

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

March 2018

PASTOR'S **POINT OF VIEW**



Michael P. Rucker
Pastor

Dear Family of Hope,

The day is nearing. The day of resurrection. The day God changed everything. The day God saved creation. The day God rescued us from hopelessness. The day God raised Jesus, his crucified son, from the tomb. The day the angels asked the women who went to the tomb, **"Why do you seek the living among the dead?"** The day the angels announced the good news that resonates still: **"He is not here; for he has been raised, just as he said."**

Hope is God's gift to the world today; will we receive it? Hope for angry voices to be calmed. Hope that unnerved students and teachers are kept safe.

Hope that the ever-widening divisions between us are bridged. Hope that the various ethnic and racial groups in this land are reconciled. What other hopes do you have?

*I know there are days when our hopes feel more like distant, unrealistic, naïve dreams. Through the centuries, Christians have encountered this hopelessness, and yet endured. Our brother Paul encourages us, **"know that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us."***

The times were never more hopeless than on the morning our heart-broken sisters slowly made their way through a cold dawn toward the tomb of Jesus. Little did they suspect that their present darkness would soon be transformed into the brightness of a new day for them and for the world.

The day is nearing. The day of resurrection. Keep the hope, good people. Let us keep on keepin' on!

"Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness..."

Pastor Michael



Worship Schedule for March



NOW IS THE TIME TO WORSHIP!

March 4

As we celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, we will remember that even Jesus had his limits – he could "vent and lose it" with the best of us. See John 2: 13-22.

March 11 (don't forget to change your clocks!!)

Our classic style of worship will focus on faith. Faith saved God's people in the past and will save us still through all of our peaks and valleys. Faith flows freely to us and through us.

March 18

The season of Lent beckons us to spend time in silence and prayerful reflection. On this Sunday a Taize style worship service will allow us to enter that reverent stillness together.

March 25 – Palm Sunday

What was that stirring entrance Jesus and his followers made into Jerusalem? Was it a parade, a spirit-led processional, a victory march, a rebellious incursion into the holy city?

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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.

A poem for Lent:

Beloved Is Where We Begin

If you would enter
into the wilderness,
do not begin
without a blessing.

Do not leave
without hearing
who you are:
Beloved,
named by the One
who has traveled this path
before you.

Do not go
without letting it echo
in your ears,
and if you find
it is hard
to let it into your heart,
do not despair.
That is what
this journey is for.

I cannot promise
this blessing will free you
from danger,
from fear,
from hunger
or thirst,
from the scorching
of sun
or the fall
of night.

But I can tell you
that on this path
there will be help.

I can tell you
that on this way
there will be rest.

I can tell you
that you will know
the strange graces
that come to our aid
only on a road
such as this,
that fly to meet us
bearing comfort
and strength,
that come alongside us
for no other cause
than to lean themselves
toward our ear
and with their
curious insistence
whisper our name:

Beloved
Beloved.
Beloved.

Jan Richardson
Circle of Grace: A Book of
Blessings for the Seasons

The Church Community



MAUNDY THURSDAY

At 7:00 p.m. on the evening of March 29 we will recall the meaningful messages Jesus gives to his disciples on his last night with his closest companions. The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be served.

GOOD FRIDAY

At 7:00 p.m. on the evening of March 30 the gathered community will meet in the dimly lighted sanctuary in front of a wooden cross to worship, honor, and show our grateful love for God's Son... God's sacrifice for us.



RENOVATION UPDATE

We now have the electrical and mechanical building permits for Phase 1 of the renovation which replaces the steam boilers with forced air and ductless furnaces. In the February 20, 2018 Session meeting the vote was unanimous to proceed with Phase 1. In March we will secure the PHLF loan and get final contractor bids so contracts can be signed and the furnace installation will begin.

This phase has the positive effect of reducing costs in gas consumption and maintenance to partially offset the project costs. We will keep you informed of the ongoing process.

PRAISE THE LORD AND LET THE RENOVATION BEGIN!

At its February meeting the session received the report from Tom Ochs that all preliminary work had been completed and all loans, approvals and permits obtained. Should we or should we not proceed? The elders paused (yet again) to think about whether or not we really should move forward with the first phase of the renovation, installation of a new heating and cooling system. After discussion, the vote to push the GO button was unanimous. The session recognizes this is a bold step for a smaller congregation. But the alternative – to do nothing and allow the facility to fall into a state of disrepair – is neither wise or responsible stewardship.

I WANT TO TAKE A MOMENT AND EXTEND A SPECIAL THANKS TO TOM OCHS for his tireless

work in leading us forward over these past few years. Also, thanks to the various teams and sub-committees that helped in the decision-making process. **FINALLY – WAY TO GO PEOPLE!** You were patient, prayerful, thoughtful, thorough, responsible, and attentive during the months and months of discussion and decision-making. Yes, we have a ways to go, but we are moving forward together, and, dare I say, hopeful joy? May God continue to guide us. AMEN

HOSTS/HOSTESSES NEEDED

Are you willing to take a turn hosting Social Hour after worship services? Lorraine is happy to make sure we have social time to visit after services, but some weeks it can be challenging to manage the set up (especially on 1st Sunday Communion weeks.) Please consider signing up to Host; brew the coffee, provide a couple dozen snacks and set up/clean up. Detailed instructions for where to find things and how to work the coffee maker are posted in the lounge kitchen. The sign up sheet is on the table outside kitchen. Thanks.



During the month of February, the FROGS made Valentines for the Deacons' Friends of the Church and their own families. We celebrated Chinese New Year, having the kids use chopsticks while eating dinner and passing out fortune cookies for dessert. Celebrated President's Day with word searches, puzzles, etc.

Mary Ann Hartman visited us on Feb. 27 to teach the FROGS about dental hygiene and provided them with a kit of toothbrush, toothpaste, floss, etc. They all learned a lot and will hopefully continue good dental habits taught by Mary Ann. We only meet 7 times in March because of parent/teacher conferences and holidays. Thank you to everyone for your donations of drinks, and snacks. Especially to Wayne Dean for all the goodies he brought in!

Judy Mysels, Director

Christian Depth Development

It is not too late to join one or both of the Lenten classes led by Pastor Michael.

Sunday morning at 9:45 in the lounge, a group of us are reading a book entitled The Journey to Jerusalem: A story of Jesus' Last Days. The journey makes clear how the effectiveness of Jesus' ministry and the mounting opposition were headed toward a final confrontation.

Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. in the lounge, we are reading a fascinating work entitled Holy Solitude: Lenten Reflections with Saints, Hermits, Prophets and Rebels. What is most interesting is that the class will not only read and discuss Lenten reflections of others, we will put into practice, the best we can, a few spiritual disciplines.

The Ministry of the Session

Session Notes

- * At the February meeting the following officers were elected: Tom Ochs, Treasurer; Flo Raisig, Clerk; and Rhonda Apossos, Nominating Chair for 2018.
- * Session voted their approval to get final bids to move ahead on Phase One of the renovation project.
- * Session approved \$335.00 for an ad on the Edgewood yearly community map.
- * Session voted to pursue the idea of providing space for a monthly grieving support group led by Virginia Mayo.
- * The dates for this summer's community dinners are: June 6, July 11, August 1, and September 5, 2018.
- * The active membership of our church is now 71.
- * Baptism of Veronica Jo Simon, daughter of Elizabeth Raisig and Scott Simon, was approved for May 20, 2018.
- * Session approved General Assembly Annual Report.
- * In the next few weeks, Session members will attend a retreat to discuss and begin acting on, the Fall Congregational Conversations.

GRIEVING TOGETHER IS GROWING TOGETHER

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood will host a grief support group for those grieving the loss of a loved one. The monthly group will be open to members of the congregation as well as the public. **It will be led by Chaplain Virginia Mayo, M.S. Ed. Counseling, M.A. Theology, of Anova Hospice and Palliative Care.** Most of you already know Virginia from her previous preaching at FPCE.

The intent of the group will be partly educational about the grief process and mostly supportive in working through feelings of loss. The work of grief is hard and cannot be hurried, but it can be reassuring to feel connected with a group. Spring is a wonderful time to open oneself to a new experience. Hope is what softens our feelings and gives us the belief that life can be worth living again.

Give this some thought and if interested, please let Pastor Michael know or directly contact Chaplain Virginia at 412-247-5628. We are looking to begin early spring; specific times and dates to be determined. "Grieving together is growing together".

MOMENT FOR STEWARDSHIP

Christian Moralistic Therapeutic Deism

Moralistic Therapeutic Deism (MTD) is a term coined by Christian Smith and Melinda Denton. MTD first appeared in their book *"Soul Searching: The Religious and Spiritual Lives of American Teenagers"* (2005). In my opinion, MTD is not limited to teenagers and young adults but may be applicable to all generations. MTD may be summarized as follows:

A god watches over human life on earth, but he is far away.

God wants us to be good people.

The main goal in life is to be happy and feel good about oneself.

Since this god is far away, he is not particularly involved in our lives. At the same time, MTDeists do not want him to be involved in their lives either. God only participates when there is a major problem.

All good people go to heaven.

Smith and Denton state that Christianity in the USA is only tenuously Christian in its true form and has morphed into Christian MTD. In her 2010 book, *"Almost Christian: What the Faith of Our Teenagers is Telling the American Church,"* Kenda Creasy Dean writes "The problem does not seem to be that churches are teaching young people badly, but that we are doing an exceedingly good job of teaching youth what we really believe, namely, that Christianity is not a big deal, that God requires little, and the church is a helpful social institution filled with nice people... If churches practice MTD in the name of Christianity, then getting teenagers to church more often is not the solution (conceivably it could make things worse). A more faithful church is the solution..."

What does this have to do with stewardship? Actually, quite a bit. In contrast to MTDists, we Christians believe in a living God who came to us in human form 2000 years ago. He communed with us, lived for us, died for us, and rose for us. He sent the Holy Spirit and continues to pray for us. The more we realize His presence in our midst, the more we become mindful of how we spend our time, resources, and money. Giving and tithing become a natural part of our relationship with God.

Do you know of a MTDist who can benefit from knowing the Lord? Perhaps you can help that person.

Stewardship is a Spiritual Matter and Matter of Our Life Priorities,

Paul Otori, Chair, Stewardship



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. Lily ___ Tulip ___ Daffodil ___ Hyacinth ___

The wording for the bulletin is:

___ In honor of

___ In memory of

Order placed by _____

Please check: I would like to take the plant.

I would like it to be planted in the Prayer Garden

The cost of each plant is \$8.00 Please attach your check (payable to the First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood) to this order form and return it to the Church Office. Deadline is March 25, 2018.



March



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
				3:45 FROGS	8:00 AA	8:30 AA
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9:30 Choir Reh. 9:45 Adult Class 11:00 Worship 12:15 Fellowship	6:30 PoundsClass 7:00 Scouts (SC)	10:00 Book Club 3:45 FROGS 7:00 AA	7:00 Lenten Study	NO FROGS	8:00 AA	8:30 AA
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
9:30 Choir Reh. 9:45 Adult Class 11:00 Worship 12:15 Fellowship	6:30 PoundsClass 7:00 Scouts (SC)	10:00 Book Club 3:45 FROGS 7:00 Session 7:00 AA	7:00 Lenten Study	3:45 FROGS	8:00 AA	8:30 AA
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
9:30 Choir Reh. 9:45 Adult Class 11:00 Worship 12:15 Fellowship	6:30 PoundsClass 7:00 Scouts (SC)	10:00 Book Club 3:45 FROGS 7:00 AA	7:00 Lenten Study	3:45 FROGS	8:00 AA	8:30 AA
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
PALM SUNDAY 9:30 Choir Reh. 9:45 Adult Class 11:00 Worship 12:15 Fellowship	6:30 PoundsClass 7:00 Scouts (SC)	10:00 Book Club 3:45 FROGS 7:00 AA		MAUNDY THURSDAY NO FROGS 7:00 Service (S)	GOOD FRIDAY 7:00 Service (L) 8:00 AA	8:30 AA



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