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## *From the Pastor's Desk*



Life has been very heavy lately with the ongoing incidents of school shootings, fake bomb threats, the assassination of a political figure on a college campus in front of a large crowd of students, our ongoing political upheaval, misinformation being shared, fear being planted and magnified, and most recently the horrific tragedy of 3 Northern York Co Regional Police Officers shot and killed, 1 shot and injured along with a York Co Sheriff's Deputy.

I have witnessed our community coming together in mourning and support for the families, friends, and departments who answered the call to "Officers down," on September 17th. That was a day that will reside in our community's history and soul for generations to come. Not only because of the devastating loss of those heroes who promised to protect and serve our community, working to keep us safe from harm, but because of the outpouring of love and support that was witnessed in the miles-long tribute as the bodies of our fallen heroes were moved to the York Co Coroner's office. The continued outpouring of love and support for all police departments, EMS workers, hospital staff, fire companies, and 911 dispatchers has been a living witness of the best that we are capable of, and the visible manifestation of God's love for all people.

The Apostle Paul reminds us that "We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28). We have seen the good that comes from such a tragedy. We have seen the love that our community has the ability to share with one another – even those they do not know. THIS is what the kingdom of God looks like – all coming together to share, comfort, support, and lift-up, with no hints of revenge or of hate, just loving kindness for others.

My friends, we have seen the light shining brightly over the last week. We have witnessed "the light has come into the world and darkness did not and could not ever overcome it" (John 1:5). Christ is that light, and WE are the bearers of his light to those around us – our families, friends, co-workers, and strangers alike. When life tries to weigh us down, we must shine even brighter, pass Christ's loving light onto others so that our corner of the world can shine boldly, pushing back the darkness.

In the days ahead, may our Christ-light continue to be a beacon of hope, love, and peace within our communities. May we be the beginning of the change we wish to see in our community, our country, our world. We have the ability to make things different. We just need the courage to speak out, to work for the changes we wish to see, to demand different responses from our political officials.

My friends, let your light shine blindingly bright with Christ's love for everyone.

Peace and blessings, Pastor Brenda



## **WORSHIP SERVICES FOR OCTOBER 2025**

**OCTOBER 5, 2025 “Free to Grieve”**

Psalm 137 Lamentations 1:1-6

**OCTOBER 12, 2025 – “Planting Life”**

Jeremiah 29: 1, 4-7

**OCTOBER 19, 2025** - Cindy Innerst-Axe preaching

To be announced

**OCTOBER 26, 2025 – “Just Worship”**

Luke 18:9-14

Beth Innerst will be teaching our Sunday school during the month of October.  
We meet in the Gathering Room each Sunday at 10:15 AM. All are invited.

**WORLD COMMUNION**

(Neighbors in Need offering)



### **WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY**

Please join us in the Gathering Room on **THURSDAY** mornings at 11:00am as we dive into the scripture being used to preach each week. See you then!

Sunday, October 26, at 4:00 PM, you are invited to bring your pets of all types to have them blessed. The service will be held outdoors in our pavilion. Please keep pets on a leash or in a crate. Thank you.



### **DALLASTOWN HALLOWEEN PARADE**

Our church is planning to enter a float in this year's Halloween parade which will be held on Thursday, October 16. We will be using the float that was built several years ago, depicting both the old Red Brick Chapel and the current church. We need volunteers wearing either colonial period costume or modern clothing to walk or ride on the float. Please let Marti Leader know if you would like to volunteer.

**We also need donations of lots of candy for the volunteers to throw out along the parade route.**

If you haven't checked out the book room lately, stop on by and see what is new. From now until the end of October, the **BOOK ROOM** is running a sale of 5 paperbacks or 3 hardbacks for \$1.00. This is a good time to stock up for the winter months ahead.



### **CHURCH WALKING TOUR**

On Sunday, October 5th, the Dallastown Historical Society highlights the six Historic Churches of Dallastown during their 1 to 4 pm Open House. During this time, St. John's Blymire's UCC, Christ Lutheran, Bethlehem Life, and St. Joseph's Catholic Churches will be open with greeters present for visitors to view their sanctuaries and ask questions. Tour Maps and parking are available at these four churches and the Historical Society Building at 118 E Main Street that day. Participants may start or park at any of these sites and use the map to walk or ride to the other sites. The event will take place Rain or Shine.

Since our main church, as well as the Red Brick Chapel, will be part of the tour, we are looking for volunteers to greet visitors and serve refreshments. We are also in need of donations of snacks and drinks. If you can help in any way, please let Pastor Brenda know. Thank you.

Our last chicken BBQ of the season will be held on Saturday, October 11, 11:00AM-1:00 PM. Each dinner will include a



1/2 chicken, baked potato, applesauce, roll and butter all for \$10.00. To place an order, please call the church at (717) 244-0655. We usually sell out early, so to be guaranteed a dinner, it is best to pre-order.

We are also planning to set up a bake sale table and would welcome donations of home-made cookies, cupcakes, candy, etc.

**OCTOBER**  
**BIRTHDAYS**



*May God Bless  
You on Your  
Birthday!*

1. Kayla Roelke  
Michael Matthews  
Annie Cowher
2. Adin Luckenbaugh
3. Timothy Luckenbaugh
4. Ethan John
8. Tarrence Ness  
Barb Adams  
Bronley Free
9. Kari March
10. Lucy Smith
12. Mary Innerst
17. Paul Leiphart
21. Shayne Boyd
22. Mike H. Knaub  
Calvin Leader
23. Diana Myers  
Marjorie Stringer
24. Lori Roelke  
Zane Pope  
Brian Bosley
26. Amber Roelke
27. Brenda Miller
31. Macklin Woerner  
Jaron Picking

**CELEBRATING OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES**

Oct. 8 - Todd and Lisa Miller - 32 years  
Oct. 19 - Frank & Sally Bosley - 62 years  
Oct. 23 - Jeffrey and Lynz Leader - 21 years  
Oct. 26 - John and Kathi Sterling - 12 years

# FINANCIAL REPORT

## Undesignated General Fund

## Red Brick Chapel

## Cemetery

| Month-2024   | Income             | Expense            | Income           | Expense           | Income            | Expense            |
|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| January      | \$7,763.00         | \$10,980.79        | \$3001.83        | \$384.30          | \$1,127.63        | \$0.00             |
| February     | \$8,040.00         | \$10,783.87        | \$2.33           | \$492.68          | \$257.54          | \$427.22           |
| March        | \$11,744.00        | \$16,632.22        | \$2.00           | \$686.27          | \$305.15          | \$3,448.68         |
| April        | \$8,612.00         | \$8,434.27         | \$2.09           | \$280.34          | \$4.98            | \$2,252.05         |
| May          | \$11,583.00        | \$13,079.42        | \$1.97           | \$268.26          | \$255.40          | \$3,012.96         |
| June         | \$11,541.00        | \$13,404.75        | \$2.09           | \$403.49          | \$203.12          | \$3,144.49         |
| July         | \$9,360.00         | \$11,104.65        | \$1.71           | \$194.15          | \$12.63           | \$2,497.50         |
| August       | \$7,405.00         | \$9,587.43         | \$1.86           | \$384.19          | \$253.31          | \$2,447.50         |
| September    |                    |                    |                  |                   |                   |                    |
| October      |                    |                    |                  |                   |                   |                    |
| November     |                    |                    |                  |                   |                   |                    |
| December     |                    |                    |                  |                   |                   |                    |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>\$76,048.00</b> | <b>\$94,007.40</b> | <b>\$3015.88</b> | <b>\$3,093.68</b> | <b>\$2,419.76</b> | <b>\$17,230.40</b> |

Balance of Undesignated General Fund @ September 1, 2025

(\$14,208.24)

Balance of Red Brick Chapel Fund @ September 1, 2025  
(Includes \$67,982.75 Endowment)

\$76,387.45

Balance of Cemetery Fund @ September 1, 2025  
(Includes \$959,954.40 CD's, Trusts, UCC Foundation)

\$963,902.78

## Financial Assistance Given through Hand of Hope Fund - 2025

|              | #         | Total             | Monthly          | Available |
|--------------|-----------|-------------------|------------------|-----------|
|              | Families  | \$\$\$            | Donations        | Balance   |
| Beginning    |           |                   |                  | \$ 542.38 |
| January      | 4         | \$ 225.00         | \$ 81.00         | \$ 398.38 |
| February     | 3         | \$ 175.00         | \$ 87.00         | \$ 310.38 |
| March        | 2         | \$ 100.00         | \$ 110.00        | \$ 320.38 |
| April        | 4         | \$ 200.00         | \$ 92.92         | \$ 213.30 |
| May          | 2         | \$ 75.00          | \$ 84.21         | \$ 222.51 |
| June         | 2         | \$ 225.00         | \$ 143.19        | \$ 140.70 |
| July         | 0         | \$ 0.00           | \$ 91.81         | \$ 232.51 |
| August       | 0         | \$ 0.00           | \$ 177.00        | \$ 409.51 |
| September    |           |                   |                  |           |
| October      |           |                   |                  |           |
| November     |           |                   |                  |           |
| December     |           |                   |                  |           |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>17</b> | <b>\$ 1000.00</b> | <b>\$ 860.13</b> |           |



## **REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS and those in need of PRAYER**

**Terry & Fran Doll**  
Room 346  
Residence @ Fitz Farm  
2200 Springwood Rd.  
York, PA 17403  
Terry's cell (717) 968-2454  
Fran's cell (717) 968-8754



**Peggy Luckenbaugh**  
Room 710B  
York View Nursing Home  
970 Colonial Avenue  
York, PA 17403

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**Remember  
and pray for  
Our Members  
in the  
Military**

**Tech Sergeant Brandon Ness**  
221 E. Catalpa Ct.  
Derby, KS 67037

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### **Greetings from Homewood Living Plum Creek- notice the new title!**

Thank you for the Bingo donations- Homewood is very appreciative! Starting in September Bingo prize donations once again will be accepted.

This year Christmas cards, signed by you, will be accepted- woohoo!! Deadline is December 7, 2025. No lotions or tissues needed! Hopefully I will deliver the cards! Soaker pads are always needed.

There are 2 Teas being planned for July. More Information to come!

Annual treasurer's reports from 2024 and 2025 are available, along with minutes from the 2024 meeting.

Please consider joining the auxiliary- along with helping those that have outlived their resources, it also contributes to the "wish lists"- items that are requested by Homewood Plum Creek residents and staff.

Thank you!  
Steph Frey, Auxiliary Rep for Homewood per FUN team

### **EMMANUEL'S CLOSET**



Below is a list of items that we are especially in need of right now: **Beverages (juice, coffee, tea), baked beans, desserts, rice & pasta sides, poparts/cereal bars and toilet paper.** Of course we always welcome other nonperishable food items, paper goods, and toiletries as well.

Because it worked out well the past few years, we have decided to continue the practice of giving \$50 in gift cards to each eligible child or teen rather than buying them specific gifts. The cards will be given out to the parents on December 13 and December 20.

For both Thanksgiving and Christmas, we will also be giving out grocery gift cards to each family to be used to buy meat and other perishable items for holiday meals.

There is basket on the Welcome Table in the Gathering Room for you to place any monetary donations for the gift cards or to purchase food. If you would like to receive credit for your donation, please use one of the envelopes that is provided.

Thank you for your support of this ministry.



### **KNITTERS/CROCHETERS**

We continue to collect donations of handmade scarves and blankets for Memorial White Rose Hospice They are especially in need of items for men. If you would like to participate in this ongoing project, there is a box in the Gathering Room for you to put your donations.

**FUNDRAISER:** In addition to cookbooks, the FUN team is now also selling seasoned salt made using the recipe of Frances Dietz. It is a mixture of kosher salt and eleven other spices. The seasoning can be used on veggies, meats, soup, pasta, or as a rub. The cost is \$7.00 per bottle. Bottles can be found on the table in the Gathering Room along with the cookbooks, which can also be purchased for \$18.00 each.



## **MEN'S GROUP**

Instead of their regular October 14th meeting, the Men's Group will be



taking a field trip that afternoon. They will tour Beck and Ness Woodworking LLC, 3337 North George Street in Emigsville at 2:00 pm.

Co-owner Mark Ness will give us a guided tour of their facility. Anyone wanting to stop for a meal afterward will have that option (location to be decided beforehand). Those who would like to carpool, can meet at the church and depart at 1:30 pm.



## **CARD and GAME CLUB**



We have started a group to play card and board games here at the church. Everyone is welcome, and if you don't know how to play certain games, there will be someone who can teach you. You can bring lunch or order in.

Those who participate have been having so much fun, they decided to meet twice a month instead of just once. Meetings are now the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month starting at 11:00 AM and playing until people are ready to stop. October's meetings will be on the 8th and 22nd. Come join in the fun one or both weeks.

If you have any questions, please call Janie Montgomery at (717) 891-3607 or Diana Myers at (717) 855-4752.



## **Women of Wonder**

Who? What? Where? When?

We are a group of women who just enjoy each other's company, conversation and compassion...while sharing a message of God's love to each other, our church family, and our community. We read scripture and share devotions. We offer advice, support, and sometimes a shoulder. We laugh together and find joy.

If this sounds like something you or a friend would like to do, please join us. Now that summer is over, we will be moving back to meeting at 11:00 AM on the 4th Saturday of each month. Our next gathering will be on October 25. Lunch afterwards is optional. Everyone is welcome. Text or call Ginny Weber (202) 549-4358 for more info.

## **MESSY CHURCH**



What is Messy Church? It's church, but not as you know it! Messy Church is a form of Community Outreach for families, friends and neighbors. It involves creativity, celebration and hospitality! It's church for people of any age and at all stages of their faith journey. A meal will be provided. Our next Messy Church gathering will be held on Friday, October 17, from 6:00-8:00 PM. The theme will be "Are You a Pumpkin?"

The Messy Church team is asking for volunteers to help with crafts and other fun activities. Any questions, see Sharon Stein.



On Sunday, October 12, from 6:00-8:00 PM, please join us for an old-fashioned Hymn Sing in the sanctuary, followed by refreshments. The public is invited and there is no charge.

This year's Fall Fest will be held on Saturday October 25 at 5pm in the church pavilion. We will be serving hot dogs and other food for dinner, guessing games, sand art, flashlight pumpkin hunt and Trunk or Treat. There will be a box in the gathering room for candy donations. Please sign up if you are attending, how many, and if you are participating in the trunk or treat. If you plan to participate please bring a dish to share.



## **CHAIR YOGA**

Are you looking for some gentle, easy exercise? Come check out our Chair Yoga classes! These classes are especially good for beginners. No equipment is necessary. Yoga is one of the most highly recommended forms of exercise for seniors! You can come occasionally, one, two or three times a week. Just come and give it a try! It's easy! Men, this is not for women only! You don't have to be a church member to participate. All are welcome.

Classes are from 10:00-11:00AM Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays here at the church. There is a \$10 fee for each class. Hope to see you there!



In Christ, you're a native of heaven right now ---  
You aren't a citizen of here trying to work into heaven.  
You're a citizen of heaven trying to work through here.

Ann Voskamp



## October 2025

Life isn't either/or.  
It's both.  
It's breathtaking joy,  
And the weight of heartbreak.  
It's shouting with excitement  
And whispering "I can't do this."  
It's laughing at 2 am  
And crying in the car.

It's the good.  
It's the hard.  
It's the in-between.  
And through it all, the ups & downs,  
It's still yours. A gift!

Rachel Marie Martin

"God's grace means something like: Here is your life. You might never have been, but you are. The party wouldn't have been complete without you. Here is the world. Beautiful & terrible things will happen. Don't be afraid. I am with you. Nothing can ever separate us. For you I created the universe. I love you. There's only one catch. Like any other gift, grace can be yours only if you reach out and take it."

F. Buechner



### STICK-TO-IT-TIVENESS

"Consider the postage stamp: its usefulness consists in the ability to stick to one thing until it gets there." Josh Billings

"Diamonds are only chunks of coal that stuck to their jobs." Minnie Richards Smith

## TASTE AND SEE

*When [Jesus] was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them.*

*Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. - Luke 24:30-31 (NRSV)*



Confession: I have a soft spot for candy corn. Not because it's my favorite candy, but because it was my grandpa's. Every year, when those bright orange bags appear in stores, I see him so clearly: filling the candy jar he always kept on the kitchen counter; offering a conspiratorial grin as he pours me a handful of those sweet, waxy triangles. When candy corn season arrives, my grieving heart rejoices, because I know that my grandpa will be especially near for weeks to come.

Maybe there are times of the year when the veil between this world and the next grows thin. Maybe there are even thin places—like that dusty road on the way to Emmaus—where it's easier for us to feel the presence of the ones we miss so much. And just maybe, as he broke bread that day with his grief-shattered friends, Jesus was teaching us something else as well: that the foods we share with one another in this lifetime hold the power to reunite us anywhere, anytime.

Maybe it's a tray of cookies fresh out of the oven that always takes you right back to her kitchen. Maybe it's a cup of hot tea with honey that lets you hear the sound of their voice again, just when you need it most.

Maybe it's a pack of Lifesavers—the kind he used to buy at the corner store for you—that lets you see his face, clear as day.

Or maybe it will be a simple loaf of bread, broken and shared, that lets you taste again the sweetest promise of all: "I am with you, always."



**Prayer-** *For the ones who have fed us so well, and who teach us to trust in the promise of abiding love, thanks be to God.*

Yael Lachman



## I SAW THE SIGN!

In a shoe repair shop:

"We will heel you. We will save your sole.  
We will even dye for you."

At an eye clinic:

"If you don't see what you're looking for,  
you've come to the right place."

On a plumber's truck:

"We repair what your husband fixed."

In a restaurant window:

"Don't stand there and be hungry.  
Come in and get fed up."

At a funeral home:

"Drive carefully. We'll wait."

On a septic tank truck:

"Caution-This truck is full  
of political promises."

Remember, we don't lead people to Jesus;  
Jesus leads people to Himself. All the  
pressure is off. Now, just go love everybody.

**Bob Goff**

## WHAT IS A PRAYER?

Prayer doesn't happen just when we kneel or put our hands together, to focus on and expect things from God. Thinking positive and wishing good for others is a prayer. When you hug a friend, that's a prayer. When you cook something to nourish family and friends, that's a prayer. When you send off your near and dear ones saying 'Drive Safely' or 'Be Safe', that's prayer. When you are helping someone in need by giving your time and energy – you are praying. When you forgive someone in your heart ...that is prayer. Prayer is a vibration, a feeling, a thought. Prayer is the voice of love, friendship and genuine relationship. Prayer is the silent expression of your being.

**Brenda Patnode**



"Around us, life bursts with miracles--a glass of water, a ray of sunshine, a leaf, a caterpillar, a flower, laughter, raindrops. If you live in awareness, it is easy to see miracles everywhere. Each human being is a multiplicity of miracles. Eyes that see thousands of colors, shapes, and forms; ears that hear a bee flying or a thunderclap; a brain that ponders a speck of dust as easily as the entire cosmos; a heart that beats in rhythm with the heartbeat of all beings. When we are tired and feel discouraged by life's daily struggles, we may not notice these miracles, but they are always there." **Thich Nat Hahn**

## HOWLING AT THE MOON

Sometimes my dog jumps up from where he is sitting in the house and begins barking frantically. My initial inclination, still, is to shush him and admonish him for "barking at nothing". But I always stop myself. I am aware that his hearing is many times more acutely tuned than mine, and what I perceive as "nothing" (or, more correctly, fail to perceive at all) is in actuality very real. And, not only does he hear it, but – I can tell when his ears perk up – he *listens*. Dogs gather a wealth of information about the world around them through their ears that we can only begin to fathom. If I take the time to think about it, I wonder what he hears that I do not. There are all kinds of clues and information provided by our environment that we are not privy to, simply by virtue of the limitations of the physiology of our species. But this is not just an inter-species issue...

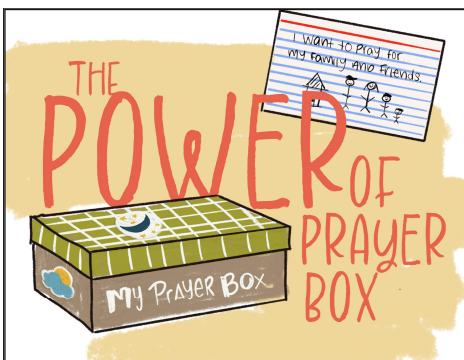


How often do we encounter people in our lives who react to things we perceive as "nothing"? If you ever get the urge to frustratedly tell someone to "calm down!", pause... set aside your own discomfort, and consider for a moment... Clearly their perception and understanding of this particular event or circumstance differs from yours, but consider in the moment that it may simply be *deeper*. Is their "over the top" reaction worthy of being dismissed, simply because yours is not as intense?

Rather than demanding calm, how can you better serve this person in a moment of distress? My bet is that you can do more to help them achieve calm by *listening*. Listening opens a space for healing. Listening is where communication and understanding begin. Listening is where compassion is born. And sometimes howling at the moon is just about needing to feel heard.

**Christiana McQuain**

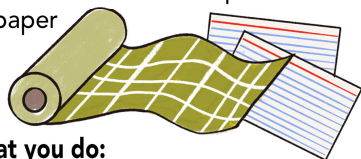




Create a simple and meaningful prayer box your family can use to share requests and pray together all week long.

#### What you need:

- Shoebox with lid
- Wrapping paper or decorative paper
- Scissors & tape
- Markers or crayons
- Stickers and other craft material (optional)
- Pens or pencils
- Index cards or small pieces of paper



#### What you do:

1. Wrap the shoebox like a gift, wrapping the lid separately so it can be opened.
2. As a family, decorate the box with drawings, favorite Bible verses, photos, or stickers.
3. Place the box somewhere central, like the kitchen or living room.
4. Keep index cards and pens nearby. When someone has a prayer request, they can write or draw it and drop it in.
5. Throughout the week, take turns praying over the requests as a family, or have a parent lead prayer time.

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.

—Colossians 4:2, NIV



## JESUS TRAVELED TO MANY PLACES

Jesus traveled to many regions, cities, towns and villages to preach the Good News. In the puzzle below, find and circle the names of some of the places. Can you find the names on the list?

Words can go left to right, up, down or diagonal—so look carefully in all directions!

BETHANY

BETHLEHEM

BETHSAIDA

CAESAREA PHILIPPI

CANA

CAPERNAUM

DECAPOLIS

EGYPT

EPHRAIM

GALILEE

JERICO

JERUSALEM

JORDAN RIVER

JUDEA

MAGDALA

MOUNT OF OLIVES

NAZARETH

PEREA

SAMARIA

SIDON

TYRE

WILDERNESS

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| B | M | L | E | T | C | U | S | G | O | T | O | B | T | H | E |
| E | J | O | R | D | A | N | R | I | V | E | R | E | M | N | S |
| T | U | E | U | E | N | A | R | B | Y | V | I | T | A | L | S |
| H | D | L | R | N | A | Z | A | R | E | T | H | H | G | A | E |
| S | E | G | E | I | T | S | S | S | G | Y | O | L | D | I | N |
| A | A | C | J | A | C | O | N | I | Y | R | P | E | A | R | R |
| I | D | E | E | A | C | H | F | D | P | E | H | H | L | T | E |
| D | E | H | R | E | R | E | O | O | T | A | L | E | A | S | D |
| A | C | O | U | T | H | P | A | N | L | T | I | M | S | W | L |
| C | A | E | S | A | R | E | A | P | H | I | L | I | P | P | I |
| H | P | P | A | A | Y | R | I | H | A | V | V | E | C | O | W |
| M | O | H | L | E | M | E | S | O | H | E | T | E | R | A | V |
| E | L | R | E | L | E | A | D | T | H | R | O | U | S | G | H |
| O | I | A | M | U | T | G | R | A | B | E | T | H | A | N | Y |
| L | S | I | I | L | G | A | L | I | L | E | E | E | E | F | R |
| O | M | M | C | A | P | E | R | N | A | U | M | M | A | R | K |