



## PASTOR'S POINT OF VIEW



Michael P. Rucker

### ***I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE.***

When "we breathe our last" – it will not be our last. We will be born again. We will not come to an end of life – we will arrive at a new beginning. We will not die; we will fall asleep and wake up in our new home. We will not be buried in a cemetery – we will be planted in a garden.

### ***I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE.***

My hope is that you will live in this hope. We do not, we cannot, work for it, be good enough for it, earn it, or deserve it. We merely accept it. Receive it. Rejoice in it. Give thanks for it. This is the new life

Christ longs to give us. When we receive it, we are living "in Christ." We are becoming a new creation.

The good news gets even better. We will not have to endure death before resurrected life begins. "I *am* the resurrection and the life", Jesus says, not "I *will be* the resurrection and the life." A new heaven has come down to us, we will not go "up there." Marva Dawn is an inspiring theologian who memorably proclaimed, "We do not go to church – *we are the church* wherever we go." We will not go to heaven. We take heaven wherever we go. This is the good news of the gospel.

### ***Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!***

Can those who "read" your life tell? Go in the power of the resurrection to live as Easter people in a Good Friday world. Trusting that God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit -- always goes with you.

*Pastor Michael*



## Worship Schedule for April

### **April 1**

Easter Sunday! Help us celebrate the heart and soul of our faith, Jesus Christ – the Risen One.

The hymns of joy, the prayers of praise and thanksgiving, and the resurrection story found in John 20: 1-18 will lead us into the celebration of Holy Communion.

### **April 8**

If anything, people of the resurrection must learn how to be people of prayer. The Bible is full of prayer advice. This morning we will look at two scriptures about prayer. See Psalm 130 and Matthew 6:5-15.

### **April 15**

*See me. Feel me. Touch me. Hear me.* That's what the Risen Jesus said to his disciples. And the disciples did indeed, see him, feel him, touch him, and hear him. Thomas will share his encounter with us during this Emerging Worship celebration. See John 20: 19-31 and I John 1:1-2:2 to be ahead of the story.

### **April 22**

*On the road again.* This is my favorite post-resurrection story. So rich in detail and emotion. Moral of story: Never give up. And if we do, Jesus meets us on the road away from him as well. See Luke 24: 13-35. It is what good saviors do.

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## 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

Minister of Music:  
Shaun Cloonan  
music@fpcedgewood.org

Organist & Pianist:  
Sunny Sakai  
sunnysakai4@gmail.com

FROGS Director, Office &  
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.

## Worship Schedule for April (cont'd.)

**April 29**

### CONFIRMATION SUNDAY!

Please come and celebrate with the Lehrian and Santo families as Spencer and Jake publicly profess their faith. We will affirm our faith with them, after all, we are all branches growing from the same vine. See John 15: 1-8 for details.

## Christian Depth Development

### “TENDING TO THE GARDEN”

When Mary met the Risen Jesus on that first Easter morning, she thought he was a gardener. Not a bad guess, actually. Scripture refers to God’s word as the seed; we are the soil. Having Jesus as our gardener is the perfect image. Learning how to cooperate with the gardener of our souls is what Christian Education is all about. I hope you will join us. Pastor Michael will be teaching two classes each week through the spring.

#### Sunday mornings at 9:45 am – Living the Resurrection

Christ’s friends were utterly transformed by His resurrection. Their friendship, their work, and even their meals together took on a new meaning and purpose. The same can happen to us today. Eugene Peterson, beloved pastor, scholar, and translator of *The Message*, takes you back to Jesus’ time so you can experience the Resurrection through the eyes of biblical witnesses. You’ll be a participant in the story, so its meaning and wonder can enliven your soul as never before.

#### Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm – Falling Upward

A class designed for those of us who have been on the road for awhile. Many of us are fully (albeit reluctantly) engaged with life as a middle-ager. We have experienced the ups and downs, the joys and sorrows, the letting go and looking forward that comes to everyone. Let’s take some time to learn what life has taught us. How God is as present to us as always, but we are different people. This will be a meaningful time together.



# The Church Community



## MAUNDY THURSDAY

*At 7:00 p.m. on the evening of March 29 we will recall the meaningful messages Jesus gives to his disciples on his last night with his closest companions. The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be served.*

## GOOD FRIDAY

*At 7:00 p.m. on the evening of March 30 the gathered community will meet in the dimly lighted sanctuary in front of a wooden cross to worship, honor, and show our grateful love for God's Son... God's sacrifice for us.*

## SESSION NOTES

At the March meeting, Rev. Rucker announced that Confirmation Sunday will be April 29, 2018. Spencer Lehrian and Jake Santo will be confirmed on that day. Session approved the use of the Social Room for the Friday night AA's anniversary party on May 11, 2018, 5:30-8:30. Ruth McCormick was removed from the church rolls due to her death on 3/3/18. Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation reminded us that November 2018 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our church building.



**PER CAPITA FOR 2018 IS \$33.05**

## RENOVATION UPDATE

We are continuing to move certainly and cautiously into this major project. Tom Ochs and engineers are thinking through how the updating of our electric system can be done more efficiently and economically. Some have asked "when the renovation will begin and how will it affect programs and room usage etc.?" We do want to begin renovating as soon as possible, but we want to approach it wisely. The first stages of renovation will include the electric and HVAC systems in the building. Very little disruption of the space will take place. All activities will proceed as before. Thank you for your patience and your continued prayerful support and encouragement to Tom and the session as we move forward.

## HOSTS/HOSTESSES NEEDED

Are you willing to take a turn hosting Social Hour after worship services? Lorraine is happy to make sure we have social time to visit after services, but some weeks it can be challenging to manage the set up (especially on 1st Sunday Communion weeks.) Please consider signing up to Host; brew the coffee, provide a couple dozen snacks and set up/clean up. Detailed instructions for where to find things and how to work the coffee maker are posted in the lounge kitchen. The sign up sheet is on the table outside kitchen. Thanks.



The FROGS After-School Program is in its last months of April and May. We met 7 days in March due to school parent/teacher conferences and Spring break. Even though we had a shorter month, we were still busy with St. Patrick's Day activities and also made special crafts for Deacons to put in baskets for their shut-ins. Would also like to give a HUGE thank-you to Rick Masten for giving the FROGS an Easter scavenger hunt. He provided all the goodies, hid them, then organized the hunt. The kids LOVED it and look forward to it every year. On March 27, Mary Ann Hartman and Sallie Monk came in and showed the kids how to make Easter baskets out of cupcakes, frosting, pipe cleaners, jelly beans, etc. This is another annual tradition that we all look forward to. Thank you!!!

We wanted to thank all who have been donating snacks. A BIG thank-you to Wayne Dean for bringing in snacks that should last us until the end of our May session and also Nancy Cunningham for donating a fantastic, popcorn machine and all the fixin's. We are truly blessed to have such wonderful people to take care of us.

Judy Mysels, FROGS Director

Grieving together  
is  
growing together.

### **GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP**

First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood will host a grief support group for those grieving the loss of a loved one. The monthly group will be open to members of the congregation as well as the public. **It will be led by Chaplain Virginia Mayo, M.S. Ed. Counseling, M.A. Theology, of Anova Hospice and Palliative Care.** Most of you already know Virginia from her previous preaching at FPCE.

The intent of the group will be partly educational about the grief process and mostly supportive in working through feelings of loss. The work of grief is hard and cannot be hurried, but it can be reassuring to feel connected with a group. Spring is a wonderful time to open oneself to a new experience. Hope is what softens our feelings and gives us the belief that life can be worth living again.

**Give this some thought and if interested, please let Pastor Michael know or directly contact Chaplain Virginia at 412-247-5628.** We are looking to begin early spring; specific times and dates to be determined. "Grieving together is growing together".



*"Jesus's resurrection is the beginning of God's new project not to snatch people away from earth to heaven but to colonize earth with the life of heaven. That, after all, is what the Lord's Prayer is about."*— **N.T. Wright**



# April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>EASTER 1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
9:30 Choir Reh. 9:45 Adult Class 11:00 Worship  12:15 Fellowship	6:30 Pounds Class 7:00 Scouts	10:00 Book Club  3:45 FROGS  7:00 AA	7:00 Book Study	3:45 FROGS	8:00 AA	8:30 AA
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
9:30 Choir Reh.  11:00 Worship  12:15 Fellowship	6:30 Pounds Class 7:00 Scouts	10:00 Book Club  3:45 FROGS  7:00 Session Mtg. 7:00 AA	7:00 Book Study	3:45 FROGS	8:00 AA	SESSION RETREAT  8:30 AA
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
9:30 Choir Reh. 9:45 Adult Class 11:00 Worship  12:15 Fellowship	6:30 Pounds Class 7:00 Scouts	10:00 Book Club  3:45 FROGS  7:00AA	7:00 Book Study	3:45 FROGS	8:00 AA	8:30 AA
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
9:30 Choir Reh. 9:45 Adult Class 11:00 Worship  12:15 Fellowship	6:30 Pounds Class 7:00 Scouts	10:00 Book Club  3:45 FROGS  7:00 AA	7:00 Book Study	3:45 FROGS	8:00 AA	8:30 AA
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>					
9:30 Choir Reh. 9:45 Adult Class 11:00 Worship  12:15 Fellowship	6:30 Pounds Class 7:00 Scouts 7:00 Joy Circle					



First Presbyterian Church of  
**EDGEWOOD**  
*The Community Church*

120 E. Swissvale Avenue • Pittsburgh, PA 15218