



# news from the **EDGE**

120 East Swissvale Avenue

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15218

412-241-4613

office@fpcedgewood.org

## **March** 2014

# LOVE GOD EACH OTHER OUR NEIGHBORS

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**.

## WORSHIP

Sunday Mornings  
**11:00AM**  
in the  
Sanctuary

[www.fpcedgewood.org](http://www.fpcedgewood.org)

This month's news from the **EDGE** is sponsored by

# YOU?

Sponsors are needed for upcoming issues. Contact the office.

The season of Lent is a time of prayer, fasting and self-examination in preparation for the celebration of the resurrection of the Lord at Easter. It is a period of 40 days – like the flood of Genesis, Moses' sojourn at Mount Sinai, Elijah's journey to Mount Horeb, Jonah's call to Ninevah to repent and Jesus' time of testing in the wilderness. (The Sundays in Lent are not counted in this reckoning of the time between Ash Wednesday and Easter, as every Lord's Day is a celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.)



In the early church, Lent was a time of preparation for the celebration of baptism at the Easter Vigil. In many communities of faith it remains a time to equip and nurture candidates for baptism and confirmation and to reflect deeply on the theme of baptismal discipleship.

## March Worship Schedule

### MARCH 2

We will shine this Transfiguration Sunday through song, scripture and communion.



### ASH WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5

We will meet in the lounge at 7:00PM for quiet music, prayer and celebrate two ancient Christian rites: Imposition of Ashes and Communion.

### MARCH 9

During this worship service we will turn to the lovely and meaningful liturgy and song from the Taizé and Iona Christian communities. (And don't forget to SPRING AHEAD before this service!)

### MARCH 16

On this morning we will be caught up in the power and beauty of Tartan Sunday. Come sing the classic hymns from Scotland! A bagpiper will accompany us.

### MARCH 23

On this Emerging Worship Sunday our praise ensemble will open our hearts to the wonder and "living water" that our Lord offers us. See John 4: 5-42 for details on that "living water" promise.

### MARCH 30

Our classic worship service will usher us into the final 3 weeks of Lent. Discover what Jesus meant when he promised: "Recovery of sight to the blind."



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



## STAFF DIRECTORY

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**Mandy Rineer**

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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.

PASTOR'S  
**POINT  
OF  
VIEW**



### SPRING IS COMING!!!

Here's something nobody said this morning: *"Rats! There's no snow to shovel!"* When life's challenges begin to stress us out (as this winter did for many of us) it is helpful to remember that a wise person once said, *"This too shall pass."* And that applies to winter...and snow....and ice....and school snow days that we don't really want or need anymore. Thank you God for a fresh, green spring! (We must pause here and remember that others had it much worse...)

The arrival of spring also marks the beginning of one of the most important seasons on the Christian calendar. Lent. As new life springs up around us, we embark on a journey of intentional spiritual preparation for the astounding Easter morning resurrection of the Son of Man - Jesus the Christ. These weeks of preparation and reflection are important to us as individuals and as a community of faith. For these days are preparing us not only for this year's Easter celebration, more meaningfully, Lent "is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal." (II Corinthians 4:17-18)

As I look forward to the months of March and April, I am excited. For I see many opportunities for each one of us to grow in spirit and in faith. We are planning a series of worship services that will uplift, challenge, stretch and lead us into the presence of the Living God. We will have a series of Wednesday evening Lenten studies that will provide opportunities for prayer, study and community building. A "Get-To-Know-One-Another -Anew-Potluck is in the final stages of preparation. The potluck is open to all, but we hope to jumpstart our children and youth Christian Education ministry that day. The Sunday morning adult Bible class is doing a study on passages from scripture appropriate to Lenten. These are all opportunities to grow...these are all opportunities for you.

We will enter the season of Lent during an evening worship beginning at 7:00PM Ash Wednesday, March 5. This contemplative, wondrous worship will include the Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion.

Take a moment, reflect on these words - and join brothers and sisters around the world as we walk our Lenten journey with them.

Teach us to number our days aright,  
that we may gain wisdom of heart.

O Jesus, you place on my forehead  
the sign of your saving Cross:  
"Turn from sin  
and be faithful to the gospel."

How can I turn from sin  
unless I turn to you?

You speak, you raise your hand,  
you touch my mind and call my name,  
"Turn to the Lord your God again."

Peace and grace to you!

*Pastor Michael*



*"...the Lord has sought out a man after  
his own heart;" - 1 Samuel 13:14*

Some sobering statistics:

- On any given Sunday there are 13 million more women than men in America's churches
- Midweek church activities draw 70-80% more female participants
- Over 70% of boys raised in the church will abandon it during their teens and twenties
- Only 1 of 6 self described "Christian" men attends church regularly
- Fewer than 10% of U.S. churches are able to establish or maintain a Men's ministry
- Lack of male participation is strongly associated with congregational decline

Let's not be one of those statistics.

***We will be studying the Book of Daniel***

**When: 7:00PM**

**How often: 2nd and 4th Mondays**

**Where: Lounge**

**What: Bring your Bible and an open heart**

## TARTAN SUNDAY

Sunday, March 16, marks our celebration of Tartan Sunday. It is from Scotland we Presbyterians came, and in proper Scottish manner, with a bagpiper to accompany us, we will worship the God who called us to faith.

That special day will also be an opportunity to say "Godspeed" and thank a dear sister in faith, Doris Hamilton, who is leaving us to be with her family in St. Louis.

## THINKING ABOUT PRAYER REQUESTS

Many Sunday mornings I introduce the part of the service called "Prayers of the People" by saying, "we are about to share some very important and powerful time together as we unite our hearts and minds and lift up the joys and concerns we carry in our hearts." And I do mean what I say. Countless people have shared with me what an important role the praying of the church meant to their healing and recovery.

At the same time, every one of us has different feelings about our name being mentioned in public worship. Some people like having their name and concern being voiced and prayed for. Others (and I am among them) would rather not have their name mentioned in the service. It is a delicate balance we try to achieve.

We are going to try something a little different. Some time soon we will place prayer cards in the pew racks. If you have a prayer request, write it down on the card and when we "pass the peace" place your prayer in offering plates that will be located in the front and the back of the sanctuary. The requests will be given to Pastor Michael before the Prayers of the People. If possible and appropriate he will lift the prayer up during that Pastoral Prayer.

Pastor Michael will continue to ask for prayer requests from the congregation, but please keep the requests brief. God already knows what struggle the person is facing, to simply say: *Prayer for the healing of...* or *A prayer of encouragement for...* or *Thanksgiving/praise for...* When you mention someone's name in public worship, make sure that the person is OK with it. (I'm not pointing fingers, believe me, I have misspoken in the past.)

In this way, we hope our prayer time together is helpful and effective, and that it honors the feelings of those who do not like having their name made public. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

# Family FUN night

Tired of being stuck at home on these dreary winter days? Kids anxious for some play time with others? Change up your Sunday afternoon routine and please join us for a Family Fun and Fellowship Night event on **Sunday, March 9**, from **4:00-6:00 pm** in the Gathering Place. Family and friends are welcome, especially those families with children (babies through high school). We'll have food (potluck), games, and crafts for all ages. More importantly, we'll offer a casual setting for you to reconnect with your FPCE family and discuss the future of

Christian Education at our church. If you would like to help by bringing food for the potluck please contact Emily Lilly at [EmilySLilly@gmail.com](mailto:EmilySLilly@gmail.com) with what you will be bringing or sign-up on the sheet by the side entrance outside the sanctuary. (Potluck contributions are not required for attendance.) If you have any additional questions, please contact Pat Carrick, Lorraine Douthett, or Emily Lilly. We look forward to seeing you on March 9<sup>th</sup>!

*"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet  
and a light unto my path."  
— Psalm 119:105*

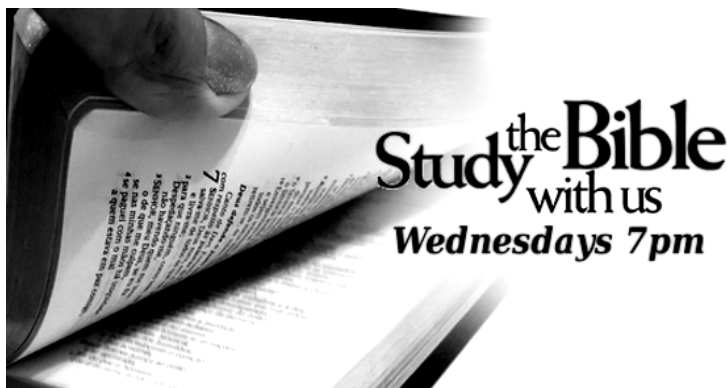
*"Therefore encourage one another and  
build one another up, just as you are doing."  
— 1Thes. 5:11*

C.E. is alive and well here at FPCE. We are striving to live up to these ideals in what we do. With church time classes for our youth, Pollyanna time before Church, an Adult Class on Sundays, Wednesday night studies periodically, and the Tuesday Discussion Group, FPCE does a lot to share the Word.

See the fuller information about our Family Fun Night especially for our families and other information above. It will be a great time for all.

Join our Adult Class beginning Sunday March 2, for a special Lenten Study: "Leading to Easter: Searching the Soul." This is a seven lesson study focusing on the final week of Jesus' life and ministry, and will help to prepare us for the season. It will be a great time. Please Join us at 9:45am in the Lounge on Sunday mornings. You do NOT have to be a Bible Scholar to attend; we're all learning together. Please bring your favorite Bible to read. The more versions we have, the bigger the discussion. Each version adds a different "flavor" to the text. First timers are always welcome. See Pat Carrick for a Study Guide.

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Once again, we will offer a time to gather for prayer and study during the Lenten season. At the time of this newsletter's printing, the details for the study had not been finalized, but plan to attend a weekly gathering in the Lounge at 7:00PM on Wednesday nights during Lent, beginning on March 12. Look for more information in the bulletin over the next couple of weeks.

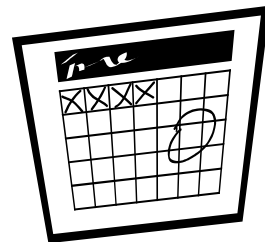
## Mark Your Calendars

### UPCOMING CHRISTIAN EDUCATION EVENTS

The Christian Education ministry team met on February 23 and decided on the following dates for special events. Mark your calendars and look for details in future newsletters:

Sunday, June 8, 2014  
Youth Sunday

Week of June 23-27  
Vacation Bible School







## P.W. CORNER

by Lori Stutz, Moderator

**FLEA MARKET**  
**SATURDAY, APRIL 26**  
**10AM-2PM**

Can anyone believe it's March? One month towards warmer weather and one month closer to P.W. Annual Flea Market, April 26. Please keep us in mind when you are doing your spring cleaning. We take lots of items, with the exception of electronics and clothing. Please think about volunteering either the week before the sale or on that Saturday. Our chair this year is Connie Black, with Sallie Monk and Debbie Pike, as the co-chairs. Please see one of them or contact the Church Office with any questions.

Our Quarterly meeting that was scheduled for February 16 and cancelled because of the bad weather, has been re-scheduled for March 2.

Please keep your calendars open on Wednesday nights after Easter. The P.W. will host a church-wide bible study. Sallie Monk will be leading us on "An Abiding Hope, the Presence of God in Exodus and Deuteronomy".

By the end of winter, we will say good-bye to one of our favorite people: Doris Hamilton. This woman has been so important to P.W. and to our church. I was not around for a lot of her time with P.W., but I have heard so many stories of fun, memories full of gratitude from the many times Doris has hosted Christmas Parties, or the many times she volunteered and hosted retreats at her family's cabin in Ligonier. It is with grateful hearts that we say farewell to Doris. We will continue to keep her in our prayers as she takes this next journey.

We also need to let you know that we have a new officer for P.W. Tina Nine has graciously accepted the position of Vice Moderator. We are all very excited to have Tina join us. She, without a doubt, will bring so many great ideas and qualities to P.W. We look forward to having Tina in this position. Please continue to keep P.W. lifted up in prayer and keep supporting each other in Christ.

### FPCE NEWS...

Inori Sakai has been selected as a member of the National Youth Orchestra for 2014. NYO each summer, Carnegie Hall's Weill Music Institute brings together 120 (ages 16-19) of the brightest young players from across the country to form the National Youth Orchestra of the USA. They are touring for performances throughout the country, including Carnegie Hall and Tanglewood Music Festival.

## SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

Thank you to everyone who put donations to fight hunger in the soup pots following worship on February 9, and thanks to the youth who did the actual collecting. This year's donations will go to the Deacons for the purchase of items needed for the food pantry that are not donated.



## Per Capita

*Per capita* is about belonging to a larger whole. We, the First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood, are one of 150 congregations in the Pittsburgh Presbytery. The presbyteries in the tri-state area form the Synod of the Trinity and all of the Synods form the General Assembly. The Pittsburgh Presbytery is involved in helping churches like ours through seasons of transition, mission work, preparation for the ordination of new pastors, and running Camp Crestfield among many activities. The *per capita* contribution for each member is \$27.15 this year and the collected contributions are distributed to the Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly in approximate proportion of 70%, 10%, and 20%, respectively. Just as each of us cannot go through life on our own, we find peace in belonging to a greater whole. In Christ there is unity.

Blessings,

Paul Otori, Stewardship Team



You've probably noticed that from week to week lately, it's a bit like musical chairs during worship figuring out who is doing what. As our favorite violinist, Inori, auditions for music schools across the country, mom/accompanist/travel manager Sunny has been on the road with her. So, for a few more weeks, we'll keep doing our musical version of "Who's on first?"

Since the last newsletter, our FPCE family has grieved the loss of our section leader Mia. While we can never attempt to replace the personality and talent she had, we will be searching for a couple of voices to round out our section leaders in the choir to help us out each week. I'm reaching out to local college directors to see if they might have a singer or 2 in their group to join us.

We say another bittersweet goodbye to long-time choir member Doris Hamilton this month. As the song says: "God be with you til we meet again!"



# March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Communion 2 9:30 Choir (C) 9:45 Adult Ed (L) 9:45 Pollyanna (GP) 11:00 Worship (S) 12:15 Fellowship (L) P.W. Mtg. (GP)	3	4 10:00 Book Club (L) 7:00 AA (SR) 7:00 Deacons (L)	5 7:00 Ash Wednesday Service (L)	6	7 8:00 AA (SR)	8 8:30 AA (SR)
Taizé/Iona 9 9:30 Choir (C) 9:45 Adult Ed (L) 9:45 Pollyanna (GP) 11:00 Worship (S) 12:15 Fellowship (L) 4-6 Family Fun Night Daylight Saving Time Begins	10 7:00 Scouts (SC)	11 10:00 Book Club (L) 7:00 AA (SR) 7:00 Session (GP)	12 7:00 Bible Study (L)	13	14 8:00 AA (SR)	15 8:30 AA (SR)
Tartan Sunday 16 9:30 Choir (C) 9:45 Adult Ed (L) 9:45 Pollyanna (GP) 11:00 Worship (S) 12:15 Fellowship	17 7:00 Scouts (SC)	18 10:00 Book Club (L) 7:00 AA (SR)	19 7:00 Bible Study (L) 7:00 Worship Ensemble	20 6:30 Pack Mtg. (SC) 7:00 Grief Group (L)	21 8:00 AA (SR)	22 8:30 AA (SR)
Emerging 23 9:00 Worship Ens. 9:45 Adult Ed (L) 9:45 Pollyanna (GP) 11:00 Worship (S) 12:15 Fellowship (L)	24 7:00 Scouts (SC)	25 10:00 Book Club (L) 7:00 AA (SR)	26 7:00 Bible Study (L)	27	28 8:00 AA (SR)	29 8:30 AA (SR)
30 9:30 Choir (C) 9:45 Adult Ed (L) 9:45 Pollyanna (GP) 11:00 Worship (S) 12:15 Fellowship (L)	31 7:00 Scouts (SC)	C-Choir Room, GP-Gathering Place, L-Lounge, S-Sanctuary, SC-Scout Room, SR-Social Room <b>Looking Ahead to Next Month:</b> Sunday, April 6 - Communion Sunday, April 13 - Palm Sunday Emerging/Readers Theater Thursday, April 17 - Maundy Thursday Service Friday, April 18 - Good Friday Prayer Vigil Sunday, April 20 - Easter Service Saturday, April 26 - PW Flea Market				

# LENT

# EASTER FLOWERS

We seek your help in making our sanctuary a place of graceful beauty and meaning on Easter morning. Through your donation, we can accomplish this:

I wish to contribute an Easter plant:

Daffodil       Hyacinth       Lily       Tulip

The wording for the bulletin is:

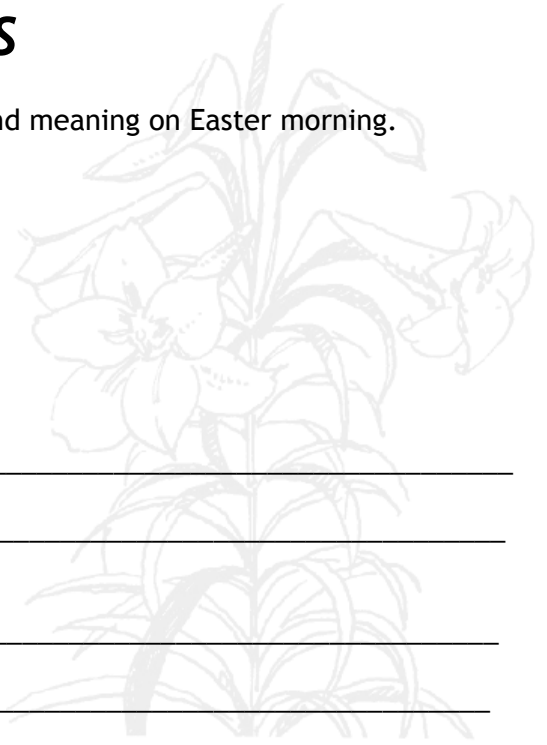
In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Order placed by \_\_\_\_\_

Please check:       I would like to take the plant after the Easter service.

The cost of each plant is **\$8.00**. Please attach your check (payable to First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood) to this order form and return it to the Church Office. **Deadline is April 2, 2014.**



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



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

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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:

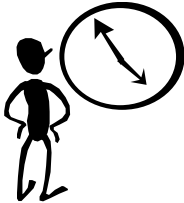


**Edgewood Psychological Services**



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

120 E. Swissvale Avenue • Pittsburgh, PA 15218



*Don't forget to turn  
your clocks **FORWARD**  
(spring ahead) before  
church on Sunday,  
March 9!*

If you want to be taken off the mailing list for "News from the Edge," call the Church Office at 412-241-4613.  
To receive it via email, leave your email address when calling, or send a message to <[office@fpcedgewood.org](mailto:office@fpcedgewood.org)>.

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**“Create**  
**in me a**  
**clean heart,**  
**O God,**  
**and put a**  
**new and right**  
**spirit**  
**within me.”**

Psalm 51:10

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## **LENTEN ACTIVITIES AT FPCE**

Wednesday, March 5  
Ash Wednesday Service

Sunday, March 9  
Taizé/Iona Service  
Family Fun Night

Sunday, March 16  
Tartan Sunday

Sunday, March 23  
Emerging Worship

Wednesday Nights  
Starting March 12  
Lenten Bible Study