



## Project Frozen... Sharing the Warmth 2019

As you have undoubtedly noticed, we have already experienced cold weather. It is time to begin preparing for "our warming center" to help serve those in need. AGAPE, will be extending our business hours again this year. We will be opening Monday January 7th and, depending on the weather, close around March 17th. Here is how you can help by volunteering to be a hospitality assistant for Project Frozen: Sharing the Warmth 2019.

With your help together, we can make a night warm for those in need. We insist on two adults (18 and older) preferably a male and a female as volunteers for each of three shifts (1) 8:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.; (2) 12:00 a.m. to 4:00 a.m. and (3) 4:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. seven days a week. Of course, if a volunteer team wanted to do more than one shift that would be wonderful too. The second option would be to split the shifts up (1) 8:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m., and (2) 12:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.

A brief Project Frozen volunteer training session will be held at AGAPE on Saturday, December 15th at 9:30 a.m.; there will be two different time on Friday December 21st at 10:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. If you are unable to attend one of the above dates, please call and schedule a time that is convenient for you to stop in at AGAPE. This should only take about a half hour to an hour depending on questions. Additional training sessions will be held in February and March, if necessary.

If you want to help please contact the Volunteer Department at [volunteer@agape-pa.org](mailto:volunteer@agape-pa.org) or call 570-317-2210. For more information, please call our AGAPE front desk at 570-317-2210 anytime Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday between the hours of 9:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.

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The next new year sits before us, the pages of the calendar bare, the promises of faith telling us that all will be well regardless of what comes our way, what messes we stumble into: *nothing can separate us – not any created thing – from the love of God in Christ Jesus*. It is no small thing to recall and repeat these words because threats to our sanity and serenity come when we see the storm brewing and when it surprises us.

2019 will be a pivotal year for us as a congregation. We will have conversations together about faith and foundations, naming what it is we hold most dear. It helps to put words to feelings so they can be evaluated, up-dated, renewed, discarded. Many of you still have tapes playing in your hearts and minds of yesterday's crowds and accomplishments and comforts.

As an outsider, I can't know how poignant those memories can be in this time of diminishment.

But diminishment does not mean disappearance or defeat. We keep showing up for worship, some weekly, some monthly, some as able. We maintain our choir, offering Sunday School for one age grouping and a youth group for another, and the Session and Deacons do their work with care and energy. Our outreach reminds the community of our interest in them and our willingness to extend ministry beyond these walls.

We will work towards agreement on a new mission/vision statement going forward. We will experiment with new ventures as the Spirit leads us, willing to fail in the short run to succeed in the longer view. New faces may join us or not – that is secondary for us: being faithful to the tasks, people, needs and opportunities at hand is all God asks from any of us.

I'm looking forward to the next step in our process, the series of meetings in mid-January (provided snow and cold don't interfere). Your feelings, fears, deep confidence and experiences – as they are shared – will bring the kind of clarity being the Church in these times requires.

It continues to be a privilege and blessing to serve Christ among you. Thank you for your signs of appreciation and love; the time seems to be rushing by.

Let me close with this quote from the recent biography of Fred (Mr.) Rogers, a life-long Presbyterian: *The Presbyterian values – hard work, responsibility and caring for others, parsimony, duty to family, ethical clarity, a strong sense of mission, and a relentless sense of service to God – drove every moment of Fred Roger's life*. I hope we will emulate him as we live and move and have our being. God bless you.



## 2019 Flower Chart

The 2018 flower chart is now available. The price for flowers is now 1 vase \$18, two vases \$32. Please make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church.



## Goodbye 2018. Hello 2019!

If you had a hard time keeping up with youth group, here is our year in rewind! We held studies, planted trees at Krislund, skated at Skatetown, white water rafted, Knoebels Hallo-Fun, held three fundraisers while reaching out to our community in quite honestly miserable weather, but we made it through! We spent time together listening to the sounds of the season at the Trans-Siberian Orchestra concert and ended our year with a chuckle performing a skit to the congregation and doing what kids do best, being silly while playing games and eating food at our Christmas party. We are looking forward to what 2019 has in store for our crew. Be on the lookout for more exciting events!

### Communion Dates 2019

January 13  
March 6  
April 18  
April 21  
June 9  
July 28  
October 6  
November 3  
December 1  
December 24



**January 20<sup>th</sup>** re:form  
study during worship

## Who's in the Pulpit?

We welcome back Tracy Fetzer as our guest speaker January 20<sup>th</sup>

## 2019 Per Capita

Just a reminder the per capita for 2019 has changed to \$35. Not \$25. Please make this change when you submit your blue envelope to the office.

## 2019 Offering Envelopes

If you haven't picked up your 2019 offering envelopes they can be located on the back table of the sanctuary!



### January Birthdays

Ryan Wright	1/1
Giuliana Force	1/4
Agnes Johnson	1/20
Loretta Vaughn	1/21
Adelina Titus	1/25
Jared Marshman	1/30
Morgan West	1/31

**Happy Birthday!**

# January Assistants

## January 6

**Greeters:** Janice Moskaluk

**Ushers:** Dave Force, Keith Botto

**Assisting Elder:** Barb Huntington

**Acolyte:** Leighton Force

## January 13

**Greeters:** Walter & Alison Hause

**Ushers:** Tom & Barb Huntington

**Assisting Elder:** Joan Thomas

**Acolyte:** Morgan West

## January 20

**Greeters:** Bill & Shirley Birt

**Ushers:** Joan Thomas, Eugeniu Grigorescu

**Assisting Elder:** Penny Siesko

**Acolyte:** Tyrone Birt

## January 27

**Greeters:** MaryAnn Marshman

**Ushers:** Ernie Botto, Steve Hiller

**Assisting Elder:** Jim Ross

**Acolyte:** Emma Botto

**Deacon Visitor for January:** Steve & Karen Hiller

**Have a wonderful month with family and friends!**

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

320 Market Street

Berwick, PA 18603

**Mail to: PO Box 325**

570-759-9461

[bwkpresby@pa.metrocast.net](mailto:bwkpresby@pa.metrocast.net)

[www.bwkpresby.org](http://www.bwkpresby.org)



**Worship service 10:15am**

**Sunday school for all ages during worship**

**Salt + Light Youth Group**

**Nursery available**

