Bly Lines

News, Notes and Revelations from
St. John's Blymire's United Church of Christ

November 2026

IN THIS ISSUE

- Pastor's Message
- November Services
- Red Brick Chapel
- Birthdays and Anniversaries
- Financial Report
- Shut-Ins & Military
- Emmanuel's Closet
- Cookie Walk
- Gift Cards
- Men's Group
- Men's Breakfast
- Card & Game Club
- Celebrations
- Messy Church
- Chair Yoga
- Tree of Lights
- Soul Food
- Just For Kids
- November Calendar

From the Pastor's Desk

PASTORAL REFLECTION

As we move through the season of autumn, we are reminded of the many blessings that surround us: the changing leaves, the beauty of creation, the warmth of friendship, and the simple moments we often take for granted. These offer us reasons to pause and give thanks.

But gratitude is about more than saying "thank you" when something good happens. It is a way of looking at life. Even when life feels difficult or uncertain, there are often small gifts waiting to be noticed — a kind word, a helping hand, a shared laugh, or someone who reminds us that we are not alone.

As people of faith, we are invited to recognize God's presence in the ordinary moments of our lives. Gratitude helps us see that we do not walk this journey alone. God's love surrounds us, sustains us, and often reaches us through the kindness and generosity of others.

The challenge is to make gratitude a daily practice. Take a moment each day to name 1-3 thing(s) for which you are thankful. As the days go by, try to challenge yourself to name something beyond the obvious: a warm home, family, friends; widen your circle of gratitude. Then take the practice to the next step and offer a word of appreciation to someone who has made a difference in your life. Look for opportunities to share your blessings with others. Sometimes the smallest acts of kindness become the greatest expressions of thanksgiving.

As we approach Thanksgiving, may we remember that gratitude is not simply something we celebrate one day a year. It is something we live out every day — in our homes, in our church, and in our community.

May we have eyes to see our blessings, hearts open to God's goodness, and hands ready to share that goodness with others. And, may gratitude fill our hearts, strengthen our faith, and remind us that even in life's ordinary moments, there is much for which to give thanks.

Peace and blessings,
Pastor Brenda

WORSHIP SERVICES FOR NOVEMBER 2026

NOVEMBER 1, 2026 - ALL SAINTS' DAY **COMMUNION**

1 John 3:1-3 Called Children of God; Revelation 7:9-12 Around God's Throne
Sunday School: "A Journey With Jesus" led by Pastor Curt

NOVEMBER 8, 2026 – "Tending God's Light"

Matthew 25:1-13 10 Bridesmaids
Special guest - Andy Stump– ASAPH Ministries
Sunday School: "A Journey With Jesus" led by Pastor Curt

NOVEMBER 15, 2026 — Heritage Sunday **Honor 50 year members**

Cindy Innerst-Axe preaching
Sunday School: "A Journey With Jesus" led by Pastor Curt

NOVEMBER 22, 2026 – "**Reigning Compassion"** **Reign of Christ**

Matthew 25:31-46 Judgment of the Nations-sheep & goats
Sunday School: TBA

NOVEMBER 29, 2026 – **"Who Am I To Be So Blessed" 1st Sunday of Advent**

Luke 1:26-38 Mary's visit from the angel Gabriel
First Capital Brass will provide special music
Sunday School: "A Journey with Jesus" led by Pastor Curt

Help Us Preserve the Red Brick Chapel

Our historic **Red Brick Chapel** has been a cherished landmark in our community for generations, and now it needs our help. Built in 1855, St. John's Blymire's Red Brick Chapel has seen many updates and additions throughout the years, helping to preserve this special place for our church family and community. The most recent repairs were completed in 2010, and the time has come for several important projects to keep the chapel safe, beautiful, and in good condition for years to come.

The cost of this work is significant, and we are asking for your support. If you would like to help with this project, you may drop your donation off at the church office or mail it to St. John's Blymire's UCC, 1009 Blymire Rd., Dallastown, PA 17313. If writing a check, please indicate on the memo line "Red Brick Chapel." **Every contribution, large or small, will make a difference in helping us care for this historic treasure and preserve it for future generations.**

As we look to the future, St. John's Blymire's UCC would be delighted to welcome community groups, civic and other local organizations interested in using the chapel on a long-term basis. We also welcome those looking for a special and historic setting for weddings, funerals, social gatherings, meetings, and other short-term events.

It is our hope that the Red Brick Chapel will continue to serve as a welcoming place where people can gather, celebrate, remember, and connect for many years to come. If you would like to see or lease our beautiful chapel, please call the church office at (717) 244-0655.

Thank you! The Red Brick Chapel Committee, St. John's Blymire's UCC

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

May God Bless You on Your Birthday!

2. Susan Sheffer
   Lisa Miller
   Abigail Michaels
3. Jean McDowell
8. Michael K. Knaub
   Lynz Leader
10. Rod Eichelberger
12. Kenneth Miller
    Jessica Keller
    Barbara McNeal
13. Jean Nelson
14. Stephanie Frey
    Brenda Marin Enders
19. Josh Humbert
    Mark Ness
23. Ginny Weber
24. Justin McKinsey
26. Chase Matthews
    James Barley
27. Peggie Free

CELEBRATING NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Nov. 4 - Joel and Stephanie Frey - 48 years
Nov. 14 - John and Beth Herbst - 28 years
Nov. 28 - Chet & Gwen Wise - 63 years

FINANCIAL REPORT

Undesignated General Fund

Month-2026	Income	Expense	Net			
January	$5,463.00	$10,620.34	($5,157.34)	*		
February	$10,107.73	$13,291.23	($3,183.50)	*		
March	$19,611.00	$15,556.50	$4,054.50			
April	$11,527.00	$11,552.43	($25.43)			
May	$11,041.73	$10,997.41	$44.32			
June	$11,232.00	$13,736.92	($2504.92)			
July	$10,299.00	$11,599.96	($1300.96)			
August	$10,700.73	$10,978.62	($277.89)			
September	$8,649.00	$13,783.51	($5134.51)			
October						
November						
December						
Total	$98,631.19	$112,116.92	($13,486.73)			

*** Church services cancelled several weeks because of snow.**

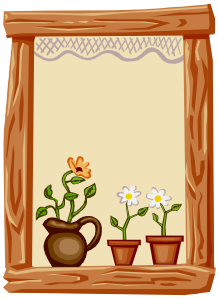
Balance of Undesignated General Fund @ October 1, 2026 ($2530.46)

Financial Assistance Given through Hand of Hope Fund - 2026

	# Families	Total $$$	Monthly Donations	Available Balance
Beginning				$ 245.22
January	5	$ 200.00	$ 550.00	$ 595.22
February	3	$ 150.00	$ 125.00	$ 570.22
March	7	$ 300.00	$ 160.00	$ 430.22
April	5	$ 150.00	$ 105.00	$ 385.22
May	2	$ 50.00	$ 125.00	$ 460.22
June	3	$ 555.00	$ 335.00	$ 240.22
July	2	$ 75.00	$ 105.00	$ 270.22
August	4	$ 175.00	$ 183.00	$ 278.22
September	4	$ 125.00	$ 110.00	$ 263.22
October				
November				
December				
Total	35	$ 1780.00	$ 1,798.00	

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS and those in need of PRAYER

Fran Doll
York South Nursing &
Rehabilitation
200 Pauline Drive
York, PA 17402
Fran's cell (717) 968-8754



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

Terry Doll
Memory Care Unit
Senior Commons
@ Powder Mill
1775 Powder Mill Rd.
York, PA 17403
Terry's cell (717) 968-2454

Joyce Horning
Room 320
Residence @ Fitz Farm
2200 Springwood Rd.
York, PA 17403
(717) 793-7221

Wendy Black
(Jeanette Black's daughter)
Room 210B
Pleasant Acres Rehab
118 Pleasant Acres Rd.
York, PA 17402

****

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

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EMMANUEL'S CLOSET

Thank you so much for your continued support of Emmanuel's Closet. If you are considering a donation, these are the items that we are most in need of right now: Mashed potatoes, gravy, canned yams, stuffing, canned hams, cream of mushroom soup, crispy fried onions, canned fruit, sloppy joes, assorted drinks, hot chocolate, cookie mix, pumpkin bread mix, marshmallow cream, peanut butter, granola bars, cereal, oatmeal, pop tarts, pancake mix/ syrup, dish liquid, shampoo, toothpaste. ** No cake or icing*

We are also in need of brown paper grocery bags with handles, the kind you get when picking up grocery orders or having them delivered to your house.

If you would like to make any monetary donations, you may place them in one of the envelopes in the marked basket on the Welcome Table. We will use those donations to help purchase grocery gift cards to give to our clients to buy meat and other perishable foods for their Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners. Thank you again for all your help.

COOKIE WALK

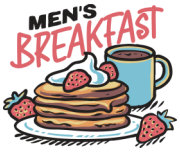
This year's annual Cookie Walk will be held Saturday, December 5, from 9:00 AM until noon (or sold out). Choose from a large selection of all types of homemade cookies. Buy as many as you like, mix and match flavors, all for just $12.00 per pound.

In order for this to be a success we need lots of cookies, so get out your cookbooks, mixing bowls and cookie sheets. Cookies may be dropped off at the church that week from 8:00AM-11:00AM on Wednesday, 8:00AM-1:30PM on Thursday and Friday, also Friday evening 6:30-8:00PM.

Need a quick and easy way to do your Christmas shopping and help your church at the same time? Purchase gift cards through our ongoing program. To get your cards, just fill out an order form (available on the bulletin board) and attach a check made payable to St. John's Blymire's UCC. You may drop the orders in the offering plate or place them on Wanda's desk in the office. Orders will be sent in each Monday morning. You may pick up your gift cards from Sandy Innerst at church the following Sunday.

MEN'S GROUP

The Men's Group will hold their next meeting at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, November 10th at the church. Local resident Kathy Gingerich will be presenting a really cool outdoor-themed program. The topic will remain a mystery until those in attendance guesses it. Everyone is welcome.



The men of our church have started an informal gathering at the Red Lion Corner Café in the Cape Horn Square Shopping Center. They meet for breakfast at 8:30 AM on the third Wednesday of each month. The next gathering will take place November 18.

All men are invited to join whenever they are able. Please let Mike Axe or Sterling Boyd know ahead of time if you will be attending that month so the restaurant can have enough tables reserved for everyone.

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.

We meet the second and fourth Wednesday of each month starting at 11:00 AM and playing until people are ready to stop. November's meetings will be on the 11th and 25th. If you have any questions, please call Diana Myers at (717) 855-4752.

The FUN Team will be hosting a social on the fourth Sunday of each month after the worship service. The purpose will be to celebrate those members whose birthdays or anniversaries fall during that month. **Our November celebration will be on the 22nd.** Please join us, especially if you are one of those being honored that day.

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, November 20, 6:00-8:00 PM. The theme will be "Thanks and Gratitude." Questions, see Sharon Stein.

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 held 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!

Tree of Lights

As we did in past years, we will be including a **"Tree of Lights"** as part of our service on Christmas Eve. You may sponsor a light in memory of or in honor of someone or just as a year end gift to help support our church. You can use the sponsorship form on the next page of this newsletter or pick one up from the Welcome Table in the Gathering Room. Help us put lots of colored lights on our tree this year. Thank you very much.

Tree Lighting Service
Christmas Eve, December 24
St. John's Blymire's United Church of Christ
1009 Blymire Road
Dallastown, PA 17313

Tree of Lights 2026

You may sponsor a light on the Christmas Tree:

In memory of a loved one

To honor a family member, mentor or friend

As a year end gift to our church

Please Note! – In order to be listed on the Scroll of Honor in the Christmas Eve bulletin, light sponsorships must be received by December 13th

$500 = Red Light

$100 = Blue Light

$ 50 = Green Light

$ 25 = Gold Light

$ 10 = White Light

(Sponsorship form on back)

Person giving the Light _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

TYPE OF GIFT:

IN HONOR OF: _____
(list name as you would like it displayed on the Scroll of Honor)

IN MEMORY OF: _____
(list name as you would like it displayed on the Scroll of Honor)

YEAR-END GIFT to St. John's Blymire's UCC _____

TYPE OF LIGHT:

_____ $500 Red Light

_____ $100 Blue Light

_____ $ 50 Green Light

_____ $ 25 Gold Light

_____ $ 10 White Light

Please drop your form and check in the offering plate or mail them to:

St. John's Blymire's UCC

1009 Blymire Rd.

Dallastown, PA 17313

In order to be listed in the Christmas Eve bulletin, forms must be received no later than December 13th

Questions? Please call the church office @ 717-244-0655

Silence is not only golden.
It is seldom misquoted.

Bob Monkhouse

If you would get arrested for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to prove it?

SOUL FOOD

Fear says, "what if?"
Faith says, "even if."

November 2026

"May our churches become like art classes where brothers and sisters are allowed a safe place to learn Christ by erasing, scribbling and coloring outside the lines. Less telling, more listening. Less monologues, more dialogues. Less conformity, more unity. Less celebrity, more family."

David Hayward

THE WORST THING

The worst thing you can be is not fat,
or ugly, or stupid.
The worst thing you can be,
is not different,
or awkward, or 'too much'.
The worst thing you can be,
unequivocally,
is locked in a prison of your
own self-doubt,
riddled with insecurities,
afraid to venture out into this life,
lest the world see who you really are.
In short,
the worst thing you can be,
is someone else.
When you were only ever
meant to be you.

Donna Ashworth

CONFIDENT IN HIM

Yes, life stinks. But it won't forever. As one of my friends likes to say, "Everything will work out in the end. If it's not working out, it's not the end." In the meantime, don't overreact. Psalm 37:7 (NLT) says, "Be still in the presence of the Lord, and wait patiently for him to act. Don't worry about evil people who prosper or fret about their wicked schemes." This is a toxic world. But neither do we join the Chicken Little chorus of gloom and doom: "The sky is falling, the sky is falling!" Somewhere between Pollyanna and Chicken Little, between denial and blatant panic, stands the levelheaded, clear-thinking, still-believing follower of Christ. Psalm 27:3 says, "My heart shall not fear—though war arise against me, yet I will be confident!" Confident in Him.

Max Lucado

PEOPLE GROW WHERE THEY'RE ACCEPTED

God said his plan for loving people on earth was us. He said people will know He delights in them when they feel unconditionally loved by those who share His name. Jesus never said anything about tough love. He didn't tell us to push people aways so they'd know the pain of loss of community. Those are just ideas people made up along the way to punish people.

God told us to welcome people into His love. People don't grow where they're merely informed; they grow where they are accepted. Don't cut people off from the source of love when they lose their way. Draw them back in close and breathe life back into them like Jesus did when he was here. Who might God be calling you to welcome?

Bob Goff

"Those little things that you alone see, aren't by chance. The sign, the squirrel, the cardinal, the dragonfly; the whisper, the song, the lily. It's Me. I'm always with you. I'll do anything to reach you... to give you hope, keep you on track, answer your questions. Look even closer!"

The Universe

A PRAYER FOR THE HARD DAYS

Lord, be with us today. Whisper into our heart how much you love us. On second thought, shout it because we don't hear that very well because of all the noise from the world. Give us the courage it will take to move into the future without carrying the heavy load of all the need and pain we see around us. Let us put it down knowing, you will carry it instead. **Patricia Ramsden**

WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR?

If your list is short — "My health, my family"— I get it. What could be more priceless, especially now? But think harder. Raising your gratitude game can make you feel happier during these unsettled times. Last year, when one of my yoga students quipped, "It's impossible to be grateful and unhappy at the same time," I had no idea how right she was.

Life is uniquely challenging right now. When unsettling news pins me to my chair, gratitude gives me back my power. I remind myself of how thankful I am for my sons; for each box, can and bottle in my pantry; and for the extravagant beauty of birds, flowers and trees that greet my walk. Being grateful shortens my freakouts and rivets my attention on what matters in this moment.

So why does gratitude so often elude us? It's human nature to obsess on things that are broken while barely noticing all that's working. Everyone's future feels uncertain. It's hard being grateful when times are so uncertain.Embracing gratitude may seem impossible when you're worried about your mortgage payment, half-empty refrigerator or the uncertain health of you or your relatives. Even those with ample resources are daunted by the current unpredictability of life But human life is always uncertain. Numerous spiritual teachings suggest that focusing on the good in your life creates more abundance. So if you can assist someone in need, offer a delivery person or retail worker a generous tip, or contribute money or time to organizations helping the hard-hit, do it — and feel grateful for being blessed to be able to help.

There are countless roads to gratefulness. My son began his own unique gratitude practice, "7 for 7". Nightly at 7 p.m., he sets a timer for seven minutes and uses the time to list everything he's thankful for. "When things start to get dark and the walls close in, I need to re-center myself," he says. "The best way is to thank God. I'm always surprised by how quickly the seven minutes passes. But then I realize there's never enough time in the day to say all the things I should be grateful for."

Between our vanished past and unpredictable future lies a realization: All we have is now. Moment by moment, I'm recognizing that gratitude is a choice — and a challenging one in a world of fear, anxiety, outrage and frustration. No matter what's happening, I try to remember what Psalm 118:24 suggests: "This is the day that the Lord has made." Why not try to "rejoice and be glad in it?" Choosing joy over pain and fear whenever possible doesn't just seem sensible — it's healthy. Being grateful has been scientifically proven to reduce anxiety and to boost immunity. Who doesn't need that now?'

Donna Britt

DOWN THE ROAD

Often, we look down the road of life, thinking happiness lies just a bit further ahead – maybe at the next turn, over the next hill. This road we're on will end someday. Let's not wait for a better tomorrow to find joy. Instead, let's embrace the beauty and gratitude of where we are today. After all, the true essence of life is found not in the destination, but in the journey itself.

A little girl was holding two apples; her mother asked for one. The girl quickly bit one apple and then the other. Her mother held back her disappointment. Then the girl handed one to her saying: "Here, this is the sweeter one"

The moral of the story:
Do Not Judge!

ADVICE FROM AN OLD FARMER

1. Keep skunks, bankers, and politicians at a distance.
2. Life is simpler when you plow around the stump.
3. A bumble bee is considerably faster than a John Deere tractor.
4. Words that soak into your ears are whispered, not yelled.
5. The best sermons are lived, not preached.

Bread Painting

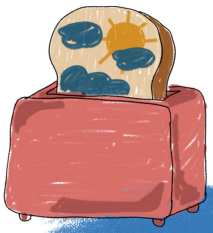
When you eat this fun snack,
be thankful for Jesus,
who is our Bread of Life.

What you need:

- Small cups
- Milk
- Food coloring
- Clean, food-safe brush
- Slice of bread
- Toaster or toaster oven
- Butter, optional

What you do:

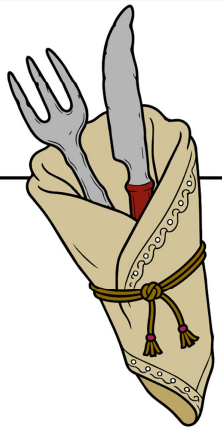
1. Set out one small cup for each color you want to use.
2. Pour 1 to 2 tablespoons of milk into each cup.
3. Add a few drops of food coloring to each cup and stir until the color is bright.
4. Using a clean, food-safe brush, gently paint a picture or design on the bread. Be careful not to soak the bread.
5. When you're finished painting, toast the bread. Add a little butter, if desired, and enjoy!



Reminder:
Ask an adult for help when using a toaster or toaster oven.

"I am the bread of life."
John 6:35, NIV

Puzzle!



A MIRACLE DINNER

Matthew 14:15–21 & John 6:1–14
is a Bible story about a special dinner.
Below is a poem about that story.

Complete the poem by filling in the blanks with the correct pairs of words.

then / men	rest / quest
true / you	began / ran
late / ate	faces / spaces
lunch / bunch	done / ton

Jesus was tired and went to find _____,
So away from the crowd he started his _____ .
It came to an end before it _____,
The crowd followed Jesus; they walked and
they _____.
His boat pulled ashore and he looked at
their _____ —five thousand men, plus families
filled all open _____.
And so Jesus spoke and he taught until _____.
The disciples told him it was time they
all _____.
Jesus said, "Yes, that is certainly _____,
and feeding this crowd is now up to _____."
Feeding five thousand! It could not be _____!
What would they do? They'd need a
whole _____!
But then a young boy came and offered
his _____ —five loaves and two fish to
feed this big _____.
Jesus gave thanks and blessed it and _____
it fed all the women, the children and _____!

Answers: rest, quest, began, ran, faces, spaces, late, ate, true, you, done, ton, lunch, bunch, then, men