

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HOLLIDAYSBURG

*Welcoming all into the community of Christ.*

# Tower Light



This coming Sunday, October 6, is *World Communion Sunday*. Churches across denominations and around the globe will all be celebrating the Lord's Supper around tables near and far. It is a day to celebrate our unity in Christ. It is also a day to remember the work that Christ calls us to do.

We, at First Presbyterian Church of Hollidaysburg, have been inordinately blessed with a beautiful campus, helpful resources, and, most importantly, a beautiful, wondrous variety of people from so many different walks of life. There are gifts and talents around us that can move mountains. Of that, I am sure.

Whenever we share in Christ's Feast, we prepare ourselves by using a *Prayer of Great Thanksgiving*. Its form is the most ancient of all the liturgies we have in the Church. Though our Catholic, Orthodox, and Episcopal brethren use the same words nearly every week, we are given freedom to share words that speak to what is happening in our lives. Quite often the words come from where we are in the Church calendar. Sometimes they come from events occurring around us. And still other moments arise that require the faithful expression of our hearts' prayers.

In almost every version of this prayer, however, you will usually find these words towards the middle: *As this bread is Christ's body for us, send us out to be the body of Christ in the world*. This is the very center of what Communion means.

We believe that Christ is present in our midst when we celebrate this feast through the Holy Spirit. We also believe that the feast does not end when we finish partaking the elements. Instead, we believe that the Holy Spirit sends us out into the world, inspiring us to be the hands, the feet, the voice, the heart of Christ in the midst of a broken world.

There is much work to be done - many people are hurting from our own gates to the very ends of the earth. And there are many good and important organizations we support financially that continue that work in our name.

However, Christ said to do the work. To feed the hungry. To quench thirst. To cover the naked. To visit the sick and those in prison. To bring good news to the poor and forgive each others' debts. To bring sight to the blind. And most essential of all to love in all things.

So be the body of Christ. Every day. Every chance you can. And we will see the mountains that begin to move beneath our feet.

Blessings, Pastor Janie



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### Worship Services

Contemporary Service - 9:00 am  
Sanctuary Service - 10:15 am

*Communion will be served at both services on October 6th*

*Fellowship will follow the 9:00 am service the first Sunday of the month in the Gathering Space.*

### November Newsletter Deadline

October 21st

# NURTURING ONE ANOTHER



**JAM** Wednesdays @ 5:30 p.m.  
Smith Hall

Our JAM (Jesus and Me) program is a weekly dinner and fellowship opportunity for families in our community. Church members prepare a simple meal for the families to share together, which is followed by music, crafts, and games for the children (through Grade 6). Each week Pastor Janie will share a quick bible story to help us grow in our theme: *God Welcomes All*. And throughout the year, our children also participate in community service projects and various field trips.

**Grades 4-6**  
Library  
9:00 a.m.



**Grades 1-3**  
Sunshine Bible Room  
9:00 a.m.

**Preschool - Kindergarten**  
Nursery School Room  
Immediately following Children's Time  
in Second Service



Ever feel like people keep telling you bible stories and you have no idea what's happening? Do you have questions about your faith and God? Want to get to know your new pastor? Then **Youth Group** is for you!

Just about every Sunday we will gather outside Pastor Janie's office after Second Service and pick a restaurant at which to grab lunch, talk a bit, and have some fun. These meetings are for **teenagers only** (Grades 6-12) and we hope you'll come as you are. And be sure to keep your eye out for upcoming special events later this fall!

## Men's Prayer Breakfast 2nd Wednesday of the Month

Smith Hall  
7:00 a.m.

Join in a time of fellowship, conversation, and prayer with other men of faith as you share a simple breakfast together.

Contact Terry Goldstein for more information.

## Bible Study 3rd Monday of the Month

Norma McPhee's House  
7:00 p.m.

Lead by retired pastor Doug McGaffin, this monthly study is an opportunity for adults to grow together in God's written word. On October 21st we will be discussing chapter 10 of our book "If God has a Refrigerator Your Picture is on It". Contact Norma McPhee for more information.

## Calling ALL ADULTS...

Have you been looking for more opportunities to grow in your faith? Your Christian Education Committee is looking for new options in Adult Education to begin at the beginning of 2020. Keep an eye out for a very important survey (coming soon) so that you can give your input into what will feed your soul.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

## Advent Festival

Sunday, December 8  
4:00-6:00 p.m.



## Watch the seasons change!

Keep an eye on the liturgical calendar near the Chapel entrance to learn more about where we are in the Church year.

*Don't forget:* Advent is the first season in the Church calendar, so the New Year is just around the corner!

# TOGETHER IN WORSHIP

## Communion Sunday

Communion will be served on October 6th . We invite you to come as you are and lift up your hearts as we share in Christ's Feast around our family table.



## *Did you know?*

In preparation for *World Communion Sunday*, here are some important thoughts about the relationship between worship and culture from our Presbyterian Church (USA) constitution:

"Christian worship is contextual—emerging from a particular community and incorporating the words, images, symbols, and actions that best convey the good news of Jesus Christ in that gathering of God's people. It is also cross-cultural—reflecting the diversity of traditions and cultures within and beyond the community of faith. Christian worship is transcultural—proclaiming the universal message of God's grace in Jesus Christ and rooted in common elements of human life that transcend all cultures. It is also countercultural—asserting the scandal of the gospel and anticipating God's reign of righteousness, justice, and peace. Finally, faithful worship should be an intercultural event—fostering mutuality, dialogue, and equality among all people." (W-1.0304)



## Sanctuary Flowers

The Worship Committee is offering another option for the weekly memorials or honorariums listed in the bulletin. In lieu of ordering a fresh flower arrangement, a donation of *any* amount may be made to the church, and a silk arrangement will be placed in the Sanctuary for that Sunday. The donation will go towards the Abiding Memorial Fund, which helps to fund special projects in the church.

## Worship: Earth Care Goals

Conduct 1 service outside.

Have one sermon on earth care.

Plant trees for new members, baptisms, confirmations.

Hold 5 paperless services.

## Worship Leadership Schedule

### **October 6<sup>th</sup>**

Team 6 – Amy Williamson  
w/Lucy and Nora Stanek,  
Joe Carper and  
Kathy Caporuscio

Liturgist: Lucy Stanek

Acolyte: Nora Stanek

### **October 13<sup>th</sup>**

Team 7 – Lance and Bob Allen  
w/Gail Allen

Liturgist: Lily Chestney

Acolyte: Logan Burns

### **October 20<sup>th</sup>**

Team 8 – Doc Osgood  
w/John and Doris Dunkle,  
Dave Hollern

Liturgist: Lana Luke

Acolyte: Sam Chestney

### **October 27<sup>th</sup>**

Team 1 – Bruce and Connie Ross  
w/the McKee Family

Liturgist: Regan McKee

Acolyte: Sam Chestney

# TOGETHER IN FELLOWSHIP

## Fellowship Time

We gather for fellowship on the first Sunday each month between services. The Fellowship and Outreach Committee need your help to keep this important ministry going. We are looking for folks who would like to host. This is a great way to bless the congregation. You can bring a treat, help set-up, serve, or clean-up afterward. Sign up with a group or individually to join in this ministry of friendship. Contact the Church Office for more.



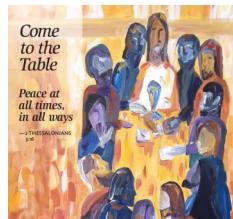
Many people in the church, as well as members of the Wednesday group, knit prayer shawls, baptismal blankets and graduation afghans for members of the church. If you enjoy knitting or crocheting, please feel free to join us Wednesdays at 3:30 p.m.

## Wednesday Knitting Group

**Tai Chi for health - Beginning Class** - sponsored by Blair Senior Services - Wednesdays from 10:30AM - 11:15AM, October 16 - December 11(except November 27.) Individuals age 60 and over, join us at the Blair Regional YMCA! The class is free and open to the public. Sign up at the Y. Please contact Amy Williamson with any questions!

## Blessed are the peacemakers... (Matthew 5:9)

On *World Communion Sunday*, we will have the opportunity to give to a special offering of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). This offering goes to support peace-making in our community, our region, and our world. From Guatemala to the Democratic Republic of the Congo to places within our own nation that face violence and trauma, the monies collected will support our mission partners who work daily to build peace, face down discrimination, and repair broken bodies and hearts who have suffered trauma.



**Please give generously to this essential part of Christ's ministry!**

*Christ has no body now but yours.*

*No hands, no feet on earth but yours.*

*Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world.*

*Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good.*

*Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world.*

*You are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body.*

*Christ has no body now on earth but yours.*

(Teresa of Avila, 1515-1582)

## Earth Care Committee

Don't trash AA, AAA, C, D, and 9V batteries. When they die, give them to Lois Beer, who will take them to the proper recycling facility.



Earth is the only livable planet known to us thus far, and God called *US* to be its caretakers. The Earth Care committee, now only three in number, welcomes any and all who wish to join in this effort. If interested, please talk to Gavin Williamson, our Chairperson; Jill Reigh, or Lois Beer

## Helping Around God's House

If you have a spare 20 minutes or so, consider stopping by the church to help with odd jobs:

⇒ A list is located on a poster board in the entryway of the Christian Education Building. Thanks so much!

## Fellowship & Outreach:

### Earth Care Goal

Be sure to recycle all paper, cardboard, plastic, and metal at FPC. And check with your township to take part in its' recycling program.

Help us find a special project that will serve our community by caring for our earth!

# CARING TOGETHER

## Ways to Contact Pastor Janie:

Come by the office on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays between 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

Call the church office (814.695.9019) and make an appointment for any week day, Monday through Thursday, between 9:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. She has a cozy office but also enjoys coffee, tea, lunch, and ice cream!

Check out her blogs at:

Church Newsletter Blog— [www.firstwelcomingall.blog](http://www.firstwelcomingall.blog)

Personal Blog— [www.evenbefore.blog](http://www.evenbefore.blog)

Text her at 314.283.7596.

Email her at [revjaniefpch@gmail.com](mailto:revjaniefpch@gmail.com).

### Congregational Care Letters

Be sure to always check the tables at the entrance to worship to sign the letters we send to our congregation members and extended families in need of our special prayers and love.

### Abiding Memorial Donations

Please consider the Abiding Memorial Fund when you are honoring someone with a gift.

August	
TITHES & OFFERINGS	<b>13,695.00</b>
EXPENSES	<b>19,722.00</b>
DEFICIT	<b>-6067.00</b>

August Attendance	Traditional	Contemporary	Total
8/4	35	48	83
8/11	51	53	104
8/18	35	43	78
8/25	28	52	80

## TOGETHER IN PRAYER

Hold in prayer our friends who are grieving, ill, injured, receiving treatment or in special need:

The Benton family, Jim Hines, Barbara Smith, Brad Smith, Melissa Diminick, Sarah Ocker, Trenton Hammond, Lisa Butler, Ailani Myers, Lynne Cipriani, Ralph Macek, James Winter, Joan Govan, Gary Greip, Elise Trimmer, Becky Beattie, Norma McPhee, Rev. Dave Vogan, Terri Heim, Robyn Porterfield, Zach, Casey and Avery Marie Wineland.

Also keep in your prayers our members and friends who are homebound and in area care facilities:

Steven Draskoczy, Jane Kennedy, Diane Stultz, Nancy Buchanan, Dee Kissell, Sue Dickman, Bob Green, Jere Hess, Ann Forsht, Nancy Kraybill and Reggie Arford.

Offer prayers for the global church, our missionaries and pastors, the leadership of the larger church.

# LEADING TOGETHER

Session Highlights from meeting September 16, 2019

1. Dave Hollern was the Deacon representative at the meeting.
2. Session approved the Building Use request, submitted by Carroll Osgood, for use by the Pennsylvania Prison Society, for monthly meetings.
3. Session approved Christmas Eve worship services for 4:30 pm and 11 pm.
4. Session approved the Advent Festival for Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>.
5. Session approved off-site JAM visits to Chimney Rocks, Veteran's home, Presbyterian home, and Maker Studio.
6. Pastor Janie and Chris Gardner will be "refreshing" the bulletin board outside of Chris' office.
7. Session approved 3 requests to use the sanctuary for upcoming concerts:
  - a. Academy of Sacred Music will be performing a Messiah sing on December 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - b. ABC (Altoona Brass Collective) will be performing a fall concert on October 13<sup>th</sup>.
  - c. ABC will be performing a Christmas concert on December 14<sup>th</sup>.
8. Administration will be posting jobs for nursery attendant and administrative assistant on Indeed.com, Facebook, Unemployment Office, and in the church bulletin.
9. Session approved the hiring of Terri Johnson, CPA, as Treasurer beginning 1/1/20.
10. Audit was conducted on August 27<sup>th</sup>.

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Deacon's Meeting Report from Tuesday, September 10, 2019

The Deacons thank Kim Van Buren for her dedication and service as Moderator.

Elections were held with Michelle Burger Nearhoof as Moderator. Vice-moderator: Jill Brubaker Reigh. Representative to Session – Michelle

Deacon Responsibilities were discussed with Pastor Janie. Of special note were Christmas decoration schedule that will continue in cooperation with Worship Committee.

Jill Brubaker Reigh will represent Deacons on Earth Care Committee.

Deacon Missions include ARW, PCUSA, Krislund Camp, Presbyterian Village, plus "Hands-on" projects within the congregation.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, October 8, 2019.



## COMMITTEES

If you have a question, need or suggestion, please connect with someone from the appropriate Committee. They will be happy to hear from you.

## WORSHIP

Julia Benton, Janet Hines, Steve and Sandy Nycum, Joe And Shannon Carper, Bonnie Ward, and Amy Williamson

## FELLOWSHIP AND OUTREACH

Scott Soisson (Chairperson), Michelle Burger, Kathy Lauf, Becky Piper, Jinni Wineland and Pat Wolf

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Katie Chestney (Chairperson), Becky Burns, Lois Beer, Terry Goldstein, Diane McLanahan, and Jenn Soisson

## ADMINISTRATION

Ray Overdorff (Co-Chair), Todd McKee (Co-Chair), Bob Allen, Linda Snider, Rick Pfeffer, and Sally Unger

## PROPERTY

Kitty Resko, (Chairperson), Brandon and Becky Burns, Barb Huff, Bruce Ross, George Wineland, and Dennis Zink

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## DEACONS

(responsible for Congregational Care & Mission)

Michelle Burger (Moderator), Kathy Caporuscio, Barb Evans, Molly Goldstein, Dave Hollern, Jill Reigh, and Connie Ross

# October 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 6:00pm Worship Committee 6:45pm Property Committee	2 3:30pm Knitting Group 5:30pm JAM 7:00pm Choir	3	4	5
6 9:00am *Worship *SS 1-6 Fellowship Hour 10:15am *Worship *SS Pre K,K Youth Group	7 Cello Boy Scouts	8 5:00pm Deacon's Committee 7:00pm Administration Committee	9 7:00am Men's Breakfast 3:30pm Knitting Group 5:30pm JAM 7:00pm Choir	10	11	12
13 9:00am *Worship *SS 1-6 10:15am *Worship *SS Pre K,K Youth Group	14 Cello Boy Scouts	15 6:00pm F & O Committee 7:00pm Session	16 3:30pm Knitting Group 5:30pm JAM 7:00pm Choir	17	18	19
20 9:00am *Worship *SS 1-6 10:15am *Worship *SS Pre K,K Youth Group	21 Cello Boy Scouts	22	23 3:30pm Knitting Group 5:30pm JAM 7:00pm Choir	24	25	26
27 9:00am *Worship *SS 1-6 10:15am *Worship *SS Pre K,K Youth Group	28 Cello Boy Scouts	29	30 3:30pm Knitting Group 5:30pm JAM 7:00pm Choir	31		

(814) 695-9019  
[www.firstpresbyhollidaysburg.org](http://www.firstpresbyhollidaysburg.org)  
[www.firstwelcomingall.blog](http://www.firstwelcomingall.blog)  
Facebook:  
[FirstPresbyterianHollidaysburg](#)

**MINISTERS**  
All members and friends of the congregation

**STAFF**

Rev. Janie McElwee-Smith  
Pastor

Chris Gardner  
Administrator/Treasurer

Walter Yatta  
Music Director

Newsletter: Barb Evans, Barb Garver,  
Carolyn Hamill, Barb Hoover, Connie  
Ross, Barb Evans and Linda Snider.



# 2019

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HOLLIDAYSBURG**

"Creating a community that welcomes everyone for worship, fellowship, spiritual nurture, and service, encouraging each person's unique gifts in sharing the peace of Christ."



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