

September 4, 2016

A COVENANT GOD AND HIS
COVENANT PEOPLE
Hebrews 10:19-25

“Living In Community”

Abby Blankenship & Kyle Schumacher
Campus Ministers

*Our mission at First Presbyterian Church of the Covenant is:
To awaken all people to our need for a life-changing encounter
with the living Lord Jesus Christ,
and to encourage and equip each one to become His fully-devoted follower.*

The Congregation, *in ministry*
We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation

FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
OF THE COVENANT

The Caring Church in the Heart of the City!

250 West 7th Street, Erie, PA 16501 • Phone: 814-456-4243 • Fax: 814-454-3350
www.firstcovenanterie.org

Sunday, September 4, 2016
~ *Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost* ~
8:30 & 10:00 a.m. Worship Service

G A T H E R I N G

Gathering Music *Simple Gifts* *Wilbur Held*

**Welcome, Announcements &
Reading of Mission Statement** *Chris DeCrease*

Sung Call To Worship Hymn

This is the Day **This is the Day**
That the Lord has made **That the Lord has made**
Let us rejoice **Let us rejoice**
And be glad in it **And be glad in it**
This is the day that the Lord has made
Let us rejoice and be glad in it
This is the Day **This is the Day**
That the Lord has made!

Prelude *Interlude on 'Abbots Leigh'* *Michael Burkhardt*

***Hymn #409** *God is Here* *Abbots Leigh*

P R A Y I N G

***Prayer of Confession**

Almighty God, you are always ready to listen to our prayers
and for that we are grateful. Lord, hear our individual
prayers of confession...Amen.

***Assurance of Pardon** *Chris DeCrease*

***Passing of the Peace**

The Peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you
And also with you.

***Gloria Patri**

L I S T E N I N G

Storytelling *Abby Blankenship &
Kyle Schumacher*

Scripture Reading *Hebrews 10.19-25* *Chris DeCrease*
Page 976, Pew Bible

***Hymn #761** *Called as Partners in Christ's Service* *Beecher*

Sermon *"Living In Community"* *Abby Blankenship &
Kyle Schumacher*

R E S P O N D I N G

Giving of Our Tithes & Offerings

Offertory ~ *Amazing Grace* *Newton / Excell*
Montgomery Service, Soloist

***Doxology (Hymn #606):**

Old Hundredth

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God, above ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Pastoral Prayer

God is Good **All the Time!**
All the time **God is good!**

***Hymn #331** *God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand* *National Hymn*

***Affirmation of Faith** **Philippians 2.5-11**


**Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
who, though he was in the form of God, did not
regard equality with God as something to be
exploited, but emptied himself, taking the
form of a slave, being born in human
likeness. And being found in
human form, he humbled
himself and became
obedient to the point
of death—even
death on a
cross.
Therefore,
God also highly
exalted him and gave
him the name that is above every
name, so that at the name of Jesus every
knee should bend, in heaven and on Earth and
under the earth, and every tongue confess that
Jesus Christ is Lord, To the glory of God the Father.**

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

God of Our Father's *Gilbert Martin*

*Please rise in body or spirit.
Liturgist ~ Chris DeCrease

 **Fall Worship Hours Begin September 11th**
8:30 a.m., McBrier Chapel
11:00 a.m., Sanctuary

M E M O R I A L F L O W E R S

The flowers at the Lectern are in memory of Helen & Dean Klahr, given by their family.

At the conclusion of the 10:00 a.m. service, the Klahr family invites you to take flowers from the sanctuary bouquet & distribute them to a shut-in, hospitalized friend, or person you wish to reach out to in Christ's name.



W E L C O M E T O W O R S H I P

Welcome to all, especially guests, newcomers to Erie & college students. Please silence all electronic devices upon entering the Sanctuary & McBrier Chapel. Our ushers are available to assist you with any needs you may have. They have large print bulletins & hymnals; also systems that assist the hearing impaired. An usher can also direct you to the restrooms.

You are invited to the Parlor after each service for refreshments & fellowship. Members are encouraged to invite visitors to join them. Thank you to *the Education Committee* for hosting this week. Volunteer to host fellowship ~ a sign up board is in the Parlor. Questions ~ see Sandra Herman.

Families with young children: We always welcome children in worship. Activity bags are available for use during both services. Please return the bag to Art Gallery Hall or the Narthex at the end of worship. We have infant up to age 3 childcare available in the Nursery during both services as well .

Would you like a copy of today's sermon? If you would like a copy of today's sermon on CD, please call the church office at 456-4243. Sermons are also always available on our website ~ www.firstcovenanterie.org

Interested in becoming a member of First Covenant?
For information, please contact Sheila Sweet at (814) 898-3417.

Love One Another as I Have Loved You . . . In John 15:12, Jesus says, "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." Loving & caring for one another is not just the pastor's job ~ it's something Jesus calls us all to do! Stephen Ministry is a ministry in which people with special gifts for caring can put those gifts to use in an organized way, bringing Jesus' love & care to those who most need it.
If you know someone who is going through a difficult time, contact Leader Diane Ream, 899-6762 about Stephen Ministry. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to provide focused, confidential, one-to-one Christian care ~ to help that person experience the healing power of Christ's love.

F A I T H F O R M A T I O N

Starting Sunday, September 18th at 9:30 a.m.



Children

Nursery (infant ~ age 3).....Room 113
with Morgan Wood
Age 4 ~ Grade 1.....Classroom C
with Monty Service
Grades 2 ~ 5.....Classroom D
with Greg Cooper

Adults

"Lessons from Joshua" with
Bill Holmes.....Witherspoon Room
"Reflecting on the Gospel of Luke" with
Timm High.....Fidelis Room
"Theologian, Shelby Spong?" with
Bill Sesler.....Room 116

Youth

Grades 6-12 ... Middle School Lounge
with Nancy Irwin

M U S I C A N N O U N C E M E N T S

- ★ The Covenant Choir will resume its singing on Sunday September 11th. Rehearsal is at 10:15 a.m. in the choir room to prepare.
- ★ Starting Thursday, September 15th, the Covenant Choir will begin their weekly Thursday evening rehearsals from 7:15 to 8:45 p.m. Any Interested new singers? Please see Leslie Weber after service !
- ★ The Covenant Bells will resume their weekly rehearsals starting Thursday Sept 25th from 6:30 – 7:15 p.m.!



F I R S T C O V E N A N T L I F E

Join us in the Parlor: We're having a special celebration after the 10:00 service for the newest member of the Allen/Murphy family, 3-year old Pearl, who they adopted from China. Come celebrate with Matt, Holly, Jasper, Ruby & of course, Pearl.

“One New Way in 2016-17” is the theme of next weeks Mission & Ministry Expo. The Mission, Education & Fellowship Committees are asking you to explore how you can use your gifts & talents to serve others through First Presbyterian Church of the Covenant... God's people grow in faith by serving. Come enjoy some light refreshments & a room full of displays about the mission & ministry of FPCC following the 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. worship services. We are a church family with so many gifts, talents & abilities! Use YOURS in one new capacity during the coming year! Every opportunity will be coded with icons representing art/crafting, building constructing, music/worship, cooking/kitchen, giving/donating, kids, college, neighborhood, etc. so you can easily see where your gifts match up to the church's mission/ministry needs.

The plarn team will meet again in room 116 on Wednesday, September 14th after Connections Dinner. This will include plarn makers & crocheters... new volunteers are welcome. You are asked to bring scissors & a 10mm or larger crochet hook.

Tour of The Caring Place: The Stephen Ministers are hosting a trip to The Caring Place, a center that supports grieving children, on Monday, September 26th at 7:00 pm. For more information, or to make a reservation, contact Nancy Nardo, 440-4134 by September 19th.

What is a “Gospel-Centered Life”? Find out with the Friday morning men's group as they tackle a study guide with that title beginning on Friday, September 16th at 7:00 a.m. in the Parlor. The first gathering after a summer hiatus will be at 7 a.m. at Avanti's (8th & Lincoln) on Friday, September 9th. You are also invited to this informal breakfast gathering.

What is a “Home Stay”? It is opening your home to an international student for a semester or two. Paul & Tracey Diefenbach, Seph Kumer & several others currently offer homestays & find them very rewarding. But many students can't be accommodated because so few homestays are available in Erie. Students want to live with Americans to practice English & get a realistic view of American life & culture. If you EVER think you might be interested in hosting a student, contact Seph Kumer in the church office.

TGIF-Thank God it's Franks! Can you help visit with Gannon students as they walk past the church on a Friday night this fall? Two congregation members are needed each Friday to greet & chat, plus hand out hot dogs & bottled water for an hour or two... TGIF dates for the fall are: September 9th, 23rd & 30th plus October 7th & 28th at 10:00 p.m. Take a nap! Join the fun! Sign up with new campus minister Kyle Schumacher, Abby Blankenship or Marlene Spires.

A Bible for Your Child? Bibles will be presented to second graders during the 11:00 worship service on September 18th. These are perfect for use during worship & Sunday School. If you have a child without a Bible from the church, in 2nd grade or higher, please contact Seph Kumer in the office to sign up for the presentation.

“Meet You Under the Bell Tower...IN KNOX HALL!” Kick off the Christian Education year next week at 9:30 a.m. in Knox Hall with prayer, dedication & the Mission/Ministry fair. Refreshments too! NEW spiritual formation opportunities for all ages begin September 18th!

T H E W E E K A H E A D

Sunday, September 4th

8:30 a.m. Worship ~*McBrier Chapel*
 9:25 a.m. Fellowship ~*Parlor*
 10:00 a.m. Worship ~*Sanctuary*
 11:15 a.m. Fellowship ~*Parlor*
 4:00 p.m. Sunday Suppers ~*Knox Hall*

Monday, September 5th

~ **Labor Day ~ Office Closed** ~
 6:30 p.m. NA ~*Parlor*

Tuesday, September 6th

~ **Preschool's First Day** ~
 10:00 a.m. Staff meeting ~*Parlor*
 1:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry ~ *116*
 5:30 p.m. OWB ~ *Knox Hall*
 7:00 p.m. Erie Phil Choir ~ *Knox Hall*
 7:30 p.m. AA ~*Witherspoon*
 7:30 p.m. NA ~*Calvin*

Wednesday, September 7th

~ **Block Party** ~
 10:30 a.m. Bible Study ~ *Parlor*
 9:00 p.m. Restore ~*GU Waldron #219*

Thursday, September 8th

7:00 a.m. Men's Bible ~*Perkins*
 12:00 p.m. NA ~*Knox Hall*
 6:00 p.m. COG/Life Skills ~*Discovery*

Friday, September 9th

7:00 a.m. Men's Group ~*Avanti's*
 10:00 p.m. TGIF Hot Dogs
 ~*South Parking Lot*

Saturday, September 10th

Early a.m. Bread making ~*Knox Hall*
 8:30 a.m. Mission/Ministry Fair set-up
 ~*Knox Hall*

Sunday, September 11th

~ **Communion** ~
 ~ **Mission/Ministry Fair** ~
 8:30 a.m. Worship ~*McBrier Chapel*
 9:25 a.m. Fellowship ~*Parlor*
 9:30 a.m. Mission / Ministry Fair
 ~ *Knox Hall*
 10:15 a.m. Covenant Choir rehearsal
 ~ *Music Room*
 11:00 a.m. Worship ~*Sanctuary*
 12:00 a.m. Mission / Ministry Fair
 ~ *Knox Hall*
 4:00 p.m. Sunday Suppers ~ *Knox Hall*
 4:00 p.m. Old Town Porch Fest
 ~ *Under Belltower*



The church office will be closed Labor Day,
 Monday, September 5th,
 to enjoy the last unofficial day of summer.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2016

8:30 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.

~ **Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost / Communion** ~

Philemon 1.1-21

"Being Useful"

Rev. Timm High

Numbers listed below **now include**
 pledge & non-pledge revenue combined

Budget - \$260,445

Actual - \$260,247

F P C C S T A F F

Abby Blankenship, *Campus Minister*
 Helen Greider, *Weekend Hostess*
 Lisa Hiegel, *Director of Covenant Preschool*
 Rev. Timm High, *Temporary Supply Pastor*
 Jackie K. Jones, *Weeknight Host / Covenant Cook*
 Luba Kovalchuk, *Custodian*
 Seph Kumer, *Director of Community Ministries*
 Andy Lancaster, *Host*
 Rev. Stephen E. Morse, *Parish Assistant*

JoAnn Peters, *Finance / Records Administration*
 Anne Sauer, *Administrative Assistant*
 John Scepora, *Building & Maintenance Mechanic*
 Kyle Schumacher, *Campus Minister*
 Montgomery Service, *Children & Youth Music*
 Kevin Stevenson, *Covenant Cook*
 Leslie Weber, *Organist / Choirmaster*
 Morgan Wood, *Nursery Attendant*

When you wish to contact our Temporary Supply Pastor, Rev. Timm High,
 he can be reached at 814-873-1910
 or by email at timhigh@firstcovenanterie.org
 or timhigh@att.net