

*Saved by grace alone, through Christ alone, we
love God, love others, and share the Gospel.*

THE CHURCH CHIMES

Peters Creek Evangelical Presbyterian Church • 608 E. McMurray Road, Suite 102 • McMurray, PA 15317

March 2019

FROM OUR PASTOR

The Lamb of God the Scarlet Thread



Someone has pointed out that Jesus Christ is like a scarlet thread that stretches from the Book of Genesis through the Book of Revelation. When one becomes familiar with the Old and New Testaments this idea becomes self-evident. Of course, the scarlet thread stands for the thought that blood needs to be shed for the forgiveness of sins (Hebrews 9:22). As this theme progresses in the Old Testament the most perfect sacrifice for sin is embodied in the sacrifice of the lamb at Passover. Throughout the Old Testament the first born, year old lamb without blemish is the preferred sacrifice for sin. The idea of the first born of the flock starts with Abel in Genesis chapter four and finds its culmination in Jesus Christ who is identified by John the Baptist.

John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29 NIV).

What John meant by his statement was that Jesus would be the final manifestation of the sacrificial lamb. It would be Jesus who would once and for all take away the sin of humanity.

During Lent and Easter, we will explore this great theme. We will see how the Bible, the Old and New Testaments, progressively foreshadow and identifies Jesus as the One who would take on the role as sin bearer for humanity. I am hoping this will be an enlightening and faith strengthening series of messages. Your Pastor and Friend,

Doug Brandt

Lenten Collection Boxes

Lent is a time of reflection and spiritual renewal. It is a time to focus on what Jesus has taught us – one of these things being to take care of those less fortunate than us and those in need. This Lenten season the Mission Team is handing out "Lenten Collection Boxes". We would like you to prayerfully consider those who are struggling to put food on their tables. All monies collected will go the Peters Township Food Bank to purchase Giant Eagle gift cards for perishables such as dairy – produce – and meat. Please take a box from the information table at the rear of the sanctuary. They may be returned anytime between today and Easter Sunday. We are so blessed – please consider how you can share God's love with others in our Community.

The Lent and Easter Sermon Series-The Lamb of God



March 10, 2019 – ***The Lamb of God: The First Born of the Flock*** – Abel offers the first born of his flock as an offering for sin. It was not that the animal sacrifice was more acceptable to God than plant sacrifices. (Both are permitted in the Mosaic Law.) But, that Abel's sacrifice was given in faith!

March 17, 2019 – ***The Lamb of God: A Lamb Instead of Isaac*** – The Lamb of God is a theme of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. In the Old Testament a lamb without blemish became the "thing" God used to atone for sin and make peace with Him. The sole heir of Abraham was Isaac, yet God required that Abraham sacrifice Isaac to show that he believed in God's promise. What did God do? He released Abraham from the test and provided a sacrifice instead.

March 24, 2019 – ***The Lamb of God: Death Passes Over and Does Not Stay*** – The lamb reappears in the deliverance of Israel from captivity. Once again, the lamb is slain, its blood used as a sign to mark those who believed in God. Those who did not received a personal visit from death. The lamb caused the sins of the people not to be counted so that they could experience the salvation of God. In this case, the deliverance from Egypt.

March 31, 2019 – ***The Lamb of God: The Constant Sacrifice*** – Israel was told to sacrifice over and over again. The lamb was preferable, but other sacrifices would suffice, depending on the financial wherewithal of each person. The sacrifice would preferably be a male lamb without blemish. This of course points to something greater, because it is obvious the blood of sheep and goats could not eradicate sin once and for all. What was needed was a sacrifice which would remain constant for all time & eternity.

April 7, 2019 – ***The Lamb of God Who Takes Away the Sin of the World*** – Now we see what all of the sacrifices pointed to, Jesus Christ. God obligated Himself to send His sole heir to make restitution for our sins. It was in Christ that an end to sacrifices would be made. It is by faith that each of us can receive the imputation of His sacrifice for us. In Christ God "passes over" our sins.

April 14, 2019 – ***The Lamb of God Enthroned*** – When Jesus finished His work on the cross and after He had been raised from the dead, He ascended into heaven and was seated at the right hand of God. He purchased all sorts of people for eternal life. His work made Him worthy of our worship & praise. Since this is Palm Sunday, we will see that the praise of the people was not in vain, but actually portends the Risen, Exalted Lord.

April 21, 2019 – ***The Lamb of God Shall Conquer Sin & Death*** – This is the final picture of what the Lamb has done and what He will do. The grave is empty, Christ has risen and is exalted. While we wait for His return we are to serve Him and during this time a window of grace is open for anyone who is thirsty for righteousness to come to Christ and receive the free gift of life.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Children's Ministry News February/March 2019

On Sundays:



During our regular Sunday morning program, we have offered the usual nursery-, Sunday School-, and Children's Church activities.

While there have occasionally been some lower participant numbers due to travels, as well as to sickness, the program has continued with energy into the New Year!

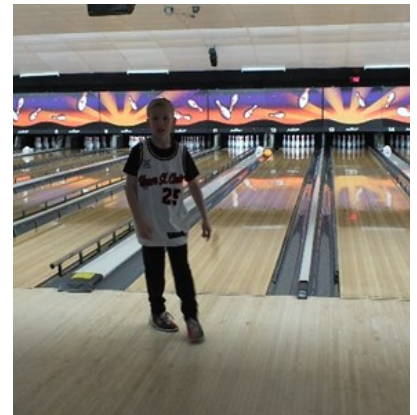
Each of the children's Sunday School classes is following a chronological study of the Grand Story of the Bible, and what it means for our lives today.

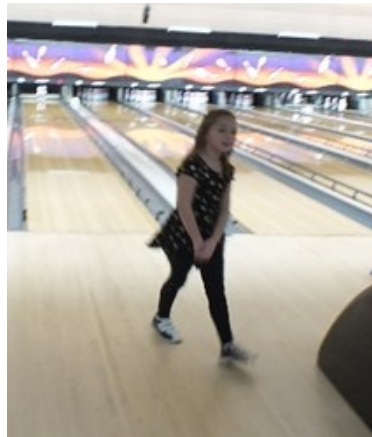
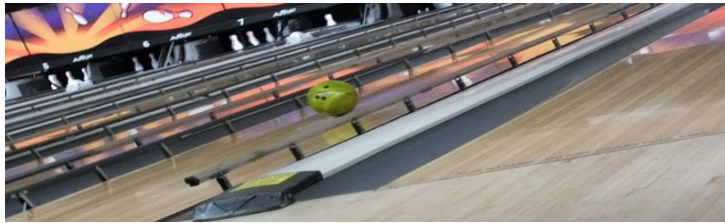
Meanwhile, in Children's Church, we have just begun a three-month study of the Ten

Commandments.

Special Events:

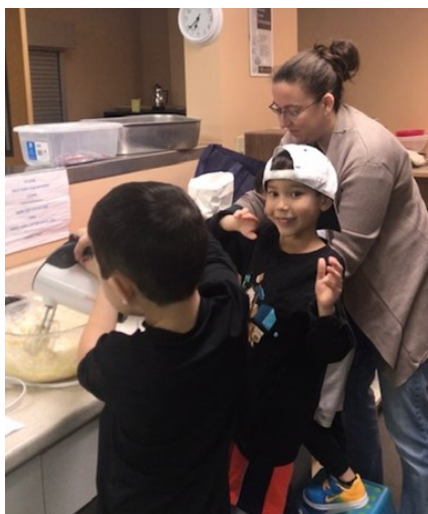
Our first special event of 2019 was a **Fun Event - a Family Bowling Night** at AMF Mt. Lebanon Lanes the afternoon of Saturday, **January 26**. Counting children, youth, and adults, we had 30 participants! All had a great time; and many got to know one another better in the relaxed atmosphere.

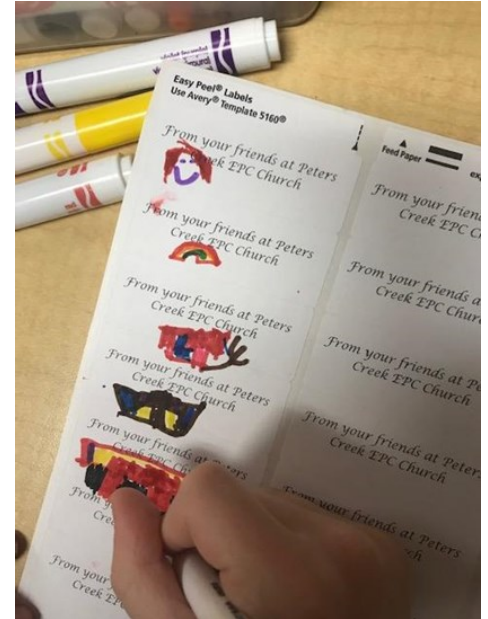
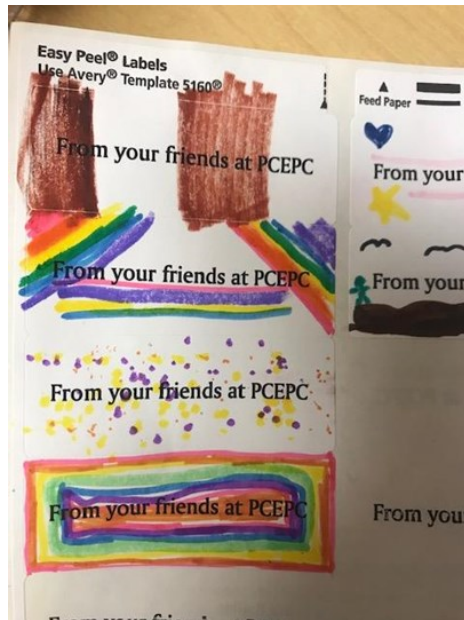




--In February, we once again held a **Service Event** we undertake most years in February, namely the baking of hundreds of cookies for *Meals on Wheels*!

This year's **children's baking event** took place in the morning of **Saturday, February 16**. Five adults and 11 children busily created dozens upon dozens of yummy Valentine's-themed cookies and decorated over a hundred baggies with lovingly colored labels, so that the cookies would be ready to be delivered to *Meals on Wheels* participants on Monday.





....Please remember to check out events and announcements related to our Church Family from time to time on our church's **Facebook page** (<https://www.facebook.com/Peters-Creek-Evangelical-Presbyterian-Church-111659865538568/>), and also on our **church website** (www.peterscreekchurch.org)!

COMING UP NEXT:



Plans are underway for a **Mystery Fun Event** for the PCEPC children on **Saturday, March 16** (details to be announced soon!). Be assured, it'll be a great way to get moving and get warm even if it should still be rather chilly outside... and it'll be a lot of fun!



In other news, we have set the date for **PCEPC's Vacation Bible School** for the week of **July 29 through August 2**. This is later than we are used to holding VBS, but the timing was agreed upon after we received the request of the St David's Preschool to consider a later week in the summer.

St David's Summer Day Camp, *Camp David*, is held every summer on Mondays and Wednesdays through July. It has grown in numbers every year. We had already been skipping VBS on Wednesdays ever since we started holding it on St David's campus. As of late, the other day of the day camp, Monday, had also presented challenges to our VBS (and vice versa), however, because of the increasing numbers of children participating in that day's *Camp David*. However, after July 24, 2019, St David's Summer Day Camp will be finished for this year.

We have therefore started advertising PCEPC's VBS for **July 29 through August 2, 2019** on the church website. Online registration will begin early in March. The theme of the event, facilitated with curriculum from Cokesbury, will be **To Mars and Beyond!**

During VBS, children will learn how God walked with heroes of the Bible, and that He is always with them, too. Along with out-of-this-world fun, learning, and timeless Bible stories, kids will be inspired to give glory to God, who is able to do far beyond all we could ask or imagine!

To find out how you can support VBS ahead of time, or in which ways you might volunteer during VBS week itself, if able, please email or call me anytime!

...THANK YOU, Church Family, for your support of PCEPC's Children's Ministry!! I pray that each and every one of you would experience God's Peace, Guidance, Strengthening, and Comfort through the highs and lows of this life.

As always, if you have any concerns, questions, or suggestions, please let me know!

Yours, in Him,

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Our next Men's Breakfast is **Saturday, March 9th** at 9:00 a.m. at the Bob Evans in Peters. We hope you will join us!

March MOM

Mission of the Month
Urban Impact Foundation



The March Mission of the Month is Urban Impact Foundation. Urban Impact is a faith-based nonprofit focused on the holistic development (academically, physically, spiritually,

and socially) of at-risk youth on the North Side of Pittsburgh. UIF was founded by Rev. Ed Glover and his wife, Tammy, in 1995. The mission of Urban Impact is to fulfill our part in the Great Commission by investing in the lives of at-risk youth and their families to develop mature, responsible followers of Christ.

Sarah Prosser, daughter of Eric and Susan Prosser, is a missionary for Urban Impact's Education Department. She runs the Literacy Support program at Perry High School, coordinates the academic component of Summer Day Camp, and teaches Christian Education and Bible Studies throughout the week.

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Publication Deadlines

Articles for the Church Chimes and announcements for the bulletin should be submitted in electronic format.

Submissions for the Chimes are due no later than noon on the 15th of each month for the following month's edition.

Sunday Bulletin Submissions are due no later than noon each Wednesday.

Peters Creek Evangelical Presbyterian Church

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Evangelical Presbyterian Church*
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**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME
STARTS SUNDAY**



SPRING AHEAD
SET YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD 1 HOUR



The Deacons are sending "goodie packages" to 12 college kids in time for them to have snacks while studying for their finals. If you would like to assist the Deacons by donating a few dollars toward the cost of shipping that would be appreciated.