



The Friendly News

The First Presbyterian Church of Woodbury Heights October 2018



Dear Friends,

We are continuing our journey through the fourth chapter of Philippians and have reached Verse 5: “Let your gentleness be known to all; the Lord is near.”

As gifted a preacher as Paul was, he was even more gifted as a writer. A large portion of the New Testament is credited to him.

One of his gifts was the use of Greek words that have multiple shades of meaning, enabling him to teach many things in a few brief words.

Such is the case with this verse: The word we translate as “gentleness,” *epiekeia*, has several shades of meaning.

It can refer to moderation, patience, mercy, forbearance, modesty, magnanimity, meeting another half way, as well as gentleness.

The Greeks used it to refer to justice -- the kind that supersedes the letter of the law and allows for extenuating circumstances to be considered.

All THAT in one word!

When Paul tells us to let our *epiekeia* be known to all, he is telling us that, as Christians, we have to regard everyone we meet with a sense of dignity; to give others a measure of self-respect; to treat those we know, and those we don't know, with a spirit that says: “You matter – to God and to me.”

His meaning is very similar to words from I John, when John says that if we love God,

but do not love our neighbor – do not treat him or her with kindness, gentleness and all the other meanings of *epiekeia* – then we do not really love God.

The proof of our Christian faith is not in the proverbial pudding; it's in how we treat others. It's in the attitudes we have toward them; the words we speak to them; the tone of those words; and our willingness to hold our tongue. James reminds us that the most dangerous part of our body is the tongue because it can do a lot of damage to the psyche of another.

Before we disagree with someone, before we shush a child in church, before we share our opinion about something someone said or did (or didn't say or do), we all have to ask ourselves: “What damage might my tongue do if I unleash it? Are my thoughts gentle, patient, magnanimous and all the rest of *epiekeia*?”

Should I count to 10 or 20 or 30 and let my attitude have an adjustment before I speak? Should I really send this email or put this post on Facebook?

Paul adds five words to his message in this verse – words that speak loudly and clearly: “The Lord is at hand.”

Now, in the very early days of the church, most Christians believed that Jesus' return was imminent; that the Second Coming was only a day or two away.

So Paul is actually asking his readers: “What if the last thing you do before Christ returns is say something nasty to a fellow believer? What if the last moment before the Rapture finds you being unkind to a neighbor?”

And to put it into a modern context, well,
See PASTOR on Page 2

October birthdays

- 2 – Tim Pheasant
- 3 – Helen Draper
- 3 – Lauryn Elliott
- 5 – Esther Culbert
- 6 – Sandra Stammerjohann
- 10 – Benjamin Boyce
- 11 – Melissa Woodrow
- 13 – Jessica Pizarro
- 18 – Mary Cruz
- 20 – Dorothy-Jean Shedwick
- 21 – Autumn Lanneaux (Geserick)
- 21 – Joyce Elliott
- 21 – Sherry Outten
- 22 – Mary Kay Reynolds
- 25 – Luke Ternowyj
- 28 – Nick Sammacicci

**October anniversaries**

- 1 – Howard and Nicole Good
- 5 – Stephen and Michele Elliott
- 8 – Jim and Sandra Norcross
- 9 – David and Elisha Elliott
- 10 – Chris and Kayleigh Reim
- 14 – Carl and Nickie Kuehnappel
- 14 -- Liz and Andrew Santora
- 18 – Nolan and Debbie Becker
- 20 – Ed and Connie Harley
- 21 – Arnie and Catherine Shannon

PASTOR, continued from Page 1

yes, Jesus might return any day -- and with the state of the world today, that would be a good thing.

But to say Jesus is at hand also means that He is by our side, listening to what we say; paying attention to our attitude; watching how we treat those He gave His life for. He also knows what we are thinking, even if we don't verbalize it.

Relationships are fragile. Words hurt. Attitudes dehumanize. But love heals, restores and rebuilds. And isn't that what we want to do?

In Christ, John

A special thank you

Our sanctuary choir wants to extend its sincere thanks to Dave Taylor for filling in as director during the absence of Tony Vattimo, who is ill.

**News and notes from the pulpit**

Get well wishes go out to **Ammie Davis**, who had back surgery early in October; to **Kay Pierson**, who also has had back issues; to **Susan Shunk's** husband, **Bob Chute**, who broke three ribs in a fall; and to **Gary Kuehnappel**, who has been dealing with cardiac issues.

Congratulations to **Matt and Melissa Woodrow** on the baptism of **Darren Austin**.

Deacons to lead new prayer ministry

Our deacons have decided to support a new prayer ministry. Here is how it will work:

After worship each Sunday, we plan to have two church members come forward, one by the pulpit and one by the lectern.

If anyone from the congregation wishes to, he or she can come forward to bring a need or concern to one of the members, who have agreed to listen and then pray.

It will be personal, informal, confidential and an opportunity for anyone in the congregation to find a listening ear.

A number of other churches have this same ministry and it is extremely meaningful.

The sermon titles for October:

Oct 7: Big Brother is Watching (World Communion Sunday)

Oct. 14: And They Sat Down to Eat

Oct. 21: As Famous As the Wine of Lebanon

Oct. 28: His Eye Is On The Sparrow

Support a charity via Amazon Smile

Church member Janet Koehler points out that church members can have 0.5% of the price of their purchases donated to the charity of their choice by shopping online through Amazon Smile.

To learn more, go to smile.amazon.com and create an account.

Gardening helpers will be needed

A \$2,000 project to landscape our church is nearly complete, and church members are asked to help maintain the gardens by weeding, trimming shrubs and watering. If you are willing to help, see Brad Gilmore.

OCTOBER 2018



“You shall observe the Feast of Weeks, the first fruits of wheat harvest, and the Feast of Ingathering at the year's end.”

-- Exodus 34:22

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Esther Circle meets, 7 pm	3 Budget committee meets, annex, 7 pm	4 Quilters meet, lounge, 10 am Bell choir practice, 6:45 pm Sanctuary choir, 7:45 pm	5	6
7 Sunday School, 9:30 am Worship, 11 am Lunch with Mount Zion 12:15 pm	8 PrimeTimers travel to Phila. Historical Society, time TBA	9	10	11 Quilters meet, lounge, 10 am Bell choir practice, 6:45 pm Sanctuary choir, 7:45 pm	12	13 Men's Group breakfast, Piston Diner, 8:30 am Dinner for Six at various homes
14 Sunday School, 9:30 am Worship, 11 am CROP Walk, Chestnut Branch Park	15	16	17 Mission meets, annex, 6:30 pm Session meets, annex, 7:30 pm	18 Quilters meet, lounge, 10 am Bell choir practice, 6:45 pm Sanctuary choir, 7:45 pm	19	20
21 Sunday School, 9:30 am Worship, 11 am Baby Boomers pizza party, 2 pm	22	23 Red Cross Blood Drive, Cooper Hall, 2 to 7 pm Deacons meet, annex, 7 pm	24	25 Quilters meet, lounge, 10 am Bell choir practice, 6:45 pm Sanctuary choir, 7:45 pm	26	27 Trunk or Treat, church parking lot, 4 pm Bike rodeo, 9 am
28 Sunday School, 9:30 am Worship, 11 am .	29	30	31			

NOVEMBER

2018



“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.”

-- Philippians 4:6

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Quilters meet, lounge, 10 am Bell choir practice, 6:45 Sanctuary choir practice, 7:45	2	3
4 Sunday School, 9:30 am Worship, 11 am	5	6 Esther Circle, 7 pm	7	8 Quilters meet, lounge, 10 am Bell choir practice, 6:45 Sanctuary choir practice, 7:45	9	10 Men's group breakfast, Piston Diner, 8:30 am
11 Sunday School, 9:30 am Worship, 11 am	12 PrimeTimers' luncheon, elections, lounge, noon	13	14 Mission meets, annex, 6:30 pm Session meets, annex, 7:30	15 Quilters meet, lounge, 10 am Bell choir practice, 6:45 Sanctuary choir practice, 7:45	16	17
18 Sunday School, 9:30 am Worship, 11 am Congregational meeting, 12:15	19	20	21 Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve service, 7 pm	22 HAPPY THANKSGIVING	23	24
25 Sunday School, 9:30 am Worship, 11 am	26	27 Deacons meet, annex, 7 pm	28	29 Quilters meet, lounge, 10 am Bell choir practice, 6:45 Sanctuary choir practice, 7:45	30	

September meeting

Precipitation pushes picnic onto Presbyterian property

"Have grill, will travel" was the mantra of Joe Martino as he and his wife, Carol, pushed their barbecue grill from their home to the church on Sept. 10, for the PrimeTimers' in-door picnic.

Joe proved himself to be an able grill master, and Carol excelled at being a waitress.

The luncheon table was laden with other picnic foods to accompany the hot dogs and burgers. Lobster tails were not on the menu again this year! Desserts were also served.

PrimeTimers' President, the Rev. Paul Milio, conducted a short meeting after welcoming all and thanking the helpers.

The group will visit the Presbyterian Historical Society on Oct. 8. The meeting on Nov. 12 will be in the church lounge, and it will feature lunch and the election of officers for 2019.

The annual Christmas Luncheon will be at Charlie Brown's Restaurant in Woodbury at noon on Monday, Dec. 10. Dr. and Rev. Milio welcomed Pat McDonald to our group, after which Ada White gave a beautiful blessing before the PrimeTimers filled their plates.

President Milio entertained us with a story of three linemen bragging about the number of poles they had installed during their work day. When questioned why the third man only put in one to their six and eight, he replied, "You should see how they did theirs. Their poles are sticking up in the air."

The event ended with three games devised by the recreation director, Judy Milio. A few had powerful swings, a couple were accurate or lucky, and many demonstrated ricochet strokes. It is doubtful the PGA would allow any of these players to putt on their greens.



Parents Brad and Kristen Lynch, with daughter Sophie, participated in the baptism of daughter Ellie Kate (left) at our church on Aug. 19.

Photo by Joyce Woodrow

Hear Rev. Michael B. Curry speak in Collingswood

Urban Promise will celebrate its 30th year with food stations and a dessert buffet at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 23, at the Scottish Rite ballroom in Collingswood. The keynote speaker is Presiding Bishop Michael B. Curry of the Episcopal Church, and there will be a theater presentation by students and alumni. For tickets, call Jennifer Giordano at (856) 382-1864 or email jgiordano@urbanpromiseusa.org

Annual CROP Walk Oct. 14 in Mantua

Our church is assisting the Pitman Presbyterian Church with Family Promise the first week of October. Many thanks to those who have volunteered to help.

The CROP Walk will be Sunday, Oct. 14, at Chestnut Branch Park in Mantua. This is a great spot for walkers of all ages to be with our church family as we join in the fight against hunger. Please donate water for the walkers.

Our next Cathedral Kitchen date is Tuesday, Oct. 30. If you can help, please contact Mary Kay Reynolds at (856) 803-4068.

We are looking forward to Mission Sunday on Nov. 11. Our special guest will be Cindy Corell, the missionary we sponsor. She will be joining our congregation to talk about the work she and others are doing in Haiti. We are also planning to have a potluck lunch after church that day. We hope many of you can come out to welcome our special guest!



Tim Pheasant and his Cherry Landscaping company have transformed our Memorial Garden, our signboard area and the front of our church into a beautiful space in which we can take pride.

Photos by Joyce Woodrow

Highlights of the September Session meeting

Your Session met on Wednesday, Sept. 19, in the annex. Devotions were presented by elder Lori Taylor. Minutes of the June and special July meetings were approved. Financial reports were reviewed and approved.

Rev. Shedwick's request for study leave on Oct. 18 and vacation on Oct. 19 was approved.

The request for Matthew and Melissa Woodrow to have their son, Darren Austin, baptized on Sept. 30 was approved. The request of Justin Blaum and Krystal Nickodemus to be married in our sanctuary on Nov. 3 was approved.

The committee reports are as follows:

Mission: Reported on the upcoming CROP Walk and the visit of our missionary, Cindy Corell, on Nov. 11.

Membership and Fellowship: Discussion of lunch with Mount Zion-Wesley AME Church; discussion of an Operations Manual, which is under construction: Elder Barbara Daugherty is compiling reports.

Building and Property: Landscaping will begin soon; the installation of air conditioners in Cooper Hall began Sept. 25; a Fall Work Day will be scheduled.

Christian Education: Rally Day went well, with a good turnout by students.

Stewardship and Finance: Plans for the fall stewardship campaign were discussed; an update on pending bequests was given; the EFT program will continue; permission was given to Financial Secretary Dick Daugherty to purchase offering envelopes for 2019.

Worship and Program: Communion will be offered Oct. 7, and two elders and two officers from Mount Zion Wesley Church, which will worship with us that day, will serve; an update on the current music director situation was provided.

Communication and Outreach: A new newsletter editor and website manager will be needed for 2019 and beyond.

Youth elder Anthony Urion reported on activities of the Youth Group, especially the Trunk or Treat.

Deacon representative Andrew Reynolds reported on the recent activities of the Board of Deacons

Elder David Geserick reported on the September meeting of West Jersey Presbytery. The meeting was adjourned with prayer.

American Red Cross Blood Drive

Give blood. Help save lives

Where: Cooper Hall (use Fourth Street entrance)
First Presbyterian Church
335 Elm Ave., Woodbury Heights, N.J. 08097

When: 2 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 23

Please note: As a thank you for giving blood this October, you will be automatically entered to win one of five \$500 gift cards redeemable at hundreds of merchants! See www.rcblood.org/goal for more details.

Appointments: They are preferred. Call 1-800-REDCROSS or make an appointment online at: www.redcrossblood.org and use sponsor code: **First Presbyterian Woodbury Heights**

Save time: On Oct. 23, visit www.redcrossblood.org/rapidpass .

For information: Contact Joyce Woodrow of our church

Ask about Power Red donations:



*Area hospital patients are counting on you!
Don't forget to HYDRATE and please remember your ID.*

Esther Circle meetings have resumed on Tuesday nights

Esther Circle did not meet in September because of the excessive heat wave in the beginning of the month.

We resumed our monthly meetings at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 2, at the home of Barbara Daugherty.

Meetings last around two hours with a time of fellowship and refreshments, as well as the transaction of Women's Association business. Together, we enjoy studying the Word of God.

Our Bible study for this year is on the Sermon on the Mount. Whether you are new to the church or have been a church member for a long time, YOU are invited to join us for our circle meetings.

Our prayers and thoughts continue to go out to our dear sisters in Christ, Ammie Davis and Kay Pierson, as they continue to struggle with back pain.

Rev. Shedwick starts church year with new gratitude series

If we are honest with ourselves, we know we don't thank God for His blessings as much as we should.

My thought this year is to find a reason every week (and there are a multitude of them) to thank God.

Each week, a new entry in this series will be posted on the What's New? Page of our website and on our Facebook page.

The series began in early September with our return to the fall schedule.

What follows is the first entry, from Romans 8:1, in which Paul writes: "There is therefore no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."

We might condemn ourselves, bear the burden of guilt and shame upon our own shoulders, and allow our regrets to break our spirit.

But God chose not to condemn us by sending His Son to die in our place.

What greater reason is there to be grateful than that?

Let us keep that thought in our hearts, minds and souls throughout the coming year.

Living in the grace of God, Rev. John W. Shedwick



Rev. Shedwick leads our deacons and elders through a labyrinth during a retreat for church officers in Cooper Hall on Sept. 8.

Photo by Denise Pitchford

Here are ways to financially support our church

By Dick Daugherty
Church Financial Secretary

This is what you need to know about the methods your Session has made available to you for donating to our church:

Electronic Funds Transfer via the Presbyterian Foundation: There is no setup or monthly fee, so getting started is free. However, the foundation takes a 2% administration fee from all gifts to cover reasonable and customary costs of operation and to help ensure the continued viability of the program and its services.

The foundation also holds the contributions until the first of the following month, which forces us to wait for your contribution – and that could affect our cash flow.

Bank checks: If you have a checking account at a bank, you can arrange through a “Bill Pay” or some other outlet to have the bank cut a check and mail it to the church.

You must arrange how often checks will be sent and for how much. The bank will do the rest at no charge to the you or the church. Once the check is received, it is recorded with the next offering and deposited the next business day.

Offering envelopes: They’ve been used for decades, and they physically show which weeks’ donations were made and which were missed and need to be made up.

Your offering envelope box includes envelopes for each week’s donation as well as envelopes for the Capital Fund, the Per Capita Fund, the Deacons Fund, etc.

The church pays a nominal sum annually to provide every member, couple or family an envelope box.

The Stewardship Committee and Session have given you the ability to choose how to donate. Use it wisely and most economically for the church.

God Bless.