

The First Press

July/August 2016

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

July Birthdays and Anniversaries	2
August Birthdays and Anniversaries	3
A Remembrance of Dick Merritt	4
New Members	5
Vacation Bible School Photos	6
JAM News	7
First Presby Youth July Calendar	8
Youth Photos	9
July/August Volunteers	10
Upcoming Events	

From the Pastor:

In our continuing conversation about our congregation's relationship with our denomination, the Presbyterian Church (USA), the elders are asking for your input. We want to know your understanding and interest in this matter.

In the month of July everyone in the congregation will have the opportunity to take a survey regarding our congregation's relationship with the denomination. This survey will help the Elders lead the congregation regarding these decisions.

It is our hope that everyone will take the survey. The easiest way to take it is online; simply go to our website first-presby.org and click on the link that will take you to the survey. It should only take 10-

15 minutes to complete the survey; your answers will be confidential.

There will be hardcopies of the survey available for those who would prefer this way to fill out the survey. The hardcopies will be available on the railing in the Narthex, or you can call the office and we will gladly mail as many surveys as there are church members in your household.

This is a **survey**, not a vote. This is data gathering, **not decision making**. We seek to grow in our understanding of what is and what is not important to those who make up our congregation.

It is with sadness that I announce that Rhiannon Dame has resigned from the position of Director of Children's Ministry, effective August 22. As I

write this, our building is filled with over 120 energetic children attending Vacation Bible School. They are learning of God's goodness and love. Rhiannon has done an excellent job of organizing and staffing VBS. She has faithfully led our Sunday school program, revitalizing it in significant ways. Rhiannon has also led Big Idea (our children's ministry during worship) and JAM (our children's midweek fellowship). I am, and I know we all are, grateful for Rhiannon's faithfulness in using her gifts.

We will miss Rhiannon's leadership in our children's ministry and pray for God's blessing on her future endeavors.

-Jim King



July

birthdays & anniversaries

July Birthdays

1 - Eric Schmidt
 3 - Marilyn Gresh
 4 - Evan Gilger
 5 - Molly Mayfield
 6 - Elizabeth Underkoffler
 7 - Karen Ishii, Amanda Rathburn
 8 - Brad Wakeman, Stephen Foster,
 Kyle Shutt
 9 - Scott McVicar
 10 - Jean Lepley
 11 - Megan Wright, Megan Jones
 12 - Peg Erdley, Lynn Berg, Libby King

15 - Kirk Kerstetter, Marina Gresh
 17 - Bailee Dyroff
 19 - Scarlett Schroeder
 20 - Joe Diblin, David Young,
 Dave Reid,
 22 - Blake Winner
 24 - Karen Gallagher
 25 - Michael Gilger
 26 - Karen Fox, Riley Roussell
 28 - Mary Lou Rich, Susan Erdley,
 Devin DeCosmo
 29 - Avis Hans
 30 - John Troxell

July Wedding Anniversaries

3 - Andrew & Jayme Host celebrating their 23rd
 6 - Ryan & Laura Graver celebrating their 9th
 9 - Patrick & Emily Chiboroski celebrating their 11th
 10 - Ed & Rhiannon Dame celebrating their 12th
 13 - Gerry & Kathleen Schwieger celebrating their 48th
 14 - Wayne & Pat Samuelson celebrating their 43rd
 18 - Kevin & Jody Zimmerman celebrating their 29th
 25 - Richard & Marianne Barlett celebrating their 24th
 26 - Terry & Barb Light celebrating their 47th
 26 - David & Carolyn McSween celebrating their 13th
 31 - Jim & Carole Friery celebrating their 51st



August

birthdays & anniversaries



August Birthdays

- 1 - Megan Lawton
- 2 - Thomas Rathburn, Chloe McSween
- 4 - Rebecca Mignot, Laura Graver, Lucas Winner, Rylee Dyroff
- 7 - Ann Roll, Mark Reif, Jacob Ziegler, Savannah Winans, Tim Cavanagh
- 8 - Tom Gresh
- 9 - John Walsh, Christian Gallagher
- 11 - Barb Schmidt, Alesia Foster, Jack Schroeder
- 14 - Nancy Curran, Ariel Cooper, Avery Mast, Audrey McSween
- 15 - Carley Shaffer
- 16 - Priscilla Merritt, Joan Hunter, Lamar Bruckhart
- 18 - Pat Samuelson
- 20 - Celia Stamm, Keith Kunkel
- 22 - Ann Miller, Connie Moore, Sammy Miller
- 23 - Kim Gilger
- 25 - Sam Gill, Sally Vogel, Kerry Shutt
- 26 - Ryan Kraus
- 28 - Patricia Apple, Garrett Brown
- 29 - Richard Stancavage
- 30 - Keay Hathaway
- 31 - Nate Reid

August Wedding Anniversaries

- 2 - Jason & Sarah Friedberg celebrating their 19th
- 4 - Richard & Peg Erdley celebrating their 49th
- 4 - Matt & Ashley Kalcich celebrating their 4th
- 5 - Tom & Mary Lou Rich celebrating their 49th
- 7 - David & Mary Ruth Campbell celebrating their 51st
- 7 - Mike & Jackie Mast celebrating their 17th
- 8 - Matt & Wendy McTammany celebrating their 18th
- 9 - Jim & Ginny Michael celebrating their 41st
- 12 - Seth & Judith Ziegler celebrating their 55th
- 14 - Wayne & Marilyn Gaver celebrating their 46th
- 15 - Jim & Patty Apple celebrating their 57th
- 16 - Tom & Jean Morgensen celebrating their 41st
- 17 - Dick & Donna Ward celebrating their 55th
- 17 - Clint & Karen Shurtliffe celebrating their 48th
- 19 - John & Jessie Walsh celebrating their 44th
- 23 - Ralph & Peggy Starkey celebrating their 47th
- 25 - Dave & Anne Goehring celebrating their 60th
- 25 - Bill & Phil Moore celebrating their 55th
- 25 - Dave & Paula Young celebrating their 32nd
- 26 - Seth & Vickie Ziegler celebrating their 27th
- 26 - Brent & Ashley Papson celebrating their 10th
- 27 - E. Roland & Nancy Ritzman celebrating their 67th
- 29 - Dave & Marcia Thomas celebrating their 52nd
- 31 - Bart & Linda Shaffer celebrating their 25th

A Remembrance

Richard Merritt, pastor at First Presbyterian Lewisburg from 1964-1976, passed away after a long illness on May 5, 2016, in New Jersey. Rev. Merritt was 86. He is survived by his former wife, Florence; and his daughters, Heather Gallagher and Gwen Buchanan and their families.

Born in Paterson, New Jersey, Dick Merritt served in the armed forces before attending Princeton Theological Seminary. He then pastored faithfully at three Presbyterian churches: McAlevys Fort, PA; Lewisburg, PA; and Great Valley Presbyterian Church, Malvern, PA.

Known for his kindness to all and his ability to communicate the grace and love of Christ to his congregations, Dick had a deep impact on his churches, on the Intersarsity communities he served at Penn State and at Bucknell Universities, and throughout the local community. His sermons, blending scriptural insight, humor, and a deep love of literature, stirred the mind and the soul in equal measures. Very much a man of letters, Dick also had a passion for jazz, Mel Brooks, baseball, Lewisburg softball, locomotives, and his hometown hot Texas wieners.

A memorial service for Dick was held at Great Valley Presbyterian Church, Malvern, PA, on Friday, May 20, 2016, at 11 a.m. [West Chester Daily Local News Obituary]

Additional Comments from Friends:

"Following Dick Merritt at First Presbyterian Lewisburg was a challenging experience. I never hoped to 'fill his shoes' – I simply enjoyed his friendship, humor, wisdom, and preaching! His impact on Bucknell students attending First Presbyterian was incalculable.

It was not uncommon for me to step up to the pulpit on a Sunday morning and find a note under the microphone with the word 'REPENT! (But you may disregard if you have already done so!)"

Farewell, my brother. "Blessed are those who die in the Lord." Rev. Alec Wendell, 1977-1990

"The youthful Dick Merritt (34), his even younger, supportive wife, "Flossie," and their little girls, Heather and Gwen, injected a lively, loving presence into the life of the Lewisburg church, manse, and fellowship for over a decade from the mid-60's to mid-70's. The year in which we experienced Dick's pastorate was a formative year in the life of our family. Dick's preaching captivated us. It was intellectually vigorous, rich in scripture and literature, and spiritually challenging. Dick Merritt steadied our faith, which was nurtured further by a small-group circle of new friends. God rest his soul."

Bob and Sharon Kribbs

"Nearly every afternoon Dick would take the family dog for a walk down Market Street and back, picking up the daily newspaper and making the inevitable stops for conversation along the way. He also frequented the adult softball games at Wolfe Field. Not an athlete himself, he loved sports at all levels, especially minor league baseball." Jim Zaiser

"I can sum up my most vivid memories of Dick Merritt in two words: 'No!' and 'Yes!' When confronted with a discordant denominational decision, Dick's voice thundered "No! No! No!" No one doubted where he stood. On the other hand, when 5-7 students showed up for the inaugural year of Intersarsity at Bucknell, Dick persisted as a "missionary" on campus, saying "Yes! Yes! Yes!" to growing Christians at Bucknell. By Year 3, 75 students were attending, and many of those students, including Tim Keller, attended services at First Presbyterian." J. William "Bill" Moore

"In less than a year after meeting Flossie Merritt in a Sunday School class, I had made a friend for life. A vivacious, loving person, she had a talent for matching one person's need with another person's resources." Ann Simmons

New Members



Angie Smith lives in New Columbia. She began attending our church as Wanda Einsig's caretaker and felt so welcome that she joined.



Eric & Bonnie McDowell live in Milton. Eric joined as a member, Bonnie as an affiliate member.



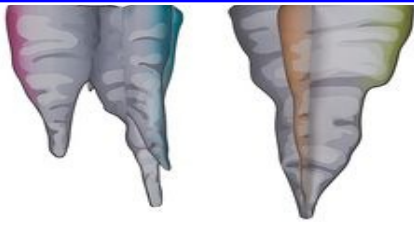
Kirk Jarrett joins his wife Nicole in membership. Kirk and Nicole live in Milton and have two children; Rylee and Landon.





VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL





VBS was a tremendous success! We enjoyed over 100 kids every day and reached a total of 127 kids from our greater community.

Consider inviting friends and families to our other camps!!!

Children entering grades 2-8 are welcome to join us August 15-19 for Press On-an Olympic themed Kids' Cantata. This week will give you the opportunity to act, sing, work on sets and props, learn movements and all about the fruits of the spirit. The culmination of this great week of fun will be when we share our project in worship on Sunday Aug. 21st at 10 AM.



We are pumped to announce the addition of a sports camp in July- join us for Mega Sports Camp July 18-22 from 9 AM- Noon, students will get the opportunity to work with coaches in one of the three areas: dance and cheer-leading, soccer or basketball.
-Rhiannon Dame

July

First Presby Youth

2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
					Service Project at Food Bank 1:15pm	Mission Trip Returns
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Sunday School 8:30 Worship 9:30	 4	REFUGE 7-8:30pm	FUEL 7-8:30pm			
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Sunday School 8:30 Worship 9:30	SPLASH @Bruckharts 12:30-2:30	REFUGE 7-8:30pm	FUEL 7-8:30pm		Service Project at Food Bank 1:15pm	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Sunday School 8:30 Worship 9:30	SPLASH @Blacks 12:30-2:30	REFUGE 7-8:30pm	FUEL 7-8:30pm			
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Sunday School 8:30 Worship 9:30	SPLASH @Shabahangs 12:30-2:30	REFUGE 7-8:30pm	FUEL 7-8:30pm			





*Living fully in Christ,
through His Word,
community and mission*

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Dr. James C. King

Mark your calendars

- ◆ July 6 Potluck Wednesday 5-7pm
- ◆ July 17 Knoebel's All Church Picnic 12noon, meet at Tent U
- ◆ July 18-22 Sports Camp VBS 9-12 noon
- ◆ July 26 All Faith's Night at the Crosscutters Field 7pm
- ◆ August 3 Potluck Wednesday 5-7pm
- ◆ August 5-6 First Presby Open
- ◆ August 15-19 VBS Cantata Camp 9-12noon
- ◆ August 21 Children's Cantata 9:30 am worship service
- ◆ September 11 Rally Day

July Ushers: Seth Ziegler Sr., Doug and Lucas Winner, Paul Tarves, Tom Gresh, Brad Wakeman, Bob Harder

August Ushers: Ralph Starkey, John Troxell, David Thomas, John, Christopher and Joshua Tirpak, Tim, Will and Douglas Taylor, Jonathan Walz, Ray Walz

	Nursery	Greeters	Lemonade
July			
3	Papson, Mast	Mast family	Guatemala
10	TBA, Cavanagh	Tom & Ann Miller	Deacons
17	TBA, TBA	Papson family	Session
24	Foster, Kraus	Reid family	Missions
31	TBA, Young	Bernard family	E&D
August			
7	Roussell, Jusko	Kunkel	Trustees
14	Taylor, Graver	Walsh	Worship Life
21	TBA	Harder	Choir
28	Kraus, Papson	Fisher	Library



Knoebel's Grove All Church Picnic

July 17 at 12noon,

Meet for lunch, then stay as long as you want at the park.

Bring a dish to share.

Hotdogs, chips, drink and paper goods will be supplied.

Meet at Tent 10, near Pavilion 'U'.

Baseball, Hotdogs and the Doubledays!



Join us on July 26th at 7:00 at the Crosscutters Field for "All Faiths Night". Watch the Crosscutters take on the Auburn Doubledays.

Tickets are \$4 and available at the church office during the week, or Sunday mornings at the lemonade social following the worship service.