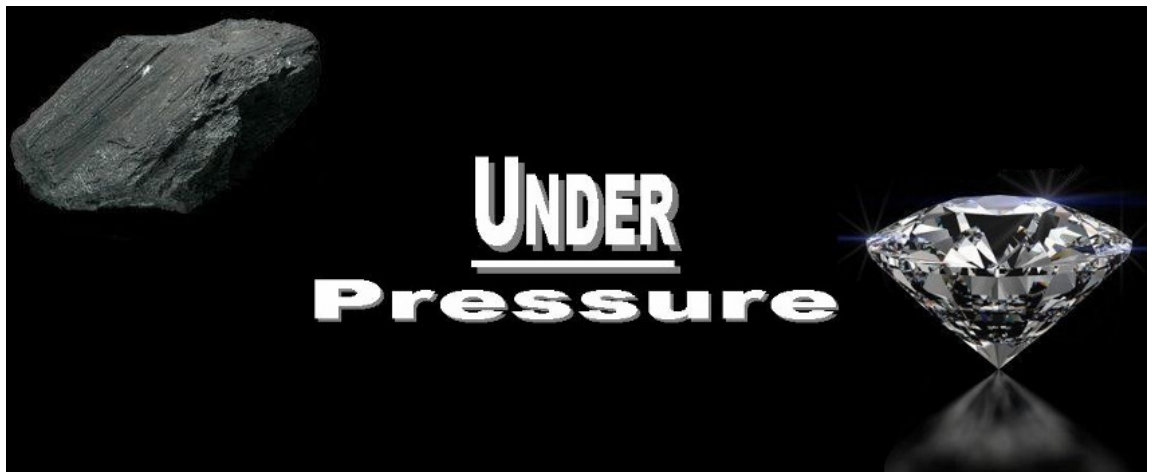


**INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:**

PASTORS' PAGE	2
AMONG OUR PEOPLE	3
YOUTHHOUSE	4
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY	5
CONNECT	6
SPOTLIGHT	7
NURSERY SCHOOL	8
SESSION UPDATE	9
STEWARDSHIP	10
COMMUNITY	11
COMMUNITY	12
COMMUNITY	13
BIRTHDAYS AND FUN	14
CALENDAR	15

**NEW FALL SERMON SERIES
-NATHAN JACOBS**



Have you experienced betrayal? Unfair accusations? Temptation? Guilt? Do you feel trapped? Compromised by the pressure of this life and the decisions you have to make? How might God be using these “pressure points” in your

life to develop facets of your character? This eight week series will challenge us to view both the triumphs and the trials we face in a new light. Join us this fall as we explore and learn from the life of Joseph-

from favored son to slave; from prisoner to prophet; from almost certain death to the heights of power; we will find example in a man who trusted that God can redeem even the worst circumstance.

**DON'T DO DUNKIN'
-DAVE JENKINS AND LARRY PIERCE**

Don't Do Dunkin' will be studying the book “9 Things You Simply Must Do” by Dr. Henry Cloud this fall. This book provides some very useful insights “that reveal the truth about our fears, our hopes, our relationships, and, above all, about our potential to grow spiritually.” Each week we will discuss topics

raised in the various chapters which are thought provoking (such as Hate Well or Don't Play Fair) and practical reflections on how we live out our lives as good and faithful stewards of the resources that God has given us. Whether you wish to purchase and read the book with the class is up

to you; the class will be designed so that you can grasp the main ideas of the book and participate in the discussions even if you don't have the book or the time to read the chapters. All are welcome to join us at 10:45 AM in the Library.

SAVE THE DATE:

- **Worldwide Communion Sunday is October 6**
- **The CHOW Walk is October 20, 1pm at Binghamton University**

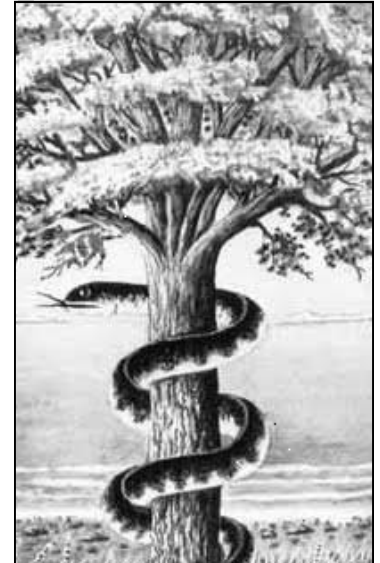
THE PROBLEM OF SIN

-JAN AND TIM DEVINE, CO-PASTORS

Many times our monthly page focuses on events or themes directly connected to this congregation, a particular season, or a moment in history. But every once in a while, we like to share some thoughts from others that challenge us, and hope that they will challenge you as well.

I, Jan, was recently sorting through magazines. Often I do not get a chance to read through a weekly magazine before the next one (and the next one) is on our doorstep. So, it's hard to put them out for recycling because there are articles I would like to read . . . someday.

As I was sorting, I came across the April 2013 copy of *Christianity Today*. There were dated stories about the Newtown tragedy, initial thoughts about the new pope, and the vision of Saddleback Church (Rick Warren) to reach thousands of unreached people groups.



But what caught my eye were the words in the bottom right corner of the cover:

“Did God plan the Fall?” pg. 38 I want the definitive answer to that timeless question!

Of course, I didn't get the definitive answer. The Bible explains *how* sin came into the world, but doesn't really explain *why* God allowed sin to come into a world that he made “very good.” While very frustrating, these are things we can only understand in part for now, as Paul said in 1 Corinthians 13:9-12. So, acknowledging our limited ability to explain God's actions, the author challenged us to focus on our actions.

Throughout time, deep-thinking theologians have tried to understand sin and wrestle with our propensity to sin.

† Reinhold Niebuhr was fond of saying that original sin- the conviction that every one of us is born a sinner and manifests that sinfulness in our lives- is the only Christian doctrine that can be empirically verified.

† When wondering why the tree of the knowledge of good and evil with its forbidden fruit was placed right in the center of the garden of Eden, Dietrich Bonhoeffer concluded it is because that is where God belongs in our lives. The tree was not placed there as a trap, but as a way for humans to freely and fully choose to obey the God who invites us into relationship with Him.

† Karl Barth described the world of Genesis 3 as an open door with a “do not enter” sign above it. Like Bonhoeffer, he concluded that it reflects God's desire that we humans freely orient ourselves to God and freely exercise the obedience that is our duty as creatures.

† When G.K. Chesterton was asked what was wrong with the world, he avoided all the expected answers which blame sin on others or circumstances or history. What's wrong with the world? Tradition says that Chesterton responded with two words: “I am.”

Where do your thoughts go as you think about the problem of sin? What about the Answer to sin?

- Marguerite Shuster, “The Mystery of Original Sin.” *Christianity Today*, Volume 57, Number 3, April 2013, p. 38.

- Image found on <http://heavenawaits.wordpress.com/garden-of-eden-and-the-trees-of-lebanon/>

WHAT'S NEW AMONG OUR PEOPLE?

-NATHAN JACOBS

As expected, September has been a busy month! Over the last four weeks, our church family celebrated several special events. On September 8, we held a joint service followed by a *Fall Launch* event at Forest Lake, where some impressive water creations were made and launched! September 9 saw the Nursery School begin its year and

on the morning of September 15, our children's ministry program here at the church resumed; it has been a joy to see the life that all these children bring by being back in our building. Later in the afternoon on the 15th, we celebrated two years of flood recovery at an event held at Home Depot. Over 150 volunteers and flood

survivors came out to share their stories and tears from the last two years of rebuilding effort. Food, testimony, music, and fellowship defined the time as both rebuilders and the rebuilt celebrated. The event was given media coverage by three news stations who wanted to share positive news on their networks.



BLESSINGS...

The joys in our congregation began early this month with the birth of the Galli family's twin boys, William Henry and Jonathan Grant, on September 3. Jonathan was ready for God's world and was healthy and strong from the start; William was a little more reluctant and had some breathing problems when he was born. While William is still

currently in NICU, he is doing much better and breathing on his own. Praise be to God!

On September 7, Jessica Santacrose was married to Eric Small in Pittsburgh. The Santacrose family will be holding a gathering on October 26 for the church family to come and meet Eric and celebrate with the couple as they begin

their life together.

As a blessing to the McKeowns, Liberty University held a candlelight service in memory of Sarah and two other Liberty students passing. The McKeowns have felt touched by the outpouring of love from the university and Sarah's friends. They would like to thank the FPC family as well for the expres-

sions of sympathy and support during this time. The Smith's also add their own sincere thanks for the support during their grief in the wake of the loss of their daughter-in-law, Jennifer. Both families have said that the love they feel from their family here means more than they can say.

...AND STORMS

As we continue to support the Smiths and the McKeowns, we reach out to the Gallis in love as well; on September 8, Jesse's grandmother, Donna Marsh, went to be with her Lord at the age of 86. A memorial service was held on September 12.

We had a few people in

the hospital this month as well. Ron Jennings had a bicycle accident and suffered some head injuries. He is recovering well after a brief hospital visit. Bob Heinle was hospitalized with pulmonary embolisms and spent some time in the hospital before the doctors performed a procedure to dissolve the

blood clots in his lungs. Bob is now home and recovering from the procedure. Please keep him in your prayers as he gets back to regular life.

Jeremiah 17:7-8

Blessed are those who trust in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD.

They shall be like a tree

planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream.

It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green;

in the year of the drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit.

FPC YOUTH

OCTOBER
'13

Glue has been used to secure joints. Clamps are carefully put into place to allow the joints to bond. Paul gives the boat a careful inspection.



FPC Family Ministry Presents: Family Boat Building (The Re-Launch)

FPC Youth & Family Ministry's first boat build was a tremendous success!

Over the summer, FPC Youth & Family Ministry attempted a first...a family boat build. What we gained through the experience was **MUCH MORE THAN A BOAT!** Skill-sets were developed, relationships were grown, and new ideas were born.

What we learned through the first boat build will be used to shape **A NEW BUILDING OPPORTUNITY!**

Our next boat build will take place this winter and we are hoping that you will jump on board and join us! We are seeking out two adventurous families who are ready to take their family relationships to the next level!

Please begin thinking and praying about joining our next

Family Boat Building Team. Pay attention to your email and other communication outlets as we release new details...

Be the Church Breakfast Groups

Mon-Wed
6:30-7:30AM

At a Diner near You

Stay tuned for all of the details!

WinterWeekend



2014

WinterWeekend 2014 is set in stone. It is time for you to lock it into your calendars!

Dates:	March 7 - March 9
Location:	The Loft Camp Great Bend, PA
Special Guests:	TBA

LEADERS OF LEADERS

TEACHING CHILDREN TO BECOME GODLY LEADERS IN FAMILY, FRIENDSHIPS, AND LIFE...

On September 12-14 three of us had the privilege of attending the CM Leaders Conference in Columbus Ohio. It was a time of Spiritual challenge to examine our leadership in light of God's call on our life. After participating with 15 different leaders in Children's Ministry there was much to digest. Following are some quotes and snippets of information that, if taken to heart and put into practice, would change the landscape of our leadership in life, our children, and our families.

"Any day in the chaos (of sin) is a waste of time." - Beth Guckenberger

Psalm 23 - "God does not lead us to lush green pastures (place of nourishment) so that we can be INDEPENDENT. He leads us to a place of provision so that we will remain DEPENDENT on Him." - Beth Guckenberger

Accountability - James 5:16 - SEE it. (we have blind spots.) OWN it. (confess) SOLVE it. (with the help of others.) DO it. (make the change.) - Matt Summerfield

"All decisions are a choice between trust and fear." - Johnny Rogers

"If you want to develop, don't ignore God's voice. Be vulnerable." - Amy Dolan

"What you do with this Book (the Bible) will determine what God does with you." - Ryan Frank

"Devote yourself to God even when it requires sacrifice." - Ryan Frank

"You and your leaders are capable of more than their failures." - Beth Guckenberger

Regularly Ask : "Are you as creative with your family as you are with your work and ministry?" - Charles Lee

"Think BIG. Start small. Keep MOVING. Don't be "risk adverse."" - Charles Lee

"You are raising up "Freedom Fighters." Break the chains of Satan's lies." - Razie Nunez

"Choose trust over suspicion." - Jonathan Cliff

"Time is a great friend of a good leader." - Jonathan Cliff

"Train others in a way that causes them to make a unique contribution, not to simply be a replica of you." - Michelle Anthony

"Are you serving God or the concepts of Christianity? Serve GOD and not the church." - Andy Kirk

"Don't stop the pipeline of leadership by blocking it with your self-importance." - Andy Kirk

"It's amazing what can be accomplished when we don't worry about who can claim the credit." - Harry Truman

BLACK LIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE PROJECT

PRACTICE TIMES

Thursdays - November 14, 21

December 5, 12, 19

5:30-6:30PM

FAMILY DAY

NOVEMBER 17

HILLTOP VISIT

**Sunday,
November 24**

**Meet @ 10:45am at
HILLTOP**

CONNECTING NEWS
-SHARON EARLY

Our small group leaders gather quarterly to receive encouragement, hear current small group leadership tips, review upcoming sermon series/studies and most importantly, share amongst themselves God sightings and concerns in leading their groups.

This year many of our leaders continue to question how to encourage group members to continually grow in their faith in the midst of the very real world/culture that we live. We know that in order to reach the world, we have to be in the world, but too often we let the world shape us instead of us shaping the world.

Small groups will have the opportunity this fall to dig deeper into the story of Joseph with the “Under Pressure’ series. Can we use this example of a godly man and his responses to circumstances in his life to pattern our own responses to be faithful, wherever our life takes us?

The story isn't over yet!

We may not understand how our current circumstances fit into God's story, but our story is part of God's story.

What are you proactively doing to nurture your faith journey?!

Who are you connecting with?!

FLOOD CELEBRATION FOR SURVIVORS AND VOLUNTEERS

On September 15, there truly was a celebration as survivors and volunteers were brought together to commemorate the past two years of the recovery effort coordinated through Faith Partners in Recovery. Many homeowners were thankful to be able to gather and acknowledge once again the outpouring of God's love they have felt through the many volunteers that have helped them return to their homes. The number of volunteers and hours that have been spent on rebuilding 100 homes to date is significant:

Year	# volunteers	# volunteer hours
2012	791	22,175
2013	794	25,482



We would be remiss if we did not recognize the many people who helped make the celebration a success:

- Lou Pasquale and his kitchen team who prepared the food and those who served during the event.
- Bryan Early, Josh Bennett, Jeremy Finn and Brian Flannagan who roasted the pig.
- The Men's morning group and BU Habitat students who set up and tore down after the event, along with many others who stepped in and helped.
- The FPC Worship Team and Riverside Confession who provided worship music to keep us focused on Who is always at the center of why we reach out to others—**an Awesome God!!**

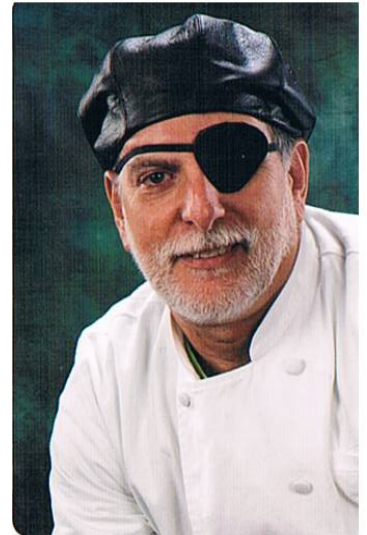
SPOTLIGHT ON THE STAFF

This month, the spotlight is on Lou Pasquale, our Maintenance Supervisor. Lou's other aliases are Chef Pasquale and "The Pirate" to the children of the Nursery School! Lou and his wife, Terri, have two daughters, Tiffany (Dan) and Karissa, and three grandchildren.

Lou began working at FPC in April of 2010. He works closely with the

House Committee and Head of Staff as he manages the cleaning, maintenance, renovations, and security of our facilities. It is no small task to care for our large church building and grounds, the Monroe House, the Youthhouse, and two church manses on McKinley Ave. and Wheeler Place, all of which are aging facilities.

Many of us have feasted on meals prepared by Lou. His former work and ongoing passion is food preparation and catering. The Personnel Committee has worked out a process with Lou so that he can flex his full-time work schedule as Maintenance Supervisor in order to also serve the church by catering events. FPC is blessed!



WELCOME TO MEGAN NUFFER



It is our goal here at FPC to provide safe, loving and consistent childcare for infants and toddlers, so that their parents may participate in worship, attend discipleship classes, and serve on Sunday mornings.

For several years, we have been blessed to have Christy Williams serve as part of our childcare staff.

We are not losing Christy, but we are excited that this fall Christy will be shifting to work with school-age children in our children's ministry.

It is a pleasure to welcome Megan Nuffer as she begins work in the nursery. Megan is a nursing student at Binghamton University and has much experi-

ence taking care of children. Parents and children alike will be drawn to her warm and friendly personality.

We are also grateful for Connie Stanton, Debbie Berner and Donna Williams, who continue to serve so faithfully in childcare.

SCRIPTURES FOR TODAY

For those who would like to delve into scripture to find out what the Bible says and how it applies to your life, please come join the *Scriptures for Today* class which meets at 9:30 AM each Sunday morning in the Library. The scripture passages follow the common lectionary,

which is a selection of Bible passages chosen each week to follow the church calendar and seasons of the year. Whether you are an "old pro" or a Bible "neophyte," please come join us to study God's Word together. Contact Gordie Pollard for more information.



“LICKS” LIKE OUR NURSERY SCHOOL YEAR IS OFF TO A “MAGICAL” START
- RONNE SISCO



It didn't take long for the seats in the dining room to fill up for Parent Council's Ice Cream Social on September 13. A great way for families to meet, lots of giggles could be heard as volunteers scooped the night away! Giant hugs and much gratitude go out to Michelle Beatty, Tiffany Ferrell, Jessica Clement, Kat Fledderman, Marsha Lanza and the heart-warming generosity of our donors whose efforts paid off with countless smiles!



September 6 found our teachers and staff very colorful as we took advantage of a teambuilding workshop at The Magic Paintbrush! We literally threw ourselves into our creations and, through synergy, effective communication, and rainbow-splotched bodies, our morning produced true works of art – some of which will be decorating our school while others will be auctioned off for this spring's Art Show Fundraiser.



SESSION UPDATE

-JANET FREDERICK, CLERK OF SESSION

Our meeting began on September 4 with a presentation by Sharon Early, Nathan Jacobs and Elder Jen Hunt, who made a presentation on behalf of the newly-formed Communications Committee. Their hope is that this committee will oversee the various forms of communication being utilized now and those being proposed for the future. Session voted to authorize the committee to expand the use of our Facebook page and to authorize these three individuals to administer all forms of our digital media. Policies regarding the use of these forms are being drafted. For our training in the coming months, Session has committed to a self-evaluation of FPC using the Narrative Questions once used by PC(USA)

and currently being used by PC(USA) churches in The Fellowship of Presbyterians. At this meeting we asked ourselves how the Holy Spirit has been evident in our congregation during this past year. The responses were encouraging, but we all admitted that we need to be more intentional as the Holy Spirit works through us, and discussed ways that we can be challenging ourselves to do this.

For action, the pastors requested permission to participate in a mission trip to India, tentatively scheduled for January 27 to February 7. We also approved their participation in a future Dominican Republic mission trip in order to become familiar with this FPC mission initiative.

Many of the items for information came from the administrative areas of church life:

Finance – As usual, to cover expenses over the summer, Treasurer Art Davis has had to borrow \$26,000 from the Wagner Fund. It is hoped that giving will return to normal levels this fall. Requests for the 2014 budget are due by mid-September.

House – Although we did hear of the completion of one major project (the replacement of the roof on the Monroe House), there are many issues that need to be addressed in the coming months, i.e. technology issues and several projects related to properties other than the church building



itself.

Personnel – The pastors reported that the transition in the front office has gone well, as has the transition in leadership of the Nursery School. Ronne Sisco is now the full-time Director of Education and Derek Washburn is the part-time Director of Business.

THE DEACONS THANK YOU

The Deacons would like to thank all those who generously donated school supplies for the Charles F. Johnson School. We were able to take over 8 full boxes of supplies to be distributed to those who had none. Your support of needy students makes a bigger difference in their educa-

tion than you may even realize.

Don't forget that next month, you will again have an opportunity to help in our community when the Succoth Booth is put up to collect your donations of non-perishable food.

The needs in our community continue throughout the year, stretching our financial resources more than in the past. Please remember that on communion Sundays, any loose offering goes directly to the Deacons for the work we do to help our neighbors.



MORE THAN ENOUGH

What are some things that you would say you have had “more than enough” of lately? Work to do? Rain? Bills to pay? Stress? Politics?

Usually “more than enough” means too much- you’d rather have less. But when it comes to our blessings, we delight in the abundance! Here at FPC, we have been blessed with “more

than enough” in so many ways. We have facilities that are used in many different ways; we are fully staffed; we have an abundance of opportunities to grow and serve, both personally and corporately.

Take time to recognize and appreciate where you have “more than enough” in your life, and how you might participate in the

privilege and responsibility of sharing material and spiritual blessings with others for Christ’s sake.

more than Enough!



The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

(2 Corinthians 9:6-7)

HOMEWORK CAFÉ RETURNS TO JFS

In the 2012-13 school year the Homework Café after school program at Jennie F. Snapp School was not included in the budget. For the 2013-14 school year funding has been restored, and the program will begin around the end of the first marking period in late October or early November. The program offers 6th, 7th and 8th grade students who need some extra help the opportunity to stay after school for an hour and a half on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday to work on homework with assistance from teachers and volunteers. The students are identified for help by teachers, parents, or themselves to help improve their performance through better understanding of sub-

jects causing them problems and through a structured study environment.

First Presbyterian Church has supported the program for over a decade with volunteers who can provide an hour and a half one, two or three days a week with exceptions as necessary. We try to provide some subject matter expertise and, more importantly, help the students to stay focused and to use the resources available (text books, library material, dictionaries, etc.) to get the assigned work done. We find that the subject matter can be challenging at times, and at times we will need the teachers’ help.

At this point we would ask any of you who may be interested in working with this age group to give

me, Justin Park (748-4192), or Barry Driggs (748-1770) a call to let us know of your interest and to let us know which days would be best for you. We try to have two to three volunteers available each day and we know that we need to plan for covering some days when another priority comes up for a volunteer. We will do our best

to get organized in October and will provide more information in the November FPP and church bulletin. Thanks for your consideration.



ALL SAINTS REMEMBRANCE



Each year on All Saints' Sunday (this year it's Nov. 3), we remember and honor the members of First Presbyterian Church who have died in

the past year. We also offer the opportunity for "friends and family of the congregation" to be remembered at this time. This year you again have the option of having a photograph of the deceased shown during a special "Time of Remembrance" in each service.

To submit the name of a loved one who has died since All Saints' Sunday

2012 (November 4), please fill out the form to the right or the one that will be available in the Sunday bulletins beginning October 6 and return it to the office by **Sunday, October 20**. You may send digital photos to the church at office@firstpresendicott.org or submit an actual photograph. Actual photographs will be returned.

Name of deceased:

Date of death:

Submitted by:

Relation to deceased:

[] Photograph included

A WIN-WIN IN DENTAL CARE

Don't neglect good dental hygiene/care because you don't have dental insurance. There is a way for you and your children to receive dental care for a minimal cost, and at the same time, help students get the clinical experience they need.

Students in the Broome Community College Den-

tal Hygiene program clean teeth, polish amalgam, place sealants, take X-rays, make sports mouth guards, and provide a wide variety of other services under the careful supervision of their professors. Children and adults over 65 are charged \$20; patients between the ages of 13 - 64 years old are charged \$30. Appointments last

3 - 4 hours because the setting is a learning institution. If additional work is needed beyond routine services, a second appointment may be necessary. Call 607-778-5015 to make an appointment.

If you don't have dental insurance, you can still receive good dental care!

LABELS FOR EDUCATION



LABELS FOR EDUCATION



The Nursery School is collecting *Labels for Education* points. Please bring in your participating UPC's (see [website](#) for complete list). There are collection envelopes on the bulletin boards outside each of the Nursery School classrooms. You can also register your Price Chopper Advantage

Card online to automatically help us earn extra points for items you purchase. If you have any questions, please contact the Nursery School's label Coordinator, Gretchen Laubisch at (222-1912) or via email at sketchgmr@gmail.com. Thank you for helping!

Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery

UNTO THESE HILLS



FALL GATHERING

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN IN SUSQUEHANNA VALLEY PRESBYTERY

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2013

9:30A.M. - 1:30 P.M.

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

42 Chenango Street

Binghamton, NY 13901

2013 USA Mission Experience to Appalachia

A group of Presbyterian women traveled to North Carolina and Tennessee in June, 2013 for the third USA Mission Experience. The Mission Experience equips women to understand the history and culture of the region, the existing ministry of the church there, and the challenges faced by women, children and families living in the area.

On this trip, participants

- Saw the evolution of the PC(USA) mission and ministry programs in rural Appalachia
- Met with local historians and Appalachian women to better understand the unique history and culture of the area
- Toured and fellowshiped with local organizations serving women, children and families

One of the participants, Rita Hooper, from Fulton, NY will be our speaker.

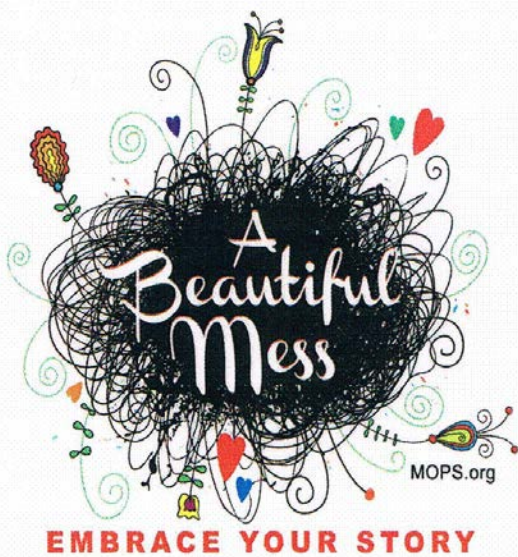
Lunch - \$5.00 Childcare upon request at RSVP

RSVP to Jennifer Efthymious, Church secretary, (607) 722-4219 office@upcbgm.org

by Monday, September 30

ALL ARE INVITED TO ATTEND!!

VESTAL MOTHERS OF PRESCHOOLERS FALL RETREAT



October 11-12

Featured Speaker:
Jennifer Chase

Sessions:
Friday
7PM- Breathing L.I.F.E
Into Your Home
8PM- Girl Talk and
Chocolate

Saturday
9AM- Breakfast
10AM- Fully Alive

**PIERCE HILL
CHRISTIAN
FELLOWSHIP**

232 Pierce Hill Road
Vestal, NY 13850

For more information:
Joy Klimachefsky
607-239-5710 or
joyfull82@hotmail.com

31ST ANNUAL CHOW HUNGER WALK

31st Annual
CHOW Hunger Walk

Sunday, October 20, 2013
Binghamton University
Behind the East Gym

Entertainment, Food, Games

Registration at 1PM
Start Time at 2PM

Pick up your walker envelopes
at :

Broome County Council of
Churches
3 Otsenigo Street,
Binghamton, NY

For more information call:
607-724-9130



THIS MONTH'S OVER 80 BIRTHDAYS

Each month, we take a moment to acknowledge our over 80 members that have birthdays in the upcoming month. Consider dropping a note, writing a card, or giving a phone call to help celebrate life with these friends.

October 5

Lois McKaig

October 25

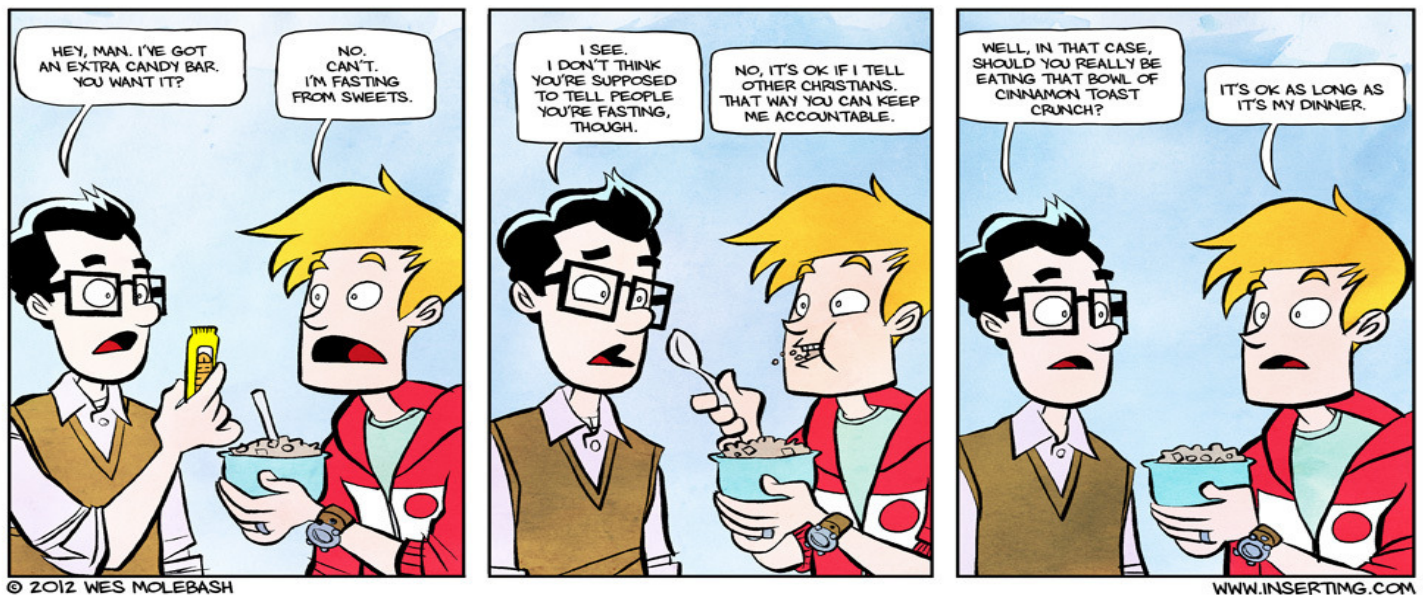
Beverly Jones

October 25

Jane Sprague

Call the FPC office at (607)748-1544 for contact information for our over 80 members

GO AHEAD AND LAUGH...THEN THINK ABOUT IT



Fasting. If I'm being honest, I'm terrible at it. When I fast (which is rare, by the way) I choose one of two strategies:

1.) Fast from something I already don't do.

For instance, broccoli. If it's time to fast, I might fast from broccoli. Never mind the fact that I don't like broccoli and it's not something we typically have in our house; if I'm fasting I will make sure that no broccoli of any kind will touch my lips. I realize that I'm not stepping out of my comfort zone or giving up something that I have an emotional connection to; it's time to focus on God and I don't want broccoli to be "one more thing" that causes me to lose that focus.

2.) Fast from something I enjoy, but add a lot of "red tape" to it.

In this instance, I might fast from sweets. But, like JP, I'd add a ton of stipulations to the fast. Such as coffee. I drink coffee every morning, and I need to have at least one cup or else I'll have a headache all day. I rarely drink my coffee black; I prefer to load it up with sugar and cream. I mean, I *have* to have my coffee, right? And in order to make sure I drink it all, I need to sweeten it up. Otherwise I'll have a headache. This is a matter of my physical health and well-being, and certainly God would understand that my "fasting of sweets" does not apply to my morning cup.

Obviously, neither of the above strategies is the right way to go about things. Real fasting is hard, though.

Do you add "red tape" to your fasts?

(Courtesy of www.insertimg.com)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 9:30 am Small Group-Lounge 5:30 pm Samaritan Supper 7:00 pm Deacons	2 6:00 am Men's Group 10:00 am Parent Council Treasure's Meeting in Small Group Room 7:00 pm Session 7:00 pm Worship Team	3 9:30 am Small Group 6:00 pm Mary-El Ringers 7:00 pm Chancel Choir-Choir Room	4	5
6 Worldwide Communion 9:09 am Worship Service (Contemporary) 10:30 am Kid's Program 10:30 am Small Group 10:45 am Worship Service (Traditional) 12:15 pm Youth Parents Meeting	7 6:00 pm Membership Team Meeting-Library 6:00 pm NS Let's Get Together w/Ms. 7:00 pm Terry-Dining Room 7:00 pm Relevant Ministries	8 9:30 am Small Group-Lounge 12:30 pm Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Samaritan Supper	9 6:00 am Men's Group 7:00 pm Worship Team	10 9:30 am Small Group 6:00 pm Mary-El Ringers 7:00 pm Chancel Choir-Choir Room	11	12
13 9:09 am Worship Service (Contemporary) 10:30 am Kid's Program 10:30 am Small Group 10:45 am Worship Service (Traditional)	14 7:00 pm Columbus Day Relevant Ministries	15 9:30 am FPP Deadline Small Group-Lounge 5:30 pm Samaritan Supper	16 6:00 am Men's Group 1:30 pm Women's Circle 7:00 pm Worship Team	17 9:30 am Small Group 6:00 pm Mary-El Ringers 7:00 pm Chancel Choir-Choir Room	18	19 10:00 am NS Fall Fest-Playroom-Bug classrooms-AA room
20 9:09 am Worship Service (Contemporary) 10:30 am Kid's Program 10:30 am Small Group 10:45 am Worship Service (Traditional)- TOB and Bells 1:00 pm CHOW Walk	21 12:00 pm Women's Club-Library 6:30 pm NS Parent Council Meeting-Choir Room 7:00 pm Relevant Ministries	22 9:30 am Small Group-Lounge 12:30 pm Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Samaritan Supper 7:00 pm Worship Ministry Team	23 6:00 am Men's Group 7:00 pm Worship Team	24 9:30 am Small Group 6:00 pm Mary-El Ringers 7:00 pm Chancel Choir-Choir Room	25	26 1:30 pm Santacrose Meet and Greet w/ Eric Small-Dining Room
27 9:09 am Stewardship Skit Worship Service (Contemporary) 10:30 am Kid's Program 10:30 am Small Group 10:45 am Worship Service (Traditional)	28 12:00 pm Women's Club-Dining Room 7:00 pm Relevant Ministries	29 9:30 am Small Group-Lounge 5:30 pm Samaritan Supper 7:00 pm Mission & Stewardship	30 6:00 am Men's Group 7:00 pm House Committee 7:00 pm Worship Team Rehearsal-Sanctuary	31 Halloween 9:30 am Small Group 6:00 pm Mary-El Ringers 7:00 pm Chancel Choir-Choir Room		

VISION STATEMENT

(What God wants to do)

We believe God wants to transform our community through the saving love of Jesus Christ and calls us to share that hope with the world. To be an agent of hope, our congregation must work together and rely on the power of the Holy Spirit to follow Christ, whatever the cost.¹ This commitment, which is grounded in a deep love of God and neighbor,² sends us out to share the Good News of Christ through our words³ and our actions.⁴

¹ *The Great Commitment*, Matthew 16:24-26

² *The Great Commandment*, Luke 10:27

³ *The Great Commission*, Matthew 28:18-20

⁴ *The Great Compassion*, Matthew 25:31-40

MISSION STATEMENT

(What God wants us to do)

We believe God wants us to share the life-changing power and love of Jesus Christ in such compelling ways that more people become fully devoted followers of Christ.

PURPOSE STATEMENT

(The reason we exist)

To reach more people and grow together in Christ.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

29 Grant Avenue

Endicott, NY 13760

Phone: (607) 748-1544

Fax: (607) 748-1744

www.firstpresendicott.org

www.facebook.com/FPCEndicott

Nonprofit Org.

U.S. Postage Paid

Permit No. 36

Endicott, NY