



THE MESSENGER

JANUARY 2017

Franklin Presbyterian Church



By Benjamin Matteson, Invitation and Outreach Team Lead

As a new year begins, I just want to thank the FPC family for supporting our outreach opportunities in 2016. Each giving opportunity was very successful, and it's all because of your generosity.

We will start our 2017 giving year with a 5th Sunday offering which will be collected on Sunday, January 29th. As with prior 5th Sunday offerings, canned goods will be collected for Cooperative Ministry, and any money collected will go to FPC Compassion Fund.

We will also be doing our annual Souper Bowl collection competition, where our church will decide who wins the Super Bowl based on the number of food donations. The team with the most canned goods collected will be FPC's winner of the Super Bowl. Stay tuned for more information.

I know our giving in 2017 will be just as generous as it was in 2016. Please watch the next newsletter for more information on the rest of our giving year.

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REVEREND LOU VENTURA

Happy New Year! I think I speak for many when I say that I am ready for the hope of a new year. I have rarely labeled an entire year as "horrible," because things could always be worse, but 2016 has come pretty close. I am praying that 2017 will be a happier year.

I must once again let you know how very grateful I am for your many kindnesses over the holiday season. Your cards and gifts have made Ron and I feel *very* loved and appreciated. Thank you. It continues to be one of my greatest joys to be your pastor.

I also wanted to update you on the status of my application to the Doctor of Ministry program at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. The program hired a new director who began in early November, so the next class will begin in June 2017, not January. I should hear whether or not I have been accepted to the program sometime in February.

We have an exciting few months coming up: in February we will begin a book study (see page 6), and March 1 is Ash Wednesday, beginning our Community Lenten Services. As of this writing, we will be hosting these services here at FPC and, along with other participating Franklin congregations, lead worship and prepare lunch. I hope you will find time to participate in both the book study and Lenten worship.

Joyfully and with love in Christ,
Lou

We are a community of believers called by God to live humbly in the spirit of Christ and to act as His voice and hands in our world.

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PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

By Vivian Christie, FPC Presbyterian Women Moderator

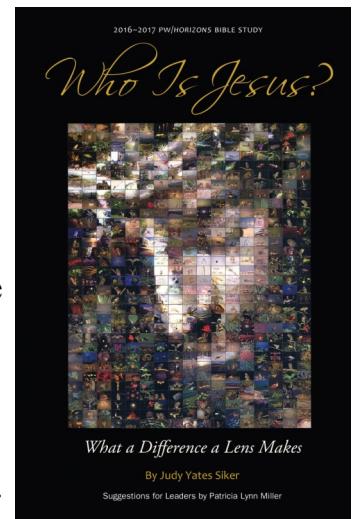


It's a new year, and FPC's Presbyterian Women are meeting on Tuesday, January 3rd to start 2017 off right!

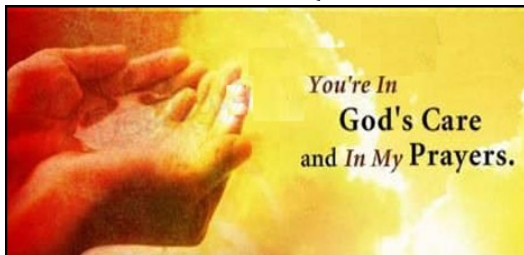
Robert Meredith will be facilitating Lesson 4 of our Bible study, "Who Is Jesus According to John?" This lesson shows us a very different Jesus than the synoptic gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke; in John, we begin to see that Jesus and God are one.

We will also discuss what support will be needed for the upcoming Community Lenten Services, which will be held at FPC every Wednesday from March 1 through April 5. After this meeting, PW will assist in taking down the Chrismon tree and Advent wreath.

Happy New Year from the Presbyterian Women!



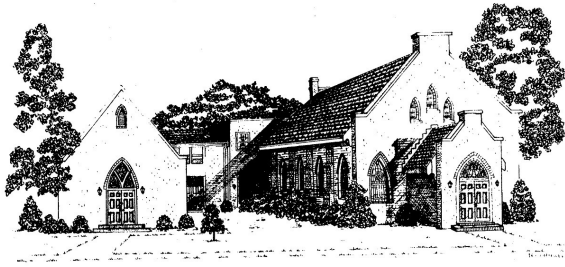
PRAYER REQUESTS



To add or remove a name or to request continued prayers, please contact the church office.

PLEASE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR PRAYERS

Lindy Drake , son of Linwood and Evelyn Drake, recovering from surgery	Polly Edwards , sister-in-law of Katherine Weaver and Kaye Weaver's aunt
Isaiah Baggett Friend of Deloris Joyner	Cathy Quate Reverend Lou's mother
Mary Lambeth's mother 98 years old, cancer, in hospice	Melvin and Barbara Gray Health
Doug Ventura Ron Ventura's brother	Lois Minetree Friend of Lane Meredith
Rosalind Cutchins Exec. Dir. of the Children's Center	Larry Jamerson Jackie Cutchin's brother, colon and lung cancer, improving
Rev. Marian Carmichael Diagnosed with breast cancer	Billy Lassiter Cousin of Linwood Drake, cancer
Mary Bridges Health issues	Estelle Edwards Kaye Weaver's aunt
Peggy , Ray Terrell's aunt, breast cancer	Nadine Mann Friend of Jimmie and Terry Rose
Linda Morgan , sister of Ray Terrell, upcoming surgeries	Katherine Weaver mobility and back pain issues, pneumonia
Connie Beale Jimmie Rose's sister	Jerry Cutchin , father-in-law of Jackie Cutchin, in East Pavilion, Room 150, EP East
Benny Necessary , friend of Terry Rose, in hospice due to organ failure	Hunter , nephew of Tiffany and Benjamin Matteson, broken collarbone
Wayne & Earlene Sprouse	Charlie Lupton
Nancy and Paul Hinson On the death of Paul's mother (Nancy is a former coworker of Tiffany Matteson)	Ashley, granddaughter of Bud and Ann Marie Brotzman , recovering from surgery



2017 CHURCH SNAPSHOT

Month	New Members	Average Worship Attendance	Total Offering	Total Expenses
January	0	32	\$10,982.00	\$10,629.05
February	0	36	\$6,514.00	\$8,478.18
March	0	39	\$14,763.00	\$7,710.10
April	0	32	\$8,245.00	\$14,086.98
May	0	28	\$9,400.30	\$11,066.93
June	0	33	\$9,113.97	\$8,081.53
July	0	35	\$8,132.25	\$8,294.05
Aug	0	31	\$7,630.00	\$7,757.26
Sept	0	28	\$7,255.00	\$7,615.01
Oct	0	30	\$9,280.91	\$8,424.47
Nov	0	39	\$9,676.78	\$9,918.15
Dec	0	30	\$9,727.35	\$9,981.48

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, AND OTHER CELEBRATIONS



3 Ed Schwolow, James O. Carr
 8 Faye Springfield
 10 Lauren Harper
 15 Ansley Thomas
 17 Ann Manning Cutchin, John Matous
 21 Cathy Quate
 22 Amy Thomas
 23 Lane Meredith
 24 Pat Griffin
 25 Bill Boothe
 30 Michael Lewis



10 Betty & David Jones
 13 Evelyn & Linwood Drake



ASSISTING WITH WORSHIP IN JANUARY



1	Robert Meredith and Ray Terrell	Kathryn Padgett
8	John and Pat Griffin	
15	Jim Vasoti and Asa Johnson	
22	Betty Jones and Faye Springfield	
29	Bud and Ann Marie Brotzman	

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SESSION UPDATE

The Session did not meet in December.



**We make a living by what we get,
but we make a life by what we give.**

Winston Churchill

—Submitted by Sue Fast



News Briefs



A Potluck...With A Twist!

A potluck lunch is scheduled for Sunday, January 15, 2017 immediately after the congregational meeting after worship.

But this is a potluck with a twist! We'll be celebrating **all our birthdays** at this potluck in a special way—we'll be sitting at a table with everyone who shares our birthday month! Everyone with a January birthday will sit at one table, folks with February birthdays at another, and so on.

A potluck signup sheet is in the narthex, but no need to bring dessert—we're ordering a big birthday cake!

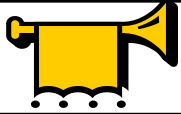


Annual Congregational Meeting January 15

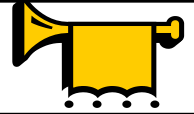
On January 15, 2017, immediately after worship, a brief annual congregational meeting will be held in the sanctuary.

At this meeting we will present the 2017 budget and elect a new Session member. Ruling Elder **Robert Meredith** has agreed to serve a second consecutive term on the Session, so we will need to replace Ruling Elder **Harry Christie**.

Please plan to attend so that we can be sure to have a quorum.



News Briefs



We Want to Be Prepared....

EMERGENCY
DEFIBRILLATOR



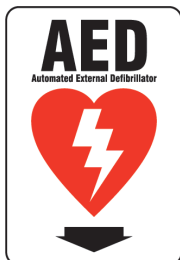
AED

At its stated meeting on September 21, the FPC Session approved a motion from the Facilities Team to obtain an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) unit.

An AED is an electrical device that provides a shock to the heart when there is a life-threatening arrhythmia present. The most common arrhythmia is ventricular fibrillation, a very rapid erratic beating of the heart. The defibrillator shocks the heart to stop so that it can start rhythmically contracting again.

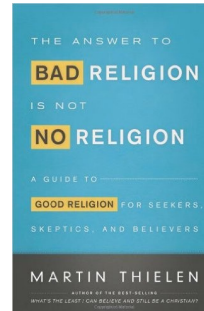


A unit costs between \$1200.00 and \$1500.00. The Session feels strongly that we should have an AED unit onsite in case of emergency. It was suggested that the congregation may welcome an opportunity to contribute to the purchase of an AED unit, which would be kept in the sanctuary. Should additional funds be required, they would be covered from the Brenner Fund.



If you would like to contribute, please mail or place a check in the offering plate with "AED Unit" in the memo line.

The Answer to Bad Religion is Not No Religion Book Study to Begin February 5, 2017



A study of the book *The Answer to Bad Religion is Not No Religion* by Martin Thielen is scheduled for the Sunday school hour, 9:45 a.m., beginning Sunday, February 5, through Sunday, April 9, in Brenner Hall.

Books have been ordered and received—there is one for you!

Robert Meredith, Christian Formation Team Leader, writes: [This book] is written by Martin Thielen, a Methodist minister whose early experience in the ministry I have some personal identification with. As laid out in his table of contents, Thielen discusses bad religion as religion that engages in self-righteous judgment of others; expresses a chronic spirit of negativity; breeds arrogance, intolerance, and absolutism; participates in partisan politics and excessive nationalism; and fosters nominal commitment to Christ and the Church.

No religion he says is not helpful and not necessary. One of the major motivations for his book is to address a significant trend in this country and in Western Europe for the younger generations who choose to have no relationship to organized religion, especially Christianity. He believes that those churches practicing bad religion and whose practices and beliefs seem to be mostly inferred when the term "Christian" is referenced in the media, taint all of us who call ourselves by that name.

See **Robert Meredith** or **Pastor Lou** for more information.

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FPC 67th Anniversary and Rev. Mary Jane Winter 40th Ordination Anniversary Celebration November 13, 2016



Clockwise from upper left: A delicious cake celebrating both anniversaries; Witt Harper and his buddy Harry Christie; the worshippers on November 13 gather for a group picture; Reverend Mary Jane Winter delivers the sermon.

More photos on display in the narthex!



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Clockwise from above: The two reverends, Lou Ventura and Mary Jane Winter; Lane Meredith, Faye Springfield, and Dottie Gilbert coordinate drinks; Ann Marie Brotzman, Barbara Cutchin (seated), Mollie Bass and Bill Boothe (standing), Brianna Drewry, Naomi Koontz, Peyton Drewry, Carolyn Boothe (standing); Vivian Christie (standing), Lucy Thornburgh and daughter Laurie, and Mollie Bass and Ron Ventura (background); Evelynne Vaughan shares her memories.



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CONGREGATION'S CORNER

If you or someone you know can use an unused (brand new in package) Get Up and Go cane (has a second handle to assist in rising from a seated position), please let **Pastor Lou** know. A congregation member has a spare and can provide it free of charge to someone who needs it.



Happy New Year
2017



The Armor of God

EPH 6:10-20 (ESV)

T G X F L A M I N G X S N T S O P E
M A B L E L L R C H I O E E V S X O
S R E A D I N E S S I D C M C T E K
H X L F D T S X S T A N R I I V D F
I H T O E E S T A R A O M N I T G U
E I N M C E R C M T D S G L O N B K
L E L R O O I O S A O U R U I M N P
D E O H N L R M S C I E G V G O E W
H F S G P D U S C S T H A N I R S E
F P E P R C A R H A T H I V S T K D
A A U O R B S N L P T Y S E R A E W
S S W I M T S P I S A N V A T C H R
T S C A A R T Y N R I E D V L B C E
E H R N E S L I P A R K M A D N E S
N K D W A D A T H A E C R A L E R T
E A O E L G W C N W Y E V M T T X L
D P R O A K O C D N A T S H T I W E
V B B S W A E G N I N E P O P O D X

ABLE	BREASTPLATE	EVIL	HELMET	READINESS	SWORD
AGAINST	CHAINS	EXTINGUISH	OPENING	SHIELD	TAKE
ALERT	CIRCUMSTANCES	FASTENED	OUGH	SHOES	TIMES
AMBASSADOR	COSMIC	FLAMING	PERSEVERANCE	STAND	WITHSTAND
ARMOR	DARTS	FORCES	POWERS	STRONG	WRESTLE
BELT	DECLARE	HAVING	PRAYING	SUPPLICATION	
BOLDLY	DONE				

Quanta represented by Lenny Bible Collections



Ray's Joke

Corner by Ray Terrell

What do you call a bird that eats in a hog pen?

A pigeon.

Why did the suit catch on fire?

It was a blazer.

What did the doughnut say to the golfer?

Did you make a hole in one?



JANUARY 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 11 am Worship	2	3 10 am Presbyterian Women Mtg	4	5 11 am AARP Board Mtg	6 Epiphany of the Lord	7
8 11 am Worship Baptism of the Lord	9	10 5:30 pm Lions Club Mtg	11	12 11 am AARP Mtg	13 	14
15 11 am Worship Congregational Mtg After Worship Birthday Potluck Lunch	16	17 	18 6 pm Session Mtg	19	20	21
22 11 am Worship	23 7 pm Neighborhood Watch Mtg	24 	25 	26	27	28
29 11 am Worship 5th Sunday Offering	30 	31				

Birthdays

3 Ed Schwolow, James O. Carr
 8 Faye Springfield
 10 Lauren Harper
 15 Ansley Thomas
 17 Ann Manning Cutchin, John Matous
 21 Cathy Quate

22 Amy Thomas
 23 Lane Meredith
 24 Pat Griffin
 25 Bill Boothe
 30 Michael Lewis

Anniversaries

10 Betty & David Jones
 13 Evelyn & Linwood Drake



FRANKLIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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www.franklinpresbyterianchurch.org



Worship with us each Sunday at 11:00 a.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS--JANUARY 2017

1	11 a.m. Worship
3	10 a.m. Presbyterian Women Mtg
6	Epiphany of the Lord
8	11 a.m. Worship Baptism of the Lord Holy Communion
15	11 a.m. Worship Congregational Mtg/Birthday Potluck Lunch
22	11 a.m. Worship
23	7 p.m. Neighborhood Watch Mtg
29	11 a.m. Worship 5th Sunday Offering



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