

THE BELL TOWER



Paris Presbyterian
Church

127 Steubenville Pike
Burgettstown, PA 15021

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Greetings one and all!

I don't want to speak too soon, but I think we are starting to see a glimmer of light at the end of this very dark tunnel. The COVID numbers are going down, and some of you have received at least your first vaccine. We began this journey during Lent last year, and here we are a whole year later about to begin another Lenten journey and still dealing with the consequences of this pandemic. In last Sunday's message some of you heard me talk about 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 where Paul talks about what it means to be the Body of Christ, which is the church. In verses 25-27 Paul says, "...there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."

It has been our responsibility as a church to take care of our more vulnerable parts. That is why we stopped worshiping in person; to keep our whole body safe. We did not stop being the church, as we continued to offer worship and mission opportunities. Since the numbers have been dropping, we are going to resume in-person worship on Sunday, March 7th at 8:45 (Contemporary Worship) and 11:00 (Traditional Worship). You do not have to make reservations, but we still have to limit seating to 30 people, so we will have the Gathering Place and Upper Room available for overflow, and the service will be viewed live. You will be required to wear a mask the whole time you are in the building, and we will still have to social distance, but we will not require temperatures upon entry to the building. We trust that you will stay home if you aren't feeling well. PLEASE do not stay home and think, "I'll leave room for someone else." That's what happened last time and we ended up with 8 people in worship.

I am also excited to offer a new opportunity beginning that Sunday. Since many of you are missing the opportunity to meet with your fellow believers, we are going to be offering a time to gather with your sisters and brothers in faith to have a deeper discussion about matters of faith and life. This will happen on Sunday mornings at 9:30 in the Fellowship Hall, where we can have a cup of coffee or tea and social distance, while digging a little deeper in to the Word and ourselves. We are calling this Deeper Down as we work toward fulfilling the second part of our mission statement: Grow in Faith. Everyone is welcome to join us for a time of fellowship, prayer and sharing.

As we begin the process of discovering what our new normal will look like and figuring out how we can effectively be the Body of Christ as we move into the future, may we do so remembering the Apostle Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 12:12, "The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and

DEEPER DOWN

Sunday, March 7

9:30 a.m.

Fellowship Hall



though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ.” Paul goes on to remind us that we are the Body of Christ, and each one of us is a part of it. It is going to take every one of us to discover and use our God-given talents and abilities for this church to be all that God intends it to be. Please consider how you can give of your time and talents, as well as your tithes and offerings.

When we aren't worshipping in person, it's easy to forget about offerings, but your tithes and offerings are what keeps the business of the church running. In my 17 years here, we have never done a stewardship campaign. That's amazing! We haven't had to do that because I've taught you what the Bible says about your finances. Your money is not yours; it is God's money, and He has given it to you as a gift. He only requires 10% in return – the rest is yours. Only 10%. When we give our 10% tithe to the church, God promises to bless us for our faithfulness. In Malachi God tells the people that they are robbing Him. He says:

“Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. But you ask, ‘How do we rob you?’

“In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse – the whole nation of you – because you are robbing me. Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.”

The people were robbing God because they weren't giving Him their tithe. God promised the people that if they repented, turned to Him and gave their tithe, He would give them so many blessings that they wouldn't have room enough for it. Friends, God has blessed us because of our faithfulness. Let's not let Him down now. Your tithes and offerings keep the church running. Because our giving was significantly lower last year, we have had to make some pretty significant cuts in the budget. The Budget Committee cut the Music Director salary in half, so we are having a hard time hiring someone to fill that position. If the giving continues on that downward path, we are not going to be able to continue doing the ministry we've done in our community. It is going to take all of us to step up and do our part to make this Body of Christ function properly. This Body needs YOU. Are you giving your time? Your talent? Your tithe?

As that light at the end of the tunnel slowly gets brighter, I challenge you to think about what you want the church to look like on the other side. What is your vision for the future church? If you want the church to be here, you are going to have to help make that happen. If you want this church to have a staff to lead you in to the future, you are going to have to help make that happen. If you want PPC to continue sharing and being the gospel in this community, you are going to have to help make that happen. If you want to fulfill our mission to Go in Service and Grow in Faith, you are going to have to help make that happen. Friends, let's make all those things happen....together!

Blessings,

Rev. Tina



CHURCH CRIER

CALENDARS AND OFFERING ENVELOPES AVAILABLE

If you have not picked up your offering envelopes, they are in the church library. Just look for your name and take them.

If you paid for your church calendar, you can tell Judy in the office, and she will get it for you. Check with her if you did not order one but would like to purchase a calendar. The church calendar is a great way to see who has a birthday or anniversary.



ANOTHER HAT FOR JOEL

We might call Joel Peterson, Rev. Tina's right hand man. He's the IT guy, preaches, sings with the Praise Team, works with Austin Michael to give the Children's Sermons, helps the Outreach Committee, and leads the Youth Group. If that is not enough, he has now taken on the job of Church Treasurer.

The job requires that it not be given to a church member. There is no money handling involved, but the Session decided that after several churches in the Pittsburgh area had money embezzled from church funds, they would require that several people handle accounts and the books. This is a good business practice so that no one has exclusive access to church funds.

Joel worked with Jerry Shumate, who volunteered for the job until someone was hired, so that he was familiar with our accounting practices. Thanks to Jerry for stepping in, filling the job, and training Joel.



SELF-AWARENESS CLASS

Over the last few months, Rev. Tina and Joel have been taking us on a journey of self-awareness to help us dig below the surface. Many times our responses and reactions to people and situations are a result of something going on deep inside.

As we've been unpacking that, we've been learning how God created each of us as unique individuals. During Lent, Rev. Tina will be leading a 7 week class on Self-Awareness, where individuals will continue to learn about themselves through a series of personal assessments, including a Core Values Assessment, Myers-Briggs & Enneagram Personality Assessments, Strength-Finders, DISC Assessment and Spiritual Gifts.

The individuals will discover more about themselves and the gifts God has given them for ministry at home, at work, and in the world. The class will begin Wednesday, February 17th at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom and will run through Lent.





WAY TO GO, TINA

During the pandemic, Rev. Tina accepted her own challenge to learn something new. First, she learned how to play the banjo.

Second, she completed the course work to become a Certified Christian Life Coach. She will be working with people who are seeking more out of their work, relationships, or life in general; people who feel as though God has something better in store for them. She will help them work toward discovering who they are in Christ and ultimately become the person God is calling them to be.

A coach is not a counselor or therapist. A life coach helps people get from where they are to where they want to be. If that's you, give her a call and set up an appointment for a free discovery session to see if coaching is for you.



VALENTINES FOR VETS

Because of COVID, the Valentines for Vets could not be done between services. Instead, card stock cut to size, stickers, markers and instructions were placed inside baggies. Members were invited to take a bag (or more), make the 5 valentines inside the bag, and return them to the church. All bags were picked up and returned which gave us the 100 valentines for the VA Hospital in Clarksburg, WV.

Bill Frazier works for the VA in Oakland, and he gives the valentines to a bus driver who brings veterans to Pittsburgh from Clarksburg. The driver delivers the cards to the hospital.

Thanks to all who made valentines. The veterans will love them.

Next year we will have to make 200 valentines for the Pittsburgh VA since we do WV one year and PA the next.





FREE SOUP WEDNESDAY CONTINUES THROUGH MARCH

Along with being known as a loving, kind church, we also are known as good cooks. The soups donated each week proves that over and over again.

Wednesday Soup Day is very popular, and there has not been a bad soup on the menu. There are three each week donated by members of the congregation.

Call the church office and find out what the soup choices are and then put in your order. Joel will have the soup ready for you when you arrive at the church.

Joel would like to thank everyone who has donated a soup, and he would appreciate anyone who would like to make soup to let him know.

If there are any shut-ins who would like soup delivered to them,



DEACONS CONTINUE TO SERVE

Although the Corona Virus has stopped the Deacons from visiting in person, they continue to send cards and call their flock .

The Deacons would like our congregation to know that food boxes are available at the church. They also have some money available for family emergencies for members of our church. Call the church office or speak to a Deacon.



REMODELING OF MANSE KITCHEN IS DONE

After many months of tearing up and taking down, the kitchen at the manse is done. The cabinets, floors, counter tops, and appliances are all in place. The sliding glass door to the side porch is in as is the pocket door leading to the new dining room.

The plumbing, wiring, and the back splash are completed.

The kitchen remodeling was a major undertaking that should have been done years ago. Thanks to Dennis Jancart and Kelly Ward, Rev. Tina will have counter-space, storage, and updated appliances. Thanks for the great work!

GOOD BYE, GARY

On Friday, February 12, Gary Baughman lost his battle with Crohn's, brain cancer, and strokes. As every one knows, Gary was our choir director who kept our choir together when other churches could not get enough people to participate and keep their choir going. Many times he led the choir while ill.

Gary was also active in community theater in the Pittsburgh area. He loved to entertain his audience with his singing and great characters.

When passing homeless people on the street, he did not walk by quickly and ignore them. He stopped and asked what they needed and gave all he could afford, in fact, sometimes more than he could afford.

When he came to the gates of heaven, they opened wide, and St. Peter said, "Well done good and faithful servant, we have been waiting for you!" Gary made us smile, and he probably is already making the angels laugh. He will be missed!

IN MEMORIUM

**Daniel Irvin, Sunny McCoy,
Maureen Cooper,
Barbara Holbert, Joe Ertlewine,
Alan Gutwald, Marian Barish,
David Holt, Jim Majoris,
James Rhoades, Yovenne Kinder,
Carl Hammil, William (Corky) Gordon,
Brian Ritchie, Lori Keplinger,
Gary Baughman, Delmar Dean,
Patty Gray Holt,
John (Nunny) Jonczak.**

ORCHIDS AND ONIONS

ORCHIDS: To all of the scientists who worked to make the vaccines for COVID.

ORCHIDS: To the State of West Virginia for having a great plan for getting their citizens the vaccine.

ONIONS: To the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania which doesn't have a great plan to get the vaccines to its citizens especially in rural areas.

ORCHIDS: To everyone who donated soup.

ORCHIDS: Again to Kelly Ward and Dennis Jancart for the beautiful work they accomplished in the Manse kitchen.

ORCHIDS: To all who picked up Valentine kits and made Valentines for Vets.

ORCHIDS: To all of the veterans who receive the Valentines.

ORCHIDS: To those who show love all the time not just on Valentines Day.

ORCHIDS: To Jill Fraizer, Avery Havelka, and the Burgettstown Girl's Basketball Team for winning first place in the Class 2A Section 3 basketball finals for the first time in 23 years. Go girls!

ORCHIDS: To Karen and Rich Anderson for delivering DVD's of our church services to the shut-ins who do not have internet.

ORCHIDS: To Jerry Shumate for filling in as Church Treasurer until Joel was hired.

ORCHIDS: To Tammy Ramsey who retired as Church Treasurer.

“SOUP OF THE EVENING, BEAUTIFUL SOUP IN A BEAUTIFUL GREEN TUREEN”

This quote from “*Alice in Wonderland*” makes us think of big pots of steaming soup simmering on the back of the stove ready for us when we came in from school or playing in the snow.

Free Soup Wednesday is very popular at the church, and if you have not tried the soups, you should. Soups around the world are similar, just made with different herbs and meats. Everyone seems to love homemade soup. Here are some recipes for cold winter evenings.:

FRENCH ONION

Ingredients: (serves 6-8)

- 1 tablespoon butter
- 2 tablespoons olive butter
- 4 onions finely sliced
- 2 to 5 garlic cloves or garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon dried thyme
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup dry white wine
- 2 1/4 cups beef stock
- 6-8 thick slices of French bread lightly toasted
- 3 cups grated Gruyere or Swiss cheese

In a large skillet heat butter and oil over medium/high heat. Add onions and cook for 10-12 minutes until they are soft and beginning to turn brown. Put one garlic clove aside and add rest to onions. Cook over medium heat 30-35 minutes until onions are brown, stirring frequently. Stir in beef stock. Sprinkle the flour over and stir until well blended. Stir in wine and bring to boil. Skim foam, lower heat and simmer 45 minutes. Heat broiler, rub toasted bread with garlic clove, place onion soup in ovenproof bowls, float bread on soup. Top with grated cheese, and place soup bowls under broiler 6 inches from heat for 3-4 minutes until the cheese begins to melt and bubble. Serve piping hot. (from the *Soup Bible*)



POTATO SOUP

Ingredients:

- Crock Pot
- 6 large potatoes peeled and cubed
- 1 large onion chopped
- 42 ounces of chicken broth
- 1/4 cup of butter, cubed
- 2 1/2 teaspoons of salt
- Ground pepper to taste

To add at end:

- 1 cup heavy cream
- 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese

Place first 6 ingredients in slow cooker and cook on high for 4 –5 hours. When done, mash potatoes into smaller chunks. (Don't completely mash as in mash potatoes.)

Add 1 cup of heavy cream and 1 cup of shredded cheddar cheese. Heat until cheese melts. (from Karen Anderson)





EASTER CANDY DELIVERIES TO HOSPITAL STAFF

It may seem too early to think about Easter already, but it will be here before we know it. As we get closer to Easter, our Outreach Team will be collecting candy to deliver to the staff at Weirton Medical Center. If you'd like to get involved by donating candy, we will be providing more information over the next couple weeks.



PLANS FOR EASTER SERVICES???

Although there have been discussions about our Easter Services, there is nothing concrete until we find out how the COVID numbers will be going when Easter comes.

Right now the numbers seem to be going down, so let's pray that they continue to be on the downward spiral. Then let's pray that the vaccine is available to everyone soon.

Sounds like a lot to ask for, but we know God can do anything!

BACKPACKS FOR THE HOMELESS

As a church, we support the Washington City Mission through our Outreach giving. One way that we can be more involved in their ministry is by collecting backpacks with supplies for their We Care street outreach program. These backpacks will be given to homeless individuals who continue to live on the streets. The items we need are:

Adult backpacks

Socks

Towels (not extra thick)

Wash cloths

Bar soap

Vaseline

Toothpaste & toothbrush

Tissues (small box)

Refillable water bottle

Crackers, breakfast bars, etc. in plastic bags

Q-Tips

Comb & brush

Can opener

Thank you for your support of this ministry!





VALENTINES DAY PIZZA DELIVERIES

While many of us have been able to stay safe this last year by working from home and avoiding crowds, our first responders have continued to diligently serve our community. One way that we had to thank them for their service was by delivering pizzas to them. Thank you to all the volunteers who made this possible.



YOUTH GROUP

The Paris Youth Group has been meeting over Zoom for the past few weeks on Sunday nights at 6 pm to watch and discuss the Alpha Youth course.

This video series covers the essentials of the Christian faith and invites honest conversation about what we believe.

GIVING

2 Corinthians 9:7 -- Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

Paris Church is blessed by the faithful giving of our members. Through this pandemic, we have been blessed that we have been able to adapt to the needs of our church family and continue to engage in outreach ministry.

We hope that you will continue to give as you are able so that as we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, our church will be stronger than ever.



THE SAD OLD CHURCH

Once upon a time there was a group of people who were on a bus tour on their way to the mountains. They were to stop for the night at a motel in a small town off the beaten track.



They got off the interstate and on to a rural country road. The country was picturesque, and everyone was looking out the windows.

Standing by itself, stood a little church that at one time was beautiful. Now it's roof was sagging, the porch was leaning, the stained glass windows had panes of glass missing, and the weeds were taller than the people on the bus. The church just looked sad.



One man said, "I wonder what happened to that church? At one time, I'll bet it was a beauty."

"Someone probably didn't like some changes that they made and convinced everyone else that it was wrong," said his friend.

"Or maybe the church needed money, and when the budget committee asked for it, some in the congregation got mad and did not give any money at all," said one of the women.

"I think that the older people died off, and the younger members were too busy to take over the jobs," said another woman.

"A lot of parents in the community did not take their kids to Sunday school either. They let the children play soccer or ball instead of going to church," said the first man.

"Sometimes people get mad at the minister for some reason, and they quit going to church. They never realized what the minister had on hers/his plate that week."

"I've been listening," said the bus driver. "Maybe we should remember this as we go back home. A church is alive when everyone's hands help."



WHAT'S IN A WORD?

Have you ever thought about what words sound like? There are pretty words, and there are ugly words. Butterfly is a pretty word. It makes us think of yellow, orange, black, and even blue butterflies flitting among the flowers.

On the other side, ugly is an ugly word. Even when we say ugly, the sound is deep in our throats and comes out with nothing like music about it. When we say ugly, we think of something dirty, odd, or different. If food is ugly, we do not want to eat it. Ugly words can hurt our feelings. They cut our heart and make us feel sad.

Why do we use ugly words? They make kids and adults who feel bad about themselves feel better. By making others feel worse than them, bullies make themselves feel more powerful.

Words give us feelings. Happy people use happy and kind words. They don't have to put people down. In fact, they like to make others feel good. The memories of bad words can stay with us a life time.

What kind of words do you use? Everyday we speak hundreds to thousands of words. Have you thought about how many of your words are pretty and kind or how many are ugly or hateful?

During Lent let's try to use words like thank you, please, nice, good, pretty, love, joy, funny, laugh, excellent, good job, helpful, and pray.

You know the ugly words. How about giving them up for Lent and then continue not using them when Lent is over. Let's ban them forever. You will feel better and so will others. Let's make people smile! Let's make God smile!



"Leprechauns are like Santa's elves, except they don't come out of the woods 'til St. Patrick's Day."



May the sound of happy music,
And the lilt of Irish laughter,
fill your heart with gladness,
that stays forever after. (An Irish Blessing)



IF WINTER COMES, CAN SPRING BE FAR BEHIND?

The spring garden catalogues are coming in the mail. They are my first ray of hope that spring is on the way. I peruse them over and over again. I don't buy plants as I used to, but in my mind, my flower gardens look like those in the catalogues.

House plants can reduce stress and lower blood pressure just by watching them. (Maybe that is why they have them in doctors offices, but they usually are not taken care of very well). If you give the plants the right light, fertilize at the proper time, and water when required, they will cleanse the air, relax you and bring beauty to your home.

Remember that March 1 is the day to fertilize your house plants. They have been resting, and when you give them food, it wakes them up. Early spring is a good time to reset house plants. Some plants like orchids require special soil, but most can be planted in potting soil. While you have your plant out of the pot, look to see if it has dead roots which you can trim off or if the plant needs to be separated.

Check to see if your plant has bugs such as white flies. You can spray them with house plant spray, or most nurseries carry yellow sticky pads which trap the flies. White flies seem to love yellow. Also, gnats or fruit flies like house plants because they give them a place to hide.

If Ollies still has it, there is a very good book called, "Practical House Plant Book." It has great pictures, tells when to water, and how much light the plant requires. The very best thing about the book is it is just \$5. The book also features sections on designing with house plants, terrariums, and propagation.

If you are thinking of buying houseplants, look for ones that look healthy. Turn the plant upside down and look to see if it is root bound and look for creepy crawlers. Also watch to see if the plant is near a door where drafts would chill it. House plants do not like cold weather.

If you have a shaded porch, most house plants do well outside in summer. If they like bright light, gradually move them into bright light or the sun if they can tolerate it. (I feel sorry for the palm trees at the New Life Church. They place them into the sun as soon as they put them outside. The plants get sunburnt every summer.)

House plants are not hard to take care of if you follow the instructions. They make your house look warm and inviting, give it texture and interest, and help the air in your house to stay clean.

If you feed the birds, inspect the birdseed for grain moths. They can get into your flour, cereal, or cake mixes. It can be expensive to replace all of your grain products. Keep feeding the birds even into spring because all of the plant seeds have been eaten or dropped on the ground. The birds will reward you by eating bugs all spring, summer, and fall.

Speaking of birds, I have seen small black birds with white stripes on their sides on the Hanlin Station Road. I could not find them in our bird book, but online, we found them to be lark buntings. When our bird guide book was published in 1966, they were shown to be in the midwest. (My bird book is so old, the birds looked blue. Guess we need a new one.) With our climate warming, plants and animals are moving into northern climates. Look around, you may see something out of the ordinary in your neighborhood.



"HONEY, HAVE YOU WATERED THE PHILODENDRON LATELY?"

PARIS PRESBYTERIAN
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BURGETTSTOWN, PA 15021

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT # 54
WEIRTON, WV 26062

SERVICES: Sunday 8:45 (Contemporary) and 11:00 A.M. (Traditional) , SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDIES: Mondays: 7:00 PM (church) , Wednesday: 7 P.M. (church), and several online studies {Check with church office because some groups are not meeting}

FEBRUARY:

17-Ash Wednesday (Lent begins)
Rev. Tina's Lenten Self Awareness Class begins at 6:30 PM (virtually).
Free Soup Wednesday at noon.

24-Free Soup Wednesday
Lenten Self Awareness Class 6:30 PM

MARCH:

3, 10, 17, 24-Free Soup Wednesday also
Lenten Self Awareness Class 6:30 PM

17-St. Patrick's Day

MARCH (continued)

28-Palm Sunday

APRIL:

01-April Fool's Day

02-Good Friday

04-Easter

MAY:

05-Cinco de Mayo

09-Mother's Day

31-Memorial Day