans 5:5)

ENDURES

REBUILDING HOPE AFTER A DISASTER

“God put me in the right place at the right time.”

Bobbi Updegraff,

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) volunteer

Bobbi Updegraff saw the healing power of PDA while traveling the world as a writer for *Mission Mosaic* Magazine, and took part in organizing youth camps at PDA volunteer villages after Hurricane Katrina. She never fathomed her own community would need the same kind of help until the day Hurricane Irene hit.

Bobbi’s previous experience, along with guidance and encouragement from PDA, enabled her to be a part of the response. As mission chair of her home presbytery in Pennsylvania (Northumberland), Bobbi worked with local Presbyterian churches helping prepare them to host volunteers, and she worked with the long-term recovery organization (LTRO) in identifying the most urgent needs. OGHS funds were the first used by the LTRO.

Updegraff recounts the rebuilding effort: *“I cannot tell you what it felt like to receive the first teams of blue shirts to my area. It made me very proud to be a Presbyterian Christian. God faithfully demonstrated that we can not only survive—but bless others.”*




Give to One Great Hour of Sharing to help transform suffering into healing and hope by supporting programs like Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. **FPCE will collect this offering on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. Fish boxes will also be distributed to youth to collect coins.**



Roberta Updegraff

ONE GREAT HOUR
OF SHARING

THREE WAYS TO GIVE

-  Through your congregation
-  Text OGHS to 20222 to give \$10
-  presbyterianmission.org/give-oghs

ANNUAL P.W. FLEA MARKET

SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 10AM-2PM

- Bring in “treasures” to sell: art supplies, books, dishes, holiday décor, jewelry, knickknacks, linens, toys & games, tools, and small appliances... (sorry no clothing/electronics)
- Help clean, sort, and price items Tues – Friday (April 22-25)
- Make bread, brownies, cookies, pastries, or soup for our homemade foods table
- Mind a station during all or part of the sale – arrive 9:15AM
- Call Connie Black, Sallie Monk, or Debbie Pike with questions, comments



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

"May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all." 2 Cor. 13:14

"Show me your ways, LORD, teach me your paths." Psalm 25:4

Paul uses the first passage in two ways in scripture. He is either greeting the recipients of his letters, or giving a closing benediction to those recipients. All of whom were believers that he knew, and with whom he shared faith and love. As he often put it, the "fellowship of the Holy Spirit." Well, that fellowship is alive and well here at FPCE. We had between 40 and 50 people of all ages at our first **Family Fun Night** on March 9. We had plenty of Food, Fellowship and Fun with members and guests—of all ages from babies to seniors. And everyone had a great time. So, thank you ALL for coming! We picked our March Madness Song: "Here I Am, Lord," Heard Storyteller Lisa Segedy share the story of what was in the sack, and had plenty of food and socializing. So we're going to do it again!!

Put **Sunday May 18** on your calendars for another **Family Fun Night!!** We will have a pot luck dinner, games and hopefully another story from Lisa. We will also be introducing our Vacation Bible School Program for the Summer: **Weird Animals**, to everyone. Please join us at 4:00pm for another fun night. We should be done about 6:00 or 6:30 same as last time. Hope to see you there!

A reminder that VBS will be the week of **June 23 to 27** from 6:00 to 8:00 in the evening. We will have a lot of fun again this year and hope you can join us.

Also, we have a request of you, the members of FPCE. We have a fine set of chimes that have been used by our former Junior Bell Choir. They are sitting idle and we are wondering if there is someone who would be willing or interested in taking on the role of Jr. Bell Choir director? Maybe you have done it before or maybe you have just thought about it, but if you have an interest in taking on such a responsibility, you would be welcomed with open arms. Interest has been expressed about bringing the bells back, but without a leader, it isn't possible. Please pray about it and let us know.

And please join us for our various C. E. activities: Pollyanna, Church School [Adult and Youth], Tuesday and Wednesday Bible Studies or Jeff Nine's Men's Group. Hope to see you as we learn about God's word here at FPCE.

Are you a part of one of our small groups at FPCE? Consider joining one!

There are several opportunities each month for Christian fellowship, discussion, Bible Study, and spiritual growth outside of Sunday morning worship. If you haven't participated in one of these groups, check them out this month:

Sunday mornings:

Adult Sunday School at 9:45 in the Lounge

Monday nights:

Men's Group meets on the 2nd and 4th Monday at 7:00 in the Lounge or Gathering Place depending on room availability. The group is currently discussing the Book of Daniel.

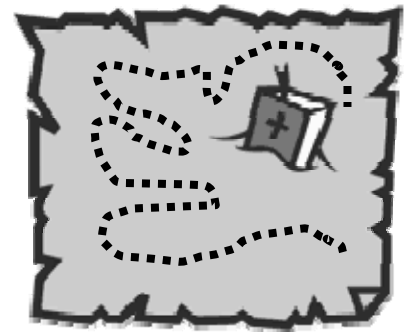
Presbyterian Women's Joy Circle meets on the last Monday of the month at 7:00PM in the Lounge for prayer, devotions, and fellowship.

Tuesday mornings:

The Tuesday Book Club meets at 10:00AM each week in the Pastor's Study. Discussions usually center around a reading, but move in many directions as the Spirit guides them.

Wednesday nights:

The nature of this gathering changes seasonally. During Lent (April 2, 9, 16), the focus is the "Cross-bound" devotional. Beginning April 23rd, a Bible Study series called "The Presence of God in Exodus and Deuteronomy: Abiding Hope" will be led by Sallie Monk. These sessions take place at 7:00PM in the Lounge.



LOOKING for A Bible Study?



P.W. CORNER...

By Lori Stutz, Presbyterian Women Moderator

Even though it's 24 degrees outside, I keep hearing the reassurance of the weather man that Spring is coming. The weather man has stated a couple more days of cold, maybe a flake or two of snow and then a gradual warm up, predicting it to be 66 degrees in a week from today. As I told one of our members of PW earlier this week, our weather this winter is nothing short of psychotic. However, I think it makes us wait and appreciate even the idea of Spring so much more, let alone Spring itself!

With Spring comes other anticipated events coming up so fast. I think as a Christian, Easter is our most important holiday. You could say that Lent is our winter waiting, contemplating time, waiting for the promise of spring, the promise of Resurrection. I have tried to reschedule our quarterly business meeting, but between other meetings being booked on Sundays, and Easter coming up, I have decided that the next business meeting will be the next quarterly business scheduled on the calendar.

PW will sponsor a church wide Bible Study starting Wednesday, April 23 at 7pm. The name of this study is "The presence of God in Exodus and Deuteronomy, Abiding Hope," and it will be led by Sallie Monk.

Our last meeting the ladies decided to fix two of our large arm chairs for the lounge. Well, Ladies, good news the chairs have been fixed and returned to the lounge.

In other PW news, Mary Ross will be stepping in again as Treasurer for PW. We are so very lucky to have someone like Mary doing this job. She really knows her numbers! Mary will be replacing Debbie Pike as Treasurer. This is because Debbie and her family will soon be moving to Illinois. Thank you does not begin to cover the gratitude we have for Debbie. She has been at the heart of PW and our church working to make both better. Debbie has also been the leader for the past five years for our former outreach program F.R.O.G.S. I know we can manage without Debbie (although right now I can't imagine that!) but it will be as if some things missing. Please take time to drop Debbie a line or tell her Thank You for all she has done for our church family.

I also wanted to take the time to thank Rhonda Apossos for opening up her home and hosting Doris' farewell party. I want to thank Elaine Cloonan, Ruth Miller, Sallie Monk and Mary Ross for organizing and shopping for the party. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend. But I heard so much fabulous feedback about this party and how everyone enjoyed each others company and fellowship. I also think we should thank Marcia Haley, Shaun Cloonan, Pat Carrick, Lorraine Douthett, Pastor Michael, Mary Ann Hartman, Rob and Judy Mysels, Sunny Sakai, Lisa Segedy, Flo Raisig, and everyone else who made the church's farewell reception Sunday special for Doris. I also want to take a moment to say a special thank you to Judy Mysels, who does so much to help PW behind the scenes of everything, thank you, Judy your help is always appreciated!

Hope your Easter is Happy and remember, don't forgot the Flea Market during your spring cleaning!

Pastoral Search Update

The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) has continued to follow our denomination's guidelines in conducting our PNC Search. We met most recently on March 22, 2014.

There has been a significant development. We are pleased to report that our Ministry Information Form (MIF) has been approved by the Presbytery and has been uploaded to the Church Leadership Connection website. This site matches our MIF with Personal Information Forms (PIFs) of prospective candidates. We have also received PIFs directly from pastoral applicants.

To date we have received over twenty PIFs and are evaluating the submissions. We will continue to keep you posted as we progress. Please pray for us.

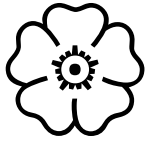
Rhonda Apossos
PNC Chair



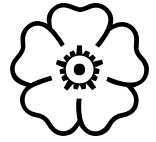
GOOD FRIDAY PRAYER VIGIL

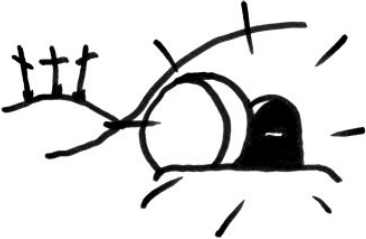
April 18: 9AM-2PM

The sanctuary will be available for quiet meditation, prayer, and reflection during the day on Good Friday. Most come in for a half hour, but you are welcome to stay as long as you would like. The space will be beautifully decorated from the Maundy Thursday service, and candles as well as prayer books, devotionals, and Bibles will be set out. A sign-up sheet will be posted at side entrance starting March 30.



A • p • r • i • l



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
C=Choir Room GP=Gathering Place L=Lounge PS=Pastor's Study S=Sanctuary SC=Scout Room SR=Social Room		10:00 Book Club (PS) 7:00 AA (SR) 7:00 Deacons (L)	EASTER FLOWER ORDER DEADLINE 7:00 Lent Group (L)		8:00 AA (SR)	8:30 AA (SR)
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9:30 Choir (C) 9:45 Adult Class (L) 9:45 Pollyanna (GP) 11:00 Worship with Communion (S) 12:15 Fellowship (L)	7:00 Scouts (SC)	10:00 Book Club (PS) 7:00 AA (SR) 7:00 Session (GP)	7:00 Lent Group (L) 7:00 Worship Ensemble (S)		8:00 AA (SR)	8:30 AA (SR)
Palm Sunday 13	14	15	16	Maundy Thur 17	Good Friday 18	19
9:00 Worship Ens . 9:45 Adult Class (L) 9:45 Pollyanna (GP) 11:00 Emerging Worship (S) 12:15 Fellowship (L)	7:00 Men's Grp. (L) 7:00 Scouts (SC)	10:00 Book Club (PS) 7:00 AA (SR)	7:00 Lent Group (L)	7:00 Maundy Thursday Service	9:00AM-2:00PM Prayer Vigil (S) 8:00 AA (SR)	8:30 AA (SR)
Easter 20	21	22	23	24	25	26
9:30 Choir (C) 11:00 Worship with Communion (S) 12:15 Fellowship (L)	7:00 Scouts (SC)	10:00 Book Club (PS) 7:00 AA (SR)	Flea Market Set-up (SR) 7:00 Bible Study (L)	Flea Market Set-up (SR)	Flea Market Set-up (SR)	10:00AM-2:00PM PW Flea Market (SR)
27	28	29	30			
9:30 Choir (C) 9:45 Adult Class (L) 9:45 Pollyanna (GP) 11:00 Worship (S) 12:15 Fellowship (L)	7:00 Scouts (SR) 7:00 Men's Grp (L) 7:00 Joy Circle (GP)	10:00 Book Club (PS) 7:00 AA (SR)	7:00 Bible Study (L)			

EASTER FLOWERS

We seek your help in making our sanctuary a place of graceful beauty and meaning on Easter morning. Through your donation, we can accomplish this:

I wish to contribute an Easter plant:

Daffodil Hyacinth Lily Tulip

The wording for the bulletin is:

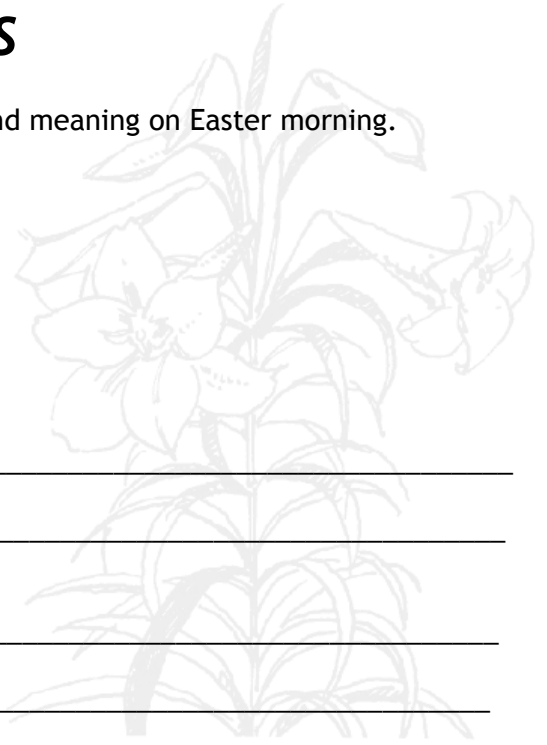
In honor of _____

In memory of _____

Order placed by _____

Please check: I would like to take the plant after the Easter service.

The cost of each plant is **\$8.00**. Please attach your check (payable to First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood) to this order form and return it to the Church Office. **Deadline is April 2, 2014.**



**A monthly support group
for people surviving the
loss of a love**



First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood
Rev. Michael Rucker, Interim Pastor
120 East Swissvale Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15218

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GRIEVING SPACE

at the First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood

Here, we understand that finding the space to grieve can sometimes be every bit as challenging as the loss itself.

Should you need us, our support group is here.

Meetings: every third Thursday of the month, 7pm

Call us to let us know you are coming: 412-241-4613

Individual support with a certified grief counselor is also available through:



Edgewood Psychological Services



First Presbyterian Church of
EDGEWOOD
The Community Church

120 E. Swissvale Avenue • Pittsburgh, PA 15218

If you want to be taken off the mailing list for "News from the Edge," call the Church Office at 412-241-4613.
To receive it via email, leave your email address when calling, or send a message to <office@fpcedgewood.org>.



HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Palm/Passion Sunday

April 13
11:00am

Maundy Thursday

April 17
7:00pm

Easter Sunday

April 20
11:00am