

# GRAPEVINE

## "The Pastor's Page"

November 7, 2023



### Legos and Tacos

Do you like Legos?

Do you like Tacos?

Have I got some good news for you. On November 16th, we are combining (I know, ludicrous) those two things into one evening of laid back, creative, and delicious fun. I hope you can find time to join us as we sit in fellowship together, from the youngest of our church to the oldest, all are welcome!

And isn't that last part why these events are so important and vital for our congregation? Acts 2:46-47 reads: "Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved." (NIV)

The community of believers is invited to come together, frequently, to eat, play, and pray together. Our fellowship nights are one way that we can practice this, because this is just as important as a bible study, or a prayer group, or a Sunday school class, or worship.

I hope you sit with someone new (to you!), I hope you take time to just be present, I hope you enjoy some tacos, and I hope you make something fun - just for the fun of it! Because this is *koinonia* - Christian Fellowship.

Peace,  
Pastor Caleb (Lego maniac)

PS - If you have extra Lego that you'd like to share, or duplo, please contact me ([caleb@gettysburgpresbyterian.org](mailto:caleb@gettysburgpresbyterian.org)) or Pete North ([pnorth@gettysburg.edu](mailto:pnorth@gettysburg.edu)).

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At our State of the Congregation meeting, the Worship and Music Committee was asked to provide data on worship numbers with our new schedule.

Here are **AVERAGES** to date: (Effective 9/1 through 10/29/23)

**Combined Sunday School** (Adult and Children) = 78 *No Sunday School 10/29/23*

### Worship Services:

Combined services = 174

8:30 am services = 123

11 am services = 82

## Exploring Membership Class: November 19

If you are interested in becoming a member of our church or just interested in learning more about GPC, an Exploring Membership Class will begin on November 19 following the 11:00 a.m. worship service. Contact Pastor Caleb in the office for more information or to sign up: [caleb@gettysburgpresbyterian.org](mailto:caleb@gettysburgpresbyterian.org).

**2023**  
Advent  
DEVOTIONALS  
*Tales of  
Christmases  
Past*



Gettysburg Presbyterian Church  
[www.gettysburgpresbyterian.org](http://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](mailto:Kathy.Mellott@gmail.com)

Our thoughts and prayers are with:

Lori May on the recent death of her father.

Jon Holler on the recent death of his grandfather.

The family of Nancy Bushey upon her death.

*Condolences*

## 2024 Stewardship Campaign

Please bring your completed pledge cards to church on Pledge Sunday, November 19. Before then, consider praying about what kind of commitment God calls you to make. Our financial support of the church expresses our gratitude to God for all of the gifts and blessings we have received. If we give generously, we can continue to support all of the good works of our church.

### Asking Budget: A Note from the Finance Committee

We give thanks for our congregation's tradition of generously supporting the annual stewardship campaigns, but over the past few years, GPC's pledging commitments have not kept up with the rate of increases of activities and operating costs. So how have we survived this shortfall? Mainly during Covid, operating expenses were reduced and also, we received a large government grant (PPP). These surpluses have allowed us to carry over (bank) monies for the last several years and thus allowed us to fully fund the operating budget. However, these funds have now been exhausted and we must rely on pledges from the Stewardship Campaign to provide the base of funds necessary to meet our operating budget. We need approximately a 12% increase in pledges to fund the operating budget. In addition, we recognize and appreciate that some members may not be comfortable making a formal pledge and we certainly need your additional support as well. If you have questions about the budget, the Finance Committee will be available between services during the stewardship campaign.

### GPC Hiking Club

We will be hiking on Saturday, 11/18. We will leave the church parking lot at 10 am. We are going to be hiking near Waynesboro at the Monterey Pass. Wear layers and bring a lunch. This weekend was beautiful for hiking. Hope you got to enjoy it.

[JenniferMaueClark@gmail.com](mailto:JenniferMaueClark@gmail.com)

We look forward to seeing you! Happy Hiking!



## Advent for Families

A time for kids and for parents!

December 6th, 13th and 20th

5:30 to 7pm

*\*includes dinner*

Each Wednesday we will be focusing on Hope, Peace and Joy to help lead us through the Advent season.

There will be a time for parents and kids separately and then combined dinner.

*(kids portion will be geared toward ages 3 to 3rd grade but full family is welcome and nursery care will be provided)*

for more information contact: [kyle@gettyburgpresbyterian.org](mailto:kyle@gettyburgpresbyterian.org)



## Christmas Mission Fair Games

We are looking for volunteers to help with games/activities. Time slots are for 30mins between 4:30pm and 7pm. Games and activities are simple to run and instructions will be at each station. This is meant to be fun and all proceeds go to support the Christmas Mission Fair! Sign-up sheets are in Fellowship Hall by the automatic doors.



## Calling All Glasses

One of our most popular games at the Christmas Fair is the Penny Pitch. If you missed out on donating to the rummage sale and still need to find a new home for some of your glassware, we would be happy to help. Please bring washed glassware to the church office by the morning of December 10<sup>th</sup>.



## Embark on a journey of wonder and enlightenment with Middle School Sunday School!

Are you passionate about shaping young minds, fostering spiritual growth, and making a positive impact on the lives of middle school students? We have an exciting opportunity for you!

We are in need of two (or more) adults to lead our Spring term (Jan thru May). We have a variety of easy to use curriculum that is "topic" focused for the age group. Clearances are required.

***If interested, please contact [kyle@gettyburgpresbyterian.org](mailto:kyle@gettyburgpresbyterian.org)***





**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**

**November**

- Nov. 12 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. Discussion/Games
- Nov. 19 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. Discussion/Games
- Nov. 26 NO SHIP - Thanksgiving break

**Mid-SHIP SCHEDULE**

**November**

- Nov. 12 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. Fellowship & Games
- Nov. 19 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. Fellowship & Games
- Nov. 26 NO MidSHIP - Thanksgiving break

**YOUTH CLUB**

**November**

- Nov. 12 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. Beatitudes at GPC
- Nov. 19 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. Gratitude
- Nov. 26 NO Youth Club - Thanksgiving break

**A GREAT SUCCESS**

The Presbyterian Women Committee and GPC women (and men) had a very successful Rummage and Bake sale on October 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023 in Fellowship Hall. The proceeds were **\$3635.00** and **\$440.00** from the Bake/lunch sale bringing the total to **\$4075.00**, which, along with future proceeds, will be given to local nonprofits through the Gettysburg Giving Spree. **Thank you to Everyone** - those who baked and donated their wonderful treats; those who worked the kitchen-providing lunch- barbeque and hotdogs and selling baked goods. Of course, this sale could not have happened without all of those who gave their treasures for us to sell. And thanks especially to all the **VOLUNTEERS** who worked very hard this week; each day they assisted with sorting, pricing, and walking throughout the room assisting patrons find things; to those who helped Saturday post sale tearing down, cleaning up and putting away. God Bless to everyone and again **THANK-YOU!**



PW Committee Members

**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.

**PW Circles meet:**  
**Mary/Martha Circle** - Nov. 9  
 4:00 p.m. Second Thursday of the month in the Eisenhower Lounge

**Esther Circle** - Nov. 16  
 9:30 a.m. Third Thursday of the month in the MacAskill Room

**Elizabeth Circle** - Nov. 20  
 1:00 p.m. Third Monday of the month in the Paideia House

We will be discussing Lesson 3, "A Bleeding Woman Christ Encounters". Each chapter is about a different encounter so you can join in, any time. There are still books available. Please call Margo Har at 978-807-3750 or stepmargo@comcast.net. Or there are books in the PW mailbox outside of the office you can take and just let me know. They are \$10. Thanks!

**We would welcome your help decorating the church for Advent on**

**Wednesday, November 29 10:00 a.m.**

Please contact Margo Har if you would like to volunteer 978-807-3750.

**"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.

## ***Dashing through the snow?...Everyone is!***

To get to the GPC Christmas Mission Fair, that is! Join us on December 3, 10, and 17 during Church hours and again from 4:30-7:00pm on the 10th for all the fun! You will have the opportunity to shop the great selection of Craft Items, and Presbyterian Coffee Project offerings, and to participate in the fantastic Silent Auction at GPC! Plan some time to browse all the gifts on display in Fellowship Hall on these dates! It is sure to turn any old grinch into a Jolly Elf...just in time for the holidays!

## ***Half-Baked Ideas Welcome!***

The Missions Team is ready to help you with any thoughts you have for the Silent Auction or Craft Sale! Our team of experts will assist you to think through offering your unique skill, craft, or gift of service to make someone's Christmas really special! Yard clean up? Cookies of the quarter? Handyman work? Vacation home for a week? Garden preparation? Snow shoveling? Babysitting? The possibilities are endless! Remember that all funds raised during Christmas Mission Fair go directly to supporting GPC Mission opportunities in Adams County and around the world! We are accepting your donations of high-quality items and crafts through November 18<sup>th</sup>, so please don't delay! Items may be dropped in the church office at your convenience.

Contact Tom Kolmer at 717-634-0258 or [tomkolmer@gmail.com](mailto:tomkolmer@gmail.com) to talk about your ideas!

## **On your Mark, Get Set, Go to the Christmas Mission Fair!**

Mark your calendars now and plan to bring your family and friends to the GPC Christmas Mission Fair on December 10<sup>th</sup> from 4:30 – 7:00pm! Delicious food, baked goods, craft sales, the Silent Auction, coin games for the kids, entertainment and wonderful fellowship await on this magical evening of Christmas fun! All are welcome! Come hungry and bring your gift list and fill those stockings with unique gifts for everyone! It just wouldn't be the same without you.

**Stephen Ministers** are lay Christian caregivers who are receive approximately 50 hours of training on essential caring skills, and how to care for people experiencing a wide range of difficult situations. They are commis- sioned and supervised in this caring ministry. Stephen Ministers are recruited by Stephen Leaders based on their individual gifts and abilities.

**What is the role of a Stephen Minister?** To listen, care, and provide the emotional and spiritual support you need during this time of life. They provide high quality, one to one, confidential Christ centered care. The goal of Stephen Ministry is to provide the best care for hurting people.

**Who can benefit from a Stephen Minister?** Everyone who is going through life challenges. For example, any- one who is going through grief, divorce, job loss, medical crisis, cancer diagnosis, stress related to being a care- giver, hospitalization, terminal illness, pregnancy, financial challenges, challenges related to parenting, children leaving home, aging, adjusting to retirement, job stress, unemployment, new home location or military deploy- ment, to name a few of life challenges.

**Stephen Ministers** are assigned a “care receiver.” Together they will decide when and where they will meet weekly, typically for about an hour.

**How long does a person have a Stephen Minister?** For as long as the “care receiver” remains in need.

**If you would like more information about our Stephen Ministry program, feel free to reach out to me.**

**Community opportunity:**

**Qigong** is a mind-body exercise that uses meditation, breathing, and movement to increase and enable the body to heal itself. These techniques we developed in ancient China and Tibet. Qigong is practiced for a variety of rea- sons including health related benefits.

**“Qigong for Breast Health Class”** Mondays at 9am. For more information call Joyce Ryman at 717-321-5534.

Pam Phillips FCN at 410-596-0777 or email [gpcfcn@gettysburgpresbyterian.org](mailto:gpcfcn@gettysburgpresbyterian.org)



# Poinsettias

Help us decorate the sanctuary at Christmas by ordering a poinsettia in honor or memory of someone. The flowers will be used in the sanctuary December 24<sup>th</sup>. You may pick up your plant(s) following evening worship on the 24<sup>th</sup> or Wednesday the 27<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Those not picked up by noon on Thursday, Dec. 28<sup>th</sup> will be delivered to shut-ins. The 5-6 bloom 6 ½” pot will cost \$10.00.

Please fill in the following form & send it with your check made payable to Gettysburg Presbyterian Church to:

Mary Flinger  
1360 Tract Rd.  
Fairfield, PA 17320  
(Questions? Call 717-805-9842)

Orders MUST be in by SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3<sup>rd</sup>  
We cannot accept orders after that date—No extensions.



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### Christmas Poinsettias 2023

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

# of plants you will pick up \_\_\_\_\_ # of plants to be delivered to shut-ins \_\_\_\_\_



## THE PRAYER PROJECT – NOVEMBER 2023


Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> Eternal God, we thank You for all the saints who have gone before us. May we live as faithfully as they did. And thank You for opening Paradise to us!	<b>2</b> Caring Christ, too many of us live lives too full of stress. Help us to find our relief in You and to manage this never-ending problem of our daily lives.	<b>3</b> God of nations, we pray that all people would love others with Your love, ending white supremacy and all other forms of ethnic/racial hatred.	<b>4</b> Loving Lord, as the cold settles in for the season, and windows stay closed, please let people not fall victim to carbon monoxide poisonings. Keep all safe.
<b>5</b> We thank You today O Holy Lord, for Pam Phillips, and all that she does to improve the lives of GPC worshippers. Bless her ministry and enable GPC to have her many more years.	<b>6</b> Today, O Loving Father, we lift up to You the Fairfield Area School District. Please bless staff and students in every way during the school year.	<b>7</b> Holy Lord, as we elect new leaders, bless our country with those who listen for Your guidance and do Your will. May politics turn from power grabs and agendas back to serving people.	<b>8</b> Perfect Parent, as parents are their children's first and most influential teachers, help parents everywhere to actively engage with their children, teaching them Your ways.	<b>9</b> Eternal God, thank You for the Young at Heart ministry. May it richly bless many seniors, helping each one to pursue a life of relevance and meaning, and joy in You.	<b>10</b> Almighty God, today we thank You for the faithful men and women of the Marine Corps who work very hard and faithfully to keep our country safe. Please bless all of them.	<b>11</b> Servant Savior, thank You for all those who have served or still serve our country. We remember their sacrifices and pray that our world is never again engulfed in war.
<b>12</b> Generous God, You spared nothing to reconcile us to You. Imbue each of us with enough trust in You and generosity of our own to support GPC fully and other worthwhile ministries.	<b>13</b> Holy Spirit, imbue everyone with the desire to be kind. May acts of kindness spread worldwide, showing all Your superior ways and drawing all unto You.	<b>14</b> Great Physician, we pray for those affected by diabetes. Help us learn to prevent type 1 diabetes, and to find a cure for it altogether. Bless those affected with better health.	<b>15</b> Renewing Lord, help us to make recycling a norm. Help us to make the best possible use and reuse of all our resources.	<b>16</b> Blessed Jesus, may each of us make You the very center of our existence. May we never forget Who we are, and the price You paid. Help us each to live accordingly.	<b>17</b> Compassionate Christ, please bless expectant parents with full-term babies. We pray that all preemies survive, lead a healthy life, and that no more babies come too early.	<b>18</b> Holy God, our world is full of doubt, confusion, and those who deceive. Help us to find the truth of your light each and everyday.
<b>19</b> Lavish Lord, let us not be so concerned about money that we refuse to volunteer our time for worthwhile causes. Reignite the spirit of volunteerism everywhere.	<b>20</b> Gracious God, please inspire bright youth to become dentists and doctors. Let there be enough to service all areas, including rural and international places.	<b>21</b> Forgiving Father, we praise you that You forgive each of our sins. Remind us to confess them to You daily, and enable us to gain control of and lessen our shortcomings.	<b>22</b> Sustaining Spirit, thank You for all of the organizations which feed the hungry. Bless their efforts every day of every year with plenty of food, money and volunteers.	<b>23</b> Jehovah Jireh, today we thank You for all of our abundant blessings: a free country, peace in our land, bountiful harvests, our families and churches. Thank You! Thank You!	<b>24</b> Gentle Jesus, keep our focus upon You and not on all of the materialism surrounding the Christmas shopping season. May civility reign and staff become less important.	<b>25</b> Great God, bless small businesses worldwide. Let them fully support all those who rely upon them for their necessities. May corporate greed never eradicate them.
<b>26</b> King of Kings, we celebrate You today. You are Christ the King, who alone is worthy to sit at the right hand of God and rule forever. We invite You now to rule in our hearts.	<b>27</b> Lord, we pray that the problem of houselessness be eliminated. May you guide those without a dwelling place to community resources to get the help they need.	<b>28</b> Prince of Peace, help us to end the marginalization which leads to terrorism. Let all people groups be blessed with enough for necessities and equality of citizenship and opportunity.	<b>29</b> Abba Father, we pray today for all those involved in the adoption process. May families everywhere be blessed through adoption, and may those agencies function with integrity.	<b>30</b> Good Shepherd, please eradicate the desire and market for fentanyl. Let it and other dangerous drugs no longer kill people and tear families apart.		

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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

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**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 16, 2023**

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

- November 12**      Rev. Judy Young preaching
- November 19**      **THANKSGIVERS SUNDAY**  
**Pledge Sunday**
- November 26**      Rev. Caleb McClure preaching

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To view live stream, go to: [www.gettysburgpresbyterian.org](http://www.gettysburgpresbyterian.org)  
Just below the announcement pictures.