



# September

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## From the Pastor:

The beginning of the school year seems much more like a time of new beginnings than January first does. I am excited about our ministries that are gearing up for the fall.

A few years ago we were struggling with children's Sunday school, and children's ministry as a whole. Some neighboring churches in the same situation shut down their Sunday school. We hired a Director of Children's ministry and the ministry to our children, including Sunday school, has grown. We face the challenge of needing more Sunday school teachers for our children. Is God calling you to this vital and vibrant ministry?

A year ago we knew that adult Sunday morning classes were not as well attended as they

historically had been. Many churches have ceased offering adult Sunday school. We poured some increased energy into our adult Sunday School and our congregation responded. This fall we have new teachers and new class offerings and a higher level of interest and enthusiasm for our adult education. Which class will you be attending?

We live in a culture that is decreasing in their Christian participation, education, and identification. Many congregations are on the decline. We can either join them, or through God's power and inspiration fight against the trends, address the challenges before us, and seek to grow in our Christian life both individually and collectively.

My goals for this fall are

to bring greater clarity to who we are as a church: our identity, our core beliefs, our mission, and our vision. There are actually many churches that are growing and thriving, just not many that are 182 years old and members of a mainline denomination. Certainly God is able to continue to bless our congregation, even bring a refreshing spirit to our ongoing work and life together.

Jim King

I ask that you pray for me, our staff, our church leadership, our congregation, and yourself that God will work in us in such a way that we experience a renewal that is trend setting rather than trend following. May we continue to be a congregation that addresses our needs rather than reduces our ministries.

## September Birthdays and Anniversaries

1 - Judith Ziegler, Vickie Ziegler, Meg Morgensen  
 2 - Alice Marquart, Sharon Pearce, Lorri Bruckhart, Kim Wagner  
 3 - Caroline Sigl  
 4 - Karen Shurtliffe, Carolyn McSween  
 5 - Tom Hans  
 6 - Alexa Mast  
 8 - Richard Erdley, Rob Royer, Tim Halteman, Caroline Graves  
 9 - Paula Young  
 10 - Jan Peterson, Bart Shaffer, Samantha Reif, Audrey Kalcich  
 11 - Chris Zellmann, Richard Cooper, Bill Bernard, Mark Temple  
 12 - Kelsey Roussell  
 13 - Tom Miller, Kirk Jarrett  
 14 - Jackie Mast  
 15 - Brian Fox  
 16 - Barbara Yocum, Lisa Kraus  
 17 - Benjamin Redding, Sidney Dame  
 18 - Sarah Graber  
 19 - Harold Whittemore, Rachael McVicar  
 23 - Crystal Reid  
 24 - Landon Jarrett  
 26 - Bill Moore Jr.  
 28 - David Goehring, Robbie McTammany  
 29 - Sawyer Kovaschetz



1 - Bob & Nancy Martin celebrating their 43rd wedding anniversary  
 2 - Jonathan & Sarah Gresh celebrating their 3rd wedding anniversary  
 4 - Keith & Pat Ringkamp celebrating their 39th wedding anniversary  
 8 - Jack & Rebecca Mignot celebrating their 54th wedding anniversary  
 19 - John & Leslie Mutschler celebrating their 34th wedding anniversary  
 21 - Matthew & Emily Poust celebrating their 2nd wedding anniversary  
 25 - Nick & Amanda Kovaschetz celebrating their 5th wedding anniversary  
 26 - Scott & Kristin McVicar celebrating their 23rd wedding anniversary  
 27 - Tim & Lauren Halteman celebrating their 7th wedding anniversary

 **Bible Study Fellowship.** *Bible classes. For every age. Around the world.*

**Bible Study Fellowship (BSF)** is coming to First Presbyterian Lewisburg! **BSF** is an in-depth, interdenominational Bible study that helps people know God and equips them to effectively serve the Church

throughout the world. This year's study is on the book of Revelation. On Thursday, Sept. 17, there will be 2 Welcome Classes, for women, in our Christian Ed Wing (one at 9:00

am, and another at 6:30 pm) to explain the BSF study. **BSF** is for all levels. Come check it out and see if this is for you! For more information, please contact Lisa Black 743-2767.

## The “Apples” of Our Eyes

*“... we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us”*  
*2 Corinthians 4:7*

I love late August and early September, a bitter-sweet time of departures and new beginnings for our church family and for the nearly 900 families who stream into our town with packed cars, high anxiety, and eighteen-year-olds fighting back tears.

One of our own parents, recently returned from settling his daughter on her campus, reported this comment: “I know I’m in the right place and doing what I should be doing—but I wish that you guys could stay.” On the other hand, a male newbie, in conversation a few days before leaving for school, said this about making the break: “I think it should be quick, like tearing off a band-aid.”

Taking such an important step requires a dash of bravado on the part of parent and child. Thankfully, in a few weeks our youngsters will have settled in with new friends, new intellectual challenges, and new confidence in living free of daily parental oversight. (How texting, facebook, and face time affect this transition I will be interested in learning from today’s parents.)

Church family, let’s pray daily for these students and their families. Get a student’s college address and send a note/email/text or maybe even a package of cookies. Look for them at break time and welcome them home. Get to know our current children and youth, and let them know you are interested in them. Watch for BU students in our pews. Introduce yourselves, and invite them to lunch.

Departing students, your church family wishes you God-

speed. For many of us parents who endured this transition decades ago, you are now the “apples of our eyes.” Take with you your First Presby relationships and experiences—the teaching, prayers, games, service projects, long van rides, and mission projects. Remember how Tim, Lauren, and their adult assistants led you into places where together you modeled the love of Christ. Recall how you felt when you built a wall in Puerto Rico or painted a house in Parma, Ohio.

Enjoy college, but be prepared for times of loneliness, doubt, and discouragement. When those times come, remember the treasure you have in Christ, a gracious gift from God. Put Him first in your lives, give Him all the credit, and rejoice in what He will do, in you and through you, during your college years and beyond.

--Bob Kribbs





## First Presby Choir

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 comprised 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) includ-

ing: 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 9 at 7:30.**

If you love to sing, please prayerfully consider joining us to sing unto the Lord!

-Jonathan Walz

## First Presby Bell Choir

School bells are ringing again signaling the start of a new year. The bell choir will soon start 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 num-

bers. No previous ringing experience is required. Anyone in sixth grade or older who is interested should plan to attend rehearsals starting Wednesday, Sept. 9th at 6:15pm.

## Adult Education

**Trainers** is a “ministry for Moms (not just preschoolers) that meet Monday mornings at 9:15. Babysitting provided. Topic to get started: *The Best Yes*” by Lysa Terkeurst

**LAMBS** is a Women’s Bible Study on Wednesday mornings at 10:00. Bea Heid leads a topical study on Biblical Prayers, Psalms, Proverbs, Parables, and People.

### Fall Sunday School:

**In the Parlor:** Busy parents of young families: take time during these critical years to focus on your marriage! Using the Love & Respect series by Dr. Eggerichs, we will learn how to better deal with conflict quickly, easily, and Biblically. This study walks through reasons why love best motivates a woman and respect most powerfully motivates a man. Join this class to learn tools that will invigorate your marriage and deepen your relationship with God.

**In the Chapel:** Dr King will be teaching a Bible 101 Class. This is a nine month long class to gain a greater knowledge and understanding of the Bible. as a whole.

**In the Library:** Enquirer’s Class Six week class for those interested in church membership.

**Adult Christian Ed Room:** Dr. Victor Vogel, a medical oncologist and author, will lead a series of discussions and investigations of the healing miracles of Jesus Christ. We will question whether the stories accurately reflect what happened, and discuss the possibility of miracles in our lives today.



## JAM News



Join us for Rally Day on Sunday September 13! We will be kicking off Sunday School with a meeting in the Great Hall before kids are dismissed to their classrooms. We have Sunday School classes for both young and old;-infants through adult learners. Our church service will move to 10:30. That day, we will also be celebrating the end of summer with a church-wide picnic at Knoebels. If you would like more information about Sunday School or the church picnic, please contact me!

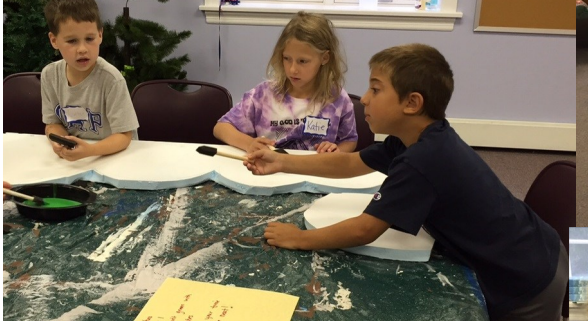
It's back to school and back to JAM! We're going to be growing our relationship with God this year by studying the Lord's Prayer and exploring how we should talk to God. We will be meeting on Wednesday September 9 and September 23 from 5-7 PM in the Great Hall. All kids in grades kindergarten- grade five are welcome to join us. Remember, dinner is included!

Movie Night will be on Friday September 18 from 5:30-8. We will be watching the new version of Annie. Dinner will be provided. Don't forget your sleeping bag and pajamas!!!

-Rhiannon Dame










# September 2015

## First Presby Youth

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Girl Talk 2-45 <b>REFUGE</b> 7-8:30pm	2 Breakfast & Devos 6:30am <b>FUEL</b> 7-8:30pm	3	4	5
6 Worship at 9:30am	7 Labor Day	8 Girl Talk 2-45 <b>REFUGE</b> 7-8:30pm	9 Breakfast & Devos 6:30am <b>FUEL</b> 7-8:30pm	10	11	12
13 RALLY DAY 9am Worship 10:30am Mission Trip Presentation Knoebels Event	14	15 Girl Talk 2-45 <b>REFUGE</b> 7-8:30pm	16 Breakfast & Devos 6:30am <b>FUEL</b> 7-8:30pm	17	18 High School Movie Night 7-9pm	19 Camp Susque 5K
20 Sunday School 9 am Worship 10:30am Parents Meet n Greet event	21	22 Girl Talk 2-45 <b>REFUGE</b> 7-8:30pm	23 <b>SYATP 7 am</b> <b>FUEL</b> 7-8:30pm	24	25	26
27 Sunday School 9 am Worship 10:30am	28	29 Girl Talk 2-45 <b>REFUGE</b> 7-8:30pm	30 Breakfast & Devos 6:30am <b>FUEL</b> 7-8:30pm			







# SEPTEMBER 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
6 9:30 Worship 2:00 NA	7 Office Closed	8 10:00 Staff Meeting 2:30 MS Girl Talk 7:00 Refuge 7:00 NA	9 6:30 Y Breakfast 10:00 LAMBS 5:00 JAM 6:15 Bell Choir 7:00 Fuel 7:30 Choir	10 6:00 DBR 7:00 NA	11 7:00 NA	12 7:00 NA
13 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 1:00 Church Picnic at Knobels	14 9:15 Trainers	15 10:00 Staff Meeting 2:30 MS Girl Talk 7:00 Refuge 7:00 NA	16 6:30 Y Breakfast 10:00 LAMBS 6:15 Bells 7:00 Fuel 7:30 Choir	17 6:00 DBR 7:00 NA	18 5:30 JAM Movie Night 7:00 NA	19 7:00 NA
20 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	21 9:15 Trainers 7:00 Session, Deacons, Trustees	22 10:00 Staff Meeting 2:30 MS Girl Talk 7:00 Refuge 7:00 NA	23 10:00 LAMBS 5:00 JAM 6:15 Bells 7:00 Fuel 7:30 Choir	24 6:00 DBR 7:00 NA	25 7:00 NA	26 7:00 NA
27 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	28 9:15 Trainers	29 10:00 Staff Meeting 2:30 MS Girl Talk 7:00 Refuge 7:00 NA	30 6:30 Y Breakfast 10:00 LAMBS 6:15 Bells 7:00 Fuel 7:30 Choir			



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

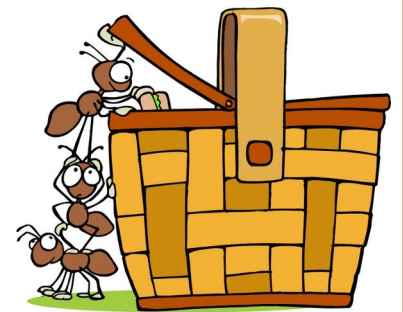
**Ushers:** Keith Ringkamp, Steve Foster, Bill Dittmar Jim Apple, Seth Ziegler Jr., Jon and Sammy Miller

**Sept. Nursery**  
6 Taylor, Kraus  
**13** Foster, Jusko  
**20** Graver, Lind  
**27** Roussell, Redding

**Lemonade or Coffee**  
Adult Education Committee  
Rally Day

**Dinner By the River Teams:** **3:** Miller (Jim King), **10** - Storm (Rob Guisanie) **17** - Keiser (Linda Shaffer) **24** - Temple/Torretti (Rick Gathman)

# All Church Picnic



The all church picnic will take place at Knoebels this year. All are invited! Meet at Pavilion 'G' at 1:00 for a picnic, then enjoy the rest of the afternoon in the park, riding rides or fellow-

shipping at the pavilion. Please bring a dish to share. Pulled pork sandwiches, chips, drinks and paper ware provided. Admission is free to the park. Tickets can be purchased the-day-of

at Knoebels Tickets never change at Knoebels,! So if you have any old tickets laying around, redeem them the day of our picnic!

