



Among Friends

SEPTEMBER, 2023



A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR



Greetings:

It is hard to believe but it is September. I just love September. The hot and blistering days of summer are gone and the days are now warm and comfortable. And we all love comfort, don't we? We like comfortable shoes. We like comfortable pants. We like a comfy couch. And nothing beats a comfy bed. Yes, we all love comfort, but is that what God calls us to be?

God calls to be forgiving...even when the offense seems unforgivable to us. God calls us to be giving...even when we work hard to earn what we have. God calls us to be loving...even when other people show no love whatsoever. God calls us to show grace...even in a world that extends little or no grace at all. God calls us to be honest...even when there is little to no truth in this world. Are you getting the message here? God calls us to be holy...well, you know the rest! God calls us to be all of those things and more! However, not once in scripture do I see that God calls us to be comfortable.

The fact is this, we can't be any of the things God calls us to be...apart from God. And God doesn't want us to be comfortable, he wants us to be holy.

"Be holy because I am holy!"
Leviticus 11:44

When we become holy, we can forgive the unforgivable, we can be generous with our time and our money, we can love the unlovable, we can extend grace to others, and we can be

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SEPTEMBER

**Newsletter
Deadline**

SEPTEMBER 27

From Our Pastor's Desk (continued)

*Worship
With Us*



Don't forget your receipt!

JESUS PAID IT ALL	
SIN	PAID
SHAME	PAID
PAIN	PAID
PAST MISTAKES	PAID
REJECTION & LONELINESS	PAID
SLAVERY TO SIN	PAID
SPIRITUAL DEATH	PAID

AMOUNT DUE	0.00
CHANGE	0.00

Subtotal	0.00
GRAND TOTAL	0.00
***** 0000 XX/XX	
FOR THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH, BUT THE GIFT OF GOD IS ETERNAL LIFE IN CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD. ROMANS 6.23	

honest. We can be all of these things through the power of the Spirit.

*“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.”
Galatians 5:22*

*“Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.”
Galatians 5:25*

There it is folks; we can live a life of holiness when we keep in step with the Spirit.

We all like comfort, but God has called us to be more. May you keep in step with the Spirit not just in the month of September, but throughout your life!



Love
Joy
Peace
Patience
Kindness
Goodness
and
Faithfulness

In His service,
Diane

**Deadline for
OCTOBER
submission of
information is
SEPTEMBER 27**

Submit to:
Sue Datt via
“Snail Mail”
324 S. Main St.
Harrisville, PA 16038
E-mail:
suedatt70@gmail.com
Phone:
724-991-5863

A MESSAGE FROM OUR SESSION

At the July 10, 2023. meeting of the Friendship Session, Pastor Diane let the Session know of her intention to finish her current contract on December 31, 2023, but not renew for 2024. While members of the Session were sad to hear of her decision, we were also overflowing with gratitude for Diane's innumerable contributions to Friendship over the years, especially the love she has shared with the Congregation. The Session has already begun to search for our next pastor in collaboration with Presbytery. Until 2023 concludes, we plan to enjoy every moment we have remaining with Diane as Pastor!

The next meeting of the Friendship Session will be held on October 23, at 7:00 p.m., at the Community Center.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FPC?

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL:

The fall lessons have us explore the role of God's law as it relates to faith in Christ. September lessons come from the gospels to show Jesus contrasting empty acts of piety with performing the justice and love of God, interpreting what it means to honor the Sabbath, and showing that God is the one qualified to judge a sinner's failures. Lessons come from Luke 11 and 14 and John 7 and 8. All are welcome to join us for a time of Bible study, discussion and sharing.

The class meets at 9:45 a.m. every Sunday.

YOUNG ADULT SUNDAY

SCHOOL: The class will be studying the book of Proverbs. They will learn what God's Word has to say about the purpose and source of wisdom as well as how God's wisdom is the source of our values. They will also explore how to use God's wisdom in everyday life to make good choices.

We meet at 9:45 a.m. each week.

SEPTEMBER EVENTS AND SPECIAL DATES

SEPTEMBER 3	WORSHIP AND COMMUNION SERVICE Worship begins at 11:00 a.m., Sunday School (for all ages) begins at 9:45 a.m.
SEPTEMBER 4	LABOR DAY
SEPTEMBER 9	SECOND SATURDAY CONCERT featuring the return of NOBLE CAUSE (Tom and Barbara Noble) to our stage. (See Page 6 for more Information.) Refreshments start at 6:30 p.m. followed by the program at 7:00 p.m.
SEPTEMBER 10	WORSHIP SERVICE: Worship begins at 11:00 a.m., Sunday School (for all ages) begins at 9:45 a.m. LAST DAY TO COLLECT SCHOOL SUPPLIES. NATIONAL GRANDPARENTS DAY
SEPTEMBER 11	PATRIOT DAY
SEPTEMBER 13	FRIENDSHIP PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN will meet at 7:00 p.m., at the Community Center. The evening will include Bible Study, discussion, business matters and the packing of the school and health kits for shipment to World Church Service. Reminder: we will be studying Lesson 9.
SEPTEMBER 17	WORSHIP SERVICE: Worship begins at 11:00 a.m., Sunday School (for all ages) begins at 9:45 a.m.
SEPTEMBER 23	CLEANUP DAY for the Worship Center. We will begin at 10:00 a.m. <i>NOTE: If you are aware of a place where old hymnals and Bibles could be donated please let us know. We have a number of them and need to find a home for them.</i>
	FIRST DAY OF AUTUMN
SEPTEMBER 24	WORSHIP SERVICE: Worship begins at 11:00 a.m., Sunday School (for all ages) begins at 9:45 a.m.

MISSIONS

... across the street & around the world



Feed My Sheep Food Cupboard: The dessert items collected last month were delivered to the food cupboard. We will be collecting pasta and sauce until the end of September. Feed My Sheep Food Cupboard is very appreciative of anything that is donated.



All Good Things: Our clothing drive for **All Good Things** continues. Clothing in the vestibule will be delivered before the end of September. Items donated are sold at reasonable prices in the Grove City shop plus profits from the sales benefit area programs.



CHURCH WORLD SERVICE: Friendship Presbyterian Women are collecting items for school kits and completed hygiene kits to be distributed around the world. The school supplies and health kits will be collected until September 10 (Sunday) or can be brought to the FPW meeting on Wednesday, September 13.

SCHOOL KITS: Please check the sign-up sheets on the bulletin board in the vestibule. Some items are still needed.

HYGIENE KITS: Instructions for health kits are on the vestibule table and also due on the dates listed above.

ALSO NEEDED: Some medium sized cardboard boxes for shipping. Contact Ruth with any questions.

NOTE: Cash donations are also appreciated to help with shipping costs. Please give to Nancy Natili or Ruth Keith.



Operation Christmas Child is fast approaching. Watch for further information. *It's never too early to start packing a shoebox!*

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
Martie Cooper’s Brother
Louise Corbett
Jeff & Cindy Cross
Heather Datt
Jim Dickey
Mark Doerr
Harold Eichholtz.

Jennifer Gilliland
Donna Grossman
Chris Hogg
Timothy James
Rev. & Mrs. Bill Jamieson
Graham Larimore
Landry Lawson
Joe Lowers
Will McCoy
Kevin Michael
Willard Morse
Randy Morgan
David Parker
Bernie Rihel
Bill & Chris Schroeder
George Sonnet & Family
Jane Spencer
Joe Vivelo
Seth Vogan
The Family of Donna Walker
Joan West
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 of our students as they begin a new school year.

All those impacted by severe weather issues around the United States and around the world.

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

WHAT IS LAMENT?

The spiritual discipline of lament may not come naturally, and churches rarely teach it. Because we’re raised to stay silent if we can’t say something nice, passionately pouring out our sorrow just doesn’t seem right.

My opinion changed when I heard author Sharon Garlough Brown explain this spiritual practice from God’s perspective.

As parents can attest, toddlers have an innate ability to find foreign objects and put them in their mouths. Concerned parents bend down and coax the child to remove the toy, bottle top, coin or rock. “Spit it out.” “Let me have it.” “It’s not good for you to swallow that.”

As a concerned parent, God sees and knows what’s troubling us. He knows that this world’s woes and trials will hurt us if we keep them all inside. God, our good and gracious Father, wants us to passionately pour out our grief, so he bends down, looks us in the eyes, and says, “Spit it out.” “Let me have it.” “It’s not good for you to swallow that.”

Spend time with God, sharing your laments. God loves you and is faithful to listen well.

The Newsletter Newsletter
September 2023



SEPTEMBER



BIRTHDAYS

Isabella Vukson, 9/1
Marianna Crawford, 9/7
Anastacia Crawford, 9/10
Melanie Frampton, 9/11
Lilly Whitehouse, 9/16
Nicholas Frampton, 9/16
Donna Yanosy, 9/28

Happy Fall y'all

September 23

THE SATURDAY CONCERT

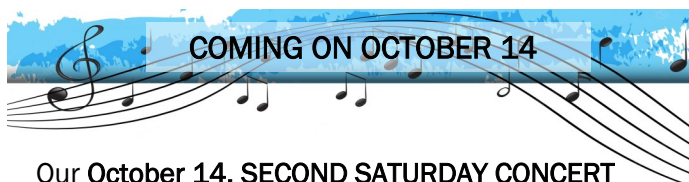
We welcome the return of **NOBLE CAUSE** (Jeff and Barb Noble) to our stage for our September 9, **Second Saturday Concert**.

They will present an uplifting program of gospel music as well as traditional and contemporary music. This is their second performance for us and we look forward to another inspirational and entertaining concert.



As always, refreshments start at 6:30 p.m. and the concert will begin promptly at 7:00 p.m. (Members are asked to bring along a dessert or snack to share.)

Attention Facebook users: please share with your friends the FB announcements that come out so we can broaden our reach.



Our **October 14, SECOND SATURDAY CONCERT** will feature the return of Tom and Gina Toth of **Humble Ministries**. Tom and Gina are dedicated to serving God's people and reaching out to the unbeliever. Their goal is to reach as many people as possible, to uplift spirits and heal the broken-hearted through a mix of Southern gospel, folk, hymns, original tunes, and fun participation songs.



LOOK FOR THE SIGN!

Submitted by Evelyn Vargo

When driving past the Community Center don't forget to look for the sign!



GOD'S HELPERS

God's providence is not in baskets lowered from the sky, but through the hands and hearts of those who love him. The lad without food and without shoes made the proper answer to the cruel-minded woman who asked, "But if God loved you wouldn't he send you food and shoes?" The boy replied, "God told someone, but [they] forgot."

—George Buttrick

JUST FOR FUN



SEARCHING FOR SILVER

Godly, biblical wisdom is more valuable than gold or silver. Make this do-it-yourself toy to practice your searching skills.

What you need:

- 12 small, smooth rocks
- An empty, clean egg carton
- Paintbrush
- Acrylic paint (gold or silver)
- Black permanent marker

What you do:

1. Clean the rocks and egg carton. Place newspaper on a table to protect it from paint.
2. Paint all sides of the rocks and carton. Let dry. Add a second coat, if desired.
3. When rocks are dry, number each rock (1-12) with marker. Place rocks in the carton.
4. Play hide-and-seek with a friend. Take turns hiding the rocks in a room, sandbox or backyard. Give clues, if needed, and count the rocks as they're returned.
5. Use your imagination to incorporate a treasure hunt into study time or family devotions.




PUZZLE

A PATH TO PRAYER

God's Word offers lots of insights about how to pray.

Directions: Use the code to fill in the blanks and complete a Bible passage about prayer.



R G S Z M P N B T L W
 V E V I B G R N V R
 I V N V N Y V I B L F
 R M Z O O N B
 K I Z B V I H U L I Z O O
 L U B L F R Z O D Z B H
 K I Z B D R G S Q L B
 K S R O R K K R Z M H

1:3-4, NIV

Answer: I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy. Philippians 1:3-4, NIV





FRIENDSHIP PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
877 Franklin Road
Slippery Rock, PA 16057



Submitted by Heather Datt