

GRAPEVINE

"The Pastor's Page"

October 24, 2023

The Full Stop

The "full stop" is a period. It's the small dot at the end of a sentence, marking the end of the sentence. It can also be used to stop an abbreviation - such as Rev. McClure. It *also* is "used interjectionally to emphasize the finality of the preceding statement." There's nothing more that comes afterwards. If we were to ask what is the most important Christian virtue, or what is the most important thing for a Christian to focus on, the *full stop* is love. It's the most important thing without any doubt or question.

In the Greek, there are a number of words for love - romantic love, family love, friendly love, but the *love* we are speaking about right now is the one called "agape" love. It's the unconditional love that God has for us and the one Christ demonstrates, radically, through his mission and ministry in the world, and it's the one we are called to reflect. It's the love we were created with. It's the love John speaks about. It's the love Paul writes about.

C.S. Lewis, in his book *the Four Loves*, talks about agape love as a love that does not directly benefit the self - it's a divine love that allows us, as human beings, to love that which is not naturally loveable, to love completely and absolutely. There is no aim or objective with agape love - it simply is. It is not boisterous, or loud on the emotional spectrum, it's not an easy or simple thing, it doesn't have the warm fuzzy feeling inside that we might hope for, when say we love our parents, or our partners, or our children, or our family - it's a love that undercurrents the entire human experience. Agape love connects us all together because we are made from it ourselves.

It is the greatest commandment. To love. To love God with *everything*. All of you - your physical activity, your spiritual activity, your emotional activity - is called to love God. And secondly, you are called to love your neighbor as yourself.

37 Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

But notice verse 40. Read it again. If we could add to "full stop," in this case, it's verse 40. Another way of thinking about this verb is "suspended." The whole bible sits on top of this agape love - you must learn to do this in your discipleship before you will be successful at anything else, and you must come back, again and again to the greatest commandments: agape love for God, agape love for everyone.

Peace, sisters and brothers in Christ. I love you all!
Pastor Caleb

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Happy Birthday to...

November 1

Jacque Curll

November 2

Luke May

Pam Phillips

November 3

Cherie Black

Hope Sanders

November 4

Barry Simon

John Traflet

November 5

Andrea Crowe

Lori May

November 6

Lydia Casteel

Chase Tritle

November 7

Colin Burke

Kellen Rossman

Chase Whiteman

November 8

Cian Fitzgerald

November 9

Libby Crowe

Matt Fair

Abby Fernandes

Kendal Sease

November 10

George Marguglio

Barry Wareham

November 11

Richard Maue

Heidi Merwede

November 12

Donna Curll

November 15

Joseph Swatsworth

November 16

Vickie Hudock

November 17

Krista Delacruz

Dave Eskildsen

November 18

Jennifer Daniels

Joanna McGuire

John Strevig

November 19

Barbara Dombrowsky

Nathan King

Gale Pollock

Becki Powell

Tyler Weikert

November 20

Steve Kinsey

Laura Lochary

Deborah Snyder

November 21

Cathy Gardner

Jon Holler

November 22

Miles Decker

Kim Hain

Joanna Suarez

November 23

Jim Biggar

Beth Jones

November 24

Max Bernier

Kennedy Brown

Gary Hubble

Felicity Sarnoff

November 25

Benjamin Dudash

Niles Ellingson

November 26

Elizabeth Hiller

Lindsey North

November 27

Vernon Reed

Carrie Conklin

November 28

Caitlyn Landauer

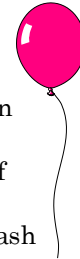
Susan Landauer

November 30

Taylor Breighner

Emma Sanders

Paige Stewart



Fantastic Turnout for Rise Against Hunger!

Our congregation and community came together on October 17th to do something really incredible. With Rise Against Hunger (RAH) we packed over 24,000 meals to be distributed to food insecure regions of the world! Your response was amazing as we raised over \$12,700 for the cause and had over 150 volunteers show up that afternoon to do the work and enjoy the camaraderie at GPC! Children, young people, and adults of all ages found their niche in filling, measuring, packaging, sealing and boxing these meals in a fun and purposeful way. Only \$9500 was needed for purchasing the supplies we packed with, so the additional \$3200 raised will support even more meals for hard hit communities through RAH. Our thanks for the wonderful support of the Gettysburg HS men's soccer team and the Gettysburg College women's volleyball team for showing up in a big way again this year! We are so appreciative of the support and involvement of our wonderful congregation and community in this important work!

Your feedback about the event and suggestions for future events is encouraged and welcomed by the GPC Missions Team: Tom Kolmer, tomkolmer@gmail.com, 717-634-0258

2024 Stewardship Campaign

While we are always grateful to God for the many blessings and gifts we have received, at this time of year we prayerfully consider our financial support of GPC as an expression of gratitude to God.

“Sharing Our Gifts” is the theme of the 2024 stewardship campaign, inspired by 1 Peter 4:10: **“Each of you should use whatever gift you have to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms” (NIV).**

The campaign will begin on Sunday, October 29 and end on pledge Sunday, November 19. Giving generously will ensure that we can continue to support all of the good works of our church.

Congregational Meeting October 29th

Dear GPC Members,

The election for elders, deacons and Nominating Committee members this year will take place following the 9:30 unified service after the conclusion of service on Sunday, October 29.

The following members have been nominated by the Committee:

Elders-Class of 2026
Dave Boyer, Richard Hagee, Merida Hurkett,
Kelly Jones, and Shane Sellers.

Deacons-Class of 2026
Leslie Casteel and Lois Kime,
Renewal of term for Sarah Kirk and
Mary Ann Remaley

Nominating Committee members-Class of 2026
Ellie Cleaver
Renewal of terms for Beth Fitzpatrick and
Mary Miner

Respectfully submitted,
Larry Wolf, Chair of Nominating Committee

**REMINDER:
Daylight Savings Time
ends on November 5th**



Be sure to turn your clocks
**BACK ON SATURDAY,
November 4th.**



Mission Bright Star

On **Sunday, November 19th** you will have an opportunity to participate in our church's annual Mission Bright Star program. Mission Bright Star is a ministry in which members of our congregation purchase gifts for children whose father or mother is a resident in the Adams County Correctional Facility during the Christmas season. Our church has been involved with this local ministry since 1993.

Details regarding participation in Mission Bright Star will be announced during the church services on November 19th. The sign-up for the program will occur immediately after each service in Fellowship Hall.

As in the past, your willingness to share the love and compassion of Christ with others is greatly appreciated. Thank You

HIGH SCHOOL FELLOWSHIP

October / November

Oct. 29	5:30 - 7:00 p.m.	Fire Pit in GPC Parking lot
Nov. 5	5:30 - 7:00 p.m.	Discussion/Games
Nov. 12	5:30 - 7:00 p.m.	Discussion/Games

Mid-SHIP SCHEDULE

October / November

Oct. 29	5:30 - 7:00 p.m.	Fire Pit in GPC Parking lot
Nov. 5	5:30 - 7:00 p.m.	Fellowship & Games
Nov. 12	5:30 - 7:00 p.m.	Fellowship & Games

YOUTH CLUB

October / November

Oct. 29	4:30 - 6:00 p.m.	Halloween Party Costumes
Nov. 5	4:30 - 6:00 p.m.	Beatitudes at GPC
Nov. 12	4:30 - 6:00 p.m.	Beatitudes at GPC

Church Women United

Adams County Church Women United will celebrate WORLD COMMUNITY DAY on Wednesday, November 1, 11:30 a.m., at Gettysburg Church of the Brethren, 1710 Biglerville Rd. Please bring a bagged lunch; desserts & beverages will be provided. Special welcome to newcomers; no reservations needed.

Men's Interfaith

All men are invited on Wednesday, November 1st at 12:00 noon for light lunch (\$5.00) and camaraderie in Fellowship Hall, followed by humor and worship in the sanctuary. This is an interfaith gathering, and is open to all men who would enjoy the time together, and appreciate a message from a local minister.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR
(ages 3 to 5th grade)
 Meets every Sunday
 during the 11AM
 Worship Service

NEED A RIDE?

If you are having trouble attending church services and/or church functions due to not having transportation, let the Deacons help you.

Oct. 9 - Nov. 12 contact Mary Ann Remaley at: 717-642-8334.

Nov. 13 - Dec. 10 contact Ross Brownley at: 717-873-5395.

Our November potluck get-together will be on **Thursday, November 9th at 12 noon.**

Welcome to all aged 50+ members of GPC; Newcomers are always welcome to “try us” out for fellowship.

What to expect: We will provide the chicken, so you can bring salads, sides or dessert to go along with our main course (chicken). Following lunch, we will adjourn downstairs to the MacSkill Room for a presentation by two costumed historic impersonator young ladies, witnesses of Gettysburg at the time of the battle and beyond. This will be a good carry-over following our October trip to “Beyond the Battle” museum and before this year’s annual Remembrance Day events.

A donation will be taken to cover the cost of the chicken. All are welcome to attend with side dish and invite friends . To ensure that enough food is ordered and a seat is reserved for you, **EVERYONE please RSVP Rachel Parmentier (cell phone): 1-443-994-0241 or email Rachel at Rasong@aol.com. by Friday, Nov. 3rd, 2023.**

“Calendar of Giving”

The Calendar of Giving is an opportunity for our congregation to support numerous local organizations. Through this program, we identify local organizations that are in need of smaller donations. Each month, we will be collecting specific items for the identified organization. Please put your donations in the bin by the elevator.

For the month of:
November

We will be collecting items for
Gettysburg C.A.R.E.S.

Instant coffee and hot chocolate, tea bags, hot beverage cups, anti-bacterial wipes, Soft Soap/hand sanitizer, laundry detergent, dryer sheets, multi-purpose cleaner, toothpaste, deodorant, canned soup, pudding cups, cookies, crackers and granola bars.

**FUN AND
FELLOWSHIP
FOR ALL AGES.**



**GAMES,
MUSIC,
CANDY,
FUN, FUN, FUN!**

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26TH,
6-8 P.M., FELLOWSHIP HALL**



POT LUCK DINNER
Please bring a dish to share, if able.
BUT MAKE SURE TO ATTEND.

PUMPKIN PAINTING AND DECORATING.
Pumpkins will be provided.

PUMPKIN PARADE for everyone to view our talents.

PLEASE WEAR A COSTUME but it's not required

Please sign up in Fellowship Hall

Where Do I Find Stephen Ministers at GPC?



Confidentially Caring for Others

Contact:

Rev. J. Caleb McClure, Senior Pastor
Pam Phillips, RN., Faith Community Nurse
Judith Morris; Referral Coordinator

Everywhere you look!

Session

Elder Whit Coombs, Stephen Minister (on sabbatical)

Minute for Mission

Andy Miner, Steven Minister & Leader

Bear One Another's Burdens

Jen Clark, Stephen Minister & Leader

Grief Support Group

Anne Gallon (Stephen Minister & Leader on sabbatical)
Diane Weikert, Stephen Minister

Healthcare

Pam Phillips, RN, attending Stephen Leader Training

Time to get your “HO, HO, HO” on!

Are you crafty, clever, and generous? Then we need YOU for Christmas Mission Fair!

The Missions Team is beginning to collect for the following:

1. **Craft Sales:** good quality crafts of all types with a Christmas theme (toy cars, decorations, knit or sewn goods, ornaments, gifts that kids can give, etc.)
2. **Silent Auction:** interesting and creative offerings that are unique and of good value (lawn services, gift baskets, vacation get-always, sports team bundles, golf packages, unique gifts)
3. Be thinking about the **Bake Sale** that will happen on Dec 10th as well!

With your help and participation, we can make this Christmas Mission Fair a huge success on December 3, 10, and 17th. Please contact Tom Kolmer at 717-634-0258, tomkolmer@gmail.com to discuss your ideas. Items labeled “CMF23” can be dropped at the church office.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Mark your calendar for FUN...Christmas Mission Fair is just a snowflake away!

The annual GPC Christmas Mission Fair (CMF) will be held this year on December 3rd, 10th, and 17th. All of your favorite activities will be available! Direct Giving Letters, Craft Sales, and Silent Auction will be available each of these dates before, during, and after church hours. Additionally, on the 10th we will hold the CMF gathering from 4:00-7:30 which will include penny games for the kids, a bake sale, food sales, special music and fellowship! Please invite your neighbors, friends, and family to join us for this special time of sharing and fun with your GPC family! All proceeds help fund Mission trips and projects in Adams County and around the world! Thank you in advance...See you at the Fair!

2023
Advent
DEVOTIONALS

Tales of
Christmases
Past



Gettysburg Presbyterian Church
www.gettysburgpresbyterian.org

It's time to start preparing our Advent Devotional 2023, entitled "Tales of Christmases Past." This is a congregational project, and we need your submissions. Inspirational stories, memories, poems, photos, or drawings are requested.

A page for the Devotional booklet will be made using your submission. There will be a page in full color for each day of Advent with a memory, story, poem, photo or drawing, plus a scripture and/or prayer. The first Sunday of Advent 2023 is December 3rd. Please submit your story, poem, photo or drawing by **November 12th** so that the booklets can be printed in time. If you have any questions or would like to submit a devotion please email

Kathy.Mellott@gmail.com


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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Gettysburg Presbyterian Church Mission Statement

Gettysburg Presbyterian Church believes that God calls us to invite people to faith in Jesus Christ, and equip them to grow as His fully devoted followers. As disciples we:

- * study regularly
- * pray daily
- * witness boldly
- * live faithfully
- * serve passionately
- * give generously
- * worship weekly



**Next Newsletter Deadline:
Noon, Thursday, November 2, 2023**

**October / November 2023
GPC WORSHIP SCHEDULE
Traditional Worship @ 8:30 a.m.
Contemporary Worship @ 11:00 a.m.**

October 29	9:30 a.m. Combined Worship (NO Sunday School) Rev. J. Caleb McClure Preaching
November 5	Rev. J. Caleb McClure Preaching Communion

To view live stream, go to: www.gettysburgpresbyterian.org
Just below the announcement pictures.