

# 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

## Hebrews 13:1-3

13 Let mutual love continue. ²Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. ³Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured.

I have heard people reference this passage about hospitality above pretty often. The idea that we might host angels without knowing it is wonderful, I think, and encouragement to open our homes and communities to new people. I hear less about remembering those in prison, as if we ourselves are in prison, and those who are being tortured, as though we were being tortured. Understandable - those are frightening and horrifying thoughts, as I'm sure they were to the original audience of this passage.

When you start a new ministry, it's always fascinating to me what happens as a result. It is almost never predictable. Not long ago we started a grant writing team at FPC - we asked who might be interested, and when five people responded, far more than I'd anticipated, I could tell that we had something here. There was some movement of the Spirit we were tapping into without intending to. So we began to meet, and to learn, and to research grants. Three members of the team are going through grant-writing training through the Parish Resource Center. A few projects are underway.

One thing that came up through discussion with this group is how FPC doesn't have any kind of prison ministry. As far as I know, we never have. It's not something anyone has ever mentioned when telling me about past ministries at the church, and I know we have not had one since I've been here. There is certainly a lot that we do - but not prison ministry. Not yet, anyway.

On April 3rd we will have a guest with us in worship named Termaine Hicks. He served years in prison for a crime that he did not commit, and was recently exonerated and released with a lot of help from The Innocence Project. I will let him tell his own story in his own way, but we will also be gathering on the 3rd in the afternoon at 2pm for a panel discussion and Q&A with Termaine and two other guests, Virginia Slichter of Education for Ministry and Bishop Chris Kimmenez of Healing Communities, USA. We are calling the event Prison Ministry 101. We will be hosting it in our sanctuary, and will also be live-streaming.

This event is a starting-point. I'm not going into this with a particular plan as to what the result will be. We are going to invite members of our community to join us, gather to listen and ask questions, and learn. Then the next step will be to see who is called to do more. I'm as much of a beginner as anyone, but we have to begin somewhere. Visitation of people in prison, and support for people in prison, is mentioned many times in the New Testament. Jesus makes it clear in Matthew 25 that whatever we do for people in prison, we do for him, and whatever we fail to do for them, we fail to do for him. The author of Hebrews calls us to remember those in prison as if we were there with them. If nothing else, we need to learn what prison is actually like for those inside.

Even if you don't think you are led in the direction of prison ministry, this is an opportunity to hear stories of justice, of people growing in faith, of relationships reconciled, and to learn something of what it is actually like for people in prison, as we live in the country with the largest prison population in the world. I believe that this is a missing piece of our overall ministry as a congregation, and I hope that you will join us on April 3rd and discern how God might be leading you.

Pastor Doug



## Upcoming Scripture Readings

April 3<sup>rd</sup>: Psalm 145, 33 & 147; John 12:1-8

April 10<sup>th</sup>: Luke 19:28-40 (Palm Sunday)

April 17<sup>th</sup>: Isaiah 65:17-25; Luke 24:13-49 (Easter)

April 24<sup>th</sup>: John 20:19-31; Acts 5:27-32

## Church Growth Update

### From the Grant Writing Team

Jacqui Busch, Kristin Craven, Pastor Doug Hagler, Amy Myers, Lucinda Parrish, and Chris Wittrock.

Pastor Doug, Amy, Chris, and Lucinda were accepted as a cohort for the Parish Resource Center (PRC) grant writing program. We are working together to identify a grantable project related to prison ministry, and then identify grants for that project.

Please consider attending our community meeting entitled Prison Ministry 101, on Sunday, April 3 at 2 p.m., in the FPC sanctuary. We have organized a panel discussion, including a formerly incarcerated person and his educational/spiritual mentor, along with the Director of Advocacy from Healing Communities, USA.

We invite your ideas (and partnership) for obtaining grants for First Presbyterian. Please access the [Grant Writing Request Form](#) electronically or pick one up in the Narthex.

A few of us will be heading back to [Books Through Bars](#) to do some volunteering and networking.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Chris Wittrock*

| Foundation                             | Progress Report   | Notes   | Next Steps | Contact        |
|--|---|---|------------|----------------|
| Oldham Little Church Foundation        | Working on the LOI  | Construction grant to benefit FPC buildings. The amount of the grant is presently unknown   |            | Kristin Craven |
| Synod of the Trinity Peacemaking Grant | I just finished distributing funds to support the vigils we've been holding twice a month since July of 2020. | These vigils have brought together a few dozen organizations and congregations from the Phoenixville area to stand in solidarity with Black Lives Matter and be a witness for racial justice. |            | Pastor Doug    |

## Worship and Music Notes

“Hosanna, loud hosanna” Make you think of Palm Sunday? Good because Palm Sunday is on April 10. Come for the surprise at the end of the service.

“In remembrance of Me, eat this bread” You can’t miss thinking of Holy/Maundy Thursday after reading that. Come on Thursday, April 14 at 7:30 PM for a service of Communion and remembering Good Friday.

“Good Christians all, rejoice and sing” Of course that is the beginning of an Easter hymn. Come raise your voices and join in worship celebrating the risen Christ on Sunday, April 17. See you in church!





## **Palm Sunday Worship**

April 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am

## **Maundy Thursday Communion Service**

April 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm

## **Easter Sunday Worship**

April 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am



Dear Church Family,

Thank you for the get-well cards, food, and FaceBook heart-warming messages. They truly made me feel God's love (even the electronic ones).

In Jesus' name,  
Janet Ferguson



## **One Great Hour of Sharing**

As Christians we are called to love one another by sharing what we have with those in need. One way to answer this call is through our gifts to **"One Great Hour of Sharing"**. This is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to help our neighbors in need around the world.

A gift to this offering enables the church to share God's love by providing relief to those affected by natural disasters, by providing food to the hungry, and by

helping low-income communities overcome injustice and oppression.

During the season of **Lent**, we invite you to give generously to **"One Great Hour of Sharing"**. Envelopes are available in your offering envelope boxes, in the pew racks, or you may send a check with **OGHS** noted in the memo line.

Offerings will be received throughout Lent, with a special dedication on **Palm Sunday, April 10**.

Together we can once again help change the lives of many. Thank you for your life changing offering.

## **Coins...Coins...Coins...**

On April 10, Palm Sunday, you will have the opportunity to clean out all of those coins that you have lying around your home...in your pockets...your kitchen drawers...your handbags...between sofa cushions...and in the cup holders in your car...

On Palm Sunday, the children of our Sunday School will receive a special offering for the One Great Hour of Sharing ministry during the morning worship, followed by a dedication of all collected.

So...please bring your coins on April 10, and lighten your load as you help those in need.

Thank you from your Sunday School friends.





## From the Clerk of Session

- Average Sunday morning attendance:  
In February we had an average of 31 worshipping in person (wearing masks) and an average of 24 households viewing the 10:30am YouTube premiere with 11 *chatting*. Omicron has affected in person worshipping. Please think of *chatting* as the YouTube version of signing the Red Friendship Book and join in the chat, if you are able.
- The Life of the church
  - Membership:  
Sue Shire requested transfer to First United Methodist Church, Mechanicsburg, PA.  
Current membership is 169.
  - Birth: none
  - Death: none
  - Wedding: none
  - Baptism:  
On March 20, 2022, Olivia Rose Craven (born 8/17/21) daughter of Frank and Kristin Craven (members).
- Session Meeting Information:
  - Information from the January 25, 2022 Stated Session Meeting will be reviewed at the March 22nd Session Meeting and will be in the following Perspective.



Jewell Baker, Clerk of Session

## FPC 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary...Share a Memory

Do you have any photos of First Presbyterian memories??  
...church dinners in Fellowship Hall, congregational plays and concerts, Sunday School activities, softball games...

We would like to add your photos to the display case in the narthex for our members to continue their walk down memory lane.

Please put your name on the back of your photos. You may place your photos in the box by the display case in the narthex. Help us to remember as we celebrate who we were, and who we are!

**Happy 175<sup>th</sup>!!**



## April Scrip Orders



Due to the Easter holiday schedule, we will be placing orders on Wednesdays April 6 and April 20.

If you would like to place an order, please call or text Lynne Williams at 610-955-4749 (cell), or send an email to (brettdrew@comcast.net).

We will complete the order forms for you.

Orders and checks must be received by the day before the orders are placed (April 5 and April 19). Please make checks payable to "First Presbyterian Church DR".

As always, thank you for continuing to support this program! The Stewardship Committee

## Sunday School

As we strive to keep everyone safe, Sunday School continues to be held once a month in Fellowship Hall.

We have changed our time together to during the morning worship service. Children are to attend church with their families, and following the Children's message will go to Fellowship Hall with our teachers. Children age 3 and up will go to Sunday School, and those under 3 will go up to the nursery.

On March 13, we had 14 children and 6 Sunday School teachers celebrating, singing, chatting, learning, and yes, playing games!

Everyone received and decorated their OGHS fish box, "Gracie".

Our next Sunday School will be April 10.

We look forward to our time together!

(Note : On weeks that we don't have Sunday School, children through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade may go to the nursery area after the Children's message.)





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

*We cannot keep from speaking about what we have seen and heard. (Acts 4:20)*

### **Support for Ukraine**

The Synod of the Trinity (through Donegal Presbytery) will be matching all donations to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) on behalf of Ukraine. To donate, make your check payable to First Presbyterian Church of Phoenixville and write Ukraine on the memo line.

### **March Mission to Supply the PACS Pantry**

Thanks to all who donated to the PACS Pantry during the month of March! As usual, our congregation came through with a variety of food and other items to be delivered to PACS for the benefit of our Phoenixville neighbors.

### **Our Neighbors Have a New Home!**

Over the past several months, members of our church have developed a very positive relationship with a local family through Bridge of Hope. As you may already know, Parthenia and her five children recently found an apartment in Norristown. The move is complete and they are settling into their new home. Praise God for fresh starts!

### **Our New Mission Partners in Guatemala**

Until their retirement in 2020, First Presbyterian Church supported the mission work of Dennis Smith and Maribel Perez-Smith, first in Guatemala and later in Argentina. We are now partnering with Reverend Betsey and Eric Moe, newly assigned to the Intercultural Encounters Program at CEDEPCA, the organization that has helped to facilitate our past trips to Guatemala.



The Moes' move was postponed due to the pandemic but they have now resettled (from Spokane, Washington) and have begun their work in Guatemala. Betsey will be part of a team that receives visiting groups, plans and implements programs and itineraries, and acts as interpreters. Eric will be utilizing his professional music background and teaching skills to connect with churches and communities in Guatemala. The Moes have three school-age children. Please pray for Betsey, Eric, and their family as they embark on their new adventure in Guatemala!



### **On-Line Contribution Information**

Several visitors to the church have asked about on-line giving. Below is the link to Faith Life, the app. that handles our on-line contributions.

If you are a friend or member of the church, and you have an envelope number, you can include when the on-line account is set-up. If you do not have an envelope number, you can contribute as a friend.

You can also access the link on the church web site. Direct any questions to [fpctreasurer145@gmail.com](mailto:fpctreasurer145@gmail.com). Thank you. <https://faithlife.com/fpcop-n/give>





As we celebrate Easter, the holiest holiday on the Christian calendar, our thoughts turn to spring - naturally. Like the warming of the weather and the shoots of new life springing up everywhere, perhaps we should turn that warming inward, as well. Emerging new life in the love of Christ is the best way we can think of to celebrate Resurrection Sunday. By opening our hearts in small ways, we can make big changes in our world. True appreciation of the sacrifice our Lord made for us can be carried out in many ways. Kindness toward each other and aid to those in need seem to be two very powerful ways we can celebrate Easter.

As to Easter activities for the younger set, Kristin Craven was kind enough to outline some of the exciting events happening this year. Thank you, Kristin, for this contribution! It's perfect as is, so I'm listing it out here as written.

The weather is getting warmer, and it's time to get outside! I love spending as much time outside as possible, whether it's in my own backyard, walking on a trail with the kids and dogs, or hanging out at a playground! Try to get outside - it's a great break from the winter and being indoors. And with Easter coming up, it's a great introduction to getting back outdoors! I hope to see you at one of these events or parks and if you ever want to do a play date, let me know!

Celebrate Easter with an activity in your neighborhood:

**Royersford's Easter Scavenger Hunt**

- Saturday, April 9, from 10:30 am - 1:30 pm. Victory Park (2nd & Arch Avenue, Royersford)
- Join us for this at-your-own-pace event where you will pick up your clue sheet from us at the Park Office, and it's your job to follow the clues around Victory Park to complete the puzzle! Bring back your completed puzzle and pick your prize!

**Boy Scout Troop 133 Easter Egg Hunt**

- Saturday, April 9 from 10 - 11 am . Heebner Park (3115 Heebner Road, Collegeville)
- Boy Scout Troop 133 will hold its Annual Easter Egg Hunt at Heebner Park. This year, making a very special appearance will be the Easter Bunny, so grab a big basket and hop on down to Heebner Park! The event is free and open to children of all ages.

**Easter Egg Hunt (Pottstown)**

- Saturday, April 9, from 10 - 11 am. Sanatoga Park (290 S Sanatoga Rd, Pottstown)
- Hoppy Easter! Join us for our Annual Easter Egg Hunt! This event will be held at Sanatoga Park beginning at 10 am! Be sure to bring your own basket!!

Submitted on behalf of the Deacons by, Ellen Williams



## PARISH LIFE



### ST. PATRICK'S DAY TRIVIA NIGHT RECAP



On Friday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, Parish Life hosted a St. Patrick's Day themed trivia night. As usual, fun was had by all with featured moderators Judy & Hermann Ball, and the rest of your Parish Life Crew warming up their entrance with jokes and banter fit for a Leprechaun!



## Come one, Come All – Announcing the 2022 FPC Easter Egg Hunt



Please join us for the 2022 Annual Easter Egg Hunt on the church lawn.  
The eggs will be stuffed with pre-packaged, non-chocolate candy.

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 Zoom Parlor...Please join us!*



### Presbyterian Women Circle

There are only two lessons left in the Horizon Bible Study *What My Grandmothers Taught Me, Learning from the Women in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus*, written by Merry Blair...but it's not too late to join us. We will not meet in April as the third Sunday is Easter and it seems we are all busy the rest of the month but we will meet in May.  
Please pack your lunch and join us after worship on May 15<sup>th</sup>. Jewell Baker

### Quotations and Inspirations ---

Submitted by Sharyn Funderwhite

- "Where flowers bloom so does hope." – Lady Bird Johnson
- "A loving heart is the truest wisdom." – Charles Dickens
- "Make the best use of what is in your power, and take the rest as it happens." – Epictetus
- Each moment of the year has its own beauty.
- "Go forward in life with a twinkle in your eye and a smile on your face, but with a great and strong purpose in your heart." – Gordon Hinckley
- "Nature is a gentle, prudent and just guide." – Montaigne
- "When peace is the goal, peace will prevail." – AAL
- "Lift up your eyes on high and see who has created these stairs." – Isaiah 40:25
- "Lay down your arms; and there will be no 'war'." – AAL
- "If I control my 'speech muscles', I will have nothing to regret." – AAL
- "Open thou mine eyes, that I may see wondrous things." – Psalm 119:18
- "The Lord looketh on the heart." – 1 Samuel 16:7
- "Let your light shine before men." – Matthew 5:16
- "Not as I will, but as thou wilt." – Matthew 26:39
- "I am the vine, ye are the branches." – John 15:5
- "The Lord your God goes with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you." – Deuteronomy 31



April 2022

# First Presbyterian Church of Phoenixville

| Sunday   | Monday   | Tuesday  | Wednesday   | Thursday   | Friday                                | Saturday   |
|--|--|--|---|--|---------------------------------------|--|
|  |  |  |   |  | 1<br>9:00a WIC                        | 2<br>9:30a Zumba class<br><br>11:00a – 1:00p<br>MaxSold Auction<br>Pick Up     |
| 3<br>8:30a Bible Study<br><b>10:30a Worship</b><br><b>11:45a Private Luncheon (FH)</b><br><b>2:00p Prison Ministry Training Event</b><br>7:00p Lent Book Study                     | 4<br>6:00p Staff Meeting<br>6:30p Zumba class<br>7:30p Property                      | 5<br>6:30p Zumba class<br>7:00p MAC  | 6<br>7:30p Bell choir   | 7<br>9:00a WIC<br>9:00a Clothing ministry<br>10:00a Food ministry<br><br>7:00p Choir<br>7:00p “We Are” virtual Vigil   | 8                                     | 9<br>8:15a – 4:00p<br>Good Works<br>Volunteer Day                              |
| 10<br><b>PALM SUNDAY</b><br>8:30a Bible Study<br><b>10:30a Worship</b><br>10:45a Sunday School<br><b>12:30p Worship &amp; Music</b><br>7:00p Pub Theology<br>7:00p Lent Book Study | 11<br>6:30p Zumba class<br>7:00p Parish Life   | 12<br>6:30p Zumba class<br>7:00p Personnel   | 13<br>7:30p Bell choir  | 14<br><b>Maundy Thursday</b><br>9:00a Public Health Mgt. Corp.<br>9:00a Clothing ministry<br>10:00a Food ministry<br>7:00p Compassionate Friends meeting<br><b>7:30p Maundy Thurs. Worship Service</b> | 15<br><b>Good Friday</b><br>9:00a WIC | 16<br><b>Great Vigil of Easter</b><br>9:30a Zumba class                        |
| 17<br><b>EASTER</b><br><b>10:30a Worship</b><br><i>Communion &amp; New Members Joining Church</i><br><br><b>12:00n Easter Egg Hunt</b>   | 18<br>6:30p Zumba class<br>7:00p Finance & Stewardship<br><i>D. Legnini Vacation</i> | 19<br>6:30p Zumba class<br>7:15p Church Growth/Christian Education<br><i>D. Legnini Vacation</i> | 20<br>7:30p Bell choir<br><br><i>Perspective articles due for May</i><br><i>D. Legnini Vacation</i> | 21<br>9:00a WIC<br>9:00a Clothing ministry<br>10:00a Food ministry<br><br>7:00p “We Are” Vigil<br><i>D. Legnini Vacation</i>   | 22<br><i>D. Legnini Vacation</i>      | 23<br>9:00a – Noon<br>Church Work & Clean Up Day<br><i>D. Legnini Vacation</i> |
| 24<br>8:30a Bible Study<br><b>10:30a Worship</b><br><br><b>7:00p Antiracism Book Club</b><br><br><i>D. Legnini Vacation</i>  | 25<br>6:30p Zumba class  | 26<br>6:30p Zumba class<br><br>No Session meeting  | 27<br>7:30p Bell choir  | 28<br>9:00a Clothing ministry<br>10:00a Food ministry<br><br>7:00p Choir   | 29                                    | 30   |