

PROGRESS-IMMANUEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

3640 Ash St., Harrisburg, PA 17109, 717-545-8711



PIPC Messenger



April 2011

In Jesus Christ We Are Forgiven!

“Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.”

-- Colossians 3:13

For the past several weeks members of Progress-Immanuel Presbyterian Church have gathered on Wednesday evening to enjoy delicious food, warm fellowship and a time of learning about and discovering the gift of forgiveness. These gatherings occur because we are in the season of Lent, that time of 40 days, excluding Sundays, between Ash Wednesday and Holy Saturday set apart to prepare the faithful worshipping community for the celebration of Easter Sunday and Jesus' triumphal rising from the dead. Lent encourages us to reflect upon our lives and to discern what aspects of our living we ought to change in order to become more like the one we worship and serve.

Forgiveness, it seems to me, offers us the chance to become more Christ-like in our day-to-day living. Not only do we get the chance to forgive others the wrong done against us, but also we receive this gift that builds relationships and honors the image of God in each of us. Forgiveness also heals our brokenness and re-members (literally puts us back together) to be the body of Christ in the world.

Easter witnesses to the importance of forgiveness in the Christian's life. Easter shows God's forgiveness for the world – God's forgiveness for you and for me – when God raises Jesus to life. This act of powerful love and loving power proves that even though our broken relationship and sinful actions toward God sent Jesus to the cross, God says: I love you; I forgive you; I give myself to you; give yourself to others.

The gift of forgiveness at times is neither simple to give nor easy to receive. We must practice saying 'I'm sorry; please forgive me,' as well as 'I forgive you.' The sense in most New Testament teachings is that forgiving others is imperative not optional. Jesus is not merely inviting or suggesting forgiveness. He reminds us in our prayers, *“And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.”* (Matthew 6:12) He encourages us in his actions. In Luke's gospel Jesus forgives those who torture and kill him unjustly, and clearly does so before any of his accusers or executioners give evidence of repentance.

If you would like to once again discover God's gracious gift of forgiveness this Lenten season or be better prepared to receive this gracious gift on Easter Sunday I invite you to come to the remaining Lenten gatherings on Wednesday evenings in April, 6:30 p.m. in fellowship hall. More information can be found on page 2.

I leave you with this quote from the Lenten gathering journaling guide: *Forgiveness is an outpouring of love from the inner life of the Trinity, and can only be fully understood when experienced as a transforming power in the life of a human community that mirrors God's being.* Come and witness that power at Progress-Immanuel Presbyterian Church this and every Sunday.

Blessed Lent to you and yours...

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kent".

Kent Carter, Pastor

Learning Forgiveness

Repentance is at the heart of our Lenten journey. Can we learn to forgive with open hearts?

Christians differ widely in their interpretations of how forgiveness should be practiced. Some urge forgiveness as a Christian duty under all circumstances, while others argue that certain conditions must be met before forgiveness can be meaningful or effective. How do we sort through such competing claims and interpretations? And how do we get past some of our emotional barriers to real forgiveness? These are the kinds of questions we have been exploring together in this study of a theme particularly well-suited to the season of Lent.

The challenges of forgiving and being forgiven

The foundations of awareness, acceptance and confession

Identifying our external and internal enemies

Reconciling judgment and love in forgiving

Unwilling and/or unable to forgive

The relationship between repentance and forgiveness



Lenten Dinners

The Lenten Dinners will be held on Wednesday, April 6, 13, and 20, beginning at 6:00 PM with a time of worshipful study to follow. Each person is asked to bring their own place setting (plate, knife, fork, spoon, water glass, coffee cup, napkin, and anything else they will need.) The main dish (casserole, vegetable or salad, rolls, butter, coffee, tea, and milk) will be provided. Desserts will be provided by those attending. A sign up sheet may be found on the bulletin board and in the Sunday bulletin. Please be sure to indicate on your sign up sheet which week you wish to bring a dessert.

A suggested donation for the meal will be \$4.50 for adults, \$2.50 for children 5-12, and children under 5 will be free. The maximum cost for a family will be \$12.00.

We are looking forward to seeing you at the dinners.

Deacon's Annual Palm Sunday Breakfast - April 17

Cost: Adults \$5.00

Children ages 3-18 \$3.00

Breakfast will be served from 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM



Sharing our Easter Faith with Children

Palm Saturday



April 16, 2011

9:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Children and adults alike are invited to explore our Easter faith in light of Jesus' suffering, death and resurrection.

We will journey through the events of Holy Week with the use of stories, crafts, scripture and snack so that we can share the Easter faith with others.



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

As we journey through Lent we are also preparing for One Great Hour of Sharing. The ministries made possible by this church wide special offering, from Detroit to Darfur, from Louisiana to Libya, those most in need are finding hope and help through the work of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, the Self-Development of People program, and their partners in ministry. Our hearts are full of compassion, but our ears are full of whatever is on the mind of the media this week. In this environment, it becomes incredibly easy to forget the pain of those in trouble spots around the world like Haiti, New Zealand, Pakistan, and Japan, and all the other places where poverty, disaster, and war cause displacement and suffering.

Let this serve as a reminder to you that this is why Progress-Immanuel Presbyterian Church gives to One Great Hour of Sharing. When we give our gifts, we know that staff in the three One Great Hour of Sharing programs will be listening to the cries of our sisters and brothers throughout the next year. And they will be responding for us in Christ's name to those cries. To new emergencies they will respond as they have in Haiti and Japan-immediately, directly and through our partners wherever the emergency occurs. But equally important, they will stay there long after the news cameras have moved elsewhere-stay there and help rebuild lives and communities on a firmer foundation.

Feeding the hungry, helping people build up their own livelihoods, responding to disasters-these are all ways that One Great Hour of Sharing is changing lives, changing communities, and changing the world.

Just as we trust our OGHS programs to respond to the needs of the world's poorest and hungriest people, those programs can only do so to the extent of our generosity. In light of the recent devastation in Japan may you be challenged to double your gift to the offering. So, won't you join us as we join other Christians all across the country in opening your hearts to witness tangibly to the abundant love of God through One Great Hour of Sharing?

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We want to thank PIPC so much for the beautiful flowers brought to our house by Bonnie & Terry Hack. We enjoyed them for over a week.
Dottie & Les Folk

Thanks to the Brownie Troop and the members of Progress-Immanuel for contributing to the food drive. Between 50-75 full bags of non-perishable items were taken to Messiah Lutheran Food Pantry.

Unsung Heroes of Progress Immanuel Presbyterian Church...

Thank you for the beautiful flowers delivered by Barb Hablett. And a thank you to the Women's Association for the lovely cards I received each month.

With love & prayers,
Mary Merritt

THANK YOU to all the members of this church who continue to volunteer their time and talents to help keep the church running smoothly. From covering the deacons flower cans, changing the candles during Advent, plowing and shoveling the snow, and so much more. We are very lucky to have so much pride and dedication put into the church.

Angela Hess

HOLY WEEK OFFICE HOURS

In observance of the Easter holiday, the church office will close at noon on Good Friday, April 22. The office will remain closed on Monday, April 25.



APRIL SUNDAY SERVANTS

Worship Assistant

April 3 Cherie Pepperman
 April 10 Norm Diefenderfer
 April 17 George Eakin
 April, 21 Ken Bentz
 April 22 Terry Hack
 April 24 Mike Sweigard

Greeters Schedule

Blackberry Alley Door

Howard & Judy Snyder
 Don & Joanne Lauver
 George & Sandy Daily
 Bill & Carol Becker
 Dick & Pat Reidell
 Susie Ayi & Christiana Quartey

Front Door

Delores Smith
 Eleanor Canes
 Allen Travis
 Ken Zimmerman
 Jean Bruehl
 Jane Shallcross



HIGH TEA

Sponsored by the Presbyterian Women

Fellowship Hall - 4:00 PM - May 22, 2010

Adults Only - \$20.00

Tickets will go on sale May 1, 2011
At the time of purchase we must have a name
and money for every reservation.



PEANUTS ORDERS



Order may be picked up
on Saturday, April 9,
from 1 to 2 PM,
or after church on
Sunday, April 10th.



News from the PIPC PURLERS

From June 8 to June 25, a group of missionaries from the Presbytery of Carlisle will travel to Lithuania. They will visit with the Evangelical Reformed Church of Lithuania and work at the LCC International University where long term PCUSA MISSIONARIES Eric and Becky Hinderliter are assigned. In Latvia they will work at a home for the elderly. . . And Progress-Immanuel will be there with them!

The PIPC Purlers have given 15 hand knitted prayer shawls to go along with them so the folks from Carlisle can share Progress-Immanuel's concerns and love with those folks there.

Recycling A Must!



Recycling for the church is now a must! There is a recycling bin in the kitchen for the items (it is clearly marked). The cans or bottles must be rinsed before being put in the recycle bin. Cardboard boxes must be broken down and placed with recycling. The fines for not recycling are hefty, so please comply.

February, 2011

Pledge to date	25,222.15
Pledge paid to date	23,420.55
Difference	-1,801.60

Feb. Income:	14,470.77
Feb. Expenses:	9,745.47
Difference	4,781.89



HEAT! HEAT! HEAT!

This is what is needed in the church during the cold days of winter! The Women's Association is taking on monthly projects for the next year to help start a fund for a new heating system for the church. Envelopes will be provided each month for this project. The first month's project is called "Pennies from Heaven." We are asking you to put in pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, dollar bills, whatever you want to help us reach our goal for a new heating system in the church. This is going to be a big expense, so we need each and everyone to help us reach this goal! The building and Grounds Committee is currently looking into the cost of replacing/repairing our heating system.

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PIP-C GENERATION



The PIP-C Generation met in Fellowship Hall on March 8, 2011. The menu was individual chicken pies, cole slaw, rolls, and Amish cake with Leprechaun icing. The program featured Rev. Frank Frischkorn, who is the Executive Minister of the American Baptist Churches of PA and Delaware. (He is also the husband of PIPC's Administrative Assistant, Carolyn.) Frank talked about his most recent mission trip to the island of Haiti in January, 2011. His pictures and talk showed that there remains a great deal of work to be done in Haiti.

Frank pointed out that the Haitians place much importance on the education of their children and there is a need for new schools and school supplies. The Women's Association of PIPC is collecting **school kits** that will be sent to Haiti for the opening of school in September. If you would like to help with this mission project, information is available in the church office.



Our next meeting will be held on April 12. The Ridgeway Brass will be the entertainment. They provided the music during a worship service last summer and were very popular. They have been together as a group for the past 5 years and share a profound love of music, whether they are rehearsing or performing for others. We look forward to their presentation.

The cupcake baker for April is Sarah Sweeney.

ANNIVERSARIES

Georgetta and Ted Appleby	1
Anita & Lee Anthony	7
Pauline & Richard Burrell	8
Lorraine & Donald Englander	13



BIRTHDAYS

Janet Oxenford	2
Dick Feathers	5
Lillie Daniels	10
Nancy Sheetz	10
Doris Kreiser	11
Margaret Heilig	14
Nancy Eiceman	16
Mary Merritt	23

WHO GOES BARE

SUMMER TRIP- Tuesday, July 12, 2011

PIP-C Generation will be entertained at the all comedy Rainbow Dinner Theater. We will begin with dinner and then we will see the show **"Who Goes Bare."** The show is about a little family business that is about to go under. The two brothers who own the business decides to save the Bed & Breakfast by hiring a rich, beautiful, health-conscious investor. She thinks the family resort is a nudist colony. Hold your breath!

Itinerary:

9:45 AM Arrive at the church* parking lot.
 10:00 AM Depart for the Theater
 11:30 AM Dinner
 1:00 PM Show
 4:30 PM (approximately) Arrive back at the church.

Cost:

\$56.00 per person
 Payment is due
 by June 14, 2011

Sign up as soon as possible if you are interested in the trip.

Make checks payable to **"PIP-C Trips"**.

Send them to: Zana Allison, 504 Redwood Street, Harrisburg, PA 17109 **OR**
 Allen Travis, 4484 Ethel Street, Harrisburg, PA 17109.

*Progress-Immanuel Presbyterian Church is located at 3640 Ash Street, Harrisburg, PA 17109



From the Stewardship Committee:

Each year there is an envelope in the envelope packets for a per capita payment. Per capita dollars help the church be the church. The General Assembly has shared the following information to help you understand the per capita funds at the General Assembly level:

- **General Assembly meetings**
 - planning for General Assemblies and other related gatherings through the GA Meeting Service
- **Permanent and special GA committees and commissions**
 - staffing, training and meeting costs for the:
 - Committee on the Office of the General Assembly
 - GA Committee on Representation
 - GA Nominating Committee
 - GA Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations
 - GA Permanent Judicial Commission
 - Advisory Committee on the Constitution
 - Advisory Committee on Litigation
 - Presbyteries' Cooperative Committee on Examinations
 - Stated Clerk Nomination Committee
- **Vocational matters**
 - providing support in identifying and developing leadership for the PC(USA) and the whole body of Christ through the Office of Vocation, a shared ministry of the Office of the General Assembly (OGA) and the General Assembly Mission Council (GAMC)
- **Church Leadership Connection**
 - a Web-based matching and referral system for all Presbyterian church leaders
- **Immigration issues**
 - communicates with presbyteries, synods, PC(USA) entities and ecumenical agencies on immigration issues and policies; offers advice and counsel to presbyteries and pastors whose members have immigration issues or questions
- **Presbyterian Historical Society**
 - collects, preserves and shares information on American Presbyterianism
 - encourages appreciation of the church's heritage
- **Constitutional services**
 - maintains judicial and legislative services required by the PC(USA) Constitution;
 - helps to interpret the Constitution
- **Moderator of the General Assembly**
 - coordinates the schedule and ministry of the GA Moderator and Vice-Moderator
- **Communications**
 - coordinates development and implementation of the electronic system used to access GA business maintains the OGA Web site
 - coordinates communication from the Stated Clerk, GA Moderator, and other areas of OGA to the PC(USA) and beyond
- **PC(USA) statistics**
 - preparation of annual statistics that include the number of congregations, number of church members, summary of finances and more

- **Middle governing body relations**
 - partnering with presbyteries and synods in the work of the church
- **Representation**
 - coordinating accountability for openness, working for full participation and inclusion
- **GA publications**
 - publication and distribution of the *Book of Order* and *The Book of Confessions*, the GA Minutes, and other GA-related reports, studies and publications
- **Leadership development**
 - includes national elders conference, moderators conference, polity conference, Christian educator certification, support for committees on ministry and committees on preparation for ministry
- **PC(USA)'s participation in the ecumenical world**
 - coordinates the ecumenical responsibilities of the OGA and the Stated Clerk
 - extends the church's mission efforts and our work for peace and justice far beyond what we can do by ourselves
 - promotes Christian unity includes the National Council of Churches of Christ, World Council of Churches and the World Communion of Reformed Churches
- **Office of the General Assembly**
 - one of six agencies of the PC(USA) and under the direction of the Stated Clerk
 - provides for the overall coordination of work of the GA between meetings and assists the Stated Clerk in carrying out the duties assigned to the Clerk by the GA
- **A portion of the activities of the General Assembly Mission Council executive director's office**
 - includes GAMC meetings, advisory and advocacy committees, task forces, legal services and communication



WE NEED YOUR HELP!

School Kits for Church World Service School Kit Items



- ◆ 1 30-centimeter ruler (12")
- ◆ 1 hand-held pencil sharpener
- ◆ 1 pair blunt metal scissors (rounded tip)
- ◆ Three 70-count spiral notebooks or notebooks totaling 200-210 pages. (No loose-leaf or filler paper.)
- ◆ One 12" X 14" X 17" finished size cotton or lightweight canvas bag* with cloth handles. (Please, no reusable shopping bags or backpacks.)
- ◆ 1 large eraser
- ◆ 6 new pencils with erasers
- ◆ 1 box of 24 crayons

*Cloth bag

Materials needed: 1/2 yd. "Kid-friendly" fabric.
(Directions are available in the office.)

*Canvas tote bags can also be used. Inexpensive canvas bags are available at area craft and discount stores or can be found online.



Items will be collected until **May 15, 2011**.

Please place school items in the basket provided in the narthex.

Holy Week Schedule



Palm Saturday Children's Event—April 16

Explore our Easter faith in light of Jesus' suffering, death and resurrection at 9:30 AM till 11:30 AM

Palm/Passion Sunday—April 17

Congregational Breakfast 8:00 AM till 10:00 AM
A Holy Week Cantata, "*Song of Shadows*,"
presented by the choir at 10:30 AM

Maundy Thursday—April 21

Celebrate the Lord's Supper at 7:00 PM

Good Friday—April 22

Meditate on the cross of Christ and experience the Tenebrae, a service of light and shadows, at 7:00 PM

Resurrection of the Lord, Easter Sunday—April 24

Celebrate new life and rebirth in Christ our risen Lord and Savior
with communion at 10:30 AM

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PROGRESS-IMMANUEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
3640 ASH STREET
HARRISBURG PA 17109-3941
www.pipc-church.org
pipc@paonline.com
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED