



From the Pastor

As you probably know, my New Year got off to a sad start. At 6:30am on January 1 my mother called to tell me that my father had passed away. Dad had been diagnosed with Vascular Dementia and the last years were difficult. Four years ago my brother moved in with my parents to provide care. My sister, who lives an hour away, was over once or twice a week, and I visited when I could (four times in the past 12 months). My dad was under hospice care for the last three months, and was regularly visited by close friends.

My father had a strong enduring Christian faith, so we celebrate the joy and eternal wellness he is now experiencing. And we look forward to our re-

union in heaven.

Over the years of my father's illness I experienced a love and a care within my family that was powerful and reflective of God's love for us. We drew closer together, becoming more gracious toward one another, supportive, caring, and concerned for one another. I know families don't always behave this way, my family didn't always behave this way, but upon my dad's illness my family drew upon our Christian faith and sought to manifest the Fruit of the Spirit in our interactions with one another. Those characteristics of Christian faith and love made a difficult situation, not just tolerable, but

good and frequently joyous.

In the middle of this month love will be expressed with cards, roses, and chocolates, nothing wrong with these, but real love is expressed in fruit; the Fruit of the Spirit.

"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." Galatians 5:22-23.

Jim



February 2017

Inside this issue:

Birthdays and Anniversaries	2
Pasta Dinner	
Thoughts on God's Love and Our Response	3
Discernment Stained Glass Guatemala Used Clothing	4
First Presby Kids Calendar	5
Kids Pics	6
First Presby Youth Calendar	7
Youth Pics	8
Church Calendar	9

February Birthdays and Anniversaries



- 1 - Joyce Zellmann
- 2 - Kyle Santorine
- 3 - Liz Speake
- 6 - Wanda Einsig, Amber Lind
- 7 - Irene John
- 8 - Larry Fletcher, Kassie McTammany
- 9 - David Campbell, Leslie Mutschler
- 10 - Glenn Dobbs, Pat Ringkamp
- 12 - Emily Poust
- 13 - Delaney McSween
- 14 - Mark Davies
- 16 - Amy Matukaitis
- 17 - Rob Guissanie
- 18 - Samantha Stancavage
- 20 - David Shrom, Justin Sabo
- 21 - Heidi Zimmerman, Erin Redding, Evie Dame
- 23 - Marcia Thomas, Mark Speake
- 24 - Isabelle Taylor
- 25 - Seth Ziegler Jr.,
- 26 - Robert Gronlund, Brandon Reid, Natalie Halteman
- 27 - Marion Fletcher, Bryan Speake,

2 - Roger & Nancy Curran celebrating their 57th wedding anniversary

4 - Gene & Bea Heid celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary

13 - John & Amy Tirpak celebrating their 18th wedding anniversary

14 - Rob & Lisa Black celebrating their 18th wedding anniversary

16 - John & Bonnie Troxell celebrating their 43rd wedding anniversary



Pasta Luncheon

Sign up in the bulletin to attend the Youth Summer Mission Trip Fundraiser Spaghetti Luncheon immediately following the worship service on February 12th.

On the Menu:

pasta bar, Italian bread, Salad bar and dessert.

All proceeds will go towards the June trip to Valdosta GA



Thoughts on God's Love and Our Response

- ♥ In understanding God's love for us, we need to know the entire story, Old Testament and New. Read as a whole, the Bible is a love letter, written by a passionate God, proclaiming one incessant message: "I love you so much that I broke into your world in the person of my Son, Jesus, to die for you so that you might live forever with me."
- ♥ The Lord's love for the underdog is apparent from the beginning. Addressing a new generation of Israelites about to enter the land of their ancestors, Moses says "The Lord did not set His affection on you ... because you were more numerous than other peoples. But it was because the Lord loved you and kept the oath He swore to your ancestors that He redeemed you from the land of slavery. Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; He is the faithful God, keeping His covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love Him and keep His commandments" [Deut. 7:6-9].
- ♥ The Incarnation is astounding evidence of God's love. J. I. Packer puts it this way: "God became man; the divine Son became a Jew; the Almighty appeared on earth as a helpless human baby, unable to do more than lie and stare and wriggle and make noises, needing to be fed and changed and taught to talk like any other child... The more you think about it, the more staggering it gets. Nothing in fiction is so fantastic as is this truth of the Incarnation" [Knowing God, p. 53, as reported. in Timothy Keller, *Hidden Christmas*, p. 44].
- ♥ Coming to earth as a fully human being, Jesus hungered, thirsted, experienced temptation, endured ridicule, and suffered agonizing pain on the Cross. Through it all, He obeyed His Father, displaying the faith, love, discipline and courage we need to meet the trials in our lives. He is both the recipient of our love and the model by which we love others.
- ♥ Jesus pulled together two Old Testament scriptures to describe "The Great Commandment": "Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these" [Mark 12:29-31].
- ♥ Greg Ogden on The Great Commandment: "The purpose of living is the adoration of God and the cherishing of human beings. The Great Commandment is a call to respond to a relationship of love that has already been established. It is not a new high bar for us to jump over so that God will be pleased with us. His pleasure in us has already been demonstrated through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus" [Greg Ogden, *The Essential Commandment*, p. 27]
- ♥ The way in which God came to earth foreshadowed the way that we should model His love. In the words of Timothy Keller, "the fact that God became human and emptied Himself of His glory means you should not want to hang out only with the people with power and glitz, who are networked and can open doors for you. You need to be willing to go to people without power, without beauty, without money. That is the Christian spirit, because God became one of us" [Timothy Keller, *Hidden Christmas*, 50].
- ♥ God's love story is moving toward His return, when He gathers His people and restores the earth to its blissful condition preceding the Fall. We are actors in this story, approaching our day of restoration. As repentant sinners, we should await this day with joy, energy, and determination. We have work to do! We are to take God's Word to our unsaved neighbors, who otherwise face an eternity of isolation from Him and His love. God desires that all be saved. Seeking and discipling others, we follow not only His Great Commandment but also His Great Commission. -Bob Kribbs

The Greatest of These is
Love

LOVING THE UNLOVABLE

Continuing Conversation...

In our continuing conversation about our denomination, we have an opportunity in February to listen to and then discuss the denominational issues with Dr. Steve Shirk.

On Monday Feb. 27 at 7:00pm Rev. Dr. Steve Shirk, Pastor of First Presbyterian of Milton, will be sharing with us. Several years ago the Milton church ac-

tually began the process to leave the denomination and then stopped the process mid-way. Steve will share with us why they began the process, why they stopped, and the impact it has had on their congregation.

The next meeting will be on March 27 with Commissioned Lay Pastor Bob Reich. Bob is

Pastor of the Mountain Presbyterian Church (south of Sunbury) which has left the PC (USA) and joined the Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians (ECO).

Stained Glass Window Update

Our trustees have discovered that two of the stained glass windows on the west side of the church are "bowing". A stained glass window expert has estimated the cost of repairing and preserving these windows to be about \$70,000. In an effort to make the repairs we have undertaken a three year campaign. The December balance of this fund was \$23,151.64. All gifts substantial or modest, are welcomed and greatly appreciated. Your pledge should be sent to the church financial secretary.

Guatemalan Medical Mission

The Guatemalan Mission Trip will take place July 8-16, '17. If you are interested in participating in this medical mission trip, please call Kathy Storm (570)523-1468.

Gently Used Clothing Donation



The Deacons have set up a receptacle in the office hallway to accept gently used clothing for the Eastern Union County Clothes Share Program.


The next month the focus is on children's clothing. If you have gently used or new clothes, **especially boys pants and larger girls sizes.** please place your donation in the box outside of the office.

LOVE
SHOULD
BE
OUR
TALK
AND
OUR
WALK



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February 2017 First Presby KIDS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
			JAM 5:30-7pm Bring a friend night!			SUSQUE RETREAT
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
SUSQUE RETREAT Sunday School 9-10am Worship @ 10:30			JAM 5:30-7pm Glow stick night!	Rejoicing Spirits 6pm		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Sunday School 9-10am Worship @ 10:30			JAM 5:30-7pm Make up a rule night!			
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Sunday School 9-10am Worship @ 10:30			JAM 5:30-7pm Rainbow Colors Night!			
26	27	28				
Sunday School 9-10am Worship @ 10:30						

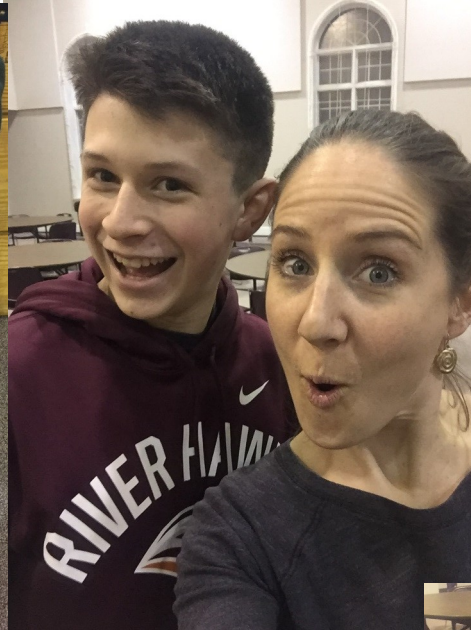


February 2017

First Presby Youth

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
			Breakfast 6:30am	Guys Games 2:30pm		SUSQUE RE- TREAT
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
SUSQUE RETREAT NO Sunday School NO Fuel NO Refuge		Girl Talk 2:30pm	Breakfast 6:30am	Guys Games 2:30pm Rejoicing Spirits 6:30		SYMT Fund- raiser Prep
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Sunday School 9-10 SYMT Fundraiser Fuel 5:30-6pm Refuge 7-8:30pm		Girl Talk 2:30pm	Breakfast 6:30am	Guys Games 2:30pm		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Sunday School 9-10 Fuel 5:30-6pm Refuge 7-8:30pm		Girl Talk 2:30pm	Breakfast 6:30am	Guys Games 2:30pm		
26	27	28				
Sunday School 9-10 Fuel 5:30-6pm Refuge 7-8:30pm		Girl Talk 2:30pm				





February Church Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>5 8:30 Prayer 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 12:00 Retreat Ends 2:00 NA 5:00 Fuel 7:00 Refuge</p>	<p>6 7:15 E&D 9:15 Trainers 7:30 Missions</p>	<p>7 10:00 Staff Mtg 3:00 Girl Talk 7:30 NA</p>	<p>1 6:30 Y Breakfast 10:00 LAMBS 5:00 Chimes 5:30 JAM 6:00 Bells 7:30 Choir</p>	<p>2 3:00 Guy Games 6:00 DBR 7:00 NA</p>	<p>3 12:00 NA 7:00 NA</p>	<p>4 10:00 Susque Re-treat Begins 7:00 NA</p>
<p>12 8:30 Prayer 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 12:00 Pasta Lunch 5:00 Fuel 7:00 Refuge</p>	<p>13 9:15 Trainers 7:30 Missions</p>	<p>14 10:00 Staff Mtg 3:00 Girl Talk 7:30 NA</p>	<p>8 6:30 Y Breakfast 10:00 LAMBS 5:00 Chimes 5:30 JAM 6:00 Bells 7:30 Choir</p>	<p>9 3:00 Guy Games 6:00 DBR 7:00 NA</p>	<p>10 12:00 NA 7:00 NA</p>	<p>11 7:00 NA</p>
<p>19 8:30 Prayer 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 5:00 Fuel 7:00 Refuge</p>	<p>20 9:15 Trainers 7:00 Session, Deacons, Trustees</p>	<p>21 10:00 Staff Mtg 3:00 Girl Talk 7:30 NA</p>	<p>15 6:30 Y Breakfast 10:00 LAMBS 5:00 Chimes 5:30 JAM 6:00 Bells 7:30 Choir</p>	<p>16 3:00 Guy Games 6:00 DBR 7:00 NA</p>	<p>17 12:00 NA 7:00 NA</p>	<p>18 7:00 NA</p>
<p>26 8:30 Prayer 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 5:00 Fuel 7:00 Refuge</p>	<p>27 9:15 Trainers 7:00 DBR Captain's Meeting with Steve Shirk</p>	<p>28 10:00 Staff Mtg 3:00 Girl Talk 7:30 NA</p>	<p>22 6:30 Y Breakfast 10:00 LAMBS 5:00 Chimes 5:30 JAM 6:00 Bells 7:30 Choir</p>	<p>23 3:00 Guy Games 6:00 DBR 7:00 NA</p>	<p>24 12:00 NA 7:00 NA</p>	<p>25 7:00 NA</p>





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

First Presbyterian Church
18 Market St
Lewisburg PA 17837
Phone: 570-524-4419
Web: www.first-presby.org
Email: info@first-presby.org

Pastor:
Dr. James C. King
Adult & Youth Ministries:
Tim Halteman
Children & Youth Ministries: Lauren Halteman
Visitation Pastor:
Bob Kribbs

Pulpit Assistant: Rob Guissanie

Ushers: Bill Moore Sr., Holly Moore, Bill Roll, Darryl Fisher, Bart Shaffer and Matt Kalcich

Nursery:

5 Lynn Berg, Graver family

12 McSween, Jusko families

19 Kalcich, TBA

26 Heid, Cavanagh families

Coffee Social

Bill & Beth Shutt

N Leshner, D. Reid

Caroline Campagna

Connie Moore

Greeters:

Dave & April Shrom

Eric & Barb Schmidt

G. & K. Schwieger

Mebius family

Dinner By the River: **2** - Dittmar (Jim King) **9** - Storm (Rhiannon Dame) **16** - Jordan (Linda Shaffer) **23** - Miller (Rick Gathman)

Fill Our Big Soup Can for the Food Bank

Bring cans of soup and vegetables to fill our soup can barrels on (or before)

Super Bowl Sunday Feb. 5

MORE THAN 25 YEARS AGO, the Souper Bowl of Caring began with a single youth group. Since that day, more than \$125 million has been raised for local charities across the country through 'Souper Bowl of Caring'. All of our donations will go to the Eastern Union County Supplemental Food Program

Be part of this movement that is sharing God's love with those in need.

