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Mission Outreach

**IHN/FAMILY PROMISE**

We will be helping to host families staying at Pilgrim Presbyterian Church through the Family Promise shelter program for the week of September 1. We will provide dinner on  Monday, September 2 and Friday, September 6. Also two teams of two people will stay overnight at Pilgrim church on  September 4 and 5.

Please contact Carol Schroeher at 610-829-0061 or [cbschroeher@gmail.com](mailto:cbschroeher@gmail.com) if you want to help.

**SAFE HARBOR MEALS** FPCE provides dinner the 1st Monday of each month at Safe Harbor. The sign-up sheet is posted on the upstairs Mission Bulletin Board. A Team from our church (or a family or group of people) signs-up to donate supplies, cook and serve a meal.

Safe Harbor of Easton provides emergency shelter, a daily meal program and case management for all clients. Questions? Contact Nancy Udut (610.253.5455)

**ARK LUNCHEON**

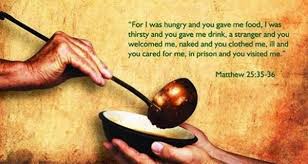
The Mission Team would like to thank everyone that contributed and/or helped with the luncheon on August 10th. We served 67 meals, plus everyone received a takeout meal. Please keep in mind that this meal might be the only meal guests have for the weekend. We did not have too much food--only one meatloaf, four 16-ounce bags of salad and rolls were left and given to Safe Harbor. Team tries to ask only for donations that will cover the meal. Collections and communications went well even with the challenges of office staffing and being out of the building. Thanks again for all your support and please keep this mission and the recipients in your prayers.

**PASTA FOR PROJECT** – Our thanks go out to all of you who have remained faithful in your giving to the ProJeCt Food Pantry on the first Sunday of each month. Thanks to your generosity we delivered92 pounds in August !Our next opportunity to donate either boxed, canned or microwaveable pasta will be on September 8. Canned pasta is greatly appreciated by those who are homeless. There is also a need for microwaveable pasta for those living in low cost housing with only a microwave for cooking. Please help us meet our goal of at least 75 pounds per month.

**HIGH MARK WALK** - **Update**

There were eight “First Pres Walkers” Team supporting ProJeCt of Easton on the Highmark Walk at DeSales University Campus on June 1st. Thanks to our congregation our contribution of $820. We have just been informed that our church has received the "Golden Soul Trophy” award because of our contribution support for this event. Details of the presentation and receipt of the trophy will follow. Our many thanks from the Mission Team.

**COVER THE PIGGIES- Update** We supported the First UCC’s “Cover the PIggies” School Sneakers Drive in late July and early August. Our members and those from Pilgrim Presbyterian as well, donated 11 pairs of new sneakers and several bags of assorted sizes of gently used sneakers, shoes and slippers. Thanks to all who made contributions of any kind, your generosity made these students and their families very happy on the opening day of school.



“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, and I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink…” Matthew 25

Membership and Congregational Care

**NAOMI’S 104TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION**

Please join the celebration on ***September 8*** directly after worship, where we will have with cake and a surprise Barbershop Quartet performance (Shhhhh! That part’s a secret!). The Deacons meeting will be pushed back about 15 minutes so all can enjoy the music. Come celebrate the big birthday!



**SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

4 Becky Bartlett

8 Harriet Spilman

10 Gerald Cirka

14 Travis Barrow

18 Kevin Joshua

19 Gladys Millheim

20 Buffy Hughes

30 Lori Young

**CELEBRATE WITH YOUR CHURCH COMMUNITY!**

Naomi Smith’s Birthday is August 31st. This year she turns 104! WOW!

On July 26th, Richard Ellis ( pictured here) turned 90. Mike Udut just turned 10 - for the 8th time! Do you have a big birthday you would like the congregation to know about?

How about a big wedding anniversary or special accomplishment we should acknowledge? Email [office@eastonfpc.org](mailto:office@eastonfpc.org) with SOUNDINGS in subject line

and tell us the your good news you’d like to share. Pictures welcome!

**BEST WISHES** to Ginny Ogden at her new address , 208 Patterson Walk, Easton PA 18040! Her home number is 610 438 2475.

**BOOK CLUB** The Book Club is open to everyone! The next book club will meet on Monday, September 16, to discuss Celeste Ng's book **Little Fires Everywhere.** On Monday, October  21, the club will discuss **Beartown** by Fedrik Backman. The Book Club meets the third Monday of each month in the Church.  You don’t have to have read the book to come and be part of the conversation. Our discussions are interesting and lively! Come see what we are all about.

**BRUNCH BUNCH**. All are welcome!

Brunch Bunch will go to Williams Restaurant at 3630 William Penn Hwy, Easton Pa on Sunday September 15

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**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

**BIBLE STUDY FOR ADULTS**

Please join us for our annual “Back-porch Bible Study”. We will meet from 6:45-8:00pm on Thursday evenings on Sept 12th & 26th and October 10th & 24th.

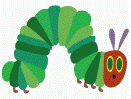
The following are our locations: Sept 12 at Church; Sept 26 at the home of Mary Danne; Oct 10 at the Young’s Home; Oct 24 at the Finger’s Home. Contact the church office for addresses, directions and any questions, [office@eastonFPC.org](mailto:office@eastonFPC.org)



**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Christian Education Team will meet after worship on September 15th. Anyone who would like to support our children’s ministry efforts is invited.

Sunday School will then start on September 22nd.

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**YOUTH GROUP**

Youth (grade 7-12) are invited to stay after worship on the 4th Sun. of every month, for “Pizza and a Project”.

Sept 22’s project will be to turn the old church doors into a standing mural for our parking lot. We will hang out in the art room ( or outside) until 1:30PM.

**FPCE WOMEN’s RETREAT**: **TRUSTING GOD IN TIMES OF TRANSITION** Saturday,October 5, 2019 from 9am to 3pm.

Join us for a day of fellowship and renewal as we learn to recognize and embrace the ever-changing nature of our lives and listen to God’s invitation in the midst of transition. Our retreat leader is Lorelei Oelschlager

Please bring your own lunch. Cost is $20.00 Check can be made payable to First Presbyterian Church of Easton. The retreat will be off site at the Community Presbyterian Church of Mt. Bethel and Portland PA. To register call Shirley Heinsohn at 610-365-2092.

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**LEADERSHIP**

**MEETINGS**

Property Team September 3rd, 7PM

Church and Community September 5th, 7PM

Deacons September 8th, after cake! Child care available.

Christian Education September 15th, after worship! Child care available

Mission Team September 16th, 6PM

Session September 17th, 7PM *\* check with your team leader for other meetings.*

**MEMBERSHIP TEAM CHAIRPERSON** is needed who can call work with Rev. Muntzel and a Session liaison to focus the team on this church’s congregational life. **If you have a heart for building community and have organizational skills**, maybe God is calling you to this position. Please e-mail our office or speak with Rev. Muntzel if you are interested in learning more.

**OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR** Personnel Team continues to seek an interim, part-time (under 30 hours) church administrator. Please offer your prayers as we search for the right person to support our ministry.

**WORSHIP AND MUSIC**

**BELL CHOIR**

Hello All, I am ready to begin again!  I hope you are, too!! All things working as we hope, the first Wednesday Rehearsal will be September 18 at 6:15 p.m. in the Balcony.  And that will set us off on our usual weekly schedule. September 11 at 6:15 p.m. will be a voluntary polishing party in the classroom on the second floor.  This is a messy, smelly job but it is extremely helpful for the bells.  If you are willing (no attendance is taken ☺)  we would be thankful for your help. I hope your summer was relaxing and refreshing.  I'm afraid it was anything but for the folks on the Property Team.  I sincerely hope we are coming to the end of this invasion!

Take good care and we'll be together again very soon!

Gloria

P. S. If ringing Handbells with a friendly group is on your list to experience, now would be an excellent time to begin!!  As our season begins again, we would be happy to welcome you to our group and we will all learn new music together.  Rehearsals are on Wednesday evening, 6:15 to 7:15 p.m. in the balcony of the church.  If reading music is at least a bit possible, we can help you learn all the rest.  Please contact Gloria Snyder if you are planning to attend so we can be sure we have a spot all ready for you.  All ages are welcome!!

Either see Gloria at Sunday worship or call 610-439-1933 or [gloriasnyder22@gmail.com](mailto:gloriasnyder22@gmail.com)

**CHORAL SINGING WORKSHOP**

Saturday, September 14 from 9:00-11:30am at Easton First Presbyterian Church

Every human was built to sing - come and find your voice!

* Vocal Warm-Ups
* Diction
* Posture and Breath Support
* Learning By Ear
* Sight Reading
* Singing in Four Parts

Lehigh Valley singers of all levels, high school age and above are invited to join us for a morning of choral singing, led by Elizabeth Campbell and Gloria Snyder.

Please RSVP by emailing [songbirdelizabeth@yahoo.com](mailto:songbirdelizabeth@yahoo.com) of by calling 480-619-0839 or the church office at 610-253-3579.

In lieu of a registration fee, we are asking all attending to please bring new adult socks, gloves, or thermal underwear to be donated to Safe Harbor Homeless Shelter.

**PROPERTY and GROUNDS**

**BUILDING UPDATE** Finally all groups are able to once again use our building. Our office, first floor meeting rooms, and second floor rooms and kitchen are in good shape. But certain areas remain off limits. We have not been worshipping in our sanctuary for two months. It has been a blessing to worship in the building these past several weeks- The Brainerd Gathering Space has been wonderful. This week it held 72 worshippers! It was tight but joyful.

How could squirrels (and the fleas they brought with them) be so disruptive for so long? First, because there were not **a lot** of squirrels coming into the foundation and running through our west wall, we didn’t realize there was an issue. But this was clearing happening over an extended period of time. Then there came wet and warm weather. (One air conditioner unit is out of order, could that have added to the warmth? We can only speculate.) It seems to have just been the perfect confluence of factors.

Once we recognized the presence of pests, our challenge has been reaching the places they are coming from. All holes in the foundation have been sealed. But there are crawl spaces and sub-floors underneath the sanctuary (under the communion table area) that were affected but which we have had difficulty reaching and treating. Our exterminators from Pesky Pest Control have put on whole body protective suits and crawled under our sanctuary. They tented areas around our organ pipes and fumigated. They have found creative ways to get into the subfloor ( taking off outlet covers and taking up just selective floor boards.) Dave Foster and Shirley Keller have become our relentless vacuummers (vacuuming carpets is pivotal in this process). Each week property team leaders and I consult. It has been slow but steady progress- and slow and steady will win this race.

We hope to be back in the sanctuary on Sept 1, but our progress report won’t come in until August 29th. Once we have the update, we will let the congregation know where we are worshipping. Thank you for your prayers, your jokes about pests and mostly for your patience. Pastor Stefanie and Property Team

**CLEAN-UP CREWS** The property team is scheduling clean-up crews for up-coming Saturday mornings. If you are available to come in and help with some cleaning, please speak with Shirley Keller or email Rich Linnell at [r.linnell@yahoo.com](mailto:r.linnell@yahoo.com).

**PARKING LOT** Did you know that during the week most of our parking lot spots are rented to local neighbors or businesses? We even have a few neighbors who pay to park in the evenings, weekends and over-night. This helps us cover the taxes and fees we must pay on the lot.

It does mean that parking in our lot between 9am-5pm can be tricky. But certain spots are reserved for church use. These are spaces nearest to the building (#1-5) and those along the side fence (#37-40) and 2 handicap spaces. If you ever park in the lot during the week, please use one of these spots. If you are not heading into the building, leave a note on your dash just saying you are a church member.

**PRESBYTERY NEWS**

**[](https://lehighpresbytery.org/lp/wp-content/uploads/Rhonda-Kruse.jpg)LEHIGH PRESBYTERY HIRES LEADER** Lehigh Presbytery’s Lead Team approved the recommendation from the Transitional Leader Search Committee **to hire the Rev. Rhonda Kruse** as our new Transitional Leader. Rhonda will begin her ministry with us on September 1, 2019. Rhonda has been serving the Presbyterian Mission Agency as the Mission Engagement Advisor for the Midwest since 2016. From 2011-16, she was the Connections and Change Presbyter in the Presbytery of Hudson River and has served congregations in New Jersey, Indiana, and New York. Rhonda has a BS from the University of Illinois, an MDiv from Princeton Theological Seminary, and an MSW from Rutgers University. Rhonda sends this greeting: I am grateful for the opportunity to serve Lehigh Presbytery as Transitional Leader, and I look forward to resourcing and supporting you in the process of discerning and living into the new direction to which God calls you. As a partner in ministry, I will challenge church leaders and congregations to be open to the change taking place in the church and the world, to see what God is doing in your unique context, and to embrace the Holy Spirit’s call to fresh and innovative ways of being the church. For such a time as this, God has called us to work together to nurture the presbytery’s creativity and strengthen your witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ.” Our Search Committee reviewed over 40 resumes and firmly believes God has led us to Rhonda “for such a time as this.” Please hold Rhonda and her family in your prayers as they prepare to join us and as we, together, move into God’s future with expectant hope. Deb Prince, Presbytery Moderator and Rev. Stephen Emick,  Search Committee Chairperson \* *Rev. Stefanie Muntzel was a member of the Search Committee*

**GLOBAL INTERNS**

The Manzek’s hosted an intern from Romania for four weeks this summer. We thank Noralee and Joe for opening their hearts and home, which was a great experience for everyone. Here is an excerpt from our Synod describing the initiative which brought interns to our Presbytery:

“In 1997, the [Lehigh Presbytery](https://lehighpresbytery.org/)’s Worldwide Ministries Committee entered into a partnership with the Hungarian Reformed Church in Romania. Among the initiatives that arose from this agreement was the establishment of global interns in both locations to “increase interest in mission, thus revitalizing and transforming congregations and developing opportunities for service and mission.” It’s a program that has landed several youths on foreign soil over the years and has likewise brought just as many to the United States to experience the food, culture and ways of Americans. This year, two global interns from Romania spent four weeks in this country, with the majority of their time being spent working at the [Kirkwood Camp and Retreat Center](https://kirkwoodcamp.org/) in Stroudsburg, PA. Sara Antal-Forizs, 19, and Csongor Tussai, 20, have been enjoying their time in eastern Pennsylvania this summer as part of the exchange program.”

You can also read the entire article at  [http://www.syntrinity.org/featured/hungarian-global-interns-call-kirkwood-camp-home-for-the-summer/](http://www.syntrinity.org/featured/hungarian-global-interns-call-kirkwood-camp-home-for-the-summer/" \t "_blank)

September 2019 Sermon Series on Spiritual Perseverance 

They say: “If life gives you lemons: make lemonade!”

We know life gives us lemons. Sometimes we have a hand to play in getting those sour fruits, but sometimes we are served them up despite our best efforts. We know them by their bitter taste and hard to swallow pits- the illness we never expected; the financial hardship we couldn’t have planned for; the person we love who is struggling; the situation we wish we could avoid but just can’t. Life’s challenges take their toll on us body, mind and soul. But they say: “If life gives you lemons: make lemonade!” So how do faithful disciples endure and keep the faith? How do we preserver?

This sermon series is an exploration of that question in dialogue with Roman 8 and certain Biblical figures who had every reason to give up on God and on their faith—but who didn’t. They kept keepin’ on and keepin’ the faith.

Sept 1. Romans 8:14-17 and Genesis 37:17-34; 39:1-6

Joseph’s story of perseverance: Know Who(se) you Are

Sept. 8. Romans 8:18-25 and Like 1:46-55

Mary’s story of perseverance: Find Your Hope

Sept 15. Romans 8: 26-28 and Acts 16: 22-35

Paul and Silas’s story of perseverance: Trust God’s Power

Sept 22 Romans 8:31-34 and Luke 19:1-10

Zacchaeus’ story of perseverance: Don’t be Afraid if Jesus wants YOU to change

Sept 29 Romans 8:35-39 and Luke 10:38-42

Martha’s sister’s story of perseverance: Keep your eyes on Jesus ( a faithful perspective)

Looking forward to learning with you,

Rev. Stefanie Muntzel

### The First Presbyterian Church of easton STRIVEs TO BE A VITAL AND ENGAGED CONGREGATION

### BY INCREASING OUR DEVOTION TO GOD,

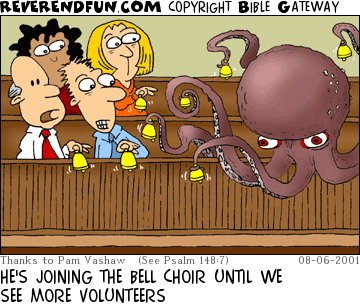
### OUR FELLOWSHIP WITH ONE ANOTHER,

### AND OUR OUTREACH TO ALL

### SO THAT WE MAY BE A WITNESS TO JESUS CHRIST

### IN OUR COMMUNITY AND WORLD.

First Presbyterian Church of Easton is a member of the [Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)](http://www.pcusa.org/) and of the [Lehigh Presbytery](http://lehighpresbytery.org/).

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Worship, 10:30am each Sunday Morning!

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF EASTON, 333 SPRING GARDEN STREET, EASTON, PA, 18042, UNITED STATES

Phone: 610-253-3579 Email: [OFFICE@EASTONFPC.ORG](mailto:office@eastonfpc.org) Website: <https://eastonfpc.org/>