CONOCOCHEAGUE UPDATE

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PASTOR'S COLUMN

REV. DR. ROBERT COOK Interim Pastor

Why Worship Matters

I have previously written about why being a part of a church is important. Many feel the church is so out of touch and irrelevant. Here is why I believe the Church is important and being in worship is vital to our being fully human.

Bethany Sollereder, in a *Christian Century* article called, *"From Survival to Love" (vol 131/19; 9/17/2014)* explores the question of why a God of love would create a violent, hate-filled world. She found insights from the work of an English Biologist, Andrew Elphinstone. His work in evolutionary biology led him to draw some insightful conclusions.

The evolutionary process is one of apparent ruthless violence and competitiveness. The raw materials of creation are constantly in flux and transformation in order to survive. Keep in mind that our physical world was shaped by great cataclysmic forces that ripped apart continents, thrust up mountains and scoured valleys into being. Earthquakes and volcanoes continue this process.

In a similar way the human personality has been formed by a long struggle for survival. Humans developed responses to threats and pain by reacting and inflicting pain for pain. Human beings

VOLUME 24 | ISSUE 11

OVEMBER 202



WALL OF HONOR

Please join in saluting those from our GPC family who respectfully served the United States of America in the Military:

Richard McClain Lieutenant Commander Navy / 10 years

Tom Herrmann † Chief Warrant Officer 4 Army / 15 years

Mark Divelbiss Captain Army Field Artillery / 11 years

> Zach Gates Chief Warrant Officer 2 Marine Corp / 14 years

Montgomery Bell Turner, Jr. † Staff Sergeant – Infantry Medic Army / 5 years

> Hazel Morton Major Army / 20 years

Daniel R. Patton L-CPL Marine Corp / 4 years

+ DENOTES DECEASED

Patrick J. DuBoyce Captain Army / 5 years

Alan Sucke Petty Officer 1st Class Navy / 15 years

Justin S. Coulter Captain Air Force / 10 years

Anthony F. Coulter Petty Officer 1st Class Navy / 15 years

Emily Seidel Sergeant Army National Guard

W.B. "Bud" Marshall + 1st Lieutenant Air Force / 3 years

> June Marshall Corporal Air Force / 2 years

E5, Int. Communications Electrician Navy / 4 years **Craig Felty** Senior Airman Air Force / 4 years

William H. Sachs + Lieutenant Colonel Army / 4 years

Craig R. Welterlen Captain Navy / 27 years

Herbert "Herb" Layton +

Ryan Marconi

Ralph Walck Navy WWII

Sean Walck Air Force

Lee Shank

John Wine

Charles Fitz

gained skills, improved intelligence and developed altruistic responses which led to developing myths and legends to explain existence. The Greeks and Romans 2500 years ago brought this to an ideal, believing that only war brings peace, therefore all war is justified. Many have followed their lead to this day—but what has been the result of a full century of continuous aggression, war and conflict on a global scale with ever improving technology? It certainly is not peace.

Through trial and tribulation, humans developed the ability to exercise moral will over our innate desires and natural appetites. Guilt and shame emerged as powerful forces. This was dramatic as it introduced the idea of sin and the understanding that our actions are not simply learned responses to conditioning. To understand the concept of sin one must necessarily believe there is a higher authority one sins against.

It was a natural response to develop a sacrificial system to make amends for sin. Myth, legend and poetry arose as language and soon, as humans explored other places and cultures, inter-cultural interaction developed. The impulse to conquer and control was innate in humans. But it was also at this point that things came into place for capacity to receive divine love and to let such love form and transform us.

The evolutionary process, according to Sollereder, is incapable on its own to develop the "rare jewel of love." After billions of years of evolution, humanity sharpened its instincts and skills for survival in a highly competitive and violent world. Humanity did not automatically develop the response for love. Quite the opposite happened: the response to kill, hurt or withdraw continued to shape humanity profoundly. Through trials and egregious errors three basic responses emerged:

1. Return harm for harm and to cause the greatest harm in effort to subdue enemies.

The problem is where does this stop? Nuclear warheads highlight this dilemma. 2. Cover our emotions with masks of rationality and logic (Stoicism). The problem here is that humans must deny their own basic emotions and become subhuman.

3

3. Accept our passions but discipline them and allow God to transform them through mercy and forgiveness.

To choose the third option requires faith in a God who is in a real relationship with us.

The ingredients that go into the making of a loaf of bread help us to see how the existence of love requires something outside ourselves. Wheat, yeast, salt, water and fat are the essential raw ingredients of bread. In the hand of a baker, they are transformed into bread. The flour and yeast interact with the salt and fat. Fermentation of the yeast raises the dough and heat is required to

Jesus unbinds the human soul from the strong impulses to retaliate and gives the freedom to forgive.

finish the dough as bread. Bread is not found in nature: but the elements are. Someone must act upon them to make bread. In effect, God made the bread; it is the bread of forgiveness.

To refuse to return pain for pain, harm for harm goes against our natural grain. Our evolutionary instincts demand retaliation. We are seeing that daily in many places around the world. Love's work is to meet pain head-on, bearing it and creating new options to turn evil around. This is the story of Jesus and what he did. This is why the central symbol of our faith is the cross.

The choice to meet the pain head-on did not reduce suffering; Jesus suffered all the more. He absorbed the pain and instead, returned good. Jesus unbinds the human soul from the strong impulses to retaliate and gives the freedom to forgive. Those who follow him are given the power by the Holy Spirit to take up the cross and walk Jesus' path of sacrificial love.

CLERK'S REPORT

JENNIFER ROBERTSON Clerk of Session

GREENCASTLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Regular Session Meeting held Sept. 12, 2024 at 6:33 p.m. in the Social Room

The meeting was opened with the lighting of the candle.

RULING ELDERS PRESENT: Racheal Marconi Bowman, JoAnne Lewis, David Lindecamp, Carole Malin, Dee Patton, Scott Peterson, Jenn Robertson. **Absent:** Anne Larew, Ed Wine Clerk: Jenn Robertson

Ruling Elder JoAnne Lewis offered a devotion and Pastor Bob offered a prayer.

Clerk's Report. ACTION: Approved minutes of August 8, 2024, Regular Session Meeting

Recorded the death of Bernice Walck on August 23, 2024. Recorded the death of Russell Everetts on August 31, 2024. Church Roll through August 31, 2024, is 144. Worship attendance on Sunday, September 1, 2024, was 72 with Communion celebrated by all. Additionally, 20 joined the worship service via livestream. **ACTION:** Approved Clerk's Report.

Financial Report	August 2024
Beginning Balance	\$12,272.20
Revenue	\$15,272.10
Expenditures	\$18,718.02
Ending Balance	\$ 8,826.28
ACTION: Approved the August	t 2024 Financial
Report.	

Boundary Training. Completed by Deb Shank on August 14, 2024, Brian Rice on August 22, 2024, Debra Miller on August 29, 2024 and Racheal Marconi Bowman on September 11, 2024.

Virtual Motions. ACTIONS: Approved on August 26, 2024, the request to the Commission on Ministry of the Presbytery to grant permission to the Session of the Greencastle Presbyterian Church to form a Pastor Nominating Committee. Approved on August 27, 2024, a funeral service and luncheon for Bernice Lorraine Walck to be held on August 31, 2024, at 11:00 am. Approved on August 29, 2024, the Covenant of Agreement for Pastor Bob for the period covering September 1, 2024, to August 31, 2025, as presented in identifying a total compensation increase of 3.05% for "Total Terms of Call". Approved on September 2, 2024, a funeral service for Russell L. Everetts to be held on September 5, 2024, at 11:00 am. Approved on September 4, 2024, the use of the Social Hall for luncheon for the Everetts family following his interment on September 5, 2024.

Nominating: Today the Carlisle Presbytery's Commission on Ministry approved our move forward with forming a Pastor Nominating Committee.

Outreach: ACTIONS: Approved the use of Greencastle Presbyterian Church's Sanctuary by the Cumberland Valley School of Music on November 17, 2024, for recitals from 2:00 – 5:00 pm. Jim Papa will open and close the church for this outreach activity. Approved serving a Thanksgiving Day midday meal on Thursday, November 28, 2024, under the supervision of Jim and Keri Papa. Approved a fall decorating contest to be held on October 13, 2024, to raise funds for outreach and mission ministries. Approved the Annual Potluck Advent Dinner for GPC members and friends as well as the musicians, friends and family members of the Penn State University Mont Alto Chorale to begin at 5:00 pm. on Sunday, December 8, 2024. The meal will be followed with the performance of holiday musical selections by the Chorale to begin at 7:00 pm. Approved the acceptance of an invitation from the Greencastle Train Club for a luncheon on October 13, 2024 at 11:30 am for Greencastle Presbyterian Church's members and friends at the Highline Train Station.

Mission: ACTIONS: Approved preparing a purchase order for \$2,000.00 for a check to mail to Laurel Mission in Harlan, Kentucky for the Mission's use. (Money to be used to purchase building materials and supplies needed for the week's mission projects.) Approved the use of Greencastle Presbyterian's credit card accounts to

purchase gasoline and food supplies for the week; anticipating an expenditure of \$1,000.00.

Worship: ACTIONS: Approved receiving new members (Sue Thompson and Jeffrey Stouffer) on Sunday, September 22, 2024. Approved Rev. Dr. Jaime McLeod, Carlisle Presbytery Leader for Transformation and Vision, leading our worship service on September 29, 2024. Approved Blessing of Pets on October 6, 2024. Approved Pulpit Supply for October 27, 2024, person to be determined. Approved two (2) Christmas Eve Services: 4:30 pm. a family-oriented worship service and 7:00 pm. worship service with Communion. Approved Greencastle Presbyterian Church's joint Maundy Thursday service with Grace United Church of Christ on Thursday, April 17, 2025, at 7:00 pm. at Grace United Church of Christ on Baltimore Street.

Finance: ACTION: Approved the transfer of \$10,000 from Investments to the General Fund.

Pastor's Report. ACTION: Approved day off on Sunday, October 27, 2024. Continuing to officiate weddings and funerals. Will partner with Scott Peterson on activities for our youth.

Old Business. ACTION: Tabled "Study Questions to Consider" from the Carlisle Presbytery Leadership team.

The meeting closed in prayer with The Lord's Prayer in unison at 7:50 pm.



SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE

DEE PATTON Moderator

GPC's Special Events Committee met on Monday, October 7.

In attendance: Jan Eppleman, Kim Morrison. Dee Patton, and Mary Sauder

The church picnic on Sept. 8 and Rally Day brunch on Sept. 15 were well attended and enjoyed by all.

December 8 will be our next event. It is our Advent Potluck Dinner with Penn State Mont Alto Chorale concert to follow. Meat, drink, and table settings will be provided. We eat at 5:00 with the concert at 7:00 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 4 at 10:00 am.



Want to save taxes on your **RMD's (Required Minimum Distribution)** while giving to the Greencastle Presbyterian Church? If you're currently subject to taking an RMD from your rollover IRA or pension plan, you can make any part of your distribution non-taxable if you donate directly to GPC. By giving directly from your IRA/pension to the church, the funds you donate are not taxed, possibly reducing your overall tax bill while you continue making your charitable contribution to GPC. If you think this is something you'd like more information about, the process and the benefits of taking the distribution this way, talk with Fred Young.

BOARD OF DEACONS

DEB SHANK Moderator

Deacon Meeting Minutes September 19, 2024

In Attendance: Moderator, Deb Shank, Polly Coulter, Brian Rice, Kelly Kerstetter, Virginia Vallillo, Candace Rutherford, and Debra Miller; Guest: Jenn Robertson Absent: Ben Herrmann and Pastor Cook

Virginia Vallillo opened with prayer.

Jenn Robertson, Clerk of Session presented Boundary Awareness Training Certificates of Completion to: Deb Shank, Polly Coulter, Brian Rice, and Debra Miller

Jenn also presented a list of special worship events taking place during the month of October:

October 6, 2024 Blessing of the Pets

October 13, 2024 Decorating Contest and invitation to Train Station for luncheon

October 20, 2024 Session to present Assessment Tool Summary and answer any questions from congregation

Treasurer's Report: Brian reported budget is 54%, (\$737.11), expended; \$286 spent for funeral meals.

Care Cell reports were given.

Altar Flowers:

August 4: delivered by Kelly and Deb S.

September 1: delivered by Polly and Deb S.

Old Business:

- Directory update: Kelly Kerstetter is serving a 2-year term not a 3-year term. Kelly is completing the term of Louise Kemper, (moving). Deb S. to notify Nominating Committee and church secretary.
- Access to electronic files: Review Deacon meeting minutes of 07/18/24, click on Deacon Meeting Agenda, there are three (3) links. If needed, Deacons may request Ben give permission which allows them to update the

files. Deb S. will check with Ben about easier access.

New Business:

- Funeral Luncheons: Deacons and Helping Hands ministry provided and served funeral luncheons to two (2) church families: Bernice Walck and Russ Everetts families. Marcie Tinninis will share more at October meeting. Deb S. will check with Property and Maintenance for Occupancy Permit information for allowable number of persons in church social room.
- Grief Materials: Sue Bell to continue mailing the 12-month Stevens Ministry Grief support materials to grieving families. Also, Antrim Brethren in Christ Church hosts Grief Share, which consists of two (2) hour sessions for thirteen (13) weeks. (GriefShare.org) will give complete information about this program along with names of churches in the area that have support groups. Sue is also updating a Medical Equipment list for those that would like to borrow items.

Deb S. shared that Sue is maintaining the AED located in the vestibule by the Sanctuary (Refer to Deb S. email of 09/23/23 which has an AED training link provided by Sue Bell.)

- Deacon 2025 Budget was discussed. We may need to increase Helping Hands line item. Deb S. suggested not supplying Christmas ornaments as we have done the last four years. This began during Covid as a way of connecting with our congregation and may no longer be necessary.
- Christmas ornaments/cards: Polly organized all boxes of cards for Deacon use. There is a paper on each box for Deacons to mark the number of cards taken for Care Cell use.

Polly researched the internet for various new styles of Christmas ornaments Deacons send to church families at Christmas time. Some styles were wooden which may be too bulky to mail and suggested if a wooden type were selected Deacons could hand out to church families before or after church services. It was noted there may be some wooden angel ornaments left from the 2023 Angel Tree breakfast which possibly could be used provided Mission Committee does not have need of them. (Brian to check Mission Committee storage boxes to see how many angel ornaments (if any) might be available for use and report at next Mission Committee meeting, October 9. The Mission Committee to determine availability and report at next Deacon meeting.). Selection of new style of Christmas ornaments was tabled until next month.

- Communion: Deacon training next month as per Book of Order (Refer to Deb S. email of 09/23/24 which reschedules Communion Training to meeting of November 21.)
- October Coffee Hour: Care Cell 1 on October 27
- October devotions and opening prayer: Deb S.
- October 6: Chancel flowers: D. Miller (Polly to help if necessary.)

Deb S. closed the meeting with prayer.

Next Meeting: October 24, 2024 at 6:30pm

Feeling lost with all the paperwork on your desk?

Sign up to have your Giving Statements delivered to your email.

Contact Bonnie at gpcfinancemanager@gmail.com

The 2025 Per Capita for the Carlisle Presbytery churches is \$34.04

General Assembly	\$10.84
Synod	\$2.40
Presbytery	\$20.80



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NOVEM

- 26 Brooklyn Barnhart
- 27 Candace Rutherford
- 28 Dick & Donna Grosh
- 28 Barry Leap
- 29 Pete Barnhart
- 30 Ed Fox

FROM OUR KITCHEN TO YOUR TABLE

FREE Thanksgiving Dinner DRIVE-UP STYLE • SINGLE SERVE READY-TO-EAT MEALS Greencastle Presbyterian Church Pickup between 10:00 AM and 12:00 PM Thursday, November 28, 2024

Call the office 717-597-8333 Ext 3 to reserve your meals

RESPONDING TO DISASTER

COLLEEN SEIDEL Contributor

Isaac Seidel recently spent two weeks helping with hurricane recovery efforts in western North Carolina after the devastation wrought by Hurricane Helene. A resident of the Asheville area for more than 10 years, Isaac felt immediately called to help when he saw the destruction of his former community. "After seeing all of the wreckage of places I knew, I welled up with a sense of responsibility," he said.

Before driving in from Nashville, where he lives now, Isaac loaded his Subaru SUV to the brim with dry goods, toilet paper and water to deliver as soon as he arrived. Then he got to work with World Central Kitchen (WCK), an international organization that coordinates mobile food relief during natural disasters and humanitarian crises. He'd first heard about the organization eight years ago from a family member, and as a professional chef, Isaac knew he had a specific skill set that could help in the situation. "I had to do whatever I could to make it there and start feeding people," he said.

Isaac spent his first day organizing supplies in a makeshift warehouse housed in a local brewery. The rest of the time he spent in Polk County with other WCK volunteers delivering hot meals to residents who live in the poor, rural county. Isaac and other volunteers utilized a special truck that supported a working kitchen to prepare the meals and then delivered them via sprinter van and SUV; for the more remote locations in the mountains, WCK delivered meals by helicopter. The entire operation handed out more than 2,000 meals per day.

The hardest part of his experience was "listening to people's stories of how the storm affected them," Isaac said. "A lot of people were barely surviving as it was, but the storm pushed them over the edge." But getting to meet and interact with the locals where he delivered food offered its own kind of reward, too. "Hearing how they are helping their neighbors and family with the food we were making was really honoring," he said. "Appalachian people are scrappy and shrewd, and are survivors."

Returning to Asheville also offered Isaac the chance to reconnect with good friends. He ran into Brian, a former coworker from his time as a chef at The Biltmore, and he spent time working side-by-side with his good friends Tyler and Hayley. And he made sure to eat at his favorite fried chicken joint, Rocky's Chicken Shack, when it opened back up following the floods.

Isaac, son of Marcie Tinninis, grew up at GPC and spent many summers participating in the church's yearly summer mission trips. He told his mom that his work in North Carolina felt just like those summer work camps.

> To donate to World Central Kitchen visit <u>www.wck.org/donate</u>











CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

KERI PAPA Acting Director of Christian Education **RACHEAL MARCONI BOWMAN** Moderator

Our next committee meeting is on Tuesday, November 5th at 6:30 p.m.

Thank you to everyone who signed up to help in the Sunday School classroom this Fall. We were thrilled to have all classes filled through November. Signups for the next quarter have begun. If you are able to sign up to help this winter, please use the sheet on the table outside the sanctuary. We are looking to fill December, January & February. Can you help?

https://www.dhs.pa.gov/KeepKidsSafe/Clearances/ Pages/PA-Child-Abuse-History-Clearance.aspx

https://www.dhs.pa.gov/KeepKidsSafe/Clearances/ Pages/Criminal-Background-Check.aspx

YOUTH GROUP

Peterson.

These are the remaining fall Youth Group dates-November 3rd- YG Confirmation Meeting November 17th- Regular Youth Group Meeting December 1st- YG Confirmation Meeting December 15th- Caroling, Cookies & Cocoa All children in grades 6-12 are invited to attend. Youth Group Members are welcome to bring a friend. Any questions, see Pastor Bob or Scott

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD BOXES- Boxes are due no later than November 17th. If you are new to OCC boxes, you can check out the information by the elevator or check the website: <u>https://samaritanspurse.org/what-we-do/operation</u> <u>-christmas-child/</u>

ANGEL GIFTS- The CE Committee is organizing a gift collection for children in need through the food pantry. We have started placing tags with

wish lists on the tree. We'll continue to add tags until 11/20. All gifts should be new, approximately \$25. Please don't forget to sign your name next to the tag you took. We ask all wrapped gifts to be returned no later than 12/1.

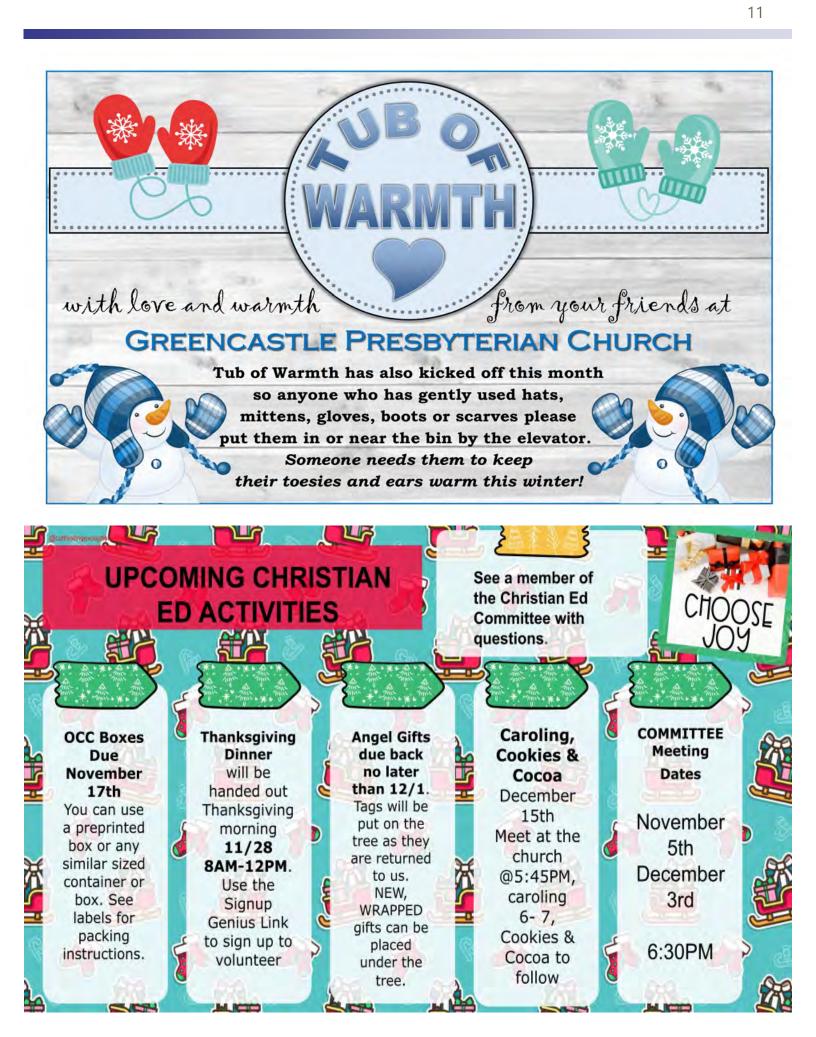
CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM- the

committee is hoping to have enough interest to host a Children's Christmas program on December 15th. Please contact Keri or Racheal if your children are interested in participating.

CAROLING, COCOA & COOKIES- 12/15 we'll meet at the church @ 5:45, go caroling around town until 7, then return to church for some cookies and cocoa.

COMMUNITY CAMP 2025 Our theme next year will be TRUE NORTH by Group Publishing. Children will be guided on the ultimate Alaskan adventure where northern lights glow over majestic mountains, racing rivers, and glistening glaciers. As campers trek the tundra, they'll explore how easy it is to lose sight of what's true in our wild world today. Pointing them toward Jesus, True North VBS shows them that he is a faithful friend we can always trust. He's our True North! Feeling Crafty? Our goal is to start crafting and collecting supplies even earlier this year. Contact Keri if you are interested in helping!

Thank you to all who continue to support the Christian Education program & activities!



PROPERTY & MAINTENANCE

DAVID LINDECAMP Moderator

As I mentioned last month, please mark your calendars for the following.

Saturday, November 9th, 2024 at 9am -

Fall Clean-up at the Church grounds. If the weather does not cooperate, our rain date is scheduled for Saturday, November 16th at 9am. We would appreciate some help, more hands help to lighten the load.

Saturday, December 7th, 2024 at 9am -

Fall Clean-up at the Moss Spring Cemetery with the Boy Scout Troop 99. Again, we would appreciate any and all support to keep this piece of our heritage looking great,

A brief update on our activities:

PROJECTS STARTED:

- During one of my evening mid-week building checks, I found that the small boiler was not functioning, I placed a service call to our plumber for a review of this issue. As of this writing, th boiler appears to be operational again. While I have not spoken with our plumber, it would appear that he has replaced a water pump on the unit, as a minimum.
- During the repair to the roof on the Education building (see more information below), our contractor noted that there is additional work needed for the roof in the near future. We have begun to gather quotes for this repair work and more information will be given as this review progresses.

PROJECTS COMPLETED:

• Last month I mentioned that we had a waterdamaged ceiling tile in the Nursery. After several attempts to determine the source of the leak, I contacted our roofing contractor to investigate. They found a hole in the roof near the atmospheric vent pipe and patched the hole. After this was completed, I have since replaced the damaged ceiling tile in the Nursery. • Our custodian mentioned that a fixture in the men's restroom was broken. A new piece was purchased and the broken item was replaced.

Until next month, Peace and Love in Christ!

TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

JIM PAPA Resting Elder

Over the past month or two, the technology group has been working hard to effectively integrate the Sanctuary monitors into our service. We are very conscience of over use and want to avoid using them just because they are there. Our goal is to use them as a tool to communicate and compliment our service. We continue to strive toward that goal.

The technology team is constantly monitoring our technology Worship Service issues and we are always trying to enhance the viewing "at home" for those watching online, whether via our YouTube Channel or during real-time.

We have also been working to enhance the experience for those whose hearing is impaired or those who are deaf, no matter their location.

Our live stream/YouTube videos have closed captioning available. All one has to do is select the captioning option when viewing.

The team is currently working to have captioning available during services in the Sanctuary for viewing on tablets or mobile phones in real-time. Individuals wishing to use this service will need to bring their tablet or mobile phone for use. While we have not been completely successful as of the writing of this update, we are confident that with some time and testing, this enhancement will be a reality at GPC.

With these future captioning enhancements, I would like to remind those individuals who are making announcements and serving as liturgists (as well as others) to speak directly into the microphone. This way the system will have the ability to accurately identify what is being spoken. It will not always be perfect; however, speaking into the microphone will help for an accurate reflection of what is spoken.

The good news is that the Chancel microphone can be moved to allow those of any height to speak directly into the microphone. Everyone should feel free to move the microphone to meet their needs. The option to "test" the microphone before a service is always available.

Speaking into other hand-held microphones used during services is also important.

As we move forward with this project, it will be important for those who are sharing prayer requests or joys during the service to have a microphone to speak into. We are exploring alternatives to make these available.

Should this captioning effort be successful, it will be available for any event held in the Sanctuary.

LAUREL MISSION TRIP 2024

POLLY COULTER Deacon/Mission Team Member

A Homecoming of Sorts

After many weeks of very strategic planning and preparation, the Mission Team, comprised of several churches in the Greencastle area, met in our Greencastle Presbyterian Church's (GPC) parking lot for the trip. The team members representing GPC were Debbie Young, Brian Rice, Matt Kerstetter, and Polly Coulter. The team of 24 women and men left bright and early on September 21st on an adventure to the mountains of Eastern Kentucky. For me personally, this trip would be somewhat of a homecoming, as I was born and raised in those beautiful mountains and they hold many memories of my formative years as a child and young adult.

The trip down went smoothly, as it was a beautiful day to drive into the mountains. We stopped for dinner at none other than Kentucky Fried Chicken in Harlan, Ky. prior to the last leg of the journey to the mission location. Harlan is the last town for supplies of basically any type prior to the mission location, which is around 25 miles into the mountains. This is pretty commonplace for mountain life. I was really feeling like I was coming home the closer I got to the Laurel Mission site.

We reached the Mission, unloaded, unpacked, and got settled in for the night, as we were planning to go to church on Sunday to hear Pastor Nathan Boggs, Director of Laurel Mission preach. There was such a sense of excitement and anticipation as everyone was getting to know new members of the team and reuniting with returning members. Being new to the team myself, I was made to feel very welcomed.

Sunday welcomed us with a beautiful sunny day to worship the Lord at the Little Laurel Bible Church. After lunch we toured the sites where the teams would be working during the week. The kitchen team prepared for their week of feverish cooking to keep the workers nourished for their hard days on the job sites. Monday was the only day that gave us sunshine during our week so the team worked hard to get a roof over the porch of one house they were working on so as to have a place to stage their work outside of the house. Any outside work that could be accomplished at the job sites was done on Monday. The weather forecast for the week was a rainy one, but it did not dampen our focus or our spirits.



Tuesday thru Friday consisted of hard work in very wet and muddy conditions, but that did not slow down the progress of the work needing to be accomplished. There were boxes of clothes and jewelry to be sorted for the thrift store, signs to be painted for upcoming fall festival, food pantry food to be sorted, the normal construction efforts on two houses and one extra thrown in, and of course,

CONTINED ON NEXT_PAGE

cooking for the entire team of 24! Whew, doing God's work is tiring stuff but so, so rewarding.

On Wednesday, Debbie worked her artistic magic with 30 youth from the community with a hugely successfully paint night. She has such a wonderful gift that she shared with those Harlan-area community children. I remember, as a child, what it meant to me when a work group would come into my mountain community and provide things like what Debbie did for these children and the impact it had on me personally. You can't place a true value on how special her contribution was to each child. They will also have that painting they did on paint night as a memory forever to hold onto as something that was a feel good moment in a place where they may not have a lot of those.

As for our guys, Brian and Matt would come back each day pretty dirty from working really hard on the job sites. Their hard work, as well as all the team's work, was very appreciated by the people of the community and Pastor Bogg's team. Matt is also a great cook and everyone loved his peach cobblers. Yum! Brian was in love with some of the little dogs at one work site and we thought we were going to have to watch to

make sure he wouldn't be smuggling one of them out and back to PA.

Debbie and I did a whole lot of cooking throughout the week. Her cream pies were a hit for dessert mid-week, along with her ham w/ cherry sauce, meatloaf, sausage gravy, ham/bean/potato soup just to mention a few things she cooked. And that doesn't include the other delicious dishes from the other wonderful cooks on the team also. I just made Mother's apple cake and Texas sheet cake, which in comparison seems meager but they were eaten. I suppose hungry people will eat anything, right?

We also did a lot of work cleaning and sorting clothes for the thrift store. I was commissioned to free hand paint a new 4 ft. x 8 ft. sign advertising the upcoming fall festival on a sheet of plywood. The one thing you do learn on a mission trip such as this is to be flexible and do what is the most immediate need of the people at the mission site at that time. Due to the impending Hurricane Helene, the food giveaway on Thursday afternoon was cancelled.

We were provided an opportunity on Thursday afternoon to work at the thrift store. As the heavy rain came down, a gentleman stopped at the store looking for Pastor Boggs and asking for prayer. He had a dislocated shoulder and broken elbow. All the ladies present along with Debbie Boggs, who runs the store, gathered around him and each prayed over him. He thanked us many times before he departed. He was scheduled for surgery the next day. We are prayerful that all went well. If it had not been raining that afternoon, we would not have been at that store for that man to find us



as we would have been preparing for the food giveaway that evening. I said that to say this; I always believe that God puts you where you need to be even before you know you need to be there. God put us there to receive this man seeking prayer that afternoon.

As the trip wrapped up in a rather dramatic fashion, Hurricane Helene made her presence felt by taking our electricity, knocking several trees down, taking roofs from area homes, and creeks rising. Even faced with some weather-related trials, a way was made for us to complete our mission to the families we went to serve. On each home built, a sign is placed that simply reads, "This House was Built by the Love of God and Jesus' Servants". Well, it was truly an honor to be one of those servants during that rainy, muddy week in September 2024. Growing up in Appalachia and experiencing mission groups come and then being a part of one as an adult, giving back to the same area I grew up in.... what a full circle emotional homecoming! Who's ready to go with me next year? Sign me up!! I took lots of pictures, I hope you enjoy those included here.



MATT KERSTETTER





















Dear Friends in Christ,

Warm greetings!

We pray this message finds you well.

These are difficult days in the Middle East, and our hearts ache for the ongoing pain and suffering. Yet, even in such a dark time, we trust that God is at work in powerful ways.

By God's grace, the ministry continues despite many challenges. We've witnessed both the hardships and the profound hope that is emerging as the Gospel takes root in new ways. There is a deep hunger in many areas for sound theological education and spiritual growth. We've been working closely with churches, seminaries, and Christian leaders to support their efforts in strengthening the body of Christ through discipleship and leadership training.

Theological education remains one of our most critical focuses. As we partner with institutions across the region, we see a new generation of Christian leaders being equipped to serve their communities. These leaders are courageously engaging with the unique cultural, religious, and social landscapes of the Middle East, and we are encouraged by their faithfulness in sharing the Gospel, even in challenging environments.

However, immense challenges remain—political instability, religious persecution, and economic hardships are affecting many communities. Yet, we hold fast to hope because God is faithful. The seeds of His kingdom are being planted, and we believe they will bear fruit for generations to come. It is heartbreaking to witness the intensity of the situation, yet we continue to encourage everyone we are in contact with to remain committed to their ministry and calling, despite displacement, missile attacks, and the harsh realities of being in conflict zones.

Many from Lebanon have fled to Cyprus or Jordan, and those with the opportunity to leave for the West have done so, further diminishing the Christian presence in these regions. But even so, we cannot give up.

Please continue to pray for the churches and ministries across the Middle East. Pray for strength, wisdom, and perseverance for the pastors, leaders, and all who are sharing Christ's love. And ask God to open hearts and minds to the Good News, especially in these difficult times.

Having recently spent time in Palestine and Egypt, we have come to realize that it is so easy for the church to feel isolated at this time. We are planning further ministry visits in Egypt this December. No matter what, we hold onto the promise that "nothing can separate us from the love of God" (Romans 8:39).

Please pray with us:

- For a ceasefire and an end to war in the region and all its atrocities.
- That we seek to bless the followers of Christ in the Middle East and empower them to advocate for the Kingdom of God with love, mercy, and forgiveness.
- That we seek to embody Christ in all our thoughts, words, and actions as we disciple, teach, mentor, and encourage many to walk with Christ.
- 4) For safety and protection for our beloved ones.
- For open doors and provision to do mission work in North Africa, where the harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.

Thank you for your partnership in prayer and for standing with us as we work for the Lord's Kingdom. Your prayers and love are a source of strength and encouragement to us.

In Christ, Grace and Michael https://www.mesaglobal.co/workers/31740#give

Mesa Global, previously United World Mission is one of the many organizations supported by donations from the generosity of GPC members.

MISSION / OUTREACH

SCOTT PETERSON & CANDACE RUTHERFORD *Moderators*

Meeting held October 9, 2024 at 7:00 pm

In Attendance: Candace Rutherford, Chair, Pastor Bob Cook, Debbie Wine, Debra Miller, Brian Rice, Polly Coulter, Mary Ann Ackerman Absent: Scott Peterson

Items Discussed:

Candace explained that Mission and Outreach committees have been formally combined by Session. Scott Peterson will be the Elder who oversees this committee. There was discussion about Special Events being a stand-alone committee rather than part of M/O.

Hurricane Relief – at the time of this meeting the church had collected \$2247 between 10/3/24 and 10/7/24. This money will go to the Presbytery of Carlisle in the name of Hurricane Helene Relief. Many goods were also collected and donated.

Candace will contact Harold Eby about the next delivery going to Hurricane victims and will email the committee the next delivery date so an effort can be made for GPC to participate.

Local Disasters/Emergencies – a subcommittee including Pastor Bob, Debbie W., Brian, and Mary Ann was formed to create a Standard Operating Procedure for GPC disaster response both local and global.

Heritage Christmas – application needs completed and sent to Chamber, popcorn popper and supplies have been reserved at Ace Hardware by Mary Ann. Polly will meet with Sue Miller about making some kind of handout for church outreach to put with the popcorn bags. Committee agreed to also pass out hot cider with the popcorn. At this time, volunteers are needed to contact an orchard about purchasing cider and to get a Sign-up sheet posted early to mid-November to get volunteers to serve the items on the square. Volunteer's responsibilities will also need to include setting up and tearing down the stand on the square both Friday nights, unless a committee member volunteers to do that part. Setting up the stand.... we will need to decide if we are putting up a canopy, will need a table, pick up the popcorn machine and supplies, prepare the cider and get it to the square.

Mission Sunday – move to March 9 (if session approves) to coincide with PCUSA's Blue Shirt Sunday which is part of One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) disaster recovery. Committee discussed making a prayer calendar of people and places that can be used during Lent.

It was suggested we contact Jim Papa about getting blue GPC shirts for all to wear on that Sunday. No volunteer to do that at this time.

Pastor Bob gave an update on traveler's assistance being given out by the church. \$300 was recently given out to people for lodging.

The committee briefly discussed forming an Old Home Week committee to plan any/all of the special events that GPC may want to do during that week which is August 4-8, 2025. It will be important to make decisions early to get them in the OHW program. No volunteer from this committee to spearhead this effort at this time.

Penn State Mont Alto Chorale Concert will be performing on Dec 8, 2024 at GPC. Performers and families have been invited to join us for a meal ahead of the concert. We need to ask for volunteers to scoop ice cream (probably 6 people) and to be greeters (3 people). The concert begins at 7 p.m. Meal is probably around 5 p.m. ???? Volunteer from this committee is needed to contact Sue and help write up announcements for the bulletin/mail chimp/newsletter and to contact people to volunteer for above mentioned positions.

Discussion about having an agenda sent ahead of the meeting in order to prepare our thoughts was suggested.

Items requiring a vote from session:

Moving Mission Sunday from November 24 to March 9.

Passing out Popcorn and hot cider on the square during Heritage Christmas Dec 6 and 13.

Next Meeting: November 13 at 7 p.m.



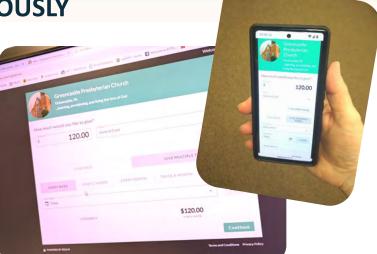
VISIT SERMONS ABOUT GET CONNECTED EVENTS NEWS GIVE WATCH LIVE

SECURE AND SAFE TITHING

LOVE • SERVE • GIVE GENEROUSLY

GPC offers online giving as an option to support our continuing mission, ministries, and programs. Your generosity and aid make our church's work possible!

Make donations, payments, and pledges to GPC via your smart phone or computer.



SIGN UP TODAY BY VISITING OUR WEBSITE visitgpcpa.org

BENEFITS FOR YOU

- 1) Give from anywhere using a computer, tablet, or smart phone.
- 2) No need to find a check or stop by the ATM.
- 3) Use your checking/savings account or your debit/credit card.
- 4) Schedule Sunday giving to occur automatically.
- 5) Give to special collections at any time.

BENEFITS TO OUR CHURCH

- 1) Reduces administrative work allowing more time to focus on the ministry.
- 2) Helps streamline receivables.
- 3) Increases stewardship by providing members and guests easier ways to give.
- 4) More regular and predictable giving makes financial planning easier.
- 5) Donations can come from anywhere in the world.

THANK YOU

HOLY COW! CAT SUMMARY

Thanks to all who attended our gathering after worship on October 20. We had a lively discussion of the results of the survey that was taken by our members and friends in July. The results are guite positive, though we still have some issues that we need to consider. Overall our satisfaction and energy ratings are high, putting us in the category of a Transformational Church. Clearly 72% of responders are clearly satisfied with how things are going. About 61% feel there is a compelling sense of purpose and members are not just going through the motions in their activity and ministry. Because one-quarter to one- third of responders are "on the fence" we can deduce that they are waiting to see what is going to happen in the future. Because we are facing a time of transition to new pastoral leadership, this is to be expected. Some of our members were surprised that we are described as a clergy-focused congregation. Our worship and music programs are considered our greatest strengths.

Our number one future priority was making necessary changes to attract families with children and young people. Yet, we only scored in the 50th percentile in flexibility, which seems to indicate a possible conflict with our number one goal. As a "hearth and home" congregation we value tradition and predictability, which also shows that willingness to change is mixed. Our giving of monetary support for the church is slightly above the average for churches in the PC/USA, but our income statistics show there is room for growth in this area. Our hospitality is seen as a strength, and our closeness to each other is also an asset. However, we need to make sure we make room for new members and friends to break into our activities and ministries.

Hard copies of the statistical breakdown of the survey are available in the office for you to read, and the Executive Summary has been shared digitally. Hard copies are also available. The Nominating Committee will get to work shortly to appoint a PNC. I misspoke at the meeting, in that



the PNC will be approved by the congregation at a congregational meeting, not by Session alone. My hope is that this can be accomplished by the end of the year.

Onward, with God's help,

Anne Larew. Moderator, Nominating Committee

WORSHIP

ANNE LAREW, CAROLE MALIN Moderators

Our committee will meet next on Tuesday, November 5, at 6:30 pm in the social room. We will be working on ideas for an earlier familyfriendly Christmas Eve service. If any of you have ideas on how to create an interactive, hands-on worship experience for small children and their families, we would love to hear from you. By offering this earlier service, we are by no means saying that we will not welcome families with children to our 7 pm traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. We will, of course! Our Committee will be decorating the sanctuary on Saturday, November 30 starting at 10 am. Please join us! It will be fun! Pizza for lunch may make a surprise appearance! If you find yourself in need of some medical equipment, such as a walker or shower chair, check GPC's "Medical Equipment Available for Loan" list. These items have been made available for members and friends of GPC to borrow. Simply contact the individual owner to check it's availability and to make arrangements for pick up. The list is currently posted in the church office or contact your Deacon.

The list needs to be updated, so please let us know if you have a piece of equipment that you would be willing to share. Call the church office at 717-597-8333 or Sue Bell at 717-597-3939.

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE FOR LOAN

Crutches:

Mary Sauder (717-597-9820) Gabe Gates (717-414-9017) Kathryn Greene (717-597-7080)

Cane:

Kathryn Greene (717-597-7080) Mary Ann Ackerman (240-527-5516) Jenn Robertson (717-593-9373)

Walker:

Sue Bell (717-597-3939) Kathryn Green (717-597-7080) Jenn Robertson (roller walker with seat) (717-593-9373)

Shower tub bench, large:

Kathryn Green (717-597-7080) Julie Craig (717-597-7803)

Shower chair, no arms: Sue Bell (717-597-3939)

Elevated toilet seat:

Mary Ann Ackerman (240-527-5516) Jenn Robertson (717-593-9373)

Sitz Bath: Jenn Robertson (717-593-9373)

Sling: Sue Bell (717-597-3939)

Knee Immobilizer: Mary Sauder (717-597-9820) Dressing aid stick, for putting on shoes and socks: Sue Bell (717-597-3939)

To obtain non-emergency Medical Transport call: Holy Spirit West Shore EMS at (717-264-4060) Ask for option 3.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church, 130 North Washington Street, Greencastle, has equipment for Ioan. The office is open Mon-Thurs from 8:30- 3:30. (717-597- 3310)



GREENCASTLE-ANTRIM FOOD PANTRY



717-597-8333 ext. 2 gafoodpantry@gmail.com

Call or email to schedule a time to drop off the food donations.

Thurs, November 7 6:00 to 8:00 pm

Wed, November 13 & 20

9:00 am to 12:00 noon

CURRENT FOOD NEEDS CEREAL PASTA SAUCE IN CANS OR PLASTIC SOUPS CANNED MEAT RICE OR POTATO MIXES CANNED FRUIT VEGETABLES BAKED BEANS CANNED PASTA (Chef Boyardee)

Any non-perishable food items are greatly appreciated.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THE FOOD PANTRY!

Sunday, December 15th All Ages Welcome! Caroling, Cocoa, & Cookies Greencastle Presbyterian Church

December 15th meet in the GPC Social Room @ 5:45 pm

We'll leave at 6 pm to go caroling around town.

Join us for hot cocoa & cookies back at the church afterwards. Feel free to bring a dozen of your favorite cookies and/ or a friend!



Hope to see you there!

Morning of Christmas Music

Greencastle-Antrim Christian Women's Fellowship Tuesday, December 3, 2024 9:30 - 11:00 a.m. in the GPC Sanctuary

This special morning of Christmas music will help to get you in the spirit, as you listen to beautiful piano and organ music, enjoy vocal solos and duets, as well as share in joyful caroling. Young and old alike will enjoy this exceptional time share together!



JOYS, CARES, & CONCERNS

Dominic Frampton health concerns

Sue Lum, recovering from broken kneecap (Fred Davison's sister)

Rowan Stotler recovering from brain surgery (*submitted by Mary Ann Ackerman*)

Vasilija Milanovic health concerns

Jane Everetts health concerns

Sandra Meadows oral cancer (submitted by Kim Tarlaglia)

Colin Rinker health concerns

Frank & Tracey Toston health concerns (submitted by Scott Peterson)

Bill Horst health concerns (submitted by Cindy Marconi)

Tiffany Robinson health concerns

Archer Hohl young child with seizures (submitted by Mary Ann Ackerman)

Leona Cain health concerns (Deb Wine's mother)

Mary Steel health concerns

Sally Snyder health concerns

Chelsea White diagnosed with breast cancer, mother of 2-year-old twins (*submitted by Emily Jones*)

Beth R health concerns

George Price health concerns

Tim Reed health concerns

Doris Henson late stage Parkinson's disease (Aunt of Diane Mills)

Lynne Leap recovering from a fall (Mother of Barry Leap)

Gail Guyton recent diagnosis of brain tumor (submitted by Diane Mills)

Skylar Sites cancer (submitted by Cindy Marconi & Racheal Marconi Bowman)

Cheryl Luger breast cancer surgery (submitted by Cindy Marconi & Racheal Marconi Bowman)

Marvin & Nancy Rice health concerns (submitted by Linda Thomas)

Jon Davis health concerns (submitted by Margery Benson)

David Myers health concerns (submitted by Sue Myers)

Liz McCarty health concerns (Kim Morrison's sister-in-law)

Dot Wilson health concerns

Cameron Kingsley auto accident recovery

Please pray for the family of Shawn Schaeffer who passed away October 22, 2024.

Good and gracious God,

we surrender all worries and concerns to you, knowing that we are your beloved children. Our faith requires we rest in your great mercy. Amen.

Becky Hess health concerns (friend of Ed & Debbie Wine) **June Marshall** health concerns

Nancy McIntyre health concerns

Patti Sechrist health concerns (submitted by Marcie Tinninis)

Alan Shope health concerns

Tim Walck health concerns

Mary Lou Riddle health concerns (submitted by Mary Ann Ackerman)

Steven Bishop health concerns

Mindy Grosh health concerns (Dick & Donna Grosh's daughter-in-law)

Michael Paylor complications from leg amputation due to hit and run accident in 2012 (cousin of Weslie Johnson)

Linda Pittman health concerns (submitted by Jan McClain)

Rachael, Christopher & Anna Lee Massieu (submitted by Evelyn Lindecamp)

Mary Buhl health concerns

Cullen Gaston young child with Leukemia

Bob & Sandy Seidel (submitted by Marcie Tinninis)

The Gagne family mom was diagnosed with acute transverse myelitis (*submitted by Jan McClain*)

Bill & Kathy Kendall health concerns (submitted by Weslie Johnson)

Aaron Frick (submitted by Mary Ann Ackerman)

Ray Spitz (brother-in-law of Ed & Debbie Wine)

Sue Angle health concerns

Rev. Bill Beck (submitted by Patti Divelbiss)

Caroline Robinson going through chemo for leukemia

Dian Bishop health concerns

Dan Patton health concerns

The Hammond family struggling with loss of a loved one (Scott Peterson & Candace Rutherford's cousin)

Bethany Yeager missionary work in South America (submitted by Scott Peterson & Candace Rutherford)

Penny Mohler battling ovarian cancer (submitted by Nancylee Moore)

Cathy Thomas health concerns (Beth Taylor's mother / submitted by Sheila Gates)

It is the only way to break the endless cycle of revenge, retaliation and violence.

Elphinstone and Sollereder show how the study of biology leads to deep spiritual insight. The Darwinian way of seeing evolution was to see that only the strong and fittest survive. But that is not true. Those who have survived learned to compromise, cooperate and forgive. They learned mercy. So, the evolutionary narrative is not contrary to Christian faith and practice but informative. (This is why I've kept this article for ten years.)

Do you see how the act of Christian worship moves us deeper into the story of redemption from the endless impulses to violence, vengeance and death? The love of God in Christ transcends us and transforms the human heart by love that bears fruit in further sacrificial love. Most people don't often get to this point apart from being in a body of people gathering together to hear the story of Jesus from Scripture. Those who believe and follow Jesus are to learn the spiritual disciplines of love, acceptance, mercy, forgiveness and selfless service. Drawn to be together as worshippers, we are transformed by God's mercy. Worship makes us more human more like Jesus. Worship has a subtle way of healing our soul and spirit. For worship is not a mere exercise; it is how we interact with the living God who has come to us in Christ.

How important is it to our growth as spiritual people to meet together to worship God — Father, Son and Holy Spirit. In worship, God does the kind of soul work that makes us human. To go without it is to literally starve our soul.

-Pastor Bob Cook

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS ORDER FORM

To remember a loved one or honor someone please fill out this form and return it to the church office along with a check made payable to: GREENCASTLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, marked "CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA."

Name:

Poinsettias are multi-bloom 6.5" pots.

Cost is \$12.00 per pot.

🗖 Red

UWhite Dink

Last day to order November 20, 2024

□ In memory of / □ In honor of _____

□ In memory of / □ In honor of _____

□ In memory of / □ In honor of

□ I will pick up my poinsettia after the Christmas Service. □ Please give my poinsettia to a shut-in.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS r 1 All Saints' Day OVERDER 2024

Fri November 1 All Saints' Day

Sat November 2

RITA LEWIS MEMORIAL SERVICE 2:00pm

Sun November 3

Adult Bible Study 8:45pm Worship with Communion 10:00am **ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY** Coffee Fellowship / 1st Sunday Food Drive

Youth Group Confirmation Meeting 6:00pm

Mon November 4 SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE MEETING 10:00am

Tue November 5 CHRISTIAN ED MEETING 6:30pm WORSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING 6:30pm

Wed November 6

Wednesday Prayer Circle 9:00am Session Agenda Planning Meeting 10:30 am Bell Choir 6:00pm Chancel Choir 7:00pm Ladies AA Meeting 7:00pm

Thur November 7 Greencastle-Antrim Food Pantry 6:00pm

Sat November 9 FALL CLEAN UP AT GPC 9:00am

Sun November 10

Worship 10:00am followed by Coffee Fellowship

Wed November 13 Greencastle-Antrim Food Pantry 9:00am Wednesday Prayer Circle 9:00am Bell Choir 6:00pm Chancel Choir 7:00pm Ladies AA Meeting 7:00pm MISSION COMMITTEE MEETING 7:00pm

Thur November 14

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN MEETING 1:00pm SESSION MEETING 6:30pm

Sun November 17

Worship 10:00am followed by Coffee Fellowship Dementia Caregivers 2:00pm Cumberland Valley School of Music Recital 2:00pm Youth Group Regular Meeting 6:00pm

Wed November 20 Greencastle-Antrim Food Pantry 9:00am Wednesday Prayer Circle 9:00am Bell Choir 6:00pm Chancel Choir 7:00pm Ladies AA Meeting 7:00pm

Thurs November 21 **DEACONS MEETING 7:00pm**

Sun November 24

Worship 10:00am followed by Coffee Fellowship

Wed November 27 Wednesday Prayer Circle 9:00am No Bell or Chancel Choir Ladies AA Meeting 7:00pm in the Edwards Room

Thur November 28 THANKSGIVING DAY

Free Thanksgiving Drive-up Dinner 10:00am

Lord, we thank you for the goodness of our people and for the spirit of justice that fills this nation.

> We thank you for the beauty and fullness of the land and the challenge of the cities.

> > We thank you for our work and for our rest, for one another, and for our homes.

> > > We thank you, Lord: accept our thanksgiving on this day.

We pray and give thanks through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.