

The First Press

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From the Pastor

These days we have so much and so much to be thankful for, yet often it takes an effort, even a holiday, for us to recognize God’s provision and to give thanks.

November is the month of Thanksgiving. For us at First Presbyterian Church it is also Operation Christmas Child/Shoebox month. I love the timing of these two things coinciding.

Thanksgiving is the celebration of the historical recognition of God’s provision to a people in need, the Pilgrims. Those pilgrims had very little, but were thankful for what they had and saw the blessing of God in all that they had.

A wonderful dynamic of Operation Christmas Child is that, because the parent organization is Samaritans’ Purse, we know The Gospel of Jesus Christ is being proclaimed through the Shoebox ministry. The Mission of OCC helps us to remember that there are millions of children who have very little, who will be thankful for receiving their shoebox from a local church or mission. Hopefully the shoebox helps initiate or strengthen a relationship with a local ministry. Billy Graham filled stadiums, his son Franklin fills shoeboxes, both with the same goal in mind; changing people’s lives by bring them to a saving

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faith in Jesus Christ.

It reminds us that we have an opportunity, even a responsibility to give to those in need, whether they are close to home or far far away. Millions are reached through the shoebox ministry, there are still billions to be reached.

Let us give thanks for God’s provision and give thanks for the opportunity to participate in the life changing ministry of Operation Christmas Child.

Jim

give thanks to the Lord for He is good - Psalm 118:1

GIVE THANKS
thanks

November

- 1 - Bill Shutt
- 3 - Peter Jones, Molly Graver
- 4 - John Tirpak
- 5 - Fletcher Bell
- 6 - Beth Shutt
- 7 - Judy Lebda, Kristin McVicar
- 9 - Bill Dittmar, Abigail Gilger, Madalyn Redding
- 11 - Joan Bush, Alice Donaldson, Lisa Stancavage
- 12 - Wayne Samuelson, Joshua Tirpak
- 13 - Caughlen Watts
- 14 - Joseph Santorine
- 15 - Nicholas Zellmann
- 17 - Jean Ruhl, Ashley Cox, Brooke Zimmerman
- 18 - Tom Rich, Sarah Reif
- 19 - Jim Apple, Timothy Taylor
- 21 - Pat Oberlin
- 22 - Jared Young, Will Van Patter
- 24 - Kaylyn Watts
- 27 - Karen Miller
- 28 - Bob Lebda, Marianne Barlett
- 30 - Shirley Grose,
- 2 - Bill & Lisa Bernard celebrating their 17th wedding anniversary
- 3 - Kirk & Nicole Jarrett celebrating their 8th wedding anniversary
- 7 - Larry & Marian Fletcher celebrating their 44th wedding anniversary
- 10 - Jeff & Richelle Jones celebrating Their 24th wedding anniversary
- 12 - Daryl & Janine Fisher celebrating their 32nd wedding anniversary
- 20 - Mark & Leslie Temple celebrating their 21st wedding anniversary
- 24 - Cliff & Nina Leshner celebrating their 26th wedding anniversary
- 25 - Chris & Joyce Zellmann celebrating their 36th wedding anniversary
- 26 - Bob & Sharon Kribbs celebrating their 48th wedding anniversary

Nov. 16

Summer Mission Trip Fundraiser



A group of high school students will travel to Parma, Ohio this June for a week of service. They will be doing home repairs for people throughout the community while growing in their faith and relationship with Christ. YOU can support this mission team

by praying for their trip but also through attending the fundraisers throughout the year!

The first mission trip fundraiser will be Sunday November 16th in the Great Hall following the worship service. The stu-

dents will offer a delicious and filling pasta bar, including a variety of pastas and sauces, a salad & bread bar and dessert! Support the team and their trip by attending this relaxed and fun lunch!

November

“Thank You, Lord”

Have you ever caught yourself humming a tune that you just can't seem to get out of your head? A pop tune from adolescence? An old hymn? The words and the experiences they unlock are often surprising gifts from a memory bank we didn't know we had. I was introduced to the simple chorus of “Thank You, Lord,” during a Sunday afternoon service at Heritage House. Jane Walbridge was at the piano leading our tiny group of worshippers in a hymn when, suddenly, she broke into a chorus that wasn't on the page. Rocking back and forth, her voice rising above ours, she sang, “Thank you, Lord, for saving my soul!

Thank you, Lord, for making me whole! Thank you, Lord, for giving to me, thy great salvation, so rich and free!”

As I sang that chorus with Jane—and as I have re-peated it so many times since—I thought of all the years when I could not mouth those words with conviction. All those years when my head told me that such confidence was naïve, presumptuous, and even arrogant. That somehow my “works” had to figure into the equation and that, even then, I would have to wait to the end to discover how and where my soul would be received.

I thank God for helping me to understand and ac-

cept salvation as an incredible *gift*. I'm also grateful to those through whom he worked: Thank you, Jane. Thank you, Seth and Bessie Sykes, early 20th Century Scottish hymnwriters and evangelists. Thank you, Sharon. Thank you, parents. Thank you, Christian friends. I won't sing the tune for you, but here is one verse, along with the chorus:

Some thank the Lord for friends and home/ For mercies sure and sweet;
But I would praise Him for His grace /In prayer I would repeat:
Thank you, Lord, for saving my soul/Thank you, Lord, for making me whole;
Thank you, Lord, for giving to me/Thy great salvation so rich and free.

-Bob Kribbs



Give the gift
of warmth



The Council of Churches, in conjunction with the Eastern Union County Clothes Share Program will once again be providing, as Christmas gifts, new pajamas, hats and gloves to the children registered with our Food Bank. We welcome donations of **new pajamas, hats and gloves** but encourage monetary donations and/or gift cards. (Gift cards make it much easier to shop for the children, who range in age from 4 months to 18 years.) Most of our children are in the 8 to 12 year range. Please place your items on our clothes tree in the parlor **by Sunday December 7th**. Checks and gift cards can be given to Lisa Bernard, or the church office.

November

“The Wired Word” Sunday School Class



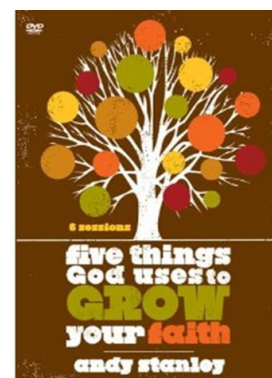
Making sense of what is happening in the world around us has become increasingly difficult for people of faith who continue to believe that our lives should be governed by certain moral absolutes. We are tempted simply to detach ourselves from the world and to use our faith as a haven from what we see as the chaos of life in the 21st Century. We know, however, that we have an

obligation to be “in the world, though not of the world,” seeking to embody the love of Christ in whatever circumstances we encounter. In this unit, we invite people of all ages and stages of life to join in reading, pondering, and discussing how current national and world events should be understood from the perspective of our faith. The format for this course will be guided discussion of material sent out to the class during the preceding week. The material will include one or more articles on a national or world event currently in the news. Students are asked to read and think about the articles ahead of time and come to class prepared to participate enthusiastically in the discussion. There will be no quizzes, and each Sunday’s discussion is self-contained. A summary of each Sunday’s discussion will be made available to students, along with suggestions for those wishing to explore that day’s subject further. Bob Kribbs facilitates this class.

"Five Things God Uses to Grow Your Faith" Sunday School Class ~Andy Stanley

Imagine how different your outlook on life would be if you had absolute confidence that God was with you. Imagine how differently you would respond to difficulties, temptations, and even good things if you knew with certainty that

God was in all of it and was planning to leverage it for good. In this DVD study led by Dave Shrom and Rob Guissanie, Andy Stanley builds a biblical case for the five things God uses to grow BIG faith.



New Members Sunday School Class



Jim will lead a New Member’s Class for anyone interested in joining our church.

The sessions will run

during the Sunday School hour from Nov. 2-23 skipping Nov. 30, Dec. 7 & 14 with the class being publically received on January 4th.

Anyone interested in joining the church should call the church office to register: 570-524-4419.

November

Help is Needed!!!

In Galatians 5:13 Paul directs us how we can best use our gifts and freedoms given to us from Christ..."You were called to be free, but do not use your freedom to indulge in the flesh; rather, serve one another in love..."

Thanksgiving is a time that we remind ourselves how blessed we are and how thankful we are for things in our lives. This should also be a time that we are eager and excited to serve one another, as Christ instructs us to. We try to serve each other in many ways, but sometimes it requires us to step out of our comfort zone. This Thanksgiving, please consider how you and your loved ones can serve Christ through serving our community through our church's annual Thanksgiving Meal. This free meal is open to the community on Thanksgiving day from 11am-1pm. The Robinsons and Haltemans are taking over the leadership of the

meal this year but it requires a lot of help from our congregation. There will be some food donations needed, but the biggest help will be offering your time to prepare for the meal, serve the meal or even deliver the meal. We are so blessed with so much, shouldn't we willingly want to give some of our time to serve our community? As scripture tells us, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." With many hands to help, you are able to sign up for shifts to volunteer. No prior experience needed and all ages are welcome! Please contact Lauren Halteman for more information or to sign up to help! Thank you for considering how you can be a part of this special event that strives to illustrate Christ's love for all people!



College Student Care Packages

We will be sending care packages to our college students the first week in December. The students that

have received the boxes in the past have been very appreciative to know that their home church is thinking of them.

If you would like to provide something for the boxes or have a student that would love to receive one, please sign up in the church bulletin or email Lauren by Nov. 28th at lhalteman@first-presby.org.

If you would like to contribute something to the boxes please drop the items off in the box located in the Parlor. We send out approximately 50 boxes!

We have plenty of snack bags and granola bars. Requested items are: chapstick, small tissue packs, pocket size hand sanitizer, gum, granola bars, fruit roll ups, fruit snacks, ramen noodles, individualized microwavable soups.

How to Pack Your Shoe Box Gift

1. **Find an empty shoe box.** You can wrap it—lid separately—if you would like, but wrapping is not required.
2. **Fill the box** with a variety of non-breakable, non-perishable gifts like toys, school supplies, hygiene items and hard candy for a boy or girl, age 2-4, 5-9, or 10-14.
3. **Include a hand-written note of encouragement and photo** (optional).
4. **Enclose \$7.00** or more inside your box to help cover shipping costs overseas. Checks are recommended and should be made payable to Samaritan's Purse.
5. **Bring your filled shoeboxes** to the church for Shoebox Sunday November 23rd. If you are unable to make it to the church that day, our church is also a Collection Center. Drop it off Nov. 17-21 from 10-7.



Gift Ideas:

Toys: small cars, balls, dolls, stuffed animals, kazoos, recorders, harmonicas, yo-yos, jump ropes,

School Supplies: pens, pencils and sharpener, crayons, markers, stamps and ink pad sets, writing pads, paper, solar calculators, coloring and picture books

Hygiene items: toothbrush, toothpaste, mild bar soap (in plastic bag), comb, washcloth,

Other: please double bag candy: hard candy, lollipops, mints, gum, t-shirts, socks, ball caps, sunglasses, hair clips, toy jewelry, watches, flashlight (with extra batteries), small plastic cups,

NO NOT INCLUDE: used or damaged items, war-related items, chocolate or food; liquids or lotions, medications or vitamins, breakable items such as glass or mirrors and aerosol cans



Shoe Box Labels

Mark the correct age category:	<input type="checkbox"/> 2-4 Years Old		BOY	
	<input type="checkbox"/> 5-9 Years Old			
	<input type="checkbox"/> 10-14 Years Old			
Mark the correct age category:	<input type="checkbox"/> 2-4 Years Old		GIRL	
	<input type="checkbox"/> 5-9 Years Old			
	<input type="checkbox"/> 10-14 Years Old			

JAM News

November brings Thanksgiving, ... and many more activities for the children of our church and the larger community to enjoy fellowship and to grow in their relationship with God.

Sunday School and Big Idea will finish their fall study of the stories of *Genesis*. Please note- because of the Thanksgiving holiday, there will be no Sunday School on November 30.

JAM is going strong- we are having fun, making friends and growing closer to God. Anyone in grades K-5 is welcome to join us at 5 in the Great Hall for dinner and activities related to a central activity. In November, we will continue our study of the Beatitudes! We will be meeting on November 5 and 19.

Movie Night will be held on Friday November 14 from 5:30-8 PM. We will be enjoying *The Lego Movie*... Plan on meeting in the Great Hall at 5:30 for dinner and don't forget your pajamas and sleeping bag!!!

Our *God and Me* Scout Project will continue to meet in November. We will meet at 4:30 on November 2, 9 and 16.

Mark your calendar for Sunday **December 7th** for our annual Christmas Dinner and Children's Program. This year our kids will perform "**Spread the News**" a simple drama with 5 Christmas songs. Cherub Choir and JAM Kids will practice their special song selections during their rehearsal times. That means we'll only need **ONE REHEARSAL!!** The date for our rehearsal is **Sunday, November 23rd**, immediately following worship (11:30). We'll have lunch and get to work with costumes and speaking parts, some set and prop work! We'll be done by 1:30. Contact Rhiannon Dame or Pauline King with questions.

Mark your calendars for our all-church winter retreat!!! This yearly weekend event, held at Camp Susque, is a great opportunity to spend time with old and new friends, grow stronger in your faith and closer as a family. This year's retreat will take place on January 30-February 1. We will arrive after dinner Friday night, and return to Lewisburg after worship Sunday morning. If you would like more information about this awesome experience see Rhiannon!!!

As always, let Rhiannon know if you have any questions or want to be involved. There are many ways to get involved in working with the children of our church!!!! If you haven't "liked" us and are on Facebook, it's a great way to keep tabs with what is happening in Children's Ministry.

-Rhiannon Dame

JAM Photos



JAM



Fun
Fun

Fuel/Refuge Calendar

November 2014

First Presby Youth

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Sunday School 9-10 LifeGroup 7pm	3	4 Refuge 7-8:30pm	5 Breakfast 6:30am Fuel 7-8:30pm	6 NO SCHOOL	7 NO SCHOOL	8
9 Sunday School 9-10 LifeGroup 7pm	10	11 Refuge 7-8:30pm	12 Breakfast 6:30am Fuel 7-8:30pm	13 Rejoicing Spirits 6-8pm	14	15 High School Fall Play 7pm
16 Sunday School 9-10 Spaghetti Fundraiser 12-2pm LifeGroup 7pm	17 OCC WEEK (all week!)	18 Refuge 7-8:30pm	19 Breakfast 6:30am Fuel 7-8:30pm	20	21	22 Shoebox Madness 5-10 pm
23 Sunday School 9-10 Shoebox Sunday LifeGroup 7pm	24	25 Thanksgiving Party 7-9pm	26 NO SCHOOL	27 THANKSGIVING!!	28 NO SCHOOL	29
30 No Sunday School						

COLOR KEY: Green Events - ALL youth event

Red Events - High School events

Blue Events - Middle School events

Questions or comments? Feel free to contact us!

Tim and Lauren Halteman, Youth Directors

570-524-4419 Office

Fuel/Refuge Photos



November Church Calendar

1 8 Men's Breakfast

2 9:00 Sunday School
10:30 Worship
2:00 NA
4:30 God & Me

3 9:15 Trainers

4 10:00 Staff Mtg.
7:00 Refuge

5 6:30 Youth Brkfst
10:00 LAMBS
5:00 JAM
6:15 Bell Choir
7:00 Fuel
7:30 Choir

6 6:00 DBR
7:00 NA

7 6:00 Wedding
Rehearsal

8 3:30 Wedding

9 9:00 Sunday School
10:30 Worship
11:45 Cong. Mtg/Lnch
4:30 God & Me

10 9:15 Trainers

11 10:00 Staff Mtg.
7:00 Refuge

12 6:30 Youth Brkfst
10:00 LAMBS
6:15 Bell Choir
7:00 Fuel
7:30 Choir

13 6:00 DBR

14 5:30 - 8 JAM Movie
Night
7:00 NA

15 7:00 NA

16 9:00 Sunday Schl
10:30 Worship
11:45 Spaghetti Lunch
4:30 God & Me

17 9:15 Trainers
10-7 OCC
7:00 Session, Deacons,
Trustees

18 10:00 Staff Mtg.
10-7 OCC
7:00 Refuge

19 6:30 Youth Brkfst
10:00 LAMBS
5:00 JAM
6:15 Bell Choir
7:00 Fuel
7:30 Choir

20 10-7 OCC
6:00 DBR
7:00 NA

21 10-7 OCC
7:00 NA

22 8:30-10 UCC
5-10 Shoebox Madness
7:00 NA



23 Shoebox Sunday
9:00 Sunday Schl
10:30 Worship
12-5 OCC

24 9:15 Trainers
10-7 OCC

25 10:00 Staff Mtg.
7:00 Refuge

26

27 11-1 Thanksgiving Din-
ner

28 7:00 NA

29 7:00 NA

30 10:30 Worship
Hanging of Greens



First Presbyterian Church
18 Market St
Lewisburg PA 17837

Phone: 570-524-4419
Web: www.first-presby.org
Email: info@first-presby.org

**“Living fully in Christ,
through His Word,
community and mission”**

Pulpit Assistant: Ann Miller

Ushers: Mark Speake, David Miller, Mike Mast, Wayne Samuelson, Larry Winans, Ken Lepley, Mike Underkoffler, Randy Storm

Fall Congregational Meeting Luncheon Nov. 9 – Bill & Lisa Bernard, Suki Han, Bob & Christena Harder, Terry & Barb Light, Tom & Ann Miller,

Hanging of the Greens Nov. 30 – Jeanette Campbell, Guissanie family, Jack & Rebecca Mignot, Taylor family, Peg Erdley, Keay Hathaway, Paul & Karen Miller, Allen & Annette Shutt, Susan Erdley, Keith & Dianna Kunkel, Skip Miller, Marilyn Gaver, Alice Marquart, Paul & Marsha Tarves

Nursery

- 2 - Foster, J Miller, A Black
- 9 - M Temple, A. Black, McTammany
- 16 - N Grimes, Papson, Redding
- 23 - Jusko, Taylor, Cavanagh
- 30 - M Brown, McSween, A Lind

Greeters

- Dave & April Shrom
- Barb Light

Coffee Social

- Wayne & Pat Samuelson
- Bill & Beth Shutt
- (in Parlor) Mark & Liz Speake
- Mike & Elizabeth Underkoffler
- No Sunday School*

Dinner By River Team and (Devotion Leader) 6: Mertz team, (Linda Shaffer), **13:** Lbg Girl’s Soccer Team (Rick Gathman), **20:** Bruce/Ishii/Ringkamp (Carol Crago) **27** Thanksgiving Dinner

Operation Christmas Child Season is Here!



We have been collecting items to fill our shoeboxes all year and it is almost time for collection week and our annual youth Shoebox Madness Event! This fun and energetic event will occur in the Great Hall on Saturday November 22nd from 5pm-10pm. All youth are invited to come, we also need help from parents! Please let Tim and Lauren know if you are able to help!

Other ways you can help: We still need items to fill shoeboxes! We are especially in need of small toys, crayons, stuffed animals and toothpaste.

We are also collecting shoeboxes and plastic shoeboxes!

If you enjoy wrapping presents, you can also help by attending one of our wrapping events.

These are small gatherings of people that wrap shoeboxes prior to Shoebox Madness. Please let Lauren or the office know if you are interested in wrapping shoeboxes!

Shoebox Sunday is November 23. Bring the shoeboxes that your family has assembled to join the thousands that the youth have packed.