

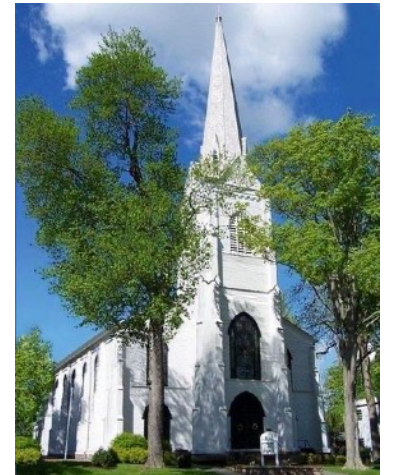
**First Presbyterian  
Church  
298 Main Street**

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
298 MAIN STREET  
HACKETTSTOWN, NJ 07840  
REV. ERIN HAYES-COOK  
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Church website,  
<http://www.fpchackettstown.org>  
Editor: MaryAnn Simmons  
[maryann.simmons3@verizon.net](mailto:maryann.simmons3@verizon.net)**

**NOVEMBER  
2025**



*Light  
from the*



*Steeple*

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
HACKETTSTOWN, NJ  
CHURCH OFFICE: (908) 852-4011**

**Pastor:** Rev. Erin Hayes-Cook  
**Choir Director/Organist:** Lorinda Ravo  
**Treasurer:** Al Ravo  
**Financial Secretary:** Deborah Gulick-Shepherd  
**Head Usher:** Kim Newton  
**Church Secretary:** Pattie Huff

**2025 SESSION**

<b>Class of 2025</b>	<b>Class of 2026</b>	<b>Class of 2027</b>
Donna Erickson	Bill Cors	Michele Cameron
Diane Hull	Geof Gohlich	Pete Miller
Ray Sookhoo	Sharon Heil	MaryAnn Simmons

**Clerk of Session:** Donna Erickson

**2025 BOARD OF DEACONS**

<b>Class of 2025</b>	<b>Class of 2026</b>	<b>Class of 2027</b>
Ellen Bergman	Jackie Hammel	Dennis Huff
Patricia Butts	Kathy Maier	Jose Irby
Carol Miller	Lorinda Ravo	Jean Zetterberg

**Moderator:** Ellen Bergman

**2025 HEAVEN SENT NURSERY SCHOOL**

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**OFFICE: 852-2006**

**Director:** Jen Bujno

Pat Butts	- 2026	Pam Venturini	- 2027
Meghan DeCree	- HS Parent	Toni Fryer	- HS Parent
Sharon Heil - Session Rep			
Rev. Erin Hayes-Cook - Ex-Officio			

**A NOTE FROM OUR EDITOR**

**Happy November, FPCH.**

November is a beautiful time of year. It allows us to see the wonderful colors of the Fall foliage and gives us an opportunity to understand the cycles of life through nature. I love to go for a walk in the cool morning or evening and enjoy watching the animals prepare for hibernation.

This time of year is also a reminder of how all living beings need to shed from their lives the hardships they have endured and to be thankful for such opportunities. It also allows us to be grateful for the little things in life that we sometimes take for granted.

During this season, I ask you to look around your home and your neighborhood and consider ways that you can give a helping hand to someone in need who has not been blessed with the shelter, food, or clothes that you have. Think about how you can give a little something to others who may need it more than you do. Maybe you no longer need that sweater in your closet or those extra blankets in your attic. Perhaps you can find it in your heart to fill our Little Pantry with some canned goods or even snacks just because you can. And once Thanksgiving Day arrives, maybe you can offer someone a hot meal who is looking for some sustenance.

This Fall, thank God for the blessings He has bestowed upon you and think of ways to give back to the community in an effort to allow others to feel good about themselves. I know that you, too, will feel intrinsically happy that you did.

As always, thank you for your readership. Enjoy the articles provided this month and check out our busy calendar with many activities like the community dinner, the Thanksgiving brunch, and the different music events to come in November. If you have suggestions for stories for future editions, please email me or see me after service one Sunday to share your ideas. Until next month...

Yours in Christ,  
**MaryAnn Simmons**

# DATES TO REMEMBER - NOVEMBER 2025

S

- 02: Confirmation Class - 9:00 - 9:50 AM in the Conference Room
- 02: Worship and communion - 10 AM; livestream through Facebook; All Saints Day; Sunday School; Joyful Noise/Unity Chimes Rehearsal after worship
- 04: PLEFF Dinner - 6:30 PM at The Smashed Olive, Rte 31
- 05: Yarn Girls - 1 PM in the Conference Room
- 06: Music Rehearsal - FPCH Ringers at 6:30 PM and Senior Choir at 7:30 PM, both in the Music Room
- 08: Community Dinner - 5 PM at the Chapel
- 09: Confirmation Class - 9:00 - 9:50 AM in the Conference Room
- 09: Worship - 10 AM; livestream through Facebook; Sunday School; Veterans' Day display; Joyful Noise/Unity Chimes Rehearsal after worship
- 09: Second Sunday - 11:30 at the church
- 11: Deacon's Meeting - 6:30 PM in the Conference Room
- 11: Stated Meeting of the Presbytery - 7 PM via Zoom
- 13: Music Rehearsal - FPCH Ringers at 6:30 PM and Senior Choir at 7:30 PM, both in the Music Room
- 14: HHS Tri-M Jazz Cafe - 5-8 PM at the Chapel
- 15: Men's Breakfast - 8:15 AM - at the Chapel; Ladies' Breakfast - 9 AM - River Star Diner
- 16: Confirmation Class - 9:00 - 9:50 AM in the Conference Room
- 16: Worship - 10 AM; livestream through Facebook; Sunday School; Joyful Noise/Unity Chimes Rehearsal after worship; church brunch at the Chapel after worship
- 16: Community Band Concert - at the Sanctuary
- 17: Decorate the church
- 18: Session Meeting - 6:30 PM, in the Conference Room
- 20: Music Rehearsal - FPCH Ringers at 6:30 PM and Senior Choir at 7:30 PM, both in the Music Room
- 23: Confirmation Class - 9:00 - 9:50 AM in the Conference Room
- 23: Worship - 10 AM; livestream through Facebook; Sunday School; Joyful Noise/Unity Chimes Rehearsal after worship; bring a canned or boxed good for the pantry.
- 23: Hymn Fest - 6:30 PM at Gethsemane Lutheran Church
- 27: Happy Thanksgiving! Church office closed
- 30: Confirmation Class - 9:00 - 9:50 AM in the Conference Room
- 30: Worship - 10 AM; livestream through Facebook; First day of Advent - ; Sunday School; Joyful Noise/Unity Chimes Rehearsal after worship

# A NOTE FROM OUR PASTOR

## Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

I've been watching the leaves fall to the ground with a ting of sadness. I love seeing the colors of the trees across the mountains, the red leaved trees that always greet me on the way to drop my daughter off to school. The bright colors remind me of the beauty of life as it is right now. But if I dig a little deeper, I hear God's invitation for me to use this season to reflect on what I need to release. Letting go of habits that no longer serve God's purpose for me or mindsets about the world and my place in it can be hard. But freedom is sweeter than being held back in growing.

During this season of gratitude, we begin with saying thank you to God for all the wonderous gifts that God has given us. We do not take for granted shelter, food, clothes, and all the things that make our lives healthy. And we also say thank you to God who invites us to release to God, too. I encourage you to reflect on what we need to let go of when it comes to our giving of our time, talent, and resources to God. Could we use a portion of our grocery budget to give to the food pantry? Could we volunteer for that one project at church? Could we consider what of our resources we share?

We need to be released from the myths of there is not enough, more is better and there is nothing I can do. I will share in the story of scripture and experience over the next month about each of these myths. One of the ways we can combat these myths is by intentionally living together in community with each other. We can do hard things together. We can be the people who live as if the good news is alive. This season of gratitude I invite you to imagine what giving God is igniting in you. And I look forward to seeing you on November 16 at our Thanksgiving brunch, as a way to say thank you for all you do to share the good news!

Lord, mold us into the people you created us to be. Shape our thoughts, our hearts, and our actions so that we reflect you more each day. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

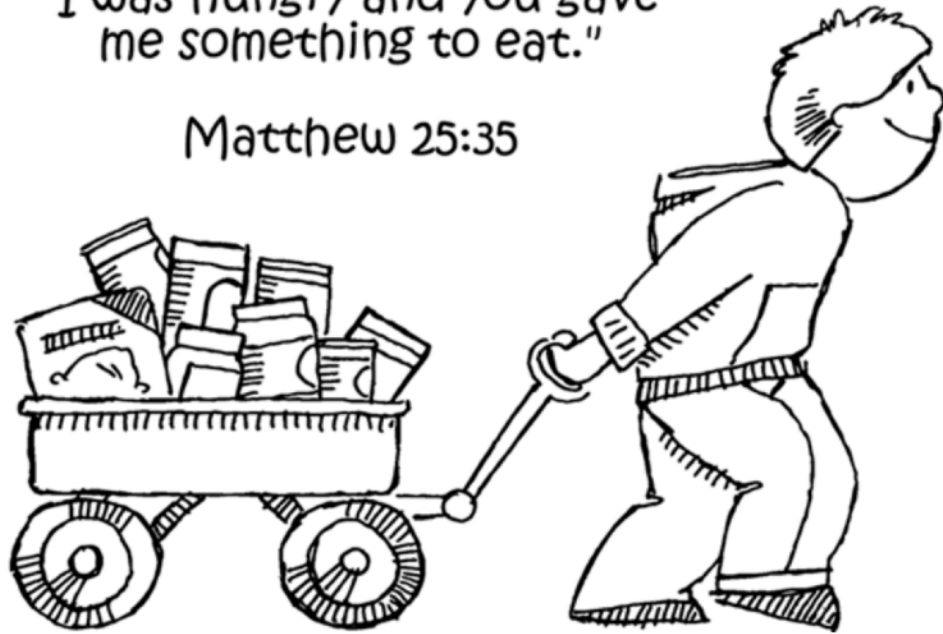
**Pastor Erin**

# THANKSGIVING COLORING ACTIVITY

*Unto the least of these...*

"I was hungry and you gave me something to eat."

Matthew 25:35



"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?'"

"The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'"

Matthew 25:37, 40 (NIV)

# SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

BY: BETSY AND NADIA HANSON

Hello! We wanted to give a quick update on what the 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> graders have been doing in Sunday School this year.

We have been talking a lot about God – how do we know God is real? Learning that God is faithful and kind. In the upcoming weeks we will be learning that God is holy, all powerful, and always with us. Each lesson incorporates a Bible story.

So far we've talked about Moses and the burning bush, Job - including "the patience of Job" and God "bragging" about all that He created, Abraham and Sarah, and Hagar and Ishmael.



We've been exploring the concept of instant gratification and how God's timeline isn't necessarily the timeline WE would like. We've been learning about faithfulness and how God keeps His promises – even when it takes longer than we'd like or isn't exactly in the form we would like. We have been



doing crafts like making our own burning bushes that you may have seen on display and working on our own family trees. We also watch little videos and play games like snake tag, charades, and what is real/not real.



It's been such a pleasure working with this group! They are always engaged, willing to participate, and share their thoughts on the topics we bring up (and topics we don't!). They like to tease us and say they've learned nothing, but they are truly a pleasure.

Betsy and Nadia



# G.R.O.W. TEAM NEWS

BY: BILL CORS

This month, we wish to highlight information regarding our new Scripts Fundraising initiative and the Christmas Joy offering.

### Did You Know...?

Soon you will be able to purchase gift cards from the First Presbyterian Church of Hackettstown?

The First Presbyterian Church of Hackettstown will soon be offering ways you can purchase gift cards for different retail stores and restaurants with a portion of the sale going to the church.

More Details Coming Soon.  
Information regarding this program, including how to purchase, will be available soon



### Did You Know...?

#### About the Christmas Joy Offering?

Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we lift up past, present, and future leaders of the church. God has blessed the church with incredible leadership in every time and place, but those leaders often need to be supported by their communities as well. This Offering provides support for Presbyterian church workers and their families in their time of need.

Consider donating to the Christmas Joy offering this season!  
Contact a member of the session for more information



If you have any questions or if you have any ideas, contact Bill Cors or any member of his G.R.O.W. Team Committee.

# NEWS FROM THE DEACONS

By PAT BUTTS

Our Little Pantry continues to serve our community and as always, we are thankful for all those who contribute. If you have any questions about the Pantry - how it works and what are the needs, please speak to any Deacon.

The support for our clothing drive was amazing and we loaded the truck with 3,314 pounds of bags and toys. We now have \$697.80 to continue our compassionate ministry. We have a tentative date for the next clothing drive of May 2, 2026.

It's hard to believe but it's time to think about decorating our beautiful sanctuary with the silk poinsettias for the Christmas season. The cost is \$5 to sponsor a flower and all orders are due by Sunday, December 14th. Order forms are in this newsletter and will be available in church for four weeks beginning on November 23d. If you have any questions, please see Pat Butts or Carol Miller.

As always, thank you for your continued support of our missions.

## JOIN US FOR SOME GREAT MUSIC

BY: LORINDA RAVO

Have you watched our FPCH Ringers play in church and thought, "I'd like to try that!" Well, you can. We are in need of a couple of volunteers to join the chime choir, and here's the best part. You don't need to know how to read music-in fact, many of the current members don't. We'll show you our "secret sauce" to help you become a full-fledged ringer. And the side benefit is the sense of pride and camaraderie you'll get by being part of this group! We'd love to welcome you to the ensemble. We rehearse on Thursday evenings from 6:30-7:15 pm, and yes, Middle School aged kids can be part of the group as well. Please see Lorinda for more information.

# SEPTEMBER 2025 FINANCIAL \$NAPSHOT

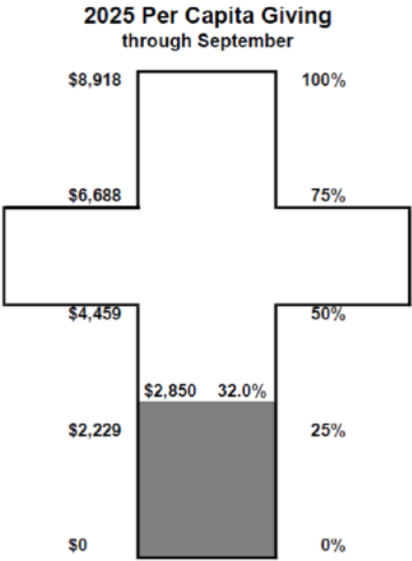
BY: AL RAVO

The Expenses Paid and Income amounts below do not include the funds transferred from the Endowment to meet the church operating expenses.

	September	Year to Date
Income	\$24,336.09	\$168,601.37
Expenses Paid	\$14,887.09	\$185,503.23
Net Operating Income /(Deficit)	\$ 9,449.00	(\$16,901.86)
Amount of Schwab/Edward Jones funds used to pay operating expenses	\$ 0.00	\$ 6,000.00
Amount Needed from Endowment	\$ 0.00	\$ 19,000.00
Total amount of Endowment, Schwab & Edward Jones funds used to pay Operating expenses in 2025	\$ 0.00	\$ 25,000.00

Financial Comments / Observations:

1. \$10,000.00 was returned to the Endowment that was needed earlier in the year to pay bills. The funds could be returned because of the higher giving and lower expenses in September.



2. The five largest operating expenses in September were:

- A.) \$7,684.44 – Pastoral expenses (payroll, Board of Pensions, etc.).
- B) \$3,737.77 – Staff payroll & payroll processing expenses.
- C) \$800.00 – Cleaning (Church & Chapel).
- D.) \$705.66 – Electricity (Church, Chapel & Manse).
- E.) \$474.71 – Facilities Supplies & Maintenance.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE - SEPTEMBER, 2025 FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

# SEPTEMBER 2025 FINANCIAL \$NAPSHOT

CONTINUED FROM SEPTEMBER 2025 FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

3. The operating net income / (deficits) were \$9,449.00 in September and (\$16,901.86) Year To Date.
- The actual September operating expenses were \$5,446.24 below the average monthly budgeted expenses.
  - The actual September operating incomes were \$7,669.42 above the average monthly budgeted incomes.
  - The Year-To-Date operating expenses were (\$2,503.23) above the average YTD budgeted amounts.
  - The Year-To-Date operating incomes were \$18,601.37 above the average YTD budgeted amount.
4. In September, the value of the MassMutual Investment accounts increased \$9,779.55 to \$371,388.45.
5. In September, the value of the entire Endowment Fund increased \$19,845.60 to \$388,348.47. The increase includes the \$10,000.00 repaid to the Endowment.
6. The September Second Saturday Free Community Dinner was not held. The total cost to the church of all community dinners since September 2021 remains at \$693.02.
7. The September Men’s breakfast was held at the River Star Diner.

The 2025 Per Capita is \$43.50 for each of the 205 members of our Church. (The number is the membership of FPCH on December 31, 2023.) The total amount due in 2025 is \$8,917.50 or \$743.13 monthly. In September, \$0.00 was received for Per Capita leaving the total received in 2025 at \$2,849.62 or 32.0% of the amount due. No payment was sent to the Presbytery of the Highlands of NJ in September leaving the total sent in 2025 at \$2,849.62 or 32.0% of the total amount due.





# HIGHLIGHTS FROM OCTOBER

During October, we had wonderful music arrangements, celebrated World Communion Day, had a dedication of our Prayer Garden, and had fun at our church and chapel grounds clean-up. Below are snapshots from those events. Photos courtesy of Diane Hull, Lorinda Ravo, and MaryAnn Simmons.



## SONNERS TWINS BAPTIZED 9/28

BY: MARYANN SIMMONS

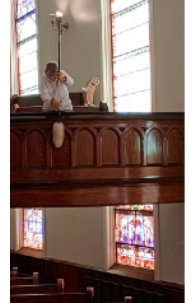
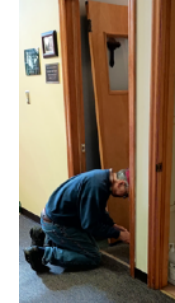
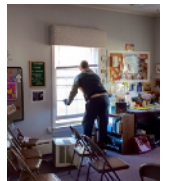
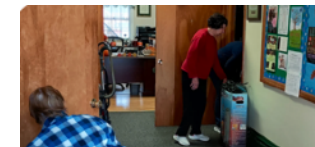
The last Sunday in September was a day of celebration for the Sonners family. Members of FPCH witnessed the baptism of Harper and Emma, twins of the proud parents, Dan and Jessica. The couple have resided in Hackettstown for the past 12 years and recently became members of our church. Jessica is a Middle School teacher in Passaic County and Dan works for a private non-profit group that pursues public and social missions. Their twins, Harper and Emma, turned one on November 1st.



Congratulations, Dan and Jessica.

Know that FPCH will always be part of the girls' lives to guide them through their faith journey as they grow. We welcome them, and you, to our congregation!

## MORE OCTOBER HIGHLIGHTS



## FPCH DEDICATES PRAYER GARDEN

October 26th was a lovely day for the dedication of the FPCH Prayer Garden, located on the right side of the church's main entrance.

The idea of a prayer garden was first brought forward from Michelle Cameron's Sunday School class. Initially created by Peter Jakub as his Eagle Scout Project, Peter started the garden in 2017 and finished it in the spring of 2018. He created the base of the garden and the beams around the perimeter and added the benches which were donated by Chip Cochran.



The cross, made by Michele Cameron's husband Scott, and statue in memory of Vickie Lee, were added in 2019 by church members, including Scott Cameron, Michele Cameron, Al Ravo, Ryan Van Orden Chuck Potter, and Pastor Brian Merritt. The church chose an angel for Vickie Lee because she loved angels so much they could be found throughout the Lee family home and she believed angels are always among us.

Charles Lee presented us with memorial funds, and when Charles passed, his family and friends donated a monetary gift. Those funds were given to the Deacons who in turn gave them to Kyle Larga for the building of the pergola. Kyle completed his Eagle Scout project by adding the pergola, redoing the benches and adding bushes to the front in September 2025. Thank you, FPCH, for joining in the celebration of our prayer garden. It truly is a blessing for our community.

## A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO FPCH

As many of you know, the confirmation class will be attending Camp Johnsonburg from December 5-7. The students in this class and the Christian Education Committee would like to express a very sincere thank you to all of our congregation members who have been assisting with our Johnsonburg Campership fund. Through your generous giving, as of October 15th, we have received \$953.41 toward scholarships for ALL of our interested youth at FPCH to attend camp both in December and in the summer months.

Once again, THANK YOU, members, for assisting in our educational programs here at FPCH.

## MUSIC NOTES

BY: LORINDA RAVO

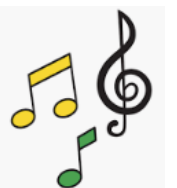
In November, our music during the service will be:

- Nov 2: Gentle Shepherd - Sr. Choir
- 9: Soloist
- 16: For the Beauty - Joyful Noise Bells and Unity Chimes
- 23: We Bring our Thanks - Sr. Choir
- Let All Things Now Living - FPCH Ringers
- 30: Solo for the first Sunday of Advent



On November 9, we'll be welcoming back a good friend of our congregation, Mrs. Jessica Pomeroy, who will be substituting for Lorinda as she and her family will be away. We are so blessed to have such a talented musician share her gifts with us.

Please remember that our HYMN FEST will take place at Gethsemane Lutheran Church 7 pm on November 23rd. Please see the article in this newsletter for more details.





# Sharing God's Bounty

## Making a Difference

Do you find it interesting, as I do, that God has made us different in so many ways? Looking around the church I see that some of us are short, others tall; some us wear glasses, others don't, some of us like sports, some of us like to fish and hunt, others like computers. Some of us like and are good at music while others aren't. God has given us different interests, talents, desires, and gifts. God also gives us different careers. God made us carpenters, business people, doctors, plumbers, teachers, etc. We don't look or sound alike, but as Christians we do have much in common. As God's children, we believe that he has created us and loves us so much that he sent his son to die for each of us. We know that God calls and knows us by name, and we are united in our faith.

As God's people, we also have a common task as Ephesians 4:12 states, *"that the body of Christ may be built up."* God in his infinite wisdom allows us to choose how to serve him best. As we contemplate how best we can serve the Lord, it is good to remember that God will empower us so we can faithfully use our God-given talents for his kingdom. God didn't make us and give us so much without giving us, as well, the ability to make a difference in our church, community, and the world. God will always equip us for the tasks he gives us to do. Think of the account of the tongue-tied Moses whom God equipped to be the leader of a vast nation. Study the life of David, an obscure shepherd boy, whom God prepared to be king. Marvel at God's patience with Gideon who asked for test after test before he was confident enough to undertake the task God entrusted him. We might find new situations and challenges to be a bit risky or uncomfortable, but just as God was with Moses, David, and Gideon, he will be with us all the way. With God's help, we will find ways our time and talents can make a difference.

Ephesians 4:16 reads, *"From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work."* It is important and essential that we do our parts to support the body of Christ. We could easily compare this to a basketball team, which requires the contribution of each player. The guards need to bring the ball down the court, run the offense, make the correct passes and contribute in scoring. The forwards need to rebound and score, along with the center. All of the positions have to contribute on defense. Each team members plays a unique role and is valuable to the team. If one of them fails to contribute, the whole team suffers. We each have a part to contribute on God's team. We can be effective in reaching the unchurched and building up the church when we all contribute. God gives us talents and gifts so we can use them to his glory in his church. When we let God work through us, we can make a difference.



### **CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA**



In celebration of the 2025 Christmas Season the Deacons are asking you to help fill the sanctuary with color by sponsoring a silk Christmas Poinsettia. Sponsorships are \$5.00 per plant. May be *In Thanksgiving for...* anyone dear to you or *In Memory of...* friends or family that have enriched your life.

Please make checks payable to The Deacons and mail to: First Presbyterian Church, c/o The Deacons, 298 Main Street, Hackettstown, NJ 07840 or you may drop off your forms and payment in the church mailbox.

**All forms and payment must be received no later than Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>.**

Please return this form with your payment. If you need additional space you may use the back of this form or submit an additional piece of paper, thank you!

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Sponsor:

---

In Memory of:

---

In Thanksgiving for:

---

Plants Sponsored:

---

Amount Enclosed:

Have questions? Need more Information?  
Please contact: Pat Butts – 908 391-2006  
or Carol Miller – 908 763-2777



## OCTOBER SECOND SUNDAY WEL-COMED JUNGLE DAVE AND HIS MAGIC SHOW TO FPCH

Kids and adults enjoyed a wonderful family event at the October 12 Second Sunday. Show magician Jungle Dave provided a fun time for all who attended, including opportunities for all to participate in the show. He and his team of jungle friends put on a show filled with laughs, wonder, and amazement. Kids were able to assist Jungle Dave throughout his 45 minute presentation of hilarious jungle-themed magic, and at the end, they received prizes and handouts. A special thank you is extended to the Board off Deacons who provided the funds for this fun-filled activity. Photos courtesy of Lorinda Ravo.



## NOVEMBER SECOND SUNDAY

This month, our November 9<sup>th</sup> Second Sunday event will be all about Thanksgiving with Mrs. Bergman. Participants will be creating a Thanksgiving decoration using items found in nature! Be sure to sign up on the registration form located on the information table in front of the church.

## GET READY FOR THE HYMN FEST

BY: LORINDA RAVO

On Sunday, November 23 at 7 pm, our Senior Choir members will be joining with choirs from Gethsemane Lutheran and Panther Valley Ecumenical Church in our annual Hymn Fest. The three choirs will be combining to sing anthems, and between the anthems will be hymns that are well known and all choir members and congregation alike will be raising our voices together in song.



You're invited to this joyous evening of favorite hymns and beautiful anthems being

held at Gethsemane Lutheran Church on 4<sup>th</sup> Street and Baldwin Street in town.

The program is FREE of charge, but we do ask that you bring a canned/boxed food donation that will go to our Free Little Pantry.

We hope you are able to attend this event which promises to be delightful.



## NOVEMBER GREETERS

November 2	Bruce and Ellen Bergman
November 9	Pat Butts and MaryAnn Simmons
November 16	Pat and Geof Gohlich
November 23	Winnie and Mark Slachetka
November 30	Pat and Dennis Huff

† GREETER

# TEACH YOUR CHILDREN HOW TO PRAY

## Thanksgiving Gratitude Tree

Cultivating a spirit of gratitude has proven to lower stress and lead people toward a more optimistic worldview and greater life satisfaction. What better day to cultivate a spirit of gratitude than Thanksgiving? Thanksgiving is not a religious holiday, but it is a perfect day to focus on our blessings. This version of a gratitude tree is simplified in that it makes use of a tree you already have growing rather than having you craft one.

**AGES: 5+**

**MATERIALS:** Construction paper, scissors, hole punch, markers/crayons/pencils/yarn, a tree or bush in the yard with branches low enough to hang ornaments from.

**TIME FRAME:** 15-45 minutes for the activity, plus time to make the gratitude ornaments.

**HOW TO:**

1. Cut out construction paper circles, punch a hole in each of them, and tie a loop of yarn through each hole. This will create the circle ornaments that can hang on the tree. Make enough circle ornaments for each family member to have at least three.
2. On Thanksgiving Day, before or after the meal, ask each family member to sit at the table and write down on the ornaments at least three reasons he or she is thankful for (one reason per ornament). Younger children can draw pictures. Remind everyone that the reasons will be shared.
3. Gather outside at the tree.
4. Take turns naming the items and hanging them on the tree.
5. After the conclusion of the tradition, someone says, "Our tree is full of so many reasons why we are grateful this day. Let us continue our celebration together knowing that our lives are full! Let's all say AMEN!"
6. Invite everyone to take their ornaments home with them.

**NOTES:** Some people who have difficulty thinking of things they are grateful for may need some prompting.

Try not to evaluate what people (especially children) list on their gratitude ornaments. Accept all items, material or spiritual.

"This practice is excerpted from the book *Faithful Families: Simple Practices for Daily Family Life* by Traci Smith, published by Chalice Press, 2017, All rights Reserved. Used by Permission.

## BUILDING ON GENEROSITY (BOG) CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

- Donations received during September, **\$3,336.00.**
- Total donations received from church members, non-members and anonymous from September 2019 (the BOG Kickoff dinner) through the last day of September 2025, **\$655,277.02.**
- Expenses paid using the BOG funds in September, **\$350.00.** This expense was paid to JRC Construction to replace the manse side storm door.
- The total available BOG funds are **\$7,220.28.** The breakdown is **\$4,470.28** for the next BOG project with an additional **\$2,750.00** designated for the Chapel range hood replacement.
- Donations breakdown by source:
  - **5.3% - \$35,048.76 from nonmembers**
  - **86.1% - \$563,867.05 from members**
  - **8.6% - \$56,361.21 from anonymous & dinners**
  - **100.0% - \$655,277.02 Total**

Contact Al Ravo if you have any questions or would like to discuss the Church's operating finances, the Endowment Funds, Per Capita, or the Building On Generosity Capital Campaign.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO CREATE MONTHLY BULLETIN BOARDS

**BY: LORINDA RAVO**

Do you enjoy creating displays? Then we have a job for you! Three bulletin boards can be seen in the church: one in the narthex, one at the top of the ramp entrance to the sanctuary, and one opposite the conference room (currently displaying clever cartoons). These need to be changed each month, and we would love to welcome the creative talents of anyone who would like to take on the fun of making eye-catching and engaging displays.

We welcome individuals or a team of people who can work together. You can use a thematic approach, or a monthly scheme based on a holiday that matches the time of year or the church calendar, or you can put together a display of what is happening in our congregation. We will leave it totally up to you. Whatever you choose, we are sure it will entice the congregation.

Please see Lorinda if you are interested in taking on any or all 3 bulletin boards.

# SPECIAL DAYS IN NOVEMBER

BY: LORINDA RAVO

Thankfulness is probably what comes quickly to mind when we think about November, but there are other special days that we will be recognizing here at church during the month.

On Sunday, November 2, we observed All Saints Day, and we invited you to bring along a photo or two of your loved ones who are now joined with the saints in heaven.

On Sunday, November 9, we'll be honoring those in our congregation who have served in any and all branches of the military with a special display on the Communion table.

On Sunday, November 23, our Communion table will be decorated as a harvest table, and we'd love to have your donations of canned/boxed goods for our pantry. If everyone coming to church that day can bring one or more food items, we'll have shelves set up and you can add your donations there!

Finally, on Sunday, November 30, we'll share in the joy of the first Sunday of Advent with our traditional decorating of the Christmas tree during the service. We hope you'll plan to be at church that day to be part of this beloved tradition at FPCH.

## DATES TO REMEMBER IN DECEMBER

December promises to be a busy month as well. Here is a sneak peak of some calendar worthy dates to prepare for:

- 12/5-7: Camp Johnsonburg Retreat for Confirmation Class
- 12/7: Second Sunday of Advent - Communion
- 12/13: Stone Soup Symphony concert - 3 PM in the Sanctuary
- 12/14: Third Sunday of Advent - Christmas photo booth and Christmas sweater/cookies/cocoa following worship; poinsettia forms due
- 12/21: Sunday School Play: God Gave Us Christmas
- 12/24: Christmas Eve service - 7 PM
- 12:31: New Year's Eve

## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 01: Marc Heil  
Harper & Emma Sonners
- 02: Roy Pierson  
Cody Gelsinger
- 03: Harry Knauer
- 04: Margo Gregory
- 05: Grace Clegg
- 06: Sandy Sentner
- 07: Tyler Newton
- 08: Dennis Huff
- 15: Linda Gardner  
Amari Melendez
- 20: Bev Saunders
- 21: Lori Fleischman  
Otto Fleischman  
Pat Butts
- 28: Quinn DeCaro
- 29: Megan Gelsinger
- 30: Cindy Pierson  
Les Carpenter

## WE CELEBRATE YOUR DAY WITH YOU!

## NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 06: Mark & Marsha Gulick
- 23: Bruce & Ellen Bergman

## PRAYER LIST

Please keep the following  
in your prayers:

- Bruce and Ellen Bergman
- Centenary University Staff  
and Students
- Eugenie Chetangie
- Churches throughout the U.S.
- Nellie Creager and family
- Pam Covert
- Al Cruts and family
- Shirley DeLoia, sister of Phyllis  
Prestopine
- FPCH and Friends of  
FPCH
- Dan Gardner
- Terry Gretchen
- Joan Grover
- Barbara Hall
- Cathy Hayes
- Maikuu congregation,  
Kibwezi Kenya
- Members of the Armed Forces
- Barbara Pace, niece of the  
Prestopines
- Alice Phoebus
- Deb Shepherd
- Jim Simmons
- Carol Spitzer
- The food insecure
- The homeless
- Those struggling with  
addictions and mental health
- Those recovering  
from surgery
- Those traveling

