



POINT OF VIEW



Michael P. Rucker
Pastor

Happy autumn brothers and sisters,

“What does God want me to do? What does God expect of me? What is God’s will for me?” Have you ever asked yourself those questions?

I began to take faith seriously when I was a junior in high school. By that time, those three questions had taken up permanent residence in my mind. I was very confused about life – my life in particular. My first girlfriend had broken up with me, and I was feeling broken. I still wanted to date – but whom? I had been demoted to the third string on the football team. Instead of a being the star wide receiver, I was battered by the first string players at practice three days a week. My friends were looking at Ohio State University as their first choice in college. After one visit, I was overwhelmed by its size: I knew OSU was not for me. So I wanted to know - *“What does God want me to do?”*

What does God expect of me? What is God’s will for me?” Have you ever asked yourself those questions? Do you still? I do.

The good news is – I have found the answer. I could not hear this answer back in high school. I was too caught up in the drama of being an adolescent. I was looking for specific answers to particular questions. The answer I have found is more general; it does not provide an answer to particular questions but helps me with all of them. What is God’s will for us?

“Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. Give thanks in all circumstances.

For this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

I Thessalonians 5: 16-18

Do you feel better? Does this advice help you? I want to assure you that following these three directions will lead you to an ever-present and peaceful place within.

Rejoice always. I thought I needed a reason to rejoice before I could indulge in a few minutes of celebration. Not true. My eyes have been opened. Reasons to rejoice surround me: from the morning sun and bird-calls, to evening thunderstorms and slanting showers of rain; from the assured and reassuring presence of my family, this church community, and friends to the promise of new relationships in the future;

Worship Schedule for October

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8: a classical service of worship

Whose church is this anyway? Who owns our community, for that matter? Do we know? If we do know the owner, what does that mean to us? Penetrating questions that Jesus answers with an equally penetrating parable. See Matthew 21: 28-43.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15: a worship service in our emerging style of praise

One day a man was riding a camel down the road. He saw something. The church has never been the same. Any guesses who that man might be? Two thousand years later – do we still see what he saw and hear what he heard? See Acts 9: 3-19. The Praise Ensemble will invite the Lord to “Open the Eyes of My Heart” and more.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22: a classical service of worship

Take a quick look at Isaiah 2: 2-4 and Galatians 3: 23-29. Can God change his mind? Has God changed his mind? The answer is “yes.” At least that is the way it looks from our humble, human point of view. But what if we don’t like the change? Those are the kinds of questions have always been tough ones for the church to answer. (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.

Pastor's Point of View (cont'd.)

from my next breath and heartbeat, to the ever-present nearness of God no matter where I am or what I am doing. All are reasons to rejoice. I take at least a minute or two nearly every hour to do just that. And the joy is real.

Pray without ceasing. God speaks to you and is saying: *"I am perpetually with you, taking care of you. That is the most important fact of your existence...You need not fear the future, for I am already there... Each day is a glorious gift, but so few people know how to live within the confines of today...their energy for abundant living spills over the timeline into tomorrow's worries or past regrets...I am training you how to keep your focus on My Presence in the present."* (pg. 285 of **Jesus Calls** by Sarah Young.) Praying without ceasing is a discipline: it takes intentional effort and practice. Thinking back on my high school days, I remember a wise old woman of faith (I thought she was doddering and naïve) would see into my turmoil, simply smile, and say "Michael, just stop worrying. You are thinking too much. God loves you. Pray...pray...pray." Of course, no 16 year old boy is able to hear those wise words. But, finally, this 64 year old man can. Your age does not matter – the advice works for every age.

Give thanks in all circumstances. I know. Talk about simplistic naïveté! All of us can find many reasons to wallow in anger, bitterness, resentment, self-pity, depression, and impatience. I have indulged in all of these emotions. Not fun. And, more importantly, not helpful. A big waste of time and energy. I am learning to give thanks for the challenges that cause me to pray harder, for the hurts that lead me into the depths of God's comfort, for the losses that open my eyes to the healing and loving presence of a God who never leaves me, for the pain that gives voice to my pleading, plaintive prayers for deliverance. Those same pleading, plaintive prayers poured forth from the lips of Jesus. Every circumstance is an opportunity for me to draw closer to God. God is there, waiting for me, waiting for you – every single time. For that I am thankful.

What is God's will for you?

"Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. Give thanks in all circumstances.

For this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

I Thessalonians 5: 16-18

God bless you!

Worship Schedule for October (cont'd.)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29: Reformation Sunday

It has not made the headlines in the Post-Gazette or New York Times or any other major news outlet – but the year of our Lord, 2017, is the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. In order to be the church God called it to be, sometimes the church has to be broken. The breaking is worth it. Because we can get back to basics – do you know what those basics are? Read Matthew 20: 20-28. The service will open with the rousing hymn by a central figure in the Reformation - Martin Luther.

A PET BLESSING SERVICE



ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7, we will have our first annual Blessing of Pets Service on the side lawn. The service will open with a brief liturgy and prayer. Pastor Michael will then bless the pets individually. Coffee and snacks will be served. Please invite your friends, families, and neighbors to this blessing ceremony. Thanks to Rhonda Apossos and John Foster for helping with this event.

A HEALING SERVICE

Immediately following 11:00 a.m. worship on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month, Pastor Michael will conduct a brief service for healing that will include an anointing with oil.

Prayers for physical, emotional, and mental healing for yourself and others as well as prayers for healing in relationships will be offered.



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

- * Many thanks to Mary Ross for cleaning the sanctuary for our return to 11AM worship.
- * Welcome/Congratulations to Lily Joy, daughter of Stephanie and Tyler McGuigan, sister: Sophia, grandmother: Kathi, Aunt: Erin, Uncle: Brian, born 3:36AM on Sept. 16, 7 lbs. 15 oz., 19-1/2 in. long. Congratulations to all!
- * Congratulations to Kathy and George Horner on the arrival of their daughter, Allie. Allie will be baptized here at FPCE on Sunday, October 29.

Pastor Michael offers this invitation:

FAITH AND SCIENCE Two Sides of the Same Coin

ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18 (9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.) Pittsburgh Theological Seminary will hold the first in a series of lectures entitled "Science! Conversations and Community" on the seminary campus with James Downey, Vice President for Planning and Institutional Effectiveness. The first lecture will focus on:

THE WONDER OF SCIENCE!

Have you ever wondered about science and how it relates to faith? What do things like quantum mechanics, gravity waves, toilet paper, and neuroscience have to do with God and creation? Why do some see conflict and others see synergy? These questions and more will be explored in an interactive exploration of the wonder of science.

If you are interested in going, please give Pastor Michael a call. Thank you!



Serving Others



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Feeding the Hungry

CROP WALK: October 8

On Oct. 8, the Pittsburgh East community will celebrate its 40th year of walking to end hunger one step at a time. The oldest walk in the country, is sponsored by Church World Service (www.churchworldservice.org). 25% of what we raise is returned as grants to East End Common Ministries and Wilkinsburg Community Ministry. Youth and adults from this congregation will gather at the South Avenue United Methodist Church at 1:00 to gather in preparation for the 10K loop through Squirrel Hill and back. The walk distance is 6.2 miles. Walking time is approximately 2.5 hours.

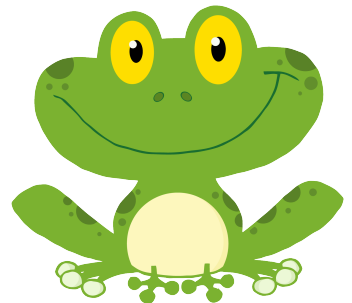
You can participate by either walking or sponsoring a walker. (Judy Mysels!) You can also go to their website: <http://www.crophungerwalk.org/pittsburgheastpa> to electronically send money or sponsor a walker.

Hurricane Relief Efforts through the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance program (PDA). For decades, the PDA, has been a faithful, reliable, and trustworthy responder to natural disasters around the world. If you would like to support the efforts of PDA, please write a check to FPCE with HURRICANE RELIEF clearly written on the *memo line*. Or visit www.pcusa.org and click on the red banner at the top of the page that reads: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is responding to Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, Marie and the earthquake in Mexico. Follow the links.

FPCE IS A FAITHFUL SUPPORTER of the **Wilkinsburg Community Ministry**—WCM is a 501(c)(3) community nonprofit. Since 1968, WCM has provided such essential basic necessities as food, clothing and energy assistance to Wilkinsburg residents. We serve approximately **3,000 residents per year**, including senior citizens, citizens with disabilities, at-risk youth and families who are economically challenged, unemployed, under-employed or facing emergency situations. Visit the WCM website www.wcm15221.org to learn more and offer your help.

FROGS began its Fall session on September 5 with 7 returning tadpoles and 5 new ones. We also have a fantastic group of volunteers: Flo Raisig, Dan Mielke, Ruth Miller, Mary Ross, Rick Masten, Ed Masten. We have been getting acquainted and re-acquainted so far in September, and have been enjoying the nice weather, playing on the church side lawn. A huge thank you to Emily Lilly and Miss Mikayla for presenting a program on Sept. 14 regarding safety in the car, as well as pedestrian safety.

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



Snacks are needed: fruit snacks, crackers, chips, cookies, and/or drinks: Capri Sun, juice, etc. Thank you to those who already supplied snacks: they are very much appreciated by all.

If anyone is interested in sharing their talents/jobs with us, please contact Judy Mysels at frogs@fpcedgewood.org or 412-241-4613. Also, volunteers (to help with homework mostly, 3:45 to 4:15PM) are needed when our regular volunteers are absent. Clearances are needed. Anyone interested, please call or email.

Judy Mysels, Director

HEALING IS SOMETHING WE ALL NEED.

in our bodies, in our minds, in our emotions, in our relationships, in our communities.

To admit that need is not a sign of weakness, but a sign of strength;
a sign that we know our lives can be enriched and deepened;
a sign of humility.

“For I am the Lord, your healer.” Ex. 15:26

When religion is not about healing, it really does not have much to offer people in this life. Many have called such disembodied theology (religion without a focus on healing) “carrot on the stick” theology or, as my friend Brian McLaren says, we made the Gospel largely into “an evacuation plan for heaven.” If we don’t understand the need and desire for healing now, then salvation (*salus* = healing) becomes a matter of hoping for some form of delayed gratification. We desperately need healing for groups, institutions, marriage, the wounds of war, abuse, race relations, and the endless social problems in which we are drowning today. But we won’t know how to heal if we never learn the skills at ground zero: the individual human heart.

For much of its history following 313 AD, the Christian church’s job or concern was not healing, but rather maintaining social and church order: doling out graces and indulgences (as if that were possible); granting dispensations, annulments, absolutions, and penalties; keeping people in first marriages at all costs, instead of seeing marriage as an arena for growth, forgiveness, and transformation.

As pastors, ministers and priests, we felt our job was to absolve sin rather than actually transform people. “Get rid of the contaminating element,” as it were, rather than “Learn what you can about yourself and God because of this conflict.” Those are two very different paths. In the four Gospels, Jesus did two things over and over again: he preached and he healed. We have done a lot of preaching, but not too much healing. We did not know how.

Richard Rohr.

I wonder if we can learn how to be healed together? Pastor Michael will conduct a brief healing service immediately following worship on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. The service will take place in a designated space in the sanctuary. The service will include scripture reading, a prayer, and anointing with oil. All are welcome.

A THOUGHT FOR YOUR DAY:

*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.*

PUT LIFE BACK IN YOUR LIFE.

Attend a **free** six-week workshop designed for older adults with ongoing health issues.

Six Fridays, October 20 - Nov 17 & Dec 1
10:30 am – 1:00 p.m.

*"I was tired. I hurt all the time. It felt like my health problems were telling me what I could and couldn't do. **Better Choices, Better Health** workshops put me back in charge. Now I have the energy to do the things that matter. I've put life back in my life."*

Where:

CC Mellor Memorial Library

1 Pennwood Ave

Pittsburgh, Pa 15218

To register, please call (412) 731-0909

PCUSA DOINGS...AND FPCE WAS THERE!

Presbyterians from around the country were invited to live out their faith at Big Tent 2017 in St. Louis. This biennial gathering took place July 6–8 on the campus of Washington University in St. Louis, MO, and our own **Luella Broe** was in attendance. The theme — Race, Reconciliation and Reformation — emphasized the hope of the gospel and its power to transform society in our current cultural context marked by anxiety, racial division, political animosity and economic inequality.

Big Tent offers Presbyterians an exciting opportunity to discern some of the toughest concerns of the day while actively engaging with their faith community. "Big Tent is one of the finest denominational events put on by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)," said Tony De La Rosa, interim executive director of the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

Luella attended a number of sessions, including those on systemic racism, the intersection of racism and poverty, women shattering the stained glass ceiling, and, most appropriately, how to survive a church building project. Please ask her about her experience!

Luella also attended 1001 New Worshipping Communities held in St. Petersburg, FL in August.

1001 New Worshipping Communities is a movement happening in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Across the PC(USA), God is raising up leaders in churches and presbyteries who are creating new worshipping communities. They are taking on new and varied forms of church for our changing culture. Primarily they are seeking to make and form new disciples of Jesus Christ, to change and transform the world. New Worshipping Communities are :

*Fresh expressions of the church
defined by our mission.*

New

- ◆ Seeking to make and form new disciples of Jesus Christ
- ◆ Taking on varied forms of church for our changing culture

Worshipping

- ◆ Gathered by the Spirit to meet Jesus Christ in Word and Sacrament
- ◆ Sent by the Spirit to join God's mission for the transformation of the world

Community

- ◆ Practicing mutual care and accountability
- ◆ Developing sustainability in leadership and finances

The theme of this year's conference was "Living, Dying, Rising," taken from John 20:19-23. Luella heard from a number of pastors who had started new churches and had an opportunity to be baptized in the Gulf of Mexico. Again, please ask her about her experience.

Interested in attending one of these meetings yourself? Information is available at www.pcusa.org.



OCTOBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wedn.	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30 Choir 9:45 Adult Class 11:00 Worship Communion 12:15 Fellowship	2	3 10:00 Book Club 3:45 FROGS 7:00 Deacons/ Session Mtg. 7:00 AA	4	5 3:45 FROGS	6 8:00 AA	7 10:00 Blessing of the Animals (Lawn) 8:30 AA (SR)
8 9:30 Choir 9:45 Adult Class 11:00 Worship 12:15 Fellowship CROP WALK	OFFICE CLOSED	10 10:00 Book Club 3:45 FROGS 7:00 AA	11 7:00 Worship Ensemble	12 1:00 Daytime Circle 3:45 FROGS	13 8:00 AA	14 8:30 AA (SR)
15 9:30 Worship En 9:45 Adult Class 11:00 Emerging Worship 12:15 Fellowship	16	17 10:00 Book Club 3:45 FROGS 7:00 AA	18	19 3:45 FROGS	20 8:00 AA	21 8:30 AA (SR)
22 9:30 Choir 9:45 Adult Class 11:00 Worship 12:15 Fellowship	23	24 10:00 Book Club 3:45 FROGS 7:00 AA	25	26 1:00 Daytime Circle 3:45 FROGS	27 8:00 AA	28 8:30 AA
29 9:30 Choir 9:45 Adult Class 11:00 Worship 12:15 Fellowship	30 7:00 Joy Circle	31 10:00 Book Club 3:45 FROGS 7:00 AA				

Autumn Dates to Remember



Sunday Mornings

9:30 Choir Rehearsal

9:45 Adult Class

11:00 Morning Worship

Healing Service after Worship on the 2nd and 4th
Sundays

Tuesday Mornings

10:00 Book Club at Apeossos' Home

4th Monday:

7:00PM Joy Circle (church lounge)

October

8: Crop Walk

November

5: Daylight Savings Time Ends!!!

5: All Saints' Recognition/Communion Sunday
Prayer Chain Mtg.

12: Manger Tree kick-off

26: Hanging of the Greens service

Keep up on our social media platforms:

Website: www.fpcedgewood.org

Facebook: facebook.com/fpcedgewood

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

