May 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
Chuck Adler, Sexton

Administrative Office Hours	M, W, F: 9AM—2PM
Phone	(717) 243-4612
Pastor's Phone Number	(C) (717) 609-3780
Office E-mail	fpcarl@pa.net
Pastor's E-mail	alorenz.fpcarl@pa.net
Educator's E-Mail	dmadden.fpcarl@pa.net
Website	www.firstprescarlisle.org

Table of Contents

Pastor's Corner	2
Choir Recognition	3
Financial Update	3
Communion Dates	3
Community Musical Events	3
Blanket Sunday	3
Confirmation Class Leads	3
May "Bible Study"	3
May "Space for God"	3
May "Book Club"	3
VBS (June 9-13)	3
May Birthdays	4
May Worship Helpers	4
Summer Mission Trip	4
Thank-You (Project SHARE)	4
May Calendar	5
Coming in June	5

MAY 26: WORSHIP AT 10 AM!

"Farmers on the Square" returns to the church plaza on Wednesday, May 1st, 3-7 PM.

THINK SOUP FOR SHARE!

Away on vacation? Listen to sermons and full services, plus keep abreast of all church events via the monthly newsletter at: www.firstprescarlisle.org

Pastor's Corner

Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God." **- John 6:69-69**

Dear Members & Friends of First Presbyterian Church,

They're not as common as they once were, but I'm sure many of you will remember red letter Bibles. They're the ones that have the words of Jesus printed in red ink in the gospels. If you thumb through a red letter Bible you'll soon discover that Jesus has a lot to say. Sometimes whole chapters are printed in red with the teachings of Jesus.

Jesus has a lot to say. Many of His words are comforting and reassuring. They bring us peace in times of trouble and remind us of our Savior's great love. But sometimes Jesus' words are hard. They're hard for us to read, hard for us to hear, and hard for us to understand. Sometimes Jesus' words cut to the bone, they convict us and force us to take stock of our lives.

In John's gospel, the sixth chapter, Jesus gives a particularly hard teaching, foreshadowing the institution of the Lord's Supper. At this point Jesus had attracted a large crowd of followers. They were impressed by His teachings and miracles. But many of them just couldn't accept what He was saying, so they went home. That's when Jesus turns to His disciples and asks, "What about you? Are you going to leave too?" That's when Peter steps forward and asks, "Lord, to whom can we go?"

I love that question. It's not really a question though. Peter is making a statement. We have watched you Jesus. We have listened to you. We don't always understand you, but we're convinced you're the real thing. "Lord, to whom can we go?"

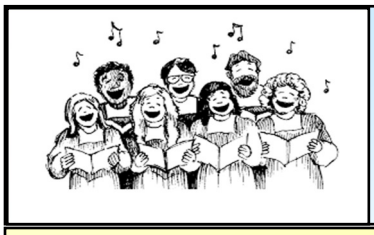
There are a lot of people who choose to go to other people or places instead of going to Jesus Christ. Maybe you've had such an experience. Augustine, the great fifth century Church Father, Bishop of Hippo, and author of numerous works including the well-known Confessions knew what it was live a wild life. He once prayed, "[God] grant me chastity and continence, but not just yet." Eventually, Augustine would come to faith. That's when he famously declared, "Thou [God] hast formed us for Thyself, and our hearts are restless till they find rest in Thee" (Confessions, Book I).

Sometimes I think the rest that we find in Jesus is the hardest thing for us to accept. We are so used to doing for ourselves, staying busy, trying to earn our salvation that we forget the rest, the salvation that we find in Jesus Christ. It is Jesus who invites us to trust in Him, saying, "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls" (Matthew 11:28-29).

When we heed Jesus' invitation to come, we must come to Him on His terms, not on our terms. If we come to Jesus on anything less than His terms then we are not worshipping God, we are worshipping an idol. That means we might not always understand what Jesus is saying. It means we might not understand how death and resurrection works. But it also means that with Peter we can say, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

Yours very truly in Christ,

Pastor Tony Lorenz



"I love to hear a choir. I love the humanity…to see the faces of real people devoting themselves to a piece of music. I like the teamwork. It makes me feel optimistic about the human race when I see them cooperating like that." (Paul McCartney)

The choir will soon adjourn for the summer! We will recognize choir members during worship on Sunday, May 19th.

Financial Update

	MARCH	*YEAR-TO-DATE*
Giving	**$19,279**	**$65,590**
Investments	**——**	**$ 862**
Other	**——**	**$ 2,157**
	$19,279	**$68,609**
Expenses	**($31,484)**	**($83,910)**

Communion Dates thru July

May 19 (+ Home Communion)

June 9

July 14

FELLOWSHIP HOSTS are needed for most Sundays this summer. If you wish to support this mission of hospitality, speak with Ray Thomas to learn how easy it is!

♪♪♪ COMMUNITY MUSICAL EVENTS OF NOTE ♪♪♪

~ ***Carlisle Cantate*** will present two performances of their Spring concert, "Celebrate Women—Discover How Women Connect and Inspire Us Through Music" on **May 18, 7:30 PM; and May 19th, 3:00 PM at the Carlisle Theatre.** Featured will be "The World Beloved: A Bluegrass Mass by Carol Barnett, and works by other notable women composers. $2 from the sale of every ticket will benefit Cumberland County Domestic Violence Services. Ticket info is at: www.cantatecarlisle.org. Art Thompson is accompanist.

~ ***The Susquehanna Chorale*** will present two performances of their Spring concert, "Singing the Dance of Life" on: **Friday, May 10 at 8 PM at Derry Presbyterian Church (Hershey); and Saturday, May 11 at 8 PM at Messiah College's High Center.** Buy tickets at: susquehannachorale.org; or call (717)691-6036. Kari Kornish is a member.

BLANKET SUNDAY
May 12th

Mother's Day, May 12th, is Blanket Sunday. Come to Fellowship Hall to donate the cost of a blanket to honor or remember an important woman (or person) in your life. Your $10 donation will go to Church World Service for their use in buying blankets to provide warmth to those in need during times of disaster, both in the U.S. and around the world.

* * * * * *

The Youth Confirmation Class will lead 10:45 AM worship on May 12th. Please come out and support our youth!

May Bible Study

Bible Study will meet only once in May — Tuesday, May 14, at 6:30 PM. This is due to the Presbytery meeting on the 28th. The Gospel of John continues to be studied under Pastor Tony's leadership. ALL are invited!

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

May "Space for God"

Due to an unusually busy staff schedule in May, the "Space for God" study groupwill meet only once in May — Thursday, May 30th, at 7 PM.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

May "Book Club"

The May meeting is May 9th at 7 PM. The book is Hatchet, by Gary Paulsen. Join in!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Once again, we will co-sponsor Vacation Bible School with Second Presbyterian Church.

THEME: "Power Up — Raise Your Game"

WHEN: Sunday thru Thursday, June 9-13, 6-8 PM

WHERE: Second Presbyterian Church Garland Drive

WHO: Children potty-trained thru those who have completed 5th grade

COST: None — It's Free!

POWER UP
RAISE YOUR GAME

MAY BIRTHDAYS

2 Dennis Rydberg
4 Marygrace Seltzer
6 Beth Whitman-Pitzer
14 Aidan Metzger
16 Evan Gogoj
19 Clare Hamm
21 Kari Kornish
24 Bob Davis
29 Colton Madison
30 Lynda Mann
31 David Dennison

SUMMER MISSION TRIP!

As the Presbytery of Carlisle continues its partnership with the church in Honduras, planning for a summer mission trip is in the works. The trip will take place **July 29-August 5, 2019**, when participants will help to build a home for a member of a Presbyterian Church in Honduras. All skill levels are welcome. Please consider God's call to serve as the hands and feet of Christ in Honduras. It can be a life-changing experience. If interested, there's room in the group for you. For more info, contact Rev. Vernon Gauthier at 717-776-7525. Vern is pastor of First United Presbyterian Church, Newville, and will serve as the trip coordinator.

Thanks, Carlisle Presbytery

A Thank-You

"Thank you for your recent generous contribution resulting from your Lenten Concert Series and Soup Luncheons. With your support, Project SHARE continues to address the ever-present issue of food insecurity in the greater Carlisle area. Last year, we distributed over 1.4 million pounds of shelf-stable and frozen foods, fresh fruits and vegetables to our neighbors. What a blessing! Thank you so much for this fabulous congregational contribution that strengthens our mission of serving others." *Project SHARE*

WORSHIP HELPERS — May

READERS

May 5: Charlie Thompson
May 12: *None needed (Youth lead service)*
May 19: Rita Beck
May 26: Bob Read

USHERS

May 5: Richard & Nancy Tritt; Bruce & Anita Ashbaugh
May 12: Terry Shull; Bob Davis; Dan & Bonnie Deardorff
May 19: Frank Meehan; Carlton Walker; Rick Line; Lynne Hofferica
May 26: Dennis & Connie Husler; Lois Lloyd; Peggy McKeehen

COUNTERS

May 5: Jim & Barb Crum; David Killian
May 12: Frank Meehan & Charlie Thompson
May 19: Deb Ryerson; Bruce & Kathy Mulvey
May 26: Bruce & Anita Ashbaugh; Earl Zimmerman

COMMUNION—May 19 (served)

Preparers: Mary Jane Blosser; Deb Ryerson; Sue Shuey
Servers: Barb Allen; Deb Ryerson; Dick Darr; Frank Meehan; Ray Thomas; Charlie Thompson

FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

May 5: XX
May 12: XX
May 19: XX
May 26: Bob & Judie Read

CHILDREN'S CHURCH LEADERS

May 5: Megan Crum
May 12: *None needed (youth lead service)*
May 19: *None Needed — Communion*
May 26: *None needed — begin summer schedule*

SERVICE RECORDER

Ray Thomas (and JJ & Jack Patterson)

FLOWERS

Connie Husler (chair) & Jenneane Light

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

May 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6: Worship Committee 7: Choir	2 Nat'l Day of Prayer	3	4
5 9:15: Prayer 9:30: Education 10:45: Worship After: Fellowship	6 7: Deacons *(Debby at APCE conference Mon-Wed)*	7	8 7: Choir	9 1: Prop Comte 7: Book Club	10	11
12 9:15: Prayer 9:30: Education 10:45: Worship, led by Confirmation Class After: Fellowship After: Blanket Sunday	13 7: Space for God *(Debby on vacation this week)*	14 6:30: Bible Study (only meeting in May)	15 7: Final Choir rehearsal till Fall	16 7:30 AM: Men's Breakfast	17 June newsletter items due to office	18
19 9:15: Prayer 9:30: Education 10:45: Worship, w/Communion Choir Recognition After: Fellowship	20 2 PM: Faith Circle *(Pastor Tony in Honduras all week)*	21	22	23	24	25
26 ~ Begin Summer Schedule ~ 10: Worship (No Sun. Sch.) After: Fellowship After: Prayer Community	27 	28 6: Presbytery Meeting	29 7: Session meeting	30 7: Space for God (only meeting in May) Ascension Day	31	

COMING IN JUNE

2—My Brothers' Table

9—Communion

9-13—VBS

16—Father's Day