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

November 2018

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From the Pastor's Desk



Greetings to you and peace from God our Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

I begin this month's message with a torrent of things running through my heart and mind. Just yesterday, I learned of the death of a dear person from the church I served near Hanover. She had been in the hospital a few times over the past year or so and was again in the hospital where they placed a feeding tube for her. She was to be released yesterday, but she died before she got to go back home. Also this week I learned that a couple of members have either gone through surgery or will be having surgery later this week for a variety of reasons. Along with that, some people have been going though various tests to determine what is happening with their health and received a diagnosis. On the up side, we are hearing that Frank Bosley is showing improvement and we certainly hope he will be able to come back to our area real soon. We certainly have a lot going on in the lives of people we hold near and dear. Each Sunday in our morning prayer time we list a number of friends and family members who are in need of prayer for whatever they are facing. And certainly we hold everyone of them in our thoughts and prayers every day.

As God's people, we can testify that in many of the trying times of our lives we may realize (looking back) that while we are in the throes of whatever we may be struggling with we may feel that we are battling this thing on our own. Sometimes we feel that we have exhausted the supply of strength we may have had and we just feel like we have reached the end. So then we sigh and say.... "God, I just can't handle it anymore." As I look back over my times of trial and have reached the point of turning it over to God, I realize that putting whatever I am struggling with into God's hands, the situation then turns around. And for all those I know who are facing trials and struggles in life, my prayers are that they may turn their situation over to God and place themselves in the loving hands of God before they reach the end of their supply of strength. One way to visualize this is to think of the illustration of Footprints. May we always remember that in our difficult times of life, God NEVER abandons us and makes us face these situations on our own. God ALWAYS carries us through the hard times!!!

One way to address difficult times may seem too hard to put into practice. We have all heard the phrase "In ALL things give praise to God." We definitely find it easy to praise God for all the blessings we receive and for all the joys and good times we share in life. But, to praise God for the pain, the heartache, the need for surgery, the diagnosis of chronic illness, the diagnosis of cancer, the loss of a loved one..... or whatever we are facing - to give praise to God in these situations stretches our human thinking. After all, we are taught to rely

on our own strength and understanding. To place things in God's hands may be the last thing we think about doing. But (if we could get to this point) to place all things in the hands of God before anything happens would give us His strength as we hear the diagnosis, as we hear the prognosis, as we hear what the road to recovery may entail, as we hear about or even face the loss of a loved one...at the very beginning of whatever comes our way putting all things in the hands of God gives us strength beyond understanding and the peace of Christ that passes all understanding. So, my hope and prayer for everyone is that you may know this strength and this peace ALWAYS and ALL-WAYS!

In a few weeks we celebrate Thanksgiving Day and as we gather with our loved ones we focus on what we are thankful for. May our first thoughts of what we are thankful for include gratitude to God for ALL things and for His strength in our lives for ALL times—the good and the bad. I know it is easy to always give thanks for the good things and I also give thanks that God carries me through the bad.

God Bless! With love - Pastor Lou Ann
HAPPY THANKSGIVING everyone!!!

SPECIAL SERVICES in NOVEMBER

Nov. 4 - Pentecost 24

Gospel: Mark 12:28-34 **Sermon:** "Heart and Soul"

Anthem: "Heaven Bound" Taylor/Drennan

Nov. 11 - Pentecost 25

Gospel: Mark 12:38-44

Sermon: "The Measure of Giving"

Anthem: "I Will Not Come Empty Handed" Crane/Barrett

Nov. 18 - Thanksgiving Sunday

Gospel: Mark 13:1-8

Sermon: "Give Thanks for ALL Things"

Anthem: "With Joyful Thanksgiving" Patterson

Nov. 25 - Reign of Christ

Gospel: John 18:33-37 **Sermon:** "King Jesus!"



Daylight Saving time ends Sunday, November 4, at 2:00 AM.

Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour.

HOMEWOOD AUXILIARY

You hold the key to success. The Homewood Auxiliary is the heart and soul of Homewood and their membership drive is now underway. When our representative, Stephanie Frey, asks for your support of the Auxiliary please say "YES." It only costs \$3.00 to join. Thank you.

SCHEDULE OF DUTIES for NOVEMBER

GREETERS:

November 4 - Nancy Taylor

November 11 - Janie Montgomery

November 18 - Gwen Wise

November 25 - Trudy Wise

GIFT COLLECTORS:

November 4 - Curt & Ginny Weber

November 11 - David & Susan McDowell

November 18 - Lonnie & Carol Barnhart

November 25 - Lynz Leader

LAY READERS:

November 4 - Sonja Ness

November 11 - Barb Adams

November 18 - Janie Montgomery

November 25 - Ginny Weber

ACOLYTES:

November 4 - Joel & Stephanie Frey

November 11 - Hannah & Barb Marshall

November 18 - Nelson & Marti Leader

November 25 - Lynz Leader & Joan Mickey

COFFEE SOCIAL HOSTS

November 4 - To be announced

November 11 - To be announced

November 18 - To be announced

November 25 - To be announced

SOUND SYSTEM OPERATORS:

November 4 - Terry Doll

November 11 - Ed Adams

November 18 - Chase Matthews

November 25 - Wyatt Myers

LIGHTING OPERATORS:

November 4 - Joel Frey

November 11 - Greg Ness

November 18 - Greg Ness

November 25 - Sterling Boyd

CAMERA OPERATORS:

November 4 - Greg Ness

November 11 - John Sterling

November 18 - Todd Miller

November 25 - Terry Doll

VIDEO OPERATORS:

November 4 - Sydney Brown

November 11 - Jeri Jones

November 18 - Judy Bishop

November 25 - Nelson Leader

ALTAR GUILD: Jean McDowell & Barb Adams

DEADLINE FOR DECEMBER NEWSLETTER: November 15

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS



May God Bless You on Your Birthday!

- 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
- Ryan Heindel Josh Humbert
- 23. Ginny Weber
- 24. Justin McKinsey
- 25. Carolyn Innerst
- 26. Chase Matthews
 James Barley

CELEBRATING NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Nov. 4 - Joel and Stephanie Frey - 40 years Nov. 14 - John and Beth Herbst - 20 years Nov. 18 - Stephen & Linda Flinchbaugh - 51 years

Nov. 28 - Chet & Gwen Wise - 55 years

FINANCIAL REPORT

Undesignated General Fund

Red Brick Chapel

Cemetery

Month-2018	Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Income	Expense
January	\$10,386.24	\$12,278.60	\$3.48	\$549.36	\$698.29	\$770.40
February	\$10,166.17	\$9,496.26	\$3.09	\$312.96	\$100.11	\$445.00
March	\$8,831.00	\$12,747.00	\$3.37	\$453.81	\$0.09	\$535.40
April	\$10,801.11	\$9,383.39	\$3.22	\$280.76	\$3,000.08	\$0.00
May	\$9,512.60	\$13,731.94	\$3.30	\$158.01	\$800.21	\$926.86
June	\$10,680.70	\$14,267.26	\$3.17	\$277.13	\$0.15	\$2,855.40
July	\$11,207.87	\$9,960.37	\$153.26	\$77.51	\$9,006.58	\$1,956.02
August	\$8,548.49	\$11,412.86	\$1.62	\$102.76	\$0.19	\$1,930.00
September	\$15,239.05	\$14,198.21	\$0.42	\$362.95	\$2,000.05	\$2,518.49
October						
November						
December						
Total	\$95,373.23	\$107,475.89	\$174.93	\$2,575.25	\$15,605.75	\$11,937.57

Balance of Undesignated General Fund @ October 1, 2018

(in September transferred \$4234.57 from CD interest)

(\$1,245.95)

Balance of Red Brick Chapel Fund @ October 1, 2018

(Includes \$49,039.31 Endowment)

\$74,226.64

Balance of Cemetery Fund @ October 1, 2018

(Includes \$774,028.76 CD's, Trusts, UCC Foundation-in July transferred \$9000

from the UCC Foundation to BB & T Bank)

\$780,557.05

Financial Assistance Given through Hand of Hope Fund - 2018

Tillanolai / losistanoc Given tilloagii Flana oi Flope											
	#		Total		Monthly		Available				
	Families		\$\$\$		Donations		Balance				
Beginning						\$	376.57				
January	2	\$	175.00	\$	62.55	\$	264.12				
February	4	\$	150.00	\$	67.65	\$	181.77				
March	1	\$	50.00	\$	69.01	\$	200.78				
April	2	\$	75.00	\$	79.82	\$	205.60				
May	5	\$	225.00	\$	382.60	\$	363.20				
June	1	\$	50.00	\$	62.21	\$	375.41				
July	1	\$	25.00	\$	82.27	\$	432.68				
August	3	\$	150.00	\$	90.86	\$	373.54				
September				\$	61.55	\$	435.09				
October											
November											
December											

Total 19 \$ 900.00 \$ 958.52

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

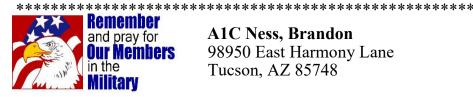
Freda Berry

The Haven at Springwood 2321 Freedom Way York, PA 17402 717-718-3615

Emerson Knaper 855 New School Lane Dallastown, PA 17313 717-244-5003



Peggy Luckenbaugh Room 704B Colonial Manor Nursing Home 970 Colonial Avenue York, PA 17403



A1C Ness, Brandon 98950 East Harmony Lane Tucson, AZ 85748

Please join us for a baked ham dinner on Sunday evening, November 18. Dinner will be served from 5:30 PM - 6:20 PM in the Bethlehem UM Church—Trinity Life Center Fellowship Hall (109 E. Main Street, Dallastown), followed by the Community Thanksgiving Service in the Bethlehem Sanctuary.

Dinner tickets are not being sold... however, all attending the dinner are asked to make a reservation. A free-will offering will be

taken. The dinner will serve as a fundraiser to support the Samaritan Fund – an important fund used by our local pastors to meet the needs of our neighbors who find themselves in economic difficulty.

You may pick up reservations forms from the Welcome Table in the Gathering Room. They may be put in the offering plate here or sent to B.U.M no later than Monday, November 12.

Even if you cannot come for the meal, you are invited to join us at 6:30 PM for the Community Thanksgiving Worship Service. Pastors from the Dallastown/Yoe Ministerium will be participating and there will be a community choir.

APPLE DUMPLING **FUNDRAISER**

Since everyone enjoyed the apple dumplings so much last month, the Fun

Team decided to sell them again. The cost is \$3.50 for regular and \$4.00 for sugar free dumplings. They contain no preservatives.

Order forms are available from Marti Leader or you can place an order on the sheet on the bulletin board in the hallway. Deadline for orders is Sunday, November 11, and they must be prepaid. Dumplings may be picked up at the church on Monday. November 26, from 4:00 PM-5:30 PM

TOILETRIES COLLECTION

We are still collecting toiletries for Helping Hands to give out at Christmas. We would love to be able to give everyone a bag. You may put your donations in the boxes under the coat rack in the hallway. Please try to keep items gender neutral. We will also be giving out bags to children, so kids' toiletries are needed as well. Thank you for supporting this project.



S.O.S. (SISTERS OF SERVICE)

The SOS will hold their next meeting on Monday, November 19, at 6:30 PM at the church. Devotions will be led by Linda Eichelberger and Diana Myers will provide refreshments.



FAITH KIDZ will be holding their meetings on November 14 and 28 at 6:30 PM. We will be working on gifts for the shut-ins, have a Thanksgiving celebration and other activities.



Our Women's Book Club will BOOK hold their November meetings on Tuesdays, November 13 and 27, at 10:00 AM in the Gathering Room. We are each reading our own books

and discussing them with others. New members are always welcome.

This year's annual bazaar will be held on Saturday, November 10, from 8:00AM-2:00PM. There will be a book and bake sale, crafts, jewelry, plants, etc. We will be serving a hot breakfast and lunch also,



so come shop, sit down to eat and socialize.

Keep working on those crafts and bring in any books that you would like to donate for our book sale. They may be dropped off in the last room on the left in the Sunday School hallway.

Our SERRV sale will also be part of our bazaar this year. Come and browse the beautiful handmade items from other countries. Each purchase you make will help these craftsmen and their countries. SERRV items will also be sold during the Cookie Walk.



On Sunday, November 25, Crafty On Sunday, 110.2222 Chicks from 2:00-4:00 PM Joan Mickey will be teaching us how to make stained glass Christmas ornaments.

The cost is \$15, which will include all materials. There is a signup sheet in the Gathering Room. Bring a friend and come join us for crafts, fellowship and fun.



MEN'S **GROUP**



Come join the men of Blymire on Tuesday, November 13, at 7:00 PM at the church. Bring a friend to the meeting. As always we have an open discussion on joys and concerns. Come join us for a time of sharing. REMEMBER ALL MEN ARE WELCOME.

LADIES TEA

On Saturday, November 24, at 3:00 PM you are invited to join us here at the church for a catered Tea Party. Various teas and sandwiches

will be served, followed by a Vintage Christmas program. The cost is \$25 per person. If you plan to attend, please sign up on the sheet in the Gathering Room. Deadline to register is November 18, with a maximum of 30 people. Invite your friends and neighbors to come for a fun afternoon of relaxing after the hectic Thanksgiving holiday.

Our all church Christmas party will take place on Saturday, and December 1, at 5:30 PM. Meats and drinks will be provided, but please bring a side dish to share



and a gift for our surprise guest to give to your child. After dinner there will be a special visit from the North Pole and a movie for the children. Bring your friends and camera to get that magical Christmas photo.



Cookie Walk

This holiday season would you like to serve delicious homemade cookies to your family and friends? Don't have time to bake all those cookies yourself? Baking is not

your thing? Your problems are solved!!

Come to our annual Cookie Walk on Saturday, December 8, from 9:00 AM til noon (or sold out). A large selection of all types of homemade cookies will be available. Buy as many as you like, mix and match flavors, all for just \$9.00 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 on Thursday, December 6, or Friday, December 7.

EMMANUEL'S CLOSET November 2018



Christmas Project

Christmas will be here soon and we have begun making preparations for Christmas gifts for the children of Emmanuel's Closet clients. If you

would like to help with this project, you can pick up a name tag from Greg Ness beginning November 4.

Each tag is numbered and will list the sex and age, along with suggested gifts for the child. This year there is no minimum on the amount of money spent on each gift. We hope this will encourage more people to participate.

We are also planning to give a gingerbread house kit to each family that signs up for gifts. If anyone would like to donate one of these kits, it would be appreciated.



All gifts and gingerbread kits should be brought to the church no later than November 25. They will be distributed on December 8 and December 15.

Cartridge Recycling

Don't forget to bring in your empty printer cartridges and place them in the box in the Emmanuel's Closet bin in the Gathering Room. This year we

were able get more than a hundred dollars worth of free school supplies from Office Max and Staples by using the rewards earned from recycled cartridges.



E.C. Continuing Needs

Juice

Cereal

Peanut Butter/Jelly

Spaghetti Sauce

Boxed Dry Pastas

Helper Meals

Dessert Items

Condiment Items

Canned Tuna/Meats

Canned Broth

Canned Fruit/Vegetables

Coffee/Tea

Deodorant, Soap, Shampoo

Toothpaste, Toothbrushes

Toilet Paper, Tissues, Paper Towels

Dish Washing Liquid

Laundry Detergent

All-Purpose Cleaners

Baby food, diapers, wipes

Children's books/toys

Small household items

Please, NO Expired Food Items

We are now accepting fall and winter clothing. Items should be clean, in good repair and unstained.

Below is a list of items that we are especially in need of right now:

Sauerkraut Canned sloppy joe **Boxed brownie mix** Canned mixed vegetables **Canned beets** Canned fruit (pears, peaches, pineapples, mandarin oranges) **Canned potatoes** Coffee Soap



Healing Hearts Inspirations

What you leave behind is not what is engraved in stone monuments, but what is woven into the lives of others.

Pericles

praising God the creator for His many wondrous gifts. It transcends Pilgrims and Native Americans; maize and cranberries. On a social level, it's a day on which we stop our busy lives to sit down with family and break bread as a unit. For many homeless people, it's when they can count on a special hot meal, even if they have to wait in line. (Please don't forget to contribute to charities like Helping Hands for the Homeless or Emmanuel's Closet, even in this bad economy.) And in its most primal state, Thanksgiving is just a bad day to be a turkey.

Rejoice in God and give thanks! Have a blessed Thanksgiving.

In its purest state, Thanksgiving represents a day set aside for the express purpose of



Our job is to love others without stopping to inquire whether or not they are worthy!

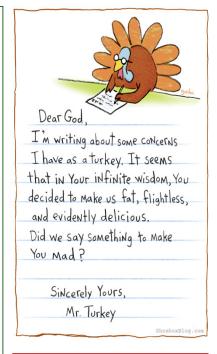
Thomas Merton

REFRIGERATOR ART

What's on your refrigerator? Do pictures of friends and loved ones grin at you? How about a picture of your pet? Maybe you've posted a child's drawing that makes you smile, or a favorite Bible verse to keep you inspired. Our creative expression on the refrigerator is a precious collection of life.

God displays his handiwork on this planet like a great big, giant fridge, and every creature that walks this planet is a panel of that fridge. Have you ever been walking along the trail and caught a deer grazing quietly, close enough to touch? Did you stop to reflect? As I've cleaned the kitchen and looked out the window over the sink, I have been amazed at a mockingbird stealing a piece of dog kibble from the bowl and swiftly flying away to feed her young. While you were stuck in traffic did you see and admire the flower that grew from a crack in the highway pavement? Stop to be amazed!

Displays of God's creativity will be all around you today. You might be the only person to see it, the only one to capture the moment with your eyes, your ears, or your taste buds, and the moment may be subtle and easy to miss if you're not careful. Don't miss the split second glimpses of the grandeur of God! We could consider that these glimpses of God exist to be special, secret messages just for us. We can walk thru each day hopeful, hungry and yearning for more glimpses. At the end of the today, think about what refrigerator art from God you collected today. Then go look in the mirror and see what His favorite creative project is.









MAKE PRAYER THE FIRST OPTION

It was a tense deacon's meeting. Apparently there was more agitation than agreement, and after a lengthy discussion someone suggested, "Why don't we pray about it?" To which another questioned, "Has it come to that?"

What causes us to think of prayer as the last option rather than the first? I can think of two reasons: feelings of independence and feelings of insignificance. We think, God doesn't want to hear my problems. He's got famine and the Mafia to deal with. I don't want to trouble him with my mess. The last thing you should worry about is being a nuisance to God. If that's your thought, may I share with you a favorite verse of mine? "Because He delights in me, He saved me." (Psalm 18:19).

God can live anywhere in the universe and he chose your heart. He's crazy about you!

Why don't you talk to him?

Max Lucado



Life goes by in the blink of an eye. It's too short to live upset, angry, resentful or ungrateful. If you look for the good, you'll find it. Choose to be happy, to be at peace. Decide that each day is going to be a great day and grab each moment and make the best of it. Refuse to let negative thoughts take root in your mind and refuse to let negative people and situations drag you down. Trust your journey and know that if you make a mistake, it's okay. See it as a lesson learned and keep moving forward. Spend less time worrying and more time being grateful for those who love you and all of life's goodness. Choose to live in joy.

Charity M. Richey-Bentley

"Communion with the Father is not a formal time to remember that God is there. At any moment during your day or night you can turn your gaze toward your Father and share your time with Him — while you are walking or driving home, while your are eating, when you see something beautiful, or when you play with your children or grandchildren. Invite your Father to become a part of your life and you will start living as if He was always with you, because it is so, even if many still have not consciously experienced this fact."

In one of His aspects, a very touching aspect, the Lord may be said to be a beggar. He yearns for our attention. The Master of the Universe, at whose glance all stars, suns, moons, and planets quiver, is running after man and saying:
"Won't you give Me your affection?
Don't you love Me, the Giver, more than things I have made for you? Won't you seek me?"
But man says, "I am too busy now; I have work to do. I can't take time to look for You." And the Lord says:
"I will wait."

Paramahansa Yogananda

You don't get to choose how you're going to die. Or when. You can only decide how you're going to live. Now.

Joan Baez

"Crunching, crinkling autumn leaves, Spiraling, swirling in the breeze."



Revelations for NOVEMBER from "Bly Mire" Mouse

Ahhh.. November! (Already) But, this is the beginning of my favorite time of the year! OH..... Not because of the cold weather with the bitter winter winds!!!! NO WAY!!! Think about it. I am a mouse and we are not as blessed as other species in the animal kingdom. Sheep are able to grow thick, heavy wool coats! Cats, dogs, apes, etc. all have fur coats to keep them warm. What do I have? A "peach-fuzz" coat of fur. Does that do a good job of keeping me warm? It would be like any one of you putting on a wind-breaker in a sub-zero wind

chill. So I really do not like winter weather! But, the upside is that Mire is an AMAZING knitter! She can knit a sweater for me in no time! And since sweaters for the little ones take less time, she can be like a knitting production line! I will tell a little secret of Mire's..... She loves to sit in the corner when Crafty Chicks (and Roosters too) meet and she will watch and learn some of the knitters techniques the people share. She has learned a lot over the years!

Actually the reason I love this time of year is for the holidays! I am not so much in to Halloween except for the little ones and getting them out for Trick or Treating. I do love being out at the church's Fall Fest. Boy, are you people GOOD cooks!!! And there are always tid-bits that are dropped so that I and my family also get a bunch to eat. We also will scoot around and find candy that the kiddos overlook. So we do make out real good in the candy department!

My favorite holidays are in November. The 1st is All-Saints Day and I always take a moment to remember the people of my church who have passed and are now in Heaven. I loved knowing them at Blymire's and I give thanks for them! Of course, Thanksgiving Day with the food, parade, food, football, food and all the family visits and food! What a day! But also in November is Veterans' Day and I always give thanks for all the veterans and what they gave of their life for our country! THANK YOU ALL WHO SERVED and ARE SERVING!

Now I am not one to get into the Christmas count-down, but we know that we are less than two months from the birthday of our Lord! I definitely LOVE all the elements of Christmas and all the activities at church! (especially the Christmas Party and the Cookie Walk!) I hope you make a point to participate in these awesome and fun activities! Praise God for this MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR! (Did you get another ear-worm???? Hee-hee)

Now, for our monthly humor: A young man with a terrible stuttering problem went to a renowned therapist. The method of treatment was for the young man to talk with his mouth filled with marbles. Every week he was allowed to take one out. Amazingly, his speech began to improve. Finally, after he had lost all his marbles, he became a preacher.

With our love,

From the Church Mouse

WELCOME

Your faith-friends,

BLY and MIRE and family!



Enjoy searching for seasonal aspects of God's creation!



What you need:

- · Family members and friends, divided into groups if desired
- Maps of local areas
- · Lists of fall-related items (one per person or group)
- Digital cameras or smartphones
- Prizes

What you do:

- 1. Hand out maps and lists of items (scarecrow, pumpkin, red leaf, squirrel, apple tree, pine cone, acorn, bug, bird, sunflower, etc.)
- 2. Instruct participants to walk through their assigned area, find and take photos of the items, and report back at a specific time.
- 3. When everyone returns, share your photos. Award prizes for the most items found, the most unusual item and so on.

