



THE MESSENGER

SEPTEMBER 2016



Franklin Presbyterian Church



From
the
Pastor



REVEREND LOU VENTURA

By the time you read this, my plan is to have submitted an application to the doctoral program at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. I tell you this as a way to compel myself to actually do so—I have procrastinated completing the application for several months now, primarily because one of the requirements was an 800-word essay. It’s finally done, and I need to stop tweaking it, let it go and get it submitted. I know that if I share this with all of you, you will ask me about it, and I want to be able to report that I’ve done it! ☺

The program, which begins in January, is primarily completed online, with a couple of weeks each winter and fall semester on campus in Pittsburgh. (My delightful mother-in-law has agreed that I can stay with her during those weeks.) The seminary actually *wants* its doctoral students to remain in ministry, because it informs the coursework. The track I’m planning to take (should I be accepted) is parish ministry, and the degree (doctor of ministry) can be completed in 3-5 years. Instead of a dissertation I’ll have to complete a project and a paper.

So, I’m requesting your prayers for courage to submit the application, please, and for acceptance. I’ll keep you posted!

Joyfully and with love in Christ,
Lou

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Invitation and Outreach

By Benjamin Matteson, Invitation and Outreach Team Lead

The month of September brings us to the last major “monetary” offering we support as a member of PC(USA). Starting Sunday, September 4, FPC will focus on the Peace & Global Witness Offering, formally known as the Peacemaking Offering.

A gift to the Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice across the world. Individual congregations are encouraged to use up to 25% of this offering to sustain their local peacemaking ministries.



As with our Peacemaking offerings from prior years, FPC’s portion of the offering (25%) will be donated to the Genieve Shelter, which serves families escaping domestic violence. The offering will be collected on Sunday, October 2. The plan is to have a guest speaker in worship that Sunday tell us more about the services offered by the Genieve Shelter. Watch Sunday bulletins and announcements for more information on this offering.

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.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

By Vivian Christie, FPC Presbyterian Women Moderator



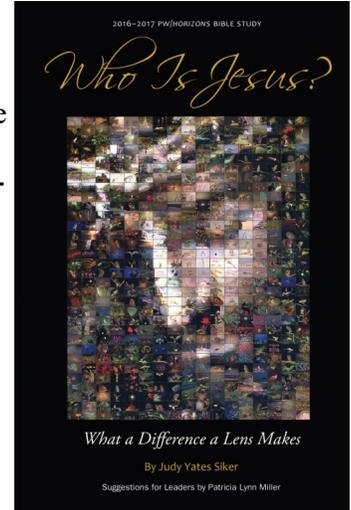
PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

The Franklin Presbyterian PW Circle meetings will resume on Tuesday, October 4, 2016, at 10 a.m. in Brenner Hall.

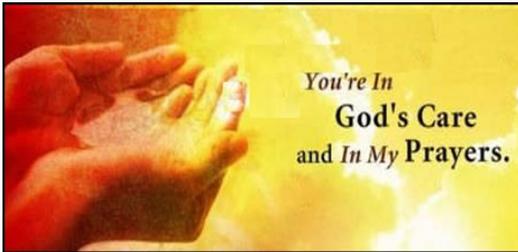
Pastor Lou will lead the first lesson of our 2016-2017 Bible study, “Who Is Jesus? What a Difference a Lens Makes,” by Judy Yates Siker, alternating the remaining lessons with **Robert Meredith**.

This study invites us to join the author on “a journey to expand our understanding of who Jesus was and is—a journey of our hearts and minds, a journey that we will take together.”

The study’s nine lessons explore the question “Who is Jesus?” through a particular theological lens: Who is Jesus according to the four Gospels, to Paul, Hebrews, the non-canonical Gospels, other Abrahamic faiths, and contemporary cultural interpretations? Join us for what promises to be a fascinating time of learning and discussion.



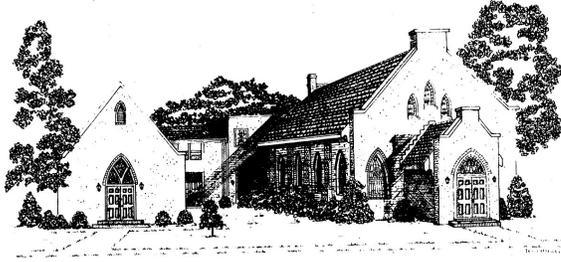
PRAYER REQUESTS



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, improving	Kaye and Katherine Weaver On the death of their Bichon, Abby
Isaiah Baggett Friend of Deloris Joyner	Cathy Quate Reverend Lou’s mother
Hannah Friend of Tiffany Matteson	Melvin and Barbara Gray Health, passing of Melvin’s brother
Doug Ventura Ron Ventura’s brother	Lois Minetree Friend of Lane Meredith
Rosalind Cutchins Exec. Dir. of the Children’s Center	Denise Johnson and Larry Edwards Cousins of Kaye Weaver, health issues
Rev. Marian Carmichael Diagnosed with breast cancer	Billy Lassiter Cousin of Linwood Drake, cancer
Larry Jamerson Jackie Cutchin’s brother, colon and lung cancer, improving	The family of Ethan DeHoek 4 year old son of friends of the Mattesons, on his passing after a long illness
Peggy Ray Terrell’s aunt, breast cancer	Estelle Edwards Kaye Weaver’s aunt
Linda Morgan , sister of Ray Terrell , upcoming surgeries	Wayne & Earlene Sprouse
Connie Beale Jimmie Rose’s sister	Nadine Mann Friend of Jimmie and Terry Rose
Linda Gavin Friend of Jimmie and Terry Rose	The family of Burton Grizzard , on his passing
Tricia McGuire , home	Charlie Lupton
Frances Wilber , home	The citizens of central Italy on the recent earthquake



2016 CHURCH SNAPSHOT

Month	New Members	Average Worship Attendance	Total Offering	Total Expenses
January	0	32	\$10,982.00	\$10,629.05
February	0	36	\$3,066.00	\$8,478.18
March	0	39	\$14,763.00	\$7,710.10
April	0	32	\$8,245.00	\$14,086.00
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

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, AND OTHER CELEBRATIONS



6 Jim Drewry
 7 Ron Ventura
 9 Jackie Cutchin
 12 Ken Raybuck
 14 Terry Rose
 19 Ray Thomas, Frances Presnall
 27 Witt Harper



6 Allen & Lauren Harper
 13 Ann Marie & Bud Brotzman
 17 Val & Ed Schwolow
 20 Faye & Robert Springfield



ASSISTING WITH WORSHIP IN SEPTEMBER

4	John and Pat Griffin	Lead Lector:
11	Charlie Lupton and Greg Avent	Kathryn Padgett
18	Robert Meredith and Frank Padgett	
25	Faye Springfield and Betty Jones	

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SESSION UPDATE



At its stated meeting on Wednesday, August 24, 2016, the FPC Session:

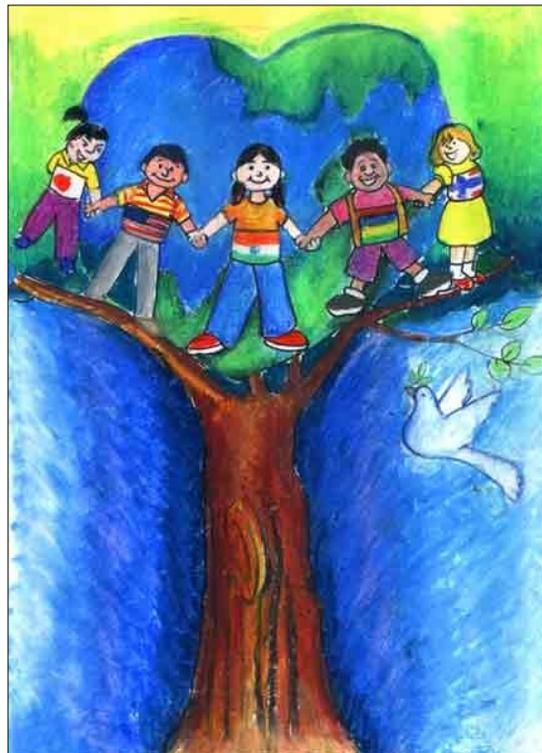
- Approved minutes of the July meeting;
• Coordinated the church calendar regarding lead lectors and communion;
• Received financial reports for information;
• Received an update on the neighborhood watch meetings;
• Approved the use of the remaining \$210.00 in memorial funds for new hymnals;
• Reviewed the 90-day probation evaluation of the administrative assistant;
• Heard a report that the Congregational Life team plans another art party on September 17;
• Heard a report from the commissioners to the PEVA meeting of July 26;
• Approved worship on Christmas Eve and a brief service on Sunday, Christmas Day;
• Heard a report of Franklin Cooperative Ministry statistics for the first six months of 2016;
• Approved the use of a portion of Invitation and Outreach funds for visitor gifts.

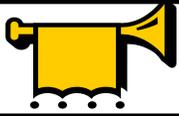
The following was used as prayer in worship on August 21, and several individuals requested a copy. —Ed.

Prayer

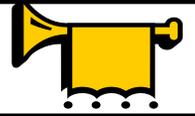
Father, Mother, God,
Thank you for your presence during the hard and mean days.
For then we have you to lean upon.
Thank you for your presence during the bright and sunny days,
for then we can share that which we have with those who have less.
And thank you for your presence during the Holy Days, for then we are able to celebrate you and our families and our friends.
For those who have no voice, we ask you to speak.
For those who feel unworthy, we ask you to pour your love out in waterfalls of tenderness.
For those who live in pain, we ask you to bathe them in the river of your healing.
For those who are lonely, we ask you to keep them company.
For those who are depressed, we ask you to shower upon them the light of hope.

Dear Creator, You, the borderless sea of substance, we ask you to give to all the world that which we need most—Peace.
—Maya Angelou





News Briefs



Franklin Presbyterian Church's Congregational Life Team Presents another....

Art Party



Saturday, September 17, 2016

1:00 p.m.—Social Time with refreshments

1:30 p.m.—Painting!

An art party, also known as “social art-working,” is a wonderful activity that brings people together to create and have fun. You do not have to be an artist to paint—anyone can do it! This event is open to FPC members and friends, and is limited to 20 participants. Please sign up (sign up sheets in the narthex), select which picture you want to paint, and pay your fee by Sept. 9th.

The following materials are supplied with your **\$30.00 fee***:

- Paint and palettes for mixing paints
- Tape, patterns and transfer paper for each design
- 16x20 pre-gessoed canvases—*that you take home when done!*
- Table top easels
- Brushes
- Water basins
- Step-by-step professional instruction

SELECT PICTURE A, B, OR C TO PAINT:

A



B

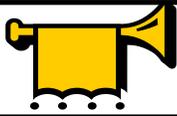


C

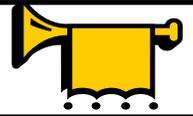


REGISTER BY CALLING (562-4313) OR EMAILING THE CHURCH (franklinpreschurch@gmail.com) by Sept 9th)

***Some financial assistance is available; please request this through Melissa Lewis in the church office (562-4313).**



News Briefs



FPC Shirts to be Ordered Soon!

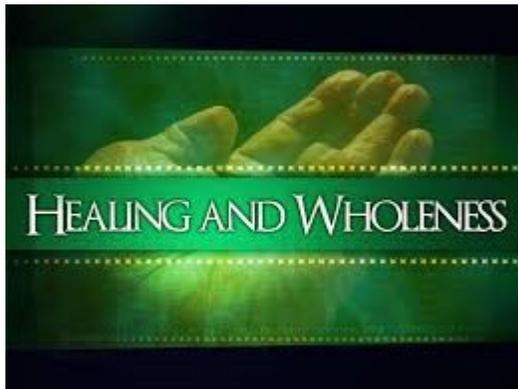
If you haven't turned in the interest form and you want to order an FPC shirt, please do so within the next couple of weeks. Forms are in the narthex, or you can call **Melissa** in the church office at 562-4313 for information. We will be contacting the vendor to place an order by the end of September—more details coming soon.



Service of Healing and Wholeness Wednesday, Sept. 28, 6:00—6:30 p.m.

Peace. Quiet. Time to just be.

Come for sanctuary from a cluttered and cacophonous world, and re-center yourself in Christ.



Franklin Cooperative Ministry Served More than 1300 Households

The first six months of 2016 saw the number of households served by Franklin Cooperative Ministry (FCM) exceed 1300. The staff at FCM applies for and receives several grants each year, among them the Camp Foundations, United Way, and Franklin/Southampton Charities. Local donations of food, funds, and household goods are also received throughout the year and are crucial to assist requestors.

Following are some of FCM's statistics for January through June 2016. If you have any questions, please see Franklin Cooperative Ministry board members **Jackie Cutchin** or **Pastor Lou**.

Provided 841 **food bags** (approximately \$25,230.00)

Provided 14 people with **dental care** (\$1,125.00)

Provided **rent assistance** to 10 clients (\$4,357.00)

Assisted 178 clients with **utility/water bills and other household needs** (\$36,973.13)

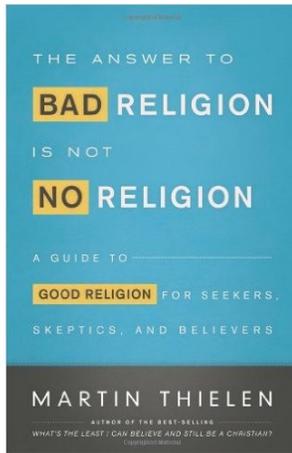
Provided **prescription assistance** to 18 individuals (\$2,210.38)

Provided **free clothing** to 372 families

THE MESSENGER

The Answer to Bad Religion is Not No Religion

by Robert Meredith, Christian Formation Team Leader



This is the title of a book I have been reading recently with the subtitle “A Guide to Good Religion for Seekers, Sceptics, and Believers.” It is written by Martin Thielen, a Methodist minister whose early experience in the ministry I have some personal identification with. Without naming the denomination he describes how that denomination’s leaders pushed it in the direction of a strict fundamentalist and intolerant stance, a direction he increasingly felt estranged from. As a Southern Baptist educated in Baptist universities and a Baptist seminary, I observed that takeover and the consequent firing of professors who did not toe the fundamentalist line. So I must admit to some intolerance myself toward those who set themselves up as judges over the beliefs of others as though they themselves have the one set of true beliefs.

As laid out in his table of contents, Thielen discusses bad religion as religion that engages in self-righteous judgement 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.

On the other hand good religion Thielen says impacts the way we live, prioritizes love, engages in service, provides a prophetic voice, builds community, is hope filled, keeps an open mind, practices forgiveness, promotes gratitude, and practices evangelism with integrity.

I found that the author writes clearly and with genuine sadness about the narrow-minded and judgmental mindset of so many Christians, a mindset that is turning off an intelligent younger generation. I recommend this relatively short, easy to read book to anyone with an interest in the subject.

I would also be glad to set up and lead a series of discussions based on this book if there are enough people who would be interested in doing so, dates and times to be decided. Let me know if you are interested. I purchased the book on Amazon, though I am sure there are other sources.

THE MESSENGER
CONGREGATION'S CORNER

Bible Scramble

1-The Better Things

In Ecclesiastes, Solomon made many distinctions between the wise and foolish things of this world. Solve this puzzle to discover one of the better things we would be wise to choose. (ECCLESIASTES 7)

- | | | |
|-------------|------------|-------------|
| 1. WNMOA | 4. MIDSOW | 7. TTGRISHA |
| 2. OIMGRNNU | 5. EAMSDNS | 8. OMYEN |
| 3. YFLOL | 6. ENFCDEE | 9. ODCKERO |

1. _____○_____
2. _____○_____
3. ○_____
4. _____○_____
5. _____○_____
6. _____○_____
7. _____○_____
8. ○_____
9. _____○_____

Better than precious ointment.

Answer: _____



Ham and Cheese Rolls

- 48 party rolls (I use Hawaiian rolls-2 packs of 24)
- ½ lb ham (I used almost 1 lb of VA ham)
- ½ lb Swiss cheese
- 1 cup butter (2 sticks)
- ¼ cup brown sugar
- 2 Tbsp. Worcestershire sauce
- 3 Tbsp. poppy seeds
- 2 Tbsp. ground mustard

Slice the rolls in half (doing the whole package at once). Layer ham and Swiss cheese. Put tops on rolls. Melt remaining ingredients in microwave and pour over rolls. Refrigerate overnight.

Bake, uncovered, 15 minutes at 350 degrees.

(Submitted by **Vivian Christie**)



The Knots Prayer



Dear God,

Please untie the knots that are in my mind, my heart, and my life.

Remove the have nots, the can nots, and the do nots that I have in my mind.

Erase the will nots, may nots, and might nots that may find a home in my heart.

Release me from the could nots, would nots, and should nots that obstruct my life.

And most of all, dear God, I ask that you remove from my mind, my heart, and my life all the "am nots" that I have allowed to hold me back, especially the thought that I am not good enough.

Amen.

--Author Known to God



Ray's Joke

Corner by Ray Terrell

What did the barbed wire say to the fence post?

It takes two to tangle.

How did the fire chief get fired?

He got suspended.

What did the windshield wipers say to the car?

You need a good rub.



SEPTEMBER 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 10am AARP Board Mtg	2	3
4 11am Worship Holy Communion Peacemaking Offering Begins	5	6	7	8 11am AARP Mtg 5pm Lions Club	9	10
11 11am Worship	12	13	14	15 6:30pm Lions Club Mtg	16	17 1 pm Art Party
18 11am Worship	19 	20	21 6pm Session Mtg	22	23	24
25 11am Worship	26	27	28 6 pm Service of Healing & Wholeness	29	30	

Birthdays

6 Jim Drewry
7 Ron Ventura
9 Jackie Cutchin
12 Ken Raybuck
14 Terry Rose
19 Ray Thomas, Frances Presnall
27 Witt Harper

Anniversaries

6 Allen & Lauren Harper
13 Ann Marie & Bud Brotzman
17 Val & Ed Schwolow
20 Faye & Robert Springfield



FRANKLIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Franklin, VA 23851
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franklinpreschurch@gmail.com
www.franklinpresbyterianchurch.org



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

UPCOMING EVENTS-- SEPTEMBER 2016

4	Worship 11:00 a.m. Holy Communion
11	Worship 11:00 a.m.
17	Art Party 1:00 p.m.
18	Worship 11:00 a.m.
25	Worship 11:00 a.m.
28	Service of Healing and Wholeness 6:00 p.m.



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