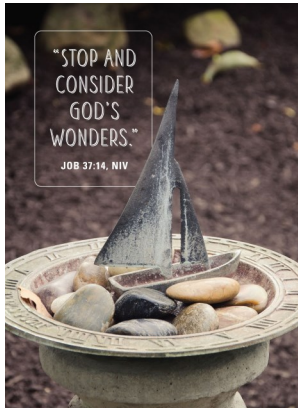


News Bits

First Presbyterian Church of Blairstown, New Jersey



PASTOR'S MESSAGE



There is an old familiar saying that goes: a picture speaks a thousand words, and the saying is true. During the fish and chips dinner, Hannah and Ella Burke stood still long enough, permitting me to snap a photo of them carrying a pan of French fries from the Tastefully British trailer into the Outreach Center, where boxes waited on the tables for the French fries to be transferred (along with the fish) to customers lingering outdoors on Main Street. That picture, along with a photo of Kelly McElroy and my wife, Teri, handling desserts, and a group assembling meals and Carol Ann with her mother, Betsy Gervasi, tell the story of our Fish and Chips dinner. One picture I thoroughly love is of the Sunday school class piled into Pete Peterson's 52 Dodge pickup. Pictures speak a thousand words.

They also communicate faith and service, faith and fun, reaffirming that learning altruistic behavior begins early in life and hopefully stays with us throughout life.

They also affirm the church is a family setting where children and parents plant and germinate seeds, which blossom as life unfolds. When done well and done right, the church makes a difference in the lives of her members.

It is a joy to witness people mature in life and in faith. When Dylan Kasprenski shared his personal testimony of the difference his faith made during the sermon October 15, he related it to his military training at Parris Island where he spent July through early October becoming a United States Marines. Thank you, Dylan, for your military service to our country. Listening to Dylan share how his faith he talked specifically about one passage of scripture, St. Paul's letter to the Christians in Philippi, chapter 4:13: *"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me!"* That verse is a personal favorite of mine as well. One has to wonder what it might have been like for him had our church's many servants not been there to plant seeds of faith for him and within him when he needed faith the most. Thank God for our church's servant workers and teachers.

In the daily stories of our lives, God works; and God speaks, Fred Beuchner often wrote. This past October God had a lot to say. I'm still awed by the stunning double rainbow God gave us Monday, October 16, late in the

afternoon, following intermittent rain showers and more recently through the colorful changing of leaves. Colorful rainbow, the changing color of leaves, cooler temperatures, the change of seasons, precipitation, people who lift and improve all our spirits, these are just a few ways God speaks to us still.

As we journey through November, I hope some of our routine God sightings and God sounds will heighten your gratitude a bit. Whether through sights, sounds, symbols or sayings, it is a good thing to see the wondrous work of God. Tucked away into the pages of the Hebrew book of Job, Job is feeling down, despondent, discouraged, depressed, perhaps. He's certainly feeling more battered, beaten, and broken than he feels blessed. One of his friends, Elihu, seeing Job's despondency, decides to make an effort at lifting Job's spirits. Elihu reminds Job, of God's goodness and grace, and this is how he put it, *"Hear this, O Job; stop and consider the wondrous works of God"* (Job 37: 14)

It is great line, a great line for Job, and a great line for us all. May we stop and consider the works of God, be glad, be grateful, then live into the gift of each day as the blessing for which it is.

See you in worship.

Pastor David

Bound
TOGETHER
by Faith



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Hannah and Ella Burke carrying French fries into the OC for the Oct. 6 Tastefully British fish & chips dinner

Session News

Session met on Thursday, October 19, 2023 and approved the following recommendation and requests:

- 1) A request by the Blairstown Township's Police and Office of Emergency Management to use the Fellowship Hall for a warming station Halloween evening Oct 31 during Trick or Treating.
- 2) A recommendation from the Stewardship and Finance Ministry to use funds raised from the Fish and Chips dinner to support Camp Johnson-
- burg's "Marked for the Future" capital campaign and to support the Truck Stop Ministry.
- 3) A recommendation from the Stewardship and Finance Ministry to hold the 2024 Fish and Chips dinner on Friday, October 4, 2024, subject to the availability of Tastefully British.
- 4) A request from Gail Weber to create a Wall of Honor display to honor veterans in our congregation.

The next Stated Meeting of Session will be on November 16, 2023 at 7:00 PM at the Outreach Center and via ZOOM.

Respectfully submitted by,

Deb Albrecht,
Clerk of Session



Stewardship & Finance Ministry

Years ago I was an independent home decorator. I would go into homes and help with custom window treatments, wallpaper, area rugs, custom furniture, bedding and art work. I told my clients that they needed a ribbon or thread of color to tie their homes together. So, if a person had burgundy and navy blue in their foyer, there should be some shade of one of those colors throughout their home. Interesting concept!

To me, we all have threads in our lives. Some of the threads may be family or your ca-



reer. However, the main thread is God. He's there throughout our entire life tying faith, family, friends and careers together. Another interesting concept to consider.

Now that you've thought about your thread with God, consider how you're going to

make and keep it strong. I find that by attending church, praying alone and together with others, participating in church activities, and supporting church ministries, keeps my thread strong. I don't question why I do what I do: I agree with Carol McLain when she said, "Here I am Lord." Something to think about.

Your task is to use that thread to grow in faith, attend church, pray together, gather with others and help others.

Gail Weber, Chair



Sunday, Nov. 26

Consecration Sunday



Lunch Meeting
Friday, Nov. 10
at 1 PM!

Buck Hill Brewery &
Restaurant—2nd floor.

Presbyterian Women

Do you know what Presbyterian Women do in our church? We are everywhere!! Watch for our events and please support us in our endeavors to help others and support our faith.

- Bakeless Bake Sale - coming soon
- Veterans Day Wall of Honor in Fellowship Hall

- Poinsettia Sale
- Advent Wreath Workshop & Soup
- Betsy's Garden & Kindness Rocks
- Flowers in church every Sunday

We use the funds that we raise to help send people to Camp Johnsonburg during

the summer, support other ministries in the church, and to help children who are in need.

Join us for a meeting!

Strengthen your faith and enjoy our company.

Gail Weber, Chair



Deacon Ministry & Food Pantry Notes

Food Pantry Notes

The October food pantry again saw several new families in need. There is definitely an uptick in food insecurity. After serving 32 families, our shelves are really empty.

Thanks to the new storage facility at Norwescap and our local Foodshed Alliance, we were able to provide many different fresh produce for our patrons: apples, peaches, tomatoes, carrots, potatoes, yams, onions, 3 different types of lettuce, squash, and even some watermelons.

In November, we give out Thanksgiving boxes with canned and fresh vegetables — the complete makings of a Thanksgiving dinner. We are short in large cans of yams, peaches (either 2 small or 1 large each), corn, and jellied cranberry sauce. We are planning at least 28 boxes at each pantry. Also, our supply on cereal is limited to Cheerios; some other types would be nice.

For a long time, Norwescap has not had any canned tuna in water and we are grateful for some of these as well.

Thank you for always being generous to our pantry.

Enjoy the great weather & God bless!

Betsy Gervasi &
Erika Wulster,
Food Pantry Coordinators



PRAISE
AND
THANKSGIVING



Shoe Box Ministry for College Students

Any one with college students that wish to receive a Shoe Box full of goodies, please send the student's address to Deacon, Stephanie Burke via email sburke11286@gmail.com.



Bible Quiz

Fill in the blank:

"Rejoice always, pray continually, give _____ in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

- A. alms
- B. praise
- C. thanks
- D. offerings



Answer: C (See 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, NIV)



Our giving tree will be organized again by Teri Harvey. Sign-ups will be later this month.

Wish List for Thanksgiving Boxes:

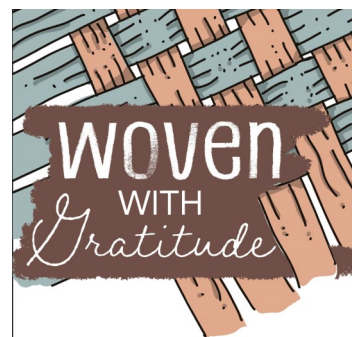
The organizational meeting with all four food pantries for the Thanksgiving boxes recently took place. We are planning for 28 Thanksgiving boxes from each Church which is approximately 112 total for the North Warren area.

The distribution will take place at our church this year on Saturday, Nov. 18.

Here's our current wish list:

- Canned Yams (16 oz)
- Peaches (jars or cans, 8.75 oz or 15 oz.)
- Canned corn
- Canned jellied cranberry sauce
- Any additional canned fruit, tuna fish, cereal (other than Cheerios)

If you have any questions, please speak with food pantry coordinators Erika Wulster or Betsy Gervasi.



Handicrafts can spark appreciation for simple items. Weave this basket as a gift.



What you need:

- Paper plate
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Yarn (different colors)

What you do:

1. In the center of the plate, trace something round. Draw 9 lines (evenly spaced) from the circle to the plate's edge.
2. Cut along each line, stopping at the center circle. Trim more of the plate off so the cuts make a gradual V shape.
3. Fold the plate's sides upward to form basket sides. Keep these upright as you weave a bowl-shaped basket.
4. Begin weaving a length of yarn at the circle's base. Hold the end of the yarn in place as you spread the length over and under each side of the plate.
5. Switch colors to make a pattern. Keep the yarn tight as you weave up the sides.
6. To finish, bend down any remaining paper. Leave a tail of yarn and tuck it under a woven portion. Share your craft with a friend!



Each Sunday after worship we enjoy each other's company and some delicious refreshments. If you can help out, we ask that you sign-up on the sheet on the Communication Table in Fellowship Hall. Thank you!



Thanksgiving Humor

Need to lighten the mood at your holiday dinner table? Share some laughter with these Thanksgiving-themed jokes:

Why did the turkey decline dessert?
Because it was stuffed.

Why did the turkey cross the road twice?
To prove he wasn't a chicken.

What smells the best at Thanksgiving dinner?
Your nose.

Why didn't the chef season the turkey?
There wasn't enough thyme.

Why did the turkey leave the band?
People were fighting over the drumsticks.



Family Sunday, Dec. 3

Membership & Fellowship Ministry

Swing Your Partner!

It's this Saturday! Ed LaPlante will be returning to FPCB to be our live caller on Saturday, Nov. 4 at our Square Dance.

We'll have a covered dish supper in Fellowship Hall from 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM, and the square dance will run from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

It's a great evening out for all ages, and if by chance you're not up for dancing, you'll have a guaranteed good time laughing and watching the fun. Invite your friends!

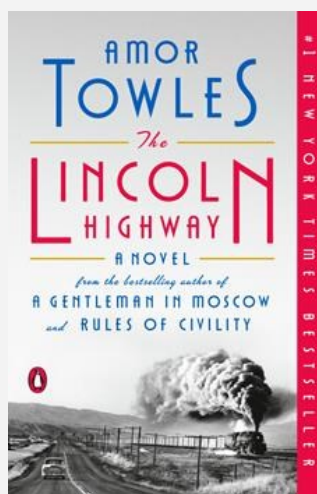


Other Bits of Interest

FPCB BOOK CLUB

The next meeting of the FPCB Book Club will be hosted by Betsy Gervasi at the Outreach Center on Tuesday, Nov. 7 at 7 PM. We will be discussing, The Lincoln Highway by Amor Towles.

The Book Club meets every 6–8 weeks, and we read a variety of titles: fiction and nonfiction; mysteries and suspense. New members are always welcome. If you have any questions or would like a copy of our reading list, please speak with Teri Harvey or Kaye Evans.



Bible Study

Join us Tuesday mornings at 10:00 AM at the Outreach Center or via Zoom. Contact the church office to be added to our weekly bible study email reminders and Zoom link.

Nov. 11 Thank you, Veterans!

(Published in: November 2021 Newsletter)



Veterans Day has its roots in what was called Armistice Day, when a peace agreement ended World War I on November 11, 1918. President Wilson proclaimed that Armistice Day was to be marked with solemn pride in heroism and with gratitude for victory as well as the "opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice." In 1954, the remembrance was renamed Veterans Day to honor all U.S. military personnel. It's a reminder to pray for and honor all who serve and sacrifice, to support and assist their families, and to pray that God will bring peace on earth.



Don't forget!
Daylight Saving Time ends Sunday, Nov. 5!

NOVEMBER

Birthdays & Anniversaries

NOVEMBER
Birthdays

NOVEMBER
Anniversaries

- 2 Jim Paulson
4 Alissa Kane
5 Derek Cameron
7 Mark Williard
9 Mandy Burke
Meredith Lozaga
Luke Peterson
14 Mary Clare Devaney
15 Pete Peterson
Chelsea Schumacher
18 Karen Puccio
19 Tony Puccio
24 Erika Plut

November 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		



Dylan Kasprenski sharing his recent USMC bootcamp experience, including the Crucible and his faith journey during worship on Sunday, Oct. 22.

I CAN DO ALL
THINGS
THROUGH
HIM
WHO
STRENGTHENS
ME.
PHILIPPIANS 4:13










Out of Our Shells 4-H Club has placed bins inside Barber On Main and Dales Market their stores to help collect food donations for the Outreach Food Pantry. Their club has raised a little bit of money and voted to purchase \$150 worth of chicken and \$50 worth of eggs for the pantry for Thanksgiving. We appreciate their support!!!

PUZZLE

THANKS-FILLED GIVING

The virtues of gratefulness and generosity are connected. When we're truly thankful for all God provides, we want to sow generous seeds in other people's lives. What will be the harvest?

Directions: Solve the clues associated with each picture. Then write the words in the correct spaces to complete 2 Corinthians 9:10-11, NIV.

- This becomes a plant _____ 
 Willing to give _____ 
 The result of planting seeds _____ 
 The act of gratitude _____ 
Food made from wheat _____

Now he who supplies _____ to the sower and _____ for food will also supply and increase your store of _____ and will enlarge the _____ of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way so that you can be _____ on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in _____ to God. 2 Corinthians 9:10-11, NIV

Answers: seed, bread, generous, harvest, thankful, giving

Our Daily Prayer List



Healing for Friends & Families:

Cancer: Judy Dales, Gordon Dugan, Samantha Elwell, Olivia Hollis, Adam Hubble, Tracy Lance, Troy Lutz, Caitlyn McMorrow and her family, Bill S., Andrew Shan, Abbi Sparkman, Robert Talmadge, Tracy Wolfe, Molly Grace Young, Alicia, Audrey, Darlene, Eva, Gail, Liza

Illness & Injuries: Robert Benz, Sue Bonkowski, George Burke, Derek Cameron, Elaine Canonico, Kyle Canonico, Lucy Cuipa, Noah Haiduc-Dale, Peter Porzio, Jan Smith, Margaret Stephens, Betty Ann Weir, Ann, Carter, Demares, Tracy, Valerie

Congratulations on the marriage of Kayla Nicholls, daughter of Cathy & Don Nicholls, to Kyle Hamblin

The Human Family: Persons and individuals who struggle with food insecurity and homelessness, the people in the Ukraine and the Middle East; families and communities impacted by gun violence; those impacted by severe weather.

Men & Women Serving in the Armed Forces & America's Veterans

Those in elected office: The President, the Congress, State Assembly, Municipality officials

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF BLAIRSTOWN, NEW JERSEY**

Post Office Box 385, 1 Main Street
Blairstown, NJ 07825
Church Office: 35 Main Street



Phone: (908) 362-5254
Fax: (908) 362-8060
Food Pantry: (908) 362-5254
Children's Center: (908) 362-7887
fpcb@ptd.net fpcb-nj.org
facebook.com/FPCBNJ

 GIVE NOW



FPCB Calendar of Events — November 2023

(schedule is subject to change)

- Sunday Worship at 10 AM (in-person in the Sanctuary or online worship —please visit fpcb-nj.org/weekly-worship for the Zoom link)
- Tuesday Morning Bible Study: 10:00 AM at the OC
- Music & Worship and Christian Education: Tuesday, Nov. 7 at 7 PM at the OC
- Presbyterian Women Lunch: Friday, Nov. 10 at 1 PM
- Enduring Gifts: Tuesday, Nov. 14 at 3:30 PM
- Stewardship & Finance: Wednesday, Nov. 15 at 10 AM at the OC
- Blair Woman's Club Ex. Board Meeting: Wednesday, Nov. 15 at 1:30 PM at the OC
- Session: Thursday, Nov. 16 at 7:00 PM at the OC/Zoom
- Food Pantry: Saturday, Nov. 18 at 9:30 AM at the OC
- Thanksgiving Box Distribution: Saturday, Nov. 18 at 10 AM at the Church
- Deacon Ministry—assemble fruit baskets for shut-ins: Sunday Nov. 19 before worship
- Library Book Group: Tuesday, Nov. 21 at 1 PM at the OC
- December News Bits Articles Due: Tuesday, Nov. 21
- Community Event: Jingle on Main: Saturday, Nov. 25