

# The First Press

OCTOBER 2015

## From the Pastor:

Oktoberfest – you know those beer festivals with a fair-like atmosphere filled with oom-pa-pa’s and maybe even lederhosen. True confessions: I don’t like the taste of beer, and I don’t like the way I feel when I have had an alcoholic drink. The consumption of alcohol is not a temptation for me. I face other temptations.

I Corinthians 10:13 tells us, “No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.”

We all face things that have the potential to bring great destruction to our lives and to our relationships. Though the things that tempt you may not be the same that tempt me, our temptations are not unique to us. There are many others facing the same temptations. Our modern day temptations still fit into the categories of the seven deadly sins of pride, envy, gluttony, lust, anger,

greed, and sloth.

We all have a tendency to play down the negative consequences of our temptations, which compounds our temptation. If I lessen the dangerous ramifications of the temptation, then I lessen my resistance.

I do have two specifics in mind: pornography and alcohol. Each an ancient vice but perhaps more accessible than ever before in history.

I have a good friend who is working against human trafficking in the Far East, to save teen and pre-teen girls from being sex slaves. We may not think that what we click on in private has an impact on the world. My friend would disagree. We are bombarded with graphic images and the opportunities to click on something we know we should not. The objectification of others is more harmful than we know. Studies clearly show that pornography is progressive. What we click on or don’t click on affects our personal relationships.

The abuse of alcohol is something humanity has struggled with all the way back to Noah. None of us has to go very far on our family tree to find alcoholism. The destructive power of alcohol should be obvious to us all, but as a culture, we are turning a blind eye to the destructive impact of alcohol. Scripture does not say drinking is a sin. The Apostle Paul does address the ramifications of our drinking:

Romans 14:21 It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything else if it might cause another believer to stumble.<sup>[c]</sup>

I recommend and for me, by in large, drinking is not something I do, and if I do, it is extremely limited.

One final thought regarding drinking; over the years I have found that I like people for who they are, and the addition of alcohol doesn’t improve on the real person. This isn’t going to get me invited to many drinking parties – but that’s ok.

Jim

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- 2: Ian Cavanagh, Bonnie Troxell,
- 3: Jody Zimmerman,
- 4: Melanie Brown
- 5: Conor Halteman
- 6: Lindsey Reber
- 7: Vanessa Foster Beck
- 8: Elizabeth Veening, Dianna Kunkel, Nathan Lind,  
Matt Kalcich
- 9: Dede Gronlund, Jack Temple
- 10: David Miller, William Roll
- 12: Paul Tarves, Samantha Wakeman
- 13: Emily Dittmar
- 14: Margaret Ritter, Rob Black
- 15: Rich Barlett,
- 16: Christine Reinhart, Ethan Mutschler
- 17: Howard Stoelting
- 18: Jane Harley, Dan Wagner
- 19: Gabrielle Taylor, Daniel Hendry
- 20: Jack Host
- 26: Ruth McCord, Charlie Heid
- 28: Judy Bruce, John Jones
- 29: Marsha Tarves
- 31: Ginny Michael

## *Birthdays and Anniversaries*



- 1 - Bill & Beth Shutt celebrating their 21st
- 2 - Bill & Judy Bruce celebrating their 38th
- 5 - Dan & Kim Wagner celebrating their 2nd
- 8 - John & Linda Vaji celebrating their 27th
- 10 - Bill & Sharon Dittmar celebrating their 28th
- 17 - Keith & Diana Kunkel celebrating their 62nd
- 18 - Tom & Marilyn Gresh celebrating their 46th
- 18 - Rusty & Karen Graber celebrating their 25th
- 19 - Michael & Erin Redding celebrating their 13th
- 26 - Paul & Karen Miller celebrating their 30th
- 30 - Larry & Xana Winans celebrating their 22nd



**50+ Ministry**

The 50+ Ministry will be attending an Amish meal October 21<sup>st</sup>. Plan to leave the church at 11:00 and travel together to Rebersburg for lunch in Jonas and Lydia Yoder's home. Come enjoy the meal as well as grow in your understanding of the Amish community. Sign up in the church bulletin insert, or by calling the church office 570-524-4419. Cost is \$15.00.

**Leaf Peeper**

**Sunday, October 11**  
**12:30 at Montour Preserve**

Bring a bagged lunch. Join us for a fall walk to 'peep' at the beautiful leaves. Enter the park by the Montour Environmental Center. (700 Preserve Road, Danville) then follow the road to the left past the Environmental Center. The road dead ends in a parking lot. Pavilions are right there



## “Forty Days of Prayer”

Some of our session members and deacons are participating in a daily exercise in prayer and reflection appropriate to the challenges we face as a congregation. At the end of each segment is space to write a brief prayer response. “Day Five,” with my response, is found below. If you would like to join us, let me know. Each day’s devotion will be emailed to you in the early morning.

Bob Kribbs

### DAY FIVE

**Scripture:**

Matthew 5:1-16

**Focus Text:**

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven” (v. 3).

**Listening to God:**

I desire fellowship with you more than anything else in the universe. You often expect me to bless you most in your abundance. This is not the way I work. When I bless you in your abundance, you tend to forget me in fascination with my gifts. The gifts become an idol, and our relationship suffers. It is my way to bless you in your lack, failure, and emptiness. This way you don’t forget me, and I can work my will through you in amazing ways. Look for my hand moving in your life when you are feeling lonely, incompetent, and out of control. Blessed are you when you don’t run away from the means I use to draw you to me.”

**My Prayer:** *Father God, for three and a half decades you have blessed our church with steady attendance, modest growth, faithful service, and, through the generosity of our predecessors, financial security. Now the wind and waves have picked up and we are recalling the prayer of the New England fisherman: “Oh Lord, your sea is so great and our boat is so small.” Thank you for warning us of how easily abundance can lead to pride and idolatry. Draw us back to you in love. Help us to see how you are ready to bless us in our “lack, failure, and emptiness.” Encourage us to trust you through the storm. Open our eyes and our ears as you “work your will through us in amazing ways.” Our excitement grows: even as we puzzle over how to right our boat, your hand is already on the tiller!*



## Help Is Needed

Our Dinner By the River teams could use some more helpers. If you are interested or would like to know more about our free meal every Thursday night, stop by the Great Hall any Thursday or call Mary Kay Torretti 570-523-8034. We currently have twelve rotating teams that only serve about four times a year. Think about joining a team! A little time for a good cause.

For many years we have been providing a free Thanksgiving meal to the community, with Scott Mertz leading. We are in need of a host as well as a crew of helpers to be able to serve this meal. Please consider joining this endeavor as many people count on this meal



## In Memory of a Beloved Teacher: Solomon Gladden



Several weeks ago we had a visitor to the church that was researching Solomon Washington Gladden. Dr. Tim Ahrens (pastor of first Congregational Church of Columbus OH) knew that we had a stained glass window dedicated by Gladden, in memory of his father, also named Solomon. Washington Gladden (the son) was born February 11, 1836 in Potts Grove PA and was one of the earliest and most influential proponents of the Social Gospel Movement. In practice, the Social Gospel meant everyday service to others and a commitment to social justice for all.

Gladden's family moved to Lewisburg when his father got a teaching job in Lewisburg in 1840. (That schoolhouse was referred to in our 175th anniversary book as an academy where our present day Manse sits.) The home where Gladden lived for two years was located near the schoolhouse. A year later the father unexpectedly died and his mother Amanda attempted to teach school as well as raise Washington and his brother. After one year, she decided to move the family to her family's farm in Owego, NY. From the age of 6-

17, Gladden grew up in the Presbyterian church. At the age of 17, he joined a Congregational Church which had formed when a group of members split off from the Presbyterian church over slavery. Gladden's father would have been proud of his son's achievements.

After graduating from Williams College, he wrote, edited magazines and served as a pastor in New York, Massachusetts and finally in Columbus, Ohio where he served as Senior Minister of The First Congregational Church then located on the north side of Capitol Square for 35 ½ years. Gladden never completed a theological degree. But, by life's end, he had received 35 honorary doctorates and lectured, among other places, at Notre Dame, Yale, Oxford and Harvard twice. Dr. Ahrens calls Gladden "the Billy Graham of his day." The Ohio Historical Society contains many of Gladden's writings – including 66 books and pamphlets, over 90 articles from papers and periodicals and more than 2,500 sermons, plus additional speeches, reports, and personal papers. All of these were written with a quill pen including his famous hymn, "O Master

*Let Me Walk With Thee.*"

Beyond Columbus and Ohio, Gladden worked for reforms that gave the Progressive Era of the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century its character. His work won the friendship of Theodore Roosevelt and the admiration of Woodrow Wilson, William Jennings Bryant, Jane Addams among many others.

Gladden dedicated his father's window in 1900. You will recognize the window from our sanctuary. Ahrens suggested the symbolism as this: the lamp is the Lamp of Knowledge, the Book could be any book at all - not only the Bible, but the Cross as a book mark connects us to Christ and Knowledge. As for the pillow with tassels - the pillow is a symbol for dreaming, visions, and hope with the tassel "almost always serving as a symbol of power and prestige. The window is on the side of the church looking towards our Manse, site of the former schoolhouse.

He died in Columbus, July 2, 1918. He is buried in Greenlawn Cemetery in Columbus with a simple stone – "Washington Gladden, 1836-1918."



## Really Big Pumpkins

“Dan and Kim Wagner are two of our more recent members. They recently purchased their first home on about 1 acre of land just west of New Berlin. Both commute to their work in Lewisburg. Dan is a Chesapeake Bay Program Technician at the Union County Conservation District and Kim a Project Coordinator in Facilities at Bucknell University. The Wagners recently joined a “Dinner by the River” team and look forward to getting to know more people at First Presbyterian. Dan writes: I have always felt closest to God when admiring His creation. I am drawn to the beauty, complexity, and perfection in the natural

world God created. Usually this is when I spend time outdoors in the mountains hunting or fishing. I would not have included gardening to that list until this past year. Kim and I have grown traditional garden vegetables such as tomatoes and peppers, but never anything out of the ordinary. This year was different. I always told Kim when we had the land to do it, I wanted to grow the biggest pumpkin I could, and so I gave it a try. The seeds I used were of a variety called Atlantic Giant. The seeds themselves were almost as big as a quarter. Seeds were started on May 3rd in-



doors, and transplanted into the garden on May 13th. Pollination occurred between June 28th and July 3rd, so the pumpkins themselves are roughly 90 days old. During their peak growth vines can grow a foot per day in length, and pumpkins can gain 30 pounds per day. Each plant covers roughly 300-400 square feet. I kept only one pumpkin per plant to maximize growth. Currently, we have two pumpkins estimated to weigh around 650 and 850 pounds. We will load the largest pumpkin onto a truck with a skid steer. Kim and I hope to find out the actual weight of the biggest at a weigh-off competition in Altoona, PA on October 3rd.

# JAM News

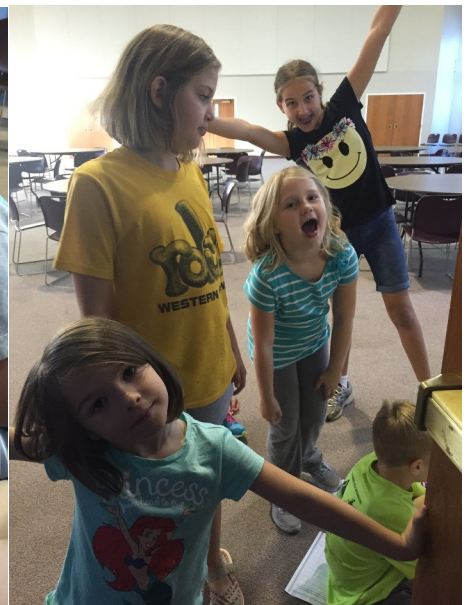
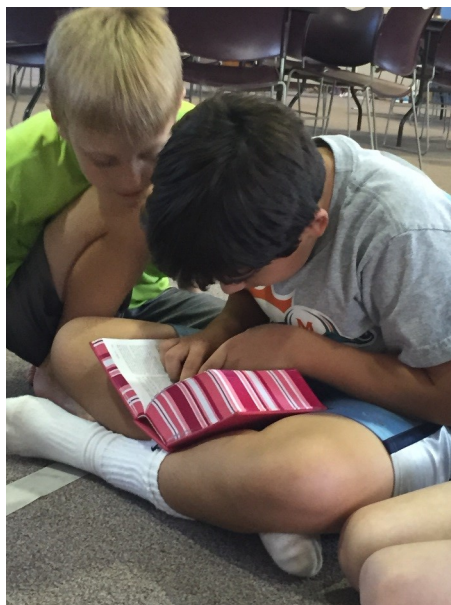


We're off to a great start in our church school year! In Sunday School, and during worship, we are examining the story of Exodus. In JAM, we have begun a year-long study of the Lord's Prayer. It's back to school and back to JAM! We're going to be growing our relationship with God this year by studying the Lord's Prayer and exploring how we should talk to God. We will be meeting on Wednesday October 7 and October 21 from 5-7 PM in the Great Hall. All kids in grades kindergarten- grade five are welcome to join us. Remember, dinner is included!

Movie Night will be on Friday October 16 from 5:30-8. We will be watching the *Book of Life*. Dinner will be provided. Don't forget your sleeping bag and pajamas!!!

Plan on joining us for our annual Fall Festival on Sunday October 25 6-7:30. Children of all ages are welcome to come play games, win prizes and show off their Halloween costume. Parents, Rhiannon is looking for volunteers to staff a station (great job for teens!) as well as candy/prize donations. Please contact her for more information.

It's a little early to think ahead to Christmas but mark your calendars for the annual First Presby Kids Program! This year, we'll be bringing back our version of our living museum-this is very family friendly for kids of all ages-infants on! There will be one rehearsal for interested participants, after church on Sunday November 22. The Christmas program will take place on Sunday December 6 in the early evening and be followed by our all church Christmas Dinner. See Rhiannon or Mrs. King for more information!





# October 2015

## First Presby Youth

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Sunday School 9 am Worship 10:30am  CROP WALK 2pm		Girl Talk 2:45 -4pm  REFUGE 7-8:30pm	Breakfast & Devos 6:30am  FUEL 7-8:30pm	Rejoicing Spirits 6:30pm		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Sunday School 9 am Worship 10:30am  Dorney Park Trip	NO SCHOOL	Girl Talk 2:45 -4pm  REFUGE 7-8:30pm	Breakfast & Devos 6:30am  FUEL 7-8:30pm			
18	19	20	22	23	24	25
Sunday School 9 am Worship 10:30am		Girl Talk 2:45 -4pm  REFUGE 7-8:30pm	Breakfast & Devo 6:30am  FUEL 7-8:30pm			
26	27	28	29	30	31	
Sunday School 9am Worship 10:30am		Girl Talk 2:45 -4pm  REFUGE 7-8:30pm	<b>BOO</b> fast & Devos 6:30am  FUEL 7-8:30pm			

**COLOR KEY:** Green Events - ALL youth event      Blue Events - Middle School events

**Questions or comments? Feel free to contact us: Lauren and Tim Halteman, Youth Directors**

Red Events - High School events      Black Events – College age events

Office: 570-524-4419, [lhalteman@first-presby.org](mailto:lhalteman@first-presby.org), [thalteman@first-presby.org](mailto:thalteman@first-presby.org)



# See You At the Middle School Pole





# October Church Calendar



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 <b>Worldwide Com-munion Sunday</b> 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 2:00 CROP Walk	5 9:15 Trainers 7:30 Missions	6 10:00 Staff Mtg 12-2 Int. Wom. Club 3:00 Girl Talk 7:00 NA 7:00 Refuge	7 6:30 Y Breakfast 10:00 LAMBS 5:00 JAM 6:15 Bells 7:00 Fuel 7:30 Choir	1 6:00 DBR 7:00 Personnel 7:00 NA	2 7:00 NA	3 7:00 NA
11 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 12:30 Leaf Peeper at Montour Preserve	12 Office Closed	13 10:00 Staff Mtg 3:00 Girl Talk 7:00 Refuge	14 6:30 Y Breakfast 10:00 LAMBS 6:15 Bells 7:00 Fuel 7:30 Choir	15 6:00 DBR 7:00 NA	16 5:30 JAM Movie Nite 7:00 NA	17 7:00 NA
18 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	19 9:15 Trainers 7:00 Session, Trustees and Deacons	20 10:00 Staff Mtg 3:00 Girl Talk 7:00 Refuge	21 2:16:30 Y Breakfast 10:00 LAMBS 11:00 50+ Lunch 5:00 JAM 6:15 Bells 7:00 Fuel 7:30 Choir	22 6:00 DBR 7:00 NA	23 7:00 NA	24 7:00 NA
25 <b>Harvest Home</b> 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 6-7:30 Fall Festival	26 9:15 Trainers	27 10:00 Staff Mtg 3:00 Girl Talk 7:00 Refuge	28 6:30 Y Breakfast 10:00 LAMBS 6:15 Bells 7:00 Fuel 7:30 Choir	29 6:00 DBR 7:00 NA	30 7:00 NA	31 7:00 NA

Mark your calendars for an evening of music and delicious treats, Nov. 7 at 6:30 for a summer mission trip fundraiser.





First Presbyterian Church  
 18 Market St  
 Lewisburg PA 17837  
 Phone: 570-524-4419

Web: [www.first-presby.org](http://www.first-presby.org)  
 Email: [info@first-presby.org](mailto:info@first-presby.org)  
 Dr. James C. King



## October Volunteers:

**Pulpit Assistant:** Seth Ziegler Jr.

**Ushers:** Rob Black, Jim Michael, John Walsh, Lamar and Grace Bruckhart, Jeff Jones, Mike Redding, Drew King and Christena Harder

### Nursery

- 4 Heid and Jusko families
- 11 Roussell and G. Dobbs, A. Foster
- 18 Papson and Graver families
- 25 Taylor and Cavanagh families

### Greeters

- Paul & Marsha Tarves
- Bart & Linda Shaffer
- Mindy and Amber Lind
- Bedell family

### Coffee Social

- Bill & Beth Shutt
- Dave Reid
- Mark & Liz Speake
- John & Bonnie Troxell

**Dinner By the River Teams:** 1: Sacred Heart Team, 8: Beaver UMC, 15: Bruce/Ishii/Ringkamp, 22: Dittmar, 29: Barnhart



# Harvest Home

*On Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup> we will collect items to be donated to the Presbyterian Home in Williamsport.*

*Please bring; #10 cans of fruit, #10 cans of vegetables, Flour, Sugar, Coffee, Pasta, Rice to be shared with one of our missions.*

# CROP Walk

Mark your calendars for the Lewisburg area annual CROP Walk, Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup>. Registration runs from 1:30-2:00 with the walk



beginning at 2:00. Two walks (a one mile and 5K) begin and end at the St. Paul's United Methodist Church on South Fourth Street. Pick up registration/ collection envelopes in the church office. 25% of the money raised at the walk will stay here in the Lewisburg area. (Our Dinner by the River, as well as the Eastern Union County Food Program will receive money.)

