

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

April 2019

PASTOR'S **POINT OF VIEW**



Michael P. Rucker
Pastor

The end is where we start from.

**I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord,
those who believe in me, even though they die, will
live,
and everyone who lives and believes in me will never
die.**

Death is where we start from.

During these weeks of March Madness I recall some words spoken back in 1999 by the University of Duke basketball coach, Mike Krzyzewski. This observation gave me pause and an Easter reflection. In 1999, nearly all prognosticators had picked the Duke Blue Devils to win the national championship. But the Huskies from University of Connecticut upset Duke in the championship game, 77-74. During the post-game

interview, Coach Krzyzewski admitted that many of the seniors on the Duke team were in the locker room crying. And he said, *"They are not crying because they lost the game tonight. They are crying because for them - it's all over. Most of them will never again play the game they love under the lights, on a gleaming hardwood floor, in front of thousands of adoring fans."* I get what the coach is saying, but I also thought, these kids have only just begun; they have come to the end of an amazing chapter in their lives, but their story will go on."

The end is where we start from. For Christians, death is where we start from. **"Unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies it bears much fruit."** So Jesus teaches. The end is where we start from. Death is where we start from. Three times Jesus told the disciples what the future held for him, **"The Son of Man is about to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him, and he will be raised on the third day."** The disciple Peter rejected these words outright; the other disciples were deeply distressed. They were not yet able to see that beyond the dying we begin a new life! A new, redeemed, joyful life with God.

Yes, it is true - our lives are filled with endings. (p. 2)

WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR APRIL

April 7

Says the prophet Micah: "What does the Lord require of us? ...to walk humbly with the Lord." The Apostle Paul strived to contain his ego at times, but this morning he lead us into a life of humility. We will celebrate the Lord's Supper as well. See Philippians 3: 4b-11.

April 14

The Palm Sunday procession into Jerusalem. Is this a victory parade? A protest march? What message is Jesus sending in spite of all the palm waving and "hosannas?" This Emerging Worship Sunday will include the upbeat music of our Praise Ensemble and a dramatic reading.

(cont'd. p. 2)

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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 Page (cont'd.)

The end of college, a friendship, a career, a healthy, pain-free body, a marriage, thousands of misplaced expectations, even our deepest hopes for the future. Endings abound. Yet all of them are necessary. All of these endings -disappointing, upsetting, and hurtful as they may be, are little deaths preparing us for a new beginning! A renewed, re-deemed life with God.

Death is swallowed up in victory.

O death, where is your victory?

O death, where is you sting?

**Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory
through Jesus Christ our Lord...**

**if we have been united with Jesus in a death like his,
we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.**

Cling to this hope! Keep the faith!

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

Pastor Michael

Worship Schedule for April (cont'd.)

Maundy Thursday 7:00 p.m. April 18

SEVEN ACTIONS

A Service of Prayer and Holy Communion

based on the 13th Chapter of the Gospel according to John.

We will worship in the Gathering Place.

Good Friday 7:00 p.m. April 19

SEVEN MOMENTS

A Service of Prayer and Reflection for Good Friday

Based on the 19th Chapter of the Gospel according to John.

We will worship in the sanctuary.

April 21

The Resurrection of Jesus. Easter Sunday. Through the dawn's early light a group of brave, loyal women walk into an empty tomb, are dazzled by light that shines throughout the universe to this very day, and hear the question, "Why do you seek the living among the dead?" It is no idle tale. It is the gospel, the good news, still changing lives of people around the world.

April 28

The disciple Thomas discovers that doubt is can be a journey to faith. There is no need to hide from it or deny. God can take it. We do not have to fake it. Live in the questions you have, they are the doorway to faith.

Our Church Community



SESSION NOTES

At their March 12 meeting Session:

- ◆ Approved a Workplace Violence workshop presented by Officer Livingston, held on Thursday, March 28, 6:30PM.
- ◆ Approved the use of the sanctuary, on November 2, 2019, for the wedding of Lorenzo Lista and Gia DeNardo.
- ◆ Heard a report from the Strategic Planning Team.
- ◆ Approved the use our facility by Mr. Lowell Mate and Mr. Bob Culbertson, to promote the idea of a potential Charter School for Gifted students, with the understanding that the school is responsible for the promotion of this school.



We met 8 days in March, keeping busy with homework help, reading, indoor games (such as hide and seek – which the kids look forward to – with a huge thank you for Rick Masten for organizing this!). We were able to play outside one day, which the FROGS just loved!!! On Pie Day (3/14), we made individual pudding pies, which they ate for dessert.

We wanted to thank all who have been donating snacks and drinks. We are truly blessed to have such wonderful people to take care of us.

Judy Mysels, FROGS Director

THE ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING COMING SOON

A gift to One Great Hour of Sharing enables the church to share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief to those affected by natural disasters, provide food to the hungry, and helping to empower the poor and oppressed. The offering will be received on Palm and Easter Sundays.

WILKINSBURG COMMUNITY MINISTRY

This meaningful and long-standing mission effort in the Wilkinsburg community provided 19,899 meals in eight service areas to children and seniors in 2018. Led by Ruth Kittner, Executive Director, the ministry perseveres through fundraising challenges and on the backs of many volunteers. The First Presbyterian Church of

Edgewood continues to be a major financial supporter of WCM. Individual donations to the ministry can be made at <http://wcm15221.org/donate/>. Thank you for your generosity.

TRINITY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL NOW HIRING

Trinity Christian School, located in Forest Hills, is hiring for the 2019 – 2020 school year. If you or anyone you know would like to join our team, please visit the Trinity employment page on their website, office@trinitychristian.net. Available positions: Administrative Assistant, part time Band Teacher, Kindergarten Teacher, Latin Teacher part time, and School Custodian.



FREE HEALTH FAIR

Noon – 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 6, at the Christian Church of Wilkinsburg (748 Wallace Ave. Wilkinsburg). Flu shots, blood pressure, smoking cessation, and more. Meet with medical professionals who give health care for those *who do not have health insurance*. Free refreshments.

Your Health Is Precious to You & Your Loved Ones!

For The Poets Among Us – the feeling of Easter morning?

This is the now, this flickering, broken light, this air that the wind of the future presses down my throat, pumping me buoyant and giddy with praise. ANNIE DILLARD



BIG CHALLENGES DEMAND BIG IDEAS

We have talked about this before. Many times. The elders have discussed, debated, prayed, wondered, grieved, and sat silently before the challenge God has placed before us, the members and friends of the First United Presbyterian Church of Edgewood. Big building. Small congregation. Big expenses. Fewer contributions. (But *thank you to those who do give regularly and generously!*)

Big challenges demand big ideas

We could sit on our hands, bury our heads in our Bibles, hymnals, or hands and pray that God would change things...and go on doing what we have always done before. Other congregations have done that. In many cases, the result is a large, lovely, historic, empty building that serves as a growing place for weeds and vines.

The leadership of this church does not want that to happen to us. Subsequently, we are thinking big thoughts way outside the box. I will give some examples, but admit the details are sketchy at this point. Still to be decided. And voted on – by you. In fact, your ideas and thoughts will always be welcome. We may not follow through as you would wish, but we will listen to you carefully and give serious thought to your hopes, dreams, and ideas.

Here are some of the ideas being discussed:

Share one pastor with another congregation or two.

Change our worship service style to become less Presbyterian, less predictable, and more spontaneous.

Invite even more outside groups to use our facility a la the Edgewood Day Care on our second floor. The groups would help pay for the upkeep of the building and utilities.

Sell some of our facility to a real estate developer but maintain our worship space and a meeting area.

Hope that another congregation merges with us as the Mulberry congregation did twenty years ago.

Sell our building to a developer and 1. move into a smaller, affordable facility or, 2. rent a community center – like the Edgewood Club – and have Sunday morning services there or, 3. merge with another nearby church – like 2nd Presbyterian of Wilkinsburg or Waverly Presbyterian.

Big challenges demand big ideas. Please keep the leadership of FPCE in your prayers.

CHURCHILL CHARTER SCHOOL PRESENTATION

7:00 p.m. on Monday, April 8 in the Gathering Place

A group of Churchill residents, educators, with the approval of the Woodland Hills School District will be presenting a plan to open a Charter School for gifted students in September 2020. Representatives from the Charter School will welcome questions and concerns after their presentation. The session agreed to allow the use of space for this presentation to the community; however the approval for the use of the building does not imply a promotion of the charter school by the church. This is simply an effort to make our space available for community organizations.

The Following Reports were not available when the annual report was published.

MUSIC MINISTRY REPORT 2018

“Music is a way for human beings to express things that words don’t express well. We’re wired for music. That’s very clear in Scripture, and it plays out in our lives. Music is an important aspect of our worship, and it should be. It’s another way to keep people engaged in the church.”

*-- William McConnell, Executive Director
Presbyterian Association of Musicians*

Typically when preparing this report each year, I look back to our monthly newsletter to refresh my memory as to what has taken place from all the way back in January. This year, as I scrolled through the 2018 issues of *News from the Edge*, I noticed that I didn’t write much. I suppose “no news is good news” would fit here?

We have a wonderful music ministry here at Edgewood. The talent in our congregation amazes me constantly, and I sometimes forget how lucky we are to have folks like Sunny in our midst every week. We take for granted that the hymns will be played well on both the organ and piano, that our section leaders will confidently lead us, that the choir will sing in tune, and that the worship ensemble will make a meaningful emerging service. It’s just become who we are as the Edgewood congregation. We are truly blessed.

The year 2018 continued our goal to enhance worship in as many ways as possible. Pastor Michael and I discuss scripture verses and themes regularly, and I work meticulously to tie the music in with that message, trying to keep the tradition of great hymns and Presbyterian heritage while at the same time expanding our musical vocabulary as a congregation, testing out new styles, tunes, and texts.

We’ve experienced the introspective music from the Taizé and Iona communities through repetitive, chant-like songs. We’ve added percussion and rhythm to multicultural songs of praise. We’ve been treated to beautiful piano accompaniment of folk tunes and hymns. The choir has shared a cappella selections; Mandy and I have shared solos and duets; and we’ve had any combination of instruments in our emerging services.

During the summer, as we’ve done the past few years, we moved worship to the cool Gathering Place. I personally really enjoy the intimate setting of having everyone close together, feeling like a true worship family. It’s reminiscent of the old Wednesday night “Edge” service we had years ago.

As a larger community, we’ve welcomed groups from outside our walls to share music in our space. The Edgewood Symphony along with the Renaissance City Choirs shared the holiday spirit with a full house in December. And just before Christmas, you were all gracious enough to allow me to bring my students from North Hills High School to share music during and after our Advent worship.

As we transition into the 2019 year full of challenges for our small congregation, I hope that we can continue to keep music as a vital ministry at Edgewood in as many ways as possible. I know we will be testing out months without organ in an effort to be fiscally responsible, but I also want to make sure we remember our rich musical traditions as we move forward. None of us knows what the “right” answer or combination of answers is to keep the mission and ministry at FPCE alive, but we must trust that God has a plan for all of us. May we continue to “make a joyful noise unto the Lord” for as long as we can!

Respectfully submitted,



Shaun P. Cloonan
Minister of Music

MISSION, EVANGELISM, OUTREACH REPORT – 2018

The impact of our summer community dinners (first Wednesday of June, July, August, and September) is exciting. A special atmosphere of hospitality, friendship, and the witness of Christ's open-hearted love for all prevails. We host up to 70 people, most of whom are not members of the church. Thanks to Jim and Lisa Segedy, Tyler McGuigan, and so many others who make these dinners effective.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN REPORT—2018

Presbyterian Women are still doing things at FPCE. We prepare meals at requests after funeral/memorial services. The women will also provide meals to people who may be recovering or cannot cook for illness reasons (depending upon people available and for a brief time). Please contact the Church Office if you are in need of these things. We have our Circle meetings and a couple of parties throughout the year; our annual Holiday party and our Summer picnic (based on response).

Circle meetings are: Daytime circles meet on the 2nd Thursday of the month, held at the home of Florence Pickels from 1-3PM. Evening circles meet March through December on the last Monday of the month at 7PM in the Lounge. We could all use a little love, fellowship and support from each other from time to time. All women are welcome to come and bring a friend!

P.W. works with the Prayer Chain and other causes from time to time. \$5,000 was donated to the 2018 Church Budget.

If you have any further questions, please for now, leave a message with the Church Office and someone will get back in touch with you.

Here's to a wonderful new year in 2019!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION REPORT

"I will instruct you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you." Psalm 32:8

"Train children in the way they should go; when they grow old, they won't depart from it." Proverbs 22:6

CE's mission has continued to focus not only on school age children, but to provide our adults, both members and nonmembers, with opportunities to deepen their relationship with God and one another. No matter your age or stage, there is a place for everyone to grow in faith.

During 2018, FPCE's Christian Education has included:

Youth Day Care- Lorraine Douthett and Rhonda Apossos, with Nancy Ernst on call, were available as needed in the nursery during Service to watch over our youngest attendees and engage in simple meaningful Christian instruction through play.

Youth Sunday School – Again Lorraine and Rhonda taught school age children in attendance during Service, lessons based on the lectionary utilizing the "Sermons 4 Kids" curriculum with games and puzzles. Often the school age children helped with the preschool kids and we enjoyed beautiful fellowship with our youth.

Confirmation Class – Pastor Michael led our newest members in a confirmation class culminating in the Confirmation of Spencer Lehrian and Jake Santo on April 29, 2018. All in attendance were moved by the wise and heartfelt Affirmation of Faith given by each Confirmand. Surely, the Spirit was with us.

Adult Sunday School – This group meets before Service in the lounge. Pastor Michael leads a small group in vibrant discussions based on Bible Study Books and current events.

Tuesday Morning Book Group – This small group is led by Pastor Michael and meets weekly at the home of Rhonda Apossos. The group democratically chooses subjects and themes it wishes to explore. This year we studied the lives of the early Apostles before turning to an advent theme. 2018 book selections included Lion of God: Dear and Glorious Physician; The Fisherman; and Two from Galilee.

Wednesday Evening Bible Study – This group met throughout the year, studying a variety of books and was led by Pastor Michael on some very meaningful discussions.

We are enthusiastic to continue the above programs in 2019 and have dreams of starting a new women's bible study, which will simultaneously be a traditional bible study but also incorporate modern elements using some of the newest books by our most popular leaders and incorporate modern technology. We also plan on celebrating a Youth Sunday in the Spring.

Christian Education (cont'd.)

Please let us know if you are interested in any of the above referenced programs. Additionally, please feel free to share your dreams/ideas with the Christian Education Committee or Pastor Michael. You never know what may pique the interest of our church family and community. Thank you for your support of our Christian Education endeavors.

Rhonda Apessos

WORSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Weekly for Sunday worship services at FPCE in 2018 held steady at 30-45 faithful Christians. We celebrated the sacrament of Communion on the first Sunday of every month, on Maundy Thursday, Easter Sunday and Christmas Eve. Once a month in Emerging Services we enjoyed a more informal worship style featuring musical accompaniment by our 'house band' with musicians and instruments varying from month to month.

Lent worship began with a service on Ash Wednesday. During Holy week we celebrated the traditional Palm Sunday service and Maundy Thursday service focusing on the sacrifice of Jesus and celebration of the Lord's Last Supper. The sanctuary was opened through Good Friday for anyone wishing to use the space for prayer and quiet reflection. Then the glory of the resurrection was celebrated on Easter Sunday.

On Pentecost we celebrated the birthday of the church when the miracle of the Holy Spirit visiting the Apostles gave them ability to communicate in other languages and spread the word of the gospel.

Summer worship hours at 10:00AM began in June and we worshiped in the ore intimate air-conditioned Gathering Place. In September we returned to 11:00AM worship services our newly air-conditioned sanctuary. World Communion Sunday was observed on the first Sunday in October as we joined in spirit with Christians all over the world in sharing the communion of the Lord's Supper.

After services on November 26 many stayed after services and participated in the traditional Hanging of the Greens, decorating the sanctuary for Advent and Christmas. Christmas Eve Candlelight service was well attended, and the service went smoothly, though there was some behind the scenes scrambling when changes to the service were required due to the unexpected illness and absence of scheduled participants. 2018 worship ended quietly on December 29 with a service of lessons and carols.

Respectfully submitted,
Lorraine Douthett

DEACON REPORT

Thanks be to God! For all who are on the Board of Deacons and a few who weren't really on the Board – but once a Deacon, always a Deacon, who help doing God's will this year.

Unfortunately we did not have the usual Congregational Luncheon this year, but extended fellowship which is rather sad. We all need to explore ways we can build our membership and share God's love and word.

The Manger Tree Project this year helped the Mars Youth Home. And, according to Santa, the gifts were much needed and loved.

This year our Melfard Douglass Scholarship was awarded to Reilly Ochs, who attends Eastern Carolina University. Once again, the Shadyside Academy 2nd graders filled our food pantry with much needed items; approximately 4,000. The Boy Scouts also helped this year. We thank everyone for donating food to our pantry – everything has been greatly needed and appreciated – many thanks.

Our talents FROGS once again created cards and sun catchers for our baskets and Christmas crafts to accompany poinsettias for "our friends of the church".

A recap of our calendar and highlights:

Easter and Harvest Baskets

Christmas Poinsettias, cards, phone calls and visits to "our friends of the church"

Fellowship following the Annual Congregational Meeting

Fellowship for Mother's Day and Father's Day

Strawberry Festival

Annual Reports—Deacons (cont'd.)

Checks for our college students

Manger Tree

Food Pantry

Ushering on Sundays and funerals

We are looking forward to another year to serve God and excited to welcome the new Deacons and again thank you for your continued support.

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him. (Romans 8:28)

God Bless You All, *Mary Ann Hartman*, Moderator

CHURCH BOARDS

Michael P. Rucker - Moderator
Florence Raisig - Clerk of Session

THE SESSION

2019

Rhonda Apeossos
Tom Ochs
Paul Ochori
Florence Raisig

2020

Charlie Baldwin
John Foster
Tyler McGuigan
Tim McKee

2021

Jerry Coleman
Nancy Ernst
Judy Mysels

THE BOARD OF DEACONS

2019

Tim Carr
Tim Hoffman
Glenn Allen Monk
Sallie Monk

2020

Wayne Dean
Amy Moore

2021

Mary Ann Hartman
Angel Lehrian
Ed Masten
Rick Masten
Karen Schoedel

AUDITOR/ALTERNATE AUDITOR

W. Gregg Baldwin

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Lorraine Douthett, James Segedy, Session Rep., Deacon Rep.



*He is not here;
he has
Risen!*

Luke 24:6



April



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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	7:00 Scouts	10:00 Book Club 3:45 FROGS 7:00 AA		3:45 FROGS	8:00 AA	8:30 AA
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9:30 Choir Reh. 9:45 Adult Class 11:00 Worship 12:15 Fellowship	7:00 Charter School Present. 7:00 Scouts	10:00 Book Club 3:45 FROGS 7:00 Session Mtg. 7:00 AA		3:45 FROGS	8:00 AA	8:30 AA
PALM SUNDAY 14	15	16	17	MAUNDY THURSDAY 18	GOOD FRIDAY 19	20
9:30 Choir Reh. 9:45 Adult Class 11:00 Worship 12:15 Fellowship	7:00 Scouts	10:00 Book Club 3:45 FROGS 7:00AA		No FROGS 7:00 Service	7:00 Service 8:00 AA	8:30 AA
EASTER 21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9:30 Choir Reh. 9:45 Adult Class 11:00 Worship 12:15 Fellowship	7:00 Scouts	10:00 Book Club 3:45 FROGS 7:00 AA		3:45 FROGS	1:30-4:30 Home School Co-Op 8:00 AA	8:30 AA
28	29	30				
9:30 Choir Reh. 9:45 Adult Class 11:00 Worship 12:15 Fellowship	7:00 Scouts					

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. Lily ___ Tulip ___ Daffodil ___ Hyacinth ___

The wording for the bulletin is:

___ In honor of _____

___ In memory of _____

Order placed by _____

Please check: ___ I would like to take the plant.

___ I would like it to be planted in the Prayer Garden

The cost of each plant is \$8.00 Please attach your check (payable to the First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood) to this order form and return it to the Church Office. Deadline is April 7, 2019.

