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# ~FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE~

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Volume 17 Issue 10

November 2024

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The Pastor's Pen -

Dear Church Family,

I keep feeling and saying that I can't believe where the previous month has gone, and that's certainly my feeling as we enter into the month of November! But, as we enter into this month in particular, I'd like to point out the very important PRESBYTERIAN responsibility that we all have. And what I'm specifically speaking about is getting out and voting! Whenever I do a new member's class, I always get surprised looks when I tell people about how our civil governmental system is something that we, especially as Presbyterians, should embrace and take part in, due to its particularly Presbyterian roots. Huh?

As it turns out, when our Founding Fathers got together and started talking about how the government of the new country they were starting should be organized, after George Washington refused to be made a king, they decided to look to how their churches were organized. As it turns out, 31 of the signers of the Declaration of Independence were Episcopalians (Church of England), 13 were Congregationalists and 12 were Presbyterian. For the Episcopalians, they clearly didn't want their church's organizational system due to the King being the head of the church, and therefore the government, which was what they were trying to get away from. So, what about the Congregationalists and Presbyterians?

Well, both of those church traditions are congregational systems, meaning the foundation of decision making is with the congregation; this system was outlined by John Calvin, the theological father of the Reformed Church movement. He put forth that governmental structures, whether of the church or civil system, should be by the people and for the people, and therefore, should start with the people. In our church governance, we begin with the **Congregation**, they choose the **Session**, the session then sends representatives to the **Presbytery**, and then they send representatives to the **Synod** and then finally to the **General Assembly**, in that order. It's a bottom to top system in which each person has a voice and a vote. When you have an 'episcopal' system ('episcopal' means 'bishop'), decision making starts with who has found themselves in the top leadership position, with that personality then telling those below them what to do; essentially bypassing the voice of the people.

Recognizing that bottom to top form of government from their churches, the Presbyterians and Congregationalists proposed their church system of governance to be the foundational basis of the civil government system for their new nation, and that was accepted. Therefore, we begin with a **Town or Local government**, and then a **County government**, a **State** government and finally a **Federal/National** government; bottom to top, and very much in the tradition that we know from our church.

So, as our civil system of governance is really our system of church government that we know and understand and readily participate in, shouldn't we then also participate in that same system for the betterment of the whole? Did not Jesus tell us that we must respect and participate in civil government, as that too is a way to serve God and the greater good? I believe so, and I encourage everyone to get out and vote!

And, one more note on this; no matter who you're voting for, ask yourself if you came to your decision prayerfully and based on the teachings of Jesus. And then finally, know that we as Christians do respect one another and love one another, it's a basic tenant, and so shouldn't that mean that we can disagree and still love one another, and then work together toward success of the whole once the nation has made a choice? I hope and seriously pray that we as a people will be able to do exactly that, as I'm sure we all are.

Be Good & Do Good,  
Pastor Chris

# Joys and Concerns



## JOYS:

- \* Bill Connolly- He and Sue celebrated 37th anniversary and it is Sue's birthday. Happy birthday Sue.
- \* Happy Birthday Sandy Smidt.
- \* Happy Birthday Cheryl Mooney.
- \* Joy for a wonderful day at the Harvest Festival, we made LOTS of cotton candy.
- \* Shirley-Thanks to Sue for completing a prayer shawl that her sister had been making when she died. It was given to her grandson, Chris who now feels that his grandma is with him when he sleeps.
- \* Linda-Annette was happy that she got to see her son, Tom. He finally got his total hip surgery and is doing well. She was then on to her long awaited trip to Hawaii. Prayers for safe travels.
- \* Betsy- Spoke of the joy of working in the cemetery and meeting people while there. Couple that was married in the church coming in for a picture in front of the communion table. They were in town for a class reunion. Sons of Dr. Manus visiting church this morning and telling about living in the manse when they came to visit the cemetery. Ann Terhune happy that her ancestors tombstones are being cleaned up.
- \* Jan- Her nephew, Tyler and his wife Andrea welcomed twins, Conner and Danielle this week.
- \* Dan-Joy for this congregation, has been coming at times since Wayne and Lucille were here. All these years it has been a church family.
- \*Cheryl- Her son Jay and wife Monica celebrating 10 year anniversary.
- \* Jan-Joy for our Highlander Marching Band. All their hard work led to them becoming the STATE CHAMPS! They deserve a lot of praise.
- \* John- So nice to see Mary Jane Erbeck here from Florida.
- \* Rich- Joy for pledge cards returned and remember extra cards are in the church office.
- \* Chris and Hala had a great day taking their grandson to the zoo.

## CONCERNS:

- \* Prayers for all our fellow Americans affected by the hurricane, may they soon have water, electric and shelter and whatever else they need.
- \* Chris- Continued prayers for the Middle East, the Ukraine and other areas of conflict. Prayers for our nation, we must remember we are all one in Christ.
- \* Diane- Thanks for all the prayers for Bryan. He is coming along but needs continued prayers.
- \* Kathy-Prayers for all the hurricane victims.
- \*Leah- Her son Keith and Michelle need some prayers. Her husband, Keith and his siblings needs prayers. They are dealing with moms dementia.
- \*Dot Cox- Donna is having surgery this week.
- \*Kathy- Was short \$10.00 in ShopRite and then found it in her purse. She is suffering from severe migraines.
- \* Rich and Irene had a great time at the Oak Ridge Golf day. Irene got a hole in one.
- \* Prayers for Brianna from Sunday School who is at Chilton having surgery for her appendicitis.
- \* Cindy- Has been fearful lately after watching news, so sermon was perfect.
- \* Sue-A-coworker, John was on the way home when his car was hit head on. His wife died as did his mother in law, he is in critical condition.
- \* Jonathan- Feeling joy today- air feels very connected.
- \* Diane- Her son, Bryan went to new doctor and got the same diagnosis. He is feeling better and she is very thankful for all the prayers.
- \* Pam- Concerns for John who is seriously ill. Also prayers for her sister, Sue who is having a difficult time dealing with things.
- \* Kit-Prayers for Joe who is in ICU.
- \* Kathy- Thomas is feeling that God is testing him.
- \*Chris- Continued prayers for baby Roman, now having kidney issues.
- \* Grandpa John having knee surgery also prayers for his uncle.
- \* Ashley- Prayers for Julian a child having chemo.
- \* Zack- Prayers for his great aunt, Sandy and the family. Great uncle, Robert died after being ill for many years.



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## Many Thanks!

Thanks to generous donations from Battinelli Landscaping in West Milford and Home Depot in Riverdale, we've been able to continue our cemetery gravestone restoration efforts. A bulk delivery of drainage stone and donations of landscaping fabric and anchors – all totaling about \$400 – will help retard future vegetation growth. We honor those who passed, leaving behind the legacy of "The Little White Church on the side of the hill". (Poem written by parishioner Myrtle E. Meier, 1935)



# SESSION'S REFLECTIONS

NOVEMBER 2024

**SUBMITTED BY BETSY ENGELHARDT, CLERK OF SESSION**

Fellowship Hall will be buzzing with activity with the following events approved by

Session: Winter's Farmer's Market the second Saturday of each month

November thru April – 9 AM to 1 PM

Food Pantry staging & distribution of Thanksgiving meals

November 18 thru 21<sup>st</sup>

Virtual Auction – February 20 thru 22<sup>nd</sup>

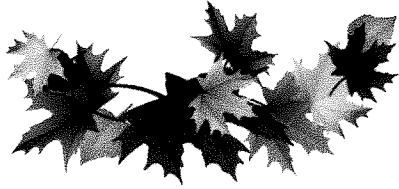
Pick up in Fellowship Hall February 23<sup>rd</sup>

Session also approved the use of our sanctuary for Carol Pry's studio piano recital on June 8, 2025. Carol has been so generous with her time and musical talents in our hours of need – filling in as our organist during Sunday worship when there are absences. We are happy we can offer this in return for her generosity.

Many changes to the PCUSA Book of Order and our insurance policies will have us filling new requirements in the months ahead. An Anti-Harassment policy has been written and included in our administrative manual. We have yet to draft an Anti-Racism policy for Session approval. All paid staff members must be scheduled for background checks and starting in January, we will be training Elders in sexual misconduct guidelines.

World Communion Sunday saw 98 people attending worship. It was a joint service with Oak Ridge. Windows throughout the sanctuary were decorated representing different countries and cultures around the world and the parishioners were encouraged to dress in cultural costumes. It was a meaningful and joyful service.

Reminder that Finance will look forward to pledge cards being returned to the office so they can begin to plan 2025 budgeting. Don't forget the \$48 per member Per Capita fee for year 2024 should be paid before year's end.



## How Can I Make a Difference God

This is the time of year we are especially attuned to those who are the most vulnerable for whatever the reason. Perhaps poor choices, perhaps illness or family troubles. Perhaps things beyond control. As we think about our lives and blessings large or small that we've received there is the human desire to reach out to those that could use a little help. If you're feeling this way, the Food Pantry has opportunities where we can all take a part in making life for families that are struggling a little brighter. There is the opportunity to buy a few things that could make a families Thanksgiving dinner special possibly that could be eaten after dinner such as a sweet treat. You could sign a card that wishes them well during Thanksgiving so they realize that people care about them. You could write a favorite grace to slip into their bag of food. You could package up their food for Thanksgiving dinner or even distribute the bags at the church before the holiday. Let anyone on the pantry know and they will direct you as to suggestions and times when the bags are assembled and given out. Thank you!

Pantry helpers: Pat Wright, Marty Tappan, Carol Stanhope, Roberta Schmidt, Dale Hamilton, Heide and Bob Jandura, Helen Kershaw, Kathy Holley, Cathy Demarco and myself.



## Women's Association

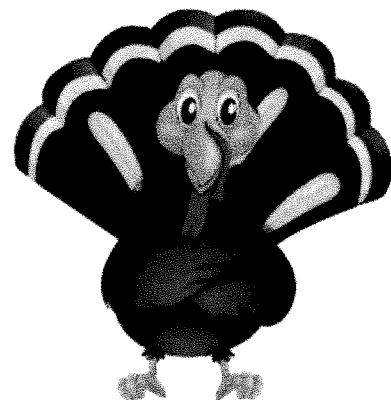
This is the month where we celebrate thankfulness. We have so much to be thankful for-family, friends, our homes, food on our tables, the change of seasons and our beautiful church.

We are looking forward to our Christmas Bazaar on November 23rd which will feature our fabulous Sweet Stop. It would be really appreciated if you would bake something special for the shop. It is something that everyone looks forward to so your donation will help. The Deacons Cafe will also be up and running serving lunch. This is always a fun day so plan to attend.

The following week is Thanksgiving and we wish everyone a special day. Remember Gobble till you Wobble!

Wishing you a great month.

Linda and Pam



# SUNDAY SCHOOL DOINGS

Sunday School ended the month of October with a fun lesson all about dry bones! Both classes separately, explored Ezekiel's vision, then discussed the meaning. We learned that God keeps promises and is always there for us. Class ended with a combined class craft project- ask a

Sunday Schooler about their Skelton hand!

We start November with the book for Ruth-learning that God repays kindness. We will also hear about Jonah and the Whale and that no one can hide from God, and about Daniel and his great faith in God. We then finish the month with teachings of the first Sunday of advent!

During class, each bible story that is explored has its own theme. Sunday School also has a central Theme-God gives us so much love that we need to spread God's love. One such way that Sunday School is doing so is by taking part in Operation Christmas Shoebox. Miss Dale's class is purchasing gifts for girls and boys ages 5-9 and Miss Kathi's class is purchasing gifts for girls and boys ages 10-14.

Items will be brought into class on November 3 so that we may fill the shoeboxes-which will be provided.

If you would also like to make a \$10 donation for shipping that would be very helpful and appreciated.

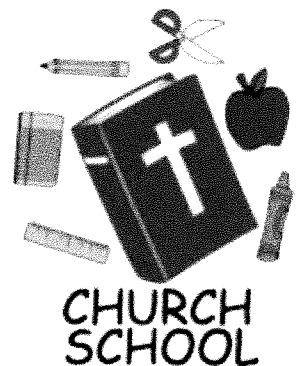
## IMPORTANT DATES:

December 1-Family Service

December 21-Pageant Rehearsal: 9:00-only children will be allowed in the sanctuary!

December 22 Pageant

Submitted By: Kathi Ening



## CEMETERY COMMITTEE

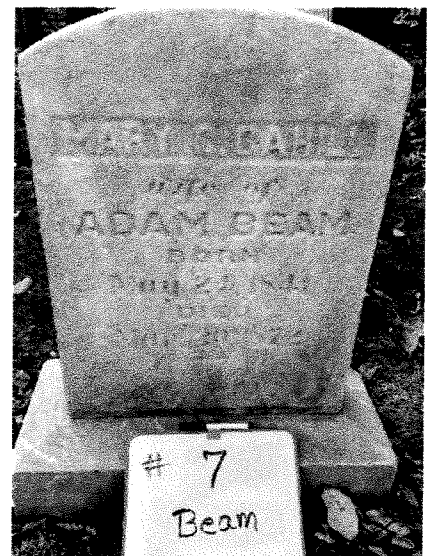
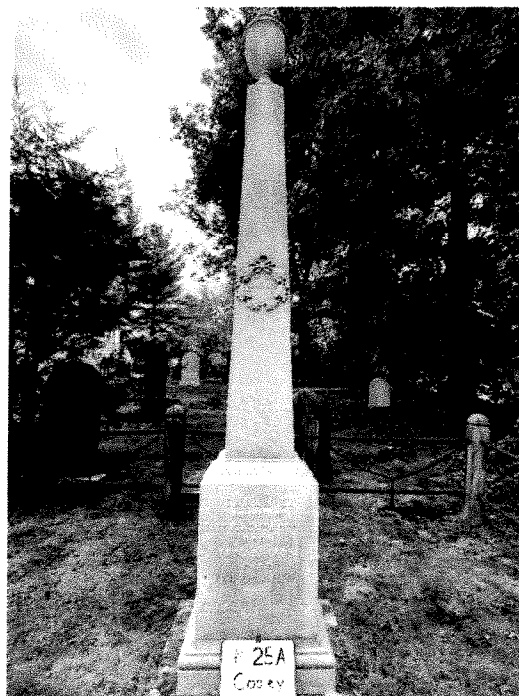
Work on restoring our historic gravestones continues. We have 150 gravesites throughout our property, and we have completed the cleaning of 50. It's hard to believe this is the second year working away at this project with only 1/3 of the stones being restored. Those volunteering to serve on cemetery teams were advised to work at their own pace – these graves have existed for over 175 years – they are not going anywhere! It will take time to get to them all.

To speed this project along, we invite anyone to join us in uncovering these gravestones. They are part of our legacy, representing buried parishioners who most likely lent a hand in passing our church on to future generations. If left alone, these stones rapidly become covered in dirt and grass, at times making them almost invisible to the eye. Let us not let these individuals be hidden and forgotten.

Teams were given special cleaning products and supplies and were instructed on how they should be used on the stones themselves. The hard part is getting the dirt and grass removed before the cleaning process can begin. ANYONE can pick a buried gravestone and help us with the prep work. Just bring a shovel, hand trowel, and bucket to dig a 5-inch trench around the stone, being careful not to scrape the stone itself. Any help would be appreciated – if not this fall, then perhaps in the spring. Work is suspended during the colder months because the cleaning product requires temps above 50 degrees.

Special thanks go out to Battinelli Landscaping for donating a load of drainage stone AND Home Depot in Riverdale for providing landscaping fabric and anchors to help retard future growth of grass on to the cleaned stones. These contributions saved the church over \$400!

If you'd like to lend a hand, see Betsy Engelhardt for any questions or concerns. The reward of seeing these stones come to life, the details exposed, and these individuals honored is worth the work!



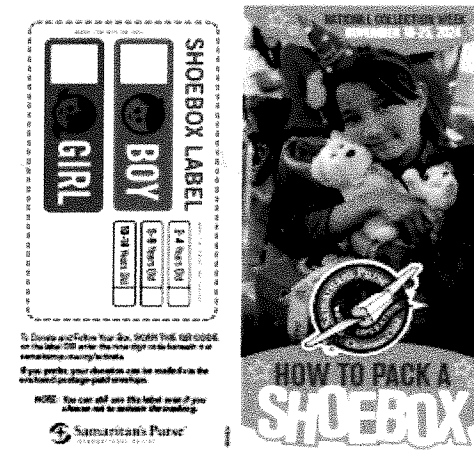
# Shoe Box

Collection Day is on or before **November 10th**

**Games & Activities** • Puzzles • Coloring books or pads • Dry watercolor set • Binoculars and compass • Musical instruments • Chalkboard and chalk • Jump rope • Stickers • Games **TOYS** • Small ball • Building blocks or LEGO® sets • Slinky® or yo-yo • Plastic animals • Magnets • Finger puppets • Interactive toys • Other small toys and figures **A “WOW” ITEM** • Small backpack or purse • Doll • Soccer ball and pump • Stuffed animal • Jewelry making or hobby kit • Large toy **PERSONAL CARE ITEMS** • Toothbrush • Washcloth • Comb and brush • Nail clipper and file • Water bottle • Flashlight **SCHOOL SUPPLIES** • Pencils, sharpener, and erasers • Pencil container • Pens • Crayons • Colored pencils • Markers • Notebooks • Index cards • Calculator • Scissors • Ruler • Glue stick • Small adhesive tape • Drawstring bag **CLOTHING & ACCESSORIES** • Flip-flops or shoes • Sunglasses • Hat • Wristwatch • Costume jewelry • Hair accessories • Clothing and undergarments • Winter cap, scarf, an mittens

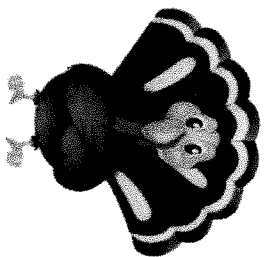
**DO NOT INCLUDE** • Food, candy, or gum • Toothpaste • Used or damaged items • Scary or war-related items • Wearable traditional camouflage • Seeds or organic matter • Liquids • Medication • Money • Breakable items • Matches, fire starters, or aerosols • Knives, saws, or razor blades

Labels For a boy or a Girl and the age group.





# November



Nov 2024 (Eastern Time - New York)

Fri

Sat

3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<p>7:30pm - Zoom Bible Study</p> <p>9am - Worship Service 6pm - Scouts</p>	<p>7:30pm - Zoom Bible Study</p> <p>9am - Community Food Pantry</p>	<p>11am - Bible Study @ WMPC</p> <p>9am - Sr. Saints</p>	<p>11am - Bible Study @ WMPC</p> <p>9am - Community Food Pantry</p>	<p>11am - Aunt Jenny's Attic</p> <p>9am - Community Food Pantry</p>	<p>11am - Aunt Jenny's Attic</p> <p>9am - Sr. Saints</p>	<p>11am - Aunt Jenny's Attic</p> <p>9am - Community Food Pantry</p>
<p>9am - Worship Service 6pm - Scouts</p>	<p>7:30pm - Zoom Bible Study</p> <p>9am - Community Food Pantry</p>	<p>11am - Bible Study @ WMPC</p> <p>9am - Sr. Saints</p>	<p>11am - Bible Study @ WMPC</p> <p>9am - Community Food Pantry</p>	<p>11am - Aunt Jenny's Attic</p> <p>9am - Sr. Saints</p>	<p>11am - Aunt Jenny's Attic</p> <p>9am - Sr. Saints</p>	<p>11am - Aunt Jenny's Attic</p> <p>9am - Community Food Pantry</p>
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