

# The Bell Tower

## First Presbyterian Church Happenings

May MMXXV

**GOOD SHEPHERD OUTREACH** opportunity to help prepare and deliver a hot meal to the 225 clients of The Good Shepherd Center is scheduled for **Monday, May 12th**. Our menu includes the following: Phil's meatloaf, baked sweet potatoes, applesauce, roll, and cookies. To make this project happen we will need about 20 volunteers that day plus many cookie bakers. You can help be the hands and feet of Christ! The positions available are: Cookie Bakers (many), Sous Chefs (8), Servers (5), and Drivers (5). Sign-up sheets are available on the table above the glass door exit area. Call or text 724-456-1989 with questions or suggestions.

*"Serve the Lord with gladness!" Psalm 100:2*



### Vacation Bible School - June 16 to June 20, 2025 – 9am to 12pm

Registration for VBS 2025, inviting children ages 4 through completing 5<sup>th</sup> grade, is now open on the church website, [fpcgreenville.com/vbs](http://fpcgreenville.com/vbs).

ALL VBS Adult and Youth Volunteers - there will be a meeting May 18th following worship service in Calvin Hall.

Our VBS decorating meeting times are as follows: Wednesday May, 28th from 10am-12pm and Saturday May 31st beginning at 10am meeting in the Men's Den. All are welcome to gather to help! We will need additional help in June. Please watch for dates in the June Bell Tower and the bulletin.

Please contact Kelly Minner [kelly.minner@gmail.com](mailto:kelly.minner@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

### BELL TOWER SUMMER SCHEDULE

The June and July issues of the newsletter will be a combined edition and distributed the beginning of June. Any information for this 'Summer Edition' needs to be in the church office no later than May 20, 2025. Please send your articles/announcements via email to: [office@fpcgreenville.com](mailto:office@fpcgreenville.com) or leave a copy in the church office with Sue. Thank you for your cooperation!



## Welcome Our New Covenant Partners!



Meet our new covenant partner, Mary Lynda Capris aka Lyn. She moved to St Paul's with her late husband Pastor Rick Cepris. They were married on January 5, 1985 and together raised four children which gave them four grand children. Lyn grew up in the Pittsburgh area graduating from Avonworth High School in 1965. She went on to nursing school, she is a retired LPN, specializing in Geriatric nursing.

Lyn currently has a six year old beagle named Milly. She is already active in the Women's Bible Study and Sunday School classes. Lyn like Darlene found her way to FPC through an invitation by Nancy Hoffacker. When she is not in church, you may find her crocheting, macrame, or walking in the woods. Her favorite songs are Because He Lives, Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine, and Here I am Lord. Lyn cites her maternal grandmother as influential in her life. An interesting fact about Lyn, she was part of a ministry called "Fools for Christ," it was a clown ministry. Make sure to welcome Lyn the next time you see her, and maybe you will have something in common with her besides being covenant partners at First Presbyterian Church.

Lyn was asked for her favorite movie, Bible verse, quote, and when she felt closest to God:

Movie: Places in the Heart—a reference to the Communion of Saints

Bible Verse: 2 Corinthians 5:17—Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

Quote: "Let emotions subside and then decide."—Joyce Meyer

Closest to God: I tend to see God in everything. I pray to never lose my sense of awe and wonder.

Meet our new covenant partner, Darlene Artman. Darlene has been in the Greenville Area for over forty years. Currently she is a retired accountant and administrative assistant. She received her MBA in 2005. Darlene shared in the New Covenant Partner class that she worked with Arch Messer for many years.

Darlene is currently a widow and raising four Yorkies. She has already active in the Women's Bible Study and Sunday School classes. Darlene found her way to FPC through an invitation by Nancy Hoffacker, she did visit sporadically over the last 40 years. When she is not in church, you may find her walking, traveling, golfing and reading. Her favorite song is I can Only Imagine by Mercy Me. Darlene cites her mother as influential in her life. Make sure to welcome Darlene the next time you see her, and maybe you will have something in common with her besides being covenant partners at First Presbyterian Church.

Darlene was asked for her favorite movie, Bible verse, quote, and when she felt closest to God:

Movie: Pretty Woman

Bible Verse: Philippians 4:13—I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

Quote: "Do what you can with all you have, wherever you are."—Teddy Roosevelt

Closest to God: When I pray—when I am sad or alone.



## *Congratulations to First Presbyterian Church's 2025 High School Seniors.*



**Connor Geiger**, a Senior at Reynolds High School, is the son of Shawn and Denise Geiger. Connor became a First Presbyterian Church Covenant Partner in March 2022, after participating in the Confirmation Class. Connor describes his mom and dad as being his biggest supporters. “No matter what, they always help me out with whatever I need. They are fun to be around and make me happy.” Connor enjoys collecting sports cards with his dad and selling some of the cards on Ebay.

While at RHS, Connor contributes his time and talents to the yearbook staff, Raider News, and the Entrepreneurship class. He demonstrates his athletic abilities by competing on the varsity track team. Connor’s favorite school subjects are history and math. Connor reflects on his high school years as making many significant memories with friends and growing as a person. Connor’s friends appreciate his great sense of humor and he’s fun to be around.

Connor’s significant memories of FPC center around Vacation Bible School and all the great people he has met. Connor cites Proverbs 3:5-6, as his most loved Bible verse, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight.” Connor’s post high school plans are to work for Osmose Utilities Services as a crew leader, and then after further training, move to a foreman position with hopes of working his way up the ladder in the company. We wish Connor the best in all of his future plans as God continues to guide and bless his abundant life.

**Peyton Davis** is the daughter of Ryan and Molly Davis. She has a younger brother RJ, and a younger sister Avery. Her older brother Patrick graduated in 2023. Peyton became a First Presbyterian Church Covenant Partner in March 2022 after participating in the Confirmation Class. She has been a faithful nursery volunteer and has participated in the Sunday Worship technology team’s live streaming and running the sound system. Peyton treasures the loving and supportive people she has known through the years at FPC. The person she looks up to the most is her Mom, who is the strongest person she knows.

While at Greenville High School, Peyton has demonstrated her athletic abilities on the Varsity Basketball and Track & Field teams. Running the 400 meter race has been her favorite Track event. Peyton loves her English and Biology classes. These subjects will be valuable assets while she attends the Nursing Program at the Meadville Medical Center in the Fall of 2025. Peyton enjoys exercising in her spare time. Her friends would describe her as a fun person to be around. Peyton has been a greatly appreciated role model to our elementary age girls.

Peyton’s most loved Bible verse is Isaiah 38:17, “Surely it was for my benefit that I suffered such anguish. In your love you kept me from the pit of destruction; you have put all my sins behind my back.” Peyton’s attributes are many and we pray God’s blessings and guidance be abundant in her life.

**James Wilson**, a senior at Greenville High School, is known for his gentle spirit, quiet strength, and a sense of humor that often catches you by surprise. With a caretaker's heart that shines through even in his most reserved moments (unless there's a bat flying around). He's also known for retreating to quiet places to find solitude—also known as a good nap. His favorite subject is literature. On some Sunday mornings, James can be found in the balcony, behind the camera, providing the livestream for our YouTube audience.

Though he chose to step away from track and cross country this year to focus on academics and personal growth, those sports still hold a special place in his heart. In the fall, James will begin a new chapter at Thiel College, ready to face new challenges and continue becoming the young man he was meant to be. When asked what he'll always remember about FPC Greenville, he answered simply and sincerely: the people. It's the relationships and sense of community that have left a lasting impression on him. In his free time, James enjoys staying busy and making the most of each day. He looks up to his parents most of all, grateful for the love, support, and values they've instilled in him—values that continue to shape his journey forward.

James has been a true joy to everyone who's had the pleasure of getting to know him. We pray for him as he continues on God's path — that he may continue to bring joy to others and allow God to lead him wherever He chooses.

**Matthew Rose**, a graduating senior at Greenville high school, has made the most of his final year both inside and outside the classroom. Matthew, while quiet, is always polite and pleasant to be around. He has been a volunteer the past couple of years at VBS and has helped in the balcony with the camera to provide livestream to our Youtube audience. His favorite subject is chemistry, where he's developed a strong interest in how things work at a molecular level — a passion that has inspired him to pursue chemical engineering at Penn State in the fall. One of the highlights of Matthew's year has been serving as president of the Trojan Club, a role that allowed him to show leadership, school spirit, and bring people together in meaningful ways.

Outside the classroom, Matthew is involved in a wide variety of extracurricular activities, including tennis, soccer, choir, and band. Whether he's on the field, performing on stage, or hitting the court in his free time, he brings energy and commitment to everything he does. Friends describe him as determined and resilient — someone who doesn't back down from challenges and keeps pushing forward. He looks up to Mr. Scott for his wisdom and kindness, always admiring his ability to lift others up with just the right words. When asked what he'll always remember about his time at FPC Greenville, he says, "Rev. Dobi." His influence and presence clearly made a lasting impact on Matthew's journey.

We have been blessed to know Matthew, and we pray that God will continue to use him to be a blessing to others, just as he has been a blessing to all of us.

**Angelo Lomonte** is a graduating Senior at Reynolds High School. Angelo regularly participates in Sunday morning worship at First Presbyterian Church. His parents are Angelo and Megan Lomonte. Angelo has two brothers and one sister. Angelo is known to friends as a patient, kind, and understanding young man of deep faith. Angelo describes his dad as the person he looks up to the most, admiring his dad's personal discipline and work ethic.

During his school years, Angelo has primarily focused on the sport of wrestling since second grade. He has made wrestling a year round commitment, earning major recognition and awards. Most recently, Angelo was awarded the Neal Lineman Scholarship by the Reynolds Wrestling Legacy Club. This award is a four year renewable scholarship. Additionally, Angelo received the Reynolds VFW Bob Brandt Award. This award is presented to an individual that stands out amongst their peers, depicts leadership, dedication to academics, athletics community and all around true person. Angelo has committed to Clarion University to compete on the wrestling team and major in Business Administration.

Angelo's most loved Bible verse is Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight." Angelo, your friends at FPC pray for your continued success in all aspects of your life. Enjoy the adventures on the horizon.





John Hurd	5/1
Ericka Dersheimer	5/2
Nico Zahniser	5/2
Laura Stitt	5/3
Brent McCartney	5/5
Bill Kitch	5/7
Jenna Harbison	5/7
Aaron Overfield	5/7
Edie Johnson	5/8
Evan Warren	5/10
Scott Dambacher	5/11
Janet Karson	5/11
Irv Milheim	5/11
Jim Ickes	5/12
Ruth Reither	5/12
Matt Slagle	5/13
Chase Bartholomew	5/14
Shelia Gould	5/15
Gail Moon	5/16
Lyn Cepris	5/17
Marianne Hofing	5/17
Jessica Forbes	5/21
Erin Warren	5/25
Erin Williams	5/26
<b>Youth</b>	
Chloe Carter	4/4
Avery Davis	4/29

*Dear First Presbyterian Church Family,  
Thank you to all covenant parties and friends. It's through people like you that Jesus shows His love for us. I am blessed beyond belief. Thank you for your hospitality, support and prayers. I am humbled and honored to be a covenant partner. I thank God for the wonderful people He has place in my life.  
Showers of Blessing!  
"Lyn" Mary Lynda Cepris*

**Men's Breakfast meets May 10 @ 8:00 a.m.** All men are welcome for food, faith & fellowship. There is no charge, donations are gratefully accepted.

#### MAY NURSERY SCHEDULE

5/4	Nancy Hauser & Barbara Deist
5/11	Lucy Wheaton & Dakota Draa
5/18	Jamie & Megan Ickes
5/25	Kelly & Matt Minner



Have you found yourself looking into our Kitchen Refrigerator wondering if you could use what you see or is it being saved for future use? Well – moving forward there will be no guessing needed. Now we are asking anyone who puts an item(s) into the refrigerator to label it. We have provided the following labels for all to use:

- Please save this food/drink item for \_\_\_\_\_
- or
- Please feel free to use this food/drink item as needed. Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

These labels can be found above countertop by the fuse boxes.

**Tammy & Gail Your "Kitchen Sisters"**

Tammy Hornick  
[Tammy.hornick12@gmail.com](mailto:Tammy.hornick12@gmail.com)  
443-532-7897

Gail Gongaware  
[gmg228@nyu.edu](mailto:gmg228@nyu.edu)  
917-623-4207

#### Greeters Schedule

5/4	Karen Edwards
5/11	Randy & Sue Blum
5/18	Bill & DaVee Hazlett
5/25	Linda Camlin
6/1	Karen Edwards
6/8.	Karen Shilling

## Session Notes

A Special Meeting of the Congregation/Corporation of The First Presbyterian Church Greenville, Pennsylvania took place on April 13, 2025, 12:00 PM in the Church Sanctuary.

The following motion was approved: to close the nominations and to direct the Clerk to cast a unanimous ballot for Covenant Partner Ken Stitt as a candidate for the office of Deacon Class of 2026.

A regular Meeting of Session gathered on Monday April 10, 2025 with Emergency Transitional Pastor Jeff Wildrick as Moderator.

### Information:

- Property Committee representative's Phil Oswald and Dave Miller gave an update on the Renovation/Upgrade Church Electrical System.
- The Spring Gathering of the Rivers of Life Presbytery Meeting (May 17<sup>th</sup>) will be held here at FPC. The Presbyterian Women's Group and Congregational Life Committee are working together to provide the needed food.
- As approved by session, a Certified Transitional Pastor Search Team (The Team) has been formed, the following Elders are serving: Sam Dailey, Gail Fay, Ericka Dershimer, Jill Jones, Tim Eckhardt and Emergency Transitional Pastor Jeff Wildrick. The first working meeting of the team was Wednesday, March 19, and the team has met every Wednesday since.

### Approved Motions:

- to approve the Property Committee's award to EMP Electric from Edinburg, PA. for the renovation/upgrade of the Church's electrical system, sum cost of \$111,664.
- Summer Schedule was approved – hours for Sunday June 8<sup>th</sup> will be Sunday School 9:00 AM Morning Worship 10:00 AM and will remain until a return to the Winter Schedule – hours for Sunday September 7<sup>th</sup> will be Sunday School 9:30 AM Morning Worship 10:45 AM.
- to approve that the Session set a policy (under the Property Committee) that no further names be added to the historic stained-glass windows in the chapel, the sanctuary, or the parlor.
- to accept Jack Dershimer for infant baptism on April 27<sup>th</sup> morning worship by parents Ericka and Drew Dershimer
- to approve that the sacrament of Holy Communion scheduled on June 1 be moved to May 25 in order to correspond to Pastor Wildrick's last Sunday as Emergency Transitional Pastor.



# 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

## BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE "FACTS FROM THE PAST"

### BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE "FACTS FROM THE PAST"

The following information was compiled  
by William R. McMillen.

#### Leadership

The first woman Ruling Elder was  
installed and ordained in 1971. In 1973  
the first two women Deacons were  
installed and ordained.

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#### Church Staff around 1987

1 Pastor, 1 Pastor Emeritus, 2 Assistant  
Pastors, 1 Co-Director of College Age  
Programs, 1 Student Outreach, Inc., 1  
Coordinator  
of Music, 1 Church Organist, 1 Director of 3  
Kids Choirs, 1 Youth Choir Pianist, 1 Church  
Treasurer, 1 Assistant Church Treasurer,  
1 Church Secretary, 1 Church Receptionist-  
Secretary, 1 Custodian, 1 Church Housekeeper,  
1 Assistant Custodian, and 1 Evening Custodian.

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The following information is from the program of  
the historical pageant, "Faith of Our Fathers."

#### Historical Pageant

This pageant was in observance of the 125<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary  
of FPC. It was written and directed by Katharine H.  
Rock.  
(The former librarian for the Greenville Library). This  
was  
Sponsored by The Women's Guild. The pageant  
contained  
11 scenes. The scenes depicted authentic events  
in the  
history of the church.

SAVE THE DATE! The Daytime Circle will  
gather on June 3, 2025, at Noon at St.  
Paul's, at the pavilion by the Kiefer  
Building. Please bring your lunch.  
Beverages will be provided. Dress for the  
weather as we will meet rain or shine.  
Hope to see you there!



#### **Presbyterian Women's Spring Tea**

Please join us for the opportunity to gather  
for the Presbyterian Women's Tea on  
Tuesday, May 6, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in Calvin  
Hall. If you have a favorite teacup please  
bring it with you. Tea time treats will be  
provided (including a teacup if you do not  
bring one). Vintage clothing and hats are  
encouraged, but not required.

Program: Jared McGary, Pymatuning State  
Park Environmental Educator will speak  
about the fascinating history of Pymatuning  
Dam.

**Attention Men:** You are invited to the  
church at 7:00 p.m. to listen to Jared McGary  
speak.