Through Labor Day I will be preaching from Paul’s Letter to the Philippians. Philippi was an important city in the Roman province of Macedonia. A center for trade and the promulgation of Roman culture the city was named after Philip of Macedon, the father of Alexander the Great.

It had a sizable Jewish population which Paul evangelized during his missionary journey there. Over the years Paul developed a close relationship with this congregation. While other churches in the region were challenging Paul’s authority and leadership, Philippi remained loyal, offering Paul financial and spiritual support.

It has been called the Epistle of Joy, because the word for joy or rejoice is used 15 times. Even though Paul wrote this letter from prison, he was able to find joy in how God sustained him personally and how God caused the Gospel to flourish even against the stiffest opposition.

Paul learned that he could “do all things through Christ who strengthen him.” (4:13) and is the theme of this letter. I hope you find great blessing from my brief series.

Your Pastor and Friend,
Doug Brandt
July Mission of the Month

Shepherd’s Heart Fellowship and Veteran’s Home is our mission of the month for July. This is an opportunity for our church to offer missionary outreach to the homeless right here in Pittsburgh. This month’s funds will provide dinners for 50-100 homeless veterans, including 15 in-house residents.

Our group will volunteer on Sunday evening, October 14, to serve dinner. We will also have the opportunity to sit in the service and worship with the congregation there. We need volunteers to purchase, prepare, and serve the dinner. A sign-up sheet will be on the back table in Parish Hall on Sunday mornings. Please contact Kathy Crosby with any questions at 724-941-8207.

Blessings
The Mission Team

13th Annual Feed My Sheep Golf Outing

Sunday, August 26th
at South Hills Country Club

Since 2006, FMS has been supplying meals to hungry children in Costa Rica and in the past year has been serving over 300 lunches five times a week. In addition to making several mission trips to Costa Rica, Peters Creek EPC has been supporting FMS on a monthly basis for many years. A major source of revenue for FMS is their annual golf outing. The registration fee is $175/individual or $700/foursome. Events start at 11:30 a.m. with a putting contest followed by a shotgun start at 1:30 p.m. with awards presentation at 6:00 p.m. and dinner at 6:30 p.m. Please contact Carl Maronde (cnmaronde@comcast.net), 724-941-4541) no later than August 10 if you would like to participate as an individual or if you have a foursome you would like to sign up.

New Member Class

Starts Sunday, September 16th

We will be holding a four-week session New Members Class beginning Sunday, September 16th through Sunday, October 7th. Classes will meet immediately following the Sunday Worship Service. If you are interested in joining Peters Creek Evangelical Presbyterian Church, please call the church office at 724-941-6210 to register for the class.

Join the men at Bob Evans (Peters) for our monthly breakfast on August 11 at 9:00 a.m. We meet monthly on the second Saturday of the month. All are welcome!
The Missions Ministry Team is pleased to be in preparation for a special mission opportunity in the life of our church. As you may recall, last summer we hosted a special event called MISSION IMPOSSIBLE and thru the generosity of our congregation, donations were made on behalf of many worthy missions. We are thrilled to be hosting this event again this year.

Each Sunday in August we will have a display table set up in the back entrance to Parish Hall with displays for missions that have been designated to receive donations. Each display will have a placard describing the mission and a collection bucket into which we are asking you to place your donations. Funds collected for each mission will go entirely to that mission so you can directly control where your donations will go. You are encouraged to read about each mission and donate to the missions of your choice. Any size donation from pennies and nickels and dimes to one, five, ten and twenty dollar bills up to checks of whatever amount will gratefully be accepted. All checks should be made out to Peters Creek EPC with a note on the memo line as to which mission you would like your donation to go to.

Each week we will report on the funds collected to date for each mission with a challenge to see which mission receives the most money. We encourage you to donate early and often to keep your favorite missions in the lead as we track our progress toward meeting and exceeding the funding goals for each mission.

As a closing celebration for MISSION POSSIBLE, we will once again hold an Ice Cream Social immediately following the service on Sunday, August 26. We hope you will be able to attend this special event as we celebrate a special month of giving.

The Care Team would appreciate your help, if you are sick or hospitalized or would like a card or visit, please call the Church office at 724 941 6210. The office will notify The Care Team of your need.
Most churches in America are shrinking – in raw numbers and as a percentage of the population. According to an extensive survey by the Pew Research Center, the share of adults in the US who identify as Christians fell from 78 to 71 percent between 2007 and 2014. Not only that, but most churches in America are growing older. While young adults ages 18-29 make up 22 percent of the US adult population, they represent less than 10 percent of churchgoers. In a recent 10-year study of congregations, people over age 60 increased by five percent and people under age 35 decreased by five percent.

It doesn’t take a whole lot of foresight to see a problem with the long-term viability of church. The good news is that not ALL churches are getting smaller and getting older. But it takes intentional, church-wide effort to make children, teenagers, and their parents feel welcome in the congregation. This means making changes, specifically to benefit not ourselves, not our longest tenured members, and not those of us who like the way things are already.

Below is an excerpt of a short report from the Fuller Youth Institute on recent research they have been working on concerning churches that are NOT shrinking, but growing, and churches that are not graying, but are getting younger.

Throughout our research, we encountered hundreds of remarkable and diverse congregations who represent tens of thousands of young people. These teenagers and young adults consistently said they felt “known” at their church. They knew that no matter what happened, their church would feel like “home.”

A church that is effective with young people is one that is involving and retaining young people in the congregational community, as well as helping them develop a vibrant faith in Jesus Christ.

In June, five young men were confirmed in the church. As the youth ministry director, I was able to spend a great deal of time with them as they prepared. It truly is rewarding to spend time with the youth of our church. I want to encourage you to seek out opportunities to get to know not only our newly confirmed youth but all of the youth. In the next month, I will be seeking teachers for Sunday school, helpers for our Sunday youth events and mentors for our small groups. If you have any interest or feel God might be calling you to be involved in our youth ministry, please reach out to me via phone or email.

Blessings,
Marion

Join us for a Youth End of Summer BBQ

Who: Youth in 6th-12th grade
When: August 12, 2018
Time: 6:30pm - 8:30pm
Where: North Strabane Park (lower park)
*Sandwiches will be provided. Bring a dish to share (chips, salad, dessert).
Please RSVP to:
Summertime 2018

On Sundays:

In early June, the Sunday School year 2017/2018 concluded, and I am incredibly grateful to the teachers who brought God’s Word closer to the children in the three children’s classes!

Blessings and thanks to these faithful servants:

- **Preschool** – Lynn Hutchison and Scott Maronde
- **Class for K-Grade 2** – Nancy Maronde and Cyndi Taylor
- **Class for Grades 3 – 5** – Jane Long

As far as our **Nursery** is concerned, we’ve been blessed to be able to hire Victoria Maentz, our Youth Director’s oldest daughter, as the fourth nursery caregiver team member this May. She shares nursery shifts with Maercy and Ethan Campion and with Stephanie Anderson, as well as with the following volunteers from our congregation:

Barb Mullen, Celine Rothaar, Melissa Maronde, and Gina Beinhauer.

**Blessings and Thanks to all these lovely people who shepherd our littlest members!**

--Last but not least, we’ve had – and will continue to have – **Children’s Church** every Sunday, as well. Barb Wylie has graciously agreed to teach in my place during my Sundays away in late July. We’ve gone through a variety of short Christian Children’s books, have rehearsed the songs from VBS, and have played a Bible-based card game as part of our summer Sundays, but this month, we’re going back to actual Children’s Church curriculum.

(<<Daniel Nguyen shows off some cool VBS moves!)}
Yes, we already had it - Vacation Bible School 2018!! It took place during the week of June 18 – 22, in the mornings of Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. This year’s theme was “ROLLING RIVER RAMPAGE” .... Meaning, white water rafting, camping, and adventure! We had the “ride of a lifetime with God”…!

Thank you, dear PCEPC members, for your encouragement, your prayers, your support, and your making so many gorgeous paper flowers and lanterns at home!!

My undying thanks go out to all those who volunteered, both in preparation of VBS week and the ROLLING RIVER, and during the RAMPAGE itself!!!

Our techies behind the scenes…!!
Decorating:
The scenery was inspiring!

…And during the week, with JESUS, we found ADVENTURE, JOY, REST, and PEACE on the Rolling River…
Preschool Adventures…:

So many tireless Station Leaders… and Crew Leaders, bringing crew after crew to each Station, and to the high energy Assemblies…:
SHIM Donations!
It was a bit difficult to find a time for us to deliver our donations for the Back to School Drive collected during VBS to SHIM, as we were hoping to get a brief, child-appropriate tour of the food pantry and clothes closet after dropping off the goodies, and there are few days when there aren’t clients going through the facility. And – even though it’s summer – our church’s kids are busy, too!

Ultimately, over a period of two days, three of our families went to SHIM to drop off school supplies, hygiene items, and also clothes and toys that St David’s had collected, and had asked us to take along. We saw a very well organized, much needed facility – one of three that SHIM runs in the South Hills. 1700 people a month are served by those three facilities together!

Seth, the donation supervisor, gave the children some unique glimpses into SHIM’s ministry. Did you know that dry beans and lentils are among the most frequently picked up staples by the families SHIM serves? That’s because they keep well, are super nutritious, can be used in a variety of recipes – and because they usually feature especially much in recipes native to the areas man of SHIM’s clients have come from.

Did you know that the items that SHIM is most chronically short of are baby clothes, diapers, and baby hygiene items? Babies grow fast and thus go through sets of clothing rather fast. A good pointer for what we might be collecting next!

Seth thanked us over and over again for collecting what we did, and for bringing it over and showing an interest in the interfaith movement’s ministry. THANKS to all of YOU who helped get this year’s collection together!
**COMING UP NEXT:**

The next Children’s Event will be a **Service Outing on August 25**. As of the time of this writing, it’s a mystery outing. What is sure is that (1) it won’t lead us far away, but (2) it’ll give the kids an opportunity to practically help someone else, and by doing so, to gain lasting confidence and inspiring memories!

We are also already planning for the next **Sunday School KickOff Celebration on Sunday, September 9 at 9:45 a.m.** Every September is another season for us to look around and marvel how fast our church’s kids have grown and what classes they’ve grown into! Look for games, snacks, and surprises on KickOff Sunday, and invite a friend!

That same afternoon, immediately following church, we’ll have our annual **All-Church Picnic**. It’ll be held **12:something o’clock** (following the morning service) at the **Elm Grove Park Shelter**.

Besides amazing food, there will be fun games, races, bubbles, and more, so plan on bringing friends and family!

**Please let me know** if you ever have any questions, comments, or suggestions for the Children’s Ministry!

**Yours in Christ,**

**Katie Brandt**
"Words cannot express our gratitude and thankfulness for everything our church has done for Jim, for us: the continuous prayers needed, the beautiful cards and notes received, the delicious meals prepared and especially the selflessness of the donor’s family,

Our church is a God loving church. We have been blessed beyond words by God’s plan. May we all always "walk by faith and not by sight", 2 Cor. 5:7 ESV. Asking God to bless you all and wrap His loving arms around the donor’s family with love, comfort and understanding.

Our deepest gratitude and love,

Jim and Lorraine Glass

Dear Peters Creek Church,

My sister, Amy McMullen, forwarded your email to me. Once again, because of you folks, I cried. For you all to make our brother Arnie and his wife Lori (who is really a sister to us) your Mission for April is unbelievable. I myself am a 3 year breast cancer survivor. Unless a person has gone through something like this… the physical, emotional, financial toll is overwhelming. One day you are okay, then you don’t feel good and then you get the BIG C diagnosis.

All I can say is Thank You, all of you. This is a blessing for our family. God does answer prayers! You just have to remember, it’s in His time not yours.

We lost our sister Audrey on January 18, 2015. She was a 23 year breast cancer survivor. We are not ready to lose Arn. Both he and Lori are fighting hard and with God’s grace. Please tell everyone how Thankful and Blessed we feel.

Sincerely,

Annette McMullen

Peters Creek Evangelical Presbyterian Church
A Congregation of the
Evangelical Presbyterian Church
724-941-6210
www.peterscreekchurch.org

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.

New Church Address

The new Church office is now open. Please send any mail to our new address:

608 E. McMurray Road, Suite 102, McMurray, PA 15317

Office hours are Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

The phone number remains the same 724 941 6210