



Among Friends

NOVEMBER, 2023



A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

Dearest family;

It is so hard to believe that Thanksgiving is just a month away. It made me wonder; are we thankful? I mean really thankful for all God has provided.

*“Enter his gates with thanksgiving and enter his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.”
Psalm 100:4*

This short verse talks about thanksgiving and praise. I don't think it is an accident that thanksgiving comes first. If we aren't grateful for God's numerous provisions, how can we praise Him? When we enter the sanctuary each Sunday, we should give Him thanks and then we can truly praise Him when we remember all He has done for us.

Back in 1860, a boat on Lake Michigan collided with a freighter and began to sink less than a mile from the shore. Hundreds of passengers began screaming as they leaped into the icy water.

Edward Spencer was a student at a nearby seminary and he ran down to the beach to see what he could do. He was a strong swimmer and for six hours Spencer swam out and back, pulling people ashore as he battled stormy waves and the powerful undertow. By dawn, he had personally rescued 15 people in as many trips. Exhausted, he sat down until he spotted two more people still in the water.

Spencer dove in again and found a man and a woman clinging desperately to a piece of wreckage. He brought them in and then collapsed on the beach. Out of 393 passengers, only one-quarter were rescued, and seventeen were saved by Edward Spencer.

His health, however, was permanently damaged by his act of heroism. He was never able to return to school and ultimately lived out his days as an invalid. Years later, a reporter doing a story on Great Lakes tragedies found Spencer in a nursing home in California and

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DECEMBER

**Newsletter
Deadline**

NOVEMBER 21

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Worship
With Us

(((ONLINE WORSHIP)))

Click Here

www.friendshippresbyterianchurch.weebly.com



Deadline for
DECEMBER
submission of
information is
NOVEMBER 21

Submit to:
Sue Datt via

“Snail Mail”
324 S. Main St.
Harrisville, PA 16038

E-mail:
suedatt70@gmail.com

Phone:
724-991-5863

A Message From Our Pastor (continued)

asked for his recollections of that night. Spencer said bitterly, “The only thing I remember is that not one of the seventeen ever thanked me!” (story from Sermoncentral.com)

God has given us so much...our families (including our church family)...our homes...our jobs...all that we possess and He has given us life, life eternal. Have you thanked Him?

This Thanksgiving I hope that as you sit at the dinner table in front of that huge feast, that you remember to thank God. I know that I will.

In His love,
Diane



THE SATURDAY CONCERT

Our **November 11** concert will feature the return of **Alan and Mary Kitchen** accompanied by the **Gospel Garage Band** featuring Davey Whitmire and friends. This combined group of remarkable musicians will be singing and playing the fiddle, mandolin, guitar and keyboard. They will present a program of folk and gospel music. We look forward to an uplifting and entertaining evening...plan to join us!!!

As always, refreshments start at 6:30 p.m. and the concert will begin promptly at 7:00 p.m. (Members are asked to bring along a dessert or snack to share.)

Attention Facebook users: please share with your friends the FB announcements that come out so we can broaden our reach.

Our last concert of this season will be held on Saturday, November 11 will be the last concert of this season. There will be no concerts in December, January, February or March.

Our next “Second Saturday Concert” will be held on April 13, 2024.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FPC?



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Fall's lessons have been considering the role of God's law as it relates to faith. November's lessons look at the commandments to love with studies from Acts 15, Romans 13, I Corinthians 13 (the love chapter), Colossians 2 and I Corinthians 10-11. All are welcome to join in at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday mornings for a time of Bible study, discussion, and sharing.

YOUNG ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL:

In November the class will continue with the theme of wisdom. They will be studying the book of James as they learn how to grow in difficult times, how to evaluate their own motives, and how to build a close relationship with God through prayer and Bible study.

We meet at 9:45 a.m. each week.

NOVEMBER EVENTS AND SPECIAL DATES

NOVEMBER 1	ALL SAINTS' DAY
NOVEMBER 5	WORSHIP AND COMMUNION SERVICE Worship begins at 11:00 a.m., Worship Ctr., Sunday School (for all ages) begins at 9:45 a.m. DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS – Don't forget to turn back your clocks!
NOVEMBER 11	VETERAN'S DAY SECOND SATURDAY CONCERT featuring the music of Mary and Alan Kitchen accompanied by the Gospel Garage Band with Davie Whitmire. (More Information on page 2)
NOVEMBER 12	WORSHIP SERVICE: Worship begins at 11:00 a.m., Worship Ctr. Sunday School (for all ages) begins at 9:45 a.m.
NOVEMBER 13 - 20	OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD NATIONAL COLLECTION WEEK. DROP-OFF CENTER OPEN AT OUR COMMUNITY CENTER. (Schedule on page 5)
NOVEMBER 15	FRIENDSHIP PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN will meet at 7:00 p.m., at the Community Center. Reminder: we will be studying Lesson 11
NOVEMBER 16	NATIONAL WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA DAY, Wolf Creek Cemetery and Slippery Rock Cemetery Ceremony, 12:00 noon, at Crossroads Baptist Church, 302 Harmony Road, Slippery Rock. (More information on page 7)
NOVEMBER 19	WORSHIP SERVICE: Worship begins at 11:00 a.m., Community Ctr., Sunday School (for all ages) begins at 9:45 a.m. CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AND POTLUCK LUNCHEON: 12:00 noon, Community Center.
NOVEMBER 23	THANKSGIVING DAY
NOVEMBER 26	CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE: Worship begins at 11:00 a.m., Worship Ctr., Sunday School (for all ages) begins at 9:45 a.m.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR SESSION

Congregational Meeting

The annual Congregational Meeting and Luncheon for Friendship Presbyterian Church is set for Sunday, November 19, 2023, immediately following worship, at 12 noon. That Sunday, we will worship at the **Friendship Community Center** instead of the Worship Center because after we conduct our Congregational Meeting business, we will enjoy a potluck lunch. Please mark your calendars for this important meeting and fellowship.

Memories

As we enjoy the last months of our time with Diane as our pastor, we naturally reflect on the many memories we have with her over the years that she has served, both at Friendship and in the Parish that was Bethel, West Liberty, and Wolf Creek. We will have notecards in the vestibule of the church throughout the month of November for you to share a memory or laugh (probably both!) that you had with Diane as we prepare to celebrate her dedicated service to Christ through her work with us. If you have photos or want to email memories to us, please do so at friendshipchurch877@gmail.com. Thank you!

Pray for Peace

The conflict between Israel and Palestine is on everyone's minds these days. Because the Israelis were God's chosen people, we have a tendency to have special care for their welfare. However, thousands of innocent lives, both Israeli and Palestinian are being taken due to the attack from a terrorist organization, Hamas. Hamas is not Palestine and does not represent the interest of the thousands of Palestinian people, including Palestinian Christians. We should pray for peace for all in the region and protection from the horrors of terrorist organizations like Hamas. A statement from the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly for the Presbyterian Church USA is on the right.

STATED CLERK OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Acting Stated Clerk condemns violence between Israel and Hamas

Bronwen Boswell calls for immediate end to bloodshed

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) - October 13, 2023

Deuteronomy 5:17 "You shall not kill."

The devastation and loss of life in both Israel and the Gaza Strip in the last few days has been horrific. No words can describe the anguish and suffering of the people directly impacted by and caught up in the violence of these attacks. As we watch the recently declared war unfold, our hearts break for all whose loved ones have died, are wounded, missing, displaced, or taken hostage.

Horrific actions committed by Hamas and the violent response by Israel have exacerbated deep wounds, inflicting physical and emotional pain and suffering. We acknowledge that the people of Palestine and Hamas are not one in the same, and we stand in solidarity with the people of Palestine and Israel who seek peace. Hamas does not. We condemn the violence that has taken place in recent days, and we grieve the decades of oppression that have led to this violence.

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) stands firm in its support of Palestinians and their right to live free in their land, without occupation, aggression, and bloodshed. We support and protect Israel's right to exist as a free and sovereign nation. In the [Confession of 67](#), the church states:

9.45 b: *The church, in its own life, is called to practice the forgiveness of enemies and to commend to the nations as practical politics the search for cooperation and peace.*

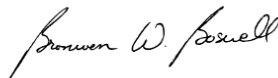
9.46 c: *The reconciliation of humankind through Jesus Christ makes it plain that enslaving poverty in a world of abundance is an intolerable violation of God's good creation.*

Hamas has caused significant damage and destruction to Israeli towns. Israeli bombings are leveling entire neighborhoods in Gaza, leaving survivors with a lack of shelter, adequate food, water, and necessities. Hospitals are losing power, putting the health of the injured, newborns, and others at risk.

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) urges the Israeli government to honor the Palestinian people with the same freedom they offer their own citizens and continue to do so amid this crisis. We also urge Hamas to release the hostages and refrain from additional violence. Regardless of our differences and strong views on matters of human rights, bombing innocent people, killing, and kidnapping children are never acceptable.

We urge all leaders to immediately put an end to the bloodshed, release those who are captured and held hostage, end the fighting, and open humanitarian corridors to get medical attention to everyone who is in need. We recognize that this is a very difficult and painful matter that generates strong emotions and reactions. Earlier this week, the Office of the Stated Clerk issued a call for prayer as an immediate response to the tragedy. Since then, we have been thoughtful and prayerful in discerning what to say and have worked with our colleagues who are closest to this unfolding crisis. The prayer has been taken down with this new response. The PC(USA) Office of Public Witness has also issued a [Statement of Lament for Israel and Palestine](#).

If you are able to support crisis response and recovery efforts in the Middle East, please donate to account [DR000081](#).



Rev. Bronwen Boswell
Acting Stated Clerk of the General Assembly
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

AUTHOR: Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

DEPARTMENT: Stated Clerk

LANGUAGE: English

AGENCY: Office of the General Assembly

TAGS: bronwen boswell, conflict, hamas, israel, palestine, stated clerk, war

TOPICS: Israel and Palestine



MISSIONS

... across the street & around the world



Feed My Sheep Food Cupboard:

Pasta and sauce donations have been delivered. Thank you for your generous donations. This month, we are asking for Thanksgiving non-perishable items such as stuffing mixes, cranberry sauce, instant mashed potatoes, canned pumpkin or anything else you think of. We will deliver these in early November. The food bank is appreciative of any and all donations.



All Good Things: Our clothing drive continues! Another delivery was made on October 25th. Please keep this mission in mind as you clean out closets.



Operation Christmas Child will be in "operation" Monday, November 13 through Monday, November 20. Friendship plays an important part in this national and worldwide project as we are a drop-off center for the area. People are needed to receive shoeboxes and pack them in shipping boxes for shipment to next shipping point. Please sign up for a work time (2 hours in length). The sign up sheet in the Worship Center vestibule.

Please pack a shoe box for donation. Watch for boxes to be placed in vestibule or use one you have. Instructions for packing will be available. Boxes due on Sunday, November 19th.

Hours when help is needed at the Community Center to receive boxes are:

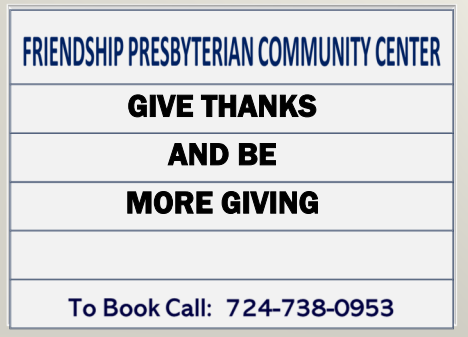
- Monday, November 13..... 6-8pm,
- Tuesday, November 14 1-3pm
- Wednesday, November 15 5-7pm
- Thursday, November 16 1-3pm
- Friday, November 17 9-11am
- Saturday, November 18..... 9-11 am
- Sunday, November 19 1-3pm
- Monday, November 20..... 9-11am



LOOK FOR THE SIGN!

Submitted by Evelyn Vargo

When driving past the Community Center don't forget to look for the sign!



Thanksgiving Beatitudes

Be thankful that you don't already have everything you desire. If you did, what would there be to look forward to?

Be thankful when you don't know something, for it gives you the opportunity to learn.

Be thankful for the difficult times. During those times you grow.

Be thankful for your limitations, because they give you opportunities for improvement.

Be thankful for each new challenge, because it will build your strength and character.

Be thankful for your mistakes. They will teach you valuable lessons.

Be thankful when you're tired and weary, because it means you've made a difference.

—Author unknown

Prayer List

*“Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord.”
James 5:16*

Anne D.
April and Todd Bentley
Bonnie of Georgia
Christy Francine
The Alben Family
Lincoln Alford
Leslie Alford
Doris Allison and Family
Carly Atkisson
Tammy Baker
Zachary Barto
Jan Bloom
Candy Boulanger
Joanne Campbell
Martie Cooper
Louise Corbett
Jeff & Cindy Cross
Heather Datt
Jim Dickey
Mark Doerr
Harold Eichholtz.
Jennifer Gilliland
Donna Grossman
Chris Hogg

Timothy James
Rev. & Mrs. Bill Jamieson
Graham Larimore
Landry Lawson
Joe Lowers
Will McCoy
Kevin Michael
Willard Morse
Randy Morgan
David Parker
Jon Richardson
Bernie Rihel
Bill & Chris Schroeder
George Sonnet & Family
Jane Spencer
Joe Vivelo
Seth Vogan
Benjamin Vukson
Joan West
Michelle Whitehouse
Megan Lind Zimmer (Joan West’s granddaughter.)
Woman from Michigan
Our military at home & abroad

Persecuted Christians around the world
Alpha Omega Center
Feed My Sheep Food Cupboard
Beaver Butler Presbytery
Cooperstown Church Family
Friendship Church Family
S. R. Community Nursery School
Trevor Wood’s Ministry

The people of Israel and those innocent people who have been caught in the crossfire.

The people of Ukraine and Russia, their leaders, the world leaders and the world’s people.

Our country and the leaders of our government.

A DAY TO HONOR OUR VETERANS



On November 11, 1918, the Germans and the Allied Nations, which included the United States, signed a document to initiate an armistice (cessation of hostilities), thus ending World War I. A year later, President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation designating November 11 as Armistice Day. It was to be a day of reflection — a day to remember those who died in the country’s service and to offer Americans the opportunity “to show sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nation.”

Wanting to recognize more specifically America’s veterans, Congress passed a bill changing the name of the day from Armistice Day to Veterans Day. The change was made in May 1954.

On this national holiday, churches around the nation hold services of prayers and praise. Followers of the Prince of Peace pray for peace among the nations of Earth and for the day when “they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more” (Isaiah 2:4, NRSV).

November

BIRTHDAYS

Doris Allison, 11/1
Paul Merkle, 11/6
Matthew Sybert, 11/16
Mark Finch, 11/24
David Sybert, 11/26
Lydia Frampton, 11/28

ANNIVERSARY

George & Nancy Natili
November 20



NOVEMBER 5



Once again, the Wolf Creek Cemetery will be participating in the Wreaths Across America program. Jeff Cross and Michelle Whitehouse are the Location Coordinators.

This year we are partnering with Slippery Rock Cemetery for our National Wreaths Across America Day Ceremony.

On December 16, 2023, at 12:00 p.m., we will be holding our ceremony, along with the ceremony for Slippery Rock Cemetery, at the Crossroads Baptist Church located at 302 Harmony Road in Slippery Rock, PA. This ceremony is to Remember and Honor our veterans through the laying of Remembrance wreaths for each branch of the armed services and POW/MIA. Following the ceremony, we ask those who are placing wreaths to travel to the Slippery Rock Cemetery to place the wreaths and following Slippery Rock Cemetery travel to Wolf Creek Cemetery to place wreaths for that location. At each cemetery we will Remember and Honor our veterans through the laying of Remembrance wreaths on the graves of our country's fallen heroes and the act of saying the name of each and every veteran aloud.

Following the placing of wreaths at Wolf Creek all are welcome to enter the Friendship Church Community Center for a time of reflection on why we gathered this day and refreshments.

The cost for a wreath is 17 dollars. Click on the above picture to go to the Wreaths Across America Wolf Creek Cemetery page to place your order. For those without internet access, you may see Jeff or Michelle to place an order. (The deadline for ordering is November 28)

Please help our location lay wreaths at as many graves as possible by clicking the red "Sponsor" button. Or, if you would like to volunteer to participate in the wreath laying ceremony, please click the "Volunteer" button next to the cemetery name below, and don't forget to click the "Invite" button to invite your friends and family to join you.

Wolf Creek Cemetery has graves of 80 veterans who have fought in the Revolutionary War, Mexican American War, War of 1812, Civil War, World War I, World War II, Korean War and Vietnam War. Our goal is to honor each one on December 16.

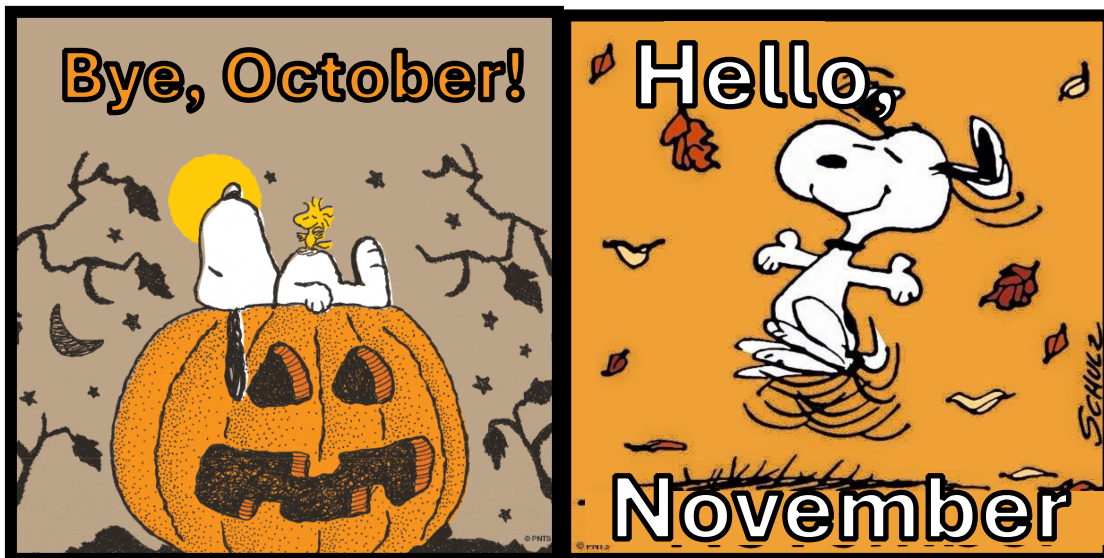


RESULTS
2023 So FAR
37 Wreaths Sponsored
46.3% to Goal
43 To Go!





FRIENDSHIP PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
877 Franklin Road
Slippery Rock, PA 16057



Submitted by Heather Datt