

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

May 2019

PASTOR'S **POINT OF VIEW**



Michael P. Rucker
Pastor

YOU DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

“And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Those are the most reassuring words the Risen Jesus ever spoke. Jesus will make a difference in our lives simply by being there - simply by showing up. Always. An African proverb says it well - Bidden or unbidden, God is present.

Brothers and sisters, you do make a difference wherever you go by just by being there. And yes, I am being serious. Sometimes we put too much pressure on ourselves, believing we have to make a big impact, or say just the right word, or solve a problem, or create a more peaceful world. Those things might happen but most of the time simply being there, as Christ's emissary, is enough. Just ask someone who is grieving deeply or hurting badly. What I have learned from them is that people do the most good for them by being present.

No words needed. Sometimes words get in the way. When the friends of the broken, heart-shattered, soul-battered sufferer named Job paid a visit, “They sat with him on the ground for seven days and seven nights, and no one spoke a word...”

Near the end of every gospel, there is a story or two about the Risen Jesus appearing to his disciples. He performs no spectacular miracles, no astounding healings. He is simply there. With them. Living their lives with them. Hiking with them, breaking bread, sharing a fish breakfast.

I believe that as we become more aware of how the Risen Jesus is with us, not doing anything spectacular, just living through our day with us, then the Risen Christ will live through us. We will make a difference.

Our lives are the only gospel some people will ever read. You cannot go through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference – and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make. Be there for people – with a smile, a gentle spirit, a courageous presence... living proof that Jesus is risen in you and that the God who is, who was, and who is to come is present to them.

Happy Easter!

Pastor Michael

WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR MAY

May 5

The post-resurrection stories of Jesus appearing to his disciples always challenge our imaginations, they are incredulous! Yet every single time Jesus shows up, he draws us a bit more closely to our God. In John 21, Jesus gives some advice on fishing and delivers his final command. As the disciples shared a seashore breakfast with Jesus, we will share the Lord's Supper with Jesus, the Risen Christ.

May 12

“The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.” When Jesus claimed his role as the good shepherd, some people wanted to kill him. Do you remember when Jesus said that his words are like a two-edged sword? Some people are soothed by his promises, others are enraged. See John 10: 22-30, then come to worship, sing, pray, and fellowship together as one of God's flocks.

(cont'd. p. 2)

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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.

Heather and I have a good friend from the church I served in Arlington, Virginia. Her name is Barbara Katz. Barbara loves poetry and share this with us. We pass it on to you.

EASTER EXULTANT

Shake out your qualms.
Shake up your dreams.
Deepen your roots.
Extend your branches.
Trust deep water
and head for the open,
even if your vision
shipwrecks you.
Quit your addiction
to sneer and complain.
Open a lookout.
Dance on a brink.
Run with your wildfire.
You are closer to glory
leaping an abyss
than upholstering a rut.
Not dawdling.
Not doubting.
Intrepid all the way
Walk toward clarity.
At every crossroad
Be prepared
to bump into wonder.
Only love prevails.
En route to disaster
insist on canticles.
Lift your ineffable
out of the mundane.
Nothing perishes;
nothing survives;
everything transforms!
Honeymoon with Big Joy!

by James Broughton

Worship Schedule for May (cont'd.)

May 19

On this Sunday of emerging worship, we will be reminded that for disciples of Jesus, down is up, servants are honored, the last will be first. Come and celebrate with us in God's upside-down kingdom come.

May 26

On this Memorial Day weekend, a guest preacher will lead us in worship. (Michael and Heather are attending a retreat together.) Following worship, we will cross Swissvale Avenue and gather at the Memorial Plaque to remember the ultimate sacrifice paid by far too many of our loved ones as they defended and protected us.

Our Church Community



Building Renovation Fund Update

2019 is the last year of the Building Renovation Fund official collection period, although contributions will be gratefully accepted as long as we continue to pay on the PHLF loan. At this time a summary of the fund's collections are:

Donations	\$69,458.33
Bequests	\$26,000.00
Fundraising	\$ 564.00
TOTAL	\$96,022.33

There remains an outstanding balance of \$17,267.67 for open pledges, but a surprising number of donations have been received where no pledge was made and donations that have exceeded the pledged amount. Thank you to everyone that has participated.

The total HVAC project cost was \$233,485.12. We are making payments on the \$200,000.00 Pittsburgh History and Landmark Foundation loan from the Building Renovation Fund, that has current balance of \$57,427.80. The FPCE General Fund is charged \$1,000/month to support payments.

As of March 31, 2019 General Fund income from all sources is \$57,765.18 (\$60,940.56) and expenses are \$60,853.15 (\$61,978.42). The number in parenthesis is the corresponding budget. Donations are down \$3,625.50 from budget for the first quarter and this continues to be financially our biggest concern. In May roof repairs will be started totaling \$24,000, but a \$10,000 PHLF grant obtained by Tim McKee will help defray the cost

Tom Ochs

Living the Peace of Christ is the title of a spiritual retreat To be led by Rev. Janet Hellner-Burriss of the Christian Church in Wilkinsburg. The retreat will be held at the Martina Spiritual Renewal Center in West View. There are 2 options to choose from:

1. Sat., May 18, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (cost \$60) or
2. Friday evening (May 17) supper, prayer and overnight & Saturday retreat.

Registration deadline is **MAY 6**. See Pastor Michael for details.

What is Per Capita?

Per Capita is the tie that binds us to all the churches in PCUSA. It is the primary source of funding for the Office of General Assembly. Each church in the PCUSA is assessed by the number of members. The Per Capita for each FPCE member for 2019 is \$34. Our church has already paid the amount upfront to the General Assembly. This is much like Grace - we are forgiven before asking. All of us are encouraged to respond by submitting the amount in the offering plate or mailing it to the church office. The funds are used in a variety of PCUSA functions such as the following:

- Developing relationships with other Christian denominations
- General Assembly gatherings
- Elder and Deacon training
- Publishing and distributing the Book of Order and the Book of Confessions

Per Capita is about relationships - with each other and with God.

Blessings,
Paul Ochori, Stewardship



FROGS will be ending for this session on May 30. During those last days, we hope to make a few trips down to Koenig Field to play, but also have time to make Mother's Day crafts. We also plan on a pizza/ice cream party on our last day!

We have had a very busy year, with a great group of kids! Our FROGS always seem to have a lot of energy, don't always want to do their homework, etc., but at the end of the day, when hugs are exchanged and they walk out the door with their parents/guardians, we feel a huge sense of accomplishment!

Many thanks again to our fantastic volunteers: Flo Raisig, Dan Mielke, Mary Ross, Ruth Miller, Rick Masten, Ed Masten, Sallie Monk, Mary Ann Hartman, Pastor Michael. Special treats from Rick Masten (Easter Egg

Hunt), Mary Ann Hartman/Sallie Monk treating them with cupcakes made into Easter baskets, homemade treats from Ruth Miller, goodie bags from Dan Mielke, games and craft projects from Mary Ross, special monthly books, crafts, educational packets from Flo Raisig; special programs presented by Emily Pocratsky/PACE, *plus any others I might have forgotten*

Judy Mysels, Director



Thanks to Ruth Miller, Mary Ann Hartman,
And Diane Kemmerer for decorating
our sanctuary so beautifully on Easter

COMMUNITY MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE

The First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood will assist in leading our community in recognizing the men and women who have died defending and protecting our liberty and lives. Immediately after worship, we will cross East Swissvale Avenue and gather beneath the flag with the Boy Scouts and people from the surrounding communities for a brief, but moving memorial service of remembrance.

“Do not be daunted by the
enormity of the world’s grief.

Do justly, now.

Walk humbly, now.

You are not obligated
to complete the work,
but neither are you free
to abandon it.”

The Talmud

The Tuesday morning book group has just started reading Holy Envy by Barbara Brown Taylor, a witty, accessible book about her experience of leaving the church she had pastored to become a professor teaching World Religions.

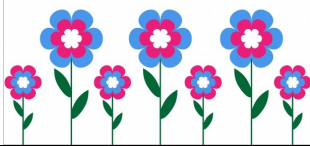
(from the flyleaf) “As soon as she recovered from the shock of meeting God in so many different hats, she fell for every religion she taught. When she taught Judaism, she wanted to be a rabbi. When she taught Buddhism, she wanted to be a monk....This is not a primer on religions; instead, she explores what is opened and what is revealed when we accept the invitation to investigate all the wonder before us.”

Come join her and the Tuesday 10 a.m. book group on the journey! Or read it on your own!

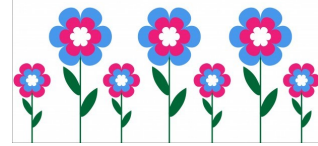
A large, stylized yellow sun with rays, positioned behind the text.

*He is not here;
he has
Risen!*

Luke 24:6



MAY



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
				3:45 FROGS	8:00 AA	8:30 AA
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9:30 Choir Reh. 9:45 Adult Class 11:00 Worship 12:15 Fellowship Deacon Meeting	7:00 Scouts	10:00 Book Club 3:45 FROGS 7:00 Session Mtg. 7:00 AA		3:45 FROGS	8:00 AA	8:30 AA
MOTHER'S DAY 12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9:30 Choir Reh. 9:45 Adult Class 11:00 Worship 12:15 Muffins for Moms	7:00 Scouts	10:00 Book Club 3:45 FROGS 7:00AA		3:45 FROGS	8:00 AA	8:30 AA
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9:30 Choir Reh. 9:45 Adult Class 11:00 Worship 12:15 Fellowship/ Planning Mtg.	7:00 Scouts	10:00 Book Club 3:45 FROGS 7:00 AA		3:45 FROGS	8:00 AA	8:30 AA
26	27	28	29	30	31	
9:30 Choir Reh. 9:45 Adult Class 11:00 Worship 12:15 Memorial Day Obsv.	MEMORIAL DAY OFFICE CLOSED 7:00 Scouts	10:00 Book Club 3:45 FROGS 7:00 AA		3:45 FROGS (last one)	8:00 AA	



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**BLANKETS FOR MOM
SUNDAY, MAY 12**

Honor your mom by giving the gift of love and hope in her honor or memory. Church World Service (CWS) and FPCE's Mission Ministry Team are sponsoring "Blanket Sunday" on May 12. Your donation of \$5 per blanket will help provide warmth and the knowledge that someone cares to refugees, victims of natural disasters, and many others across the world. Fill out a bulletin insert or form below through May 5 or call the Church Office, 412-241-4613.

Your Name _____

In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____



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