



# Among Friends

MAY, 2023



## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR



Greetings all!

This was my newsletter many years ago. I enjoyed looking back and hope you will too.

A true story!!

Remembering Mom...

This happened several years ago. Mother's Day was rapidly approaching. I had purchased a gift for my mother—however; I told Frank that it would be really meaningful if he would pick out a gift for his mother. He agreed.

A few days before Mothers Day, Frank came home with the gift. He was beaming with pride as he showed me what he had bought. He said to me, "I thought this was really pretty, and I thought that Mom could hang this on her living room wall."

I tried really hard not to let Frank see me laugh. After all he did what I asked him to do. However, he could see that my reaction wasn't quite what he had expected. He asked, "What?" I said to him, "This really is pretty, but don't you think that it is premature?" He asked, "What do you mean?" So I took the beautiful flowered wreath and its stand out of the box and told him,

"Frank, this is a wreath for a grave!"

We put the wreath back in the box and I bought his mother another gift. Oh, by the way, I never asked Frank to buy his mother a Mothers' Day gift ever again!

This reminded me of a story I once heard. A four-year-old and a six-year-old presented their Mom with a house plant for Mother's Day. They had used their own money to buy the plant and she was thrilled. The older of them said with a sad face, "There was a bouquet that we wanted to give you at the flower shop. It was real pretty, but we didn't have enough money to buy it. We thought that it was just perfect for you, because on the ribbon it said, 'Rest in peace' and you are always telling us that all you really want is just a little peace!"

\*\*\*\*\*

Lessons we learned from Mother...  
My Mother taught me LOGIC:  
"If you fall off that swing and break neck, you can't go to the store with me."

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Pastor's Message
- 3 Online Worship Link
- Upcoming Events at FPC
- Look for the Sign
- 4 What's Happening at FPC
- Second Saturday Concert
- Sunday School Update
- 5 Mission Updates
- 6 Joys and Concerns
- 7 Just for Fun



**JUNE**

**Newsletter  
Deadline**

**MAY 24**

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

**A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR (Continued)**

More LOGIC: “If everyone else jumped off a cliff, would you do it too?”

My Mother taught me

MEDICINE: “If you don’t stop crossing your eyes, they’re going to stay that way.”

My Mother taught me TO

THINK AHEAD: “If you don’t pass your spelling test, you’ll never get a good job.”

My Mother taught me TO MEET

A CHALLENGE: “What were you thinking? Answer me when I’m talking to you...Don’t talk back to me!”

My Mother taught me HUMOR: “When that lawn mower cuts off your feet, don’t come running to me!”

My Mother taught me how to BECOME AN ADULT: “If you don’t eat your vegetables, you’ll never grow up.”

My Mother taught me about GENETICS: “You’re just like your father.”

My Mother taught me about my ROOTS: “Do you think you were born in a barn.”

My Mother taught me about the WISDOM OF AGE: “When you get to be my age, you will understand,” or “I will explain it to you when you are old enough!”

My Mother taught me about ANTICIPATION: “Just wait until your father gets home.”

My Mother taught me about RECEIVING: “You are going to get it when we get home.”

And the all-time favorite thing my mother taught me is

JUSTICE: “One day you will

have kids, and I hope they turn out just like you!”

*Author Unknown*

\*\*\*\*\*

**II Timothy 2:5: “I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.**

We live in a materialistic world that says, “If you love me, you will buy me ....” (you can fill in the blank). It seems that it is the only way we know how to show our love. As I read this scripture, I was reminded of what is really important. Irregardless of what the world says, scripture tells us something different. The most important gift a mother can give her child is an example of a godly life.

Notice I didn’t say a perfect life. For all of us mother’s that have failed at times and made mistakes (that includes all mothers, by the way) --if you gave or are giving your children an example of a godly mother, then you have made and are making a positive difference in your child’s life.

It is my wish that every mother has a blessed and wonderful Mother’s Day.

...Diane

\*\*\*\*\*

About a month ago, I made a resolution. Now that warmer weather is finally here, I decided to start walking in the hope of feeling better and shedding a few pounds. I figured a mile a day

would be a good place to start, then increase the distance over time. After one month, I am up to 2 miles...TOTAL. That’s it, I’ve only walked twice. I’ve gone through all of the excuses: I’m too busy, it’s too cold, it’s too wet, and I’ve even used the old standby; I’m just too tired today—I’ll begin again tomorrow!

Some people approach a Christian lifestyle like I approach (or avoid) exercising. We can use every excuse in the book to avoid commitment, but they are just that; excuses.

I know if I stay committed to walking, I will be a healthier person physically. I also know that if I stay committed to Christ, I’ll be a healthier person spiritually.

During the summer months it is so easy to be too busy for church, too busy to read God’s word and too busy to pray. Springtime, what better time to resolve to become the committed person God would have you be. Let’s all get healthier together!

...Diane

*My how time flies!!  
Maybe this is the year I’ll keep my resolution!!*

\*\*\*\*\*

I hope you enjoyed looking back.

In His love,

*Diane*





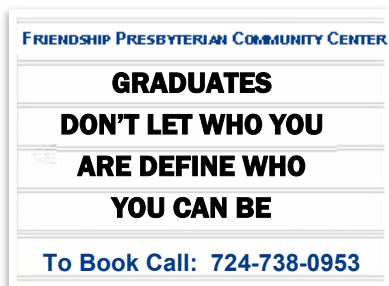
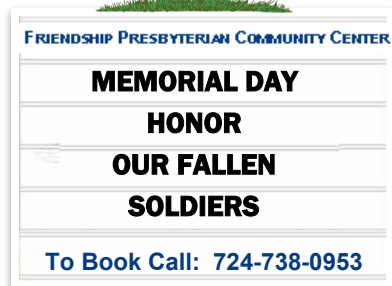
## UPCOMING EVENTS AT FPC



### LOOK FOR THE SIGN!

Submitted by Evelyn Vargo

When driving past the Community Center don't forget to watch for the signs of humor and encouragement.



- May 7**                      **Communion and Worship Service, 11:00 a.m., Sunday school at 9:45 a.m.,** Worship Center
- May 10**                     **FPC Presbyterian Women Meeting, 7:00 p.m.,** Community Center. Our Bible study will be on The Doldrums. We will discuss the final stages of the Blessing of the Bikes service. Hostesses for the evening will be Doris Allison and Ruth Keith. All women of the church are invited to attend.
- May 13**                     **SECOND SATURDAY CONCERT,** featuring Mike Kitski and his "dream band." Mike tells us rehearsals are sounding good and we are looking forward to an evening of their music. (More info on Page 4). Refreshments at 6:30 p.m., Concert at 7:00 p.m.
- May 14**                     **MOTHER'S DAY**  
**Worship Service, 11:00 a.m., Sunday school at 9:45 a.m.,** Worship Center.
- May 18**                     **ASCENSION DAY (HOLY THURSDAY)**
- May 19**                     **DINNER AND A MOVIE,** Community Center, Potluck dinner (bring your own table settings) at 6:00 p.m. followed by the movie "The Shack" at 7:00 p.m.
- May 21**                     **Worship Service and Blessing of the Bikes Service, 11:00 a.m., Sunday school at 9:45 a.m.,** Worship Center. Lunch will be provided after the service, please mark this date and plan to attend.
- May 28**                     **PENTECOST**  
**Worship Service, 11:00 a.m., Sunday school at 9:45 a.m.,** Worship Center
- May 29**                     **MEMORIAL DAY**

# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE SATURDAY CONCERT



On May 13, Mike Kitski will provide our **2nd Saturday Concert**. Mike is a singer/song-writer who will be performing a collection of faith-based songs as well and other selections. Mike writes, "I'm looking forward to this show and have put together my dream band including, Mary Kitchen on fiddle; Allen Kitchen on keyboards; Kevin Shanahan on bass; Matt Stanton on percussion and Chris Schroeder on cello. Practices have been sounding well!"

"I am a former bass player who in my later years wanted to continue music doing my own thing. My wife is my muse and after meeting her the songs began to flow. My songs run from faith based to love songs to dealing with the struggles of life. I've been writing my own songs and performing at open mics and such for over 8 years. I'm looking forward to sharing my songs along with some covers on the 13th and am grateful to you all for the opportunity. Enjoy"

Invite your friends and neighbors to what is sure to be a great concert. Church members are asked to bring snacks and desserts. Doors open at 6:30 for snacks, beverages, and fellowship. The concert begins

## SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

### ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Our May lessons highlight the birth of the early church with lessons from Acts 1, 2, 3, 8, and 9. We'll learn that Jesus instructs the disciples to wait for the empowering of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit comes at Pentecost and Peter demonstrates the Spirit's power by healing a lame man. In the fourth lesson, we'll read about the Spirit transporting Philip to the chariot of the Ethiopian and Jesus calling Ananias to minister to Saul. It was exciting times in the early church. All are welcome to participate in this time of Bible study, discussion and sharing at 9:45 a.m. every Sunday morning.

### YOUNG ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

The young adult Sunday school students will be studying how believers of many backgrounds form Christ's church after Pentecost. They will be challenged to live like these believers as they see examples of obedience and devotion to Jesus. The class meets each week at 9:45 a.m.



LOOKING  
AHEAD

Coming on June 10, a mix of music by the "Basement Band," featuring vocalist Sandy McConnell and guitarist Greg Vanderveen. Plan on joining us for the evening of music, fun, food, and fellowship!



## MISSIONS UPDATE

**FPC PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN CLOTHING DRIVE:** The FPC PW group has been gathering gently used clothing for the “Dress For Success” program for several years. This project has been discontinued due to difficulty in getting the clothing to Pittsburgh since the closing of the Butler facility.



The women are now ready to start a new drive for a thrift shop, “All Good Things,” in Grove City. The clothing we donate will be available at very reasonable prices to people in need of clothing. An added bonus is that this shop then distributes the money earned to local organizations, non-profits, etc., not just in Grove City but in the surrounding communities and counties.



**What's in your closet?**

The clothing drive will start immediately and will run year-round. Also, all clothing is welcomed, not just women's. Purses, jewelry, and shoes can also be donated. (The shop also sells home items, books, cds, and more) but we will limit our drive to clothing. Clothing must be clean, must not be wet or moldy and cannot have a cigarette odor.

Items to be donated should be placed in bags and left in the bin provided in the coat room where we collected before. Since the shop is close by, the clothing will be delivered there on a regular basis.



**THANK YOU** to all of those who participated in our very successful Church World Service “Blanket the World in Love” promotion. During February and March we collected **\$595.00** which placed **119** “hearts” on our blanket.

When difficult times happen, a kind and loving response can make all the difference. That’s why the CWS Blankets program was created—to give a kind, loving and tangible response to someone facing a difficult time, reminding them that they are not alone. Through the generosity of CWS partner organizations, congregations and individual supporters, our most vulnerable neighbors around the world can feel safe and keep warm.



On Easter Sunday and the following Sunday, we received **\$157.47** for the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. Your generosity is appreciated.

One Great Hour of Sharing is a special offering of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) that provides Presbyterians a way to share with our neighbors in need around the world by providing relief to those affected by natural disasters, providing food to the hungry, and helping to empower the poor and oppressed. It has been around for over 70 years.

# Prayer List



*“Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord.”  
James 5:16*

Anne D.  
April and Todd Bentley  
Bonnie of Georgia  
Christy Francine  
The Alben Family  
Leslie Alford  
The Allison Family  
Jane Allison  
Carly Atkisson  
Tammy Baker  
Zachary Barto  
Jan Bloom  
Candy Boulanger  
Kayla Brundige  
Tyler Burson  
Joanne Campbell  
Martie Cooper  
The Family of Phyllis Cooper  
Louise Corbett  
Jeff & Cindy Cross  
Heather Datt  
William Datt  
Jim Dickey  
Mark Doerr  
Blanche English

Jennifer Gilliland  
The Family of Greg Graham  
Donna Grossman  
Chris Hogg  
Timothy James  
Rev. & Mrs. Bill Jamieson  
Graham Larimore  
Landry Lawson  
Joe Lowers  
Amber Matteo  
Will McCoy  
Mary Messer  
Kevin Michael  
Willard Morse  
Randy Morgan  
David Parker  
Bernie Rihel  
Bill & Chris Schroeder  
Cindy Solman’s Mother & Sister  
George Sonnet & Family  
Joe Vivalo  
Seth Vogan  
Donna Walker  
Joan West (and her family)  
Michelle Whitehouse  
Megan Lind Zimmer (Joan West’s granddaughter.)

Woman from Michigan  
Our military at home & abroad  
Persecuted Christians around the world  
Alpha Omega Center  
Feed My Sheep Food Cupboard  
Beaver Butler Presbytery  
Cooperstown Church Family  
Friendship Church Family  
S. R. Community Nursery School  
Trevor Wood’s Ministry

All those who have been Impacted by COVID19.

All those impacted by mass shootings in the United States.

The people of Ukraine and Russia, their leaders, the world leaders and the world’s people.

## THE POWER OF (GOD’S) LIGHT

Do most people truly feel happier in spring? Is the light brighter, the sky bluer? Meteorologists say yes. The shorter, blue wavelengths of sunlight scatter more efficiently than long, red ones; as the sun rises higher in spring, the light passes through less atmosphere, making the sky appear bluer. Outdoor levels of light have proven as effective as Prozac to combat depression — and May is the sunniest month!

The Bible frequently uses light as a metaphor for God: “The Lord is my light and my salvation” (Psalm 27:1); “Let us walk in the light of the Lord” (Isaiah 2:5); “The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world” (John 1:9). Darkness isn’t bad; seeds sprout in dark soil, life begins in the dark womb, and darkness protected the Hebrews fleeing Pharaoh and the holy family fleeing Herod.

But light is one apt image for God because most of us know the joy, health and energy light brings. Both in spring and through faith in the God who enlightens all, may we “live as children of light” (Ephesians 5:8).



### BIRTHDAYS

Sandie Grosky, 5/8  
Tiffany Sybert, 5/26  
Gail Kreuzer, 5/27  
Jeremy Whitehouse, 5/31

### ANNIVERSARY

Jeff and Cindy Cross  
May 21



JUST FOR FUN

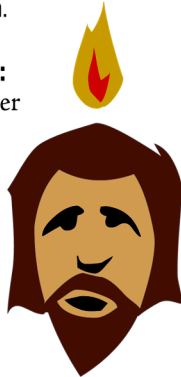


# Spirit SPINNER

For Pentecost, make a thaumatrope, a spinning toy that creates an optical illusion of motion.

**What you need:**

- White paper
- Cup
- Scissors
- Pencil and markers
- Plastic drinking straw
- Glue



**What you do:**

1. Using the cup's circular shape, trace two identical circles on the paper. Carefully cut them out.
2. In pencil, draw a person's head on one circle. Then place the blank circle on top and use the image beneath to guide you in drawing a flame above the head.
3. Color the two images with markers.
4. Apply glue to the backs of the circles and sandwich the top of the straw between them so it looks like a lollipop. Let dry.
5. Roll the straw quickly between your hands to view a mini motion picture.

# PUZZLE




## Wind, fire & spirit

Acts 2 describes the amazing events of Pentecost, when the apostles received the Holy Spirit.

*Directions: The last letter(s) of each word is the beginning letter of the next. Fill in the missing words to complete Acts 2:1-4, NIV.*

1. HEAV	6. OGETHE
2. ABLE	7. ES
3. AY OF PENTECOS	8. ONGUE
4. ONGUE	9. A
5. PIRI	10. IND



“When the \_\_\_\_\_ came, they were all \_\_\_\_\_ in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent \_\_\_\_\_ came from \_\_\_\_\_ and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They \_\_\_\_\_ what seemed to be \_\_\_\_\_ of fire that separated and came to \_\_\_\_\_ on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy \_\_\_\_\_ and began to speak in other \_\_\_\_\_ as the Spirit \_\_\_\_\_ them.”

**ACTS 2:1-4, NIV**

Answer: 1. heaven, 2. enabled, 3. day of Pentecost, 4. tongues, 5. Spirit, 6. together, 7. rest, 8. tongues, 9. saw, 10. wind

