

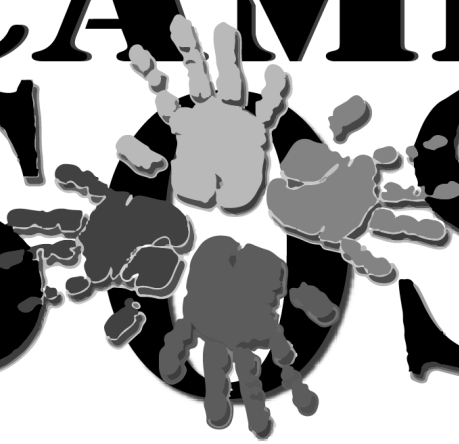
EDGE

news from the

The monthly newsletter of the
First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood

July-August 2016

CAMP SOS



Summer of Service

**JULY 11-15
NOON-6PM**

Campers Needed!

The planning team has been hard at work, and we've got quite the program planned for our first Camp SOS experience. Our campers will spend the first part of the week learning about our community and how various groups help and give back to those in need. We'll visit the Edgewood Library, talk with the police and fire departments, have visits from the Wilkinsburg Community Ministry, our own Deacons and FROGS programs, and tour the Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf. The goal is to learn as much as possible about these wonderful groups that are right in our backyard and what they do to improve the community we call home.

We have a couple of service-type projects planned after we learn from the organizations, like putting together a care package for those that come to use our food pantry. What types of items would you give to someone in need?

The second half of the week is devoted to creativity and drama. Our resident storyteller and puppet master, Lisa Segedy, will guide the campers through a group of games and activities that will get the creative juices flowing. Campers will create a short skit based on the ideas of service they learned about in the early part of the week, and then make the puppets that tell the story. We'll end the week of fun and learning with a Camp SOS edition of our community dinners on Friday night, and our campers will share their skits with those in attendance.

It all takes place July 11-18 from Noon-6PM, and right now we still need some more campers! If you know of an upcoming 5th through 8th grader that would be interested in this week of sharing in community service, tell them about it and get them to sign up! Help to make our first year a great one!



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.

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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

POINT
OF
VIEW



Michael P. Rucker
Pastor

Dear brothers and sisters,

Her name was Lydia Yon. One of the most remarkable people I have ever met. (That is just one of the blessings of being a pastor—meeting some of the most brave, profound, and unpublicized people in the world.) Lydia was born to a Jewish family in Russia during the early years of the twentieth century. The killing machine known as Joseph Stalin fought, connived, killed, betrayed, and terrorized his way into power as Premier of the Soviet Union in 1941. Lydia's family scooted across the Sino-Soviet border. When Lydia was 16, she lived in a village somewhere in northwest China. The world was consumed by the horror of World War II. (Many of us forget that the conflict between China and Japan is one of the most brutal chapters of that world war.) Lydia recalls the day that a soldier of the invading Japanese brazenly strode up to her, pushed a bayonet into her belly, and interrogated her about her past, her family, her faith. As Lydia exults—*"Thanks be to God!"* She got through the interrogation. Still, Lydia would vividly recall that moment to anyone who would take the time to listen. Just as she could recall the image of dead bodies floating down the river that ran just outside her village.

The Japanese eventually left her village and an American marine named Oswald Yon came into the village with the rest of his squad. Oswald took a shine to Lydia. She responded as he had hoped. Oswald and Lydia were married. Oswald returned to the United States after the occupation ended with his pregnant "war bride." I had the incredible good fortune of meeting Oswald, Lydia, their adult son and daughter when I became their pastor in 1997.

Lydia had looked into the face of the devil for the first eighteen years of her life. What was she like when I met her?

"So, Pastor Michael, do you have any good news?" I do.

Lydia lived through some of the most god-awful moments in human history. When she died (and I had visited her hours before she took her last breath) all she wanted to say to me is—"Michael, never forget, God loves you more than you know." All she wanted to do is throw her big arms around as many people as she could and love them into God's presence. Believe me, there are hundreds of people walking the streets of Homestead who recall Lydia's hug. I can almost see them break into a soft, gentle, smile as they recall what love feels like.

We are living through intense times. The stress level in our nation has never been this high in my lifetime. (Although I would concede that 1968 came pretty close.) We are on the first lap of a race that will not end until November 8. It is going to be a rough ride. Lots of elbows will be thrown. Many bitter words will be exchanged. It's going to hurt.

But trust me on this good people—we are going to make it. God loves us more than we know....more than we can imagine. Keep the faith. Show the love.

Peace.
Pastor Michael

community dinners



What has become our signature summer outreach program, our monthly community dinners continue twice in July, once in August, and once in September. Weather dependent, we will always try to be out on the side lawn to show our hospitality to the community. Dinners always run from 6:00-8:00PM, and each time we welcome help for set-up, donations of side dishes, and clean-up.

Dates for the upcoming dinners are:

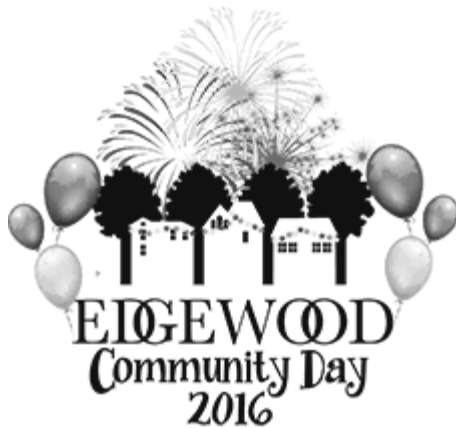
Wednesday, July 6

Friday, July 18 (Camp SOS wrap-up)

Wednesday, August 3

Wednesday, September 7

Pass the word along, bring a dish to share, and a friend to be a part of the community!



Edgewood Community Day 2016 Saturday, August 27

Last year, the church sponsored a game booth (miniature golf) where we also handed out flyers about our church. Since last year was so successful and we have enough people to run the booth from 12-5, there was talk about sponsoring a second booth? According to the Borough Manager, the only game that has been spoken for this year so far (as of June 21) is Break-a-Plate.

The Borough would pay for the booth rental, and the Church could use the proceeds of the games for a fund raiser. The games typically cost \$1, \$2 or \$0.50, depending on the game you choose. Inventory of the prizes is

conducted prior to Community Day, and the extra prizes are returned to the Company. They then send an invoice for the amount of prizes given away, and what remains is profit for the sponsor. It's hard to estimate the cost ahead of time, but the price of the games is set up so that as long as you follow the rules and hand out the correct prizes, you'll make money.

The kiddie games are less expensive games. They like to staff the game booth during the day when more families are around, so if we could have someone work the booth from 12 noon until 5 or 6PM, that would be great! They only require one person to collect the money and pass out the prizes, so scheduling different "shifts" would be fine.

The golf game we sponsored last year was good, because both young and old could play this. Maybe the 2nd game/booth could either be geared more toward young or older?

Let me know if anyone is interested in helping. We have a banner from last year to hang in the booth letting everyone know we are representing FPCE and can hand out updated brochures about church, FROGS, etc.



Thanks,
Judy



summer SUNDAYS

Summer Worship & Preaching Plan

*(although I will admit, this schedule is not inscribed in stone)
The short story is: I will be preaching from the Revised Common Lectionary.
In case you wondered, I certainly did when I stumbled across the
Revised Common Lectionary in seminary!*

The Revised Common Lectionary, first published in 1992, derives from The Common Lectionary of 1983, both based on the Ordo Lectionem Missae of 1969, a post-Vatican II groundbreaking revision of the Roman Lectionary. "The

post-Vatican II Roman Lectionary represented a profound break with the past. Not only were the readings organized according to a plan whereby a richer fare of scripture was read in liturgical celebrations, in contrast to the medieval lectionary where the choice of readings was simply helter-skelter, but for the first time in history the Sunday lectionary covered a period of three years, each year being dedicated to a particular synoptic author--Matthew, Mark, or Luke. A fourth year was not dedicated to the gospel of John because readings from this gospel permeate the sacred seasons, especially the latter part of Lent and most of Easter."

I will be preaching from the Revised Common Lectionary most weeks. However, as Shaun and Sunny know, I reserve the pastor's privilege of changing my mind due to what I prayerfully perceive to be a pressing world, community, or church event. My opinion on the lectionary? It is somewhat useful in guiding the church through the liturgical calendar. However, many important stories and teachings in the Bible never appear in the three year cycle of lectionary readings. And, more importantly, God is not one to be bound by a schedule or plan created in the mind of human beings. As a good friend once said, "*Man proposes, God disposes.*" Here is the plan as of now, through July, I will follow the readings of Paul's letter to the churches in Colossae.

Don't forget that worship begins at 10AM for the summer, through September 4

July 10

Read Colossians 1: 1-14. This is what a church leader writes to a congregation that he is privileged and proud to serve. These verses also mark a growth in Paul's understanding of the depth and breadth of this being we call God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

July 17 (Emerging Worship - outside?)

Read Colossians 1: 15-20. Here is a theological term you have heard before —*Christology*. Literally it means, "the word about Christ." In response to the challenges facing the early Christian church, Paul envisions a "cosmic Christ"—a much greater being than the crucified Jesus of Nazareth.

July 24

See Colossians 2:6-15. Our spirits are a battleground! And the enemy is not flesh and blood.

July 31

See Colossians 3: 1-11. "And all things will become new." says the writer of Revelation. Paul would agree. Here is what "new" looks like.

August 7 (Communion)

Jeff Nine will lead the service while Pastor Michael is on vacation.

August 14

A guest preacher will lead worship during Pastor Michael's vacation.

August 21 (Emerging Worship - outside?)

Read about Jeremiah's call. God got him when he was young! See Jeremiah 1: 14-20.

August 28

Every once in a while, we need to be warned of the perils of walking our own walk instead of God's. See Jeremiah 2: 4-13.

September 4 (Communion)

Read Jeremiah 18: 1-11. He takes a field trip and learns about a new way to look at life. Final service at 10:00AM.

Renovation Update

The Session has finally received the architectural drawings from LGA Partners (formerly Lami-Grubb). There are no costs associated with what is in the drawings yet because they have to go out to contractors for bids (electrical, construction, HVAC, etc.). Once that piece is complete, then we can sit down as a congregation to determine priorities and what is realistically attainable. In addition to reaching out to contractors, the drawings must be submitted to the Borough to get proper building permits so that once we decide to move forward, we can begin right away. We will have a year from the time we receive approval to begin construction before having to reapply.



We once again want to stress that no decisions have been made yet. All of this behind-the-scenes work must be completed in order for us to get the whole picture before the Session, with the guidance of the congregation, decides to move forward. While we know this has not been moving as quickly as many have wanted, we trust that the end result will provide us with a more functional and efficient building, giving us greater freedom to use our financial resources to further the good work of the Kingdom in Edgewood.

125th Celebration: Sept. 11

If you've been keeping up on the articles and bits of trivia in the newsletters this year, you no doubt know that this is the 125th anniversary of FPCE. We've decided that the kick-off day for our new church year of programming is the perfect time for us to also hold a 125th birthday bash to celebrate the long history of the Edgewood Church. Many of the details have not yet been worked out as of the printing of this newsletter aside from the fact that we'll most likely do a luncheon after worship and possibly a program to go with it. We'll be looking to gather as much memorabilia and church history as possible, so over the next few weeks, if you can dig through old boxes and find directories, photos, newspaper clippings, we'd love to have them on display. And pass the word along to members who may have moved away that they should try to join us for this special day on September 11th!



Shaun Cloonan
Minister of Music

Ah, summer. A time to enjoy warmer weather, to take vacations, to rest, relax, and recharge. Our church calendar calms down slightly, and our music leadership during worship is generally some combination of Tyler, Mandy, Sunny, and me. I didn't write a column last month, but I want to thank the dedicated members of our music ministry for their faithful service during the regular church programming year. The Sanctuary Choir and Worship Ensemble help to enhance our worship experience through the musical expression of God's Word, and I'm continually grateful for their willingness to try whatever I throw their way!

As you've seen in the worship schedule, we tentatively have 2 outdoor emerging services scheduled for this summer. If we are able to make those happen, it would be great to have a few extra sets of hands to bring equipment out to the lawn. The speakers, music stands, microphones, sound board, and all of the cords unfortunately don't just magically appear out there. And depending on what I hear from the orthopedic doctor this week (I had a nice fall while visiting the Mayan ruins in Mexico and found out I have a hairline fracture on my ankle), I may not be able to do any of the lifting.

Speaking of microphones, I hope you've noticed that we finally got a good working table mic for communion. It's a 2-way microphone designed for conference room tables, so when Pastor Michael and Jeff are sharing in the liturgy, it will pick them both up equally. I'm hopeful that the feedback days are gone!

I'm also planning what we like to call our choir "family reunions" this summer, where the Sanctuary Choir comes together to sing an anthem after having many weeks off. I'm trying something new this summer, and doing 2 weeks back-to-back, so we can work on both anthems with no down time between. So, if you've wondered what it's like to sing with us, come to the choir room at 9:00AM on July 31 and August 7 and join us for rehearsal. Then, if you like it, come back again in September!

And choir/ensemble members: maybe one of these days could be our music ministry picnic?

Let's talk through e-mail!

See you in church!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Adult Sunday School

"Gifts from God" will run at through the summer. We are covering topics like friends, fellowship, creation, angels, spiritual gifts, love, fruits of the Spirit, among many others. Join us in the lounge each Sunday at 8:45AM. All you need is your Bible and an open heart .

Tuesday Book Group

This group is just beginning to read the a well-known, insightful, and challenging book of fiction entitled *The Shack* by William Paul Young. His interpretations of God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit and how that trinity interacts with us is intriguing and powerful. Please join us, at 10AM Tuesday mornings at the home of Rhonda Apeposos.

woman's rights advocate.

Race is still a major issue in this country even though there are numerous laws which need stronger enforcement that would seem to make this theme less of an issue.

Voting Rights Advancement Act is keeping the Voting Act passed in the LBJ administration alive. In many southern states, voting rights are a major issue particularly in regard to race. Today, you don't have a landowner in order to vote. The Voting Act changed that. Three amendments were added to the Constitution dealing with voting rights specifically. These amendments are the 14th, 15th and 20th. All legal Americans have the right to vote. Aforementioned amendments to the Constitution guarantees this right. At the writing of the Constitution, it was the land-owing White, Anglo-Saxon Protestant male who was legally allowed to vote.



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

- Celebrating the high school graduation of Ruth Miller's grandson Daniel (don't know where 19 years went). He will be attending W&J College and will major in Political Science and History. So very proud of him!!!
- Prayers of sympathy to the Lehrian family on the passing of Angel's mother, Debbie Hetzer. Pastor Michael officiated a memorial service at the church on June 17.
- Thank you to the Deacons for their work at the Strawberry Festival and also for providing us with Donuts for Dads on Father's Day.
- Continued appreciation to Jim Segedy, Tyler McGuigan, Chris Baldwin, and their crew for putting together our monthly community meals. And to everyone who pitches in to help with the set-up, prep work, clean up, and providing side dishes and desserts. We couldn't do it without you!
- Traveling mercies to all who are leaving town for vacations over the summer. Be safe, and we look forward to worshiping with you when you return!
- Best of luck to the Camp SOS planning team and volunteers. We hope you have a successful week of fun and learning about community together.

Compassion, Peace, Justice **EAD Report**

EAD theme was Race, Class, and Power. It centered on two bills before Congress right now. Bill #1 Voting Rights Advancement Act and Bill #2 TPP- Trans-Pacific Pact. Congressman Mike Doyle who I met with supports the Voting Rights Advancement Act and is against TPP. Congressman Doyle's position on these two issues is the same as what was proposed by the EAD leaders. EAD stands for Ecumenical Advocacy Days.

We had magnificent speakers in the Plenary Sessions. The first speaker was Dr. Barber from NC who urge us to bring back cussing into the church. Dr. Barber is president of the NC NAACP, gifted speaker as well as an ardent advocate for human rights. Dr. Barber has more credentials and activities than I have listed, but to list much more will take up this whole report. He believes in peaceful protests. MLK Jr is a model for him.

Rev. Amy Gopp gave the sermon for the Sunday Morning worship service. She believed one more thing should have been added to the theme and would be women's rights/feminism. She believes that we can't talk about race, class and power without mentioning women and her sermon focused on the theme plus women. She is

PC(USA) leaders issue post-General Assembly letter to the church

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven."

Ecclesiastes 3

JUNE 25, 2016 — PORTLAND



Brothers and sisters in Christ, there is a new season in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), as witnessed by the actions of the 222nd General Assembly (2016). The body of 594 commissioners who gathered June 18-25 in Portland, Oregon, elected Co-Moderators Denise Anderson and Jan Edmiston, and J. Herbert Nelson as the Stated Clerk. Both were historic, and both signal a new way forward for our church.

The business decisions made by the body also were transformative for the 1,572,660 members and 9,642 churches of the PC(USA). The work wasn't easy, and involved careful deliberations. Collectively, the body acted on nearly 100 overtures by discerning the will of Christ.

Among other things, we now have a new addition to our Book of Confessions – the Confession of Belhar. It is the first of our confessions that comes from the global south. And, the PC(USA) has a new Directory for Worship; and Child/Youth/Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy and Procedures. God is truly guiding us to be more faithful and just to all of God's creations.

Much discussion has been taking place around the identity and purpose of the denomination, and this week the assembly voted to create a 12-member Way Forward Commission "to study and identify a vision for the structure and function of the General Assembly agencies of the PC(USA)," and a 15-member 2020 Vision Team to "develop a guiding statement for the denomination and make a plan for its implementation."

To quote Stated Clerk-elect J. Herbert Nelson, "We are not dead ... we are alive, we are reforming and we are transforming this world, one person at a time."

Looking outward, the assembly voted to engage in selective, phased divestment from fossil-fuel companies through the PC(USA)'s Mission Responsibility Through Investment committee, and re-affirmed a two-state solution for Israel-Palestine.

Please know this is only a snapshot of the actions taken, and just a glimpse at where God is leading this denomination. Complete business actions can be viewed at www.pc-biz.org.

We are, brothers and sisters, in a new season. It's exciting, but also a little scary. Yet in the midst of it all, take comfort that God is still guiding and controlling all – and we need not fear. God is calling us to hope, and to God be the glory!

The Reverend Grady Parsons

Stated Clerk of the General Assembly

The Reverend Denise Anderson and the Reverend Jan Edmiston

Co-Moderators of the 222nd General Assembly (2016)

Ruling Elder Tony De La Rosa

Interim Executive Director, Presbyterian Mission Agency



First Presbyterian Church of

EDGEWOOD

The Community Church

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dates
to
Remember

Sunday Mornings

8:45 Adult Class "Gifts from God"

10:00 Summer Worship

Tuesday Mornings

10:00 Book Club at Apessos Home

Every Other Monday

7:00 Men's Group at Foli's

July

6: Community Dinner

11-15: Camp SOS

15: Community Dinner (SOS wrap up)

17: Emerging Worship (outside?)

24: Worship Ministry Team Meeting (after church)

31: Choir in Worship

August

3: Community Dinner

7: Communion (Choir in worship)

21: Emerging Worship (outside?)

27: Edgewood Community Day

30: FROGS Orientation Meeting

September

1: FROGS Begins

4: Communion, Last 10AM Summer Worship

5: Labor Day

7: Community Dinner

11: Rally Day/125th Anniversary Celebration

Keep up on our social media platforms:

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Facebook:

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