



PASTOR'S POINT OF VIEW



Michael P. Rucker
Pastor

Do God and Santa Claus have more in common than we imagine? *"It is more blessed to give than it is to receive."* Do you believe that is true?

Heather and I were watching the nightly news on NPR this past week when we learned something rather startling about young children. Child psychologists have conducted some fascinating tests on children and what makes them happy.

One test involved the joy children experience in giving or receiving. First, a child was given something that made them happy – a delightfully colored sticker. Then they were asked to give that sticker away to another child who did not have one. Lo and behold, it turns out the children expressed more happiness when they gave the sticker away! Wow! Is that not cool?

I did a bit more research on the internet and ran across a similar test. (See Dr. Zhen Wu, *Frontiers in*

Psychology; children were divided into two groups: one where sharing stickers was voluntary, and the other where they were obliged to share them. Their facial expressions of satisfaction were measured. The result?

The children shared more frequently when they were told they had to, but their satisfaction levels measured low. *The most happiness came from the children who chose to share their stickers with those who had none.* "So," surmises Dr. Wu, "it seems that the motivation to give does count, and it also suggests that it is unrealistic to expect a very young child to share under pressure and be happy about it!"

"God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son." Perhaps God has planted that nature into the spiritual DNA of humanity from the very beginning. God created freely out of love, a joyful expression of God's gracious will. Perhaps that nature is still alive and well in the character of young children before they are hardened by the competitive, self-centered, "dog-eat-dog" world that we, not God, have created. Perhaps God and Santa have more in common than we think.

I pray for all of you. I pray that your 2019 is blessed richly by a God who freely and joyfully chooses to love you.

Pastor Michael

WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY

January 6

Epiphany Sunday. We've heard their story and sung their anthem, *We Three Kings*, so often that we need to remember what a shocking, dangerous, and threatening visit it was....and still is. We will celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

January 13

Did you know that our baptism is also our commissioning into ministry? That connection is lost when we baptize infants, but it is re-discovered when we recall the baptism of Jesus just before he embarks on his ministry. See Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22

January 20

We will recall and honor the life of one of Christianity's great missionary heroes – Martin Luther King Jr. My O my we need to hear his voice again during these troubled times. God gave him a dream worth talking about. This Sunday will be an Emerging Worship celebration.

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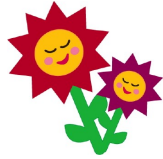
Office Hours:
Monday–Friday
9:00AM–2:00PM

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 January (cont'd.)

January 27

Our Annual Congregational Meeting will follow our Classical style worship service. The scripture reading and message from I Corinthians 12 will guide us.



A TRUTH FROM STEWARDSHIP DR. PAUL OHORI, CHAIR

A LIFE OF GIVING THANKS TO THE LORD LEADS
TO A BETTER LIFE.

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

Are you or do you know of someone who would like to become active in the mission and ministry of this congregation? If so, please contact me, Pastor Michael, at 412-298-3140 (call or text). I look forward to hearing from you. We will spend some time meeting together and would love to receive you into membership on Sunday, January 27.

THE CHAIRLIFT HAS ARRIVED

From this day forward, you can ride and not walk up the steps from the side door entry to the restrooms, lounge, Gathering Place, and offices. The session approved the acquisition of a lift, and elder Tyler McGuigan did the groundwork to get the chair installed.

*THE FUNDING FOR THE CHAIRLIFT IS PROVIDED BY FLO AND RUSS
RAISIG IN MEMORY OF PAUL AND FLORENCE KUHL.*

More and more of us (I count myself in this group) are experiencing knee, ankle, hip, and other issues that have made the climb up those 5 steps a painful journey. Relief has arrived. We can take a ride instead. There are a number of elders and staff who know how to operate the lift; please ask for help the first time you use it. There is a seat belt for added safety.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AFTER THE SERVICE, JAN. 27 REPORTS NEEDED!

If you are a staff member, chair or secretary of a ministry team or organization within the church, please have your narrative report in to the church office by **January 21**. It can be given in hard copy or e-mailed as an attachment to Judy Mysels at office@fpcedgewood.org.

"UN-HANGING" OF THE GREENS SET FOR SUN., JAN. 6

"Many hands make light work."

The Bulletin Board

- Thank you to all who stayed after worship on Nov. 25 for the Hanging of the Greens. With all the help we had this year, it was faster and easier than ever to make our beautiful sanctuary even more festive for the Season.
- Did not the lighting of the Advent candles go well this year? Thanks to the choir sections, soprano, tenor, alto, and bass for lighting the four candles of advent – and a big thanks to Cassidy Djumic and her friend, Ken Johnson, for lighting the Christ Candle on Christmas Eve.
- Thank you to Sunny Sakai for playing Christmas music on the organ and piano while the FROGS decorated the sanctuary tree with Chrismons. They really enjoyed it!
- The congregation experienced a joyful and uplifting morning of song when the North Hills Singers, directed by Shaun Cloonan, sang during the worship service on December 18. A lovely and fun choral concert followed the service. Thanks also to the FPCE choir members for providing a tasty lunch for the students afterward in the Gathering Place.
- Thanks to Ruth Miller, Florence Pickels and Flo Raisig for their time arranging the beautiful poinsettias on the chancel for Christmas services.
- And a special thanks to Jim and Lisa Segedy and Sunny for leading the worship service on Sunday, December 30, allowing Pastor Michael and Heather to spend time with Michael’s family in Ohio.

F.R.O.G.S. **AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM** **FRIENDS, READING, & OTHER GREAT STUFF**



December was a short, but very busy, time for FROGS. We made ornaments to accompany the poinsettias the Deacons delivered, and we made other ornaments/cards for FROGS parents/etc. On Dec. 18 and 20, we played bingo and baked/decorated cookies.

Continued thanks for all the delicious donations for snacks. Please continue to remember needed drinks, etc. starting in January.

I am truly blessed to have THE BEST volunteers for our FROGS program. They are so loving and dedicated!

The FROGS program enjoyed the holiday break and resumed on January 3. May you all enjoy a healthy 2019!

Judy Mysels

FROGS Program Director



never succumb to the temptation of bitterness

Martin Luther King Jr.

**Sunday, January 20 –
Remembering the inspiring and
vital ministry of**

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The office will be closed on Monday, Jan. 21.



First Presbyterian Church of
EDGEWOOD
The Community Church

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