*Flock Talk”*

***Franklin First Church of God***

***Inspirational Newsletter***

**Issue Two of 2017 NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE PEWS February 2017 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Love Your Enemies

[Anne Ferrell Tata](http://www1.cbn.com/profiles/ferrell-anne)

“But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For He gives His sunlight to both the evil and the good, and He sends rain on the just and the unjust alike. If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much.” Matthew 5:44-46 (NLT)

I knew it was wrong, but I could not help being angry with the mother of one of my children’s friends. My child’s teacher called to alert me about some of the things the mother was doing to try and sabotage my daughter. I wanted to take matters into my own hand and give her a piece of my mind. Instead I allowed a seed of bitterness to settle in my heart. I decided she was my enemy. I chose to ignore her, but the seed was planted.  I rationalized it would be much worse to say something directly to her or gossip about her. Ignoring her would send a message that I don’t make time for people who hurt my children.

That was until the Lord spoke to me. At first He nudged me subtly. For example, no matter where I drove my car, I saw her in her car. Every time I went to the grocery store, there she was.  When I didn’t take the subtle hints, He spoke directly to my heart! Right after abruptly avoiding her at a school event, I heard the Lord speak clearly. He reminded me of His words in Matthew.

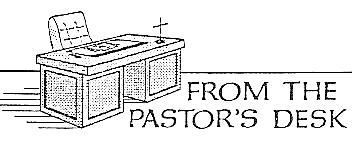
Jesus tells us in Matthew 5:44 to “love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you (or your children) and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you.” Ouch. That hurt. The funny thing is even when the Holy Spirit reminded me of Jesus’ words, I tried to negotiate with Him. “But, Holy Spirit, look how many other people I love! Can’t I have one person I don’t like?”The answer was clear, “love your enemies.”

We all have people in our lives who irritate or annoy us. There are those who intentionally or unintentionally hurt us. The grievances may be legitimate in many cases, and we may believe we have a right to be upset or hurt or angry. Other times, if we are honest, we over react or are hypersensitive.

In my case, I believed the grievance was real. My “enemy” was attempting to hurt my child. I had a “right” to be angry and stay away from her. But did I?

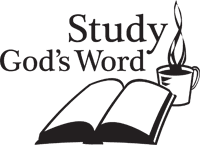
We are told to love God with all our hearts, souls and minds, but then we are also told to love our neighbors as ourselves. I knew what I had to do. I picked up my phone and called my “enemy” and invited her to coffee. I asked the Holy Spirit to help me put my feelings aside and to give me a love for her and to forgive her. Allowing the Holy Spirit into my situation changed everything.

Over coffee, we laughed. We shared. We cleared the air. I made the effort out of obedience, but in the end, I was blessed.



Dear Flock,

After a month of the New Year, how are we maintaining our relationship with God? The church has gone through budgeting, nominations for officers for 2017, auditing of the financial records and an annual business meeting. All of that is necessary, but my question is: “How are we maintaining our relationship with God?” Good intentions to move closer to God can quickly be pushed aside as life happens. Refocus this month on a close relationship with God.

Join in the study of the Bible on Thursday, February 2nd at seven o’clock in the evening. The men meet in the social room and the women in the former parsonage dining room. Ask Tom Shiner, Jr. and Nancy Barger for more information on the studies.

The Elders of the church will be meeting at six-fifteen in the evening on Thursday, February 2nd. Ask God to guide the Elders in managing the spiritual progress of the First Church of God of Franklin.

We will observe communion of Sunday morning February 5th during the nine-thirty worship. We schedule communion each month to aid our remembering the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus. Plan to join the church in this remembrance.

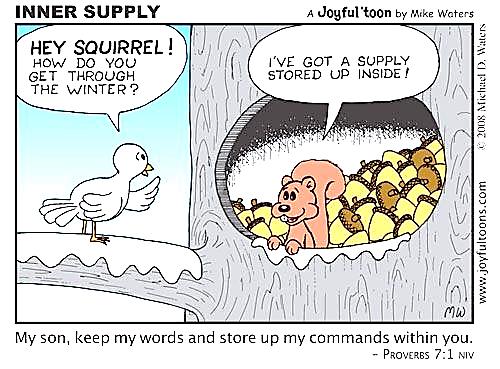
Kids’ Club returns to meeting on the first and third Monday of the month in February. Bring elementary age children into the social room at four-thirty in the afternoon for two hours of game, Bible lesson, meal, craft, and music. The children will wait inside the building to be picked up at six-thirty.

The newly formed Administrative Council of the church will meet at seven o’clock on Tuesday, February 14th. An election of officers is on the agenda as well as other business. Each Ad Council member is urged to be in attendance at each meeting. The installation of the newly formed Ad Council will be during the Sunday morning worship on February 19th.

Another help in maintaining our relationship with God is Sunday School. Each week the teachers prepare a Bible lesson for the students. Encourage the teachers with your attendance in a class. The younger children meet in the social room and the teen class in the church library. The adults can choose either adult class; one meets in the front of the sanctuary and the other in the rear.

Your Shepherd,

Pastor Jim



**C:\Users\Pam\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\VOUNIKBQ\MCFD01224_0000[1].wmfFOOD PANTRY**

Our Church’s Food Pantry is used to assist people from our Church and community when they find themselves needing some help providing food for their families. The winter months can be especially difficult with higher gas and electric bills. If you are able to keep the food pantry stocked with non-perishable food items (check those expiration dates) or if you are able to make a monetary donation to the food pantry, it would be greatly appreciated. Monetary donations are also accepted.

If you are in need of items from the food pantry, or if you know of someone who is in need, please let Pastor Jim know.

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**GOOD SAMARITAN FUND**

Donations are accepted at any time for our Church’s **Good Samaritan Fund**. The monies in this Fund are used to help people from our Church family who are in need. ++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++

**ALTAR FLOWERS**

Anyone wishing to place an order for altar flowers, please contact Joanne Cardy. Flowers can be placed in memory or in honor of someone, on a special occasion, or “just because”. Two altar vases only cost $16.00. Once you order them, they are yours to take home after the morning worship service.

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**13**You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. **14**For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

Galatians 5:13-14 (NIV)



February Birthdays

5 Gloria Hoover 23 Janet Greenman

8 Garry DeLong II 24 Rebecha DeLong

11 Amy Warehime 26 Kelsey Eichholtz

16 Pat Master 26 Nancy Muse

18 Kevin Jolley 27 Becky Kearney

18 Kristin Clapsaddle 28 Shari Magee

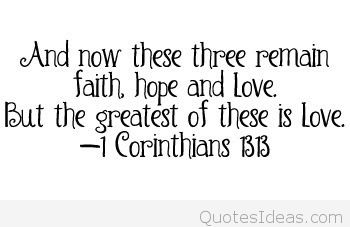
21 Sonya Mullen



February Anniversaries

6 Ed and Judy Eckel

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**First Church of God, Franklin, PA**

*Mission Statement:* For the glory of God, we shall reach out to others, as living witnesses with Christ and His word as our example; and we shall seek to build up one another in the faith.

*Our Vision Statement:* The First Church of God of Franklin will be a Bible-based, Christ-centered community serving as His hands and feet offering hope by winning the lost and discipling those who know Christ that they might be transformed to His image.

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**First Church of God**

**705 Liberty Street**

**Franklin, PA l6323**

**814-432-3312**

**Pastor: James Leichliter**

**Facebook: FirstChurchofGodof FranklinPA**

www.**firstchurchofgodfranklinpa**.com

**2017**

**Church Officers and Leaders**

Elders: (4) Tom Shiner, Jr., Tom Shiner, Sr., \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Trustees: (4) Dan Kearney, Michael Curran, John Doyle and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Deacons: (4) Joe Cranmer, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Deaconess: (4) Becky Kearney, Pat McNutt, Pat Dilley, and Nancy Barger

Youth Director: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Special Music Coordinator: Michael Curran; Asst. Pastor Jim

Church Historians: Jim and Rachel Ashbaugh

Nursery Director: Pamela Leichliter

Delegates to Conference: Joe and Renee

Cranmer

Alternate Delegates: Skip Curran and Dan Kearney

Junior Church Director: Judy Shiner

Junior Church Leaders: Diane Montgomery, Audrianna Montgomery, Hazel Kean, Tom Shiner, Sr., and Judy Shiner

**Sunday School**:

Superintendent: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Children’s Dept. Superintendent: Diane Montgomery

Sunday School Secretaries: Harry and Kay Curran

Cradle Roll: Joanne Cardy

Please pray for our Church Officers and Leaders as they seek to do God’s will in our Church. Please pray for willing workers to step forward to fill the vacancies in this list.

*Kids Club*

Our meetings in January were held on January 9th with 6 kids present. Our teacher was Diane Montgomery. On January 23rd, there were 10 kids present. Pastor Jim was our teacher.

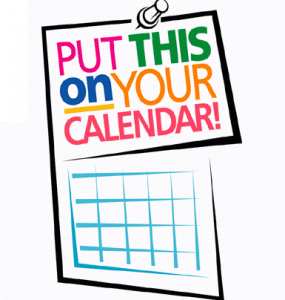
We sold all of the calendars this year. Thank you to everyone who supported our fund raiser.

We will be meeting on the first and third Mondays in February and March.



Happy valentine’s day

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**ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC**

**SUNDAY, JULY 23, 2017**

**MILLER-SIBLEY PAVILION**

Come to Jesus

By Chris Rice

Weak and wounded sinner  
Lost and left to die  
O, raise your head, for love is passing by  
Come to Jesus  
Come to Jesus  
Come to Jesus and live!

Now your burden's lifted  
And carried far away  
And precious blood has washed away the stain, so  
Sing to Jesus  
Sing to Jesus  
Sing to Jesus and live!

And like a newborn baby  
Don't be afraid to crawl  
And remember when you walk  
Sometimes we fall, so  
Fall on Jesus  
Fall on Jesus  
Fall on Jesus and live!

Sometimes the way is lonely  
And steep and filled with pain  
So if your sky is dark and pours the rain, then  
Cry to Jesus  
Cry to Jesus  
Cry to Jesus and live!

O, and when the love spills over  
And music fills the night  
And when you can't contain your joy inside, then  
Dance for Jesus  
Dance for Jesus  
Dance for Jesus and live!

And with your final heartbeat  
Kiss the world goodbye  
Then go in peace, and laugh on Glory's side, and  
Fly to Jesus  
Fly to Jesus  
Fly to Jesus and live!



The **Church Library** is located on the upper level of our church building. Many fiction and non-fiction books are available for loan. Children and adult reading is included in the books. Please remove the card inside the cover of the book and sign your name so that the person who has the book in known. Return the book when completed.  
  
Movies and audio books are on the shelves for loan also.  
  
A sampling of books from the library is displayed in the rear section of the sanctuary on the table. These books are also available for loan. PLEASE enjoy the reading.  
  
Returned books are to be placed in the box under the table in the rear of the church sanctuary.  
  
HELP is needed in returning books to the shelves of the library. Talk with Pastor Jim about this ministry.  
  
Donations have been given to the Church Library. A book can be purchased and added to the library collection. Make suggestions of books you want to see in the library.

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Conversation Starters

* Ask Kim and Jaci Clark about their trip to Florida.
* Ask a kid what they like best about Kids Club or Jr. Church or Sunday School.
* If you think you would be interested in filling one of the open positions for Officers and Leaders in our Church, contact Pastor Jim or Tom Shiner, Jr.

* Take time to express your appreciation to someone special in your life.
* Call or visit a shut-in. They would love to have a conversation with you.
* Tell someone “Happy Valentine’s Day”.
* You can always talk about the crazy weather we are having this Winter.
* There are many workers, leaders, officers in our Church – tell them Thank You for their willingness to serve.
* Invite someone to our Church for worship services, Bible Study, Kids Club, Sunday School, etc.
* If you notice someone hasn’t been in Church, give them a call and let them know you missed them. We all like to know someone cares about us.
* Ask someone to tell you about their grandchildren. Grandparents love to talk about their grandkids and great-grandkids.
* Ask someone to tell you about their day or week. Ask how they are doing. Just take an interest – be a friend.



The Lee Blair Family

Nancy Barger

John Aylesworth

Joyce Scott

Jean Kelsey

Peg Benson

Joanne Exley

Barry Clapsaddle

Audrianna Montgomery

Pat VanZandt

Sondra Sensenbach

Eileen Yingling

Virginia Beatty

Ed and Judy Eckel

Pat and Larry McNutt

Sallie Woodworth

Nancy Kenemuth

Tom Karns

All those with colds, flu & viruses

Administrative Council

Officers and Leaders of our Church

President Trump

Our nation

Our military

Cross Cultural Missions

Mustard Seed Missions

Church of God Missionaries

Mission Trips to the Dominican Republic

Our Missions Team

Those seeking employment

Those with financial difficulties

Those in need of God’s grace and salvation

Megan Mullen – doing her student teaching

this semester

Children’s ministries

Sunday School

Bible Studies



Thank God for hearing and answering our prayers

Thank God for the strength He gives us to keep us with our children and grandchildren

Thank God for his protection and provision

Thank God for salvation of our souls

Thank God for the people who so willingly serve on the mission fields

Thank God for safety in our travels

Thank God for the healing of our bodies, hearts and minds

Thank God for Christian friends and family

Thank God for the pastor, teachers, leaders, officers, and workers, in our Church

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*NOTE: Let me know if there is a praise or concern you would like to share in next month’s Flock Talk.*

*Thanks, Pam*

[pjolley87@gmail.com](mailto:pjolley87@gmail.com) or 432-7847

15 Verses Every Christian Should Memorize

(Taken from [www.crosswalk.com](http://www.crosswalk.com))

Genesis 1:1

Exodus 34:6-7

Deuteronomy 6:4-5

Psalm 119:11

Isaiah 53:6

Matthew 28:18-20

John 3:16

John 14:6

Romans 6:23

Romans 8:28

I Corinthians 15:3-4

II Corinthians 5:21

Galatians 5:16

Ephesians 2:8-10

Phillipians 4:6-7

Look all the verses up and start memorizing them. Why?

Look up Psalm 119:11.

**I am a Christian.**

**I am not perfect.**

**I make mistakes.**

**I mess up.**

**BUT God’s grace is**

**bigger than my sins.**

