



# The Bell Tower

First Presbyterian Church Happenings

Summer Edition MMXXV



200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

We are excited to announce that on July 3, Luke Laird, a Grammy award winning writer and musician, will perform at the Graul Amphitheater in Riverside Park, mixing music in his story of his walk of faith.

Luke is the son of Jim and Suzanne Laird and grew up in Crawford and Mercer County. He became fascinated with songwriting and production in high school. He graduated from Middle Tennessee State University in 2001 with a degree in Recording Industry Management. He married Beth Mason in 2010. They founded Creative Nation, a music publishing and management company for country music songwriters and producers in 2011. They have two boys. He will perform songs from his "Music Row" album, including "Why I Am Who I Am," an autobiographical look at Laird's life, from the beginning in Hartstown, to life in Nashville.



The timing of Laird's performance has not been set as of yet.

COME ONE, COME ALL  
TO THE

FPC ANNUAL PICNIC

All Covenant Partners and Friends are invited to the  
Annual Church Picnic.

**When: Noon on July 20<sup>th</sup>**

**Where: The home of Kelly and Jill Jones  
35 Linn Tyro Road, Greenville, PA**

**What to Bring: A vegetable, salad, dessert, etc. to share.**

The Deacons will provide hot dogs, hamburgers, condiments,  
beverages, and paper products.

A variety of outdoor lawn games will be available to play,  
along with a few Surprises!!

A table of memorabilia of our church will be available to view.  
Come and enjoy great food and fellowship as we celebrate the  
Bicentennial of 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church, HIS CHURCH.

## SUMMER HOURS AT FPC BEGIN JUNE 8

Sunday School begins at 9:00 a.m.  
Morning worship at 10:00 a.m.  
Adult Sunday School will meet in Calvin Hall with the following schedule:  
June 8: Erin Onderko  
*Trip to Central America*  
June 15: Becky Vargo  
*Coalition for Christian Outreach (CCO)*  
June 22: Rev. Sherry Swetz  
*Joshua's Haven*  
June 29: Becky Vogan  
*ROOT International*

Summer Sunday School hours will begin on June 8, from 9:00 AM to 9:45 AM. For preschool and elementary ages, an integrated class will be provided of Bible-based learning including activities, crafts, and stories. For high school students and adults, the Mission Committee has scheduled the above individuals and organizations supported by First Presbyterian Church to speak about their service and ministry.



June		July	
Eric Warren	6/1	Doug Groover	7/1
Jean White	6/2	Bobbie Russell	7/1
Jim McClimans	6/6	Gerri Stallsmith	7/3
Barbara Curtis	6/10	Clint Graham	7/5
Ben Dawson	6/10	Carol Houck	7/5
Nancy Stevenson	6/10	Sherry Lasch	7/6
Raymond Harris	6/11	Doug Moon	7/8
Nancy Hoffacker	6/11	Beverly Titzel	7/9
Carolyn Messer	6/12	Alex Dawson	7/10
Ryan Davis	6/13	Karen Patterson	7/10
Nancy Miller	6/13	Kim Brainard	7/11
Jane Ogunro	6/13	Shani Eddy	7/11
Christine Zahniser	6/13	Nita Glassman	7/11
Terri Miller	6/14	Jim Loutzenhiser	7/11
Sol Wansor	6/14	Phil Oswald	7/14
David Deist	6/15	Bob Barney	7/16
Don Thomas	6/16	Matt Minner	7/16
Greg Zahniser	6/18	David Fay	7/19
Tyler Heckathorn	6/19	Fred Hofing	7/20
Tim Stallsmith	6/21	Paige Schamberg	7/21
Josie Hart	6/22	Jean Heckathorn	7/22
Cathy Petty	6/23	Mimi Milheim	7/24
Michele Groover	6/26	Dan Baker	7/26
Diane Dawson	6/27	Tim Eckhardt	7/26
		Lindsey Peterson	7/26
		Altha Graham	7/29
		Jill Jones	7/29
		Lucy Wheaton	7/29
Youth		Youth	
Jake Young	6/7	Connor Hoffman	7/8
		Riley Krepp	7/9
		Sammi Johnson	7/9
		Connor Geiger	7/22
		Holden Williams	7/26

### Summer Christian Camp Scholarships Available

The Session of First Presbyterian Church continues to offer scholarships for summer Christian camps for all youth and families of the Church. Requests for this scholarship opportunity can be directed to the Christian Education Committee by contacting Dan Baker or Laura Stitt.

### GOOD SHEPHERD REQUESTS:

**June - Boxed meals, canned fruit, boxed Mac & cheese**

**July - Personal care items, school supplies, dessert mixes**

Thank  
You!

Thank you to everyone who was able to join us at the Spring Gathering on Saturday. It was a beautiful day of worship and fellowship, graciously hosted by First Presbyterian Church of Greenville.

Grace and Peace,

Megan Clark Young, Stated Clerk

Rivers of Life Presbytery



### THANK YOU REV. JEFF WILDRICK

Our congregation is grateful for the life and ministry of our Emergency Transitional Pastor, Jeff Wildrick, who served with us for March, April, and May. Pastor Jeff not only helped guide us during our grief period after the passing of Rev. David Dobi, he gave practical advice to staff and Covenant Partners for moving our church forward in a positive direction. We appreciate his six-week instruction sessions on Sunday afternoons, his leadership in Session training, and we are most grateful for his insightful and thought-provoking sermons with biblical instruction. On behalf of all Covenant Partners, Pastor Jeff was presented with a token gift and personal thanks during worship on May 25, 2025. We are truly grateful for his ministry and we pray for God's continued blessings for Pastor Jeff and his family.



Thank you to all FPC Covenant Partners and Friends for making the ECO Rivers of Life Spring Gathering on May 17<sup>th</sup> a memorable day. Those who attended and those who helped in anyway are very much appreciated. What a pleasure to open our doors wide for others to enter and share in our Bicentennial Celebration. What an amazing opportunity for over 100 people from around 18 churches to come together in HIS NAME.



Joy & I would like to thank everyone at FPC for their prayers, cards and phone calls while I was going through my health problem.

God Bless, Dick Krueger



June 1 is the last Sunday for the Chancel Choir until September. I thank them one and all for their faithfulness in providing music in our worship services.

Randy Curtis



The Good Shepherd is blessed to have such a great bunch of servants @First Presby. Thank you for always stepping up when we need help with special projects like our spring change over. You are a great group!

Mary Conley, Executive Director



May 12<sup>th</sup>, First Presbyterian Church served 203 hot meals to the clients of our local Good Shepherd Center. This effort was made possible by THIRTY-EIGHT Covenant Partners and friends: ten (10) Cookie Bakers; eleven (11) Sous Chefs; two (2) Runners; five (5) Servers; and ten (10) Drivers. Thank you to Phil Oswald for providing the meats and his delicious meatloaf recipe. Also thanks to Tim Eckhardt and the Social Concerns Committee for an outreach memo attached to each meal. This event was a wonderful opportunity to be the "hands and feet of Jesus". We thank you for your support of this mission and we look forward to our next Good Shepherd meal opportunity in October.



### THANKS TO WORSHIP MUSICIANS:

The beautiful music that comes from our chancel each Sunday morning makes our worship time meaningful and relevant and helps people experience Jesus at First Presbyterian Church. We are truly grateful for the generosity of talents of the following choir members:

Michael Bray, Denise Christman, Diane Curtis, Donovan Curtis, Dale Deist, Tim Eckhardt, Carolyn Forbes, Jennifer Forbes, Gail Gongaware, Treasa Gruber, Hazel Harpst, Fred Hofing, Tammy Hornick, Jill Jones, Darlene Kelly, Marjie Kembel, Joy Krueger, Irv Milheim, Sharon Nystrom, Phil Oswald, Matt Slagle, Nancy Stevenson, Laura Stitt, Summer Stitt, and Erin Warren.

A special thanks goes to our talented organist and choir director, Randall Curtis. Randy is dedicated to excellence and we appreciate his leadership and willingness to share his love for Christ through music.



**THANK YOU TO CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT:** We honor the following Sunday School and Christian Education Department individuals for their dedication and commitment to provide Christian Education to our church family. Please thank them in person when you see them!

#### Sunday School teachers:

Tom Brainard, Sharon Nystrom, Matt Minner, Kelly Minner, Jim Miller, Dan Baker, Kerry Overfield, Karen Edwards, Mary K. Miller, Jackie Grisetti, Becky Bray, Erin Warren, Diane Dawson, Barb Deist, Terri Deist, Ericka Dershimer, Janice Harbison, Natalie Reed, Lucy Wheaton, Molly Davis, Peyton Davis, Lisa Courtney, Ben Claypool, Michele Groover, Jill Murchack, Kathy Scobbie, Sue Blum

#### Nursery Providers:

Davis Family, Sue Blum, Sue Wilson, Mary K. Miller, Paulla Johnson, Savannah Johnson, Becky Bray, Terri Deist, Barb Deist, Carol Houck, Nancy Hoffacker, Jackie Grisetti, Jamie Ickes, Megan Ickes, Kim Brainard, Diane Dawson, Janice Harbison, Sue Hart, Kaye Williams, Ericka Dershimer, Lucy Wheaton, Dakota Draa, Matt Minner, Kelly Minner, Nancy Hauser

### *Welcome Our New Covenant Partner!*

*WE Rejoice! Sunday, May 18, 2025, FPC Covenant Partners were witness to and sponsors of the baptism of Daniel J Shrock, Jr. "Likewise, I say unto you there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repents." Luke 15:10*

Following baptism Dan was accepted as a Covenant Partner of First Presbyterian Church. Dan Shrock is an amazing witness for our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and we rejoice with him in this new season of his life. Hallelujah! All praise above!







## SAVE THE DATE - AUGUST 24 PRAYER PARTNER BREAKFAST

All are welcomed to attend at 9:00 a.m. in place of Sunday School. More information will be posted in the August Bell Tower.

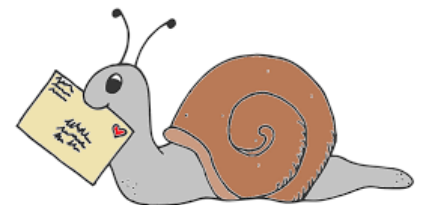
As the school year comes to a close and summer begins, remember to pray for our students to finish the year strong and to have a wonderful summer.

Children's Ministry Renovation Update: Since summer of 2024 a team, appointed by the Session, has been working to design plans to renovate and modernize the Children's Ministry area in the church basement. The team's plans were presented to Session this month, and a special meeting was held dedicated just to this proposal. The Session decided that a project of the proposal's scope and scale should be considered as part of a more comprehensive plan for the church's ministry and mission. Knowing that a long-term transitional pastor will be to help us create a comprehensive plan and vision, the Session voted to defer action on the renovation proposal until the Certified Transitional Pastor is in place to guide us.

**CTP SEARCH TEAM NEWS:** Currently the five (5) member Search Team with Jill Jones and Gail Fay co-chairs guided by the national ECO Transitional Team. The Search Team is working to find the Certified Transitional Pastor that will serve with us for the next year or two prior to employing a senior pastor. We believe that God has chosen a person for this position and that in His perfect timing we will be united together. In the meanwhile, we ask for prayers for the heart of the CTP that God will be calling, for the Search Team's discernment, and for all our Covenant Partners that in this interim we may *"increase and abound in love for one another and for everyone else."* 1 Thessalonians 3:12.

## SNAIL MAIL MINISTRY

Did you know? The Congregational Life and Fellowship Committee sponsors a SNAIL MAIL ministry. Committee representatives send good 'old fashioned' hand-written cards and letters each month to forty (40) or so Covenant Partners that they remember with FPC care and concern. If you know of anyone who would benefit from such contact or if you wish to be a part of this ministry team please call or text our overseer, Mary K. Miller, at 724-456-6943.



## Session Notes, May 12, 2025

### Information:

- Elders Dale Deist and Phil Oswald gave a report from the Sunday School Basement Area Renovation Study Committee.
- The Presbyterian Women's Spring Tea was held on May 6<sup>th</sup>, over 40 were in attendance.
- Applications are being accepted for the 2025/2026 Kids of the Kingdom Preschool, and the closing program for the present year is scheduled for May 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 PM.
- The Treasurer reported that we are currently running behind in our financial needs.
- A thank you to our Emergency Transitional Pastor Jeff Wildrick he will be concluding his service to us on May 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Pastor Ben shared that the Discipleship Groups are moving into the "who will they disciple next phase"?
- "Prom Drop" A New Outreach sponsored by Congregational Life took place on May 3<sup>rd</sup>
- The local prom-going students and families were welcomed to our facility for photo opportunities and labeled bottles of water were handed out.
- An outing for elementary age children grades K through 5 took place on Saturday, May 10, from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Olympic Fun Center, Hermitage, PA.
- On May 12<sup>th</sup> FPC served over 200 meals at the Good Shepherd Center.

### Approved Motions:

- To call a special meeting of FPC 's Session for Monday May 19<sup>th</sup> for discussion and action on the report from the Sunday School Basement Area Renovation Study Committee. The following amend was added: for FPC's Property Committee to meet, discuss and discern the information given by the study group. The Property Committee's representatives are then to report their finding to Session on Monday May 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Approve Elder Randall Curtis as the voting delegate to the Spring Gathering of the Rivers of Life Presbytery Meeting on Saturday May 17<sup>th</sup>.

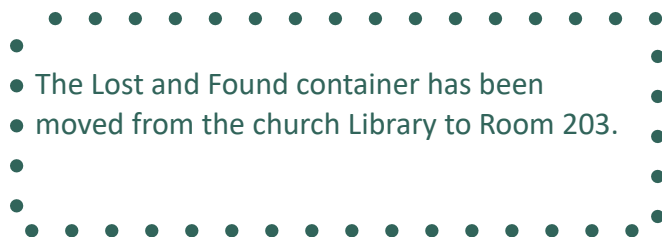
## Special Meeting of Session, May 19, 2025

A presentation, question and answer session was held, led by representatives of the Sunday School Basement Area Renovation Study Committee, Dale Deist and Phil Oswald.

Two motions were suggested:

1. To approve the cost of \$38,750.00 for the Architectural and Mechanical Drawings with funds from the Memorial Gifts Fund.
  2. To begin a capital fund drive with the Congregation using pledge cards for this project.
- Session followed with a robust discussion.

(msp) to approve the motion to defer action on motion no. 1 (To approve the cost of \$38,750.00 for the Architectural and Mechanical Drawings with funds from the Memorial Gifts Fund) until the Certified Transitional Pastor has served 3 months. At which time it will reappear at Session for action.

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- The Lost and Found container has been
  - moved from the church Library to Room 203.



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).

Stay tuned to the bulletin for decorating  
dates, supply donations, and any  
other updates!

Volunteers, remember to pick up updated  
VBS schedules on **June 8th** in Calvin Hall  
following worship service. Kelly Minner will  
be available to answer any questions.



Helpful tip - when you are using the Kitchen.

Your last step before you leave the Kitchen is to:

**CHECK THE FREEZER DOOR.** It has a very soft closure,  
so we have found the freezer door open on numerous  
occasions.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this ask.

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

**Greeters Schedule**

6/8	Karen Shilling
6/15	Darlene Kelly
6/22	John Russell
6/29	Karen Patterson

**200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

**Facts from the Past**

**Stained Glass Windows**

In 1958 the FPC Building Committee gave the  
responsibility to the minister, Rev. Marshall Berryhill, to  
plan the beautiful stained-glass windows. For 18  
years Rev. Berryhill worked on this project. The windows  
are of original design and none are a duplication or copy  
of any window anywhere.

**Greenville, Pennsylvania's Centennial  
1838-1938**

Many members of FPC participated in the activities,  
committees, and a pageant during the Greenville  
Centennial Week, Sunday, July 31st to  
August 6, 1938.

**Church Choir in 1925**

According to information in the FPC Centennial Booklet,  
the choir consisted of Mrs. Paul E. McMichael, Organist/  
Leader; Mrs. Marvin R. Hornbeck, Soprano; Miss  
Marian Williams, Contralto; John W. Reznor, Tenor; and  
Paul E. McMichael, Bass.

**JUNE & JULY NURSERY SCHEDULE**

6/1	Diane Dawson & Kim Brainard
6/8	Janice Harbison & Kaye Williams
6/15	Sue Blum & Sue Wilson
6/22	Paulla & Savannah Johnson
6/29	Terri Deist & Mary K. Miller
7/6	Barbara Deist & Nancy Hauser
7/13	Ericka Dershimer & Savannah Johnson
7/20	Nancy Hoffacker & Carol Houck
7/27	Worship @ Hillside

