

# The First Press

September 2016

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## From the Pastor:

How's your prayer life?

Most of us would probably give the same answer, "Not what it should be." And we say this with a tinge of guilt. If you are anything like me, your prayer life is not what it could or should be, yet prayer is one of the five essential activities Christians need to participate in for spiritual growth. The others are spending time in God's Word, Worship, Fellowship, and Service.

This fall we are going to be focusing on prayer. Our fall sermon series will be on "The Lord's Prayer". I'll be drawing upon Tim Keller's book Prayer (a worthwhile read for everyone). We will be looking at personal prayer and corporate prayer.

Prayer is not easy; it takes work and commitment. It needs to be nurtured and cultivated.

Prayer also requires faith; faith that an all-powerful loving God is listening and responsive.

Private prayer is essential. Jesus regularly went off by Himself to pray, "Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed" (Luke 5:16). It is often challenging to find the time or the place to have focused private prayer.

Corporate prayer is scary, what will people think of me if I pray out loud? What will people think of me if I go to a prayer group and don't pray out loud? Throughout the Bible the people of God gathered to pray together. In the book of Acts as the church grows so does their participation in corporate prayer, or is it the other way around?

In addition to Sunday morning prayer time

prior to Sunday school at 8:30am in the Sanctuary, beginning this fall we will have two new opportunities for corporate prayer; Wednesday at 9:00am and Wednesday at 7:00pm.

I encourage you to daily find a time and a place where you can be alone with God in prayer and see if one of these three times of corporate prayer can fit into your schedule. I promise you as your prayer life grows so will your spiritual life.

I'm looking forward to each of us growing closer to God and closer together as our prayer life, both privately and corporately, grows in new and refreshing ways.

See you Sunday,

Jim

## September Birthdays and Anniversaries

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 - Judith Ziegler, Vickie Ziegler, Meg Morgensen              | 1 - Bob & Nancy Martin celebrating their 44th wedding anniversary       |
| 2 - Alice Marquart, Sharon Pearce, Lorri Bruckhart, Kim Wagner | 2 - Jonathan & Sarah Gresh celebrating their 4th wedding anniversary    |
| 3 - Caroline Sigl  | 4 - Keith & Pat Ringkamp celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary     |
| 4 - Karen Shurtcliffe, Carolyn McSween                         | 8 - Jack & Rebecca Mignot celebrating their 55th wedding anniversary    |
| 5 - Tom Hans   | 19 - John & Leslie Mutschler celebrating their 35th wedding anniversary |
| 6 - Alexa Mast   | 21 - Matthew & Emily Poust celebrating their 3rd wedding anniversary    |
| 8 - Richard Erdley, Rob Royer, Tim Halteman, Caroline Graves   | 25 - Nick & Amanda Kovaschetz celebrating their 6th wedding anniversary |
| 9 - Paula Young  | 26 - Scott & Kristin McVicar celebrating their 24th wedding anniversary |
| 10 - Jan Peterson, Bart Shaffer, Samantha Reif, Audrey Kalcich | 27 - Tim & Lauren Halteman celebrating their 8th wedding anniversary    |
| 11 - Chris Zellmann, Richard Cooper, Bill Bernard, Mark Temple |   |
| 12 - Kelsey Roussell   |   |
| 13 - Tom Miller, Kirk Jarrett                                  |   |
| 14 - Jackie Mast   |   |
| 15 - Liv Heid  |   |
| 16 - Barbara Yocum, Lisa Kraus                                 |   |
| 17 - Benjamin Redding, Sidney Dame                             |   |
| 18 - Sarah Graber  |   |
| 19 - Rachael McVicar   |   |
| 23 - Crystal Reid  |   |
| 24 - Landon Jarrett  |   |
| 26 - Bill Moore Jr.  |   |
| 28 - David Goehring, Robbie McTammany                          |   |
| 29 - Sawyer Kovaschetz   |   |
| 30 - Larry Barnhart, Bob Kribbs,                               |   |

### Inquirer's Classes

Inquirer's Classes will run Sundays Sept. 18-Oct. 23 at 9:00am in the Library. Whether you're interested in membership or just in learning more about the Christian life here at First Presbyterian you are welcome to join. Please contact the church office if you plan to attend.



**CROP Walk**  
**October 16th**  
**Registration**  
**at 1:30**



### Deacons Corner

If you know of anyone in the church or the community that needs assistance, please contact the Deacons through Tim Halteman (717) 951-2618 or Lisa Bernard (570) 713-8479

“Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.”  
[1 Cor. 9:24-25]

Once the apostle Paul's life is turned around by Jesus on the road to Damascus, he pursues his Savior with the determination of an Olympic athlete. Once we are saved, Paul asserts, life becomes a footrace for a wreath that never withers, the gold of eternal life. Rooted on by the Holy Spirit, we weave our way through disappointment, tragedy, and sadness, living testimonies to the power of God's love and His grace. At first we may view our race as a sprint, but in time and with the help of the Holy Spirit, we settle into the disciplined pace of the marathon. Paul's picture of the spiritual life as a run may raise questions, however. Having been saved, are we really obligated to live at such a demanding pace? Is there no time to rest

## Marathon Training at 18 Market

on our laurels? Does the life Paul describe imply that we must work to guarantee our salvation? Must we, like Paul, be in the race to the end?

We are saved by grace, not by works, but as Paul says in Acts, we are then to live a vigorous life that testifies to the good news of God's grace. We become distance runners for Christ, settling into a joyful, disciplined pace in obedience to Jesus' Great Commandment and Great Commission. "Early retirement" throws a serious shadow on the sincerity of our commitment to Jesus Christ as our Savior and our Lord. Obedience to the Holy Spirit's training conditions us for the rigors of the race and nurtures in us the stern joy that comes with greater understanding of what it means to live daily as disciples of Jesus Christ. As His "works in progress," we will one day fight through exhaustion, cross the finish line, and stand, exhilarated, on God's podium.

In recent years, our children and youth ministries have inspired us

older adults with their ministries of Word, Community, and Mission. Last month our Session, acting on the recommendation of the Children's Ministry Task Force, turned its attention to our adults. Stepping out in faith, the Session hired Tim Halteman as the church's first Director of Adult Ministries. Tim will keep his job as Co-Director of Youth Ministries with his wife, Lauren, who in turn will replace Rhiannon Dame as Director of Children's Ministries. Tim's devotion, abilities, and accomplishments are well documented. Together with his wife, Lauren, he has brought energy and vitality to a range of youth activities, drawing youth from inside and outside our fellowship to learn about Christ (Word) experience fellowship,

(Community) and step out to serve and witness to people local and distant (Mission). His love for the Lord is infectious; his interpersonal, communication, and relationship-building skills are outstanding; and, true to his Mennonite roots, he knows how to get things done.

Tim and Lauren are thrilled beyond words to be working together across the age spectrum at First Presbyterian. Pray for husband and wife in their newly configured roles. Pray that God will move in the midst of First Presbyterian adults, conditioning us to run our spiritual marathon. Oh, and a heads-up to us all: Dust off those Nikes!

-Bob Kribbs



# Ministries to Join

## Sunday Conversation



Beginning September 11th, Sunday Evening Conversation will take place in the Library Sundays from 7-8:30p.m. The first six week session will be Josh McDowell's "Evidence Demands a

Verdict". All are invited to attend. "Evidence That Demands a Verdict" is an easy-to-read, front-line defense for Christians facing the tough questions of critics and skeptics. Using secular

evidences and other historical sources, Josh McDowell's faith-building book is a "must read" for every Christian.  
-Rick Gathman



## Trainer's Ministry; Mondays

Trainers is a small group for moms - not just moms of preschoolers but any mom looking to draw closer to God. It's great to relate to others who have

been where you are...and made it through! Baby sitting is provided in the Preschool classroom.  
See you starting Monday,

Sept. 12 at 9:15 in the Parlor. We'll begin with a study of Lysa Terkeurst's book *Becoming More than a Good Bible Study Girl*. -Pauline King

## Dinner By the River Team; Thursdays



Dinner by the River (DBR) is a free meal to the community that we have been providing every Thursday night for over ten years. We have 12 rotating teams that serve. Teams could really use some help. Call Mary Kay Torretti for more information or to volunteer (570)



## Bell Choir; Wednesdays

School bells are starting to ring again signaling the start of a new year. They are not the only ones that are warming up. The **bell choir** will soon begin ringing again for the start of our new year. Since there is no such thing as

too many ringers, we are looking to add to our numbers. No previous ringing experience is required. Anyone in sixth grade or older is invited. Rehearsals are Wednesdays at 6 pm, starting Sept. 7th - Susan Erdley

# Ministries to Join

## Sunday School Classes



Sunday School classes meet on a Sunday morning from 9-10a.m.

- ◆ Inquirers Class - meets in the Himmelreich Library
- ◆ Gospel of John - meets in the Chapel - taught by Dr. Jim King
- ◆ Men's Group - Build relationships while digging deeper - meets at Lewisburg Hotel - Mike Mast/ Ryan Kraus-
- ◆ Women's Group - Beth Moore Study - meets in the basement Sunday School Room next to the Finance Office
- ◆ Engaging Scripture - studying and engaging the scripture for the week-- meets in the Manse - David McSween
- ◆ Couples Group—The Meaning of Marriage (Tim and Kathy Keller) -- meets in the Manse



## Prayer; Sundays and Wednesdays

We pray for our church, for our pastor, most importantly, we pray for the Holy Spirit and for His leading and guidance, in our prayers and in our lives. Everyone is welcome. There are three prayer opportunities; Sunday morning prayer time at 8:30 in the front of the sanctuary, Wednesday morning at 9:30 in the Fifth Grade classroom and evening prayer time at 7:00 in the Chapel.

## Chancel Choir; Wednesdays



Are you looking for a way to assist within the life of our church? Do you like to sing? If so, I would like to personally extend an invitation to be a part of our Chancel Choir this fall. We are always looking for new faces and extra voices. It is not necessary to read music nor commit to a weekly basis in order to participate with this group. The choir is com-

prised of many individuals who are from both musical and non-musical backgrounds. Our singers enjoy selections performed in 4 – 8 part harmony and experience a variety of musical styles including: contemporary, gospel, classical, and spirituals. The choir is a part of every service (except the summer months) including: Christmas Eve, Maundy

Thursday, and Easter Sunday. In addition, an annual Christmas Cantata is presented. Rehearsals take place Wednesday evenings from September through May. Our first rehearsal will occur September 7 at 7:30. If you love to sing, please prayerfully consider joining us to sing unto the Lord! -Jonathan Walz

# Ministries to Join

## JAM Volunteers; Wednesdays

JAM (Jesus and Me) is our mid-week program for kids, ages 3 years through 5th grade each Wednesday from 5:30p,m-7pm.

**WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!**

**Be a part of this awesome ministry and become a JAM Volunteer!**

We need help teaching the lesson, serving snack, leading games and helping facilitate the classes. You can commit to helping every week, once a month or even once a quarter! No prior experience needed, just a love for Jesus and a love for children! Please contact Director of Children's Ministries, Lauren Halteman for more information or to sign up!



## Operation Christmas Child

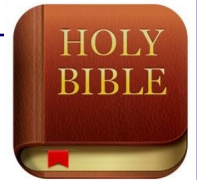
Operation Christmas Child (a shoebox ministry to children in impoverished countries) is more than just a November activity. OCC is an ongoing

ministry throughout the year. Watch the bulletin for wrapping boxes opportunity, collecting monthly items

(school supplies and stuffed animals for September) and help during the collection week. –Lorri Bruckhart

## Ladies AM Bible Study; Wednesdays

LAMBS is a Women's Bible Study on Wednesday mornings at 10:00. The Bible study will begin on Sept. 14th. Bea Heid leads a topical study on Biblical Prayers, Psalms, Proverbs, Parables, and People.



## Bible Study Fellowship International

**Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) – a nondenominational Bible study that meets at our church is starting back up on Thursday, Sept 15th!**

This year the study will be on the Book of John. There will be two women's class in Lewisburg: **Thursday mornings at 9:00am** - First Presbyterian Church, 18 Market Street  
**Thursday evenings at 6:30pm** - Reformed Baptist Church, 830 Buffalo Road

If you are a seasoned student of the Bible or if you have never been involved in a study before, don't let this opportunity pass you by! To join BSF you must attend a registration day on Thursday, Sept. 15 for a short orientation. Class size is limited, so make sure you come that day. If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Black 847-9828 or Vickie Ziegler 412-9680. For more information about **BSF**, go to their website at [www.bsfindernational.org](http://www.bsfindernational.org).



## JAM (and JAM Jr.) News

**Check out what's new for the First Presby Kids Program! All kids are welcome! Parents, we need your help with teaching, serving snack and helping with games, contact Lauren if you want to get involved!**

### **JAM = Jesus and Me.**

A **weekly** program for children ages 3 years old through 5th grade. Each Wednesday all kids will meet at 5:30pm. The kids will gather all together for the first 15 minutes for a welcome, announcements and prayer. Then they split

up according to their age/grade. Each level will have a time for music, Bible lesson, craft, games and snack.

### **JAM**

Level I - Kindergarten & 1st grade  
Level II --- 2nd & 3rd grades  
Level III --- 4th & 5th grades

### **JAM Jr.**

Preschool and PreK (ages 3 & 4)

For more information or to sign up to help: [lhalteman@first-presby.org](mailto:lhalteman@first-presby.org)

## September JAM Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Worship at 9:30am	Labor Day		POT LUCK Night 5:30pm JAM & JAM Jr. 5:30pm-			
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
RALLY DAY 9am Worship 10:30am Big Idea & Kids Church			JAM & JAM Jr. 5:30pm			
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Sunday School 9 am Worship 10:30am Big Idea & Kids Church			JAM & JAM Jr. 5:30pm			
25	26	27	28	29	30	
Sunday School 9 am Worship 10:30am Family Sunday			JAM & JAM Jr. 5:30pm			





## September First Presby Youth

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
				Guys Games 2:30-4pm		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Worship at 9:30am FUEL 5-6:30pm REFUGE 7-8:30pm	Labor Day	Girl Talk 2:30-4pm	Breakfast & Devos 6:30am POT LUCK Night 5:30pm	Guys Games 2:30-4pm		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
RALLY DAY 9am Worship 10:30am FUEL 5-6:30pm REFUGE 7-8:30pm		Girl Talk 2:30-4pm	Breakfast & Devos 6:30am	Guys Games 2:30-4pm		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Sunday School 9 am Worship 10:30am FUEL 5-6:30pm REFUGE 7-8:30pm		Girl Talk 2:30-4pm	Breakfast & Devos 6:30am	Guys Games 2:30-4pm		Camp Susque 5K event
25	26	27	28	29	30	
Sunday School 9 am Worship 10:30am FUEL 7-8:30pm REFUGE 7-8:30pm		Girl Talk 2:30-4pm	SYATP at 7am	Guys Games 2:30-4pm		

The school year has begun and there are some changes from last year:

REFUGE will meet at a new time! REFUGE is youth group for high school students and will meet every Sunday evening from 7-8:30pm in the Cave.

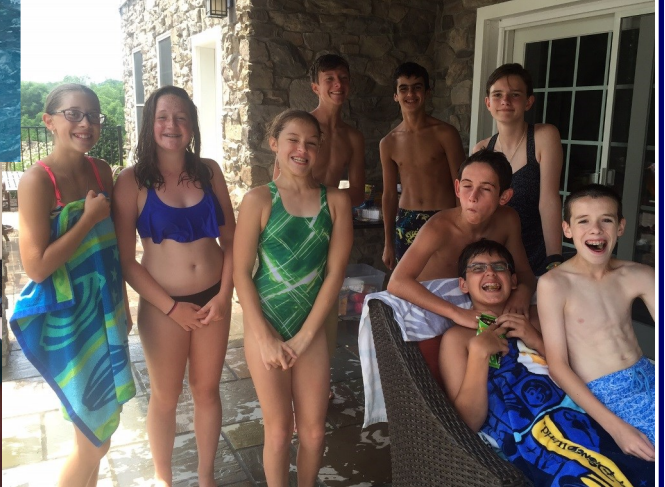
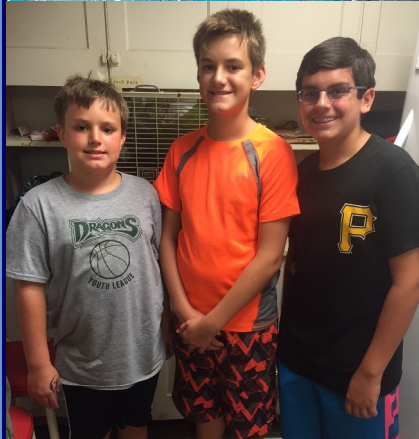
FUEL, youth group for middle school students, will meet on Sundays 5-6:30pm in the Cave.

Breakfast and Devotions, for all youth will be on Wednesdays in the Great Hall at 6:30am.

Girl Talk, a program for middle school girls on Tuesdays Lauren will pick up girls from school and bring them back to church.

Guys Games, a program for middle school boys, on Thursdays. Tim will pick up guys from school and bring them back to church.





# September Church Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>4 8:30 Youth Sun Schl 9:30 Worship 2:00 NA 5:00 Fuel 7:00 Refuge</p>	<p>5 Labor Day Office Closed</p>	<p>6 10:00 Staff Mtg 3:00 Girl Talk</p>	<p>7 6:30 Y Breakfast 5:30 JAM &amp; JAM Jr 6:00 Bells 6:00 Potluck Wedn 7:30 Choir</p>	<p>1 3:00 Guy Games 6:00 DBR 7:30 NA</p>	<p>2 7:00 NA</p>	<p>3 7:00 NA</p>
<p>11 Rally Day 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 4:00 Picnic 5:00 Fuel 7:00 Refuge</p>	<p>12 9:15 Trainers 7:30 Missions</p>	<p>13 10:00 Staff Mtg 3:00 Girl Talk</p>	<p>14 6:30 Y Breakfast 10:00 LAMBS 5:30 JAM &amp; JAM Jr 6:00 Bells 7:30 Choir</p>	<p>8 3:00 Guy Games 6:00 DBR 7:30 NA</p>	<p>9 7:00 NA</p>	<p>10 7:00 NA</p>
<p>18 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 5:00 Fuel 7:00 Refuge</p>	<p>19 9:15 Trainers 7:00 Session, Deacons, Trustees</p>	<p>20 10:00 Staff Mtg 3:00 Girl Talk</p>	<p>21 6:30 Y Breakfast 10:00 LAMBS 5:30 JAM &amp; JAM Jr 6:00 Bells 7:30 Choir</p>	<p>15 3:00 Guy Games 6:00 DBR 7:30 NA</p>	<p>16 7:00 NA</p>	<p>17 7:00 NA</p>
<p>25 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 5:00 Fuel 7:00 Refuge</p>	<p>26 9:15 Trainers</p>	<p>27 10:00 Staff Mtg 3:00 Girl Talk</p>	<p>28 10:00 LAMBS 5:30 JAM &amp; JAM Jr 6:00 Bells 7:30 Choir</p>	<p>22 Fall Begins 3:00 Guy Games 6:00 DBR 7:30 NA</p>	<p>23 7:00 NA</p>	<p>24 7:00 NA</p>
				<p>29 3:00 Guy Games 6:00 DBR 7:30 NA</p>	<p>30 7:00 NA</p>	



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www.first-presby.org

Dr. James C King  
Minister

Robert Kribbs  
Visitation Pastor

Tim Halteman  
Adult & Youth Ministry

Lauren Halteman  
Youth & Children Ministry

## Rally Day is for Everyone!

**Sunday, Sept. 11  
at 9am in the Great Hall.**

It is a special time to gather all together and kick off our year! This is an opportunity for you to hear about all the programs of the church (kids, youth, adults, classes, small groups, outreaches, music, etc.), learn about how you can get involved and plugged in, meet the Sunday School teachers, have fellowship, enjoy some food and worship the Lord together!

All are encouraged to attend this fun and relaxed morning!

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

	Nursery	Social	Greeters
4	Taylor, Cavanagh	Adult Ed	D. & J. Fisher
11	Amber Lind, Roussell	Rally Day	D. & K. Cavanagh
18	Graver, Papson	Connie Moore	A. Marquart, J. Temple
25	Heid, Jusko	Bruckhart	P. & E. Chiboroski

**Ushers:** Keith Ringkamp, Steve Foster, Jim Apple, Seth Ziegler, Jr., Jon and Sammy Miller, Robyn Cienki

**Dinner By the River Teams:** **1:** Keiser/Bruckhart (King) **8:** Temple/Torretti (Kribbs) **15:** Bruce/Ishii/Ringkamp (TBA) **22:** Sacred Heart (Shaffer) **29:** Shady Grove Mennonite (Gathman)

**All Church Picnic Committee:** Brent & Ashley Papson, Ken & Corey Jusko, Matt & Ashley Kalcich, Ryan & Laura Graver, Dan & Kim Wagner

# All Church Picnic

All Church picnic September 11th beginning at 4:00 at the Kelly Crossroads Picnic Area.

Paper-ware, pulled pork, hot dogs, buns, chips and beverages will be provided.

Please bring a covered dish to share.

A-M fruit or dessert N-Z vege dish

*Kelly Crossroads Picnic Area has a large field for game playing, a meandering creek and a play gym.*

**Directions:** Take Rt. 15 N to the West Milton/Milton exit. Make a left at the intersection. Drive approximately 3.5 miles. You will pass the following roads: Milroy, Bostian, Judy, Treibly, and Creek, at the next intersection make a right onto Fort Titzell Road. The Kelly Crossroads Picnic Area is 1/10th of a mile on your left.

