



Peace & Global Witness Offering

Now may the Lord of peace . . . give you peace at all times in all ways.
— 2 Thessalonians 3:16

The second letter to the Thessalonians was written on the same theme as the first: the imminent return of Jesus, and the triumphal resolution of God's plan for all creation. The need for a second letter, though, arose from growing uneasiness, frustration, and fear within the church from those who thought this was supposed to have happened already. God's time was not the Thessalonian's time. As a result, fear and hopelessness gripped the church, resulting in divisions, mistrust, and dismay that began to sap the church of its vibrant ministry. Paul writes to encourage their continued faith and sure hope. In the midst of divisions and discord, he claims a God of peace who can bring peace at all times, in all ways. The church of every time and place wrestles with the distance between our timeframe and expectations and God's. In God's time, even the small seeds we plant can grow into sturdy trees. In God's time, the fears we carry can be transformed into new partnership and hope. In God's time, our expectations can be expanded and surpassed by God's faithfulness. The 2018 Peace & Global Witness Offering encourages the church of our time to cast off anxiety and fear, discord and division, and embrace our reconciling God's mission to those around the corner and around the world. It is boundless peace God offers. It bursts through the shackles of time and expectation. It quiets the anxiety of each believer by joining us together, as we offer our prayer, Now, may the Lord grant us peace at all times in all ways.

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*Let there be
peace on
earth
and let it
begin with
me.*

A Posting from the Pastor

I know the calendar reads September and not January, yet for many people this is the first month of a new year. Summer's past, vacations (stay or otherwise) have been taken, gardens flourished (or not) – and now school resumes, football season dwarfs all others, groups come together after taking the summer off, and we begin to hear jingle bells ringing faintly in the distance.

Once upon a time, Rally Day was a huge event in the life of this church. Back in the day, it marked the resumption of Sunday School, promotion to the next class up, blessing teachers and helpers for their sacrifice and singing a song or two from decades gone past: *'Jesus loves me, this I know!'* Then off with a clatter, the faithful found their way to their class area for study and fellowship.

Whatever term we might want to use – Rally or Kick-Off or Start-Up – the scale of the hour before worship has been significantly reduced. Class learning has been refigured for a few children for twenty minutes during Sunday worship, monthly youth group study, and a 4 – 5 month Confirmation class. It is what it is and I'm grateful for Penny, for Keith and Heather, and every helper. I'm hoping for and always open to supporting adult gatherings, whenever they happen, for faith conversations.

The Canoeing the Mountains work team has met twice over the summer to shift gears from discussing who we are as a congregation, our gifts and willingness to see the life of FPC Berwick continue. We'll be rolling out some suggestions (having enlarged our team) and inviting us to experiment as we fulfill our mandate as a church. Your input, ideas and passions will lead us forward.

One of those ideas is to increase the number of 'Special Sundays' in the year. Worship – whether in the sanctuary or basement – is the central activity we gather for. Our screens and internet connection open the door to lively, thoughtful and active worship. Caring for one another is something we must continue to do and do well – visitors will notice it, find it inviting.

Your generosity continues to be evident in large and little ways. We are stable that way and we're hitting our stride through mission support, Presbytery programs, local needs and help for the needy. You bring a wonderful spirit when you come on Sunday and it feels to me as if we experience God's grace each and every Sunday morning.

Our purpose has not been fulfilled; we yet have a purpose in this building, on Market Street and as we pray, gather, laugh, serve and listen to the joys and pains we are carrying on any given day. Please continue to pray for each other, for Berwick, for me and the staff of FPC, and the daily 'breaking news' which can be so unsettling. I look forward to sharing the journey with you as the 'new year' arrives, growing in God's love in Christ.

Respectfully,

Pastor Steve

Lifeway Simulcast

NC Church excitedly announces its sponsorship of the 2019 Lifeway Living Proof Live Simulcast featuring Beth Moore, one of today's top women's ministry leaders. This event will be held at the Berwick Theater and Center for Community Arts on Saturday, September 28, 2019.

Presented by the Nashville-based publishing company LifeWay Christian Resources, Living Proof Live will simulcast from its Huntsville, AL event so women across the globe will be able to experience a live Bible study with Beth Moore. Living Proof events bring women from all walks of life together for a weekend of biblical teaching, worship, and encouragement. Along with Beth Moore, worship pastor and Dove Award recipient, Travis Cottrell, will lead worship during the simulcast.

The Living Proof Simulcast begins at 10:30am with doors opening at 9:30am at the Berwick Theater, 110 E. Front Street, Berwick, PA. The event concludes at 5:00pm. Ample public parking is available and there is a variety of restaurants within walking distance of the theater. For additional information go to the NC Church website, www.ncchurchhome.com and click on the Living Proof Live Beth Moore tab under simulcasts or contact us via email at ncwomen@ncchurchhome.com. Ticket price for this event is \$20.



Communion Dates 2019

October 6
November 3
December 1
December 24

Sunday School and Youth Recognition

Please join us as we hold our Sunday school and youth recognition during worship on **September 8th**. All kids and their families are asked to attend as we celebrate the start of a new school year!

Congregational Picnic

Break out your recipes and plan your covered dishes! Our congregational picnic will be held **September 15th** following worship! Meat and beverage will be provided. Please bring a covered dish to share!

Office Closed

The office will be closed **Tuesday September 23rd through September 27th** while Heather is on vacation.

Flower Chart

Just a reminder that the flower chart is totally open from now through the remainder of 2019. Please check out the flower chart on the back table of the sanctuary to place flowers today!

Who's in the Pulpit?

We welcome back Sally Dries **September 22nd** and John Polhill **September 29th** as our guest preachers.



September Birthdays

Radel Doll	9/3
Pastor Steve	9/7
Jenna West	9/10
Lily Force	9/11
Stone Force	9/14
Barb Huntington	9/14
Makayla Force	9/15
Alison Hause	9/15
Eugeniu Grigorescu	9/17
Dave Force	9/23
Jean Casaldi	9/25
Keith Botto	9/27

September Anniversary's

Ernie & Joan Botto	9/8
Al & Janelle West	9/8

Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary!

September Assistants

September 1

Greeters: Joan Thomas

Ushers: Jim Ross, Ernie Botto

Assisting Elder: Penny Siesko

Acolyte: Emma Botto

September 8

Greeters: Janice Moskaluk

Ushers: Dave Force, Al West

Assisting Elder: Jim Ross

Acolyte: Giuliana Force

September 15

Greeters: Penny Siesko

Ushers: Tom & Barb Huntington

Assisting Elder: Barb Huntington

Acolyte: Morgan West

September 22

Greeters: Bill & Shirley Birt

Ushers: Joan Thomas, Eugeniu Grigorescu

Assisting Elder: Eugeniu Grigorescu

Acolyte: Tyrone Birt

September 29

Greeters: Walter & Alison Hause

Ushers: Kevin White, Steve Hiller

Assisting Elder: Joan Thomas

Acolyte: Emma Botto

Deacon Visitor for September: Ernie & Joan Botto

Have a wonderful month with family and friends!

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Worship service 10:15am

Sunday school for all ages during worship

Salt + Light Youth Group

Nursery available

