

# The First Press

March 2017

## From the Pastor:

Recently Pauline and I joined my sister's family for a worship service at Menlo Church, a mega-church with satellite campuses up and down the San Francisco Peninsula. Their Senior Pastor is John Ortberg (we have several of his books in the Himmelreich Library and have had Sunday school classes based on them). Ortberg quoted Tim Keller repeatedly throughout his sermon. He also quoted David Lamb multiple times. You may remember, through Jesse North, we had Dr. Lamb preach here a few years ago. I thought, "here I am across the continent from home and this big time preacher is referring to two Christian leaders who have both been in our church." What are the odds?

Generally people think of

giving something up for Lent but I recommend adding something. I am planning on rereading Dr. Lamb's book God Behaving Badly during the Lenten Season. Dr. Keller is pumping out books faster than I can read them. Dr. Lamb's book and most of Dr. Keller's books are also available in the library and worth your time.

For Lent we are recommending a Lenten Devotional from Dr. Keller's church Redeemer Presbyterian in NYC. On February 28, via Flocknote, you'll receive a link to the devotional (if you have not yet signed up for Flocknote, go to our website [first-presby.org](http://first-presby.org) and click on the lamb - no relation to David - to sign up). Redeemer Presbyterian also has an app you

can download which will give you access to the devotional. Hardcopies of the devotional will be available in the Narthex (back of the Sanctuary).

Through the years our congregation has been blessed to cross paths with some of the most important Christian leaders of our day. Let us take advantage of the resources God has made available to us through them, especially as we contemplate the fullness of God's love for us in the Crucifixion and Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

I look forward to seeing how God uses the Lenten Devotional to draw us closer to Him in this special season.

Jim

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## Discernment Meeting Update

Recordings of our conversations with Executive Presbyter Bill Knudsen, and Rev. Dr. Steve Shirk are available on our website [www.first-presby.org](http://www.first-presby.org). On the Home Page: under the "Information Sessions" entry click on "continue reading" and you will see links to the recordings.

# March Birthdays and Anniversaries

1 - Liz Kidney, Lydia Matukaitis  
2 - Cecelia Peterson, Bob Harder, Tim Taylor, Tanner Host, Spencer Barlett  
5 - Dustine Koons,  
6 - Alison Zimmerman  
7 - Bill Moore Sr.  
8 - Tom & Jeanette Campbell, Dave Thomas  
9 - Ben Shaffer, Caden Papon  
10 - Gerry Schwieger, Emily Leshar, Laura Moore  
11 - Samantha Roarty  
13 - Amy Cooper, Mike Mast  
14 - Phil Moore, Victor Vogel  
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  
26 - Douglas Taylor  
27 - Karen Guissanie, Nathan Wright, Christopher Tirpak  
28 - Kathy Gathman, Sarah Bolig  
30 - Mitchell Graves, Wrenn Underkoffler,  
31 - Margaret Weirick, Dale Lind, Sutton Kovaschetz



7 - Joe & Marguerite Santorine celebrating their 25th anniversary  
14 - Mark & Jessica Heid celebrating their 19th anniversary  
17—Samuel & Barb Taggart celebrating their 36th anniversary  
19 - Jeff & Heather Creighton celebrating their 12th anniversary  
21 - Raymond & Judy Walz celebrating their 53rd anniversary  
22 - Oren & Pat Oberlin celebrating their 59th anniversary  
22 - John & Cindy Jones celebrating their 37th anniversary  
23 - Steve & Alesia Foster celebrating their 32nd anniversary



## Facing Darkness

Playing at Cinema Center of Bloomsburg 11, 1879 Columbia Blvd in Bloomsburg on **March 30th at 7pm.** (As of press time the Selinsgrove Mall Theatre was not listing the movie.) As the Ebola pandemic was sweeping across West Africa in the spring of 2014, one organization was willing to step up and fully commit its people and resources to provide comfort, compassion, and care to the hurting people of Africa ... all in the Name of Jesus. But when the deadly virus infected its own medical personnel, including Dr. Kent Brantly, the epic crisis truly hit home for Samaritan's Purse and its leader Franklin Graham. **FACING DARKNESS** tells the incredible true story of how—with only faith, determination, and prayer—the ministry moved mountains ... and God performed a miracle! Tickets \$12.50

# The No and Yes of Repentance; Seeking Wholeness in God

"In his book, *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction*, retired pastor and professor Eugene Peterson comments on the challenge that Christian disciples face in a society where "they can trust nothing they hear, depend on no one they meet" [InterVarsity Press, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 2000]. Now that we have been introduced to "fake news" and "alternative facts," we wonder what new challenges lie ahead as we seek to model and witness to God's truth in an increasingly self-centered, relativistic culture.

In this culture, we Christians are steeped in ideas that at best contain only a germ of truth and at worst are outright lies. Take God away from our science, medicine, sexuality, economy, and interpersonal relationships, to name a few, and we have but a dim shadow of their ultimate meaning for us and for our lives. It is true that God in His grace blesses Christian and non-Christian alike with skills and accomplishments, but he must mourn for those of us who believe that we deserve all the credit. That we are masters of our fate and captains of our souls is not an alternative fact; it is a lie that doesn't stop at the church door. Unless the church counters our cultural fixa-

tion on self with thorough Biblical preaching, teaching, witness, and service, we will struggle to be guided by the One who, in taking up a towel and a bowl, taught disciples for all time what servant leadership and servant living are all about.

Against such a formidable cultural challenge, Peterson offers another encouraging thought: "dissatisfaction, when coupled with a longing for peace and truth, can set us on a pilgrim path of wholeness in God" [25]. Disgusted with the poverty of truth in a setting devoid of God, we must rush to His Word. There we find the encouragement to say no to the world's deception, fraudulence, and fabrication and yes to God's truth. This, Peterson tells us, is how we *repent*. Repentance, he says, is "the first word in the Christian life ... deciding that you have been wrong in thinking that you could manage your own life and be your own god" [29]. From John the Baptist through Jesus, Peter, Paul, and Christ's beloved disciple, John, the message to us, as it was to the seventh church in Revelation, is "be zealous and repent" [Rev. 3:19 RSV].

Repentance is deciding that God in Jesus Christ is telling us the truth. In this respect, we stand on the shoulders of our ancestral nation, Israel, who said no to two tremendous world powers: Mesopotamia in the days of Abraham and Egypt in the days of Moses. Peterson concludes, "...Israel said no and became a pilgrim people, picking a path of peace and righteousness through the battlefields of falsehood and violence, finding a path to God through the labyrinth of sin" [p. 32].

As a congregation, we will have new opportunities in coming months to rediscover how the Bible, God's inspired Word, speaks to us, strengthening our ability to say no in a culture of yes and yes to God's truth.. We will once again recognize Scripture for what it is, a "lamp for my feet, a light on my path" [Ps. 119:105]. Our goal, as always, is to breathe it into our heads and our hearts and breathe it out in lives of love, witness, and service. What a joy it is to know that as repentant people, we live in a reality created not by men and women but by God! And what is at stake? Our very souls.



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## Inquirer's Classes

Inquirer's Classes will run Sundays March 19 - Apr. 30 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 (570)524-4419 if you plan to attend.

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# All Church Retreat



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
			CHIMES 5pm JAM 5:30-7pm Clothing Donation Night			
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Sunday School 9-10am Worship @ 10:30			CHIMES 5pm JAM 5:30-7pm Strength & Power Night	Rejoicing Spirits 6pm at Beaver UMC		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Sunday School 9-10am Worship @ 10:30			CHIMES 5pm JAM 5:30-7pm Bring A Friend Night			
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Sunday School 9-10am Worship @ 10:30			CHIMES 5pm JAM 5:30-7pm All About Me Night			
26	27	28	29	30	31	
Sunday School 9-10am Worship @ 10:30			CHIMES 5pm JAM 5:30-7pm Nerf Toy Night			



JAM Glow  
Stick Night

# March 2017

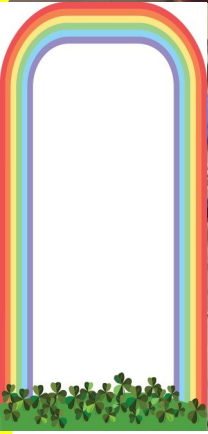
## First Presby Youth

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
			Breakfast 6:30am	Guys Games 2:30pm		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Sunday School Fuel 5:30 Refuge 7pm		Girl Talk 2:30pm	Breakfast 6:30am	Guys Games 2:30pm  Rejoicing Spirits 6:30		30 Hour Famine Fuel Lock In event!
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
30 Hour Famine Sunday School 9-10 Fuel 5:30-6pm Refuge 7-8:30pm		Girl Talk 2:30pm	Breakfast 6:30am	Guys Games 2:30pm		Fundraiser Prep
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
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  Movie Event!		
26	27	28	29	30	31	
Sunday School 9-10 Fuel 5:30-6pm Refuge 7-8:30pm		Girl Talk 2:30pm	Breakfast 6:30am	Guys Games 2:30pm		



### 30 Hour Famine for Fuel Students

Middle School Mission Event: All Middle Schoolers are invited to join us on the 30 hour famine mission weekend and church lock-in March 11-12. Signup with Tim & Lauren.





# MARCH CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5:30 Prayer 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 2:00 NA 5:00 Fuel 7:00 Refuge	6 9:15 Trainers	7 10:00 Staff Mtg 3:00 Girl Talk 7:30 NA	1 6:30 Y Breakfast 10:00 LAMBS 5:00 Chimes 5:30 JAM 6:00 Bells 7:30 Choir	2 3:00 Guy Games 5:45 DBR 7:30 NA	3 7:00 NA	4 8-9:30 Leadership 7:00 NA
5:30 Prayer 9:00 Sunday School ←Hour Famine 10:30 Worship 5:00 Fuel 7:00 Refuge	13 9:15 Trainers 7:30 Missions	14 10:00 Staff Mtg 3:00 Girl Talk 7:30 NA	8 8:30 Y Breakfast 10:00 LAMBS 5:00 Chimes 5:30 JAM 6:00 Bells 7:30 Choir	9 3:00 Guy Games 5:45 DBR 7:30 NA	10 7:00 NA	11 8-9:30 Leadership Fuel Lock - In 30 → 7:00 NA
19:30 Prayer 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 12:00 SMT Luncheon 5:00 Fuel 7:00 Refuge	20 9:15 Trainers 7:00 Session, Trustees and Deacons	21 10:00 Staff Mtg 3:00 Girl Talk 7:30 NA	15 15:30 Y Breakfast 10:00 LAMBS 5:00 Chimes 5:30 JAM 6:00 Bells 7:30 Choir	16 3:00 Guy Games 5:45 DBR 7:30 NA	17 7:00 NA	18 7:00 NA
8:30 Prayer 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 5:00 Fuel 7:00 Refuge	27 9:15 Trainers	28 10:00 Staff Mtg 3:00 Girl Talk 7:30 NA	29 6:30 Y Breakfast 10:00 LAMBS 5:00 Chimes 5:30 JAM 6:00 Bells 7:30 Choir	30 3:00 Guy Games 5:45 DBR 7:30 NA	31 7:00 NA	25 8-9:30 Leadership 7:00 NA





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](http://www.first-presby.org)  
Email: [info@first-presby.org](mailto: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:**

**Ushers:** Paul Miller, Roger Curran, Dave Robinson, Rick Gathman, Craig Harley, Steve and Meghan Mebius, Victor Vogel

<b>Nursery</b>	<b>Coffee Social</b>	<b>Greeters</b>
<b>5</b> Bruckhart, Papson	Lamar & Lorri Bruckhart	Rusty & Karen Graber
<b>12</b> Foster, Troxell	Wayne & Pat Samuelson	Victor & Sally Vogel
<b>19</b> Mast, TBA	Bart & Linda Shaffer	Dave & Paula Young
<b>26</b> Heid, Jusko	Rob & Lisa Black	Bill & Linda Snyder

**Dinner By the River Teams (Devotion Leader) :** **2** - Beaver UMC (Bob Kribbs) **9** - Keiser/Bruckhart (Bonnie Troxell) **16** - Temple/Torretti (King) **23** - Sacred Heart (Kribbs) **30** - Zellmann (Shaffer)

# Baked Potato and Chili Bar

## Sunday, March 19

### after worship



All proceeds benefit the Youth Summer Mission Trip to Valdosta GA

