

Highlights of Heritage and Hope First Presbyterian Church of Finleyville

March - April
2017 Newsletter



Letter from the Pastor-Kevin Young, C.L.P.

Last week I preached on “The Wisdom of God”, that being the life and teachings of Christ Jesus. The lesson opened with readings from Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-19 and 1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23. Leviticus tells us God’s law given to Moses for all of Israel. This particular reading gives us a list of “Do Nots” for all the community to obey. These “Do Nots” seem straight forward enough so what’s the big deal? God’s people have not been living according to God’s law; therefore God must remind Israel yet again of their calling and responsibility as His chosen people.

Fast forward to the New Testament, 1 Corinthians 3 where we find Paul teaching in the church at Corinth. Paul starts by telling how the foundations have been laid by an expert builder not just the foundations of their building but of the True Church, the teachings of Christ Jesus. Again we find some “do not” type statements mixed into Paul’s lesson. Why have I told you this? Because as God’s chosen we have certain standards we must live by if we are to live a Christian life pleasing to God, and Christ Jesus.

We live in a world of sin and it is getting worse every day. All one needs to do is open the daily newspaper to read just how far we have strayed from what is good and pleasing to God. So when was the last time you were told as Moses told Israel to get our act together? Pastors today are afraid to preach so boldly for fear of losing what few people show up on a Sunday morning. For the record nowhere was I ever taught or told that we need only worship God once a week or that Sunday services can only be 1 hour long or that we can’t pray too much because it makes the congregation uneasy. Luke 9:23 says; “if anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me”. Did you catch the “DAILY” part?

Perhaps you have heard the story of the doctor who gave an exercise program to a man recovering from open-heart surgery. He instructed the patient to “follow the program religiously”. After six weeks, the man returned for a check-up. The doctor asked how the exercise program was progressing, the patient replied, “Well, at first it was kind of tiring doing all the exercises once a week.” The doctor was shocked. “I wanted you to do them every day, not just once a week!” he exclaimed. The patient calmly replied, “but you said do them religiously. So just like going to church, I did them once every seven days.” This beloved, is the new Christian mentality; less is enough.

As I set down today to begin this article I was looking through my mail and there in front of me was an ad for a “Ministry Conference” and one of the guest speakers was going to talk on the subject “Religionless Christianity”. What the heck is that about? The idea is to develop a type of “Religionless Christianity” in our communities as an alternative to regular church. Need I say more; this is what’s wrong with our country! God-less Christianity is nothing, it doesn’t even make sense to me but to new believers looking for a quick fix, they will flock to this easy out in droves. It won’t be until it’s too late that they see they have wasted their lives for nothing. This makes our job as believers, called by God to share the Good News even harder than it already is. It is time to stand up and be heard, to spread the word of God, the Good News of Christ Jesus, or be damned with the rest of society.

As you and I follow Jesus today, I pray we will see ourselves in the spiritual position Paul states in Colossians 3:3- “For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.” And as we see ourselves in Christ, may we re-orient ourselves to His standard of taking up our cross daily for in the spiritual realm, the very health of our spiritual life and destiny depends on our daily walk with Christ!

Here’s to life – His Way!
Pastor Kevin

Interested in joining the church?
Please call Pastor Kevin, the church office or see a session member for more information.

Pastor Contact Information

Pastor Kevin can be reached at
(724)225-5552 (home) or
(724)255-2418 (cell).
His e-mail is unkwally@yahoo.com.

Session

Session Bill Manning (Building & Property), Charles Crayton, Jill Gudenburr, Denise Kegel (Worship), Beth Archer (Personnel), Michael Archer (Treasurer), Marge Dolinar, Irene Allridge. Clerk of Session: Dana Robinson

* Thank you to Dana Robinson and Ruth Manning for their service on Session. Welcome to Irene Allridge and Marge Dolinar (Class of 2019). The next Session Meeting is Sunday, March 26 following the fellowship lunch.

Fellowship Hour



Please join us for Fellowship each Sunday, following the worship service. Once a month, a lunch will be provided for fellowship.

There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board to help provide cookies/pastries. Please see Denise if you have any questions.

The next Fellowship Lunch is on Sunday, March 26. The Easter Breakfast will be on April 16 at 9:00 am.

Men's Breakfast



The Men's Breakfast will meet on Saturdays, March 11 and April 8 at 9:00 am at Mitty's Restaurant on Brownsville Rd. ext.



Choir meets each Sunday morning at 9:45 am. Any adults, youth, or children interested in joining the choir, please contact Nancy at 412-335-7310 or nancyajollramirez@gmail.com.

Church Staff:

Organist: Nancy Ramirez
Secretary: Cheryl Smith
Custodian: Bill Manning

Deacons

Deacons: Donna Pasquinnelli (724-348-4982), Linda Fleischer, Jackie Schneider, Doris Matthews

The Deacons would like to remind everyone of our card ministry. It has been our custom to acknowledge joys or concerns with a card, assuring the individual that he/she is in our congregation's prayers. Please let us know of those in need and provide an address so that we may continue this meaningful ministry.

This holiday season the Deacons worked with the Interfaith to deliver food and gift cards at Thanksgiving and to disburse checks at Christmas from the Good Samaritan fund. We paid visits to our shut-ins and presented them with treat bags. Even though some of our congregation are unable to attend church on a regular basis, be assured they are interested in all the happenings within our church family. Reach out to a shut-in with calls, cards and visits.

Mission



Love in a Basket & Baby Hats

We are continuing to collect baby hats and supplies in the baskets in the sanctuary.



One Great Hour of Sharing

This offering will be collected on Easter Sunday. Gifts to this offering support the Presbyterian churches ministries of Self-Development of People, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and the Presbyterian Hunger Program.



Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 12. Remember to turn your clock forward 1 hour before bed!

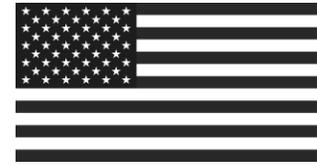
Church Contact Information

3595 Washington Avenue, Finleyville PA 15332
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www.firstpresbyterian.us



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER USA

Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action



The **World Day of Prayer** will be held here at The First Presbyterian Church of Finleyville on Friday, March 3 at 11:00 am with lunch following.

The World Day of Prayer is an ecumenical Christian women's initiative run under the motto "Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action." It is held annually the first Friday of March and is celebrated worldwide.

Rehearsal will be on Thursday, March 2 at 11:00 am at First Presbyterian. Questions? Please call Nancy Ramirez at 412-335-7310.

***"God is older than government; God is bigger than government; God will outlast government!
Our rights do not come from government, our rights come from God, we have always believed that."***

"Religious freedom does not exist because of America, American exists because of religious freedom"



Lent/Easter *at First Presbyterian*

- March 1: Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 pm
- March 3: World Day of Prayer Service 11:00 am
- March 19: Interfaith Lenten Service 7:00 pm
- April 13: Maundy Thursday Service 7:00 pm
- April 16: Easter Sunday Breakfast 9:00 am
Service 10:30 am



Please watch the bulletin or call the church office for information on ordering Easter Flowers.

Finleyville Interfaith Council 2017 Lenten Services

March 5	St. Francis of Assisi	Pastor Glenn McClelland
March 12	Wright's UMC	Rev. Brent Furlong
March 19	First Presbyterian	Rev. Alberta Hall
March 26	First Baptist	Rev. John Owen
April 2	Family Worship Center (with Go Time Ministries assisting)	Rev. Richard Roberts
April 9	Mingo Presbyterian	Pastor Kevin Young
April 14	Wright's UMC (Good Friday) 7:30 pm	All pastors present preaching

All Sunday evening services (except Good Friday) will begin at 7:00 pm with fellowship & refreshments to follow. The Good Friday service will begin at 7:30 pm (no refreshments).

The offering each week will support Meals on Wheels, Finleyville Food Pantry and the work of the Interfaith Council.

Gleaners

An Update from the Gleaners

Progress is being made on the installation of the chairlift. The contract has been signed, and a deposit has been made. Custom manufacturing of "our" chairlift will take about 8 weeks, and complete installation and mandatory inspections are expected to take up to 6 months.

The Gleaners wish to thank the congregation for their support of fundraising efforts towards paying for this most necessary improvement to our church home and to ask for your continuing support of our fundraising efforts. Wagner chocolate sales will continue and another flea market is planned for June 10th, so SAVE THE DATE! The possibility of hosting a fall craft/vendor show and luncheon is also being investigated.

While the substantial deposit has been made, the \$4500.00 balance will be due upon completion of installation. We ask that you prayerfully consider increasing your support of this project to make First Presbyterian of Finleyville fully accessible to us and our community.

Thank you, and may God Bless.

The Gleaners



Outdoor Flea Market
Saturday, June 10, 2017
8:00 am – 1:00 pm
Table fee \$10.00

The Gleaners are also sponsoring a table –so if anyone has anything they would like to donate it would be much appreciated. Please call Joanna at 724-348-8056 for more information or if you have any questions.

The Gleaners will be meeting on Saturdays, March 11 and April 8 at 11:00 am in The Upper Room. All are welcome. Please contact Joanna Morgan at 724-348-8056 for more information about the Gleaners.

The Gleaners are selling Wagner's Chocolate \$2.00. Chocolate covered pretzels, chocolate covered oreos and chocolate covered marshmallows. Please contact the Gleaners if you would like to purchase chocolates or if you would like to take a box to sell.

**Ask God for the right words and invite someone to church,
let's fill the pews!**

Thank You to all of the congregation for your thoughts and prayers for my family in January after the death of my Dad. All of the sympathy cards were a great comfort also.
Linda and Rich Fleischer

The congregation's prayers are with the family of Mark Young, son of former pastor David Young (1956-1984), who recently passed away.

Pine Springs Camp

Celebrating our 70th Summer of Camp and the Dedication of "The Refuge", the new Dining Hall/Multi-purpose Building.

June 24, 2017 11:00 am- 4:00 pm
11:00 am-Registration
11:30 am-Dedication and Worship Service
12:30 pm-Lunch
1:30 pm-Camp Tours and Fun Activities

What a great chance to go to camp for the day!
Info on the bulletin board.
www.pinesprings.org