Youth Group Students and Adults to Travel to Puerto Rico

Wonderful stories of Mexico (2007) and Arizona (2010) summer mission trips continue to live in the corporate memory of the youth group, and current students have been interested in finding a new challenge in a short term mission trip to learn and serve in a critical area. Naturally, the devastations wrought by hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria captured the attention of people not only in Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico, but around the whole nation and world. The cleanup and repair in Puerto Rico seems to be the most challenging, so members of the youth group and adults are spending the week of July 14, 2018 in Ponce, Puerto Rico to lend our hands and hearts to the recovery and the people there.

We are partnering with Group International Mission Trips (www.groupmissiontrips.com), and we will be involved in home repair in Ponce, Puerto Rico. A number of students and adults are already committed and excited about this opportunity to meet the challenge of serving in the tropics and contributing to the recovery efforts in an area that still needs so much.

This is our summer mission trip for this year, and preparations are already under way. The trip will cost just under $1,200 per participant, and we are hoping and praying that fundraisers will defray some if not most of the costs. Watch for announcements about a Talent Auction, special fundraising dinner(s), and of course the always popular car washes. Those wishing to make a financial contribution to this effort can simply note “Puerto Rico” in the memo section of the check.

We will be providing informational moments for mission in worship and in all of our communication outlets, including this newsletter. For now your prayers, encouragement, and support are heartily welcomed and received with thanksgivings!

Yours in Christ, Peter Kelley
Thursday, March 29th
Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service
7:30 PM
(Including Holy Communion)

Friday, March 30th
Good Friday
12:00 – 1:00 PM
An Informal Service of Meditation, Silence and Prayer
7:30 PM
A Service of Meditation, Song and Prayer

Sunday, April 1st
Easter Sunday
6:30 AM
Ecumenical Service at Founder’s Landing

10:00 AM
Church Worship Service
**One Great Hour of Sharing**

This is the single largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world. Join with Presbyterians worldwide in sharing God’s love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief from natural and human-caused disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed. If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!

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$20 can provide up to 10 jerry cans to help families more easily transport clean water to their homes.

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**BE ON THE LOOKOUT**

Information will be arriving in the mail with envelopes, in the bulletin and during worship. The collection will be taken up **Sunday March 25th**.

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**Presbyterian Women’s Circles**

- **Bible Study**  
  Janet Dickerson  
  734-7167
- **Evening Fellowship**  
  Carol DeLong  
  765-3771
- **Mission Barn**  
  Eleanor DeReeder  
  765-3082
- **Sewing Circle**  
  Lois Ross

_All Are Welcome_
January’s Mindfulness Event and Winter Retreat

These events drew record numbers of participants. It seems there is a kind of hunger for spending time with other people in a less stressful, more holistic environment. As a society, all the data points to the fact that we are working harder, worrying more, and experiencing a greater sense of isolation. This all bodes well for the church, since we are uniquely positioned to be a “third place” beside home and work for people to gather to meet some of the deeper, more spiritual dimensions of life together.

These pictures speak for themselves revealing the joy and tranquility of being in community together. Perhaps they may move you out of your comfort zone and help you step into an activity you may not have considered before.
On Sunday, March 4, the church service was organized by the women of the church to celebrate the role of women in our lives. Jay Batterman and Karen Lee gave the sermon which focused on famous and not so famous women as leaders. Lois Ross handled the children's time with a blessing of the prayer shawls and a recognition of the therapy dog, Rusty. The women singers closed the service with a beautiful and rousing rendition of "Day by Day" which included drums, guitar, piano, and lots of help from the congregation.

The third session of the Lenten Bible Study began with Mediterranean soup, herbed flat bread, and a mesclun salad for those who came at 6 pm. Eleven of us then assembled in the Old Manse to begin an understanding of Paul's letter to the Romans. The discussion focused on Romans, Chapter 3, Verses 21-31. These 10 verses contain some of the most difficult concepts of the Christian faith to make sense of and to understand. Paul brings up the "righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ" as opposed to the "righteousness of man through the law." He also states that all of mankind has sinned, Jews and Gentiles, and all are justified to redemption by the gift of God's grace through Jesus Christ. This is possible because God put forth Jesus Christ as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood. God wasn't waiting for us to be perfect, but sacrificed His only son at a time when we were weak and were still sinners. The verses end with Paul saying that God is the God of all, the Jews and the Gentiles, and we uphold the ancient laws by our faith. Our discussion got very animated when we brought up the questions—did Jesus know that he was going to be sacrificed? Was he more human or more divine when on earth? Did Jesus suffer as any other human would during his time on earth? Reverend Kelley said that these questions were at the heart of the Christian faith and are still being debated today. Everyone left with a deeper understanding of the book of Romans.
## Calendar of events
### March & April

**Sundays:**
- 9:00 am Bible talk in the manse
- 10:00 am Worship
- 11:00 am Fellowship

**March 25th**
- 10:00 am Palm Sunday Worship & Cookie Walk

**April 1st**
- 6:30 am Easter Dawn Service, Founders Landing
- 10:00 am Easter Worship

**Mondays:**
- 5:30 pm Zumba
- 7:00 pm AA Manse

**Tuesdays**
- 10:00 am Prayer Group
- 12:30 pm AA Manse

- March 20th
  - 7:00 pm Session meets

- April 3rd
  - 7:00 pm Stewardship meets

- April 17th
  - 7:00 pm Session meets

**Wednesdays**
- **11:00 am GEM Lenten Service** various locations ends March 28th
- 5:00 pm Maureen’s Haven ends March 28th
- 7:30 pm AA

**Thursdays**
- **6:00 pm Lenten Bible Study. Soup at 6, Study at 6:30 No class**
- March 29th in observance of Maundy Thursday Ends April 19th.

- March 22nd
  - 7:00 pm Deacons meet

- March 29th
  - 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service

- April 26th
  - 7:00 pm Deacons meet

- March 15th
  - 4:00 pm S.A.L.T

- March 22nd
  - 7:00 pm Women’s Book Group meets at Heather Cusack’s

**Fridays**
- 6:00 pm Overeaters Anon

- March 30th
  - **12:30 pm Good Friday Service**
  - **7:30 pm Good Friday Service**

**Saturdays**
- 10:30 am AA

- **April 14th**
  - **2:30 pm Mindfulness Series**

- **April 28th**
  - Caribbean Theme Dinner Mission Fundraiser.
Deacons’ Doings

February was a cold bleak month and sent hardship to many families here on the North Fork. Various community groups, such as the Housing Alliance, CAST, and Family Service League make requests for people in need to the church and the Deacons then vote on whether they are going to respond. The Deacons were asked to help two families in danger of eviction, each with two children. The vote was a unanimous yes. While there is always a concern in a “practical” sense about available funds, the Deacons always get their answers from the Bible. “You shall give to him freely, and your heart shall not be grudging when you give to him, because for this the LORD your God will bless you in all your work and in all that you undertake,” Deuteronomy 15:10 is only one of many guiding directives.

March has some things already in the winds. Deacons will be providing lunch for the Juniata Choir when it comes here for its annual concert that is a joyful gift to all who hear it. Next month, “Care Packages” will be sent to our college students. They really appreciate these gifts from home and we want them to know that while they are away, they are still part of our church family and are loved.

Winter days can be cold and dark, but our faith lets us bring others warmth and light that reflects onto us through the grace of Jesus Christ.

What: Women’s Book Group
Where: Heather Cusack’s Home
When: Tuesday, March 22nd at 7pm
BOOK: “The Secret Chord”
by Geraldine Brooks

Contact: Penny Kelley penkelley@gmail.com 765-3093 or Patty Shuford pbshuford@optonline.net

Do you love to read? Do you need a good “next” book? Are you looking for some fun fellowship? If you answered “yes” to any or all of these questions and your interest is piqued, you may want to join this monthly group.

Sharing and discussing a good book is inspiring, and sharing in fellowship is PRICELESS! Two great deals for the price of ONE. This group is open and accepting new members. Please join us!
A brief introduction to the Ponce Puerto Rico Mission Work Trip

The participants will be involved in home repair and maintenance for an elderly or disabled resident who does not have the financial or physical ability to work on his or her house. They will break up into small teams of 5-6 people who will be paired with a resident in need. The small group will serve this person in any way they are in need at their home for the entire week that they will spend in Puerto Rico. They will be the hands and feet of Jesus as they bless the resident tangibly by helping to care for his/her home in a way that he/she is no longer able to. No special skills are needed - just a willing heart to serve! The service may include scraping and painting a house for an elderly resident. Sealing a leaky roof for someone without financial means to do it. Doing yard work and other light maintenance projects at the resident’s house, or cleaning out an area of a home damaged by the hurricane.

No matter where or how they serve in Puerto Rico, the faith of those who serve will deepen as they become aware of the needs of our neighbors in Puerto Rico.
Faith Formation Events
Our second Mindfulness Series will take place on Saturday April 14th 2:30-4:30 pm.
Workshops include:

Cooking with Chef John Ross
Qi Gong & Tai Chi with Denise Gillies of East End Tia Chi
Flower Essences with Courtney Hall

Who says the Cookie Walk is only for Christmas time?
Join the FPC Youth Group for a Palm Sunday Cookie Walk on March 25th.
Stay Tuned for more fun-filled fundraising events!

The Youth Group is headed to Puerto Rico this summer for a Mission Work Trip. They will help with home repairs in the city of Ponce during the week of July 14 to 21. Unlike recent trips to The Pilgrimage in Washington, D.C. and Clairvaux Farm in Maryland, this one includes airfare and higher lodging costs. Please support our trip by visiting the Cookie Walk after worship on Palm Sunday. If you’d like to bake something to sell, we would appreciate the help. Hope to see you there!
Inspirational Corner

Get up off of your knees.
Come out of your churches, your mosques, your temples. God can hear your prayers for peace, justice, and hope in this broken world just fine while you're out creating peace, working for justice, and giving hope to this broken world. When are we finally going to realize that humanity is the solution to inhumanity? When will we finally understand that we are all drops of the same ocean, hurting together, healing together, hoping together? So don't just pray for hands to heal the hurting. Pray with hands that are healing the hurting. Don't just pray for arms to help the helpless. Pray with arms that are helping the helpless. Don't just pray for feet to respond to need. Pray on feet that are responding to need. Don't just pray for someone to do something. Be someone who does something. Don't just pray for answers. Be the answer.
Prayer Concerns

The people listed here are our most recent prayer concerns. For a full list of those who are in need of prayer, visit our website at www.fpcsouthold.org or visit the church office.

Baby Sawyer Hines
Bill Bogardus
Bob White Jr.
Cheryl Sidor Nickles
Cindy Caprise – Adrienne & Fred Weber’s Daughter
David & Susan Dingle
Desmond Tetrault

Jeannette Schibe – Culver/Bennett Family friend
Jeff Hagerman
Nancy Gorra – John Nickles friend
Roberta Santacroce
Winkler family Alex, Ana, Peter, Stephen and Tessa on The loss of their son and brother Ben

Transitions

Please let the church office know of any transitions or life changing events that effect our church family.

We send condolences to the families of:
Audrey Barnett on her passing February 22, 2018 and
Shirley Darling on her passing February 24, 2018

We celebrate the birth of Corey James Beasely on January 16, 2018 to proud parents Kevin and Stephanie Ruggles Beasley.
We rejoice in the variety of talents, experience and concerns each individual brings to this congregation through the Holy Spirit. We will gain strength from this diversity as we strive to be nurturing, relevant, and vibrant disciples of Jesus Christ.