



First Edition September 2016



Worship Schedule & a Look Ahead

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| September 4 | Philemon
"Counting on Your Conscience" |
| September 11 | Rally Day
I Timothy 1:12-17
"Being Made an Example"
<i>We return to services at 8:30 & 10:45 a.m.</i>
<i>Sunday School at 9:30 a.m.</i> |
| September 18 | I Timothy 2:1-7
"Praying for the Politicians"
<i>Family Worship ~ CANCELLED</i> |
| September 25 | I Timothy 6:6-19
"The Love of Money: A Stewardship Sermon" |
| October 2 | II Timothy 1:1-14
"Let's Hear It for Grandmothers!" |
| October 9 | II Timothy 2:8-15
"No Need to be Ashamed" |
| October 16 | II Timothy 3:14-4:5
"Why Bother with the Bible?"
<i>Family Worship in Fellowship Hall at 9:30</i> |

- October 23** II Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18
"After the Marathon"
- October 30** II Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12
"Boasting of the Good Stuff"
- November 6** **All Saints' Sunday**
Ephesians 1:11-23
"Inheritance"
- November 13** II Thessalonians 3:6-13
"Laborers and Lazybones"
- November 20** **Harvest Home**
Philippians 4:4-9
"Rejoice in the Lord"
Family Worship in Fellowship Hall at 9:30

ADVENT

- November 27** Matthew 24:36-44
"What We Don't Know"
- December 4** Matthew 3:1-12
"What We Do Know"
Live Nativity from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Handbell Mini-Concert at 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary
- December 11** Luke 1:46b-55
"What We Have Known and Will Know"
- December 18** Matthew 1:18-25
"Whatta Ya Know!"

CHRISTMAS

- December 24** **Christmas Eve**
Noon – Communion Service in the Chapel
5:00 – Preschoolers' Service
7:00 and 9:00 – Carols, Candles, and Communion
- December 25** **Christmas Day**
One service at 9:30 in Fellowship Hall)
Isaiah 9:2-7
"Happy Birthday"
No Sunday School
- January 1** **New Year's Day**
Matthew 2:13-23
"After the Shepherds Have Left"
No Sunday School



Sunday Worship at 8:30 and 10:45 a.m.

The later service offers Bible buddies for children & special music.

Nursery care and a children's message are provided at both services.

Sunday School classes at 9:30 a.m. for all ages ~ children through adults.

Family Worship third Sunday of the month at 9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Beginning in October

Communion is celebrated the first Sunday of the month and at Family Worship.

**First United Methodist Church
865 S. Main St.
Phoenixville, PA 19460
610.933.5936
info@fumcphoenixville.org
www.fumcphoenixville.org**

Rev. Mark Young, Pastor
myoung@fumcphoenixville.org; ext. 201

David Bryant, Director of Music Ministry
dbryant@eastern.edu

Dave Stauffer, Director of Christian Education
dstauffer@fumcphoenixville.org; ext. 202

Cheryl Cini, Director of Youth Ministry
cacini@fumcphoenixville.org; ext. 203

Jane Hulse, Office Administrator
jhulse@fumcphoenixville.org; ext. 200

From the Pastor's Desk

Rev. Mark Young



About twenty years ago a man running for state office from a Philadelphia district approached me to ask for an endorsement. We had worked together on some neighborhood improvement projects and I believed then and believe now that he saw politics as an annoyance that he had to deal with in order to go about true public service through government. He was, however, naïve about the limits of professional ethics and the legal strictures on non-profit organizations, which was why he was surprised when I declined.

Neither religious organizations nor clergy acting in a professional capacity may back specific candidates for office. That is not to say that they may not advocate for laws or policies that reflect their faith commitments. Principles may be upheld, and their application may be encouraged. That is part of the free exercise of religion guaranteed in the Bill of Rights.

What is not appropriate is for anyone to say from the pulpit that John Quincy Adams is the man for the job or that if you vote for anyone other than Chester A. Arthur you clearly are not a Christian. It is also out of line for places of worship to distribute "voter guides", which are thinly-disguised slates of candidates masquerading as informational literature. That kind of information is available online and in other places.

In an election year (and every year is one), the role of the clergy living in a democracy should be to help people make up their own minds, not to tell them how to vote. Ideally, a lifetime of engagement with scripture and involvement in a Christian fellowship should guide the criteria that a voter applies to her decisions.

The other thing that should happen is that people should be encouraged to take part respectfully and prayerfully in the process. The community of the faithful is part of the wider society, not a group called to separate from it. (Most Amish and the Jehovah's Witnesses would disagree on that matter, which is why they do not vote. For the rest of us, it is part of loving our neighbor and therefore our religious duty.)

Finally, it is also important for the Church as a whole to remember the point that the Amish and others make when they refrain from voting, which is that human governments are not the Kingdom of God, and that none of us flawed individuals speak with the Voice of God, but that all things are subject to Christ. Whatever candidate wins or loses, that does not change.

Now, if we can all be civil through November...

Peace,

Pastor Mark

From the Director of Christian Education

Dave Stauffer

Nursery Volunteers Needed

We are still in need of Nursery Volunteers. Don't forget when you became a church member you said you would faithfully participate in ministries by your prayers, presence, gifts, **service**, and witness! If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Dave Stauffer. Thank you!

Upcoming Events

- **Summer Kids Club** ~ The last meeting will be held on **Sunday, September 4;** 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
- **Fantasy Football Draft** ~ The FUMC Phoenixville Fantasy Football League is back! The cost to participate is \$10; all money will go to support the Souper Bowl of Caring. If you were in the league last year, your team has automatically been renewed for this year. If you would like to leave or join the league, please contact Dave Stauffer. This year's Live Draft will be held at the church **Sunday, September 4 at 11:00 a.m.** If you cannot make it, we will auto pick for you.
- **Children's Sunday School Teachers' Meeting** ~ There will be a short meeting on **Sunday, August 28** in the chapel at 10:30 a.m.



- **Sunday School for the 2016-17 Begins, Sunday, September 11** ~ Registration forms for children, youth, and adults can be picked up in the bell tower. We are always looking for more teachers as well. If you are interested in volunteering, or have any questions, please contact Dave Stauffer.
- **Bible Buddies** ~ Will resume along with our normal church schedule (8:30 & 10:45 a.m.) on Sunday, September 11. We are also in need of adult volunteers to help out. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Dave Stauffer or sign up on the bulletin board across from the chapel!
- **Blessing of the Backpacks** ~ Will take place on **Sunday, September 11** during both services. Students and School Teachers can bring their backpacks to be prayed over as we ask God for a safe and productive school year!



From the Director of Youth Ministry Cheryl Cini

Update

- **2016 Mission Trip** attendees returned from West Virginia safe and sound. Thank you to everyone that supported the trip.
- **Stockholders' Luncheon** ~ The luncheon is scheduled for **Sunday, September 25 at 12 noon**. Invitations will be mailed shortly. This is a great way to connect with the youth and to hear about their Mission Trip experiences. *Mark your calendars!*
- **Youth Group Meetings Resume** ~ Our first meeting will be held on **Sunday, September 18 at 12 noon**. We will be outside weather permitting and will include pizza and soda for lunch. We hope to welcome our newest members:

Emery C.
Ben K.
Owen W.

Leah K.
Kieran G.

- **Trunk or Treat ~ Saturday, October 30 at 6:00 p.m.** Time to start thinking about a theme!!!!

Safe Sanctuaries

As per our church/conference policy those working with children and youth are required attend training. This will be a very informative training about child abuse, laws, safety requirements, reporting procedures, etc. Please plan to attend one of the sessions. For your convenience, two dates have been scheduled; pick one that suits your schedule. The dates offered are **Sunday, October 2, 12noon – 2pm** and **Saturday, October 8, 10:00 a.m. – noon**.



Keep in mind this is a mandatory training. For questions or concerns, you may contact Cheryl Cini anytime. Keeping leaders, children and youth safe is our number one priority with implementing Safe Sanctuaries.

Emails have been sent to all those who have expired clearances. Please remember to pick up your renewal packets in the bell tower.



Charge Conference, October 11



Our annual Charge Conference with the District Superintendent will be held in conjunction with the five other churches that are part of our Mission ConneXion (Otterbein, Charlestown, Evansburg, Royersford, and Bethel). We will host the meeting, which will follow a potluck supper at 5:30 in Fellowship Hall. Dr. Powell will meet with each church's Staff/Parish Relations Committee separately during this time. At 6:30, there will be a general time of worship and celebration of the ministries taking place throughout our area and finally a time for individual churches to address specific matters as needed.

All members and friends of the church are encouraged to attend. This is the meeting where we both review the year past and make decisions that guide the year ahead.

Committee chairpersons are asked to submit annual reports to the church office by September 30 so that they can be included in the booklet for distribution to all those present.

Stewardship Note



You should receive information about this year's stewardship emphasis in the mail at the end of August. The letter will include a "Gratitude Calendar" that helps to focus our attention on the many ways that God shares his love with us in our daily lives and on the ways that we respond. (And, yes, one of those many ways is through financial support of the church's mission.) If you don't get this in the mail, extra copies will be at the back of the church each Sunday of September, along with pledge cards for 2017.

Every Sunday of the month, worship will include a time to share some of the reflections that this exercise is meant to encourage. If you would like to volunteer to share your own thoughts very briefly in the course of the month, please let the pastor know.



Nursery Helpers ~ We are still in need of Nursery Volunteers. Don't forget when you became a church member you said you would faithfully participate in ministries by your prayers, presence, gifts, **service**, and witness! If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Dave Stauffer. Thank you!

Greeters, Ushers, Lay Readers and Acolytes are also needed to assist during 8:30 & 10:45 worship services.

Please consider offering your time in one or more these areas. It's a great way to support the needs of the church without investing a large portion of your time. If interested in serving, contact Jane Hulse at 610-933-5936 or jhulse@fumcphoenixville.org.

Acolyte Training

First Church is in need of acolytes for our Sunday worship services. If you would be interested in joining this elite corps of volunteers, we would happily welcome all youth in grades 5 through 8. **There will be a training event Sunday, September 11 at noon (after the worship service).** You will be trained by Dave Hayes and given a chance to practice your newly-acquired skills! If we have enough acolytes available, you may only have to serve once a month. If you are interested in serving in this important role, please contact or Dave Hayes (dhayes1041@comcast.net) or Pastor Mark (myoung@fumcphoenixville.org; 610-933-5936)



Jubilation Ringers ~ Weekly rehearsals will resume on **Thursday, September 8 at 6:00 p.m.**

Chancel Choir ~ Rehearsals resume on **Thursday, September 8 at 7:15 p.m.** *(If interested in joining the choir, please contact David Bryant, Director of Music Ministry at dbryant@eastern.edu.)*

Blessing of the Animals Saturday, October 8 at 10:00 a.m.

Load the goldfish and the canary into the car for our yearly celebration of all God's creatures. Weather permitting, people and their pets will gather outside for a time of thanksgiving for the four-footed and two-winged among us. In case of rain or cold, we will meet in the chapel because the animals have fur, but we do not. All are welcome, whether or not you have your own pet to accompany you.



At the Movies

Don't be surprised if you see a slide on the screen before a movie at the Colonial Theatre that invites people to worship and some of our other events at FUMC. If you run into a visitor at church who has come as a result of that invitation, let them know that we have bags of popcorn set aside for them.





It's About The Relationship

What's the most important relationship in your life? I would imagine that a person of strong faith would want God to be their most meaningful connection. For those of the Christian faith, Jesus wants to be our center of attention and our most significant relationship. I'm learning that the more I nurture my relationship with Jesus, the more my deepest needs for acceptance, to feel loved and to be cared about are met. In turn, I am empowered to better care for myself and all areas of my life are affected, including the lifestyle choices I make that affect my health.

What the Research Says: Jeff Levin, PhD, conducted a study to examine the association between a self-reported loving relationship with God and the presence of depression. His findings appeared in the *International Journal of Psychiatry in Medicine* (Vol. 32, 2002). He writes "These findings raise the possibility that a loving relationship with God may exert a protective effect on psychological distress. One's relationship with God thus may represent an important personal resource for mitigating the emotional consequences of poor health and other deleterious life circumstances, as well as a marker for successful religious coping."

What the Bible Says:

"The most important commandment is this: Listen, O Israel! The Lord our God is the one and only Lord. And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength."

Jesus in Mark 12:29-30

"Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing."

Jesus in John 15:5

"You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."

Jeremiah 29:13

What You Can Do: Just as you would nurture any important relationship, Jesus wants you to regularly slow down and spend quality one-on-one time with Him. Two key ways to know Him are through the spiritual exercises of prayer and reading the Bible. When we bring to these times an attitude of openness, humbleness and a surrendered heart an environment is created where the relationship can deepen. Before you read scripture, prayerfully ask Jesus to show you more about His nature. Also ask Him to reveal to you aspects of your character and behavior that He wants to change. The relationship is developed deep in your heart more so than in your mind. Yes, you use your mind to read the Bible, but it's vital that you allow the truth of His nature to sink into your heart and spirit to really know Him.

Prayer is another way to draw close to Jesus. Open and honest conversation with Him is a great way to develop your relationship. He wants us to talk openly with Him just as we would with our closest friend. He also wants us to sit quietly and listen for His soft voice. Most importantly, He wants us to spend time alone with Him.

Getting to know Jesus and staying connected to Him requires intentionality. We must consciously make it a priority to protect the time we spend with Him. Sometimes I get so busy doing things that I sense God wants me to do that I lose sight of an even more important aspect of my faith, spending quality time with my Savior. What about you? Are you so busy that you tend to give Jesus breadcrumbs in terms of your time? If deep down you desire to change how you're connecting with Jesus, I urge you to set aside some time to reflect on your values and on how you're using your time. Consider how you could modify your schedule to make spending frequent and meaningful time with Him a reality. For example, if you find that the requirements of your job or other personal commitments leave you no regular quality time with Jesus, it may mean that you'll need to make some tough choices about your vocation and lifestyle. It will take courage to make some difficult and significant changes, but God will help you with the process.

The Benefits: Jesus tells us in *John 15:5* that if we "remain in Him" we will produce much fruit. Fruit might be aspects of our character like patience, kindness and peace as mentioned in *Galatians 5:22-23*, or it might be the good deeds we do like giving to the poor or serving others. Another type of fruit could be emotional and physical health and wellbeing. These are all aspects of the abundant life Jesus wants for each of us.

The more time you spend with Jesus, the more you'll understand and appreciate His qualities. This will help your love for Him to grow. In turn, you'll desire to spend even more time with Him. Almost without fail, it seems that the more frequent and richer my time with Jesus is, the more I'm able to be as He would want me to be. Deep down I feel truly loved and special. I feel free of my past. My trust in God grows deeper. I have more hope about the future. I have a greater desire to serve others and to use the special gifts God has given me. I also have deeper motivation to care for my body and feel empowered to make health-related choices that are good for me. Staying more closely connected to Jesus will better enable you to be the kind of man or woman He wants you to be and your life will become more full and meaningful. When this happens, God will be glorified.

A Recommended Resource: *Knowing God*, J.I. Packer

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Dale Fletcher is a speaker and wellness coach who lives in Charlotte, NC. He writes and conducts workshops on the link between the Christian faith and health. Connect with Dale at www.faithandhealthconnection.org.

Scrip Update

As summer comes to a close it's time to begin thinking about school and beyond. (The holidays are only 4 months away!) While shopping for those school supplies, why not purchase a gift card to your favorite store and benefit the scrip program. They also make great gifts for birthdays and the holidays. We continue to carry our basic cards every week at the scrip table and we also place orders each Sunday, which are available for pick-up the following Sunday. The list of merchants can be found at our table or on the website, ShopWithScrip.com. All proceeds continue to help support our kitchen ministry. Thanks!



- \$ 10.00 ~ Bath & Body, Dunkin Donuts, Panera, Pizza Hut, Starbucks
- \$ 25.00 ~ Acme, Giant, K-Mart, Staples, Starbucks, Target, Wawa
- \$100.00 ~ Acme, Giant, Wawa

Food Items Needed for St. Peters Monday Night Dinners

ONGOING ITEMS NEEDED	ONGOING ITEMS NEEDED	ITEMS NEEDED FOR SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER
Dinner rolls	Sturdy dinner plates	Butter/Margarine
Large loaves white bread	Forks, knives, spoons	Tuna
	Plastic sandwich bags	Tomato Sauce (not spaghetti sauce)
	Foil	No bake jello cheesecake in a box
		Gallon Iced Tea
		Canned tomatoes
		5 lb. bags all-purpose potatoes (4 bags needed)
		5 lb. bags baking potatoes (4 bags needed)
		Mozzarella cheese
		Tomato soup
		Spaghetti sauce



Phoenixville Area Community Services

257 Church Street
Phoenixville, PA 19460
610-933-1105

Urgent Needs

- Jelly
- Juice
- Pancake Mix
- Snacks
- Rice
- Canned fruit Cereal (boxed)
- Potatoes (canned or mashed)
- Canned meats /tuna
- Peas
- Deodorant
- Toilet Paper
- Stable Microwavable Meals



Additional Needs

- Syrup
- Baked Beans
- Canned Pasta Products (like Chef Boyardee)
- Salt and Seasonings
- Sugar
- Mayonnaise (and other condiments)
- Mac and Cheese
- Dried Beans, Peas and Lentils
- Baked Goods Mixes
- Ketchup & Mustard
- Salad Dressing
- Cooking Oil/Margarine
-

Non-food Items

The following non-food items are needed. These items cannot be purchased with food stamps and are always needed.

- Toilet Paper
- Bar Soap
- Shampoo/conditioner
- Toothpaste & Toothbrushes
- Razors
- Deodorant
- Feminine Products
- Diaper Wipes
- Dish Soap
- Laundry Detergent
- Baby Diapers (size 4, 5 and 6)
- Baby Food (stage 1, 3 and graduates for toddlers)

Central District Calendar of Prayer Scriptures for 2016-2017

SEPTEMBER 2016

Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.
Jeremiah 29:12

OCTOBER 2016

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. **Romans 12:12**

NOVEMBER 2016

The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. **Psalms 145:18**

DECEMBER 2016

Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. **Hebrews 4:16**

JANUARY 2017

But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. **James 1:6**

FEBRUARY 2017

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. **James 5:16**

MARCH 2017

But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. **Luke 6:27-28**

APRIL 2017

And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.
John 14:13

MAY 2017

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. **1 John 5:14**





2016
SERVING IN WORSHIP MINISTRY

September 4 at 9:30 a.m.

Greeter: Nancy Pittock
Ushers: Darlene Devaney, Bill Sadler
Becky Hoffman, Anne Post
Lay Reader: Carl Burkhart
Acolyte: Andrea Hook

8:30 a.m. Greeters:

Sept. 11 Dot Wood
18 Sally Doyle, Emma & Julia Taylor
25 Shirley Fogal

8:30 a.m. Ushers:

Sept. 11 Carl Burkhart
Bob Hyland
18 Sandy Whitney
Anne Post
25 Scott Hill
Erin Walters

8:30 a.m. Lay Readers:

Sept. 11 Charlie Peffall
18 Helen Martin
25 Dave Stauffer

8:30 a.m. Acolytes:

Sept. 11
18
25 Steven Huang

10:45 a.m. Greeters:

Sept. 11 Janet Ayres
18 Elizabeth David
25 Sara Bergstresser

10:45 a.m. Ushers:

Sept. 11 Dave Hayes, Marc Pochet
Brad Thompson, Jay Haas
18 Mike & Jon Zadrejko
Kent Piland, Ed Hook
25 Gwen Miller, Barb Gibson
Rhonda & Mary Huisenga

10:45 a.m. Lay Readers:

Sept. 11 Chuck Johns
18 Cathie Yeagle
25 Bill Michel

10:45 a.m. Acolytes:

Sept. 11 Corine Federer
18 Leah Kerry
25 Benjamin Kohn

September 2016

September 2016

October 2016

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Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa

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11 12 13 14 15 16 17
18 19 20 21 22 23 24
25 26 27 28 29 30

2 3 4 5 6 7 8
9 10 11 12 13 14 15
16 17 18 19 20 21 22
23 24 25 26 27 28 29

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Aug 28	29	30	31	Sep 1	2	3
9:30am Worship 11:00am Fantasy Football Live Draft 6:30pm Summer Kids Club	Labor Day Cancelled/Prayer Shawl Ministry 7:00pm	VFKH-School Opens 10:00am Women's Bible Study (Church Library) 12:30pm Ministerium	6:00pm Bible Study (Church Library)	9:00am VFKH (Fellowship Hall)		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Communion 9:30am Worship 11:00am Fantasy Football Live Draft 6:30pm Summer Kids Club	Labor Day Cancelled/Prayer Shawl Ministry 7:00pm	VFKH-School Opens 10:00am Women's Bible Study (Church Library) 12:30pm Ministerium	6:00pm Bible Study (Church Library)	6:00pm Jubilation Ringers Rehearsal 7:15pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal		Good Works 9:30am Lunch Prep (Lydia Circle) (Church Kitchen)
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Blessing of Backpacks Rally Day 8:30am Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Worship 12:00pm Acolyte Training (Sanctuary) 12:00pm Rally Day Picnic	1:00pm St. Peter's Food Prep (Kitchen) 1:30pm UMW Lydia Circle Meeting (Fellowship Hall) 7:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry (Staff Office)	10:00am Women's Bible Study (Church Library)	6:00pm Cancelled/Bible Study (Church Library)	8:30am VFKH-Tea & Tissues 6:00pm Jubilation Ringers Rehearsal 7:00pm VFKH-Back to School Night (Fellowship Hall) 7:15pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
8:30am Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Worship & Baptism 12:00pm Youth Group Meeting	6:30pm Trustees Meeting (Kitchen) 7:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry (Staff Office)	10:00am Women's Bible Study (Church Library) 12:00pm Staff Meeting (Sanctuary & Lounge) 7:00pm Finance Meeting	6:00pm Bible Study (Church Library)	6:00pm Jubilation Ringers Rehearsal 7:15pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal		9:00am VFKH-September Social (Fellowship Hall)
25	26	27	28	29	30	Oct 1
8:30am Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Worship 12:00pm Stockholder's Luncheon	1:00pm St. Peter's Food Prep (Kitchen) 7:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry (Staff Office)	9:00am PARN Meeting (Fellowship Hall) 10:00am Women's Bible Study (Church Library)	6:00pm Bible Study (Church Library)	6:00pm Jubilation Ringers Rehearsal 7:15pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal		

Aug 28 - Sep 3

Sep 4 - 10

Sep 11 - 17

Sep 18 - 24

Sep 25 - Oct 1