



FUPC Presby Press

November 2022 Church Newsletter



You get an extra hour during the first weekend of November, when Daylight Saving Time ends.

On Saturday evening reset your clocks to one hour earlier.

Spuds ‘N’ Suds luncheon brings out a good crowd

Family and friends gathered in FUPC’s Fellowship Hall on Sunday, October 23 following worship for the luncheon tradition. Our Board of Deacons spread out a wonderful baked potato bar including an assortment of toppings and chili to create this hearty meal. The “suds” part in our version of “Spuds ‘N’ Suds” is bottled root beer.

This has been an annual fall event for us, and it is popular enough that we also have offered it when FUPC has hosted meetings of our regional presbytery in previous years.

The Spuds ‘N’ Suds luncheon is the primary fundraiser for our deacons each year. Beyond the cost of the food, everything you contribute goes into the Deacons Fund to empower mission projects throughout the next twelve months. Some of the ministries you support when you contribute to the Deacons Fund:

- ✓ Support of hands-on local mission, including local agencies we support
- ✓ Purchases of hospital equipment to be loaned out to FUPC members and the community
- ✓ Caring outreach to some of our honored members who are less able to be active
- ✓ Our extensive greeting card ministry for friends of this congregation
- ✓ Emergency food assistance to neighbors in need



Thank you to the Deacons for their hard work and to those folks who attended and supported this event!

All Saints Sunday

All Saints Day is on the worldwide church's calendar on November 1st. FUPC will celebrate our friends and family who have entered the church triumphant this past year on November 6th. All Saints Day is commemorated in various ways depending on the history and theological emphases of the churches. For we Presbyterians sainthood is understood as a status of holiness which is conferred – as a gift of grace – upon us by the Lord. It is not reserved for a special few, and it is not something that waits until after our mortal lives end. There are multiple examples in the Bible when all the people of God are referenced as saints of God – those still alive in this world and those who have entered God's eternal presence.

All Saints Sunday has three primary functions:

- ✠ We are reminded of our own saintly status now, chosen and set apart for divine purposes by the Lord.
- ✠ We remember and give thanks for the saints who shaped our lives and our faith, even those not now with us.
- ✠ We join the praise and glory which reverberates through the heavenly realm because God has redeemed the saints of the past and given them eternal life in his presence.

“For all the Saints, who from their labors rest”

Edward I. Chen (Husband of Xin-zhu Chen)

Paul Chernichky }

Mimi Cornell }

Royce Cornell } (Friends & Family of the Lawton Family)

Glen Lawton }

Georgianna Smith }

Oz Smith }

Gloria Hayes (Mother of Shari Gould)

Beverly Renn (Mother of Jennifer Berger)

Jim Renn (Father of Jennifer Berger)

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort,
who comforts us in all our sorrows,
so that we can comfort others in their sorrow,
with the consolation we have received from God.

2 Corinthians 1: 3-4

FUPC HONORS OUR VETERANS AND THOSE CURRENTLY SERVING on Nov. 6th

Thank you for your service

<u>NAME</u>	<u>BRANCH OF SERVICE</u>	<u>DATES</u>
Richard H. Walker	Army	Jan. 1951-Jan. 1953
Karl Gombert	Army	Sept. 1955-June 1957
John B. Austin	Navy	1959-1961
Barbara Graham Anderson	Army	1959-1979
Gary Hayes	Air Force	1963-1967
Art Crawford	Army	July 1966-Feb. 1969
David Ferster	Marines	1967-1971
Duffy Schruers	Army	1969-1970
Dennis Bleakley	Navy	1970-1973
Ron Swift	Army/ PA National Guard	1970-2007
Buzz Walker	Marine Corps Reserve	1971-1998
Doug Roberts	Army/PA Nat'l Guard	1971-1977
Robert Dylewski	Air Force	Dec. 1975-Dec. 1978
Jeremy Dylewski	Army	Oct. 1994-Oct. 2002
Vincent Koscielniak	Marines	June 1998-Sept. 2018
Mike Marinkovich	Army	2000-2005
Dusty Veres	Army	2003-2006
Daniel Robert Jenkins	Army	2003-2013
Matthew Pisarchick	Army	Oct. 2003-Sept. 2014
Rebecca Sue Jenkins	Army	2005-2012
Dean Johnson	Army	May, 2008-May 2012
Don Kineston	Navy	
Spencer Barfield	Army	2012-Present
Evan Burgess	Air Force	2015-Present
Jheran (Davis) Carter	Air Force	2016-2022
Brent Carlson	Army	Currently Serving
Greg Carter	Air Force	Currently Serving
Colton Smaltz	Army	Currently Serving
Jake Mamay	Army	Currently Serving
Nicole Ormsby	Army	Currently Serving
Isaiah Lloyd	Navy	Currently Serving
Alex Hopkins	Army	Currently Serving

FUPC November Mission of the Month: The Warming Center

History of the Warming Center

On a cold January day in 2008, Mental Health Association of Northwestern PA attended a meeting at the Erie County Executive's office where the idea of opening a Warming Center for persons who were without shelter on the coldest of winter nights was being discussed. When it came time to consider where and when such a project could be established, MHA said we could open our Consumer Center from 11PM to 7AM starting in two days. With \$5,000 in committed funding from the County and a willing MHA staff, The Warming Center at MHA was born. On any night when the overnight temperature is forecast to be 20 degrees or below, MHA coordinates with Erie County Emergency Management to get the word out to the community that the Warming Center at MHA will be opening its doors, accepting anyone who needs to come in from the cold during overnight hours provided they will abide by basic rules of mutual respect. MHA provides shelter, safety, food, coffee, activities, conversation, support, and a place to "nap" for those needing to rest.

Six years ago, we increased the opening temperature to 25 degrees or below and in 2015 we added another opening threshold of sustained wind chills of 20 degrees or below. The 2013-14 winter season was the coldest since we opened the Warming Center at MHA and we were open for a record 91 nights, providing warmth and comfort to over 340 shelterless persons. While more recent winters have been milder, we have continued to serve the same number of guests each year. Individuals, churches, businesses, and nonprofits throughout the community have generously stepped up to help with donations of funds, food, clothing, hygiene products and blankets. Thanks to Erie's goodwill and support, the Warming Center at MHA has never missed a night because of lack of resources. The outpouring of care that we have experienced fills us all at MHA with great pride to be a part of such a loving community. They are not just helping to provide a safe, warm place for those without shelter. MHA is a mental health consumer preferred employer. Every night the Warming Center at MHA is open, it is also providing persons with mental health needs with a meaningful job and a paycheck.

One of the most impressive support efforts has come from our neighbors at The Upper Room of Erie at St. Paul's United Church of Christ at 11th and Peach St. They have graciously elected to open their facility for homeless persons between 5 and 11PM on any night on which we will be opening the Warming Center at MHA. Persons without a safe place to be will also have a resource during the evening hours when the temperatures can be life threatening. Our hats are off to The Upper Room. They could use some volunteers and financial help for their efforts, and we encourage the community to support the Upper Room as well.

We also want to recognize Mike Tann and the Erie Metropolitan Transit Authority for their support in making sure that persons without transportation on our coldest mornings are provided with a ride from the Overflow Shelter site to the Bishop's Breakfast at St. Paul's Church of Christ. The "e" has provided this service since 2015 and is truly a life saver.

Monetary donations will be accepted through the month of November. Please make your check payable to FUPC, with Warming Center in the memo field.

Thanksgiving groceries for the Edinboro Food Pantry

Our October “Mission of the Month” was filling shopping bags with the ingredients needed for a traditional home-cooked Thanksgiving dinner – all the groceries except the turkey. This has been an annual effort led by our Mission Ministry Team, and the people of this church responded generously!



On the very first Sunday the bags were available, all 20 of them were claimed. An additional 10 bags were filled by means of a grant obtained by Jan Schulz from Lake Erie Presbytery Women. Please return filled bags to the church building by November 6th so they may be distributed to the Edinboro Food Pantry in time for Thanksgiving.

We thank YOU, for sharing the blessings you have, so that other people will be blessed.



Family Night!

FUPC – EDINBORO

TUESDAY, **NOVEMBER 15th**

5:30 p.m. Gathering time

6:00 p.m. Pizza, veggies, cookies and beverages provided

NO AGENDA! Just family fun. We are inviting want our youngest worshippers to a fun time. Our goal is to play early enough to not interrupt bed time.

Please RSVP by November 13th: slgould1026@gmail.com or text 814-490-0074 – ALSO - let us know if you have any **food allergies** or dietary **restrictions** too! Feel free to invite friends - just tell us how many so we can plan food accordingly.

Will you and your family help us to “enlighten” our Advent worship?

It may seem a little early to be planning for Christmas festivities, but the time *is* almost here. The Worship Team has begun to recruit people to help with our Advent Wreath lightings, **the first of which will happen during Thanksgiving Weekend, Sunday, November 27th.**

Advent is the four-week spiritual season of anticipation and preparation leading up to the commemoration of Jesus’ birth. Across many centuries, the ritual has developed to light another candle each Sunday, symbolic of Jesus who is the Light coming into the world. As Christ’s incarnation approaches, the amount of light continues to grow. Then, the Christ Candle at the center of the wreath is lit when the Lord’s incarnation is fully evident when we celebrate Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

At FUPC, we invite individuals, couples and families to light the candle or candles for each Sunday. We especially invite children, or families with teens, or college students and young adults who are home at holiday time to participate. Please contact the church office to schedule.



Save the Dates for Upcoming events at Edinboro Presbyterian:

- **Sunday, November 6th @ 2:00 am Daylight Saving Time ends. Turn your clocks back.**
- **SUNDAY, November 6th 11 am Worship- Veterans and All Saints Recognition**
Guest Speaker John B. Austin, Worship Leader Shari Gould
- **SUNDAY, November 13th 11 am Worship with Holy Communion**
Guest Pastor Rev. Anita Bernhardt, Worship Leader Jan Zeart
- **TUESDAY, November 15th 5:30 pm** Family Fun Night!
- **SUNDAY, November 20th 11 am Worship, Congregational Meeting & Thanksgiving Dinner**
Guest Pastor Rev. Jim McCormack, Worship Leader Jule McCormack



- **WEDNESDAY, November 30th 6:00 pm** – Hanging of the Greens.

We invite all to decorate the church for the Christmas season. Pizza will be provided at break time!

The regularly scheduled 1st Wed. Dinner and All Team meetings will not be held in December.

Your church officers are diligently working on plans for the coming months. We are excited for the future and invite you to bring to us any questions you may have. On the same note, we welcome your suggestions! Following is a list of Session and Deacon committees and their chairpersons to help you direct your questions, concerns, or suggestions:

Finance - Art Smaltz
Personnel - Shari Gould
Worship - Sue Payne
Facilities - Doug Roberts
Stewardship - Pauline Kraus
Families/Youth - Milly Williams/Brian Long
Clerk - Jan Zeart
Treasurer - Doug Roberts

Deacons - Mary Walker
Fellowship - Linda Rummel
Mission - Jan Schulz



**Cambridge Springs
Salvation Army
Service Unit
Seeking
Groups/Individuals
to ring the bell @
Edinboro Walmart**

**Please contact
Nicole Peterson
814-795-1282
nmealy@icloud.com**

A “Fare-Well” Letter from Pastor Greg

Thanks for all the good work, fun times, trust, and God-Moments

As I conclude my time in Edinboro and in Pennsylvania, I wish to express my gratitude to the people who have been such a blessing to me over the past 5+ years. It has been such an honor to be the pastor with the members and friends and ministries of First United Presbyterian Church

As most of our current folks remember, I was first introduced to you as a transitional pastor, several months after Pastor Matt Falco answered his next ministry calling which took him and his family to Kentucky. Because my family was in Oil City and we didn't want to relocate sons who would be wrapping up their high school years, I suggested we go two-thirds time, with me commuting in from an hour away. That worked during that era, but I did not expect to be here beyond the typical year to year-and-a-half which is the average for Presbyterian pastoral searches.

So, I would be among you for a time. Interim-style pastors do not simply “hold things together”, but good ones “move things forward”. During that season, I learned about and celebrated this congregation's long and fruitful history. I helped our ordained leaders explore our current situations, then to adjust our activities and processes accordingly. We imagined a future which God was preparing, and moved toward it, as best we could. None of us, though, had any notion of how much daily life would change when Covid-19 entered our lexicon – and upended the world. (I'm pretty sure it was famed baseball manager Yogi Berra who said, “It's hard to make predictions, especially about the future.” Wow, that guy was inventing memes before the internet had memes --- even before the internet was an internet! But his quote was not only funny, it was/is true!)

Still, FUPC was one of the earliest congregations which reopened our activities. We did a drive-through Easter morning, parking lot worship, and picnic shelter gatherings. We were back in the sanctuary on the first Sunday of August 2020, barely four months after we closed down “for a few weeks, to flatten the curve.” That spring and summer, we didn't just bide our time and wait. We figured out what would work. We could move chairs around in the sanctuary. Folks who wanted to get back together quickly did so. For all of us we launched Worship Online, which has continued through the rest of my tenure. I spent time recently looking back at a few of those earlier attempts at church-via-video, and we made it work. I'm much more proud of the recent/vast improvements, including the worship services which marked the final months of my pastorate with you. (*Check out the website for recent services, my goodbyes, and a few years of archives.*)

Yes, the pandemic and all of the bizarreness which surrounded us shaped about half of my time here. The blend of being flexible and finding what works was nothing new to FUPC! Yet, Covid isn't the most important part of this incredible chapter of my 27 years since Homestead Presbytery ordained me as a Minister of Word and Sacrament. Edinboro Presbyterian Church was – is – and will be – a healthy congregation! We have talented, faithful, committed people. We have really done well with maintaining a balance between our inward mutual care and our much-needed outward ministry/mission focus. Our folks are active in the community around us, not only with our church's connections with charitable work, but so many of us are local servants and local leaders beyond programs of the church.

Our church's staff – that's paid *and* unpaid staff – are incredibly good. I have worked with dozens of terrific deacons and elders during my tenure. Those who carry out all the multitude of tasks to keep worship and the kitchen and the office and music and property and financial activities – I thank you, and you have inspired growth in my faith. Those who have trusted me with faith-building activities across the generations – I thank you, and I have learned from you. To everyone who has welcomed me into their wedding preparations, or hospital rooms, or family circumstances – I thank you, it's been such a privilege to be present for these God-

Moments. I appreciate the kind party and send-offs, the affirmation of my ministry, and all of the life we have shared since 2017. The list of tender moments can go on and on – and they all amaze me. (I add here my appreciation for my presbytery colleagues – some of whom will guide and encourage you in coming days.)

We have shared hard times, and we've had fun. We've seen people move on to other chapters of their own or to an eternal reward which awaits us all. At the same time, we have warmly welcomed newcomers whom God has brought to be a part of what the Lord is doing within and through Edinboro Presbyterian Church. I thank you for welcoming me – to serve and be served, to shape this church for yet another faithful chapter to come, and to be among the 40+ of us who have had the privilege of being an FUPC Pastor.

I leave you with great gratitude. I have a confident hope for your future and for mine. I am really thankful for so many ways that so many people have shared their lives with me. You and I are truly blessed. You and I have been able to bless each other.

So, for now, this is a farewell. Even after I am no longer your pastor, I continue to be a friend and a prayer partner. I will be back in northwest Pennsylvania, with one son in Erie and my dad in Ohio – and my clergy membership continuing in Lake Erie Presbytery. If you should travel to or through south central New York let me know, and maybe we can meet up. Many of you have asked to know how to listen for me on Family Life Radio. There are broadcast towers with various frequencies across much of PA and NY. Erie County is covered by 89.9, 102.7, and 100.9 FM, or find the internet streams on FamilyLife.org. (There are a number of other good Christian radio stations in this area which can also bless you day by day and night by night.) My on-air schedule will float, especially as the new staff member – and as I relearn logistics of an industry which has changed tremendously since I left broadcasting and headed for seminary in 1992!

As I move from here to my next “there”, I want to emphasize why **farewell** is a better word choice than other synonyms. Look at its roots. My wish for you is that you **fare well**. That greeting is my prayer for this church and its people. This greeting is my confident word for you that you will *continue* to do good things with and for each other. As you enter this chapter, and the next one after that – because of who you are, because of what you do, because of the people with whom you are teamed – I am certain that FUPC will **fare well**.

Jesus' Peace & Joy, to you and yours!

Greg

When a pastor departs

Information from Lake Erie Presbytery

Departing pastors, particularly those who have served long, and successful pastorates need to be sensitive to the need to sever all formal and official ties with their former congregation once the pastoral relationship has been dissolved.

It is important for the health of the **congregation**, the **departing pastor** (and family), and the **new pastor** (and family), that there is no confusion concerning the pastoral relationship. While personal friendship may continue, the departing pastor and the church must understand that the professional pastoral relationship has ended.

While it is initially and primarily the responsibility of the pastor inform the congregation of these guidelines, it is highly recommended that the Session affirm to the congregation the separation policy required in the Book of Order and by the Committee on Ministry, in an effort to prevent any misunderstanding and potential difficulties when a former pastor declines to return to officiate any services and pastoral responsibilities.

This can be done by the session communicating to the congregation this policy which requires former pastors refrain from participating and officiating at any sacraments, weddings, funerals, or other functions involving members of their former congregations. *Requests for such pastoral occasions should be made first through the moderator of the local session or an appointed leader brought into the congregation. The elders of the session and representatives of the presbytery's Committee on Ministry can answer your questions and talk with you about the rationale and benefits of this policy.*

