



### FPCE Connects with the Community This Summer

As the weather warms up, vacations begin, and outdoor activities increase, the folks at FPCE plan to connect with our community in many ways this summer. From our monthly community meals on the first Wednesday of each month, to the annual Deacons' strawberry festival, to our newest attempt at outreach for youth, Camp SOS, we are trying to live out our mission to "love our neighbors" as the community church. Read on to be a part of the connections!

### June 2016 Worship Schedule *Worship Begins at 10:00 for the Summer!*



#### June 12

Pastor Michael will conclude his series on the Beatitudes. *"Blessed are the persecuted? Really?"*

#### June 26

Jeff Nine will preach and one of the men from the Men's Group will lead this service.

#### June 19 - Emerging Worship

One of the most intriguing stories in the gospels. See Luke 8:26-39. We recognize the gifts of fathers through our Tools of Hope offering, and the Deacons will host Donuts for Dads after worship on this Father's Day.

#### July 3

We will share in communion as we gather for worship over the holiday weekend.

*Bring a friend to church!*



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.



Michael P. Rucker  
Pastor

PASTOR'S

POINT  
OF  
VIEW

Hello sisters and brothers and friends of FPCE,

We are sliding into the summer time. Perhaps we will find a week or two or three to catch our collective breath and have some fun; as in recreation, as in re-creation. I do wish each of you a summer full of blessing and peace.

This past May, I attended a conference for preachers called *The Festival of Homiletics* (which is a fancy word for the art of preaching.) The conference leadership decided to focus on the theme, *Prophetic Preaching in Changing Times*. As the theme suggests, the preaching and teaching we heard was not to make us preachers feel good, or successful, or comforted, or entertained. As I re-read my notes, I see even more clearly that the week's preachers and teachers laid out some tough challenges to those of us in the pulpit on Sunday morning. Here are just a few points that spoke to me:

1. *"The Christian Church in America has reached the height of irrelevance and the pinnacle of importance."* Meaning, the mainline churches find themselves disconnected from much of America, especially from our young generations. Yet, the power of the gospel is the hope of the world. How do we connect the power of that gospel with people who know longer speak our language—and really don't want to. Can the church step out of its own traditions?
2. *Churches loooooove to preach Jesus. But are reluctant to preach what Jesus preached—which is a VERY revolutionary message.*
3. Over and over I heard the prophetic challenge, don't fret so much about how many people are in the pew. Instead, ask yourselves, are the people who do come growing in their discipleship? Does our mission include reaching out to the marginalized...the outsiders?
4. From Alyce McKenzie, Pastor and Professor, described what she sees emerging in our cultural context. As a people we are:

**Distracted.** Too much going on. We are bombarded by too many messages, too many demands, too much information. How can we help a culture focus?

**Story-suspicious:** The overarching story of previous generations; the way we interpret the gospel, the way we apply the gospel to our lives used to make sense to most people in our culture. No longer true. The younger people are developing a different story, a different narrative. Can we listen to their story and maybe even try to connect with it?

**Scene-loving:** Images, Instagram, selfies, photos and videos on Facebook, has become the primary mode of communication.

**Wisdom-hungry:** No one has the answer for what we as a church and culture need to do next. But really, we don't need answers, we long for wise people to help us discern out next steps.

A lot to think and pray about. The good news? Change happens, but Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

*Pastor Michael*



# Deacons' Doings...

Hello Everyone!

Join the Deacons from 6—8 p.m. on Wednesday, June 15 for the annual Strawberry Festival. Weather permitting, the festival will be held on the side lawn. If it rains, we will retreat to the Social Hall. Delicious strawberries, cakes, and hot dogs.

Then join us after worship in the Gathering Place immediately following worship for Donuts for Dad Father's Day celebration. Bring your Dad, Grand-Dads, Uncles...to help us celebrate the men in our lives.

Many of our tummies were feeling pretty good with all the wonderful muffins Amy Moore made for Mother's Day and the delicious fruit salad from Helen Ebken.

We have received some wonderful thank-you letters from our college students, our Friends of the church, and the Word of God Parish for our good works. The college students received \$25.00 gift. Our Friends of the church received May flowers. Thanks to our FROGS kids and adult volunteers and Word of God for our donations towards the Swissvale Fire Victim Fundraiser. A special thanks to all who donated toward the fundraiser.

Once again, we are asking for cereal, peanut butter, jelly, tuna helper, pancake mix and syrup, Kleenex, toilet paper, canned tuna, chicken, and ham for our Food Pantry. We thank all of you for your continued help for those in need.

Hope to see everyone at the Strawberry Festival. June 15 from 6—8 p.m. Bring some friends and neighbors. Help spread the word.

Have a wonderful summer. Be safe! I know we can get pretty busy during the summer months. Just remember we all need fed—that is, fed with the Word of God. God's blessings to all!

Mary Ann Hartman  
*Moderator*

## Tools of Hope Sunday, June 19

Honor your dad by giving the gift of love and hope in their honor or memory. Church World Service (CWS) and FPCE's Mission Ministry Team is sponsoring "Tools of Hope". Your donation of \$5 per tool will help provide tools and the knowledge that someone cares to refugees, victims of natural disasters and many others across the world. Fill out a bulletin insert through June 13 or call the Church Office.

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# STRAWBERRY Festival

## Wednesday, June 15

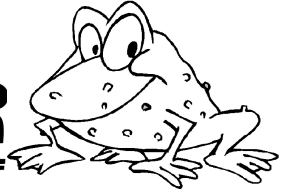
6-8PM, Side Lawn (weather permitting)

*Mark your calendars!*

# F.R.O.G.S.

## AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

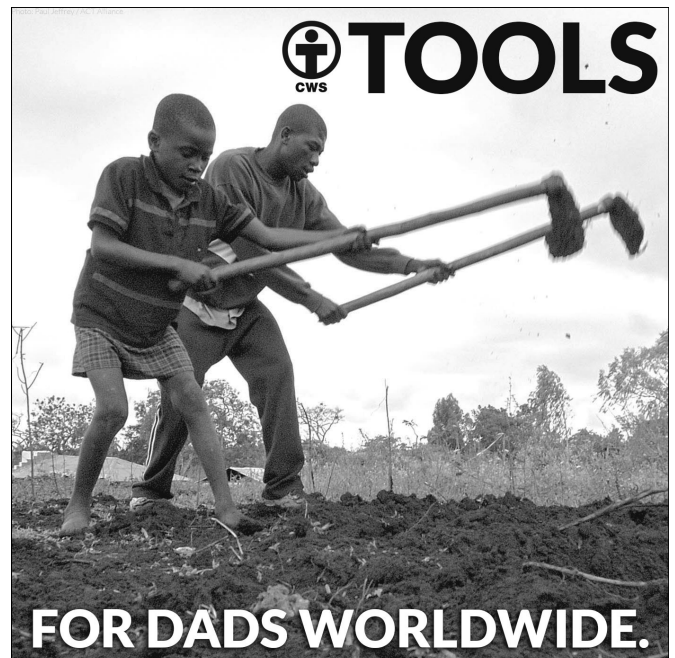
**FRIENDS, READING, & OTHER GREAT STUFF**



FROGS ended for this session on May 31. We will be losing 5 FROGS kids since they will be moving onto the intermediate school. As of now, we have 5 FROGS kids returning for September, but will be looking for a few more. During May, we made Mother's Day and Father's Day presents, also made "friends of the church" Deacons' flower pots. We also took 3 field trips to Koening Field so the FROGS could "hop" around down there playing at the playground, swinging, playing baseball, etc.

Many thanks again to our fantastic volunteers: Flo Raisig, Dan Mielke, Mary Ross, Ruth Miller, Rick Masten, Ed Masten, Sallie Monk, Mary Ann Hartman, Lori Stutz, Lynne Legge, Glenn Allen Monk, Michael Rucker, Hazel Chen, Mariah Mysels, Bill and Donna Stineman, etc. I can't say enough about these wonderful people; they give so much of their time and love for these kids. Also thank you to all those who donated snacks.

*Judy Mysels, Director*





## Greater Pittsburgh Literacy Council

Volunteer literacy tutors needed...help an adult in your community with literacy skills.

These can include reading, writing, math, computer, or

**Open up a life.**

GED preparation. Become a trained literacy tutor by attending a free volunteer tutor training workshop sponsored by Greater Pittsburgh Literacy Council. The next workshop will be held at the First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood on June 13, 15, 20, 22, from 6-9PM. For more information and/or to register, please contact Anita at 412/393-7645 or at [acohen@gplc.org](mailto:acohen@gplc.org), or visit our website at [www.gplc.org](http://www.gplc.org).

## Adult Sunday School Continues

"Gifts from God" will run at least the next 8 weeks. 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 8:45 AM. All you need is your Bible and an open heart.

## Wednesday Night Bible Study "Tour Through the Bible"

Wednesday night Bible Study - picked up with the Bible tour again on Wednesday May 25th. We will be continuing with Song of Solomon. Meetings will be every Wednesday at 7:00PM in the lounge, except for days when the Community dinners or Strawberry Festival are happening.

## CAMP SOS – Everything You Need to Know!

You've read a few articles over the past several months. You've heard mention of planning meetings. Maybe you've even talked to a few of the planning team members and gotten some details about this thing... this "not really a Vacation Bible School but still for kids" program we're working on for the summer. Well, here is everything you could possibly want to know about what we've come to call Camp SOS!

### *What is Camp SOS?*

This is our newest effort in outreach to the community. SOS stands for "Summer of Service," and the focus of this first year will be to connect our middle school-aged campers (entering grades 5-8) to people and groups who perform service in our community. We're focusing on areas within walking distance of FPCE so that we don't need to worry about transportation, and to show that service happens all around us.

### *What types of service will we learn about?*

Not everything is 100% confirmed, but our goal in the first 2 days of the camp is to connect with the Edgewood Borough police and fire departments to learn about safety and what is involved in volunteering to help those affected by fire, the Edgewood Library to learn about their programs to improve literacy, our own Deacons and their food pantry for the hungry in our community, Wilksburg Community Ministry to learn of their many programs to help those in need, our Scouts who meet at the church and their many service projects, and hopefully the Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf to see how they provide services and programs for the deaf community.

### *What will the campers do with this information?*

We've front-loaded the week with all of these visits so that the second part of the week can put what the campers learn into action. We're planning a couple of small projects within the church (putting together food bags from the pantry, planting flowers on the side lawn), but the focus of the second part of the week will be creating and performing through making masks, puppets, and writing skits. Campers will get to pick some sort of service to others based on what they've learned and create a short skit. This will be acted out using either puppets created by them in small groups or by acting out the skit using masks they create. Our puppet master Lisa Segedy will guide the campers through the creating and writing process on days 3 and 4 of the camp. The last day will be devoted to sharing what they've learned, rehearsing, and performing their skits for each other and then for friends, family, and community members at a closing community dinner on the side lawn.



### ***When will this happen?***

Camp SOS will take place Monday-Friday, July 11-15, 2016 from Noon-6PM. As a service to our community, FPCE has committed to making this a completely FREE experience for campers and their families. Through the assistance of the Wilkinsburg Community Ministry, we will provide a free lunch at the beginning of each day for the campers, and then will conclude with a free meal for campers and their families each day at 5:00. The final day will be a larger celebration that will be another one of our free community meals that includes the campers performing their skits and puppet shows for all in attendance.

### ***How can I help?***

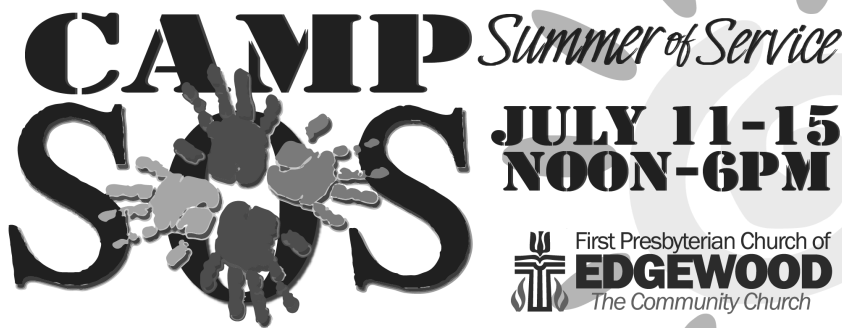
If you are interested in volunteering, we need you to contact the office ASAP. We must get your clearances on file (PA state laws changed last year requiring anyone working with children to have clearances, even as a volunteer). We have quick and easy links for these, and if you register as a volunteer online, there is no cost to get the clearances (criminal record check and child abuse clearance). One of them provides instant results and gives you a PDF to print out immediately. The other will be sent to your home within a couple of weeks.

We're happy to have you help as much or as little as you can provide – working lunch or dinner for set up, serving, or clean up, helping with the campers during the day, walking with them on Monday or Tuesday, helping with games or with mask/puppet creation, helping with the pantry/planting projects. All we need to know is what days and times you are available so that we can put a volunteer schedule together to make sure all parts of the camp are covered with enough supervision.

We'll also need donations – food to help fill out the meals, paper products, and a whole list of items listed separately for puppet/mask creation as well as stocking the Deacons' food pantry and even some planting tools. See the "Donations Needed" article.

### ***What's next?***

We have sent out over 1,200 flyers to students in the Woodland Hills Intermediate Center (grades 4-6), 7<sup>th</sup> graders at the Jr./Sr. High School, 4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> graders at Woodland Hills Academy, and The Environmental Charter School in Regent Square. So now we eagerly wait for the registrations to come in! We're planning to invite the campers to attend our July 6<sup>th</sup> community meal so that they can meet the Camp SOS counselors & staff.

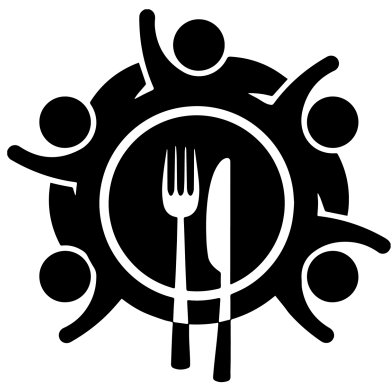


Additionally, we're asking that anyone who volunteers comes to a short training/orientation meeting (date/time TBD, but it will be some time between July 7 and the start of camp) to go over the schedule, vision for the week, and expectations of the campers (and consequences if they aren't followed).

We're very excited about the possibilities this may open up for us as a congregation in our efforts to be the "community church." While the focus isn't specifically evangelism or Christian Education, we feel that we are living out our mission (to love our neighbors) by modeling Christ-like behavior in exposing the younger generation in our community to the ways of serving and helping others.

We hope that this will be a spring-board to more efforts to serve outward into the community, bringing in youth and families in need to be a part of our FPCE family. Eventually, we'd love to expand to form a regular meeting of the campers in somewhat of a "youth group" format, keeping their connections moving forward. The goal with Camp SOS into the future is to expand beyond just learning about service, but DOING it, with hopes of finding tangible service projects to be a focus of the camp while still having fun with games and activities. And if the puppet and mask thing takes off, we may find ourselves with a community puppet/theater ministry complete with acting classes, puppet making, and regular performances either during worship or for the community. The possibilities are exciting and could be an energized way of moving FPCE forward into a new chapter. We hope you'll jump on board and be a part of it!

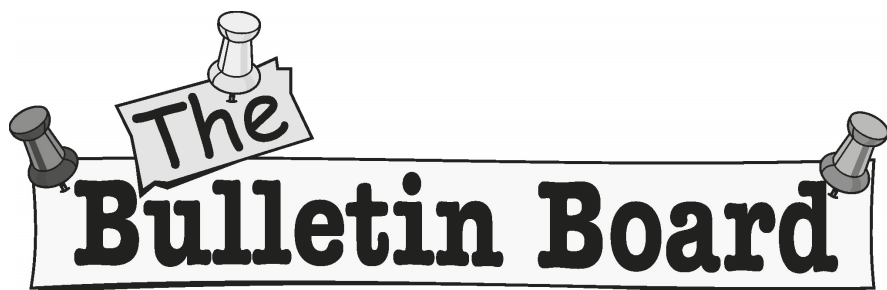
If you have any more questions, feel free to contact Shaun Cloonan or Pastor Michael, or any of the planning team members: Chris Baldwin, Martha Crean, Lorraine Douthett, Nancy Ernst, Emily Lilly, Tyler McGuigan, Sallie Monk, Jim Segedy, and Lisa Segedy.



## COMMUNITY DINNERS: JULY 6, JULY 15, AUGUST 3, SEPT. 7 6-8PM, SIDE LAWN

We'll be grilling hot dogs and hamburgers and appreciate any side dishes and dessert donations. Watch for bulletin inserts and e-mails for the donations as well as volunteer times for set-up and break-down. Come have fun with our church family and the community.

Note that there is a bonus meal on July 15. We're inviting the whole community to join us as we close out our Camp SOS adventure. Even if you can't volunteer for the camp, join us for the wrap up celebration and fellowship!

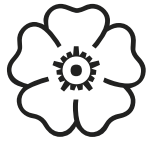


*Sharing in the joys and concerns  
of our family & friends at FPCE*

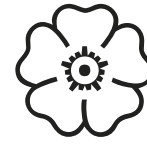
- Congratulations to Charlie Baldwin. Charlie graduated from Lehigh College on the weekend of May 21.
- Congratulations to Erin McShane and the cast/crew of *Peter Pan* at Woodland Hills. They were nominated for 9 and earned 5 Gene Kelly Awards.
- A big thanks to Nancy Ernst, Dan Mielke, Judy Mysels, and Tim McKee who cleaned out the Gathering Place. That room will soon be painted by Shane Mysels, with hopes of using it for summer worship in the near future.
- Thanks to Ruth Miller and her crew for organizing the luncheon honoring Jeff Nine's seminary graduation.
- Thank you also to Flo Raisig for getting approval and arranging for the Camp SOS flyers to be distributed to the students at Woodland Hills. Here's hoping we get a rush of registration!
- Minister of Music Shaun Cloonan had a busy and successful month outside of FPCE. All 3 of his choirs at North Hills earned superior ratings at the Busch Gardens Music in the Parks festival in Williamsburg, VA; his students involved in *Cinderella* earned 4 Gene Kelly nominations; and he guest conducted a group of 173 fifth graders for a PMEA Songfest in Berlin, PA.
- We raise our prayers and offer our condolences to the Mysels family. Rob's mother, Alice, died on May 23.
- Condolences to the family of Martha Gallagher, who died May 19.
- A Note of thanks: Dear Board of Deacons, Thank you for the donation of \$150.00 to the Ministerium Emergency Fund to assist those displaced by the recent fire in Swissvale. May God bless you for your generosity. Sincerely, Pastors of Swissvale

### **A note from Pastor Michael:**

So many of you have given time, energy, and spirit to the life of this congregation this past spring. In some churches, church life after Easter slows down. Not so here FPCE! Fantastic music from our sanctuary choir, the Praise Ensemble led by Sunny and Shaun. Two post-worship luncheons. Deacons and their Mother's Day ministries. The members of Scout Troop 23 and members of this congregation led the Community Day of Remembrance on Memorial weekend. All of that plus the regular meetings of officers, PW, Bible studies... WOW. Way to go people!



# JUNE



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1  6:00 Community Dinner (Lawn)	2	3  8:00 AA (SR)	4  8:30 AA (SR)
5 9:30 Choir (C) 9:45 Adult Class (L) 11:00 Worship (S) 12:15 Fellowship (L)	6 6:00 SOS Food Mtg 7:00 SOS Team Mtg 7:00 Scouts	7 7:00 Deacons (L) 7:00 AA (SR)	8 7:00 Bible Study (L)	9 1:00 Daytime Circle	10 8:00 AA (SR)	11 8:30 AA (SR)
12 8:45 Adult Class (L) 10:00 Worship (S) 11:15 Planning Meeting (GP)	13 7:00 Scouts 7:00 Men's Group	14 7:00 Session (GP) 7:00 AA (SR)	15 6:00 Strawberry Festival (Lawn)	16 7:00 Worship Ensemble (S)	17 8:00 AA (SR)	18 8:30 AA (SR)
19 8:30 Worship Ens 8:45 Adult Class (L) 10:00 Emerging Worship (S) 11:15 Donuts for Dads (GP)	20 6:00 SOS Food Mtg 7:00 SOS Team Mtg 7:00 Scouts	21 7:00 AA (SR)	22 7:00 Bible Study (L)	23 1:00 Daytime Circle	24 8:00 AA (SR)	25 8:30 AA (SR)
26 8:45 Adult Class (L) 10:00 Worship (S)	27 7:00 Scouts 7:00 Men's Group	28 6:00 Deacon & Session Dinner (Apeossos Home) 7:00 AA (SR)	29 7:00 Bible Study (L)	30	1 July 8:00 AA (SR)	2 8:30 AA (SR)



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120 E. Swissvale Avenue • Pittsburgh, PA 15218

**DID  
YOU  
KNOW**



There are symbols carved into the stone above the main doors at the front of the church (back of the sanctuary)? These images represent the 4 Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

