

First Light Newsletter

September 2011

Return to Normal Worship and Fall Schedule!

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First Church Schedule Change



September 2011

On Sunday, September 18, we return to our normal schedule.

A Rally Day Continental Breakfast will be held at 9:00 A.M., followed by Sunday School at 9:45.

The Morning Worship Service will revert to its pre-summer time of 11:00 A.M.

Weekly Wednesday Bible Study will begin on September 21, at 7:00 P.M.



Special Congregational Business Meeting
Sunday, September 25
After the morning Worship Service

The purpose of this meeting will be to hear the report of the Church Board Nominating Committee

- 5 Labor Day
5-9 NOAC, at Lake Junaluska, North Carolina
- 17 First Church BBQ Choo Choo Train Trip
6:00 to 8:00 P.M.
- 18 Return to regular Worship Schedule
Prayer Time: 9:00 A.M.
Rally Day Breakfast: 9:00 A.M.
Sunday School: 9:45 A.M.
Worship: 11:00 A.M.
Deacons Meeting after Worship
- 21 Bible Study resumes at 7:00 P.M.
- 21 International Day of Peace
- 23 First Day of Fall
- 23-24 33rd Atlantic North east District Disaster Relief Auction, Lebanon Area Fairgrounds
- 25 Special Congregational Business Meeting after Worship

Love Feast and Communion Sunday, October 2 During the Morning Worship Service



Senior Adult Fellowship Banquet
(Adults 55 years and Older)
Wednesday, October 18
12:00 noon
At Yoder's Restaurant in New Holland, PA
Featuring Jeff Raught from Ted and Company TheaterWorks
Cost: \$16.00 per person
Reservation Deadline: October 5
See narthex desk for more information

Aid for Friends Cook-In
October 4
Starting at 9:30 A.M.
Feel free to join us in filling food trays for shut ins!



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*Continuing the work of Jesus.
Peacefully. Simply. Together.*

Make Haste

“Life is short, and we have never too much time for gladdening the hearts of those who are traveling the...journey with us. O be swift to love, make haste to be kind!

_Henri Frederic Amiel



September 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1  September 1-2 Top of the Hill Inservice Days	2 Top of the Hill Inservice Day	3
4	5  Labor Day NOAC, September 5-9, Lake Junaluska, NC 	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 First Church BBQ Choo Choo Train Trip 6:00 to 8:00 pm 
18 Back to Regular Schedule Rally Day Breakfast 9:00 am Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 Deacon's Meeting	19 	20	21 International Day of Peace  Bible Study Resumes 7:00 pm	22	23 First Day of Autumn  ANE Disaster Relief Auction, September 23-24	24 
25 Special Congregational Business after Morning Worship 	26	27	28  Rosh Hashanah begins at sundown Bible Study 7:00 pm	29  Rosh Hashanah	30	

Birthday List

September Birthdays

- 3 Kevin Broderick Derr
- 6 Angela Finet
- 9 Luke Finet
- 14 Joan Reese
- 18 Brianna O'Brien
- 29 Jamie Cooper



District Conference 2011

44th Annual
Church of the Brethren
District Conference
October 7 and 8
Elizabethtown College

Our First Church District
Conference Delegates are:
Craig Bracy Kevin Derr and
Walter Eckenrode.

Seek to Please

Shift your prayer life from
"Please, God" to "Please God."
Take the comma out of those
two words when you pray, and
transition your praying from
asking God for things to asking
God for the pleasure of God's
pleasure.



-Homiletics

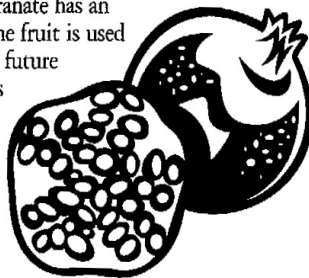


Fall's Splendor

+ Christian Symbols +

Pomegranate

Because the pomegranate has an abundance of seeds, the fruit is used to represent hope and future life. It also symbolizes the many believers who are individual members of the universal Christian church.



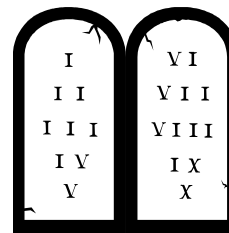
**2011 Senior Expo and Health Fair
At Peter Becker Community
Thursday, September 22**

**Senior Expo: 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.
With 75 Expo Exhibitors
Health Fair: 10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.
With 30 Health Fair Exhibitors**

This is a community celebration with more than 75 local businesses and 30 health care providers exhibiting their offerings on both sides of the campus. Guests will receive lots of freebies, free health screenings and samples of services. There are also live demos, grand prizes and special exhibits.

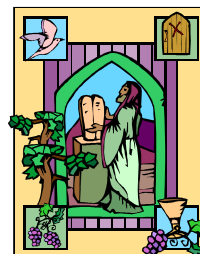
One of the live demos is a cooking demo: "Quick and Easy Meals for Two", presented by PBC Chief Chef Steve. He will demonstrate easy and healthy meals that can be made in small quantities without sacrificing great taste. Locally grown farm produce will be available from Skippack Creek Farm.

For more information you can call (215)-703-4015 or visit www.peterbeckercommunity.com.



September 2011 Preaching Schedule

- September 4
Exodus 19
"Before the Commandments"
- September 11
Exodus 20:1-3
"No Other Gods"
- September 18
Exodus 20:4-6
"No Images or Idols"
- September 25
Exodus 20:7
"No Misuse of the Lord's Name"

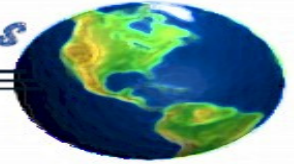


Sow for yourselves
righteousness,
reap the fruit
of unending
love ...
Hosea 10:12, NIV



First Church Facts
Average Weekly
Worship Attendance for July
and August: 26





Just Thinking



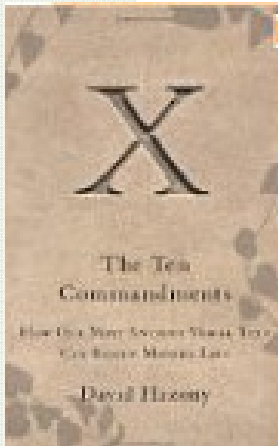
Something to Read

If you'd like a book to read to inform your study of the Ten Commandments, here is an option. It is an interesting book that I will be using, it is not my primary source but it should prove to be a thought provoking look at the Ten Commandments. If you'd like another book to consider, let me know and I'll be glad to recommend a few for you to consider.

For a document that has been so foundational for western culture it receives surprisingly little consideration in the contemporary western church, and very little in the culture beyond the confines of the church. Yet the ten commandments along with the Roman legal tradition form much of the essential understandings of the modern cultural landscape, especially in the area of morality.

I hope you enjoy our journey through the Ten Commandments.

Blessings,
Kevin



Why the Ten commandments? That is a fare question, on one hand it is an essential part of our spiritual tradition, and it has played an important role the creation of our spiritual tradition. However, in the contemporary culture of the church in North America we don't pay much attention to the Old Testament or to some of the foundational constructs of our spiritual tradition.

It is important that we, as followers of Jesus, acknowledge our tendency to assume that we don't have to pay attention to the Old Testament. On occasions we will center our reasoning for doing ignoring the Old Testament in the language of Grace and Law, and since we as followers of Jesus are not bound by the covenant of Israel with God but are included via the grace of God. Since we are not bound by that law and covenant, we therefore do not pay any attention to the Law. So, why would we then bother with the Ten Commandments? On other occasions we could take the approach of Acts 15. The council at Jerusalem decided that we do not need to be Jewish to follow Jesus, so the Jewish law does not apply to us as followers of Jesus. The story of Acts 15 is simple, Gentile Christians had questions about what they should do as followers of Jesus, and the council of the Church at Jerusalem wrote a letter detailing the specific things we needed to be mindful of, here is the pertinent excerpt. **Acts 15:28-29** ²⁸ It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us not to burden you with anything beyond the following requirements: ²⁹ You are to abstain from food sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from sexual immorality. You will do well to avoid these things. Farewell.

As you noticed there is no mention of the Ten Commandments, so why bother with them? Because the Ten Commandments tell the story of God's interaction with humanity and provide for us a roadmap that we can use in following after Jesus. It has a very specific trajectory and is much more than just a list of things to do and things to avoid. It should also be noted that there is nothing here that Jesus didn't also so, in one fashion or another speak about. Typically, Jesus raises the bar of expectations in our behavior beyond that of the Ten Commandments.

Here are a few thoughts about the Ten Commandments:

1. God delivered Israel from the chaos of slavery in Egypt, passing through the Red Sea. Water is a symbol of Chaos, a creation image (God brought order to the chaos that preceded creation).
2. Sin destroyed the order of creation in the Garden of Eden. The Ten Commandments are a road map to restore order to the community of God's people by addressing the chaos of sin in our midst.
2. Ultimately the commandments are given not to create a moral pattern, but rather to be a means of healing and restoration for the people of God.
3. The Ten Commandments are not a program for individuals but rather for the community of God's people.
4. The Ten Commandments do not contradict with Jesus teaching, and they will serve as a road map for following after Jesus.

Here is a graphic representation of what happens with the Ten Commandments

The Goal of the Ten Commandments

The Starting point of Humanity

Eden

Exile

Order (Shalom)------(Brokenness)

Chaos

Freedom

Slavery