

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

June 2015



Summertime, and the livin' is easy...

Well, not exactly here at FPCE! While schools are on break, pools are open, and vacations abound, we are keeping busy this month in the Edgewood congregation. The worship hour moves to 10:00 for the summer with communion on June 7th. We officially recognize the call of Rev. Michael Rucker as our pastor at his installation service on June 14th. We honor the special men in our lives with Donuts for Dads after worship on the 21st. And those are our Sundays.

Additionally, we've got the first of our free Community Meals on Wednesday, June 3rd. Two weeks later, the Deacons open up to the community with their annual Strawberry Festival on June 17th. And, rounding out the month is Vacation Bible School the entire last week of June.

JUNE 2015 Worship Schedule

JUNE 7 WORSHIP SERVICE BEGINS AT 10:00 A.M.

On this day to rejoice and be glad, we will celebrate the Lord's Supper, and, if the timing is right, receive at least one new member. Pastor Michael will be preaching from Psalm 138. It's a good one, check it out.

JUNE 14

This is the morning we will install Pastor Michael as our full time pastor. A guest preacher, and two other pastoral friends of Pastor Michael will help lead the service. This service will be an upbeat and joyful time together.

JUNE 21

This is Father's Day. Our seminary intern, Jeff Nine will be preaching. After worship, it's Donuts for Dad in the lounge (thank you Deacons!)

JUNE 28

In a remarkable story from the Gospel According to Mark, Jesus heals a woman whose condition made her an outcast and gives life in the midst of despair. Join us and let the story speak to you.

SEE YOU IN CHURCH!!!

*You're
Invited!*

*The Presbytery of Pittsburgh
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*

*invites you to
the installation of*

*Rev. Michael Rucker
as pastor of the
First Presbyterian Church
of Edgewood*

*Sunday, June 14, 2015
at 10:00am in the FPCE Sanctuary*

*(U.S.A.)
Luncheon to follow the service*

STAFF DIRECTORY

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Pastor	The Rev. Michael P. Rucker mprucker@fpcedgewood.org
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**Summer Office Hours:
Monday–Friday
9:00AM–1:00PM (begins 6/8)**



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

Hello FPCE family,

Here comes summertime! My oh my, January and February Sunday mornings were challenging. Ice. Snow. Cold. As the saying goes, "This too shall pass." (George Harrison composed a beautiful, lyrical tribute to that truism by the way.)

It is not often that I expect spiritual truths to be intoned by the DJ's on WAMO radio.; my daughter's favorite station.

The other day, the morning DJ startled me when he said, "Hey people, do you ever feel like life is piling on? Do you feel sometimes that the load you carry is too heavy to bear? When that happens to me, and it is happening to me these days, I think about my favorite movie—"The Passion of Christ" by Mel Gibson. And when I worry about how hard my life is, I just think about what that man Jesus endured for us....and my difficulties get into perspective." I listened to that brief testimony on WAMO radio and thought, that DJ just shared the gospel with more unchurched people than I have spoken to in nearly 35 years of ministry!

And what he said—so true.

When we feel like life is piling on, it is so easy for us to slip into feelings of self-pity or anger or helplessness or depression and anxiety. And when I enter into my depressed/anxious way of being, I recall the words of Paul in his letter to the Philippians: "**The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.**"

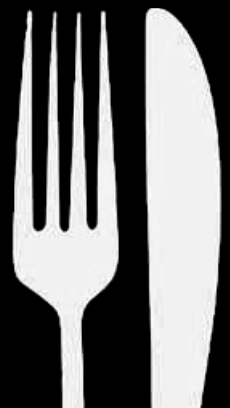
Powerful words of truth. More easily read than accomplished, to be sure. But trust those words, brothers and sisters.

One of the great preachers of the church in the 19th century is a man named Charles Spurgeon. He once said, "Anxiety does not empty tomorrow of its sorrows, but only empties today of its strength.."

Keep on keeping on, good people. As I said in this morning's sermon (from Julia of Norwich)...."All shall be well, all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well."

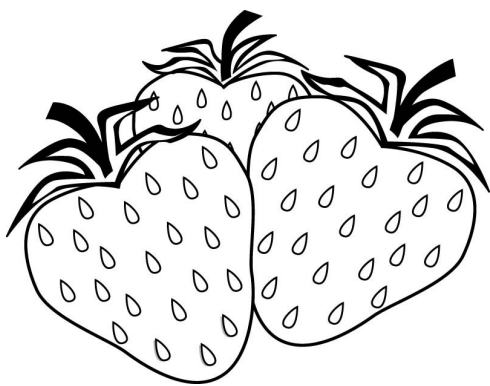
Pastor Michael

Community Meal



COMMUNITY DINNER SET FOR WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3 6:00-8:00PM, SIDE LAWN (weather permitting)

We'll be grilling hot dogs and hamburgers and will appreciate any side dishes and dessert donations. A sign up sheet will be posted in the church two weeks before the dinner for the donations as well as volunteer times for set-up and break-down. Please join us to have fun with our church family and the community along with some musical entertainment. Call Chris Baldwin with any questions 412-963-9860.



Deacons' Doings

In June, we will have two events: **Strawberry Festival on Wednesday, June 17 from 6:00-8:00PM.** So stop by, share a hot dog or two and great strawberry desserts, with family and friends. See you there!!!

Join us on **Father's Day, June 21 in the Gathering Place** after worship for donuts, fruit and sharing some great stories about our fathers.

College students: the Melfard Douglass Scholarship applications are available in the Church Office; please fill out and return by July 26.

Thank you for your continued support of our food pantry and our hoagie sales. Please also remember to support our Melfard Douglass Scholarship and the Presbyterian Relief Fund. When writing out a check for the Board of Deacons, please write on the memo line where you would like your donations to go. Thank you again and again. All your works are greatly appreciated.

Praise the Lord & Have a Blessed Summer,
Mary Ann Hartman
Deacon Moderator

WORSHIP MOVES TO 10AM ON SUNDAY, JUNE 7



P.W. Corner

By Lori Stutz, PW Moderator

Wow, June already, time for going to the pool, Kennywood, planting your favorite things outside, and for some, yes, vacation. I love the warm weather and all the light.

Well, we just got done with our Spring meeting. I am proud to let you all know that we made 1340.00 for our flea market this year. I am so grateful to my mom, Sallie Monk and everyone who helped with this year's flea market! Again, special thanks to everyone who made this day possible. Our next meeting is in July, details for time and date to follow. We also are working on possibly doing a end of the year Picnic for Joy Circle, again details to follow via email. (If you do not have email please contact the church office leaving your name and number so that we may call you with information).

Another thing we discussed is that we will be having a PW weekend retreat the last weekend of September. We are looking at Antiochian Village near Ligonier. All ladies from the church are welcomed to attend. We also know that transportation and cost can sometimes be a concern for these types of events. What PW would like to do is provide transportation back and forth from the church, leaving Friday and coming back sometime Sunday afternoon (if so desired you may drive). As far as cost, so that any lady that might want to come can come, we are NOT charging a fee, but instead are taking donations towards the costs of the retreat. This way there will not be any reason, any of our ladies cannot come.

Anyone can donate towards this retreat, just send a check or money order to the church made out to Presbyterian Woman, in the memo put retreat donation. As of right now we do have about 20 spots, 2 ladies to a room, hotel style rooms, and conference center, but still in Ligonier with all it's fall beauty. All meals included (but you may bring snacks or drink for yourself if you so desire), special diets may be accommodated based on need (please let us know as far in advance as you can), and we will be having Pastor Page Creach as our guest speaker.

Pastor Creach is well known for speaking with women's groups and retreats, and she is witty, on point with her messages and a lot of fun. We are looking at the theme BEGIN AGAIN, as topic for the retreat.

Our tentative schedule is Friday night, arrive/settle in, Saturday, breakfast, free time to fellowship and explore, lunch, our time with Pastor Creach, then dinner, then we were thinking of doing a movie, Sunday morning brunch, and service.

If you are interested in coming please let the office know or myself know, as soon as you know! Also, let us know if you would like to use the transportation option.

We are all so looking forward to spending time together in fellowship as the woman of the church. As woman, usually everyone else comes first. It is a blessing that God made us this way. But it is also a blessing to have time out to take care of ourselves, renew ourselves, while enjoying each other and God's beautiful hand work of the Fall.

Hope your summer is safe, warm and happy. Looking forward to seeing more of everyone in the fall!

Vacation Bible School: "Hometown Nazareth"

Parents, Grandparents, Friends & Mentors: Please invite the children in your life to attend VBS!

Who? All Children ages 3(potty trained) through 13

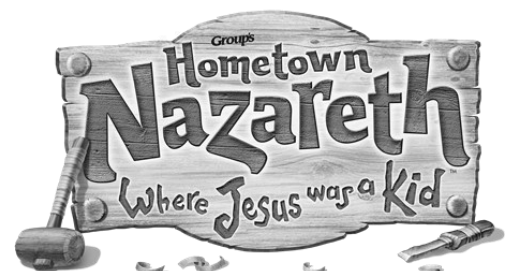
What? Hometown Nazareth Themed Bible stories; Fun: Games; Crafts; and Snacks

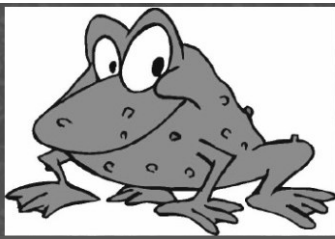
When? June 22 through 26, 6:00-8:00PM.

Where? FPCE

Cost? There is a suggested donation of \$10.00 per child. Registration Forms are printed on pink paper on the table at the side entrance.

We are using a new format for VBS this year so additional volunteers are still needed to lead small groups (this simply involves walking from station to station with approximately 10 kids); decorate; and act as "shop keepers". If you are interested in acting as a volunteer, please contact either Rhonda Apossos or Lorraine Douthett.





F.R.O.G.S.

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

(FRIENDS, READING, & OTHER GREAT STUFF)

By Judy Mysels, FROGS Program Director

As FROGS comes to an end for the Spring 2015 term, I would like to express some very heart-felt feelings: we have a very special group of FROGS and helpers and I have been honored to direct this program since January. Even though our number of FROGS enrollees dwindled a little toward the end, the quality of care/work put into our program is first-rate. We have **THE BEST VOLUNTEERS** (who sometimes out-numbered the FROGS) who want the very best for this program.

- Starting with Flo Raisig (my predecessor), who is a teacher extraordinaire in many ways, very dedicated to our FROGS;
- Dan Mielke, who picks up the FROGS dinner daily, provides special desserts periodically, also very devoted with a special ability for crafts, patience, sternness;
- Connie Black and Ruth Miller, who both magically transform the snacks and dinner into wonderful banquets for the kids while teaching etiquette at the table;
- Mary Ross dives in wherever she is needed...catching balls at the field, donating craft materials and giving wonderful ideas for busy time;
- Rick Masten (who is the boys' favorite) teaches fair play and teamwork in baseball/football, after helping with homework, donating snacks, providing Easter Egg hunts, etc.;
- Nozomi Sakai (who is the girls' favorite) is our youngest volunteer who gives emotional support, help with homework and dinner and has a special connection to the kids;
- Ranger Tim Manka is a wealth of information, providing special stamps to teach about history, etc.;
- Ed Masten, our newest volunteer has helped with crafts, play time and fits in wonderfully with our FROGS colony;
- a special thanks to Emily and Josh Lilly who have educated our FROGS with their special presentations of PACE periodically throughout the year,
- special visits from Bill and Donna Stineman are a bonus whenever they are able.

The church and I are truly blessed to have these individuals so dedicated to our kids and this program. Thanks also goes out to the many who donated snacks throughout the term.

As we look to start a new term in September 2015, there will be some minor changes since Edgewood school will be changed back to kindergarten to 3rd, thus losing some current students due to this and others moving out of the area. Watch for upcoming announcements for future FROGS endeavors, needs and announcements.

Welcome Confirmands!

On Sunday, May 31, the congregation joyfully received 6 confirmands into active membership. Each one participated in the service and read their own personal statement of faith. A moving and authentic moment for the young people and the congregation. **We welcome Travis Allabon, Alaijah Clements, Cassidy Dujmic, Abbey Lehrian, Haley Dujmic, Amber Wilson.** Our congregational life is richer because these wonderful, thoughtful and playful young people are with us!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

SUMMER SCHEDULE UPDATES

Sunday School for all ages is on break and will resume again in September.

Tuesday Book Club is also taking a summer hiatus with plans to resume discussions again in the fall.

Wednesday Night Bible Study will continue on the weeks this summer when there is not a major church event taking place (such as the community meals, Strawberry festival, etc.). Check the church calendar to see if anything else is going on for the full membership. If not, plan to meet in the Lounge at 7:00 and continue our journey through the Bible together!

JUNE BLOCKS (6 months to Kindergarten) FPCE's youngest friends are encouraged to join us for our third meeting of BLOCKS (Believing Little Ones Can Know and Serve) on **Wednesday, June 24** at 6:30. This is a special session as it occurs during VBS. If your tot isn't quite ready for the full VBS program, consider attending BLOCKS: a one-night "mini-VBS". We'll share in the energy and themes of VBS while offering special activities tailored just for our youngest children.

MUSIC Ministry

By Shaun Cloonan, Minister of Music

It's hard to believe another church programming year has come and gone already. As I write this, all of those important and memorable events are taking place in the lives of high schoolers... prom, senior banquets, our final concerts, awards

nights, final exams, and, of course, graduation. It's always so bittersweet to be at that final ceremony, that commencement, as the students begin the next chapters of their lives while remembering all of the wonderful times shared together during their 4 years of high school. I'm blessed to have that as my day job.

I'm equally blessed and humbled to serve you all as Minister of Music, and am grateful that we have such dedicated volunteers and staff in our music ministry to continue making a joyful noise unto the Lord while providing the best worship experience we can to glorify our God. Over the past 9 months or so, we've shared in a multitude of worship and music styles, from our classic and emerging services, to a bit of Taize and Iona reflection, sung responsive Psalms, to brand new songs as well as the return of some old familiar tunes.

Our worship ensemble members for Emerging services are troopers. We've been somewhat unpredictable with availability in the past few months, so each time we gather for rehearsal, we played a mini game of musical chairs to see who was playing which instrument and who might end up behind a microphone singing! The choir has faithfully come for rehearsal and singing of our weekly anthem during classic services, sometimes with barely more than a quartet, and some Sundays with a full complement of voices.

We opened our doors to many female singers, their friends and families at the Women's Choral Festival in November (and I think they want us to host again in 2015!), shared in worship with the North Hills Singers in December, were treated to special music by Inori Sakai when she is home to share her gifts, and played host to the annual ESO Holiday Concert with the Renaissance City Choirs.

One quick note: you've likely noticed me playing a little more frequently with the sound board at the front of the church. That's because we have a new power amp (thanks to Jim Segedy's donation) and the settings aren't quite the same as the one we had before. I can only test so much in an empty room...once bodies fill the pews, some of the sound changes and I have to make adjustments as we go so that you don't hear feedback. I hope to have the "tweaks" ironed out in the next couple of weeks. The pulpit microphone, however, should sound clearer than ever. It was replaced just before Easter and has vastly improved hearing God's Word proclaimed in scripture and sermon from the pulpit. Little by little, we're making progress!

As we move to our summer worship schedule, we plan to make it out on the lawn at least once or twice (and hopefully it will actually happen if the weather cooperates this year!), and will have the anthem space available if there are those of you out there hoping to share a gift of song with us. Sunny, Tyler, Mandy, and I will provide weekly song leadership as schedules permit with vacations, and the choir will likely make an appearance in at least one "family reunion" Sunday. Let me know if you want to be a part of the schedule.

Enjoy the summer!



The Bulletin Board

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

- Pam Thompson graduated from Duquesne University in May with her Master's Degree in Computational Mathematics.
- Deepest sympathies to Chris Baldwin and family in the passing of her father.
- FPCE-raised violinist Inori Sakai is performing in "Celebrate Pittsburgh" concert at Heinz Hall with Pittsburgh a Symphony Orchestra on Saturday June 27th at 2:30.

June

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		7:00 AA (SR) 7:00 Deacons (L)	6:00-7:30PM Community Meal (Side Lawn)		8:00 AA (SR)	8:30 AA (SR)
Communion 7 10:00 Summer Worship (S)	8 SUMMER OFFICE HOURS BEGIN 9:00AM-1:00PM 7:00 Men's Group	9 7:00 AA (SR) 7:00 Session (GP)	10 7:00 Bible Study (L)	11 1:00 Circle (L)	12 8:00 AA (SR)	13 9AM-3PM Scouts Flea Market 8:30 AA (SR)
14 9:00 Choir (C) 10:00 Summer Worship/ Michael's Installation (S) 11:00 Luncheon (GP)	15	16 Strawberry Festival set-up	17 6:00-8:00 Strawberry Festival (Side Lawn)	18	19 8:00 AA (SR)	20 8:30 AA (SR)
21 FATHER'S DAY 10:00 Summer Worship (S) 11:15 Donuts for Dads (GP)	22	23	24	25 1:00 Circle (L)	26	27
	6:00-8:00PM Vacation Bible School					
	7:00 Men's Group	7:00 AA (SR)			8:00 AA (SR)	8:30 AA (SR)
28 10:00 Summer Worship (S)						



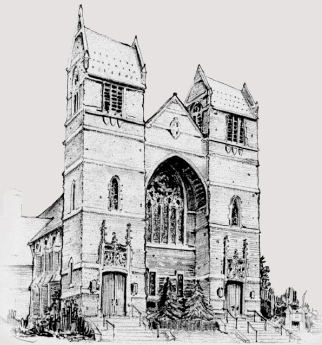
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EDGEWOOD

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120 E. Swissvale Avenue • Pittsburgh, PA 15218

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



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

412-241-4613
office@fpcedgewood.org
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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