



The Bell Tower

First Presbyterian Church Happenings

October MMXXV



We are extremely grateful for the life and ministry of our Associate Pastor, Ben Claypool. Individually, let's remember and thank Pastor Ben in some way this month. Card baskets will be placed at the top of the stairs coming up from the glass doors and in the narthex for your use. Please note: The plan is to present the card baskets to Pastor Claypool Sunday, October 19th.

OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY: First Presbyterian Church is tasked to prepare, serve, and deliver a hot meal to the 225 or so patrons of the GOOD SHEPHERD CENTER on Monday, October 13th. This undertaking will require over 20 volunteers to complete. There are opportunities to chop and stir, portion and serve food, and deliver hot meals. Please consider using your time and talents for this worthwhile and fulfilling mission for our community. Sign-up sheets with specific details are located on the tables above the glass entrance/exit doors. Call or text 724-456-1989 with any questions. Blessings!

Dates to Remember

Men's Breakfast — Saturday, October 4, 2025

We've moved Men's Breakfast up one week to the **first Saturday of October**. All men are invited for **food, fellowship, and a short faith lesson**. Bring a friend!

612 Group — Sunday, October 12, 2025 • 6:00 PM

Join us for a fall-themed night celebrating **fall, Reformation, and community**—with food, fun games, and fire (contained in an appropriate fire pit)

Time: 6:00 PM (regular meeting time)

Place: Home of Dersheimer's 44 Manor View Drive

What to wear: Appropriate, church-friendly costumes are welcome.

Questions? Contact **Pastor Ben Claypool**.



Sally Fagley	10/1
Kelly Jones	10/1
Joshua Forbes	10/2
Dan Wilson	10/2
Michael Bray	10/3
Terri Deist	10/9
Megan Ohr	10/9
Joshua Lentz	10/12
Sam Dailey	10/13
Peyton Davis	10/13
Jonah Lentz	10/14
Mary Jane Fay	10/16
Dick Rickert	10/16
Lauren Ohr	10/18
J.D. Titzel	10/20
Allyn Fischer	10/20
Aaron Schreiber	10/21
Jeff Wallace	10/22
Michelle Lentz	10/23
Todd Russell	10/26
Christine Nystrom	10/26
John Dobi	10/27
Wendy McCartney	10/27
Jason Forbes	10/28
Marie Mitchell	10/28
Don Murphy	10/31

Youth

Nolan Schultz	10/4
Emma Reither	10/6
Madilynn Crompton	10/11
Molly Young	10/12

Snail Mail Project

A card in the mail can brighten someone's day and remind them they are cared for. At First Presbyterian, our *Snail Mail Project* is one way we share God's love through simple notes of encouragement. Each month, cards are sent to those who could use a kind word or a thoughtful reminder that they are not forgotten.

If you know someone who should be added to our mailing list—or if you'd like to join us in writing cards—please reach out to Mary K. Miller, Dan Baker, or Jill Jones. Cards and stamps are provided; all you need is a caring heart and a few words of encouragement. We are always looking for more volunteers to help us send cards to those willing to send cards.

Start your Sunday with JESUS & COFFEE!
Hot coffee and snacks are available during Sunday School hour outside of the church office. Come and join in some FPC fellowship!

-Sponsored by Congregational Life & Fellowship Committee.



Greeters Schedule

10/5	Jackie Grisetti
10/12	Karen Patterson
10/19	Terri Clark
10/26	Michele Groover
11/2	Pat & Kaye Williams
11/9	Larry & Carole Lentz

OCTOBER NURSERY SCHEDULE

10/5	Ericka Dershimer & Nancy Hauser
10/12	Barbara Deist & Mary K. Miller
10/19	Ericka Dershimer & Jamie Ickes
10/26	Sue Wilson & Michelle Harris

PW Evening Circle will meet Tuesday, October 7, at 6:00 p.m. in the church parlor. Lesson 4, James, will be lead by Mary K. Miller. Any and all ladies are welcome!

PW Daytime Circle will meet Tuesday, October 7, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. in the Conference Room. The Bible Study will be on Elizabeth, pg. 154. Michelle Harris will share devotions. All women are welcome to join us!



Dear First Presbyterian Church family,
We would like to extend our deepest gratitude for all the cards, phone calls, messages and food during Summer's stay in hospital and homecoming. We were even loaned a bed for downstairs to use as she rehabs! We can't thank everyone enough and especially for your prayers! Thank you tremendously and God Bless!

Sincerely, Ken, Laura and Summer Stitt

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to everyone for the thoughtful cards and prayers you sent during this very difficult time. Your kindness, compassion, and support have meant so much to me and my family. Knowing that so many people were thinking of us and keeping us in their thoughts and prayers brought us comfort and strength when we needed it most.

Sincerely, Kerry Overfield & Family



Our family would like to thank you for all the cards, prayers and support during Cindy's hospital stay and her passing. It was appreciated very much. It is indeed so wonderful to have the support of friends and church family during this time. Thank you so much for being with us in body and spirit then and in the days that lie ahead.

God Bless You! Chris, Carol & family



Thanks to the many ladies of Presbyterian Women here at First Presbyterian Church who helped to make the Soup & Salad Supper a success. For all those who did set up, clean up, provided the delicious food and the program, you've earned a gold star. It was appreciated by our members and the guests from other churches. Well done!



I want to thank all of my precious friends here at FPC for your prayers, cards, meals and encouragement over the last few years as Ed's health has declined. Your kindness is a wonderful expression of Christian love. Last month when Ed had an 85th birthday, I wanted to honor the day. Sadly, nobody from the family could be there that day. But God had a plan. The week before his birthday his sister just happened to give me a small devotion booklet. On his birthday morning as I read the devotion for that day, I was amazed that it was a beautiful expression of everything that Ed and I believe. So, at the Home that day, while holding his hand, I had a friend record me reading that devotion. I then sent it to all our children and grandchildren as a message of hope. I would like to share it with you as a gift from Ed and me.

So many people have anxieties about what will happen to them and their loved ones in the days, weeks, months and years ahead. They fear the worst, rather than dream about the best. They are inclined to think of the cup as half empty rather than half full. Yet Jesus tells us that we do not need to worry about what is to come. He tells us not to worry about the future, but to "seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness". That sounds easier than it might be. Not knowing what the future might bring, we try to prepare for the unexpected. We try to prepare by saving up, stocking up, and being frugal. In our minds and hearts, we are fearful and uncertain about future experiences. After all, Jesus said, "In the world you will have tribulation".

These statements of Jesus – not to worry about the future and to expect trouble – are both true at the same time. Jesus assures us that he travels the distance with us: "I am with you always, to the end of the age". He said, "I will come again and take you to Myself, that where I am, you may be also". Jesus is in our past and our present. Jesus is our future. In reality, there is nothing to fear. He will provide for all of our needs in accord with His good and gracious will.

Sending that devotion to our family set off hours of text messages flying back and forth until late in the evening. It felt like we had a sweet online birthday celebration. So many of them said they really needed that message....thank you God.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE STATED MEETING OF SESSION

The regular meeting of Session gathered on Monday, September 8, 2025 6:00 PM. The Moderator Pastor Ben Claypool called us to order and offered prayer.

A Devotional Moment was led by Pastor Ben starting with scriptures from the New Testament Book of 1 Timothy 3: 1 – 7 and Titus 1: 5 – 9, our study was focused on the characteristics of “what is an Elder”?

Information:

Upcoming Dates

- *Musical Variety Concert sponsored by the Bicentennial Committee – September 20th 3:00 PM.
- *Special meeting of Session – September 23rd 6:00 PM
- *Next regular meeting of Session – October 13th 6:00 PM
- *Good Shepherd meal served by FPC – October 13th
- *Bicentennial Open House “Fresh Grounds” October 18th 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM
- *Bicentennial Luncheon Calvin Hall October 19th after Morning Worship
- *New Covenant Partners received – October 19th.
- *Pastor appreciation Sunday October 26th.
- *Stewardship messages will be given in worship on Nov. 2, Nov. 9, with Faith-Promise Pledges received on Nov. 16th. Committees should have their budget request to Treasurer no later than November 30th
- *Thanksgiving Dinner – Calvin Hall November 27th?
- *Next services of The Lord’s Supper - World Communion 10/05 - 10:45 AM in the sanctuary, First Sunday in Advent 11/30-10:45 AM in the sanctuary, New Year’s Eve 12/31/25 – 5:00 PM in the Chapel.
- *Bicentennial Sunday December 28th.

September Preaching Schedule

September 7—Tim Rausch
September 14—Ben Claypool
September 21—Aaron Price
September 28—Ben Claypool

Certified Transitional Pastor Search Team: (Gail Fay and Jill Jones) Search Team is requesting a special meeting of Session to review Team’s proposal for advancing the transitional process of First Presbyterian Church, Greenville, PA. This meeting will include a zoom conference with the national leaders that have been guiding the Search Team, those individuals being Rev. Dr. William Enns and Rev. Dr. Dorington Little. Meeting is requested to be held on Tuesday, September 23, 2025, commencing at 6:00 PM EST in Calvin Hall.

Christian Education/Youth: (Dan Baker and Laura Stitt) it was verbally shared that there was good attendance at Rally Day and evening girls and boys’ youth group meetings, including some new adult helpers; the Sunday School teacher and helper list was approved.

Property Committee

Upgrade of Church electrical system: All involved in the transfer of new power to the Church are awaiting the scheduling of the inspector through the Borough. Penn Power will make the transfer as soon as that inspector is available.
Provision of hot water to the pre-school area: Hot water and proper drainage have been provided to the pre-school area, as requested.

Deacon Liaison Report – Pertinent Information of the Deacon Meeting – September 7, 2025

- *Security Questions or Rules: When doors are open in the narthex and sanctuary a Deacon or a member of the Security Team needs to be by the doors.
- *Deacons are available to serve the covenant partners and friends of FPC along with the community as needed/requested.

Approved Motions:

(msp) – to approve a motion for a Special Meeting of Session September 23, 2025 6:00 PM

(msp) - to approve the teacher/substitute teacher list presented by the Christian Education/Youth Committee