



Newsletter Update

November 5 - 18, 2021



You get an extra hour during the first weekend of November, when Daylight Saving Time ends.

On Saturday evening reset your clocks to one hour earlier (one number smaller).

Then, you will be ready for worship and your other scheduled activities on Sunday, November 7.

Thanksgiving Potluck at FUPC is November 21

“Deck The Halls” : please stay to help decorate for Advent and Christmas

The Sunday before Thanksgiving Day will be an occasion for the people of Edinboro Presbyterian to gather for a meal, enjoy each other’s company, and celebrate the spiritual reason for this week of gratitude to God – for the harvests and for so many other blessings. Join us for this fun lunch on Sunday, November 21. It begins at noon, following our 11:00 sanctuary worship.

Our wonderful Fellowship Team will provide the main dish (turkey!) and dessert. Those who attend are asked to bring a side dish to share. If you can help a bit with the set-up, the serving or the clean-up, our deacons will appreciate this help.

This is a modified version of our annual tradition. We hope you will choose to join with us.

That same afternoon, we also will have our decorating day to set up the sanctuary and the outside of the building for Advent and Christmas. In past years, we did this with a special Wednesday night meal and work session, but we are experimenting with the Sunday afternoon schedule to allow more people flexibility to participate. (If you have ideas for the seasonal decorating or would like to help but are not available November 21, let the church office know. You can pick your better schedule to carry out a part of this shared project.)

Congregational meeting on November 21 includes officer elections

FUPC will hold a congregational business meeting at **10:55 a.m.** on **November 21**. This will include our annual election of ordained officers. The nominating committee will present its report on its candidates for our next set of elders and deacons. One-third of each of those two leadership councils are elected or reelected each year. Elders carry out ministries of leadership and governance as shepherds of the congregation. Deacons lead and teach us in ministries of prayer, mission and compassion.

We also are expected to conduct the annual review of the “terms of call” (financial arrangements and shared expectations) with the installed pastor. The session will present its recommendation. The full docket will be publicized during the week before the meeting. Questions can be referred through Clerk of Session Jan Zeart.

From the Pastor #2 : Ways to share our faith stories

Being the church means being active in outreach

How we share our faith can be skewed by our own uncomfortable experiences with well-meaning followers of Jesus Christ whose methods ended up working against their evangelism goal. Hollywood hasn't done many favors for faithful followers either, with too many movies and TV shows playing up unhelpful stereotypes of people of faith. Therefore, some of us presume that we will fight an uphill battle in talking about personal experiences and spiritual truths with other people. Actually, some of our friends and other potential listeners are actually *eager* to hear some truth and some hope and some perspectives that actually “work” in real life.

Faith sharing can also be difficult for church members who feel inadequate in their Biblical or theological knowledge. You may ask “If I have my own doubts or don't have my act together, how can I be an effective witness to someone else?” There are also a lot of us whose God-given personality leans more toward introversion or shyness or being socially reserved.

There is absolutely not a single one-size-fits-all faith declaration which works for everyone inside the church – let alone for everybody currently outside the church. We see that when we do a profession of faith in our gathered and online worship services. Most of us have the Apostles' Creed memorized (which by the way is a pretty good summary, as a starting point for any conversations you have regarding God and faith and church). However, those few lines don't say everything that is important: *What about Jesus' earthly ministry? Tell us more about God's interaction with people and nations from century to century? What is the Lord's calling to followers regarding charity and forgiveness and righteousness?* This is why our formal documents and our week-to-week worship also includes the Nicene Creed and the Barmen Declaration and PC(USA) professions from the 1960s and 1990s. Sometimes our creed is direct from Scripture, using one of the ancient (but timeless) Biblical hymns or prayers or poems.

The only requirement to become a member of a Presbyterian congregation is to faithfully answer the simple question “Who is your Lord and Savior?” After that though, when we answer “Jesus Christ”, that same question becomes profound as we invest the rest of our lives exploring that personal profession: *Who is this Jesus? Who is this Jesus to me? How and why has Jesus saved me? How then shall I live? What does it mean day by day to have a Lord?*

Just as there is no “best” statement of faith, there is no one “best” way to do evangelization. Personally, I think baking up your personalized recipe for faith sharing probably includes ingredients like **authenticity** and **attentiveness to the other**. This outreach may take many forms, and probably will find its best success with people with whom we already have some kind of established relationship. Stranger Evangelism can work, but most often the more positive results come through Friendship Evangelization. Slow, steady, attentive outreach.

Many of us don't consider ourselves storytellers, or for that matter, having a story worth telling, but nothing could be further from the truth. We carry within our hearts and souls compelling stories, and it is in the telling of these stories and describing where, when, and how we came to know Jesus. Each of us is a product of an amazing God-With-Us journey and we bring that to the ways we can lead our lives. Lifestyle Evangelization might be an even better mode for many of us.

Some of us will be able to give our stories in a traditional method of outreach. Others are equipped better to be attentive listeners (including to unspoken communication) for people who might be ready – not to join a church but to delve further into a relationship with Jesus. Some “evangelists” in the “pews” don't use words but actions – stepping into social righteousness or charitable works or demonstrating hope or patience or joy that will be magnetic to some other folks who would love to have any of those traits in their own lives and families.

The Bible tells us to be ready to give our story of the hope that is in us. A few of us have stories that are neat and tidy, but our more-rocky, less-perfect stories often are more compelling to people whose own lives are rocky and less than perfect.

The church – not just a given congregation, but the full total church of Jesus Christ – was created for the benefits it gives to those who are already part of the assembly. No doubt whatsoever. Yet those of us who know and experience such benefits have the privilege (not primarily an obligation, but a privilege) to demonstrate whether other hungry people can find satisfying bread. We who are thirsting lose nothing but gain so much when our words and our actions help other parched people to find the refreshment that comes when a person gets connected to Christ.

Wishing you Jesus' Peace and Joy,

Greg

further
reading

In [Part One](#) on this theme of Faith Sharing, Pastor Greg explained why he prefers the word “evangelization” to “evangelism”. He also delved further into how essential outward facing mission is to the church’s identity and purpose. Read that column in the October 15 FUPC Newsletter – in your mail or e-mail, on our website, or ask for a copy to be sent to you.

P.S. I offer a special thanks to the folks who include a special “Pastor Appreciation Month” cake with our recent Spuds ‘N’ Suds luncheon. I appreciate that “appreciative” act. I also appreciate the people of this congregation. Such gratitude works both directions! -- GG

Mission of the Month

We reach out to buy gifts for local kids in November

Our November “Mission of the Month” will be to provide Christmas gifts through two outreach programs. We have partnered for many years with other local congregations and the Edinboro Kiwanis Club to purchase gifts for children and teens whose families are served by the Edinboro Food Pantry. We at FUPC also provide requested gifts to young people through the Hermitage House.

When the gift tags (describing the items, sizes, etc.) arrive, they will be available for you and your family to pick up. Instructions and time frames for returning what you buy will be shown on the gift lists.

Thanks for helping some of our neighbors enjoy Thanksgiving

Our October Mission successfully gathered the groceries needed to help more than two dozen local families to fix a traditional, home-cooked Thanksgiving dinner. Dry goods and canned items will be distributed through the food pantry, with refrigerated grocery items added at that time. *Thank you for your generosity!*



Gratitude & Stewardship

Thank you for sending in your 2022 Estimate of Giving

Dear Friend,

I want to thank you for your faithfulness and continued support of the mission and operation of the First United Presbyterian Church of Edinboro. Your gifts of time, talent and treasure help further the mission of our church and give glory to God.

The chill in the air reminds us that the end of the year is just around the corner. It's that time of year again when we start to wind down a little before the holiday rush. We look back on this year and forward to the next. It's the in between time of reflection; and during this time of reflection, I ask you to consider how you would like to share your gifts with our congregation for the next year.

The past couple of years have given us much to reflect on. We all have faced some unique challenges; between the pandemic, economic issues, and political climate, the world seems to be more confusing than ever.

These challenges have also led us to become more creative in the ways that we are the church. We have done our best to stay connected and faithful. Restrictions limited our ability be in person. Cards, letters, and phone calls have become fashionable again. Worship over the internet helped us to continue our congregational life. And as soon as we were able, we began to meet in person again; masked and socially distanced, but together.

We all know that the challenges will continue. The economy is still struggling. We are experiencing sizeable price increases in every aspect of life; most notably at the gas pumps and we know that increases in utilities and food will continue.

Even in the face of increasing cost, remaining faithful to our mission and responsible to our church the finance committee is keeping the budget flat for this year and are looking for any cost saving opportunities.

Between now and November 14th when we will dedicate our gifts, I ask you to prayerfully consider how you want to express your continued faithfulness and support to Edinboro Presbyterian Church.

Your commitment to our stewardship campaign is an essential gift helps to grow our faith and to share the word of the gospel to the world.

In Grace and Peace,

Pauline Kraus
Stewardship Chair

*NOTE: Your **Estimate of Giving** for 2022 may be hand-delivered or mailed to the church office. These cards are confidentially handled by financial secretary Sue Walker. The totals of these estimates are then shared with our ordained leadership so that we can make responsible, faithful plans for our mission and ministry in the year ahead.*

Remembering our saints, on ALL SAINTS Day

Sainthood, in our theological understanding, is a status which the Lord places upon all of God's people. Sure, there are a handful of "superstars" of the faith who are referred to with a special honorific: for example, Saint Peter, Saint Teresa of Calcutta, Saint Paul, Saint Augustine, Saint Joan of Arc and Saint Nicholas.

Still, Scripture itself reminds us that sainthood does not mark an exclusive and limited club. Bible writers frequently refer to all the people in God's assembly as saints – "greet all the saints there at (town)" and "remember me to all the saints in Christ Jesus." Our music expresses this theological truth too: "When the saints go marching in" is a preview of the grand parade of all who have been redeemed who will enter the Lord's full presence in glory. (*"Oh, how I want to be in that number!"*)

This is not to demean the major examples of faith who are more familiarly known as Saint _____. This does remind us too that all of those claimed by Jesus Christ are designated as true saints. "Saint" is a title that both describes us in our grace-infused eternal status -- and it simultaneously gives us something to shoot for, a more saintly and devout life of piety and service.

November 1st each year is All Saints Day. In this first week of November annually is another opportunity for Jesus' followers to give thanks for the saints in our lives, those still among us and those who have departed for heaven. We remember their lives – and their influences on us. We also can celebrate that even when mortal lives end, God's chosen saints have a new and everlasting life. All Saints Day also gives us the opportunity to contemplate and celebrate the power of Jesus' own resurrection.

Here at FUPC, we remember the saints of our lives, those who recently entered the Church Triumphant. That roll call happened in the sanctuary last Sunday, and those saints will also be recalled during our Worship *Online* which will be posted on our congregational website

Richard Billings (Friend of this congregation)

Carolyn Crawford (Wife of Art Crawford, Mother and Grandmother of the Mehlenbacher Family)

Neil Cohen (Cousin of Sue Johnson)

Joyce E. Scheidemantle Dunkle
(Sister of Jane Lloyd)

Judi Glunt (Friend of this congregation)

Anthony Honeycutt
(Father & Grandfather of the Honeycutt Family)

John Jones (Brother of Cara Frick)

Dan Knickerbocker (Cousin of Sue Walker)

Buddy Leonardi (Friend of many in this congregation)

Abel Lucjanczk (Friend of Ryan and Adam Kraus)

David Middleborough (Cousin of Dale Johnson)

Nelson Smith (Former member of this congregation)

Edie VanBockern (Friend of this congregation)

Please put these FUPC events on your November and December calendars

Sun Nov 7 Sacrament of Communion ... 11:00 sanctuary, at homes any day by appointment

Sun Nov 21 "Deck The Halls" Luncheon ... 12:00 noon

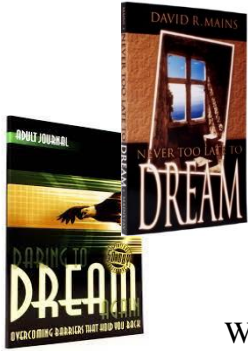
Wed Dec 1 Deadline to order poinsettias for the sanctuary ... \$10 each

Sun Dec 12 Christmas Caroling ... late afternoon/evening

Fri Dec 24 Christmas Eve worship

Watch for further details and updates Look for our weekly mailings and e-mails, and twice-a-month newsletters.





Daring to Dream Again Bible Adventure

We were not able to arrange a workable consensus schedule for group meetings for the Bible Study based on “Daring to Dream Again: *Overcoming Barriers That Hold You Back*”. However, FUPC is making the journal/devotional available to our congregation’s members and friends for a personal study for these last two months of the year. Ask for your copy of the book, or follow this simplified outline of the more-detailed process you will find in the book.

While this schedule is suggested for you, you can stretch the daily and weekly study to match your pattern. (This calendar leaves Thanksgiving Week unscheduled. The 50-Day Adventure book intentionally leaves Saturdays free as a possible catch-up day.) There is an optional Guidebook which can be ordered as well. **“Never Too Late to Dream”** was written by Bible scholar and radio pastor David Mains.

We will look to launch a new local Bible Study (traditional/virtual/hybrid) for teens and adults after the start of the new year.

Week	Bible Passage	Weekly Focus	Positive Action Step
1 11/07	Judges 6: 11-24	Let God heal your painful past	Take on a healthy new identity
2 11/14	1 Samuel 24: 1-15	Discover God’s present involvement in your life	Go on a daily “God Hunt”
3 11/28	John 12: 1-6	Establish godly goals for your future	Set a few specific godly goals.
4 12/05	1 Samuel 1: 1-28	Empower everything you do with prayer	Personalize the “Dream” Prayer
5 12/12	Acts 10: 1-35	Confront your ungodly prejudices	Widen your circle of unlikely friends
6 12/19	Jonah 3:1 – 4:11	Identify with God’s heart for the world	Become a world-class Christian
7 12/26	Luke 1: 26-38	Move – with God – beyond your comfort zones	Go for the “gulp”
8 2022	John 20: 24-31	Believe that – with God – all things are possible	Begin/renew dreaming again



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