

Dear FPC family and friends,

This Sunday we have a lot happening at both services that involve children and their families. At the 8:30 service we will be baptizing little Lainey Boyer, daughter to John and Kaitlyn Boyer. It continues to take my breath away to see former youth of this church grow up and have families of their own and choose FPC as a place where they want to raise their family. What an honor and privilege it is for all us that our family is growing with people who love Jesus and love FPC.

At the second service Quinn Gregory and Everlee Bresset will be getting their second grade Bibles. Once again families that have committed themselves to the life of this church and have been active and involved in so many different ways are represented in these little girls. In our read through the Bible we are seeing a lot of Scriptures lately where Jesus places a child in the midst of his disciples and uses that child as an object lesson of what it means to be a humble and servant leader. We read recently about parents who brought their children to Jesus so that he could bless them and the disciples were upset.

There is a consistency in Scripture with Jesus interacting with children in a way that takes them seriously and in a way that also reminds us of their vulnerability. The most recent school shooting in Oregon has caught our attention, again, as it should. The tragedy is beyond words, and clearly demonstrates the distance we have in our culture of valuing children as Jesus demonstrates that we ought to value children.

Last time I wrote an enews it was on the anniversary of the tragic shooting at the Nickel Mines Amish school. Today we come face to face with a reality that haunts us over and over again. When we weekly confess our sins in church as a congregation and as individuals one of our confessions ought to be that we are part of a culture that understands violence as a viable option to finding solutions. We ought to confess our sin of complicity in the tragic deaths of children who die at the hands of gunmen who see violence as a viable option. I have written at other times how the presence of violence in our culture is so much more pervasive than most any of the other cultures that I have experienced.

How do we remedy a propensity for violence that is almost part of our DNA as citizens of this country? Well, how do we remedy any sin if not allow the presence of the Holy Spirit and the example of our Savior flood us and change our lives. We consistently decline the invitation to be servants to others and to allow our humility to guide our lives. We want to be the greatest, the first, and the center of everyone's attention. But Jesus reminds us as he puts a child in our midst that the greatest of all is the one who is least of all.

There is a solution but it takes one disciple of Jesus at a time to set the example of what it looks like in order for it to make a change. But we can make a change, if we would only determine to not allow the flow of culture to sweep us along. Be a servant to others so that the violence that we experience in this country will not be able to find an outlet among us, especially among those who call themselves disciples of the Prince of Peace.

Your servant in Christ,
Pastor Bob

HAPPENING IN THE LIFE OF FPC...

TODDLER GYM is back!: Join us weekly on Fridays from 9 – 10:30am (Sept. –May) for playtime for ages 1 – 6 with their caregivers. This program is free and open to the public and follows the Lampeter Strasburg School Calendar. For more information, contact Alyssa Gregory at 717-495-3939 or agregory@straspres.org.

TRUNK OR TREAT at FPCS: will be held this year from 5-6:30pm on Sunday, October 25th. Sign up at the table under the TV in the welcome area and have your car parked and decorated with a suitable theme by 4:30pm. Children should arrive in a costume between 5 -6:30pm. Anyone who would like to donate candy and snack items should sign-up under the TV in the Welcome Area. For more information, contact Beth Feiler at 717-572-9683 or bfeiler@straspres.org.

Join us for a special coffee hour THIS Sunday, October 18th: for church leaders and teachers of Sunday School, Children's Church and Nursery. Please join us as we thank these folks for their dedication and time to help spread God's love.

WATCH FOR IT!! Saturday, November 14th. It's a really BIG day for our Food Pantry. It's the Annual Boy Scouts Food Drive, and all donations support our FPC ministry. We are so thankful for our local communities' generosity. We will need lots of help from 9am - 12:30pm to sort, date and stock all the food that is delivered. Please consider helping us. Any amount of time will be greatly appreciated and we thank you in advance for donating a bit of your valuable time.

CHURCH BIRTHDAY BRUNCH: Join us after the 8:30am service on Sunday, November 8th to recognize, celebrate and honor the 50+ year members with a special brunch in Fellowship Hall. We will be serving breakfast casserole, fruit and sweets. As in the past, we will need volunteers to bake and bring a breakfast casserole to church on Sunday morning. All ingredients and materials will be provided, including the recipe, making it easy to participate! Fellowship Hall decorating will take place on Saturday, November 7th at 9am. There will be no Sunday School or nursery care during the brunch on Sunday, November 8th. Please contact Theresa Rineer at [717-682-9954](tel:717-682-9954) to volunteer or if you have questions. Thank you!

WORSHIP COMMITTEE "JOB TRAINING": The worship committee is looking to offer a training to the congregation on the different "jobs" worship has – ushers, readers, acolytes, and communion servers. Join us on November 15th at 12:15pm (right after second service). This is an open invitation for those that already volunteer, as well as one for those that may have an

interest but would like to know more. Please contact Maggie Nadu or Tricia Wilson with any questions!

CHURCH WHEELCHAIR: FPC previously had a wheelchair available for use when needed, and we believe it may have been borrowed. If you have the wheelchair, we kindly ask that you return it to the church. If it is still being used, please let the church office know so we can keep track of it. Thank you for your help! Also, if you happen to have a wheelchair that you don't need any longer and want to donate it to FPC, let us know that too!

Church Day at Cherry Crest: Join us on November 7 at Cherry Crest as FPC will be representing by enjoying the day at this local attraction. If interested contact Kristin Kondratowski at kristin@strapres.org or just show up!