

January 2019

Meeting House News

First Presbyterian Church
On the Square, 2A North Hanover Street
Carlisle, Pennsylvania 17013



The Reverend Anthony D. Lorenz, Pastor
Debby Madden, Director of Educational Ministry
The Reverend Jon A. Black, Pastor Emeritus
Arthur Thompson, Organist
Susan Shuey, Choir Director
Avis Allen, Administrative Secretary
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Pastor's Corner

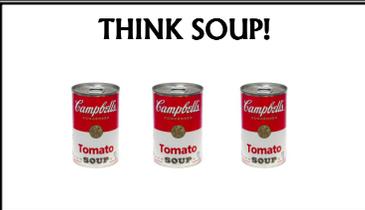


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THANK YOU.....
for your generous giving of
food items for our
"Reverse Advent
Calendar" effort. You have
helped SO many folks in
need in our community!



Can't be in church? Listen to
sermons and full services,
plus keep abreast of all
church events via the
monthly newsletter at:
www.firstprescarlisle.org

Dear Members & Friends of First Presbyterian Church,

One of my favorite activities this time of year is purchasing a new calendar. There's something wonderful about having a brand new calendar on my desk, completely blank, and wondering about what events will fill its pages over the next 365 days.

During the last few weeks of each December and the first few weeks of each January I live with two calendars: one for the old year and one for the new year. It usually takes me a few weeks to make sure everything gets transferred from the old calendar to the new one. But it is also a chance for me to review the year that has just passed.

At the end of 2018 I look back with gratitude for a wonderful year. I am blessed to serve as your pastor! I'm grateful for the way we care for one another and the love that we give and receive. You are always willing to try new things and you enable me to connect with the larger church. In 2018 I was blessed to be able to travel to Honduras once again with other members of Carlisle Presbytery. This is an important and ongoing mission relationship which is getting stronger each year. I also went to St. Louis as a commissioner to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church. This was a great opportunity to see the larger church at work and to catch up with many old friends. In October I was privileged to travel to Iraq with the Outreach Foundation, which is a validated mission agency of the Presbyterian Church. Traveling in the Middle East is a little unnerving at times, but meeting fellow Christians and getting to know them was amazing.

I'm living with two calendars on my desk right now, and as I look back at what was I'm grateful. But there's always a temptation to live in the past, to focus on what was rather than what is to come. Maybe you feel this temptation too. But God doesn't call us to live in the past, God has given us a hope and a future in Jesus Christ.

It's hard to learn from the past, to honor the past, especially when we have such an amazing and godly heritage as a congregation and not live in the past. I love our history but I don't want to be held captive by it. Sometimes outsiders confuse our old building with a museum. We are not a museum, we are a living and active community of faith, called by God to worship, connect, educate, and equip God's people to serve in Christ's name.

As the calendar turns the page to 2019 and I review what was, I'm hoping to stop looking backward as much and start looking forward more. I invite you to join me and live into the future God is giving us in Jesus Christ.

Yours very truly in Christ,
 Pastor Tony

PS: Many thanks to everyone who remembered me with cards, gifts, and treats at Christmas. Your kindness and generosity are a true blessing!

~ A Message from Our Educator, Debby Madden ~

OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND IN 2019!

As the New year begins and resolutions are being made, consider making a resolution to become better acquainted with members of First Presbyterian Church. Worshiping God together is the most important aspect of church membership, but getting to know fellow members is another significant expression of faith.

First Church offers many opportunities to meet and learn about others in the community. Everyone is invited to these meetings and events. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sunday school is offered for all ages starting in the sanctuary with *opening prayer at 9:15 AM* and classes *for all beginning at 9:30 AM*. Sunday school is an excellent place to learn from and about others in the church. But if this is not an option for you, continue reading....

Space for God is a small group meeting that gathers the *2nd and 4th Mondays of the month at 7:00 PM*. The group reads a chapter or two of a specific theological book and then discusses the themes in the book. Starting January 14, at 7 PM, the group begins by reading Sinners in the Hands of a Loving God by Brian Zahnd.

If novels, memoirs, and historical fiction are more to your liking, the **Book Club** may be just the group for you. We meet the *2nd Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM*. January's selection is The Little Prince by Antione de Saint-Exupery; and February's book is Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston. You can attend every meeting of the Book Club or only the one where that month's book is of interest to you.

As a congregation, study of the Bible is an important feature of our life together! **Bible Study** is led by Pastor Tony on the *2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at 6:30 PM*. Beginning January 22, the Gospel of John will be our first book to study in 2019.

A **Men's Breakfast** takes place the *3rd Thursday of the month at 7:30 AM* at various restaurants throughout the community (as announced). This is a great way for the men of the church to get to know one another.

The Presbyterian Women (aka "Faith Circle") meets on the *4th Monday of the month at 2:00 PM*. PW is involved in Bible Study and mission work. In 2019, the member-led group will study various Scripture passages with the theme, "God's Promise: I Am With You."

First Church's **Prayer Community** meets to pray for members, their families, friends, co-workers, and neighbors — as well as for all the people of the world. The group keeps in contact via phone and email, as well as meeting together for prayer the *3rd Sunday of the month* following worship.

If music is your thing, please consider joining the **Choir** which rehearses *Wednesdays at 7:00 PM*.

Watch weekly bulletins and monthly newsletters for updates on these and other opportunities for YOU to become an active member of the First Church congregation!

Financial Update

	<u>NOV</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Giving	\$21,443	\$220,698
Investments	\$ —	\$ 24,816
Other	\$ —	\$ 4,228
TOTAL	\$21,443	\$249,742
Expenses	(\$19,051)	(\$269,036)

Stewardship/Finance Committee



If you haven't yet, please pick up and use your 2019 White Envelopes. Included is a blue envelope for use in paying the 2019 per member per capita of \$27.10 in 2019.

Annual Congregational Meeting
Set for February 3rd

All Committee Chairs (and others) are asked to submit their input to the Annual Report to the church secretary by Friday, January 18th (or sooner)!



Sunday School Offerings
~ Something for Everyone ~
(January 6-27)

Adults & Teens: *A Study of the Sacraments*
(Teacher: Debby Madden)

Confirmation Class: *A Study of the Sacraments*
(Teacher: Pastor Tony)

Pre-school thru 6th Grade: *Stories of Jesus*
(Teachers: Barb Crum & Lynne Hofferica)

Soup for S.H.A.R.E.

We are Project SHARE's designated "soup church." In 2018, you donated over 500 cans of soup! GREAT JOB! Let's meet or exceed that number in 2019! Place cans in the container in Fellowship Hall.

FELLOWSHIP HOSTS are needed for 2019. If you can help with this ministry of hospitality, please sign up today.



We are re-decorating the Christmas Tree!

The Christmas tree always looks so forlorn after the lights and decorations are taken down and put away in January. Then the tree goes

back in the box and up to the attic or out to the curb for pick-up. But this year we are leaving the church's Christmas tree up and inviting you to RE-decorate it in a way that helps help vulnerable members of our community!

During the month of January you are invited to bring new, in-package socks and underwear to decorate the Christmas tree in Fellowship Hall. All sizes are needed but especially:

- **men's M thru XL;**
- **women's M and L;** and
- **toddler boys & girls sizes 2 thru 6.**

We'll pray for these items and dedicate them in worship on February 3rd. Then we'll take them to Community CARES and Safe Harbour for their distribution to those in our community who are struggling with some of life's most basic needs. THANK YOU!



"We thank Pastor Tony, Debby Madden, our Elders, and all members of our church, who have been so gracious to us in so many ways throughout

2018. Your cards, your words, and especially your prayers as we have approached, undergone, and emerged from two surgeries have sustained us and have helped us carry on as we emerge into whatever God holds for us in the future. We know that we are in His hands. We thank all our friends in First Church for praying that He may find mercy there."

Dick and Tracy Sommers

**Upcoming
Worship Highlights**



January 6

- * “Epiphany of the Lord”
- * The Sacrament of Communion
- * Presentation of “Star Gifts”
- * Ordination & Installation of new church officers

January 13

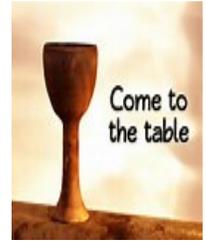
- * Baptism

February 3

- * The Sacrament of Communion
- * Annual Congregational Meeting

Communion Dates thru July

- January 6
- February 3
- March 10
- April 18
- April 20
- May 19
- June 9
- July 14



Home Communion Dates thru July

- March 10
- May 19

OFFICER TRAINING



Officer Training will be held on **Saturday, Feb. 2, 2019, 9:30 AM—1:30 PM.** All Deacons and Elders should plan to attend as we learn about what it means to be an officer in the Presbyterian Church. Lunch will be provided. There will also be a time to review counting procedures for counting the Sunday offering and how to serve Communion.

CHURCH OFFICERS

ELDERS

Class of 2019

- Barb Allen
- Lynda Mann
- Tom Sheperd
- Richard Sommers
- Charlie Thompson

Class of 2020

- Richard Darr
- Lois Lloyd
- Frank Meehan
- Deb Ryerson
- Fred Seltzer

Class of 2021

- Bruce Bailey
- David Killian
- Ray Thomas
- Carlton Walker

DEACONS

Class of 2019

- Ellen Darr
- Terry Shull
- Susan Shuey
- Alice Zimmerman

Class of 2020

- Anita Ashbaugh
- Rita Beck
- Bob Read
- Judie Read

Class of 2021

- Jamie Hoffman
- Connie Husler
- Dennis Husler
- Deb Richcreek

You can expect to receive your year-end giving statements by mail in the coming weeks. Thank you for your generosity in 2018.

EPIPHANY . . .

....is a season of worship because it deals with the Glory of God manifested in Jesus. The season begins with the Wise Men coming to worship the newborn King. The season ends with the worship experience on the mount of Transfiguration. When people see Jesus as God’s Son, they instinctively fall down to worship him as Lord.

....means “Manifestation.” The light manifests itself in the darkness, God reveals himself in Jesus, and the glory of God is seen in Jesus.

....(the season) extends from six to nine Sundays. The number of weeks observed depends upon the date of Easter and the start of Lent.

....is a season of light, the light that shines and reveal. The symbol is the Epiphany Star.

BE A LIGHT-BEARER!

CHILDREN’S LETTERS TO GOD



Dear God: In Sunday school they told us what you do. Who does it when you are on vacation? (Jane)

Dear God: Please put another holiday between Christmas and Easter. There is nothing good in there now. (Ginny)

Dear God: Is it true that my father won’t get into heaven if he uses his bowling words in the house? (Anita)

Dear God: Maybe Cain and Abel would not kill each other so much if they had their own rooms. It works with my brother. (Larry)

Dear God: I don’t ever feel alone since I found out about you. (Nora)

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Heather Metzger
- 3 Mary Reneker
- 5 Millard Ilgenfritz
- 7 Jennifer Koishal
- 8 Ruth Ann Shoenfelt
- 9 Edwin Rice
- 11 Judy Gottlieb
- 12 Ray Thomas
Noah Weiser
- 13 Bruce Mulvey
- 14 Lou Anne Stamey
- 15 Tess Naylor
Heather Thompson
- 16 Gerald Light
- 18 Steve Elsier
- 23 Clairissa Crum
- 25 Delaney Crim
- 28 Ann Lynes
- 31 Sandy Ilgenfritz
Bo Koishal



STAFF NOTES

Here at FPC we are grateful for a wonderful staff. They work hard to keep all aspects of church life running smoothly. **Mike Stamey** has served as our faithful sexton for four years and has dedicated countless hours to keeping the church clean and making sure everything is in good working order. At the end of 2018, Mike officially retired as sexton and we thank him for his service! Mike's not leaving First Church. He'll be here to help out from time to time and work with the property committee, lending his experience and expertise. **Please take a moment to thank Mike for all his hard work here!**

WORSHIP HELPERS — January

READERS

- Jan. 6: Ray Thomas
- Jan. 13: Lou Anne Stamey
- Jan. 20: Deb Ryerson
- Jan. 27: Lynda Mann

USHERS

- Jan. 6: Bob Davis; Rick Line; Tom & Melissa Sheperd
- Jan. 13: Dick & Ellen Darr; Bruce & Kathy Mulvey
- Jan. 20: Bruce & Anita Ashbaugh; Rick Line; Lynne Hofferica
- Jan. 27: Bill & Rita Beck; Earl & Alice Zimmerman

COUNTERS

- Jan. 6: Bruce & Trudy Bailey; Deb Ryerson
- Jan. 13: Richard & Nancy Tritt; Terry Shull
- Jan. 20: Ron & Deb Richcreek; Mary Jane Blosser
- Jan. 27: Dick & Ellen Darr; Lynne Hofferica

COMMUNION—Jan. 6

- Preparers: Peggy McKeehen; Rita Beck; Deb Ryerson
- Servers: Barb Allen; Bruce Bailey; Dick Darr; Frank Meehan; Ray Thomas; Charlie Thompson

FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

- Jan. 6: Connie & Dennis Husler
- Jan. 13: **XX**.....Jan. 20: **XX**.....Jan. 27: **XX**

CHILDREN'S CHURCH LEADERS

- Jan. 13: Barb Crum
- Jan. 20: Lynne Hofferica
- Jan. 27: Bob Davis

SERVICE RECORDER

Ray Thomas

FLOWERS

Marita Neslund (chair) & Gay McGeary

+++++

If you cannot serve as scheduled, please find a replacement and provide the substitute's name to the office as soon as known. Thank you for serving!

In the New Year....

Always remember to forget the troubles that have passed away, but never forget to remember the blessings that come each day!

January 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Happy New Year!	2 6: Worship Committee NO Choir	3	4	5
6 — Epiphany 9:15: Prayer 9:30: Education Hr 10:45: Worship -Communion -Star Gifts -Install Officers After: Fellowship	7 7: Deacons	8	9	10 1: Property Committee 7: Book Club	11	12
13 9:15: Prayer 9:30: Education Hr 10:45: Worship -Baptism After: Fellowship	14 7: Space for God	15 7: Session	16	17 7:30 AM: Men's Breakfast	18 Input to Annual Reports Due Input to Feb. Newsletter due	19
20 9:15: Prayer 9:30: Education Hr 10:45: Worship After: Fellowship After: Prayer Comm.	21	22 6:30: Bible Study	23	24	25	26
27 9:15: Prayer 9:30: Education Hr 10:45: Worship After: Fellowship	28 2: Faith Circle 7: Space for God	29	30	31	<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 10px; background-color: #e6e6fa;"> <p>COMING SOON:</p> <p>Sat., Feb. 2, 9:30-1:30: — Officers Training</p> <p>Sun., Feb. 3: — Communion — Annual Congregational Mtg</p> </div>	