

---

FEBRUARY 2019 PRESBY PRESS NEWSLETTER

---

*From the Pastor*

## ***Living in faith requires living out faith – and living for Jesus***

The God who is “the Ancient of Days” – and whose blessings are “new every morning” – has promised us this: “Behold, I am making all things new.” (*Revelation 21:5*) (with a parallel in *Isaiah 65:17*) (and *Isaiah 43:18-19*) (not to mention *Ephesians 2:15*) (although it certainly IS worth mentioning, as is *Hebrews 8:13*).

As February arrives, we are rolling – albeit somewhat slowly – into this new “program year.” Our start to 2019 included “snow outs” of our monthly congregational supper, we missed our January team meetings, and even stepped aside from one Sunday morning worship service.

Such a wintery January doesn’t always affect our congregational schedule the way it has this year. These uniquenesses DID though remind us of what a blessing it is to get together. We get a taste of what it is like for so many people whose health or employment or circumstance prevent them from going to Sunday worship. We can miss what we have taken for granted. We can pray for homeless neighbors and the programs and agencies which provide better places to sleep or warm up. We can pause and express gratitude to the snow plow operators and workers who brave subzero wind chills in order to enhance our lives.

Every day, every week, every forecast can become the opportunity to increase our awareness of God’s blessings, God’s compassion, and the human needs always surrounding us.

Such interruptions in our routine can certainly BE routine, the way weather can be in our area. Still, this congregation has good strengths, meaningful worship, and lots of people who step up to take part in activities, organize our events, and reach out with loving care to friends and strangers who face particular needs.

I encourage you to use February as a new beginning to delve deeper into faithful living. Our teams and ordained leaders will move us forward for good ministry and mission throughout the year ahead. It’s not just for the “organized bureaucracies” and coordinated programs. February – and every new month – opens doors for our decisions, commitments and priorities.

Weekends and weekdays, there are spiritual opportunities which can click with your style and personality. The processes of everything the church does is about forming people into a more Christ-like life. “Formation” is an apt word -- centered in God’s action, like the Master Potter who shapes us into a useful design.

Living in faith cannot be inward. More and more, the vibrant portions of Christian culture are being redirected away from the individual disciple and the inner life of a congregation. Our personal hearts and wishes, souls and preferences, minds and beliefs are indeed areas for growth. The emphasis, though, is outward. In God’s mission, living **in** faith requires each of us to **live out** our faith. We cannot **live in faith**, until our **faith is lived out**: encouraging one another, letting our words and tone and actions demonstrate our deepest convictions, and turning our lives inside out to share the good news God has given with the people “out there” who are ready to receive it now. Every one of us is being formed by the Lord. The more we cooperate with the ongoing, divine process, the more the Lord shapes us into pitchers which hold the refreshing water of cleansing and renewal. May that trans-form us to be the vessel where people who are hurting or needing hope can receive the refreshment which the Lord uniquely provides.

Let’s draw together to draw that Living Water for ourselves, and pour ourselves outward, to make this a happy, and faith-fostered, and Christ-honoring year!

I wish you Jesus’ Peace and Joy,

*Greg*

P.S.... My heartfelt thanks to the people of Edinboro Presbyterian, whose generosity at Christmastime was so amazing. I appreciate all the support – tangible and intangible – which you’ve shared at the holiday season and year-round!

## Part 2 of this series on faith habits

# Personal worship and practices for the Christian Life

We respond to God's grace both in public worship and service and in personal acts of devotion and discipleship.

In personal life we seek to live out our faith through daily disciplines of prayer, other practices of discipleship, household worship, and Christian vocation and service. Our lives as Christians are shaped by the Word and empowered by the Spirit as we grow more and more each day into the image of the Lord Jesus Christ.

### Sabbath-keeping

God commands us to remember the sabbath day and keep it holy. Sabbath is God's gift to us, a time for worship, rest, and renewal; keeping sabbath is a way of honoring the God who has created and redeemed us. Since the earliest days of the Church, Christians have observed God's commandment by gathering for public worship on the Lord's Day (or Sunday).

As the first day of the week, this day shapes our lives of discipleship. Therefore the Lord's Day is a time for

- participation in public worship;
- engagement in ministries of service,
- witness, and compassion; and
- activities of rest and recreation.

Those who work on Sunday are encouraged to find other ways to keep sabbath in the course of the week.

### Interaction with Scripture

Through the Scriptures we hear the voice of God and find meaning, direction, comfort, and challenge for our lives. Regular, disciplined engagement with the Bible may include:

- simply reading the Word,
- praying with Scripture,
- studying commentaries,
- singing songs based upon Bible texts,
- joining with others to study and reflect,

- memorizing key passages,
- using art (your own or others') and imagination to delve into the story, and
- putting the Word into action in our lives.

One should seek to read a wide range of Scripture, always relying on the illumination of the Spirit and the help of the community of faith in deepening our understanding.

### Self-offering

The disciplines of stewardship and self-offering are a grateful response to God's love for the world and self-giving in Jesus Christ. As Christians, we are called to lives of simplicity, generosity, hospitality, compassion, and care for creation. We are accountable to God for how we use our material goods, spiritual gifts, and time in God's service.

The practices of fasting and feasting are ancient expressions of lament and celebration.

### Vocation: Answering God's callings

We respond to God's grace through our Christian vocation. We are called to honor and serve God at all times and in all places: in our work and play, in our thought and action, and in our private and public engagements.

Such loving service is an act of gratitude for God's grace. As we honor and serve God in our daily life and labor, we worship God. Whatever our situation, we have opportunities each day to bear witness to the power of God at work within us.

-- Includes information from the "Directory for Worship" of the Presbyterian Church (USA)

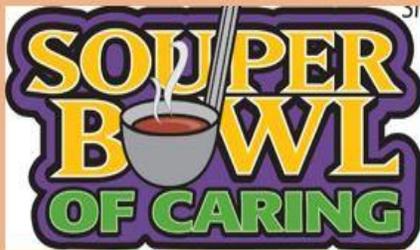
*Part 1 of this article was published in the January Presby Press. It included recommendations for prayer and home-based worship. Ask to receive a copy if you have not yet read it. Weekly segments are also posted on the congregation's Facebook page.*

## SOUP-er BOWL SUNDAY

### It started with one Presbyterian youth group, and now feeds hungry neighbors in 1000s of local communities

As people were preparing to feast upon the bountiful snacks and tailgate-style food and watch the Super Bowl, a Presbyterian pastor in South Carolina offered a prayer to remind people of those who didn't even have a bowl of soup to eat. That was 1990 and led to that congregation's youth group working with 21 other churches to raise \$5,700 to fight hunger locally.

In the years since, the "Souper Bowl of Caring" has grown nationally and internationally, and the day of the National Football League's championship showcase has become a huge effort to feed hungry people. It has drawn support from churches, communities groups, schools, NFL owners and U.S. presidents. Since its kickoff, the Souper Bowl has raised more than \$143 million, 100% of which stays in the local area where it was contributed. (Costs for the central national program are covered by separate individual and corporate donations.)



Sunday, February 3, 2019



11 am **Worship Collection**

12 noon **Soup Luncheon**

At First Presbyterian Church of Edinboro, the young people of this year's Confirmation Journey class have recommended that our contributions will go to the Edinboro Food Pantry, and our Mission Team eagerly supported that designation. Everyone who comes to worship on Sunday, February 3rd, is encouraged to bring a \$1 bill (or any amount) to give to the effort.

As has been done here in previous years, there also will be a simple soup luncheon after worship that day. People are invited to contribute what you would pay for a meal out, although the meal is officially free to everyone. There also will be "tip jars" where you can match a generous percentage of what you might spent on snacks as you watch a football game on television.

**Pastor:** Rev. Greg Gillispie

**Music Director:** Mr. Mark Brice

**Accompanist:** Mrs. Gena Shirley

**Bell Choir Director:** Mr. Randy Mehlenbacher

**Financial Secretary:** Mrs. Sue Walker

**Secretary:** Mrs. Karen Dore'

**Treasurer:** Mr. Tom Hover

**Custodian:** Mr. Art Crawford

**Sunday Worship Service:** 11AM

**Sunday School:** Sunday mornings, 11:15AM

**Bell Practice:** Mon. at 7:30PM

**Choir Practice:** Wed. 7:30PM & Sun. 10:40AM

**Church Office Hours:** Mon.-Thurs., 9AM – 3PM

February's Mission of the Month

**EDINBORO FOOD PANTRY**

Collection will be the  
2nd Sunday of February.



Donations  
can be  
made the  
entire  
month.

February 10 during 11am worship

## Annual meeting brings celebration of 2018 mission and ministries

Our elders have scheduled our annual congregational meeting for Sunday, February 10, in conjunction with the 11:00 a.m. worship service. This will be a time to highlight a variety of the mission and ministries which the Lord inspired throughout what we did during 2018.

While this technically is a business meeting, there is no official voting on this year's docket. Instead, we will use that time to recall the ways in which First United Presbyterian had a fruitful year. The time will truly be worship and thanksgiving. Meetings of the congregation are open to everyone, whether you are an active member or a friend/participant with this church.

Staff members and ministry team leaders have contributed written reports to a printed booklet with further details. That annual report will be distributed in paper form and electronically.

If you have questions about the annual meeting, be in contact with Pastor Greg or a member of our session. ("Session" is the Presbyterian term for our council of elders.)



The poster features a central white speech bubble on a yellow background. At the top of the bubble is a circular logo for 'GARDEN OF EDIN' with illustrations of a red pepper, a daisy, and carrots. The main text in the bubble reads: 'GROUNDHOG DAY PANCAKE BREAKFAST' in large brown letters, followed by 'To benefit the Garden of Edin Community Garden' in orange, 'Saturday, Feb. 2nd, 9am - 1pm' in orange, 'First United Presbyterian Church' and '4218 Rt 6N in Edinboro' in smaller orange text, 'Pancakes, sausage, home-made applesauce, juice, coffee & tea' in blue, '\$7 Adult plate | \$3.50 Child plate' in blue, and 'Come pick up an application for a garden bed!' in blue. Below the bubble is a cartoon groundhog with two speech bubbles: 'Hurry Hill Maple Syrup' on the left and 'Live Music' on the right.

---

### YOGA CLASSES!

Beginner Yoga from 6:00-7:00PM, continues on Monday evenings until February 18 in Fellowship Hall.  
Chair Yoga from 4:30-5:15PM continues until February 19 in the Youth Room. Certified instructor, Janet Stachowiak leads poses encouraging strength, flexibility and relaxation. A donation of \$5 per session is suggested. Yoga mats are available. Please use the Church back door to enter Fellowship Hall. All are welcome!

---

### Kids Day!!

Sat., Feb. 9<sup>th</sup>, from 1-4p.m., Our Lake of the Lake Church. For all children ages 3 to 10. Lots of fun & activities including: reading circle, cupcake decorating, crafts, photo booth, fishing pond, magic tricks and Chinese auction for the grownups. Chance to win an 18" boys or girls bike. Sponsored by Kiwanis Club in Edinboro. Questions? Call 734-1215.



**Becky Aiken**

**Isabelle Anderson**

(Friend of Wanita Kennedy)

**Beth Andrews**

(Friend of Marilee)

**Cheryl Andrews**

**Judy Baer**

(Daughter of Art & Harriet  
Smaltz)

**Shari Bufalino**

**Diane Beusch**

(Sister In-law of Sue Payne)

**Taylor Bowen**

(Friend of Gail Dylewski)

**Tammy Bower**

(Co-worker of Shari Gould)

**Emma Burkell**

**Sam Cain**

(Friend of Makayla Jay)

**Alice Carnes**

**Carolyn Crawford**

**Karen Culver**

(Sister of Lorraine Hayes)

**Seth Davis**

(Niece's husband of  
Gail & Bob Dylewski)

**Ethan Dietz**

**Everitt Dershem**

**John Duvall**

(Brother-in-law of Wanita  
Kennedy)

**Gail Dylewski**

**Jeanne Edwards**

(Friends of Kraus family)

**Bob Farmer**

(Friend of Kraus family)

**Carrie Fiske**

(Niece of Becky Veith)

**Michelle Gaines**

**Gail Giacomelli**

(Secretary/ Elmwood Ch)

**Joye Gillispie**

**Ruth Hazlett**

(Sister of Sue Payne)

**Becky Hover**

**Randy Hunsberger**

(Friend of Pete Kraus)

**Todd Jay**

**Cindy Jenkins**

(Niece of Sue Walker)

**Dennis & Mary Johnson**

**Betty Jolly**

(Friend of Dorothy Iovino)

**David Kushner**

**John Kutz**

**Betty Lewis**

**Anna Leeds**

(Granddaughter of John &  
JoAnn Austin)

**Savannah Lyons**

(Friend of Joanne Pavolko)

**Paul Martinson**

**Joanne McDonald**

(friend/neighbor of Cliff & Joni  
Cox)

**Christine McGee**

(Cousin of Doug Roberts)

**Shirley McKay**

**Francy McLallen**

(Friend of Lorraine Hayes)

**Kelcey Meeker**

(Niece of Mike & Becky  
Meeker)

**James Moyer**

**Julie Osborn**

(Sister of Bob Dylewski)

**Mirana Ormsy**

(Granddaughter of Art &  
Harriet Smaltz)

**Sue Pesta**

(Mother of Sandy Fiscus)

**Nelson & Evelyn Porter**

(Friends of Ed & Sue Payne)

**Pat Ptasick**

(Friend of Marilee)

**Sue Ralph**

(Friend of Marilee)

**Jenny Rene**

(Friend of Lorraine Hayes)

**David Roberts**

**Eileen Roberts**

(Mother of Doug)

**Michelle Ruland**

(Friend of Sue Walker)

**Sue Schweichler**

(Friend of Pauline Kraus)

**Katie Staynoff**

**Carol Stein**

(Friend of Joanne Pavolko)

**Karen Teed**

**Perry Thomas**

**Ian Welden**

(Nephew of Pete Kraus)

**Phyllis Welden**

(Sister of Pete Kraus)

**Art Williams**

**Joyce Woods**

**Jim & Carol Zeart**

(Brother-in-law of Jan)

**Our Military & Their**

**Families:**

**Brent Carlson** (nephew of Jan)

**Jheri Davis** (US Air Force  
Whiteman, AFB Missouri)

---

Our Church Mission Team had a request for special prayer for several children in Belize. The writer was Shermaine Post, Missionary and wife of Pr. Stephen (Padre) Post. - *Jamie Tracy, Susie Westby, Whitney Garbutt, Denzel Garbutt and little Stephanie Logan, Good Shepherd Mission in Belize.* The letter states that "these small children have very immediate, urgent needs that only God can help with."

---

Each monthly newsletter we list family members & friends who have been asked to be included in our prayers. On a rotation system we list the same names in our Sunday bulletins. When a person has been on the list for more than a year, we remove that name, unless we are asked to have prayers continued. Please help update this list when new or renewed concerns arise as God answers our prayers

---

## “FIRST WEDNESDAY DINNER”

The first Wednesday supper of the month, will be held on **FEBRUARY 6**. We invite the entire Congregation to attend Dinner" at 6:00 PM. RSVP & monetary donations appreciated for dinner - but not necessary! To RSVP you may either email or phone the church office. All Ages are welcomed!

We encourage you to stay for a Team Meeting at 6:30. Teams Meeting are Children & Youth Ministry, Mission, Fellowship, Facilities, & Worship. For more information contact the church office.

---

## Take part in shaping our new year – help with one of our ministry teams

The work and life of this congregation is shaped by the creativity and efforts of our ministry teams. As the new year begins, we seek people of all ages from throughout the congregation to participate with these teams. This could take the form of being a member of a team throughout the year, or you could simply drop in a time or two to make a suggestion, ask a question, or offer to help with a single project.

There are opportunities for you on each of these teams:

Property	Adult Ministries
Worship & Music	Planning & Future Discernment
Children and Youth Ministries	Worship & Music
Stewardship (telling our stories)	Finance & Personnel

Many teams hold meetings at 6:30 on the first Wednesday of most months, right after our First Wednesday Dinners. Some will hold “check-in” meetings shortly after Sunday worship. Speak with Pastor Greg, clerk of session Jan Zeart or Karen Dore’ in the church office if you’d like to find out more or share an idea with one of these teams.

## GRIEF-SHARE: Workshops, personal guidance, and a support group

Anyone who has experienced the death of a spouse, child, family member or friend can find help and encouragement from a program and support group which meets weekly in Edinboro. The national “Grief-Share” process has a network of 12,000+ congregations.

Meetings are led by individuals who have experienced their own personal grief, as well as using video seminars, gently encouraging conversation, and an individualized workbook. The local gatherings happen Mondays at noon and Mondays at 6:30 p.m. Visit with Pastor Greg Gillispie to find out more, or directly contact group leaders Carrie Piccinini or Roger Scarlett at (814) 734-1907.



### "Cookies For The Troops"

An additional volunteer is needed to join the current 7 bakers who make 4 dozen cookies per month to send to our deployed troops. Please contact Marilee Wnek (323-6372) or Karen Dore (734-3511) if you would like to join this heartwarming and supportive ministry.



### Birthdays in February....

1-J.B. Williams	12-Jennifer Berger
1-Kevin Walker	12-Greg Dore'
3-Carolyn Crawford	14-Bob Aiken
3-Paul Martinson	19-Anna Williams
4-Stacey Hayes	19-Maeve Scarpitti
5-Luke Bennett-5th	20-Joanne Pavolko
6-Kim Koricich	25-Jessie Johnson
6-Julie Insana	25-Jeff Kushner
8-Libby Dore'	
10-Adam Dore'	
11-John Streiff	
11-Tiffany Kushner	



### Anniversary....

15-Art & Winnie Williams

## Do you think you need a “new” New Year Star?

Each Epiphany, at the beginning of each calendar year, Pastor Greg distributes cards with the picture of a star and a Biblical word or phrase which can be a spiritual devotional exercise for you throughout the year. Those may appear to be distributed randomly, but there is intentional prayer that each person receive a star which matches them on this stage of their life journey.

However, because the word you got in January may not feel like the right fit, there is a second-chance opportunity around Ground Hog’s Day. If you gave your New Year Word a good effort, but haven’t found it to be significantly meaningful, you may draw a new card from a basket near the sanctuary entrances this month. (If your January card has proven helpful, or still holds out promise, just stay with it.)

Place the card in a prominent place where you can consider it on a regular basis. Look up not only the one Bible verse listed on the card, but search for other places in scripture where your word appears. Ask others to help you discover how that word is a trait you have (or can work to build up) or how it describes some aspect of God which can inspire you throughout 2019.



## Register soon for the SUMMER YOUTH CONFERENCES.

### *Presbyterian Youth Triennium: High School*

The 2019 Presbyterian Youth Triennium is held every three years for high school age students. Thousands of youth (including dozens of international delegates) come together for this life changing, life giving, and faith growing gathering! Five days that helps grow a younger generation of active. Ask Pastor Greg if you have any questions. PYT is open for rising 9th graders through completed 12th graders. It happens July 16-20 on the campus of Purdue University.



### *Montreat Middle School Conference:*

The Montreat Youth Conferences have been providing a space for young people to explore faith, build relationships with other young people from across the country, and strengthen their home faith communities for decades. The Montreat Middle School Conference is held at Maryville College in Maryville, TN. Our presbytery delegation will attend July 17-21, with travel days on the 16th and 22nd. The Middle School Conference is open to rising 6th graders through rising 9th graders.) (Those now in 8th grade are eligible to either Montreat Middle or Presbyterian Youth Triennium, which is also that week.)



Pastor Greg has been a small group leader at several previous conferences, and strongly encourages our young people to take part. Ask him if you have any questions. Registration happens this month, so don’t wait to find out more. See the posts and links on the EdinboroPresby Facebook page for more details and preview videos.

### **Mission Statement**

First United Presbyterian Church of Edinboro, Pennsylvania

*As children of God*, we worship to renew our faith through the Word, prayer, music, and fellowship.

*As followers of Jesus*, we serve our neighbors with compassion, offering hope and healing.

*As heirs of the Holy Spirit*, we invite and welcome all with love to enjoy God’s grace.