

# SOUNDINGS

September 2016



## SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- Sept. 4**     *Sacrament of the Lord's Supper*  
Maggie Wellert, preaching; Darcel  
and Briahni Bridges, liturgists
- Sept. 11**    *Dedication of Musicians and Church  
School Staff*  
Maggie Wellert, preaching; Rich  
Linnell, liturgist
- Sept. 18**    Karen Nickels, preaching; Darcel  
and Briahni Bridges, liturgists
- Sept. 25**    Karen Nickels, preaching; Art  
Charlton, liturgist
- Oct. 2**       *World Communion Sunday*  
Karen Nickels, preaching
- Oct. 9**       Christy Kass, preaching
- Oct. 16**      *Stewardship Dedication Sunday*  
Karen Nickels, preaching
- Oct. 23**      Maggie Wellert, preaching
- Oct. 30**      *All Saints Sunday*  
Maggie Wellert, preaching

**A NEW CHURCH PROGRAM YEAR** kicks off on **Sunday, September 11**. The Chancel Choir will be back to sing and the Church School and Adult Education programs will restart.

**CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSALS** resume on Wednesday, September 7, at 7:30 p.m. in the Choir Room. New singers are welcome, no previous choral experience necessary. Contact Chancel Choir Director Elizabeth Campbell, 480-619-0839, for more information.

**HANDBELL CHOIR REHEARSALS** resume on Wednesday, September 7, at 6:15 p.m. on the second floor of the Church House. New members are always welcome. Contact Handbell Choir Director Gloria Snyder, 610-439-1933, if interested.

**THE BRUNCH BUNCH** will lunch at Ruby Tuesdays on Emrick Blvd. in Bethlehem on **Sunday, September 11**. Meet in Legacy Hall following worship to carpool or for driving directions. For information about the Brunch Bunch, contact Ruthann Arras at 315-870-0200 or [ruthann.arras@gmail.com](mailto:ruthann.arras@gmail.com).

**THE SHAWL MINISTRY** will meet on **Monday, September 12, from 1-2:30 p.m.** in the Brainerd Gathering Area. Bring your finished projects with labels.

The Lehigh Valley Shawl Ministry Gathering is on Sunday, September 18 at 2:00 p.m. at the Cathedral Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. Call Fran Dean, 610-829-1475, for info.

**THE BOOK CLUB** will meet on **Monday, September 19**, at 1:00 p.m. in the Millheim Room to discuss ***All the Light We Cannot See*** by Anthony Doerr. This book has been on the best seller list for months. For **October** they are reading ***The Charm Bracelet*** by Viola Shipman. All are welcome even if you haven't read the book. Contact Nancy Pruitt if you have questions.

### IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY

**THE CELEBRATION** for Naomi Smith's 101<sup>st</sup> birthday scheduled for Fellowship Time on August 28 has been rescheduled for **Sunday, September 18**. Naomi had a fall and is resting at home.

**REMEMBER IN PRAYER** Sue Pappas on the death of her husband John on August 9, and Sue Bennetch on the death of her husband Brad on August 22.

### September Birthdays

- 4 Becky Bartlett
- 7 Alvera Bianco
- 8 Harriet Spilman
- 10 Gerald Cirka
- 15 Robert Greacen
- 16 Amy Minnich
- 18 Kevin Joshua
- 19 Gladys Millheim
- 20 Buffy Hughes
- 26 Pauline Johnson
- 30 Lori Young



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### PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE UPDATE

by Kimberlee Runnion, Chair

This is an exciting time in the life of our church – we are not only in the midst of a search for a new pastor, but we are also discerning what God has in store for us. In January, we elected a Pastoral Nominating Committee, or PNC, consisting of 7 members: our chair, Kimberlee Runnion; our clerk, Chris Gulotta; Al Rutherford; Kevin Joshua; Lindsey Rice; Phyllis Finger; and Darcel Bridges. We are also blessed to be working with the Rev. Susan Tindall, associate pastor at College Hill Presbyterian, who is our liaison from the Presbytery’s Committee on Ministry.

Though we were elected at the beginning of the year, our work couldn’t begin until Cindy’s departure at the end of June. The search process for a pastor is quite different from a search process within a business. We must discern what God is calling our church to do and who God is calling to serve us while at the same time, pastoral candidates are trying to discern where God is calling them to serve. This is a time for us to examine our history and look to our future.

Luckily for you, the PNC does all the dirty work – we write what’s called a Ministry Information Form, almost like a detailed online dating profile of

our church; we sift through Personal Information Forms from candidates; and we perform initial interviews, review background checks, and contact references. However, we don’t make the ultimate decision. As our name indicates, we are the Pastoral *Nominating* Committee. In the end, we will present a nominee to the church, and the congregation decides whether or not to extend a call to the pastor.

This is a detailed process that typically takes a year to a year and a half, but it’s important to remember that during that time, the life of our church goes forward – we aren’t just in limbo! We are alive and thriving! A pastor doesn’t make the church; we make the church, and we call a pastor to help us live out our mission and vision.

So what can you, as the congregation, do during this process?

1. Pray for the PNC. Pray that God will open our hearts and minds to hear that still, small voice of the Holy Spirit.
2. Invite your friends to join you at church. There’s no reason we can’t be welcoming new people into our midst during this process.
3. Ask around to see what you can do to help – there are always plenty of jobs to be done in the life of a church, especially now!
4. Let us hear from you! Please do not hesitate to share any concerns about the process or ideas you have for our church.

May God bless us all with patience, wisdom, and peace throughout our search process.

### SHARING AND SERVICE

**SAFE HARBOR MEALS** - Thanks to everyone who has signed up to provide Dinner for Safe Harbor, but we are still in need of help. **December, January, February, March, May and July are still open for 2016/2017!** December will be here before you know it and the other dinners are a little ways off, but it would be great if they could be filled before the end of the year. Check out the bulletin board for the list and instructions for these dinners.

*What is Safe Harbor?* It's an Easton Facility for helping those who are temporarily unable to provide for themselves. Lunch and dinner is provided daily by area communities, which includes our congregation. Questions: contact Nancy Udut (610.253.5455).

**PROJECT of EASTON** – Thank you all who have remained faithful in your giving to the ProJeCt Food Pantry on the first Sunday of each month over the summer! In July we delivered 60 pasta items and in August the total was 84. We are so thankful to Gloria Snyder and her granddaughter Camryn for volunteering to deliver in August. Camryn needed to fulfill required school community service hours and this provided the perfect opportunity for a girl her age. She learned a lot about ProJeCt that day.

Our next opportunity to donate either boxed, canned or microwave pasta will be Sunday, September 4. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Please help us meet our goal of at least 50 items per month. *“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat”*... (Matthew 25:35)

**THE MISSION TEAM** would like to share a prayer from the **Lehigh Presbytery Worldwide Ministries Monthly Prayer Guide:**

Helping Hands of Lehigh Presbytery, Allentown:

*“I give thanks to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength for my work. I thank him for considering me worthy and appointing me to serve him...”* 1 Timothy 1:12

Pray for:

- God’s direction and guidance in all they do.
- The continued ability to respond to people affected by natural disasters.
- The group as they seek volunteers with a passion for mission work.



*“Can God spread a table in the wilderness?”*  
(Psalm 78:19)

Your support of the Peace and Global Witness Offering furthers the work of the Presbyterian Church peacemaking mission to support the local and national work of peace and reconciliation of the Presbyterian Mission Agency. Also, promotion of peace practices through the advancement of global church partnerships. Working together through Christ, we can help make our world more peaceful and just.

Despite the ways violence and division mire our world, we still claim a God who spreads a table in the wilderness, and invites all people and all nations to come and dine. **The offering will be received in worship on World Communion Sunday, October 2.**

Remember peace begins with us and our generous gifts at work to support the peacemaking initiatives of Presbyterian Mission.

- Mission Team



Would you be will willing to help in the Church Office on an occasional basis when Nancy Penman is out of the office or on vacation? Duties might include answering the phone, unlocking the door for groups that meet during the day or for members stopping by, photocopying, checking the mailbox, etc. Call Nancy Penman, 610-253-3579, for more information.

**AUDIT REPORT** Copies of the final Audit Report of 2014 and 2015 financial statements are now available. Copies are on the table at the rear of the sanctuary or on the information table in Legacy Hall.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

First Presbyterian Church has a prayer list which is updated and printed weekly. Prayer lists are available on Sunday morning on the back table in the sanctuary, or on the Deacons' information table in Legacy Hall. You may also receive this prayer list weekly by email. Call the Church Office to have a name added to the list. Names will be automatically removed after six weeks unless the office is notified otherwise.

**SAVE THE DATE** – First Presbyterian Church will be participating in the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of **Bosco's Friends Helping Friends** event on Tuesday, October 18. For a \$5 donation, you will get a 25% off shopping pass for all purchases made that day. The church keeps the \$5 and you get the savings! Please see Ruthann Arras for passes.

Feel free to take passes and have them in your pocket to sell to friends at golf, card club, book club, etc. You can pay Ruthann once you receive the \$5 – you don't necessarily need to pay ahead of time. For more information, call Ruthann at 315-870-0200.

**Sanctuary Flowers** - The 2016 Flower Chart is posted in Legacy Hall. If you wish to sponsor flowers, please sign the chart or call the church office. For two arrangements the cost is \$35 or more depending on the size of the arrangement. We will take care of placing an order with our florist, *Bloomies*, and the florist will bill you directly for the cost of the arrangements. The flowers enhance the beauty of our worship and are then delivered by the Deacons to the sick and shut-ins.

If you have any questions, please call the Church Office, 610-253-3579.

## SCRIP Program

The "Scrip" gift card program allows you to order gift cards for many merchants in the area, and the church will receive a contribution for every card sold. (Lavona Baatz, program coordinator, submits

orders on the first day of each month, and you will receive your gift cards approximately two (2) weeks later. You may place orders on Sunday mornings during coffee hour in Legacy Hall - either see Lavona, or stop by the table where you now purchase Giant gift cards.

You may also mail orders to Lavona at 3782 Orchard Road, Macungie 18062. This is a way to buy gift cards and help the church, too. *Make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church of Easton.*

## Cash For Causes

We continue to participate in the Giant Food Stores "Cash for Causes" gift card program. Cards are available in \$25, \$50 and \$100 denominations. You can buy them on Sunday during Coffee Hour in Legacy Hall, or during the week from Nancy Penman in the church office. Pay with cash or by check made out to the church with "Giant gift card" in the memo line. The church earns 5%. Let's all participate!

## Dry Cleanliness Is Next to Godliness

First Presbyterian Church partners with Al's Cleaners of Easton to raise funds for the church. Al's, located at 1134 Northampton Street, donates to the church 10 percent of what you spend on dry cleaning – all you have to do is mention "First Presbyterian Church of Easton" the first time you drop off your cleaning. Once your preference is recorded in their system, Al's Cleaners will automatically credit the church's account each time you bring in dry cleaning.

The deadline for the October "Soundings" is Monday, September 19. Articles can be mailed, dropped off or e-mailed to the church office, [office@eastonfpc.org](mailto:office@eastonfpc.org).

