



## PASTOR'S POINT OF VIEW



Michael P. Rucker  
Pastor

Grace and peace to all,

Thanksgiving. That is the spiritual theme of the month of November. The harvest is in. The warm light of the sun has once again done its life-giving work with us and will now focus its nurturing rays on other nations and people. Blessed and loved people – that is who we are. Thanks be to God.

Yet, two days ago the smoldering hatred of anti-Semitism emerged as a gunman entering a synagogue and heedlessly murdering people because of their faith: people he did not know; victims' families who will never forget him.

The morning after the shooting at the Tree of Life synagogue in Squirrel Hill, we gathered for our 11:00 a.m. worship. A pall of sadness lay upon my spirit as the service began. I am sure I was not alone. Yet, thanks be to the Spirit of God who gives us a peace that passes all understanding, the worship service comforted and encouraged all participants – including me.

For me, the shooting amplified the dark and dangerous days we are living in. Americans are deeply divided and mistrustful of one another. We can't even talk with each other anymore. Even in church. Anxiety prevails. Yet we give this month we will give thanks.

A good friend of the church, a lovely woman named Nia, reached out to me the evening of the shooting. She said that she was praying for us. Then, Nia shared a biblical reflection with me from the Book of the Prophet Habakkuk, chapter 3, verses 17-19.

**Though the fig tree does not blossom,  
And no fruit is on the vines;  
Though the produce of the olive fails  
And the fields yield no food;  
Though the flock is cut off from the fold  
And there is no herd in the stalls,  
Yet I will rejoice in the Lord;  
I will exult in the God of my salvation.  
God, the Lord, is my strength;  
He makes my feet like the feet of the deer,  
And makes me tread upon the heights.**

Powerful words, aren't they? Even in dark times, we give thanks. Even when the nation is riven with anger, we give thanks. Even the dark mourning cloaks our city and nation with its sadness, we give thanks. Have a blessed Thanksgiving Day everyone.

*Pastor Michael*

### Worship Schedule for November

#### **November 4 (Daylight Savings Time ends!!!)**

Our lives are lived in the long shadows of the faithful who have received their eternal reward. On this All Saints' Sunday, we will commune with them and one another as we celebrate the Lord's Supper.

All Saints' Sunday challenges us to prayerfully consider our stewardship of the Christian faith, ministry, mission.

#### **November 11**

This is a significant Sunday in the life of our nation and the life of this congregation. On November 11, 1918 the horror of World War I came to an end. That day is known as Armistice Day. Here in our sanctuary, at 11:00 a.m. we will hear the tolling of 11 bells to commemorate that day. November 1918 also marks the centennial celebration of the dedication of the sanctuary. The sanctuary will be rededicated during the morning worship service. (see related articles in this newsletter.)

*(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.

### Worship Schedule for November (cont'd.)

#### November 18

On this Emerging Worship Sunday, the Praise Ensemble will lift our hearts and voice as they lead us in praise and thanksgiving.

#### November 25

The year is over. The church calendar year, that is. This is Christ the King Sunday a worship service honoring and praising the Risen Son of God who referred to himself as the Son of Man. Following worship, the sanctuary will be prepared for Advent as we “Hang the Greens” in the sanctuary and church.

#### December 2

As we enter the season of Advent, a service inspired by the worshiping communities of Taize and Iona will lead us to the Lord’s Table for the celebration of Holy Communion. During the service, we will set aside time for “Blue Christmas”, when we support our grieving brothers and sisters who will be entering this season of joy with memories of loved ones no longer with us.

### IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

#### A statement from Pittsburgh Presbytery

Today we weep with our Jewish siblings in faith whose lives, families, and community have been shredded by a fusillade of bullets emanating from venomous bigotry. To the Tree of Life congregation and all our beloved friends in the Pittsburgh Jewish community, we extend our deepest love and solidarity, with prayers for comfort and justice. We honor brave law enforcement officers and first responders who stepped into harm’s way to save others. We reject and denounce as evil every word and action that vilifies any faith community, for any reason. We call upon all members of our congregations, together with all others of good will, to repair the breach that sunders our community. Confessing together that the Lord is One, we commit ourselves to love the Lord with all our heart and strength by loving our neighbors, without exception.

### From the Nominating Committee

Your Church needs you. If you have any interest in serving as a future deacon or elder, please let us know. Nomination inserts will be included in the bulletin.

# OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY



## The FPCE Year of Mission with Wilkinsburg Community Ministry

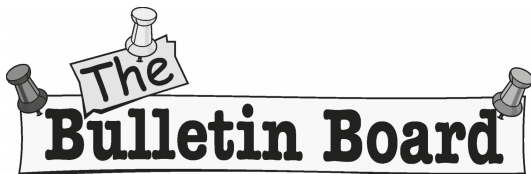
Actively participating with the Wilkinsburg Community Ministry is one of FPCE's mission goals for 2018.

- \*Over the summer, teams of people from our congregation assisted in the WCM summer lunch program.
- \*In late August, a group of 30 people prepared back packs for students returning to school.
- \*In October, industrious and creative members learned the art of blanket making from Lorraine Douthett. Five blankets were donated to the Blanket Program with the hope of completing five more.
- \*They could also use hats, scarves or gloves. Contact the church office if you would like to donate. We thank you for your help with this local ministry.
- \*One more project remains:

### **SEEKING COATS FOR THE WINTER**

November, we are asking for donations of new or gently used coats for all ages, infants to adults.

Details to be announced.



- ◆ Had a great time participating in the 2017 Crop Walk. Judy Mysels walked with Tyler, Stephanie, Sophia and Lilly McGuigan. Monies raised so far. Still accepting donations by sending into church office or via on-line giving.
- ◆ Congratulations to John and Dawn Foster on their wedding, October 13.
- ◆ Thanks to all who participated in the WCM blanket making, Saturday, October 20.
- ◆ Many thanks to all who attended Leigh Sciulli's celebration, Sunday, October 21. It was a very intimate gathering to celebrate a grand lady who touched so many Edgewood lives.

## Decluttering/Downsizing Support Group

The group will meet on Tuesday, Nov. 27 from 5 to 6PM in the lounge.

## *\*Reminder\**

### Year 2 Pledges Due for Building Renovation Fund

The second year of the pledge drive for the Building Renovation Fund is coming to an end, and everyone participating is encouraged to keep their pledge current. The total Fund individual pledges are \$78,810.00, covering three years. To date, the amount pledged for 2017 and 2018 is \$60,860.00 and the total received is \$50,158.33. Pledges for 2019 total \$17,950.00. Completing this fund drive will help reduce the loan for the HVAC renovation.

**F.R.O.G.S.**  
**AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM**  
**FRIENDS, READING, & OTHER GREAT STUFF**



November is a short month for FROGS because of school days off and holidays, but we are still "hopping".

We learned about Columbus and did Halloween/fall crafts/activities. On Oct. 16, we took a field trip to the Edgewood Fire Department so they could learn about fire safety. Officer Fred Livingston of the Edgewood Police presented a Halloween safety program on Oct. 30.

Also many thanks to the wonderful volunteers who help make this program so successful, especially during homework time.

Huge thanks for the donations of snacks and drinks from the wonderful FPCE family, especially Wayne Dean!  
**Drinks are still needed:** Capri Sun, juice, etc.

*Judy Mysels, Director*

### Per Capita 2018

Per capita is more than a "head-tax." The Presbyterian way is connectional. Each congregation is a member of a presbytery, each presbytery is a member of a synod, and all synods combined for the General Assemble. Each one of these organizational layers supports one another and provides assistance in ministry and mission for one another. The per capita represents the administrative expense required to make this connectional system function. The per capita for 2019 is the same as 2018. The Session of FPCE requests that each member pay the capita, **PER CAPITA 2018: \$33.05**

## STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY IS ON NOVEMBER 4

### *Stewardship is a Spiritual Matter and a Matter of our Life Priorities*

In our daily activities, prayer and Bible study comprise the foundation of our Christian lives. These practices result in meaning worship and the fruits of worship are service and stewardship. Does being a Christian bring you joy? If so, let us be mindful of what we reap and give accordingly. God loves a cheerful giver. (2 Cor 9:7)

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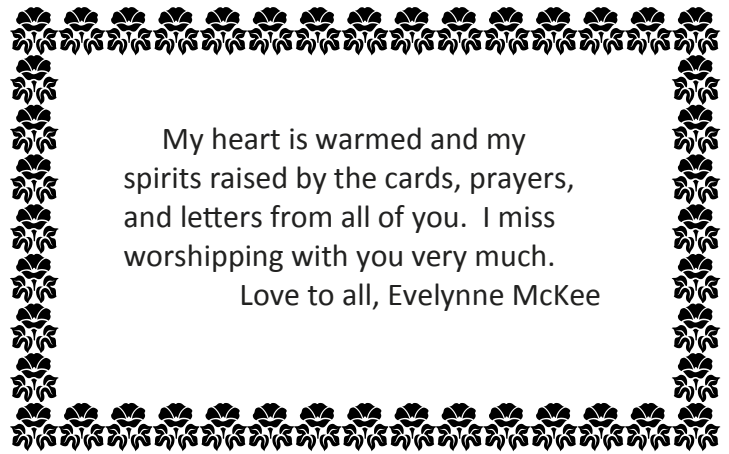
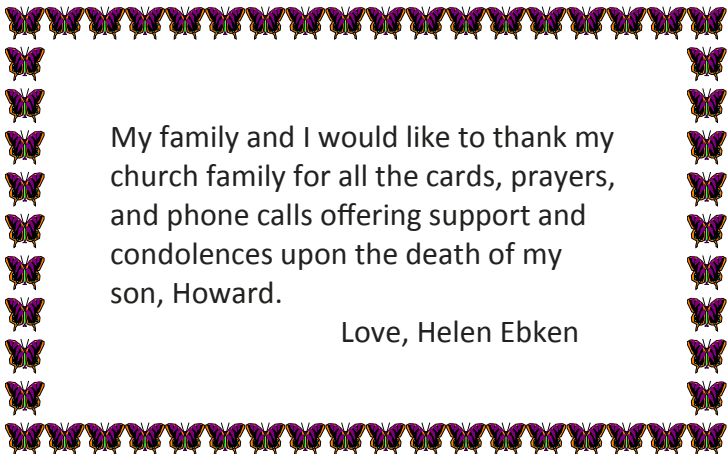
### STEWARDSHIP MEDITATION

Fall is the time when many organizations have fund drives for donations. The other week, I was listening to a fund drive by our local Public Radio station. The public radio personality was having a conversation with a businessman. "I want you to give me 10 cases of hot dogs and in return, I will pay for one case." The businessman was incredulous. "You are out of your mind! That is not how we run our business." The public radio personality added, "But that is how it is with public radio – about one in ten give. The other nine get a free ride." The businessman offered a suggestion, "You guys at public radio are too quiet. You have to talk louder! Shout!"

How about the practice of our Christian faith? There are some similarities. While we meet and greet many at Christmas, Easter, Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals, Church Concerts, Communal Meals, etc., only about 10% of the community attend worship and support the church regularly. Somehow, we have been able to sustain our operation with this model – although times are getting tough. A small number of us supports our faith. Perhaps the intriguing question is – why do those who give do so? In particular, why do some choose to tithe or give 10% of their income to the church? There is no simple answer to this question. However, in my experience, I found some answers by listening to others. One faithful member once told me, "We have a small family and our budget is tight. Each month, I not sure if we will be able to make ends meet. Yet, as I became more involved in church and faith, I realized that I am not alone. There are others who are less fortunate. Through faith, God helps us and supports us. All we need to do is to trust Him. First, I thought I could not tithe. Then I started to apportion a tenth first and live off the rest. Almost like magic, it worked; and I feel better. I feel closer to God."

I am impressed and admire those who have such faith. They give out of their love of God and others and their giving creates a conduit that is everlasting. They treasure this connection. As our Pastor says, God cares less about how much we make; The Lord cares more about how much we give. Stewardship is examining what we have and carefully redistributing our wealth. So, how shall we grow in Stewardship? Do we need to talk louder? Shout? I think differently. What we need to do is to listen. Listen to others. Listen to God and Jesus. Listen to the Spirit. The Lord does not disappoint. Stewardship is a Spiritual Matter and a Matter of our Life Priorities.

Paul Ohori  
Chair, Stewardship



**November 11, 2018  
Centennial Celebration**

*On Sunday, 11/11/18, a special interdenominational worship service will celebrated to Rededicate the Sanctuary on its Centennial and to Commemorate the Centennial of the Armistice of World War 1. Participants include former long term mayor of Edgewood, Ruth Pickering; Wayne Dean and the Boy Scout Troop 23. Here are the details:*

**BELLS OF PEACE**

On November 11, 2018 at 11:00AM, Americans across the Nation will toll bells in remembrance of those who served and sacrificed in the War that changed the World. FPCE will toll the church bells as we participate in the solemn, historic occasion

**ARMISTICE DAY**

**A Word from President Woodrow Wilson**

**ADDRESS TO FELLOW-COUNTRYMEN**

*The White House, November 11, 1919.*

*A year ago today our enemies laid down their arms in accordance with an armistice which rendered them impotent to renew hostilities, and gave to the world an assured opportunity to reconstruct its shattered order and to work out in peace a new and juster set of international relations. The soldiers and people of the European Allies had fought and endured for more than four years to uphold the barrier of civilization against the aggressions of armed force. We ourselves had been in the conflict something more than a year and a half.*

*With splendid forgetfulness of mere personal concerns, we remodeled our industries, concentrated our financial resources, increased our agricultural output, and assembled a great army, so that at the last our power was a decisive factor in the victory. We were able to bring the vast resources, material and moral, of a great and free people to the assistance of our associates in Europe who had suffered and sacrificed without limit in the cause for which we fought.*

*Out of this victory there arose new possibilities of political freedom and economic concert. The war showed us the strength of great nations acting together for high purposes, and the victory of arms foretells the enduring conquests which can be made in peace when nations act justly and in furtherance of the common interests of men.*

*To us in America the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service, and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of nations.*

**THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH:**

**A SANCTUARY OF PEACE, PRAISE, AND WORSHIP FOR 100 YEARS**

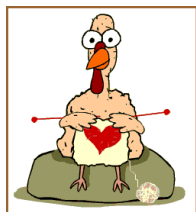
In November 1918, the congregation of the First Presbyterian Church celebrated the completion of the construction of our sanctuary and installation of a pipe organ. "Built at a cost of \$143,000 with a \$16,000 pipe organ" the congregation dedicated the sanctuary for the glory of God.

On Sunday, November 11, we will rededicate this sanctuary to glory of the God who is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Our good friend, Ruth Pickering, will be with us to help us remember and celebrate the ministry and mission our congregation to the Edgewood and surrounding communities. A special service of re-dedication will raise our spirits and inspire on-going ministry and mission in the name and spirit of Jesus Christ.

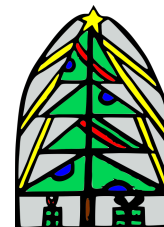
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## A TIME FOR FELLOWSHIP (Nov. 11)

A catered luncheon will immediately follow the worship service. We will be raffling off a flower arrangement from Hepatica and enjoying Almond tort for desert. A donation of \$10 for the meal will be appreciated. Please invite your friends and neighbors. PLEASE RSVP TO JUDY MYSELS AT (412)241-4613 OR [OFFICE@FPCEDGEWOOD.ORG](mailto:OFFICE@FPCEDGEWOOD.ORG) We hope you can join us!



# Nov. - Dec. Dates to Remember



### Sunday Mornings

9:30 Choir Rehearsal  
9:45 Adult Class  
11:00 Morning Worship

### Tuesday Mornings

10:00 Book Club

### 4th Monday:

7:00PM Joy Circle (church lounge)

### November

4: **Daylight Savings Time Ends!!!**

4: All Saints' Recognition/Communion Sunday

11: Manger Tree kick-off, Anniversary Celebration and Luncheon

25: Hanging of the Greens service

Advent, our journey to Christmas, begins in just a few weeks! We'll begin our visible preparations with the Hanging of the Greens after church. We'll meet in the Lounge for fellowship; then, we'll begin decorating. For those who have never participated, we put up the Christmas tree, decorate the sanctuary, lounge, entrance ways, etc. Join us for this time of celebration and anticipation.

### December Events

Saturday, Dec. 1: ESO Holiday Concert, 7:30PM

Sunday, Dec. 2: First Sunday of Advent, a Taize style worship including Holy Communion.

Saturday, Dec. 8: PW Christmas Party in the Lounge, 1-4PM

Sunday, Dec.9: **BRING A FRIEND TO CHURCH SUNDAY**

In an effort to deck the halls and fill the sanctuary, we are asking that members bring a friend to Church on the Second of Advent. After worship, we will sing Christmas Carols and enjoy hot cocoa and Christmas cookies. Hope to see you and a Friend!

Sunday, Dec. 9 or 16: Congregational Meeting (election of officers, receive budget)

Dec. 16: The North Hills Singers directed by our Minister of Music, Shaun Cloonan, will enliven our worship when they share their gift of music with us. Sunday, Dec. 23: Our annual Service of Lessons and Carols will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m.

**Monday, Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Worship at 7:00PM**

Keep up on our social media platforms:



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



Facebook: [facebook.com/fpcedgewood](https://www.facebook.com/fpcedgewood)



Twitter: [@fpcedgewood](https://twitter.com/fpcedgewood)

# NOVEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
				3:45 FROGS	8:00 AA's	8:30 AA's
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9:30 Choir Reh. 10:00 Deacon Mtg./Basket Ass. 11:00 Worship  12:15 Fellowship Ann. Comm. Mtg	6:30 Scouts	10:00 Book Club  3:45 FROGS 7:00 AA's		NO FROGS	8:00 AA's	8:30 AA's
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
9:30 Choir Reh.  11:00 Worship  12:15 Anniver- sary Luncheon (GP)	6:30 Scouts	10:00 Book Club  3:45 FROGS 7:00 Session 7:00 AA's		3:45 FROGS	8:00 AA's	8:30 AA's
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
9:30 Choir Reh.  11:00 Worship  12:15 Fellowship Nom. Comm. Mtg	9:00 Shadyside Academy bring donations  6:30 Scouts	10:00 Book Club  3:45 FROGS 7:00 AA's		THANKSGIVING DAY  OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE CLOSED  8:00 AA's	8:30 AA's
25	26	27	28	29	30	
9:30 Choir Reh.  11:00 Worship  12:15 Fellowship Hanging of the Greens	6:30 Scouts 7:00 Joy Circle	10:00 Book Club  3:45 FROGS 7:00 ESO reh. 7:00 AA's		3:45 FROGS	8:00 AA's	

## **Daylight Saving Time Ends November 4**

Be sure to adjust your clocks to arrive at church on time!

