

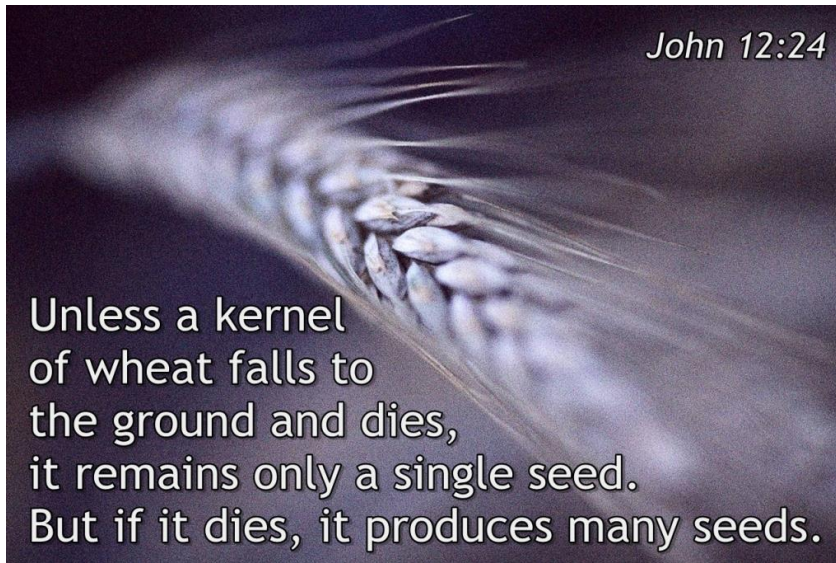


First Presbyterian Church

of Pittsburgh

320 Sixth Avenue, Pittsburgh PA 15222

**A DYNAMIC, TRANSFORMING CHURCH
WHERE ALL ARE WELCOME,
LIVES ARE CHANGED, AND THE
GOSPEL IS LIVED AND PROCLAIMED.**



MARCH 19, 2017

INTERSECTION, (TOM'S BLOG)

I was a marginal Christian for most of my life.

I mean there was never a time when I didn't believe in God. But when asked to serve in the church, I usually said "no." Too busy, I told myself. Yet when I quit making that excuse, my life started to change. It turned out there *was* time on my schedule after all. I even began to enjoy serving. I began to get glimpses into the riches of a life of faith.

I guess it's not surprising that when I began sensing a call to pastoral ministry, a strong part of that call was to minister to busy professionals like I had been.

As a minister, I've found that one of the really important things I do is to counsel the folks who come to our church to be married.

Most of them are busy professionals, *just like me at their age*.

Many are marginal Christians, *just like me at their age*.

They believe in God, but many say they're "too busy" to go deeper *just like me at their age*.

Jesus, talking about his impending death and resurrection, said in John 12:24, "Unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds."

The whole Christian faith depends on the one who dies to be raised again.

The same is true of our faith. We can climb the ladders professionals climb and think that's the point of life. And so we need to die a little to our busy selves. Otherwise we can go on for years, doing the things busy people do, and miss the riches of a life of faith.

A wise person once said, "Nobody on their deathbed ever said, "I wish I had spent more time in the office."

"Lord, give me the words to convey the gospel to busy people. Give them the wisdom to understand. Amen."

Tom



WE GATHER AROUND THE WORD

Prelude: *“Be Thou My Vision”*
“The Peace May Be Exchanged”

arr. Don Wyrzten
Dan Locklair

First Church News

Rev. Tom Hall

Moment for Mission

Rich Osberg – Work Day
Judy Shipley – Missions Weekend

Time of Welcome

Introit: *“Glory to His Name”*

Sam Viggiano

Down at the cross where my Savior died, down where for cleansing from sin I cried, there to my heart was the blood applied; Glory to His name!

Ref: *Glory to His name, glory to His name; There to my heart was the blood applied; Glory to His name!*

I am so wondrously saved from sin, Jesus so sweetly abides within, there at the cross where He took me in; Glory to His name!

***Responsive Call to Worship** (From Psalm 71, *The Message*)

Dave Deutsch

Leader: I run for dear life to God, I'll never live to regret it.

People: Lord, do what you do so well: get us out of this mess and up on our feet.

Leader: You're the guest room where I can retreat; your door is always open!

People: Just as each day brims with your beauty, our mouths brim with praise.

Leader: Lord, you got me when I was an unformed youth, and taught me everything I know.

People: We will tell the world of your wonders, until we're old and gray!

All: We will worship God all the days of our lives.

***Hymn: # 53 “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”**

Unison Prayer of Confession

Rev. Dan Turis

Eternal God, your word tells us that unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. Lord, we confess that we have not lived as if that were true. We're afraid of death. We're obsessed with youth and beauty. We shrink from serving if there's danger involved. Lord, forgive us. Help us to live boldly, dying to self, as if we really believed the truth of the resurrection. Amen

Silent Confession

Assurance of God's Grace

WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD

Children's Message

Dave Deutsch

(Children ages preschool – 1st grade are invited to attend Children's Worship on the 3rd floor balcony at this time. Children are to be picked up immediately after service in the chapel behind the high pulpit.)

***Hymn: # 599 “Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”**

Prayer for Illumination

Rev. Dan Turis

Scripture Reading – John 12:20-36 (p. 762 – Bible; p. 1671 – lg. print Bible)

Leader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

Sermon – Forever Young

Rev. Dan Turis

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

***Affirmation of Faith** – The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Call for the Offering

Dave Deutsch

Anthem: "God of Heaven"

God of Heaven, God of all the earth and sky. Master of all nature. Who gives birth to snow from heaven, holds the waves at ocean's edge, gives the orders to the morning, shows dawn its place to shine?

God of Ages, God who wrote the Book of Time. Sov'reign Ruler. Alpha and Omega. Saints before, He's guided safely. History's pages signed by Him. Author of our days and hours. Things to come are held secure.

God of Power! God who breaks the darkness. Righteous Warrior. Champion of His children. Goes before us into battle. Good and evil bow to Him. Those in bondage freed forever. Victories won at his command!

God who heals us. God who gives us peace and hope. Carries all our fragile dreams and heartaches, wins and failures. Binds the broken, hides the weak. New beginnings freely offered. Who can make us whole again?

***Doxology – Hymn #731**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Dedication of Paraments

***Prayer of Commitment**

WE FOLLOW THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

***Hymn: # 521 "My Hope is Built on Nothing Less"**

***Invitation and Charge**

Rev. Dan Turis

***Benediction**

***Congregational Response** – "Though I May Speak With Bravest Fire", # 597, vs. 3"

Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control, our spirits long to be made whole. Let inward love guide every deed; by this we worship and are freed.

Postlude: "Alle Menschen Mussen Sterben"

arr. Marcel Dupre

***Please stand as you are able.**

Prayer for Friends

Donna Watson
Michael, Rachel, Lydia & Amira Weller
Malachy & Patty Whalen
Josh, Kim, Addison & Grayson White
Matt, Carolyn, Luke & Alexis Whitworth

David, Lisa, Otis & Marin Williams
Doug, Katie, Ben & Abby Williams
Philip & Nancy Williams
Ray & Cathy Williams
Frances Wilson

Happy Birthday

James Moser	March 22	Robert Katelan	March 26
Erica Marx	March 24		

Parament Dedication

Today in worship we dedicate to the glory of God a set of new white paraments created by member Laurie Charlton. Sincere thanks to Laurie for your many talents. Your hard work will beautify our sanctuary and help usher us into the presence of God.

Lenten Book Study – Join Us!

Our Lenten Book Study has begun! Join us at noon in the lounge on Lenten Tuesdays (through April 11) to discuss Fuller Seminary President, Mark Labberton's book, *The Dangerous Act of Worship*. Sign up in the chapel, or e-mail jhall@fpcp.org. Discussion led by Jana Hall. Book is available from Amazon.com, or your favorite book store.

Birthday Card Request

Emily Davis, daughter of FPCP friend and former member Virginia Davis, has a special request. Her mother will celebrate her 90th birthday on April 5, 2017. The family will go to Savannah to celebrate this special event. Emily would like to give Virginia a big box of birthday cards during the festivities – and a photograph in the card would be even better. You can send your cards to Emily at 118 W. Whatley St., Pooler, GA, 31322. Try to send your special wishes as soon as possible. Virginia would certainly love to hear from her FPCP friends!

Deacon Spotlight: Food Bank – Items of the Month

We can all make an impact by helping in small ways. The FPCP Food Bank Ministry is an important and simple way to get involved with our church community. For the month of March, you can help by bringing in **ready to eat soup**. So many varieties are easily available. Please give your donation to Ruth Hall or Cherie Bowman, or deposit at the cookie table during Fellowship Hour.

Outreached Arms

Outreached Arms continues serving meals each Tuesday in our cafeteria. Please consider volunteering your time (6:00-8:30 pm) as we open our hearts to those in need of food and comfort. There are various places to share your gifts and talents. Contact Lisa Williams @412-508-9284 or Youth Volunteer Coordinator, Otis Williams @412-508-3222. God is blessing these efforts!

Lenten Devotionals Available

Lenten devotional materials are still available on the Information Table at the Welcome Center! Adults will use "Moving Toward the Cross," reflections on the writings of Frederick Buechner, by Dr. Martin E. Marty. Families may use a Lenten activity calendar for family activities, Bible readings, prayers and thought-starters.

Updates requested

If you have had an address, telephone number, or e-mail address change, don't forget to inform Mary Jane in the office (412-471-3436, ext. 210 or mjsnyder@fpcp.org)

This Week

Sunday, March 19 – Third Sunday in Lent

8:30 am Choir Rehearsal
9:30 am Faith Development
9:30 am New Member Conversations
10:45 am Worship Service
12:00 pm Glory Singers Rehearse
12:00 pm Hospitality – Girl Scout Cookies

Monday, March 20

10:00 am Ladies' Bible Study
3:30 pm Youth for Christ (Cellar)
6:30 pm Deacons Meeting

Tuesday, March 21

9:30 am Staff Meeting
12:00 pm Lenten Book Study (Lounge)
3:30 pm Youth for Christ (Cellar)
6:00 pm Outreached Arms Dinner

Wednesday, March 22

10:30 am Prayer Outreach
6:30 pm Youth Dinner & Discussion

Thursday, March 23

4:00 pm Youth for Christ (Cellar)

Friday, March 24

5:00 pm Wedding Rehearsal

Saturday, March 25

4:30 pm Zimmick-LeDonne Wedding

Sunday, March 26 – Fourth Sunday in Lent

8:30 am Choir Rehearsal
9:30 am Faith Development
9:30 am New Member Conversations
10:45 am Worship Service
12:00 pm Glory Singers Rehearse
12:30 pm Hospitality Hour

Mission Spotlight From Emily Mills

“About a week ago, I was offered the position of ‘Children’s Ministry Director’ at First Presbyterian Church of Beaver! I had an interview last Wednesday and they offered me the position later that evening. It was incredible, flattering, and affirming to be offered the job so quickly and it made the next step clear for me. So as of April 1st I will be moving to Beaver, PA and beginning to take over running this church’s thriving children’s ministry on April 5th! I am thrilled and excited at this new season of my life: for roots, growth, investment, and relationships. I am eager to learn and dive into it!

Pleasant Valley Shelter

Once a month, FPCP Deacons lead the serving of a warm, home-cooked meal to the men of Pleasant Valley Men’s Shelter on the North Side. (1601 Brighton Rd., Pgh., PA 15212). The shelter accommodates the needs of 25 men who are homeless every night of the year. The North Side Common Ministries staff assists the men as they work toward stability and independence by providing various services and supports. The shelter opens daily at 4:30 pm, and provides residents with safe, secure sleeping quarters, a hot shower, and a warm evening meal. Just one evening a month, the Deacons have been serving a home-cooked meal, and sharing fellowship for over 10 years. Our menu varies, but usually consists of a roast or lasagna, accompanied by salad, warm rolls, a delicious dessert and side vegetable. Each volunteer brings only one item each. It truly is a gratifying joy to serve them! If you are available, once a month, to prepare food or serve meals, please see Carmen Melendez! Upcoming days of service include April 5.

Easter Tulips

Again this year, we will have lovely white tulips to decorate the sanctuary in celebration of the resurrection of our Lord. The cost of \$15 will not only purchase a lovely plant in honor or member of loved ones, it will go toward the cost of a lovely arrangement for the low pulpit. Lavender colored forms are available; deadline for order submission is Friday, April 7, 2017.

40 Days for Life

40 Days for Life has begun in Pittsburgh, and in more than 300 cities and 30 countries around the world! This event extends through April 9th. Many lives have been saved and hearts changed because of 40 Days for Life!

Walk On By

Homelessness as seen through the eyes of local artists will take place at Future Tenant Gallery (819 Penn Ave. in the Cultural District) from March 24th through April 2nd. Free admission on weekends. Opening reception on March 24th will be from

Spring Work Day

Looking for an opportunity to come to church in your jeans and dig in the dirt or dust the sanctuary? Then come, join your church family on Saturday, April 8th from 9am to 1pm for our spring work day. We need helpers of all skill levels to spruce up our building and grounds just before Holy Week Services. You can utilize your gifts to:

- Dust and polish pews in main sanctuary and balcony
- Dust and polish woodwork in Chapel
- Paint railing on the Chapel stairway to 3rd floor
- Polish silver (lots of silver!)
- Yardwork: prune, clean up leaves
- Clean the kitchen

Please consider coming out for any part of that day that works for you. You can fill out the sign-up sheet in the Chapel Welcome Center, or contact Mary Jane Snyder in the church office. (mjsnyder@fpcp.org or 412-471-3436, ext. 210)

Empty Bowls

The Empty Bowls Dinner, held to benefit the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank, will be served at Rodef Shalom (4905 5th Ave., 15213) from 1:30-3:30pm today, March 19th, and also from 4-6pm. Tickets at the door will be \$25 if available, and \$10 for children 12 and under. This is the 22nd year for this special event, which will also benefit Just Harvest. Guests choose a beautiful hand-made bowl to take home as a keepsake. The soup will be provided by the best restaurants in Pittsburgh.

Mark Your Calendar

April 1-2		Missions Weekend
April 2	12 Noon	Elder Friendship Meal
April 9	10:45 am	Palm/Passion Sunday Worship
April 13	12 Noon & 7:30 pm	Maundy Thursday Communion Service
April 14	12 Noon	Good Friday Service
	7:30 pm	Good Friday Tenebrae Service of the Nails
April 16		Easter Sunday Festival Service
June 26		Latin Lattes & American Pies – Lisa Anderson-Umana

First Church Staff

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MAINTENANCE STAFF

Robert DeVere
David Hanley
Bill Branning

Church Office hours are Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. 412-471-3436, www.fpcp.org. For pastoral emergencies after office hours, please call 412-913-7010. The Sanctuary is open weekdays from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. The deadline for receiving information for the bulletin is at least 7 days prior to the date of the bulletin's issue.

Bulletins: If you would like to receive your weekly bulletin via e-mail, please contact Mary Jane Snyder at mjsnyder@fpcp.org, or call 412-471-3436. Want more FPCP news during the week? Watch for your FPCP newsletter via e-mail! The e-newsletter provides project updates and photos, news between bulletins, and ways to get involved! Not on our e-mail list? Just send a message to mjsnyder@fpcp.org. Deadline for submitting news: Tuesday, 4:00 p.m.

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Quality Nursery Care is on the ground floor during Sunday School and worship.

Today's sermon will be available on our web site on Monday: www.fpcp.org

Sunday School/Faith Development offers a variety of educational classes to encourage thoughtful discussion for adults, youth, and children. Classes are held from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Interested in membership, or learning about the church's beliefs? Contact Mary Jane in the church office at 412-471-3436, or mjsnyder@fpcp.org.

Hearing Devices, large-print Bibles, and children's bulletins are available from our ushers.

Cell Phones: Please turn your cell phones to vibrate during worship.

Sunday Services:

Sunday School – 9:30 am Worship – 10:45 am

Join us at Noon! Girl Scout Cookies today!

Need Validated Parking?

Sundays only, get your parking ticket stamped at the FPCP Welcome Center in the Narthex (front lobby). See the person in the payment booth at Mellon Square or Smithfield Street garage to pay \$1 for parking.