

Feb/Mar/Apr  
2015 Newsletter

# Highlights of Heritage and Hope First Presbyterian Church of Finleyville

Letter from the Pastor-Kevin Young, C.L.P.



Amidst the red and pink fog of Valentine's Day, it's easy to get confused about true love. We will go far off course if we let our culture define "love" for us. Consider the fact that millions of theatergoers are eagerly awaiting the premiere of the film "Fifty Shades of Grey." The movie is about a wealthy and handsome man who manipulates an innocent young woman into gratifying his desire to inflict pain. And Hollywood is marketing this as a love story?

What a contrast to biblical teaching! The apostle John writes, "In this is love, not that we loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins" (1 John 4:10). Christ did not come to inflict pain on us (which we deserved); instead He took the pain upon Himself so that we might be spared. Now that is a love story! And this is the true love for which so many people yearn, without knowing how to find it.

Tragically, they too often settle for false substitutes. They identify love with desire and attachment, even when the attachment is damaging to those involved.

The nature of marital love, in particular, is up for debate in our society. The Supreme Court recently announced that it will rule on whether the traditional definition of marriage, as the lifelong union of one man and one woman, violates the U.S. Constitution. The court will hear oral arguments in April and deliver its decision in June.

We Christians need to be ready to speak our piece in the discussions that are sure to arise around those dates. We need to know what the Scriptures teach and what we believe about marriage, and be able to explain why. We must be prepared to give our answer not only in secular society, but also inside the church.

Local presbyteries in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) are currently voting on a *Book of Order* amendment that would redefine marriage from "a man and a woman" to any "two persons." Pastor friends in more conservative denominations tell me they receive inquiries from prospective members about their position on same-sex relationships. They are put on the spot to give an answer.

Do we have an answer? I believe we do, it's not just a "no" to same-sex relations or cohabitation or any of the other substitutes that our society accepts. It is a "yes" to marriage as God intended it, the mystery of the two created sexes becoming "one flesh" in total, unconditional self-giving love and devotion. In the covenant of marriage we see an image of the love that God has for his people, a love that reaches across the great divide to claim us as His own, and never lets go. We also know the earthly blessings that marital love can bring.

Abundant social science research shows that both adults and children are, on average, happiest and healthiest when they live in a household constituted by the lifelong union of one man and one woman.

See! God's design really is best for us after all!

Peace,  
Pastor Kevin

**Pastor Contact Information**  
Pastor Kevin can be reached at  
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(724)255-2418 (cell).  
His e-mail is [unkwally@yahoo.com](mailto:unkwally@yahoo.com).

**Session:** Dana Robinson (Clerk of Session, Membership), Bill Manning (Building & Property), Ted Vero (Food Bank Liaison, Personnel), Charles Crayton, Ruth Manning (Christian Education), Jill Gudenburr, Denise Kegel (Worship), Beth Archer, Michael Archer

\* The Session Meeting is Sunday, February 22 following the fellowship lunch.

### Christian Education



**Adult Sunday School:** 9:15AM—in the Upper Room. All are welcome!

**Children & Youth Programming:**

Sunday School meets each Sunday after the discipleship message.

A nursery is available during the worship service.

### Fellowship Hour



*Please join us for Fellowship each Sunday, following the worship service. Once a month, a lunch will be provided for fellowship. If you are able to help with fellowship lunches, please see Denise.*

### Gleaners

The next Gleaner's Meetings are Saturdays March 14 and April 11 at 11:00 am.

Please contact Joanna Morgan at 724-348-8056 for more information about the Gleaners.

### Mission

*Love in a Basket & Baby Hats*



*We are continuing to collect baby hats and supplies in the baskets in the sanctuary.*



### Men's Breakfast

The Men's Breakfast will meet on Saturdays, March 14 and April 11 at 9:00 am at Mitty's Restaurant on Brownsville Rd. ext.

### One Great Hour of Sharing

This offering will be collected on Easter Sunday. Gifts to this offering support the Presbyterian churches ministries of Self-Development of People, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and the Presbyterian Hunger Program.

***Congratulations*** on the baptism of Alice Violet Fleischer on February 8, 2015.

***Thank you*** to Michael Kutsek Sr. for the memorial given to the church in memory of Nelson Allridge.

### Interested in joining the church?

Please call Pastor Kevin, the church office or see a session member for more information.

### Choir News

The choir meets on Sunday mornings at 10:00 am to rehearse. All are welcome!



### Church Staff:

**Organist:** Mary Ida Ritchey  
**Secretary:** Cheryl Smith  
**Custodian:** Bill Manning

**Daylight Savings Time** begins Sunday, March 8. Remember to turn your clock forward 1 hour before bed!

### Church Contact Information

3595 Washington Avenue, Finleyville PA 15332  
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www.firstpresbyterian.us

## Interfaith Events

### Finleyville Interfaith Council 2014 Lenten Services

Feb 22	St. Francis of Assisi
March 1	Go Time Ministry at First Presbyterian
March 8	First Presbyterian
March 15	Wright's UMC
March 22	First Baptist
March 29	Mingo Presbyterian
April 3	Wright's UMC (Good Friday)*

*All Sunday evening services will begin at 7:00 pm with refreshments to follow. \*Good Friday service will begin at 7:30 pm with refreshments at 6:30 pm.*

*The Interfaith Council will be collecting canned goods and non-perishable food items at all Lenten Services. All items collected will be donated to the Finleyville area food bank.*



### Lent/Easter at First Presbyterian

Feb. 18:	Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 pm
March 8:	Lenten Service 7:00
April 2:	Maundy Thursday Service 7:00 pm
April 5:	Easter Sunday Breakfast 9:00 am Service 10:30 am



*Please watch the bulletin or call the church office for information on ordering Easter Flowers.*

### Someone has written these beautiful words. Read and reflect ...

- 1-Prayer is not a "spare wheel" that you pull out when in trouble, but it is a "steering wheel" that directs the right path throughout.
- 2-So why is a car's windshield so large and the rear view mirror so small? Because our past is not as important as our future. So, look ahead and move on.
- 3-Friendship is like a book. It takes few seconds to burn, but it takes years to write.
- 4-All things in life are temporary. If it's going well, enjoy it, that won't last long. If it's going badly, don't worry, that won't last long either.
- 5-Old friends are gold! New friends are diamond! If you get a diamond, don't forget the gold! Because to hold a diamond, you always need a base of gold!
- 6-Often when we lose hope and think this is the end, God smiles from above and says, "relax, sweetheart, it's just a bend, not the end!"
- 7-When God solves your problems, you have faith in His abilities; when God doesn't solve your problems, He has faith in your abilities.
- 8-A blind person asked St. Anthony, "Can there be anything worse than losing eyesight?" He replied, "Yes, losing your vision!"
- 9-When you pray for others, God listens to you and blesses them; Sometimes, when you are safe and happy, remember that someone has prayed for you.
- 10-Worrying does not take away tomorrow's troubles, it takes away today's peace.

**Ask God for the right words and invite someone to church, let's fill the pews!**