



From the Pastor

Last month, as we began our Sermon on the Mount sermon series, I encouraged us all to read the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-12) daily for a week. The following Sunday I had one person ask me if I have

read the Beatitudes in Eugene Peterson's paraphrase *The Message*? I had not. I don't always like Peterson's interpretation of Scripture, I generally prefer an authorized translation. At this

person's encouragement I read the Beatitudes in the *Message* and found it to be a refreshing understanding of Jesus' teaching. I hope you also find it refreshing.

Jim

The Beatitudes

"You're blessed when you're at the end of your rope. With less of you there is more of God and his rule.

"You're blessed when you feel you've lost what is most dear to you. Only then can you be embraced by the One most dear to you.

"You're blessed when you're content with just who you are—no more, no less. That's the moment you find yourselves proud owners of everything that can't be bought.

"You're blessed when you've worked up a good appetite for God. He's food and drink in the best meal you'll ever

eat.

"You're blessed when you care. At the moment of being 'care-full,' you find yourselves cared for.

⁸"You're blessed when you get your inside world—your mind and heart—put right. Then you can see God in the outside world.

"You're blessed when you can show people how to cooperate instead of compete or fight. That's when you discover who you really are, and your place in God's family.

"You're blessed when your commitment to God provokes persecution. The persecution

drives you even deeper into God's kingdom. "Not only that—count yourselves blessed every time people put you down or throw you out or speak lies about you to discredit me. What it means is that the truth is too close for comfort and they are uncomfortable. You can be glad when that happens—give a cheer, even!—for though they don't like it, *I do!* And all heaven applauds. And know that you are in good company. My prophets and witnesses have always gotten into this kind of trouble.

March 2014

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March Birthdays and Anniversaries

1 - Liz Kidney, Mark Hall, Lydia Matukaitis
2 - Cecelia Peterson, Bob Harder, Tim Taylor, Tanner Host, Spencer Barlett
5 - Dustine Koons, Kevin Zimmerman
6 - Pat Fisher, Alison Zimmerman
7 - Bill Moore Sr.
8 - Tom & Jeanette Campbell, Dave Thomas
9 - Ben Shaffer, Caden Papson
10 - Lynn Lawson, Gerry Schwieger, Adam Brown, Emily Leshner, Laura Moore
11 - Samantha Roarty
13 - Darinda Fisher, Amy Cooper, Mike Mast
15 - Anna Griffith
17 - Will Taylor
18 - Freddie Dyroff, Jackson Matukaitis,
21 - Ray Walz, Marilyn Gaver
22 - Steve Foster, Paige Kerstetter, Jennifer Wakeman,
23 - Sandra Sholley, Rachel Wakeman
24 - Christena Harder, Clara North
25 - Elmer Grose
26 - Sarah Speake, Douglas Taylor
27 - Karen Guissanie, Nathan Wright, Christopher Tirpak
28 - Kathy Gathman, Sarah Bolig
30 - Mitchell Graves, Wrenn Underkoffler,
31 - Margaret Weirick, Dale Lind

7 - Joe & Marguerite Santorine celebrating their 22nd anniversary
17—Samuel & Barb Taggart celebrating their 33rd anniversary
19 - Jeff & Heather Creighton celebrating their 9th anniversary
21 - Raymond & Judy Walz celebrating their 50th anniversary
22 - Oren & Pat Oberlin celebrating their 56th anniversary
22 - John & Cindy Jones celebrating their 34th anniversary
23 - Steve & Alesia Foster celebrating their 29th anniversary



Spring Cleaning

Spring Cleaning for a good cause! The youth summer mission team is having a "yard sale" fundraiser in the church parking lot on Saturday April 12th. If you have any items that you want to

donate for us to sell, we will be glad to take them! All of our proceeds will go directly towards our mission trip this summer to Puerto Rico! Donations will be collected in the youth office. Thanks for your support!



“Giving Satan His Due”

Those of us naïve enough to believe that our beautiful Central Susquehanna Valley is immune to the crimes of the city have had our fantasies shattered by a recent murder in which a newly married young couple allegedly set out to kill someone—anyone, the person’s identity didn’t matter. They did so in a most grisly fashion, and as we learned more about their background, we discovered that the sordid event has Satanic overtones.

It’s possible to see a parallel between this rude intrusion into our concept of life in our Valley and our spiritual handling of Evil. We can be lulled into a comfortable relationship with God, accepting Sin as part of our flawed nature but ignoring Sin as an active presence, capable of blatant invitation or subtle inveigling. On Sunday morning, the Presbyterian rhythm of adoration, confession, and pardon is intended to center

us for worship; if we treat it as our insurance policy for the coming week, we are deceived.

Whether we call God’s opponent “Satan” or something else, we must acknowledge its formidable presence in our lives. Read the story of the rich man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31). Consider the words of John: “A time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out—those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned” (John 5:28). Dwell on these words by past teacher and IVCF leader, Paul Little: “The sobering truth that we exist forever makes it imperative that we give thought to our nature, condition, and destiny while we are still able to do what is needful” (*Know What You Believe*, p. 81).

Fear of eternal consequences is a legitimate re-

sponse, but more powerful is the knowledge that God loved us enough to die for us and that His goodness is stronger than Satan’s evil. Jesus assures us of this when he says, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die” (John 11:25-26).

-Bob Kribbs



Soup and Scripture

The Lewisburg Council of Churches Lenten Soup and Scripture series will begin March 5th with a Parable theme. ‘Soup and Scripture’ occurs every Wednesday during Lent, 12noon at the Christ’s Lutheran Church on South Third Street in Lewisburg. Local churches

take a turn serving and pastors rotate delivering the message. Jim will be sharing the message “Shrewd Business Manager” based on Luke 16:1-15 on March 12th. First Presbyterian will also be preparing the luncheon on March 12th, led by Jan Temple. Jan would like to have five serv-

ers as well as cookies baked for the luncheon. If you are able to help, please call Jan Temple at 570-524-4877.

All are welcome to attend the soup luncheon and devotion throughout the Lenten season.

Son of God

Now, the larger-than-life story of The New Testament gets a larger-than-life treatment in the stand-alone feature SON OF GOD. Told with the scope and scale of an action epic, the film features powerful performances, exotic locales, dazzling visual effects and a rich orchestral score from Oscar®-winner Hans Zimmer. Portuguese actor

Diogo Morgado portrays Jesus as the film spans from his humble birth through his teachings, crucifixion and ultimate resurrection. From the producers of the record-breaking miniseries “The Bible”, it marks the first motion picture about Jesus’ life since Passion of the Christ, released ten years ago. Son of God will be in theatres beginning February 28th.



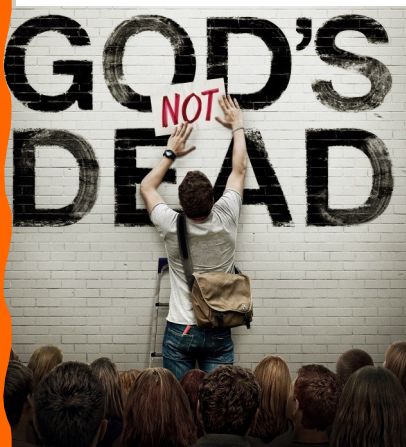
Welcome Back to Marcia Aikey

Marcia Aikey has accepted the job as Facility Manager of our church. Marcia served in that capacity for many years, resigning in 2008 to work with her son in the restaurant business.

A big thank you to Lorri Bruckhart for cleaning all the nooks and crannies in the interim.



How Far Would You Go To Defend Your Belief in God?



Present-day college freshman and devout Christian, Josh Wheaton (Shane Harper),

finds his faith challenged on his first day of Philosophy class by the dogmatic and argumentative Professor Radisson (Kevin Sorbo). Radisson assigns him a daunting task: if Josh will not admit that “God Is Dead,” he must prove God’s existence by presenting well-researched, intellectual arguments and evidence over the course of the semester, and engage Radisson in a head-to-head debate in front of the class. If Josh fails to convince his classmates of God’s existence, he

will fail the course and hinder his lofty academic goals. Wouldn’t it just be easier just to write “God Is Dead” and put the whole incident behind him? **GOD’S NOT DEAD** weaves together multiple stories of faith, doubt and disbelief, culminating in a dramatic call to action. The film, coming out March 21 will educate, entertain, and inspire moviegoers to explore what they really believe about God, igniting important conversations and life-changing decisions.

First Presby Kids

In February, we examined Jesus' ministry and how the life of Jesus leads us to the Easter story. We will continue these topics in March. In Sunday School and BIG IDEA, we will look at some specific events in Jesus' leading to the Easter holiday. JAM concluded their study of crazy Bible weather-with some snowed out meetings, just reinforcing our point.

We had a great time at the all church retreat at Camp Susque. Look for pictures on our Facebook page or featured in the April newsletter!

Thinking of sunny days? Mark your calendars for Weird Animals-Where Jesus' Love is One of a Kind. Vacation Bible School will be June 16-20 from 9 AM until noon. Please fill out the interest survey and return to Rhiannon if you want to help. Rhiannon will be scheduling meetings with volunteers based on area of involvement. Teams (adults and youth entering 6th grade and up) are welcome to sign up together to help!

Do you love singing, acting and having too much fun? Pencil in August 11-15, for the Kids' Cantata: 12:30-3:30. This will be a fun

filled (VBS like) week where kids entering 2nd through 8th grade will have the opportunity to act, sing, work on sets and props, learn movements and all about Heaven. The culmination of this great week of fun will be when we share our project in worship on Sunday August 17th at 10 AM.

Please note the dates below, there are some changes in meeting dates as well as special events:

JAM will be meeting on March 19 and 26 5 PM-7 PM.

There will be a JAM movie night on Friday March 14 from 5:30-8 in the Great Hall. Movie and menu TBD!

PLEASE NOTE, there will be no JAM on March 5. Instead come celebrate Shrove Tuesday on March 4 from 5:30-7 with a pancake dinner and some fun Lenten/pancake activities. This is not a regular meeting, parents are encouraged to stay and see how we come together for fellowship, food and fun.

Shoebox Madness was an amazing success this year! Wondering how you can get involved this month? In antici-

pation of this year's event, we will be collecting items all through 2013. If each member of the church, gave 1 or 2 items a month, what an amazing turnout! There will be a box in the parlor to collect your items. March would be a good time to look for small toys or art supplies, check out pre Easter basket sales. Candy is welcome too -only hard candy though please. Please help us make a difference in the lives of children around the world.



As always, check out the First Presby Kids page on Facebook for pictures and more details. Rhiannon Dame

First Presby Kids



First Presby Youth
 Monthly Topic: Dating & Sex: Not a Big Deal??

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 Sunday School 9-10am Guys Study 12-1:30	3	4 REFUGE 7-8:30pm	5 Breakfast & Devos 6:30am FUEL 7-8:30pm	Lewisburg Musical Night Out 7pm		
9 Sunday School 9-10am Guys Study 12-1:30	10	11 REFUGE 7-8:30pm	12 Breakfast & Devos 6:30am FUEL 7-8:30pm	Girl Talk 3-4pm Rejoicing Spirits 6:30pm		
16 Sunday School 9-10am Guys Study 12-1:30	17	18 REFUGE 7-8:30pm	19 Breakfast & Devos 6:30am FUEL 7-8:30pm	20	21 God's Not Dead MOVIE NIGHT	22
23 Sunday School 9-10am Guys Study 12-1:30	24	25 REFUGE 7-8:30pm	26 Breakfast & Devos 6:30am FUEL 7-8:30pm	27 Girl Talk 3-4pm	28 Philly Mission Trip	29 Philly Mission Trip
30 Sunday School 9-10am Philly Mission Trip	31					



COLOR KEY: Green Events - ALL youth event
 Red Events - High School events

Blue Events - Middle School events
 Black Events - College age events

Questions or comments? Feel free to contact us: Lauren and Tim Halteman, Youth Directors
 Office: 570-524-4419, lhalteman@first-presby.org, thalteman@first-presby.org

A very special thank you to all of you that attended the Summer Mission Trip Fundraiser lunch in February! We appreciate your support of our mission trip to Puerto Rico! The next fundraiser will be a "yard sale" in the church parking lot on Saturday April 12th! If you would like to donate items that we can sell, please contact Lauren or Tim!

A group of middle school students will be going on a mini mission trip weekend at the end of March. We will be serving with the Center for Student Missions in Philadelphia; volunteering in the city and learning about poverty and leadership. Please pray for our safety and our experience! We look forward to sharing with you about the weekend



The youth group (FUEL & REFUGE) will be going to the upcoming movie "God's Not Dead" on opening night, Friday March 21st at the Susquehanna Valley Mall movie theatre. All youth are welcome to join us! The movie is about a college student that has to defend his faith in God when a philosophy professor challenges what he believes. For more info on the movie, visit the website: godnotdeadthemovie.com. We will be taking the van, time to be at the church is TBD, stay tuned for more info!



March 2014

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

1

7 NA

8

8:00 Men's Breakfast
7 NA

7

7 NA

6

6:00 DBR

5

6:30 Youth Breakfast
10:00 Women's Bible
6:30 Bell Choir
7:30 Choir

4

9:30 Staff Meeting
7:00 Refuge
8:30 HS Lifegroup

3

9:15 Trainers

2

9:00 Sunday School
10:30 Worship

9

9:00 Sunday School
10:30 Worship
11:30 Annual Meeting & Luncheon

11

9:30 Staff Meeting
7:00 Refuge
8:30 HS Lifegroup

12

6:30 Youth Breakfast
10:00 Women's Bible
6:30 Bell Choir
7:30 Choir

13

3:00 MS Girl Talk
6:00 DBR

14

5:00 JAM Movie Night
7 NA

15

7 NA

16

9:00 Sunday School
10:30 Worship

17

9:15 Trainers

18

9:30 Staff Meeting
7:00 Refuge
8:30 HS Lifegroup

19

6:30 Youth Breakfast
10:00 Women's Bible
5:00 JAM
6:30 Bell Choir
7:30 Choir

20

6:00 DBR

21

7 NA

22

7 NA

23

9:00 Sunday School
10:30 Worship

24

9:15 Trainers

25

9:30 Staff Meeting
7:00 Refuge
8:30 HS Lifegroup

26

6:30 Youth Breakfast
10:00 Women's Bible
5:00 JAM
6:30 Bell Choir
7:30 Choir

27

3:00 MS Girl Talk
6:00 DBR

28

7 NA

29

7 NA

30

9:00 Sunday School
10:30 Worship

31

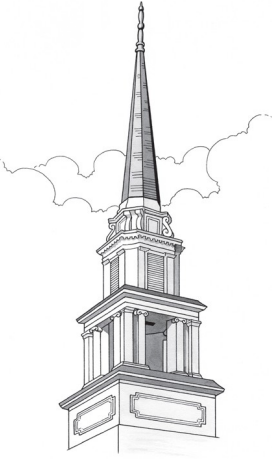
9:15 Trainers

First Presbyterian Church

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Dr. James C. King

“Living fully in Christ, through His word,
community and mission.”



www.first-presby.org

Pulpit Assistant: John or Bonnie Troxell

Ushers: Paul Miller, Roger Curran, Dave Robinson, Rick Gathman, Thomas and Mitchell Graves, Mike Gilger, Andrew and Tanner Host

Nursery

- 2 A. Black, McSween, Reif
- 9 Foster, J. Miller, Redding
- 16 Shrom, Roll, A. Lind
- 23 Leshner, Graver, Chiboroski
- 30 Roarty, Mast Cavanagh

Greeters

- Dave & Paula Young
- Girl Scout Troops
- Terry & Barb Light
- Dave and Nate Reid

Coffee Social

- Shaffers
- Girl Scout Troops
- Fishers
- Barnharts
- Lepleys

Dinner By the River: 6 - Shady Grove Mennonite, 13 - Beaver United Methodist Church, 20 - Dittmar, 27 - Mertz (led by Mary Kay Torretti)

Spring Congregational Meeting Luncheon: Jeff & Richelle Jones, Roger & Nancy Curran,

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL JUNE 16-20 9-12NOON

Volunteer Signup To Help

- Youth Helper (6th-12 graders)
- Crafts/Recreation Circle interest:



- Bible Story Staff
- Decorating
- Music Staff
- Photographer/Videographer for VBS week
- Station helper: Crafts or Recreation
- Snack Staff
- Prayer Support

Classroom Teacher _____
Grade interested in teaching

Classroom Aide _____
Grade interested in teaching

Nursery Staff

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Please return to Rhiannon Dame or the Church Office