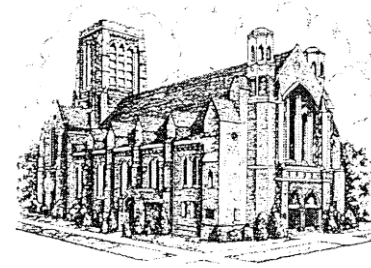


First Presbyterian Church
300 South Main Street, P. O. Box 1038
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Website: www.firstpresbyteriangreensburg.com

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February 2019

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

Sunday School at 9:00 a.m.
Worship 10:00 a.m.
Nursery Care provided

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

DEADLINE FOR MARCH ISSUE: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2019
Email submissions to fpcgreensburg@comcast.net or mail to church office.

*The Coulter Society asks that you please consider
remembering our church in your will!*

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Dr. Martin R. Ankrum, Pastor / Head of Staff
Rev. Nicole C. Atkinson, Associate Pastor for Youth and Educational Ministries
Dr. John B. Salveson, Minister of Music / Organist
Jill Linsz, Children's Music Assistant
Lu Ann Peters, Financial Secretary
Kimberly A. Stoner, Executive Secretary
Keith L. Huey, Sexton
Shannon M. Reid, FPC Preschool Supervisor
Wendy H. Matchett, FPC Preschool Teacher
Wendy McCann, FPC Preschool Teacher
Ron Vorel, Housekeeper
Richard P. Fabery, Assistant Sexton
Matthew B. Cohen, Assistant Sexton
Julia Schaming, Arianne Winkleblech, Nursery Care
Mr. Edgar B. Highberger, Minister of Music, Emeritus

FIRST NEWS: A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

STIRRED HEARTS ...

The title of this little piece should be reminiscent for most our readers. Stirred Hearts was the Stewardship Campaign's theme for last year and we are continuing this theme into this coming year as well. It is a good theme, coming from a verse in the Book of Exodus discussing how the Spirit of the living God stirred the hearts of the Israelites to be supportive of the community's worship of God. This is exactly the aim of our congregation's leadership in "re-adopting" the theme again for this year. We ask the question: "How has your heart been stirred by God in your participation in the life of this congregation?" Or more simply, "What stirs your heart here at FPC?"

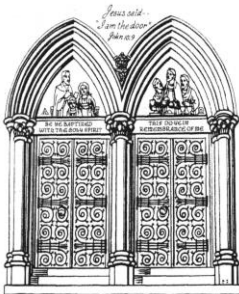
Over the coming months, this space will be filled by guest columnists from the leadership of the church to provide a testimonial for what stirs their hearts to give to this ministry, to participate in the life of the church and to respond to God's goodness in many and various ways. Here's my brief contribution to that which is to come ...

Of the many theologians I enjoy reading one is the celebrated early Church Father, Augustine of Hippo. An amazing administrator, writer and pastor, Augustine excelled as well at preaching. In a sermon delivered in 425 A.D., the great North African theologian shared with his congregation something akin to a mission statement when it came to living together as God's people and sharing in ministry:

Make my ministry fruitful. ... from the outside receive the work of the planter and waterer; from the inside, though, that of the one who makes you grow. The turbulent have to be corrected, the faint-hearted cheered up, the weak supported; the gospel's opponents need to be refuted, its insidious enemies guarded against; the unlearned need to be taught, the indolent stirred up, the argumentative checked; the proud must be put in their place, the desperate set on their feet, those engaged in quarrels reconciled; the needy have to be helped, the oppressed to be liberated, the good to be given your backing, the bad to be tolerated; all must be loved.

These words continue to stir my heart when I contemplate not only my role as a minister, but as a Christian as well ... this is what we must be to one another, and with God stirring our hearts, what we absolutely can be as God's people. Above all, as Augustine said, "all must be loved."

Grace and peace,
-Martin



OUR CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

PRAYER LIST: Linda Anderson, Rona Beluschok, Raeann Berger, Dorcas Brown, Lisa Bulger, Carolyn Carr, Paul Carr, Edna Mary Cox, Michelle King Cushey, George DeCaro, Chris Dieck, Anna DiPalato, Gregory Dolan, Janie Dowdy, Joanne Doyle, Laureen Earnest, Richard Enterline, Elizabeth Felice, Joseph Folino, Maryland Folino, Ruth Hershey, Edgar Highberger, Grace Howard, George Hritz, Hubie, Jody, Juniper, Anna Kostrick, Ray Kuyat, Jake Manallo, George Maser, Dorothy Matusiewicz, Beverly Ross McClung, Ed Murphy, Alex Noel, Bill Noel, Denise Ohr, Nancy Pallitta, Kathleen & Norbert Piekut, John Pollins IV, Gary Pricer, Marcia Remaley, Ron Russell, Lucas Sanders, Nico Salvio, Rich Schall, Sean, Liz Sember, Pat Sheridan, Dave Stucker, Janet Sutherland, Linda Turin, Lynda Turin, Elsie Vanetta and Gealy Wallwork.

BIRTHDAYS: Each month we observe the VIP and fourscore or more birthdays: If you are 80 or older, and would like to be listed in the monthly newsletter, please contact the church. February birthdays are:

- Ruth Sizer, 712 Redmont Place, Gbg (4)
- Chung-Hae Kim, 278 Lakewood Rd., Gbg (17)
- Ann Bagley, 708 Farview Dr., Apt. 2, Gbg (27)

CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES – If you don’t receive contribution envelopes and would like a set or if you currently receive envelopes for yourself or a family member and do not wish to receive them please let me know. Lu Ann Peters, Financial Secretary.

MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS since January 17 – Anita M. Garr

Stewardship Report	
Total Disbursements through 12/31/18	\$656,924.86
Total Receipts through 12/31/18	\$580,512.97
Total Income over/under Expense	(\$76,411.89)

If you would rather receive an electronic version of the First News, please let us know at fpcgreensburg@comcast.net and we’ll add you to our email list and remove you from the paper copy list. Then you will receive the First News through your computer rather than the mail box, but you’ll have to let us know!! A copy of the latest First News can also be found at our website: www.firstpresbyteriangreensburg.com



VIPS ARE MEMBERS of our congregation who are unable to attend church services on a short-term or long-term basis. The Board of Deacons, along with the pastors, provide these members with visits, phone calls, cards and reminders of their connection to our congregation, including the sacrament of communion, as requested. Please contact the church office (724-832-0150) for more information and/or to request to be added to our list.

A NEW ARRIVAL in the family is amazing, exciting and can be overwhelming. The Deacons are offering a meal for the family on a busy day with appointments, etc. The new mother, or a family member, can contact Darlene Nagrosky (724-837-4157), Gretchen Lowry (724-838-9726) or the church office. We do not have a formal network to know of births at the regional hospitals; however, the church office will forward information as received. Anyone wishing to provide a meal may also contact Darlene or Gretchen. Thank you for your help with this ministry.

THE PASTORAL CARE COMMITTEE of the Board of Deacons is asking church members with family or friends who are hospitalized, have health conditions that have changed, and/or have other concerns that you wish the church to know about, please inform the church office at 724-832-0150 and your concern(s) will be directed to the proper person(s).

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED SPONSORING A COFFEE HOUR? Provide your own cookies, muffins or pastries or underwrite the refreshments for \$35. Use the sign-up sheet on the Dining Room bulletin board. Your contributions and participation are greatly appreciated.

STEPHEN MINISTRIES AT FPC: Is there someone you know or you yourself who could use a little encouragement? Our Stephen Ministers have been trained to be a good listening ear and caring heart. If you would like to suggest someone to the care of our Stephen Ministry, please see either Sandra Beauregard or Rev. Atkinson.

LOOKING FOR US ONLINE? Not only do we have a Facebook page (facebook.com/firstpresbyteriangreensburg) but we also have a BRAND NEW website! Check it out and let us know what you think! You can find it at www.firstpresbyteriangreensburg.com.

ATTENTION!!!! When sending mail to the church office, please be sure to include “*P. O. Box 1038*” on the address line to assure delivery. Though we have had this P.O. box for many years, new policies at the post office have enforced the use of this designation.

NOTES FROM THE LOFT

*“I am trusting thee Lord Jesus, trusting only thee.
Trusting thee for full salvation, great and free.”*

So begins the hymn by Frances Havergal. The hymn is laced with a childlike trust, which is of course, a great definition of faith. Faith, I am learning, is the ability to trust and hope in the promises of God, no matter what is going on around me. Maybe that’s why Paul tells us that faith is a gift – because only with a gift am I able to trust that through God, there is hope, even if all I see is the cross.

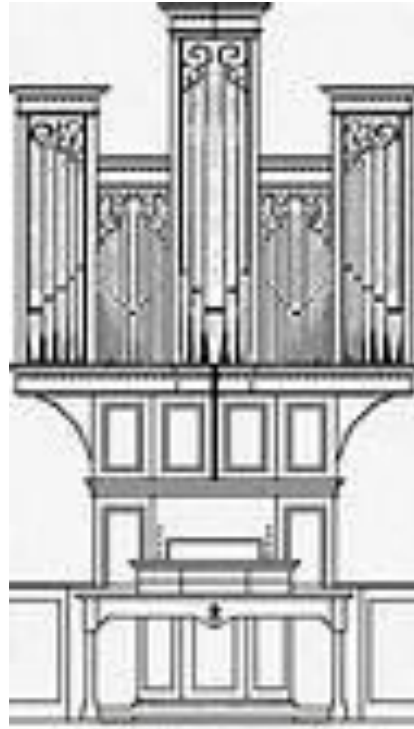
That’s not a very popular notion these days. More than one preacher has built an empire telling people that if they have enough faith they will have wealth, health, and happiness. Yet, unpopular as the notion is, I disagree with them, and have some amazing company in that distrust. In reality faith, I believe, calls me to something new and challenging, something that can even be a little scary, but that’s what trust is about.

Faith, I believe, calls me to trust that even when all I see is the cross, I can rejoice, trusting that Christ is with me. Faith, I believe, calls me to trust that in the stranger I see the image of God, the creator and source of life. Faith, I believe, calls me to quiet joy (which is far different from happiness), even when things around me may not be my choosing. It would be delightful if I could do this on my own; raising my arms in a sign of strength and rejoicing in my goodness, but I can’t. Faith, I believe, also calls me to join in the community of believers, whose trust and faith strengthens mine when I’m too weak, or tired, or afraid to trust on my own.

So, whether we are gazing on the face of Christ and filled with faith, or wondering if we can make it until this afternoon, we gather, Sunday by Sunday and sing our songs of “Holy, Holy, Holy,” continuing to trust that this God who came to share in our humanity will grant us faith so we too can trust in the God who calls each and every one of us.

See you in worship!

John Salveson, Minister of Music and Organist

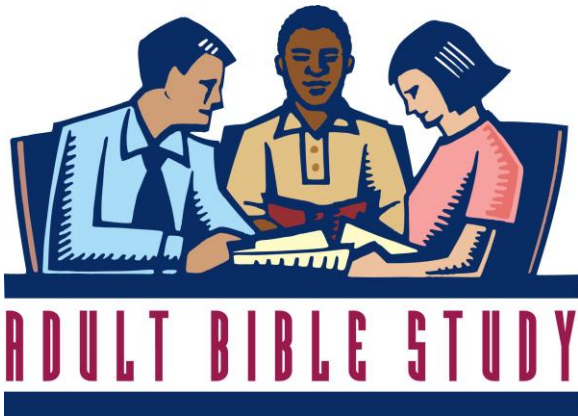


WANT TO IMPACT THE LIVES OF OUR KIDS? How about helping them grow in faith!?! In this format, a Bible story is taught for 4 weeks using a variety of methods (art, drama, cooking, music, games, science, & video.) Our kids love it, teachers enjoy the flexibility, and most importantly, our children are growing in their faith! Want to help out this year? Talk to Niki!

OUR CHILDREN ARE HAVING A GREAT TIME GROWING IN FAITH! For January, join us as we learn about “Jonah and the Big Fish!” We’ll then get to learn about building a “House on the Rock.” In this format, a Bible story is taught for 3 weeks using a variety of methods (art, drama, cooking, music, games, etc.) Want to help our kids grow in faith? Talk to Niki to learn more!



	K-2 nd Grade	3 rd -5 th Grade
February 3 rd	Cooking (Kitchen)	Art (1 st Floor, Room #2)
February 10 th	Art (1 st Floor, Room #2)	Cooking (Kitchen)
February 17 th “House on the Rock”	Large Group Gathering	Storytelling Room (3 rd Floor, Room #1)
February 24 th	Science (Fletcher Room)	Cooking (Kitchen)
March 3 rd	Cooking (Kitchen)	Science (Fletcher Room)



AUGUSTINE ON THE CHRISTIAN LIFE - SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 9 A.M. On the Christian Life is a well-attended Sunday morning adult education class that seeks to provide a greater understanding of the Christian faith through examination of the life and thought of a great theologian. Our group has studied Dietrich Bonhoeffer, John Calvin, Jonathan Edwards and Martin Luther in the past. This year, we will be reading about and discussing the faith of one of the earliest theologians, Augustine of Hippo. Dr. Ankrum leads this class.

NEXT GATHERING: FEBRUARY 10 – SPECIAL BOOK STUDY...What is poverty? Can we end poverty, or is its presence in the world inevitable? What is our responsibility as Christians to the poor among us? Join the conversation as we read the book: “Always Among Us? What Jesus Really Said About the Poor,” by Rev. Liz Theoharis. We meet on the Second Sunday of each month at 11:30 a.m.; bring your own bagged lunch.

THRU THE BIBLE ... Are you interested in learning the whole story of the Bible? Have you ever read the Bible in its entirety or at least wanted to? Then this adult study group is for you!! We will gather in the Assembly Room for an hour a month to go through the Bible from Genesis to Revelation! **We will meet on Monday, February 25, 2019 at 7 p.m. to discuss the Book of Deuteronomy.**

LAST TUESDAY BOOK CLUB is always looking for readers of fiction willing to discuss what they find in the novel assigned for the month! We are a very friendly group who enjoy getting together to talk about the meaning and significance of good literature and Christian faith. Dr. Ankrum usually leads our discussion. **We will meet on Tuesday, February 26, 2019 at 7 p.m. when we will discuss *A Month in the Country* by the Russian author, Ivan Turgenev.**

THE MEN’S BREAKFAST & BIBLE STUDY meets at Eat’n Park on Rt. 30 E. each Wednesday morning at 7:45 a.m. for a time of fellowship, study and, of course, breakfast. We are now studying the Book of Acts under the leadership of Dr. Ankrum.

THE FAITH & FAMILY GROUP meets on the third floor of the CE Wing at 9 a.m. every Sunday during the academic year (Sept. – May) to discuss topics related to our faith and family relationships. The group is composed of young couples, singles and any in the church who are concerned about issues related to faith and family. Join us!

Fellowship

Congregational Activities from the Membership & Evangelism Committee



CORNERSTONE GATHERING: ALL ARE INVITED! SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 6:00 P.M.

Cornerstone is a gathering of folks from FPC on a monthly basis for dinner and conversation. We will meet at DeGennaro’s Restaurant, 1402 Broad St. South Greensburg. This is a family friendly, low key, older restaurant that has been a favorite for generations. They offer a large menu of homemade Italian and American foods with generous portions at moderate prices. Join us for an early Valentine’s Day celebration! Sign up during coffee hours, call Sandy Beauregard or call the church office before February 6. See you there!!!

THE LUNCH BUNCH - TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12 – 11:30 A.M.

The lunch bunch will be meeting at the Boulevard in Greensburg, next to Gander Mountain. Sign up at Coffee Hour or call the church office to reserve your place.

JOHNSTOWN TOMAHAWKS GAME SUNDAY, FEB. 10 AT 3 P.M.

Celebrating its 43rd anniversary season, the NAHL, boasting 24 teams across North America, prides itself on the development of student-athletes ages 16-20 with aspirations of advancing to collegiate and/or professional hockey. NHL players such as Patrick Kane, Phil Kessel, Brandon Saad and Ryan Miller came out of the NAHL. Former Philadelphia Flyer Danny Briere’s son Carson and current Winnipeg Jets Jacob Trouba’s brother Chris both currently play for the Johnstown Tomahawks! Join us for an afternoon of fun on Sunday, February 10 at 3:00pm as the Johnstown Tomahawks take on the Maryland Black Bears (Odenton, MD)! We will meet at the church at 12:45pm, departing at 1:00pm for our trip to Johnstown. Tickets are \$14.00/EA for adults and kids 12 and under are \$7.00/EA. We’ll take the church van and have overflow carpool to the Cambria County War Memorial Arena. Sign-up in coffee hour to reserve your tickets immediately (Chop, chop)!



Circle Meetings for Presbyterian Women



ABIGAIL CIRCLE MEETS WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13 @ 10:30 A.M. Our Bible study this year is God's Promise – I am With You. We meet in the Refectory (the small dining room just off the Dining Room). If you have any questions, please see Peg Carpenter, Circle Chairperson or call the church office.

REDSTONE HIGHLANDS CIRCLE – FEBRUARY 14 @ 10:00 A.M. The members of the former Lois Circle are reconvening as a new circle to be held at Redstone Highlands in Greensburg on the second Thursday of each month at 10 a.m. The circle will meet in the Highlanders Room and will be led by the Rev. Bobbie Hinline.

You do not need to be a resident of Redstone to participate. If you are interested in this new circle, please call Linda Turin or the church office.

AN OPEN INVITATION to members and friends of First Presbyterian Church to join the Monday Morning Sewing Circle that meets at 9:00 a.m. Monday mornings in the Fletcher Room. You don't have to be an expert tailor to hem the cotton flannelette baby receiving blankets or to sew the "little dresses for Africa". If you are interested, please contact Sylvia Carlson at 724-755-2288 for information. Membership at this church is not a requirement. Anyone is welcome.

SPRING RUMMAGE SALE: The Presbyterian Women's annual rummage sale will be held Friday and Saturday, April 12 and 13, 2019. The donation period will begin Friday, March 1 and continue through Monday, April 8, again using the stage in the Fletcher Room. **REMEMBER:** we do not accept wire hangers, infant car seats, cribs, televisions or large exercise equipment such as bikes or treadmills. If you have any questions, please contact Barbara Burchill (724-838-1546) or Lynne Rain (724-672-6738), Co-Chairs.



A Report on the Capital Campaign
Pledges totaling \$729,913!
Donations received \$611,837!

New Sanctuary Sound System – COMPLETED
Sanctuary Roofing – COMPLETED
Sanctuary Masonry Work – COMPLETED
Stained Glass Restoration – TWO WINDOWS COMPLETED
Interior Restorations – In Progress
Sanctuary Air Conditioning – COMPLETED
Donation to Pine Springs Camp – Second installment COMPLETED

From the Annual Meeting of the Congregation – Jan. 27, 2019

Remarks from Rick Terrill, Ruling Elder-Trustee and President of the Corporation at the 2018 Annual Meeting of the Congregation:

In 2018, the Financial Secretary reported that there were 569 giving units. Some of these are individuals and some are couples.

- 163 or 29% of the giving units provided 94% of the worship offering income. These were the people who gave, on average, \$225 per month. The range was from \$52 per month to more than \$700 per month.
- The other 406 or 71% of the giving units provided Only 6% of the worship offering income.

The average rate giving for this group of church members was only \$5.40 per month. 260 giving units contributed nothing.

In 2019, if expenses are held to the levels predicted in the budget and worship offerings reach 100% of the pledged amount, we will sustain a deficit of just over \$78,000. This is about \$2,000 more than the actual 2018 deficit.

You might ask "Why can't we cut expenses to balance the budget?" That's a valid question. But what should we cut? The entire Session took part in looking at ways to cut expenses. There were some spirited debates. Do we cut Mission? The Music Ministry? Sunday School? Church staff?

In the end, staff cost of living raises were scratched for 2019 and one salaried music staff position was eliminated. How would you feel if your boss came to you and said "I'm sorry, but business income is down this year and no one is getting a raise."

What does it take to overcome a deficit of this magnitude? \$78,000 is a lot of money. But divided among those who have faithfully supported First Presbyterian Church, it is an achievable goal. \$78,000 divided among 309 members who currently support this church is \$252 per year or \$5 per week.

I know, no one likes to talk about money. But how much would it affect YOUR lifestyle to divert an extra \$5 per week to your church? That's less than the cost of a sandwich and a drink at Chick-fil-A.

Not all was doom and gloom in the past year. In 2018 you folks in this congregation contributed almost \$199,000 to the current Capital Campaign. We in P&F are thankful for this support to preserve and improve this building as it enters its second century as the home of this congregation. The campaign will continue through 2019 and into early 2020. We appreciate and give thanks for your generosity in support of the Capital Campaign. We understand that we are asking for a lot from you in support of both Capital Campaign and Worship Offering.

But all this being said, won't you please consider supporting all the programs of this church and the people who work here. It's only another \$5 per week.

KIDS & TEENS



Feb. 3 @ 12 p.m. - Y-Fi is continuing its weird journey in our series “THAT’S IN THE BIBLE?!” You thought you knew all of the stories in the Bible from Sunday School? Think again! Everyone knows about Donkey from the “Shrek” movies. But did you know that there was a donkey that talked way before him? Come hear more at Y-Fi this week!

Feb. 10 @ 4 p.m. – 6 p.m.... Young Adult Dinner @ the Atkinson home! Join us for a home-cooked meal and a wonderful time of catching up with each other and looking forward to what’s in store for the spring! This dinner is a great opportunity to join us if you’re home for a break!

Feb. 17 @ 12 p.m. - Y-Fi is continuing its weird journey in our series “THAT’S IN THE BIBLE?!” You thought you knew all of the stories in the Bible from Sunday School? Think again! Do you have a favorite food that you can’t imagine ever getting sick of? Ever? Bring some of your favorite food to share with the group as we learn about the Israelites and when they had manna for ages, then quail for ages! Come hear more at Y-Fi this week!

February 24 @ 12 p.m. – Games w/Geoff...are you interested in learning how to play role playing games? Come and join with this group to make up a character and solve problems with a group of your friends! Bring your own snacks, your imagination, and a sense of adventure!

Coming in March...More gaming, more weird Bible stories, and an extra long Y-Fi outing! Stay Tuned for next month’s growing and fun-ning!

Y-Fi
Y-Fi is now on the 1st & 3rd
Sundays from 12pm-2pm
(unless otherwise noted.)
Stay Tuned for Our Winter Topics!

- The Donkey That Talked (before that movie made it funny)
- Questionable Ingredients for Homemade Bread
- Tonight’s Special: Quail
- Tomorrow’s Special: Still Quail
- The Next Day’s Special: Just Get Used to Quail

PRESCHOOL HAPPENINGS... Check us out at www.fpcgpreschool.weebly.com The website contains lots of information about our preschool, including upcoming events, our education methods, and more! **Know someone looking for a preschool next year? Open Enrollment is happening NOW! Recommend us to a friend!**

2019-2020 AM Classes

Pre-K
 (Must turn 5 prior to March 1st)
 Monday-Friday
 9:00am-11:30am

AND
 NEW option for FULL DAY
 *See PM Classes for more details!

4-year-olds
 (Must turn 4 prior to Sept. 1st)
 Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday
 9:00am-11:30am

3-year-olds
 (Must turn 3 prior to Sept. 1st)
 Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday
 9:00am-11:30pm

2-year-olds
 (Must turn 2 prior to Sept. 1st)
 NEW 1 Day classes for 2-year-olds!
 Tuesday OR Thursday
 9:15am-11:15am

2019-2020 PM Classes

Pre-K
 (Must turn 5 by March 1st)
 NEW option for FULL DAY
 9:00am-3:00pm
 *You can send your child with a lunch, and they can stay for enrichment in the afternoon! Drop off will start at 8:45am.

4-year-olds
 (Must turn 4 by Sept. 1st)
 Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday
 12:30pm-3:00pm

3-year-olds
 (Must turn 3 by Sept. 1st)
 Tuesday & Thursday
 12:30pm-3:00pm



A MESSAGE FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIR

Each year, the Stewardship Committee decides on a theme for the annual campaign. Do you remember the theme for 2018? I sure hope so! But if not, you'll get another chance. Our committee decided to reuse the 2018 "Stirred Hearts" theme for all of 2019. While I'm asking you to remember things, let me take you back to late October last year. On October 21, we included heart-shaped "Post-It" notes in the bulletin, and I asked the congregation to write down the answer to the question "What stirs your heart about First Presbyterian Church?" I used the responses to create this graphic:



The responses we got were genuine expressions of thanksgiving for all the experiences people have had at our church. However, something was missing. The responses were based on the past or present. What we need to do this year is think about how we will respond today and in the future to having our hearts stirred by the church, and ultimately by God. Will we attend Sunday School more often? Will we join the bell choir or agree to be a Deacon? Will we volunteer more, or place more money in the church offering plate? It is not enough to have a stirred heart; we are called to do something with it!

A great example of this is what happened the following week in October, on Commitment Sunday. My committee organized the Chili-After-Church event to celebrate the congregation's financial support of our church. We had planned an activity for people to do at their tables while eating but changed those plans in response to the mass shooting that occurred at Pittsburgh's Tree of Life Synagogue the day before. We asked people to write notes of love and support for our Jewish brothers and sisters. The notes and a \$1,000 check were sent to the synagogue. Our hearts were stirred, and we reacted by spreading love to those in need. This is what we are called by Christ to do. Let us act to support the church and its missions, near and far, to help those within our midst, and those we have never even met.

-Dr. James Kellam, Ruling Elder & Chair of the Stewardship Committee

COMMUNION AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper (Communion) is celebrated monthly at First Presbyterian Church, ordinarily on the first Sunday of the month. The following are excerpts from our church's *Book of Order* that help us to understand the meaning of this sacrament and our relationship to it as followers of Jesus Christ:

Jesus and the Supper

The Lord's Supper is the sign and seal of eating and drinking in communion with the crucified and risen Lord. During his earthly ministry Jesus shared meals with his followers as a sign of community and acceptance and as an occasion for his own ministry. He celebrated Israel's feasts of covenant commemoration

Communion of the Faithful

Around the Table of the Lord, God's people are in communion with Christ and with all who belong to Christ. Reconciliation with Christ compels reconciliation with one another. All the baptized faithful are to be welcomed to the Table, and none shall be excluded because of race, sex, age, economic status, social class, handicapping condition, difference of culture or language, or any barrier created by human injustice. Coming to the Lord's Table the faithful are actively to seek reconciliation in every instance of conflict or division between them and their neighbors. Each time they gather at the Table the believing community a. are united with the Church in every place, and the whole Church is present; b. join with all the faithful in heaven and on earth in offering thanksgiving to the triune God; c. renew the vows taken at Baptism; and they commit themselves afresh to love and serve God, one another, and their neighbors in the world.

Who May Receive

The invitation to the Lord's Supper is extended to all who have been baptized, remembering that access to the Table is not a right conferred upon the worthy, but a privilege given to the undeserving who come in faith, repentance, and love. In preparing to receive Christ in this Sacrament, the believer is to confess sin and brokenness, to seek reconciliation with God and neighbor, and to trust in Jesus Christ for cleansing and renewal. Even one who doubts or whose trust is wavering may come to the Table in order to be assured of God's love and grace in Christ Jesus.

Baptized Children

Baptized children who are being nurtured and instructed in the significance of the invitation to the Table and the meaning of their response are invited to receive the Lord's Supper, recognizing that their understanding of participation will vary according to their maturity.