*“Flock Talk”*

***Franklin First Church of God***

***Inspirational Newsletter***

**Issue Three of 2018 NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE PEWS March 2018 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Remembering Holy Week

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***“Then the crowds who went ahead of him and those who followed shouted: Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest***[*heaven*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/bible-study/topical-studies/what-is-heaven-like-11636670.html)***!”*** - [Matthew 21:9](http://www.biblestudytools.com/csb/matthew/21-9.html) CSB

 And with those words…Holy Week began. When we begin Holy Week and head toward Easter Sunday, let’s remember the events leading to Christ’s crucifixion and resurrection and acknowledge their meaning. On the Sunday before His crucifixion (Palm Sunday), Jesus was welcomed into Jerusalem with coats and branches laid at His feet and people praising Him. Those shouting Hosanna, or “save us,” were looking for an earthly warrior to rescue them from the harsh Roman rule.

Today, when we shout Hosanna, we recognize that **Jesus came to be our personal Savior, to save us from the penalty of our sins.** So on Palm Sunday, as we celebrate Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem, we’re lifting our Hosannas to the only One who can truly save our lives.

 The Thursday after Palm Sunday (or Maundy Thursday), Jesus and His disciples met in the upper room to observe the Passover, now known as “The Last Supper.” After washing His disciples’ feet, Jesus held [communion](https://www.crosswalk.com/faith/bible-study/10-things-you-should-know-about-the-lord-s-supper-from-1-corinthians.html) with them. He charged His disciples to eat the bread while thinking of His broken body and to drink the wine while thinking of His blood [(Luke 22:19-20](http://www.biblestudytools.com/search/?t=niv&q=lu+22:19-20)).**Imagine how mystified those men must have been until the events of the next day unfolded.**

 After praying passionately in the Garden of Gethsemane in the late hours of Thursday night into Friday morning, Jesus was then betrayed by Judas and arrested. Over the next few hours, He was abandoned, falsely accused, beaten, mocked and condemned to death. And those who just a few days earlier were hailing Him as their King were suddenly yelling, “Crucify Him!” How many of us have just given up after experiencing only a fraction of the hatred and opposition He endured?**Yet knowing what lay ahead of Him, He stood there silently and humbly.**

 Wearing nothing but a crown of thorns, Christ was hoisted up on a cross to hang in humiliation and endure an excruciatingly painful death. **He was the Lamb of God, the ultimate sacrifice for the sins of the world.** “He made the one who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. -[2 Corinthians 5:21](http://www.biblestudytools.com/csb/2-corinthians/5-21.html) CSB.  How great His love for each of us must truly be to have taken the punishment we deserve upon Himself! We’re like tiny grasshoppers compared to Him [(Isaiah 40:22](http://www.biblestudytools.com/search/?t=niv&q=isa+40:22)), yet He cared enough to do all that for us. This is why we must never forget how awesome His love is!

 At 3 p.m. on Good Friday, Jesus breathed His last and died. He was placed in a tomb, which was sealed shut with a large stone and guarded by Roman soldiers.

 **Although Holy Week ends on Saturday, praise God the story doesn’t end there!** On Easter Sunday morning, the stone that sealed the tomb was rolled away, and Jesus was resurrected [(John 20](http://www.biblestudytools.com/search/?t=niv&q=john+20)). He overcame death so that those who trust in Him could also overcome death and one day live with Him in Heaven for all eternity. Holy Week is about remembering the only One who is truly holy - Jesus Christ. He came. He died. And He rose again, **so we could live in eternity with a loving God who gave His life for us in the greatest way possible.**

*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. Donations can be placed in the offering plate or given to the Pastor.

*ALTAR FLOWERS*: If you would like to purchase altar flowers for our morning worship services, please contact Joanne Cardy. The flowers can be placed in memory or in honor of someone, on a special occasion, or “just because”. Two altar vases cost $16.00. Once you order them, they are yours to take home after the morning worship service.

**![C:\Users\Pam\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\VOUNIKBQ\MCFD01224_0000[1].wmf]()***FOOD 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. 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.

*SUNDAY SCHOOL:* At our recent Congregational Meeting several people were elected to fill positions within our Church. BUT, there are still some vacancies. One of positions that needs to be filled is Adult Sunday School Superintendent. If you are interested in this position, or if you would like to know more about it, please see Pastor Jim.

*ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL:*  There are some vacancies on the Administrative Council also. If you would like more information regarding these positions, please see Tom Shiner, Jr.

March Birthdays

 1 Joshua Doyle

 5 Danielle Gamble

 6 Rob Muse

 7 Terry Ace

 9 Keri Clark

 9 Terry DeLong

 15 Kim Clark

 16 Alexandra Cardy

 16 Tyler Graham

 16 Rex Montgomery

 19 Steve Haney

 24 Peg Benson

 28 Hazel Kean

 28 Tyler DeLong

 29 Jordyn Holland

 29 Diane Montgomery

March Anniversaries

3 Dan & Becky Kearney

20 Joe & Renee Cranmer





Daylight Savings Time

begins on March 11, 2018.

Don’t forget to turn

your clocks ahead on

Saturday night (3/10/18).

**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

**2018**

**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

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, Pam Jolley 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.



Dear Flock,

The Lenten season of the church calendar has begun. Many Christians “give up” something during these weeks. I suggest we give up selfishness and serve our Lord with love.

 We are using a brochure, “Come Alive”, during Lent also. The brochure is a tool to engage people in conversation regarding Jesus mission on earth. He offers hope and a chance at new life. A short explanation of Palm Sunday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday is included. Pray that we will find those prepared to learn and invite them to worship God.

Christians of Venango County are gathering on four Thursday evenings during lent. Check the bulletin board at the Seventh Street entrance of the church for dates, times, and locations.

The first Thursday of the month men’s and women’s Bible studies meet at seven o’clock. The next meetings are on Thursday, March 1st. The men gather in the social room and the women in the former parsonage dining room.

The Administrative Council of the church will be meeting again on Tuesday, March 13th at seven o’clock. Thank our church leaders for their service.

KID’S CLUB continues to meet the first and third Mondays of March. We will hear them and other children of our church ministries sing during the March 25th Sunday morning worship.

We celebrate Palm Sunday on March 25th. Join the church in worship of King Jesus that day. Palm branches will be given as we leave worship that morning. At six o’clock Palm Sunday evening, we will worship with Christians of Venango County at the Cranberry High School.

On Thursday, March 29th we will observe Maundy Thursday with the washing of feet and communion. Gather at the church at seven o’clock. Jesus instituted these ordinances for showing love and remembering His sacrifice.

Good Friday is March 30th. Christians will meet outside the Saint Patrick Church on Liberty Street in Franklin at 10:30 a.m. to walk the sidewalks following a cross. Stops will be made at various stations where prayer and readings will be given. The walk will conclude around noon at Christ United Methodist Church.

Good Friday evening worship focusing on the Seven Last Words of Christ on the Cross will be held at Saint John’s Church. The hour long worship starting at seven o’clock will include seven ministers of seven churches in Franklin addressing the words of Christ.

 Your Shepherd,

 Pastor Jim Pastor Jim



First Day of Spring

March 20, 2018



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Special Congregational Meeting

Sunday, March 4, 2018

after the

Morning Worship Service

to vote on the

 2018 Budget.

All are welcome, but only Church members may vote.

**Installation of the**

**2018 Administrative Council**

**2/18/18**

 The installation of the 2018 Administrative Council was held on February 18, 2018, during the morning worship service.

 The Council President will continue to be Tom Shiner, Jr.; Treasurer – John Doyle; Financial Secretary – Michael Curran; and Secretary – Pam Jolley. The Council meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

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Children’s Easter Egg Hunt

 The children are invited to the annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 31, 2018.

 Donations of individually wrapped candy will be greatly appreciated. All candy should be given to Diane Montgomery by March 18th.

 More details will be available soon!!!



KIDS CLUB

 The Kids Club met on February 5th with 8 kids and 7 leaders/helpers in attendance. Pastor Jim was our teacher. On February 19th we met with 8 kids and 4 adults. Becky Kearney was our teacher that week.

 *We plan to meet on March 5th and 19th. In April* we *will meet on April 9th and April 16th.* We postponed our meeting on the first Monday in April since it is the day after Easter.

 There are three kids with perfect attendance so far!! Kids Club is a lot of fun! If you are a kid in Kindergarten through 6th grade, come join us from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. on the above-specified dates!



*Blessed is He who comes*

 *in the name of the Lord.*

Matthew 21:9

 On that first Palm Sunday, one might have expected Jesus the King to enter Jerusalem on a mighty steed. But He chose instead a lowly donkey. Before he could come as a King to reign, He had to come as a Savior to die. Throughout His life earth, Jesus was a man of striking contrasts—reflecting both His genuine humanity and His full deity.

 Someone has written of Jesus, “He who is the Bread of Life began His ministry hungering. He who is the Water of Life ended His ministry thirsting. Christ hungered as a man, yet fed the hungry as God. He was weary, yet He is our rest. He paid tribute, yet He is the King. He was called a devil, but He cast out demons. He prayed, yet He hears prayer. He wept, and he dries our tears. He was sold for 30 pieces of silver, yet He redeems sinners. He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, yet He is the Good Shepherd. He gave His life, and by dying He destroyed death.”

*The lowly carpenter of Nazareth was*

*the mighty architect of the universe.*

Taken from Our Daily Bread, 2004.

PRAISES

Safety in travel

Answered prayer

Thank God for the promise of Spring

Christian friends and family

Sonya – Praises God for a Loving, Christian Grandmother

Thank God for the way He watches over us

Christian musicians/Christian music

New Sunday School teachers in the

 Children’s Department

PRAISE TO THE LORD

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty,

the King of Creation.

Oh my soul praise Him for He is

thy health and salvation.

All ye who hear, now to His temple

 draw near,

Praise Him in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who o’er all things so

wondrously reigneth

Shelters thee under His wings,

Yea, so gently sustaineth.

Hast thou not seen

 how thy desires

e’er have been granted

 in what He ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, O let all that is in me

adore Him

All that hath life and breath

Come now with praises before Him

Let the Amen

sound from His people again!

Gladly for aye we adore Him!

CONCERNS

Anna Grace Harbaugh family

George Stewart family

Scott Hoover family

Jim and Rachael Ashbaugh

Cathy Bell

Pat & Larry McNutt

Peg Benson

Gladys Finefrock

Virginia Beatty

Sondra Sensenbaugh

Heidi Montgomery – moving to a new

 apartment and starting a new job

Julie Leichliter

Marlene Walbourn

Judy Shiner

Administrative Council

Sallie Woodworth

Families of the victims of school

 shootings

Pat Espy

Kelsey Eichholtz

Hazel Kean

Nancy Barger

Wilma Sutley

Shannon McQuaide

Jerry Nelson

Helen Fry

Ashley & baby

Those in prison

Government leaders – all levels

Peace in our tribulations, trials, worry and uncertainty

John LaRoe

Hazel’s friend stuck in a foreign country

Louise Donaldson

Frank Gillen

Sal Hoover

Connellsville & Uniontown

Unspoken

Quotes from Evangelist

Billy Graham

* Debbie McDaniel Crosswalk.com Contributing Writer

**Rev. Billy Graham – 11/7/1918 – 2/21/2018**

Billy Graham preached the message of Christ’s freedom and forgiveness around the world, reaching over 200 million people in more than 185 countries. He led hundreds of thousands of people to pray to receive Jesus Christ into their lives as Lord and Savior. His integrity and wisdom opened doors to offer spiritual support and guidance for United States presidents from Eisenhower to Bush. He was a friend to celebrities, politicians, athletes, and leaders, such as Martin Luther King, Jr., Bono, Muhammad Ali, Johnny Cash, Larry King, and WWII hero and Olympian Louis Zamperini.

Billy Graham was named by Americans as "One of the Ten Most Admired Men in the World,” a record-breaking 59 times with the Gallup poll. He was known through the years as not only a world renowned evangelist, but as a kind, non-judgmental, accepting, and humorous soul.

His message is timeless, powerful, and relevant for today. The phrase, “the Bible says,” resounds throughout his sermons, and the truth he preached for years still transcends all barriers of denominational differences, age, nationality, and culture. It has stood the test of time and generations, pointing millions to Christ.

The Reverend Billy Graham preached God’s Word with conviction and passion for over 60 years. Here are just a few of his words of wisdom.

“My home is in [Heaven](https://www.biblestudytools.com/bible-study/topical-studies/what-is-heaven-like-11636670.html). I'm just traveling through this world.”

“Christ not only died for all: he died for each.”

"The only hope for enduring peace is Jesus Christ."

“Without the resurrection, the cross is meaningless.”

“The cross shows us the seriousness of our sin—but it also shows us the immeasurable love of God.”

“Take one day at a time. Today, after all, is the tomorrow you worried about yesterday.”

“It is the Holy Spirit's job to convict, God's job to judge and my job to love.

“Our society strives to avoid any possibility of offending anyone – except God.”

“I have never known anyone to accept Christ’s redemption and later regret it.”

 “Being a Christian is more than just an instantaneous conversion – it is a daily process whereby you grow to be more and more like Christ.”

"Mountaintops are for views and inspiration, but fruit is grown in the valleys."

“The framers of our Constitution meant we were to have freedom of religion, not freedom from religion.”

“I’ve read the last page of the Bible. It’s all going to turn out all right.”