

GRAPEVINE

"The Pastor's Page"

November 21, 2023

Thanksgiving

Recently, in my tech study group, another minister in town, Rev. Jeremiah Herbert, was talking to me about what his church was doing through the month of November. He shared that he felt that our world moves right from Halloween into Christmas, and we have been jumping over Thanksgiving. I thought to myself, "wow – I've felt that way for years but never put it like that." The best "aha!" moments come when the information was already in you, but veiled or obscured, and someone comes along and says the right thing the right way and opens you up.

We do jump right over Thanksgiving – at least in comparison to the powerhouses of Holidays like Halloween and Christmas. I mean, they *sell*, don't they? Decorations (my Halloween lights are still up – guilty), gifts, candy, themes. It's a lot! Just go into any store in town right now and you'll find the not so subtle hints of Christmas. But what about Thanksgiving?

My friend Jeremiah shared the passage they are studying throughout November and it's stuck with me all week, and I want to share it with you. It's from 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18:

¹⁶ Rejoice always,
¹⁷ pray without ceasing,
¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Always rejoice – in all things, be consciously glad for God's grace. Unceasingly pray – in all things, pray – live your life as a prayer; all things are prayer. Walking your dog? Be aware of your surroundings and offer prayer. Cutting vegetables for tonight's dinner? Offer prayer. Laying down for a nap? Offer prayer. Have a quiet drive to work? Offer prayer. In everything, on every day, in every way – offer prayer. In everything give thanks – in all things, be thankful. Not thankful *for* all things, but *in* all things, be thankful. This is a distinct difference. We are not thankful *for* that awful thing happening – but we can be thankful *in God's presence throughout*. We are thankful *in* God.

As you prepare for Thanksgiving this year, may these three verses be committed to your memory and live on the fleshy tablets of your hearts. Rejoice always for you are loved, forgiven, and saved. Pray always for all things in all ways. And give thanks in all circumstances, God is with you, yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

Peace in Christ,
Pastor Caleb

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Happy Birthday to...

December 1

Brian Mora

December 2

Rebecca Kiefer

Drew May

Alexander Shpak

Edward Thompson

December 4

Sharon Baker

December 5

Hailey Brownley

Merle Weant

December 6

Maria Cushing-

Daniels

Hayden Garverick

December 7

Rebecca Beegle

Allen Knouse

December 8

McKenna Kulkusky

John Musselman

Jill Sellers

Lee Weber

December 9

John Graziano

Shawn Wagner

Mary Wood

December 10

Katharine Hawkins

December 11

Megan Angstadt

Scott Russo

Newton Stewart

December 12

Mary Lynn Weaver

December 13

Shirley Fennimore

Sierra Hare

December 14

Tammy Schwartz

John Tschop

December 15

Jack McClure

June Powers

December 16

Wendy Brubaker

Mandi Holler

Janet Lightner

Mike Lochary

Bonita Soliday

December 17

Ruth Ann Fatzinger

Marion Lambert

December 18

Richard Lightner

George Petrie

Christian Priel

December 19

Morgan Dennison

Kurtis Harrison

Sedona Wilson

December 20

Sonja Brown

Debbie Manning

Laura Pennings

December 21

Bruce Bridel

Mary K. Johnson

Harry Winsheimer

December 23

Sue Hain

Jacob Holler

Jane North

December 24

Bryan Beegle

Lucy Breighner

Jeffery Cook

Emily Druckman

Jan Knouse

Robert Remaley

December 25

JESUS

Kenneth Elledge

December 26

Bronte Fennimore

Mason Little

December 27

Julia Burke

Laura Farnham

Mandy Weikert

December 29

Donna Harrison

Scott Zanger

December 30

Sandra Breighner

Carolyn Hankey

Anne Warcup

December 31

Andy Armstrong

Lynne Orner



“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:

December

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.

Eagle Project: Requesting your Assistance

Eagle Scout Candidate, Gabe Delacruz, is organizing a project to clean, repair and improve the outdoor space between Fellowship Hall and the Sanctuary. We are looking for monetary donations, as well as volunteers to help with completion of this project. Anyone with experience in building or construction work who is willing to assist, please volunteer!

If you would like more information about the project, how to donate, or how to volunteer, please contact Gabe Delacruz at gabeldelacruz432@gmail.com or see him between the worship services this Sunday, Nov. 26 in Fellowship Hall.

Please consider helping with this project. Thank you.

Condolences

Our thoughts and prayers are with:

Linda MacAskill on the recent death of her sister.

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



**TUESDAY,
November 28
10:00 a.m.**

Please contact Margo Har if you
would like to volunteer

978-807-3750.

Nursery Volunteers Needed

We are in need of **2 volunteers**
to work in the nursery for the
8:30 p.m. Christmas Eve service.

If you are able to help please
contact Kyle Clark in the church
office
kyle@gettysburgpresbyterian.org

Men's Interfaith Luncheon

All men are invited on **Wednesdays,**
December 6 & 13 during Advent 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.

HIGH SCHOOL FELLOWSHIP

November / December

Nov. 26	NO SHIP - Thanksgiving break
Dec. 3	5:30 - 7:00 p.m. Discussion/Games
Dec. 10	4:30 - 7:00 p.m. Mission Fair

Mid-SHIP SCHEDULE

November / December

Nov. 26	NO MidSHIP - Thanksgiving break
Nov. 19	5:30 - 7:00 p.m. Fellowship & Games
Dec. 10	4:30 - 7:00 p.m. Mission Fair

YOUTH CLUB

November / December

Nov. 26	NO Youth Club - Thanksgiving break
Dec. 3	4:00 - 6:00 p.m. Mission Bright Star Packing
Dec. 10	4:30 - 7:00 p.m. Mission Fair

Church Women United

Adams County Church Women United meeting will be held Wednesday, December 6, 11:30 a.m. at Gettysburg Church of the Brethren, 1710 Biglerville Rd. Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share; beverages will be provided. Following the luncheon we will be making a Christmas Advent craft. Special welcome to all newcomers & invite a friend.

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)

to RSVP contact: kyle@gettysburgpresbyterian.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 10th.



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@gettysburgpresbyterian.org



Did You Know?

Pastor Caleb, Phylis Dowd, and Pam Phillips met with GPC Family and friends who live at Brethren Cross Keys Village after their small group meeting on Wed. October 18th. This was an opportunity to gather informally, visit and chat about multiple topics. We were also treated to delicious cookies, fruit, and drinks by Mary Kay Johnson.

I am on the Citizens Advisory Council at the Office of Aging representing Gettysburg Presbyterian Church. It is a wonderful opportunity to find out about Community Outreach events, resource updates, etc.

Memory Screenings will be taking place on Dec 7th in collaboration with Cross Keys. This is a free opportunity from 9am-3pm, appointments required. Please call Lynn Deardoff at 717-334-9296 to obtain a timeframe.

Reminder: Do **NOT** give any personal information over the phone or computer. This is a time of increased "scam" events. This is good practice for all year long.

There is a "Notary" on staff at the Office of Aging. Call and make an appointment for these services at 717-334-9296.

Pam Phillips FCN at 410-596-0777
or email gpcfnc@gettysburgpresbyterian.org



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.

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



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 24th. You may pick up your plant(s) following the 8:30 p.m. evening worship on the 24th or Wednesday the 27th, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Those not picked up by noon on Thursday, Dec. 28th will be delivered to shut-ins. The 5-6 bloom 6 1/2" 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 3rd
We cannot accept orders after that date—No extensions.



Christmas Poinsettias 2023

Given by: _____

Phone #: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

2023 Christmas Missions Fair is here!

It's Christmas Fair time once again, and it is better than ever! For the three Sunday mornings, December 3rd, 10th, and 17th, you will be able to browse the Silent Auction, Craft Sales, and Fair Trade items from PRESBYTERIAN COFFEE PROJECT including coffee, tea, chocolate bars, organic roasted almonds and olive oil. Direct Support Letters for GPC mission projects make great gifts and will also be available for purchase. On Sunday, Dec 10th please make plans to bring your family, friends and neighbors to the big event - the Christmas Mission Fair Celebration will be held at GPC from 4:30 - 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. There will be small-change games and prizes for children, delicious food for the whole family, craft tables, baked goods as well as the chance to bid on items from the Silent Auction, and to purchase Direct Support Letters, and Craft Sales tables. Remember that every purchase you make during this event goes to benefit the eight projects listed below:

1. **MISSION: YUCATAN MEXICO 2024.** Next summer GPC will again lead a group to work with Accion Ministry in the Yucatan peninsula of Mexico. They'll live and work in a village where they'll do a construction project on a church or home, run a Vacation Bible School, and give out glasses to those in need. There are also opportunities to fellowship and worship with our Mexican brothers and sisters. Your donation will help to buy construction materials for our project!
2. **MISSION: SOUTH CAROLINA SEA ISLAND HABITAT FOR HUMANITY.** Habitat for Humanity is an international Christian organization in which volunteers build homes for low-income families. These families then provide their own labor and can purchase homes with no-interest mortgages. Members of our congregation will travel to John's Island, South Carolina, in May to participate in various building projects.
3. **HEIFER INTERNATIONAL.** Our Christmas Fair first began in 1986 to support Heifer International, a self-help program which sends livestock to needy families in the U.S. and around the world. These families become self-sufficient through training and gifts of livestock which help them become responsible for their own food needs. Farmers who receive animals must commit to pass on the first born off-spring of that animal to a neighbor in need.
4. **RISE AGAINST HUNGER ALL-CHURCH EVENT.** By partnering with organizations like GPC, Rise Against Hunger facilitates meal-packing events that are a fun way to build fellowship, create outreach opportunities, and make a big impact on meeting the needs of food-insecure peoples around the world! Your gift to RAH through Christmas Mission Fair will help fund our next RAH event at GPC!
5. **MISSION: HIGH SCHOOL WORKCAMP.** Each summer Pastor Lou leads our High School aged youth on a journey of faith, fun, and self-discovery. Your gift of support will ensure that every student who is interested is able to attend this impactful mission trip!
6. **SCAAP GETTYSBURG FOOD PANTRY.** Our local food pantry has increasingly become the go-to source for local families in need. Your gift will directly support those who need a little assistance this year.
7. **GETTYSBURG CARES HOMELESS SHELTER.** Providing safe, warm shelter for our homeless neighbors is a first step to sharing Christ's love. Thank you for your support in this crucial ministry.
8. **GPC-SUPPORTED MISSIONARIES AND CO-MISSION WORKERS.** Our church supports ministries of mercy and Christian evangelism in Haiti, Kenya, North Africa, Honduras, and Japan. Your direct support makes a world of difference in food, education, shelter, training and encouragement to faithful partners in Christ's Kingdom!

Come to the Christmas Fair to buy "gifts that will keep on giving" to people in need throughout the coming year. If you have any questions, please contact the church office 334-1235.

See you at the fair!

Christmas Mission Fair December 10th, 2023

It's that time of year when every child's mind turns to thoughts of...CANDY AND GAMES! The 2024 Christmas Fair is just around the corner on SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10TH from 4:30 - 7:00 p.m. Bring the whole family for a light supper, games for all ages, silent auction, craft tables, coffee, tea & cocoa sales, prizes, and the opportunity to give gifts that have potential to change (and even save) lives. Gift cards in support of specific mission efforts make wonderful alternative gifts for that person who has everything!

If you cannot join us on the evening of December 10th, gifts can also be purchased in Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings, December 3, 10 and 17th.

HEIFER INTERNATIONAL

Our Christmas Fair first began in 1986 to support Heifer International, a self-help program which sends livestock to needy families in the U.S. and around the world. These families become self-sufficient through training and gifts of livestock to help them become responsible for their own food needs. Farmers who receive animals must commit to pass on the first born off-spring of that animal to a neighbor in need.

Fish	\$10, \$1 share
Chick	\$20 flock, \$3 each
Bees	\$30 package
Rabbits	\$60 trio, \$10 share
Tree seedlings	\$60, \$10 share
Goats	\$120 each, \$10 share
Pig	\$120 each, \$10 share
Llama	\$150 each, \$20 share
Water Buffalo	\$250 each, \$25 share
Cow	\$500 each, \$50 share



MEXICO 2024

Next summer Pastor Dave will again lead a group to work with Accion Ministry in the Yucatan peninsula of Mexico. They'll live and work in a village where they'll do a construction project on a church or home, run a Vacation Bible School, and give out glasses to those in need. There are also opportunities to fellowship and worship with our Mexican brothers and sisters. Your donation will help to buy construction materials and supplies for our trip!

\$ 5	Markers/Crayons for Bible School
\$ 12	Bag of cement
\$ 15	10 Cinder blocks
\$ 25	Mason helper for one day
\$ 28	Cubic meter of gravel
\$ 30	Master Mason for one day
\$ 35	Beam for home construction
\$150	Ground transportation for 1 participant



RISE AGAINST HUNGER ALL-CHURCH EVENT:



The entire congregation is invited to this fun and fast-action meal packaging activity that provides nutritious meals for those facing food insecurity around the world! This year we packaged more than 24,000 individual meals in under three hours! We are hoping to better that amount again through your generous support and participation! There is something for everyone here, so bring your family, neighbors and co-workers for this rewarding and meaningful opportunity. Thank you!

SEA ISLAND HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Habitat for Humanity is an international Christian organization in which volunteers build homes for low-income families. These families then provide their own labor and can purchase homes with no-interest mortgages. Members of our congregation travel to John's Island, South Carolina every April to participate in various building projects.

\$ 5	Nails
\$ 10	Construction supplies
\$ 15	Light fixtures
\$ 20	Gallon of paint
\$ 25	Roofing shingles
\$ 50	Window
\$100	Door



GPC YOUTH WORKCAMP:

The Senior High youth from our church travel to join other Christian young people and adult supervisors on this trip. In partnership with sponsoring organization, we will help provide relief to residents whose homes are in need of repair, and share the love of Christ through fun, fellowship, and service! This trip is a life changing experience for everyone involved!



GPC MISSIONARIES AND CO-MISSION WORKERS:

Support for our mission partners around the globe is crucial this year! World-wide droughts, local wars, regional oppression of Christian gathering, and economic hardships are impacting the ministries of our colleagues in service.

These funds will support:
 Scofield Orphanage and School – Kenya – Ben and Emily Okello
 Source of Life Orphanage and School – Haiti – Jacques Merine
 North Africa Radio and Internet Christian Ministries – France – (Names withheld for safety)
 Carlisle Presbytery Honduras Co-Mission Worker – Dori Hjalmarson
 Christian Leadership Training – Kenya – Marta Bennett



Light in the Midst of Darkness

*A worship service for those
who find celebrating difficult...*

Date: Sunday, December 17, 2023

Time: 3:00pm

Place: Gettysburg Presbyterian Church
(Livestream will be available on the
website, YouTube and Facebook)

**Gather with us for this quiet, meditative,
reflective, and candle-lit service as we
remember and share our hurting places
with God.**



"Bring Light to the Night" Glow Walk

This time of the year can be difficult and lonely for many.

To show support for those in need or struggling

Healthy Adams County and Gettysburg Area School District have partnered to generate hope and healing within the Gettysburg area. Join us for a night of community connection and "Bring Light to the Night."

DATE

Thursday, December 7, 2023

LOCATION

Gettysburg Presbyterian Church
208 Baltimore St, Gettysburg, PA 17325

TIME

5:45 pm: Meet at the Gettysburg Presbyterian Church

6pm: Walk

*(Starting from the church and down and
around square and ending back at the church.)*

*Brief discussion to follow at the church about the importance of
connection and self-care.*

Connect with others, enjoy light refreshments and games!





Advent Schedule

December 3 - First Sunday of Advent

Communion

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship

9:30 a.m. Combined Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship

December 10 - Second Sunday of Advent

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship

9:30 a.m. Combined Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship

December 17 - Third Sunday of Advent

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship

9:30 a.m. Combined Sunday School

**11:00 a.m. Children's Christmas Pageant
and Carols**

**3:00 p.m. Light in the Midst of
Darkness: A Worship Service
for Those Who Find
Celebrating Difficult**

December 24 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

Christmas Eve Services

9:30 a.m. Combined Worship Service

4:00 p.m. Family Worship

6:00 p.m. Contemporary Worship

**8:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Service with
Choir and Brass**

Candle-lighting and Carol singing at all services.
Nursery care provided at each service.

***Come and Celebrate the Season
with Joy and Hope!***

Christmas Fair

The Christmas Fair is almost here! Please plan to bring your family and friends to GPC on Sunday December 10. This wonderful Fellowship event offers an opportunity to come together for games, fun and food.

Over the next few weeks, you may sign up to help in the kitchen during the fair, or better yet, prepare food to be sold, and baked goods are always welcome. All money raised will be used to support all the mission projects we support at GPC.

Please look for a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall or contact Peter North if you have questions.



Calling all bakers and cookie lovers of all ages. Back by popular demand is the GPC Christmas Cookie Exchange! Picture a plate with a variety of Christmas cookies – gingerbread, peanut blossoms, sand tarts, sugar cookies and even snickerdoodles. Now imagine that you only baked one kind of cookie, but still end up with all this variety!

That can happen for you if you take part in the GPCookie Exchange!

1. Bake a batch or two of your favorite cookies/ or pick some up at the store.
2. Bag or wrap them in packs of 4
3. Bring to Fellowship Hall on Sunday, December 17
4. Select and take-home cookies that others have shared
5. ENJOY!

Please bake so everyone can take!

Gettysburg Presbyterian Church

208 Baltimore Street

Gettysburg, PA 17325

Office: (717) 334-1235

Fax: (717) 334-0666

www.gettysburgpresbyterian.org

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 30, 2023
 (This will be the last newsletter for 2023)

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

November 26	Rev. Caleb McClure preaching
December 3	Rev. Caleb McClure preaching First Sunday in Advent Communion
December 10	Rev. Caleb McClure preaching Second Sunday in Advent 4:30 p.m. Mission Fair

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