

# Perspective

A Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church  
of Phoenixville, Pennsylvania

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First Presbyterian Church  
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# From the Pastor

## Leviticus 25:1-7 (NRSV)

25 The Lord spoke to Moses on Mount Sinai, saying: 2 Speak to the people of Israel and say to them: When you enter the land that I am giving you, the land shall observe a sabbath for the Lord. 3 Six years you shall sow your field, and six years you shall prune your vineyard, and gather in their yield; 4 but in the seventh year there shall be a sabbath of complete rest for the land, a sabbath for the Lord: you shall not sow your field or prune your vineyard. 5 You shall not reap the after growth of your harvest or gather the grapes of your unpruned vine: it shall be a year of complete rest for the land. 6 You may eat what the land yields during its sabbath—you, your male and female slaves, your hired and your bound laborers who live with you; 7 for your livestock also, and for the wild animals in your land all its yield shall be for food.

In Judaism, the *shmita* year is a sabbath year for one's flocks and fields. It comes from the Leviticus reading above, as well as other readings in Exodus and Deuteronomy. The sabbath year (from which we get the term "sabbatical") is a time of rest for agricultural land, reflecting the day of rest that comes each week. Each of these sabbath years would build up until seven sabbath years had passed, or 49 total years, at which point the Jubilee would come. Jubilee was essentially a remaking of society every 50 years, with all slaves freed, all debts cancelled, and everyone who had been evicted allowed to return to their land. If the Jubilee was ever practiced, it has not been practiced in a long time.

Something occurred to me over the past few weeks. It was about six years ago, give or take, that Dave McCabe left FPC. He was the last long-term pastor that this congregation had. Since then, for about six years, there hasn't been a year where it was clear what was going to happen next. There were supply pastors, and then a temporary pastor, and then a designated pastor (me) with a two year term, followed by another two-year term. The vote to make my position a long-term one wasn't that long ago - just this past April. And as many of us know, a lot had to happen before then, and for six years, the future of the church probably felt like it was 'up in the air' much of the time.

What occurred to me is we've come to a time of sabbatical.

This came to mind as I was thinking about the various things we've done over the summer as a congregation, like the First Friday Bible School and Autism Roundtables and others, and the things we are planning for the fall. I've noticed some things. For example, Session meetings are now taking about an hour, instead of the two hours or more they've taken on average for the past four years. Just two days ago (as I write this) our Christian Education/Church Growth meeting took just over one hour. I noticed over the summer that attendance at worship was a bit down, and that perhaps more folks than usual had left for vacation, traveled to visit family, and so on.

Over time, I've gotten the impression that some people, particularly those who have been in leadership positions for the past six years, are a little worn out. Maybe that's an understatement. There have been a couple of things I'd planned for the fall that I've postponed, put on a back burner so to speak, because there just wasn't a lot of extra time or energy in people's lives right now.

And that's OK. Maybe, on some level, we get a *shmita* year. I think we've earned it.

I'm no farmer, but when a field lies fallow for a year, I know that it isn't barren. It just isn't actively cultivated. Plants grow if they want to, and I'm sure some weeds spring up. But the land gets to rest. The fact that plants aren't cultivated for that year means that nutrients and needed elements can be returned to the soil. Constant cultivation isn't sustainable - it's a way to turn a productive field into a barren patch of dirt.

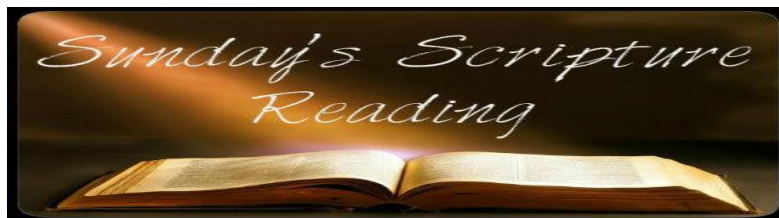
2. *Continued....*

The same is true for groups of people. We can't be putting out maximum effort all the time. We can't be experiencing stress year after year and not get a break. We can't be worrying about the unknown future without a sabbath.

This doesn't mean we're not going to be doing anything in the coming year - quite the contrary! I'm just reflecting on what I'm seeing during this season at FPC, and reflecting on how it parallels what we find in the Old Testament instruction to let lands lie fallow every seven years. It helps me to think about how to proceed, as a pastor.

It is during the fallow time that strength returns, preparing the ground for new life; when we honor God by resting.

Pastor Doug



November 4<sup>th</sup>: Isaiah 25:6-9; Revelation 21:1-6a

November 11<sup>th</sup>: 1 Kings 17:8-16; Mark 12:38-44

November 18<sup>th</sup>: Hebrews 10:11-14 (15-18), 19-25; Mark 13:1-8

November 25<sup>th</sup>: 2 Samuel 23:1-7; John 18:33-37

## Words and Notes from Worship and Music

Wow, it's November already! Look for reminders in our media and the bulletins about the community Thanksgiving Eve service. It is a wonderful time to gather with others and give thanks.

During the month of November you will see information in the bulletin about putting poinsettias in the church in memory/honor of loved ones or friends. These poinsettias will decorate our sanctuary from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent through Epiphany. The Deacons will have poinsettias decorating the sanctuary on the first Sunday of Advent in honor of their special friends and after that service those poinsettias will be delivered to the special friends so they may enjoy them during Advent and Christmas.

Speaking of decorating our sanctuary, we will do that on Saturday, December 1 from 9 AM to noon. Come on out and help decorate the church. There will be something for almost every age to do.

On the first Sunday of Advent we will decorate the Christmas tree in the sanctuary. Many members have donated a tree ornament that has their name on it to add to the decorating of the tree. If you have not donated an ornament for your family, feel free to bring one in on December 2<sup>nd</sup> and add it to the tree. After that, each year it will be set out for your family to put on the tree. This is a very wonderful way for us to show our unity as a congregation as we celebrate Advent and Christmas.



See you in church!

3.



## **“Joyful Giving” 2019 Pledge Campaign**

“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give,  
not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver”

(2 Corinthians 9:7)

As we begin the Pledge Campaign for 2019, the Stewardship Committee asks that you prayerfully consider your financial commitment to our church with enthusiasm and joy.

Your offerings help to support the ministry and the many good works of First Presbyterian Church.

Completed pledge cards will be received during worship on **Dedication Sunday, November 18**. You may also return your card by mail or drop it off in the church office. Extra brochures and pledge cards are available in the narthex and the church office. Thank you for your many gifts.



### **Remembering Loved Ones**

On November 4<sup>th</sup>, All Saints’ Sunday, we will note in the bulletin the names of the saints (believers) from our congregation who have died during the past year. We will also note other relatives and loved ones who have died in the past year but were not members of this church. If you would like the names of those loved ones listed, please send a message to Sue Smith at [secretaryfpc@comcast.net](mailto:secretaryfpc@comcast.net) or call the church office at 610-933-8816.

### **From the Clerk of Session**

- Average Sunday morning attendance for September was 72.
- Life of the Church
  - Birth – September 1, Cora Alice Carlino, daughter of Ellen (member) and Kevin Carlino. Granddaughter of Jewell (member) and Woody Baker.
- Session Motions
  - Motions from the September 25<sup>th</sup> Stated Session Meeting were:
    - Session unanimously approved the request for baptism of Holly Kennedy.
  - Motions from October Stated Session Meeting will be approved in October and appear in the next Perspective.



Jewell Baker, Clerk of Session

## PARISH LIFE



### ***Harvest Pot Luck***

Sunday, November 11<sup>th</sup> we will enjoy a pot luck lunch in Fellowship Hall immediately following the service. Please look for the sign-up sheet in the Narthex October 28<sup>th</sup> and November 4<sup>th</sup>.



### ***FPC Cookbook Update***

**NEW RELEASE DATE!** We will now release the newest version of the FPC cookbook in the Spring of 2019. The recipe box will be back in the Narthex for anyone who would still like to contribute a family favorite. Please share your treasured recipe with us!



### ***Coming Soon – Sign-up for Dinner for 8***

Each year we break the winter doldrums by planning our ‘Dinner for 8’ gatherings in January, February and March. This gives us an opportunity to get to know new congregants, and reconnect with friends we already know. More information to follow in December.

We look forward to sharing these special times with you!

*The Parish Life Committee meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 7PM in the Parlor...Please join us!*



### **Thanksgiving Eve Community Worship Service**

**Wednesday, November 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:30 pm  
at St. John's Lutheran Church.  
355 St. John's Circle, Phoenixville**

**Guests are invited to bring canned/dry goods for the Food Pantry at Phoenixville Area Community Services. The monetary offering collected at the service will be distributed by the Phoenixville Area Clergy Association to neighbors in need.**



**By: Maggie O'Malley**

It's all about numbers this month. For Facebook, it's nice to see the increase in the number of new users. Regarding Twitter – of course the Free Clothing Giveaway was the top tweet. Instagram analytics are a work in progress. It was a busy month for Google, which is most likely due to the Flea Market.

<b>FACEBOOK ACTIVITY</b>	<b>7/2/2017</b>	<b>7/2/2018</b>	<b>10/15/2018</b>
The number of new people/unique users who liked the FPC Facebook Page.	254	275	275
The number of people /unique users who engaged with the FPC Facebook Page. Engagement includes any click or story created. (weekly)	17	21	20

<b>TWITTER ACTIVITY</b> <b>September 19, 2018 – October 15, 2018</b>		
Tweets	11	Up 57.1%
Tweet impressions	1,236	Up 28.0%
Profile visits	40	Up 300.0%
Followers	167	Down 4
Top Tweet	Free Clothing Giveaway	136 impressions

<b>INSTAGRAM INFO</b>		
32 Posts	66 Followers	100 following

<b>GOOGLE INFO</b>			
	<b>December 2017</b>	<b>January 2018</b>	<b>September 2018</b>
People that found FPC on Google	2,696	2,419	2,961
Asked for Directions	38	17	125
Visited the Website	31	36	58
Called	11	6	10



**The Season of Advent is near.**

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent – December 2<sup>nd</sup>, Communion Service

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent – December 9<sup>th</sup>

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent – December 16<sup>th</sup>

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent – December 23<sup>rd</sup>





## **Mission, Action, Concern Committee (MAC)**

“The word of God is living and active” —Hebrews 4:12  
[\(https://www.presbyterianmission.org/yearbook/\)](https://www.presbyterianmission.org/yearbook/)

### **Opportunities**

#### **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance**

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is offering immediate aid to the communities impacted by Hurricane Michael. This joins responses already underway for those impacted by Hurricane Florence, Typhoon Mangkhut, and other international disasters that have suffered a lack of media coverage. If you wish to join MAC and contribute to relief efforts, envelopes for your monetary donations are in the narthex and the church office. Your donations will be sent to the PDA program. Checks should be made payable to First Presbyterian Church, with Disaster Relief in the memo line. Please place your donation in one of the special envelopes and then place it in the offering plate or turn it in to the church office.

#### **Coat distribution** (Saturday, November 3, 2018)

We will open Fellowship Hall to the community on Saturday, November 3, from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM to give away coats to our friends and neighbors. In addition to coats collected by People to People, car dealers, through their Driving Away the Cold program, donate new coats for this annual event. This year, Videon Chevrolet in Phoenixville is participating and our church, via People to People, is one of the many Driving Away the Cold distribution sites. If you would like to help with set up on Friday November 2, and/or greeting our neighbors on Saturday, please contact the church office (610-933-8816) or Amy Myers (610-506-7190).



#### **Thanksgiving Dinner** (Thursday, November 22, 2018)

Thanksgiving is quickly approaching and MAC is once again planning to provide our community with a free Thanksgiving Day dinner at 12 noon in Fellowship Hall. This year we are planning to work with the Methodist church to make sure this is a successful event. All are welcome to attend and those who wish to either volunteer to cook, provide rides to those unable to walk, serve meals, deliver to shut-ins, clean-up, and/or just enjoy a great meal – please contact Sue Smith at the Church office.



### **Looking Ahead**

#### **Alternative Gift Christmas Cards**

This year, Alternative Gift Christmas Cards will be available for you to send greetings to your family and friends while supporting local and worldwide causes. The cards are \$5 each and sales support the following organizations: Alianzas, PACS, Church World Service Blankets, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Pay it Forward with a Goat (Haiti, Alternative Gifts International).

7. *continued.....*

**Missionaries from Zambia Visiting** (Friday, December 14, 2018)

Mark your calendar now for Friday evening December 14, 2018, when Dan and Mary Vissani will join us for dinner and a presentation of their work in Zambia. They serve with the Zambian extension of Foundations for Farming called Foundations Zambia.

**In Appreciation**

**Flea Market** (Saturday, September 29, 2018)

People to People had a very successful Yard Sale in Fellowship Hall September 29<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to all the weekly volunteers who collected items for the last half year; sorting out the quality items and pricing all non-clothing, plus the great volunteer crew who oversaw the multiday setup and staffing on the sale day – we raised over \$3,000.00. These proceeds will be used to provide for our Thursday lunch feedings in Phoenixville and our 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday breakfasts at a men's shelter in Philadelphia, as well as provide emergency funds for those in need in our community and disasters worldwide.

**St. Mary's Family Shelter Meals** (Monday, October 8 through Friday October 12, 2018)

Thanks to those members of our congregation who provided meals for 12 clients at Saint Mary's Shelter in Phoenixville October 8<sup>th</sup> thru the 12<sup>th</sup>. These are greatly appreciated by all who are temporarily residing there. We also provided the shelter a Redner's gift card with funds received from a church member. MAC has received a letter of appreciation from the shelter and this will be posted on the MAC bulletin board at the base of the main staircase outside Fellowship Hall. Next year dates for these meals are February 11<sup>th</sup> thru 15<sup>th</sup> and October 7<sup>th</sup> thru 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Christmas Food Baskets**

This year, FPC will be providing 9 families with food baskets containing items for preparing a holiday meal. The families are referred by PACS, Mom's House, and Stepping Stone. Individuals or groups may donate items to fill a food basket; MAC provides a ham for each basket. Number of adults and children in each family will be provided in November.



**Christmas Dinner Baskets and Star Tree**



Once again this year we will be helping those in need celebrate Christmas. **Two ways to help are:**

**Christmas Dinner Baskets** - fixings for Christmas Dinner and **Star Tree Gifts** for children who otherwise may not have much under their tree. Suggested item lists for family baskets and stars will be available in November. The deadline for turning in the Star Tree gifts will be Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Thank you for helping make Christmas Merry for these families!

Jewell Baker & Becky Sinapius for the MAC Committee



**Prayer Chain & Prayer Requests**

You can fill out a card in the worship service, drop a note or email us at [fpcprayerchain@me.com](mailto:fpcprayerchain@me.com) and we will be lifting you up in prayer.

You can also call Jeanne Blackburn at 267-532-8464 or the church office at [\(610\) 933-8816](tel:(610)933-8816).





## November 2018

## First Presbyterian Church of Phoenixville

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<i>All Saints' Day</i> 1 9:00a People to People 9:00a WIC 10:00a Food ministry 4:00p Parlor in use 7:00p Choir rehearsal	2 9:00a WIC <b>9:00a Set up for free coat give-away</b> 1:00p Organist Rehearsal	3 <b>10:00a-12:00n Free coat give-away</b>
4 Offering: K Carrabine 9:15a Sunday School 9:15a Coffee Hour <b>10:30a Worship</b> <i>Communion &amp; All Saints' Sunday</i> <b>12:30n Deacons meeting</b> 6:30p Praise Team <i>Daylight saving time ends</i>	5 9:00a Mom's House meeting in Parlor 6:00p Women's Outreach Board meet 6:30p Zumba class <b>7:30p Property</b>	6 1:00p Organist rehearsal 4:00p Brass ensemble 5:30p Rock the Boat 6:30p Zumba class <b>7:00p MAC</b>	7 6:00p Women's Book Club 6:45p Merry Ringers Quartet 7:30p Merry Ringers	8 9:00a People to People 10:00a Food ministry 3:00p Good Samaritan Meeting (parlor) 7:00p Choir rehearsal 7:30p Compassionate Friends meeting	9 1:00p Organist Rehearsal  <i>S Smith - vacation</i>	10 9:30a Zumba class 2:00p Set up FH for Sunday pot luck
11 Offering: J Osterhoudt 9:15a Sunday School 9:15a Coffee Hour <b>10:30a Worship</b> <b>12:00n Worship &amp; Music</b> <b>12:00n Harvest Pot Luck</b> 6:30p Praise Team	12 6:30p Zumba class  <i>S Smith - vacation</i>	13 1:00p Organist rehearsal <b>2:30p Staff meeting</b> 4:00p Brass ensemble 5:30p Rock the Boat 6:30p Zumba class <b>7:00p Personnel</b> <b>7:00p Parish Life</b>	14 1:00p Clubhouse Cards 6:00p Women's Book Club 6:45p Merry Ringers Quartet 7:30p Merry Ringers	15 9:00a WIC 9:00a People to People 10:00a Food ministry 7:00p Choir rehearsal	16 7:00a Food ministry 9:00a WIC 1:00p Organist Rehearsal	17 6:30a Food ministry
18 Offering: L Williams 9:15a Sunday School 9:15a Coffee Hour <b>10:30a Worship</b> <i>Pledge Dedication Sunday</i> 12:00n Women's Circle 6:30p Praise Team	19 6:30p Zumba class <b>7:00p Finance and Stewardship</b> 7:30p Merry Ringers	20 1:00p Organist rehearsal 4:00p Brass ensemble 5:30p Rock the Boat 6:30p Zumba class <b>7:15p Church Growth</b> <b>7:30p Session Meeting</b> <i>Perspective articles due.</i>	21 7:30p <b>Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service @ St John's Lutheran</b>	22 12:00n Thanksgiving Day Dinner  Church office closed. <i>Thanksgiving Day</i>	23 1:00p Organist Rehearsal  <b>5:00p Fetter wedding Rehearsal</b>  Church office closed	24 <b>12:00n Fetter Wedding</b>
25 Offering: D Walker 9:15a Sunday School 9:15a Coffee Hour <b>10:30a Worship</b> <b>12:00n SermonTalk with Pastor Doug</b> 6:30p Praise Team <b>7:00p Pub Theology</b>	26 6:30p Zumba class	27 1:00p Organist rehearsal 4:00p Brass ensemble 5:30p Rock the Boat 6:30p Zumba class  <i>Rev Hagler-Con't Ed.</i>	28 9:00a AARP Board meeting 1:00p Clubhouse Cards 6:00p Women's Book Club 6:45p Merry Ringers Quartet 7:30p Merry Ringers  <i>Rev Hagler-Con't Ed.</i>	29 9:00a People to People 10:00a Food ministry 7:00p Choir rehearsal   <i>Rev Hagler-Con't Ed.</i>	30 1:00p Organist Rehearsal   <i>S Smith - vacation Rev Hagler-Con't Ed.</i>	

December 2018

# First Presbyterian Church of Phoenixville

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 9am-12 noon Decorate the Church <i>Rev Hagler-Con't Ed.</i>
2 <i>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent</i> Offering: B Sinapius 9:15a Sunday School 9:15a Coffee Hour <b>Communion</b> <b>10:30a Worship</b> <b>12:00n Deacons</b> 6:30p Praise Team <i>Rev Hagler-Con't Ed.</i>	3 6:00p Women's Outreach Board meet 6:30p Zumba class  <b>7:30p Property</b>  <i>S Smith - vacation</i>	4 3:00p Organist rehearsal 4:00p Brass ensemble 5:30p Rock the Boat 6:30p Zumba class <b>7:00p MAC</b>	5 6:00p Women's Book Club 6:45p Merry Ringers Quartet 7:30p Merry Ringers	6 9:00a People to People 9:00a WIC 10:00a Food ministry  7:00p Choir rehearsal	7 9:00a WIC  1:00p Organist Rehearsal	8 9:00a - 12:00n Merry Ringers Rehearsal  9:30a Zumba class
9 <i>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent</i> Offering: K Brown 9:15a Sunday School 9:15a Coffee Hour <b>10:30a Worship</b> <b>12:00n Worship &amp; Music</b> 6:30p Praise Team	10 6:30p Zumba class	11 3:00p Organist rehearsal 4:00p Brass ensemble 5:30p Rock the Boat 6:30p Zumba class <b>7:00p Personnel – Open Forum</b> <b>7:00p Parish Life</b>	12 1:00p Clubhouse Cards 6:00p Women's Book Club 6:45p Merry Ringers Quartet 7:30p Merry Ringers	13 9:00a People to People 10:00a Food ministry 3:00p Good Samaritan meeting in parlor 7:00p Choir rehearsal 7:30p Compassionate Friends	14 7:00a Food ministry  1:00p Organist Rehearsal  <i>Dan &amp; Mary Vissani visit</i>	15 6:30a Food ministry  4:00p – 8:00p Piano recital & party
16 <i>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent</i> Offering: P Parrish 9:15a Sunday School 9:15a Coffee Hour <b>10:30a Worship</b> 11:45a Congregational Meet-Election of Officers 12:00n Women's Circle 6:30p Praise Team	17 6:30p Zumba class  <b>MAC holiday food basket delivery</b>  <b>7:00p Finance &amp; Stewardship</b>	18 3:00p Organist rehearsal 4:00p Brass ensemble 5:30p Rock the Boat 6:30p Zumba class <b>7:15p Church Growth</b>	19 6:00p Women's Book Club 6:45p Merry Ringers Quartet 7:30p Merry Ringers	20 9:00a People to People 9:00a WIC 10:00a Food ministry  7:00p Choir rehearsal  <i>Perspective articles due.</i>	21 9:00a WIC  1:00p Organist Rehearsal	22
23 <i>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent</i> Offering: M Eitl 9:15a Sunday School 9:15a Coffee Hour <b>10:30a Worship</b>  6:30p Praise Team	24 <b>Christmas Eve</b> <b>5p Family Service</b> <b>9p Candlelight Serv</b> <b>11p New Service!</b> <i>(Info to follow)</i> Church office closed.	25 <b>Christmas Day</b>  Church office closed.	26	27 9:00a People to People 10:00a Food ministry  <i>S Smith - vacation</i>	28   <i>S Smith - vacation</i>	29
30 Offering: L Williams No Sunday School 9:15a Coffee Hour <b>10:30a Worship</b> 6:30p Praise Team <i>Rev Hagler - vacation</i> <i>D. Legnini – vacation</i>	31 <b>New Years' Eve</b>  Church office closed.					