



A monthly publication of the First Presbyterian Church of Berwick
JANUARY 2018

Looking Forward to 2018

We have finished 2017 on a high note with our youth Christmas party in December and are looking forward to the New Year ahead. Keith and I decided to take on the roles of youth group leaders over the summer. It was something we didn't have a lot of experience with but felt called to do. In those months we have gotten to know the kids more and will keep digging further to know them more through discussion and activity. What I can tell you is, we have a great group of kids here at First Pres. They are caring, kind, silly and happy beings. It is an honor to get to meet with these kids each month. A big thank you goes out to the parents, first for sharing your kids with us and also for helping out when needed. We had a great turnout for the school by race and a bigger turnout with positive feedback from the community at Winterfest. Our crew of kids and parents pulled together and supplied all of the baked items for both sales! Through hectic school, sporting events and work schedules we all come together in one way or another and make time to spend together. Thank you for a great 2017 and we look forward to seeing you through 2018!

Youth group aka Salt & Light is open to youth in fifth grade through high school and meet monthly. A 3 month calendar can be found on the back table of the sanctuary for more information

Pretzel Success

Our pretzel sale was another great success! Thank you to all who ordered. Proceeds from this sale are used for our photo show (**psst mark the date! Saturday October 13th**) in the form of advertising, award ribbons, refreshments etc. Your support is greatly appreciated!

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A POSTING FROM YOUR PASTOR

The idea of resolutions has fallen on hard times – the butt of jokes, no longer seen as a part of the New Year ritual. People have become naturally cynical about the process, having watched so many good intentions go by the wayside over the years. We still have hopes for a fresh start, turning the page of the calendar now unblemished and just waiting for our mark. Weight, worry, working out – these top the list year after year.

It's not that we're not capable of change. The sense of *need to change* tells us a truth about ourselves. We'll be healthier if we do this, less stressed if we stop doing that, better people when new habits are employed. But obviously, change is challenging. One of my mentors put it this way: *People change slowly and only with great effort*. That's the truth of it.

A phrase from the Apostle Paul's writings comes to mind: ***Do not grow weary in well-doing***. He was writing to a particular community of faith, urging them to stay faithful in thought, word and deed. But his sentence also carries the awareness of how easily we grow weary. The cartoon image of the bent old man slinking off as the old year passes speaks truth. Life seems to conspire to pull us down, to steal our enthusiasm, to punish such ideas as hope, faith, sacrifice.

These are difficult times for those of us who believe in scripture's call to mercy, to justice, to compassion for all, to loving every neighbor, to wanting the best – not for me and mine – but for all. Every day there is some new narrowing of hope and a further widening of breaks for those who put their hope in wealth. We speak ill of each other, think ill of each other as the wrecking balls of hate, fear and anger do their damage. The carnage is like smoke in the air – we all breathe it in, even if we aren't paying attention.

We're tending to other struggles: personal health, raising a family, caring for aging parents, putting dreams on hold as we trudge off to work, trying to find balance in our days and nights. We can grow not only weary but cynical, judgmental, depressed, disillusioned.

As we can still see the lights of Christmas, recall the singing of Silent Night on Christmas Eve, feel the warmth of cheer and gratitude, let us draw from them renewed courage. God is with us – Emmanuel has come – and the Spirit stirs everywhere. Our faith does not lie in the edicts from Washington nor in the success of Wall Street. God's presence means we do not face any of our heartaches or disappointments alone. We cling to hope, even if it is only by our fingernails sometimes!

I encourage you to make worship part of each week because in that hour, we draw support from one another's presence. We hear God's Word, invited to think about how belief intersects life. We sing and pray and make offerings – all of these things a witness to the children in our midst. When we grow weary, we may need to rest for a while, to gather our strength, to return to the One who promises: *Come to me...and I will give you rest*. Then we get up and find ways to serve the living Christ.

Pastor Steve

2018 Flower Chart

The 2018 flower chart is now available. The price for flowers is now 1 vase \$15, two vases \$28. Please make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church.



Valley Clicks

Plans are an ongoing thing for the photography show and never far from my mind. The photo show has been a well received and attended event over the past 7 years and has been great fellowship for those photo minded individuals to throw ideas and talk everything photography. To keep the interest going and to inspire each other throughout the year, we have revamped our photo crew to include Berwick and beyond. With that comes a new name, Valley Clicks. A Facebook page @valleyclicks and a page on our website www.bwkpresby.org. Just look for the logo to find your way!



Communion Dates 2018

January 7
 February 14
 March 29
 April 1
 May 20
 July 1
 September 2
 October 7
 November 4
 November 25
 December 24

Can Tabs

Don't forget to keep popping those tabs! Our collection for 2017 has been delivered to the Ronald McDonald House in Danville! We collected a grocery bag full of can tabs! That's a whole lot of tabs! This is an ongoing mission through the church. It's FREE and you are recycling all at the same time! Tabs can be dropped off in the back of the sanctuary or in the office. Thank you for your continued support!



Birthdays & Anniversaries

January Birthdays

Ryan Wright	1/1
Giuliana Force	1/4
Giovanni DAngelo	1/9
Agnes Johnson	1/20
Loretta Vaughn	1/21
Richard Hoopes	1/22
Adelina Titus	1/25
Jared Marshman	1/30
Morgan West	1/31

Happy Birthday!

January Assistants

January 7

Greeters: Birt Family

Ushers: Tom & Barb Huntington

Assisting Elder: Barb Huntington

Acolyte: Tyrone Birt

January 14

Greeters: Janice Moskaluk

Ushers: Joan Thomas, Eugeniu Grigorescu

Assisting Elder: Joan Thomas

Acolyte: Emma Botto

January 21

Greeters: Walter & Alison Hause

Ushers: Steve Hiller, Keith Botto

Assisting Elder: Nancy Dieterick

Acolyte: Aaliyah DAngelo

January 28

Greeters: MaryAnn Marshman, Fran Kirchdoerfer

Ushers: Kevin White, Ben White

Assisting Elder: Penny Siesko

Acolyte: Leighton Force

Deacon Visitor for January: Ernie & Joan Botto

Have a wonderful month with family and friends!

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Worship service 10:15am

Sunday school for all ages during worship

Nursery available

