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# THE BELLRINGER



Volume 2, Issue 1

November 2017

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## Pastor's Study

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It is November! Thanksgiving Day is around the corner. The holiday season is quickly approaching. And the speed of everything just begs us to take a moment and pause. To be still. To see. To hear. To notice.

To notice, for example, the beautiful hydrangea blooms, right outside the church office window, and how they glow in the daily sun. The blossoms and leaves on that beautiful plant are now transforming in the coolness of the fall weather, from their summer white and green, to leaves of yellow and blooms of mauvish-pink. To pause and notice those flowers in their quiet but glorious beauty, just automatically brings a word of thanks. No human hand alone could create such a beautiful and changing living thing. And their beauty just begs for a moment of stillness, a pause.

Thanks deserve a pause too. Gratitude and thanks to almighty God seems like such a given, and yet as we rush around and tend to what needs done, moments of thanksgiving that soak and run through us can become few and far between. Gratitude and thanks take practice. They take awareness and thought. They take intention. And oddly, even though the month of November is associated with Thanksgiving, thanks and gratitude may require some *extra* intention in this holiday season.

For example, take the common use of "Turkey Day" as an alternative label to Thanksgiving Day. As one who has on more than one occasion used "Turkey Day" in place of "Thanksgiving Day" I found the 1985 newsletter article of Elizabeth Elliott (missionary and wife of martyr Jim Elliott) both convicting and inspiring. Elliott wrote, "Some people are substituting "Turkey Day" for Thanksgiving. I think it must be because they are not aware that there is anybody to thank, and the most important thing about the holiday is food."

A seemingly simple exchange of words powerfully transforms the focus. From THANKS to Almighty God, to TURKEY. Thanksgiving is not something offered out of the glory of the turkey, Elliott continued on. Thanksgiving is offered in praise and thanks to Almighty God. And as Christians, we are called to give

thanks in everything.

I hope during this month of November, that you will have time to pause and be still. I hope you will have time to see and to hear. I hope you will have time to notice the glory of the Lord all around you, and be filled with thanks and gratitude. Throughout this month I am going to seek to be still, to see, to hear, to notice and be thankful too.

And in doing so this day, I find that the hydrangea is just the start of my thanks. As I sit and look at the beautiful hydrangea outside the window, I am thankful not just for it, but also for all of you. This church, its members and friends, its witness and ministry are an amazing blessing. As no human hand could have created alone the beautiful hydrangea, the hand of God is in and upon and running through this faith community.

Thank you for all that you are and for all that you do. For the many ways that you bring glory to God and thanks to the minds and hearts of others in this community.

May we be filled with gratitude and thanks during this month and this Thanksgiving season.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1 Pastor's Study

2 Session Highlights

4 Scripture Readings

5 Calendar

8 Prayer List

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# Session highlights

At the October 19<sup>th</sup> Session meeting, reports were heard from the Trustees, Treasurer, the Deacons, the Clerk, the Pastor and Ministry Team leaders. Highlights include:

**The Trustees reported** on the work completed with the air conditioning. All work is done, and the service provider did an outstanding job. The Trustees are assessing the parking lot to see if there are solutions to pooling water.

**The Treasurer reported** that the budget is underway. A draft will be presented to Session in November.

**Pastor Diane shared** that a new member's class will be forming. Bible study continues to go well and an Advent study will begin 11/29.

**Christian Education reported** that curriculum is prepared through year end.

**Mission reported** on the final preparations for the Bean Dinner. More folks are needed to join this ministry team.

**Communications reported** that a new web site is underway. This requires moving the email to a new host.

**Stewardship reported** on the final preparations for Consecration Sunday. The Stewardship ministry will take a break after Consecration Sunday and then will get back together to plan for 2018.

**Personnel reported** that the Presbytery is conducting a staff compensation survey which Personnel will use in considering staff wages for the coming year. Per capita for 2018 was discussed.

**Worship will** be held on Christmas Eve at 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

**Please remember that your input, suggestions, concerns, and ideas are welcome at all Session meetings. The last 15 minutes of each meeting will include input from the congregation on an as-offered basis. Your participation in the life of the church is valued; please share any input that you have with a Session member, the Pastor, or to Sally in the office (including by email). Thank you!**



**Weather Closings and Delays:** During the winter season the Church will be closed whenever a Level 2 or Level 3 Snow or an Ice emergency has been declared for the local area.

The Session will also evaluate all weather Warnings to determine their impact on the safety and wellbeing of those participating in church activities.

At all other times when the church is closed due to questionable travel conditions a message will be posted on the church answering machine. A closing announcement may also be seen on WDTN-TV Channel 2 or on its web site at <http://wdsn.com> under *Closings and Delays*. Whatever the situation, members should judge for themselves whether or not it is safe to travel to church services or activities in adverse weather conditions - even if they have a role or responsibility in that service or activity.

# November Happenings



**Movies That Matter Film Series**  
Join us for a movie viewing and discussion led by Rev. Dr. Ed McNulty, nationally recognized film critic.

Our next film will be

November 12<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm.

We will be viewing Lars and the Real Girl.

Extremely shy Lars (Ryan Gosling) finds it impossible to make friends or socialize. His brother (Paul Schneider) and sister-in-law (Emily Mortimer) worry about him, so when he announces that he has a girlfriend he met on the Internet, they are overjoyed. But Lars' new lady is a life-size plastic woman. On the advice of a doctor (Patricia Clarkson), his family and the rest of the community go along with his delusion.



**STUDY GROUP Bible Study.** *ILLUMINATING ADVENT BIBLE STUDY BEGINS* Wednesday, November 29<sup>th</sup>! Join the Wednesday evening Bible study (we meet at 6:00 p.m. in the Sunday School classroom) for a six week Advent study. This study will explore the themes of Advent - - hope, love, joy and peace; Christmas; and Epiphany. The class meets for one hour each Wednesday evening and all are welcome. There is a participant's book for this series. The cost of the book is \$ 4.95. Please register for the study by signing up in the office or letting pastor Diane know you will be participating.



*New Members Class forming soon!* If you would like to explore the possibility of church membership, please let Pastor Diane know. We will be forming a class based on the number of participants and a time frame that works well for folks.

## Bellbrook Presbyterian Church



Title: **The Zookeeper's Wife**

by Diane Ackerman

**Date:** November 14th

**Time:** 9:30am

**Place:** the church

**JOIN US!**

When Germany invaded Poland, Stuka bombers devastated Warsaw—and the city's zoo along with it. With most of their animals dead, zookeepers Jan and Antonina Zabinski began smuggling Jews into empty cages. Another dozen "guests" hid inside the Zabinskis' villa, emerging after dark for dinner, socializing, and, during rare moments of calm, piano concerts. Jan, active in the Polish resistance, kept ammunition buried in the elephant enclosure and stashed explosives in the animal hospital. Meanwhile, Antonina kept her unusual household afloat, caring for both its human and its animal inhabitants—otters, a badger, hyena pups, lynxes. With her exuberant prose and exquisite sensitivity to the natural world, Diane Ackerman engages us viscerally in the lives of the zoo animals, their keepers, and their hidden visitors. She shows us how Antonina refused to give in to the penetrating fear of discovery, keeping alive an atmosphere of play and innocence even as Europe crumbled around her.



## Reading through the Bible Scriptures for November

- Day 304 - 1 Timothy 2; Isaiah 34-35; Psalm 119:65-96  
Day 305 - 1 Timothy 3; Isaiah 36-37; Psalm 119:97-120  
Day 306 - 1 Timothy 4; Isaiah 38-39; Psalm 119:121-144  
Day 307 - 1 Timothy 5:1-22; Jeremiah 1-2; Psalm 119:145-176  
Day 308 - 1 Timothy 5:23-6:21; Jeremiah 3-4; Psalm 120  
Day 309 - 2 Timothy 1; Jeremiah 5-6; Psalm 121  
Day 310 - 2 Timothy 2; Jeremiah 7-8; Psalm 122  
Day 311 - 2 Timothy 3; Jeremiah 9-10; Psalm 123  
Day 312 - 2 Timothy 4; Jeremiah 11-12; Psalm 124  
Day 313 - Titus 1; Jeremiah 13-14; Psalm 125  
Day 314 - Titus 2; Jeremiah 15-16; Psalm 126  
Day 315 - Titus 3; Jeremiah 17-18; Psalm 127  
Day 316 - Philemon 1:1-25; Jeremiah 19-20; Psalm 128  
Day 317 - James 1; Jeremiah 21-22; Psalm 129  
Day 318 - James 2; Jeremiah 23-24; Psalm 130  
Day 319 - James 3; Jeremiah 25-26; Psalm 131  
Day 320 - James 4; Jeremiah 27-28; Psalm 132  
Day 321 - James 5; Jeremiah 29-30; Psalm 133  
Day 322 - 1 Peter 1; Jeremiah 31-32; Psalm 134  
Day 323 - 1 Peter 2; Jeremiah 33-34; Psalm 135  
Day 324 - 1 Peter 3; Jeremiah 35-36; Psalm 136  
Day 325 - 1 Peter 4; Jeremiah 37-38; Psalm 137  
Day 326 - 1 Peter 5; Jeremiah 39-40; Psalm 138  
Day 327 - 2 Peter 1; Jeremiah 41-42; Psalm 139  
Day 328 - 2 Peter 2; Jeremiah 43-44; Psalm 140  
Day 329 - 2 Peter 3; Jeremiah 45-46; Psalm 141  
Day 330 - Galatians 1; Jeremiah 47-48; Psalm 142  
Day 331 - Galatians 2; Jeremiah 49-50; Psalm 143  
Day 332 - Galatians 3:1-18; Jeremiah 51-52; Psalm 144  
Day 333 - Galatians 3:19-4:20; Lamentations 1-2; Psalm 145

# November



			1 11:00am Bellcreek Seniors (FH) 6:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Troop 75	2	3	4 
5 <b>Communion</b> 8:45 am Keystone Class 10:00 am Worship 10:20 am Children's Sunday School 11:00am Fellowship Hour 11:30 Sermon Roundtable	6	7	8 11:00am Bellcreek Seniors (FH) 6:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Troop 75	9 Ministerial Association 12:00noon @ Christ's Church	10	11 Veterans Day
12 <b>Birthdays</b> 8:45 am Keystone Class 10:00 am Worship 10:20 am Children's Sunday School 11:00am Fellowship Hour with cake 11:30 Sermon Roundtable <b>2:00pm Movies That Matter</b>	13 Historical Society 6:30pm	14 Book Club	15 11:00am Bellcreek Seniors (FH) 6:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Scouts	16 Session 7:00pm	17	18 Frank Luhn's Memorial Service 11:00am
19 <b>Thanksgiving Service</b> <b>Anniversaries</b> 8:45 am Keystone 10:00 am Worship 10:20 am Children's Sunday School 11:00am Fellowship Hour 11:30 Sermon Roundtable	20	21 Men's Breakfast 8:30 (BBC) 	22 11:00am Bellcreek Seniors (FH) 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Scouts	23  Thanksgiving	24	25
<b>Church Office closed for holiday</b>						
26 <b>Christ the King Sunday</b> <b>Rev. Arby Conn Preaching</b> 8:45 am Keystone 10:00 am Worship 10:20 am Children's Sunday School 11:00am Fellowship Hour 11:30 Sermon Roundtable	27	28 Winter's Library 5:30-6:30	29 11:00am Bellcreek Seniors (FH) 6:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Scouts	30		
						Newsletter 5



## BEAN DINNER AND BAZAAR

GOD IS GOOD!

Another successful Bean Dinner, carrying on the legacy of some very special ladies, has been held. All of you are an awesome group of stewards and community of believers! As usual, you brought in pies and baked goods, made cornbread, served the beans and ham and other items, cleaned up the tables, sold raffle tickets and so much more. We even had the Buckeye game on TV and a group crowded around to watch the spectacular game winning touchdown.

It was wonderful for me to witness and experience the giving and sharing nature of this congregation, first hand, for this event. Members and friends who have been coming to BPC for years as well as those of who are fairly new to our congregation contributed to the success of this day.

This year we invited some people from the community to dine with us as well as the on duty Police and Fire personnel from Bellbrook and Sugarcreek Township. Eleven guest or free meals were provided to these folks.

We truly exemplified our Mission statement of "Outreaching Hands, Embracing Arms". Look for other opportunities to go out into our community to serve in the coming months.

Raffle Items and Winners:

Spa Basket: George Walker

AAA Emergency Kit: Joe Root

Bellbrook Chocolate Shop Basket: Dorothy Evans

Sugar Valley Golf Club (foursome with 2 carts): Terry Allen

Total Served: 95

Dinner money received: \$711

Raffle: \$156

Bazaar as of 10/30: \$361.80

Total Receipts: \$1,228.80

THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH! Sue Seiler



Thank you to everyone who was part of Consecration Sunday and our stewardship focus during the month of October. On Sunday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, Consecration Sunday included worship with Margaret Haney preaching, and a wonderful meal in the Fellowship Hall. Many members and friends offered pledges as part of this morning, with an increase of 9% in giving over 2017.

The Stewardship Ministry Team is grateful for all who helped, hoped, and prayed during this important time in our church year. The generosity and support of this faith community through this campaign will provide for the continued growth and ministry of the church in the coming year. All glory be to God!



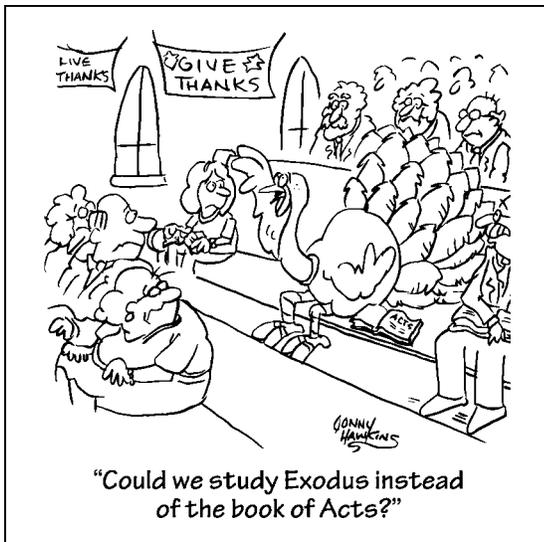
7 – Alexandra Contestable  
9 – Phil Rogers  
13 – Nick Steuver  
15 – Nancy Hearrell  
16 – Don Brawner  
18 – Kristen Garrison  
20 – Larry Dumford  
27 – Josie Dunaway



1 – Phil and Sally Smallwood

### Special dates

- All Saints' Day, *November 1, 2017*
- Daylight-Saving Time ends, *November 5, 2017*
- Veterans Day, *November 11, 2017*
- Thanksgiving Day, *November 23, 2017*
- Christ the King Sunday, *November 26, 2017*



# Looking Ahead

**Advent is just around the corner! This is such a beautiful time of year and a wonderful opportunity to build and strengthen our faith. Please plan to attend some or all of our Advent and Christmas worship services. If you have not been to The Bellbrook Presbyterian Church for a while, or are new to the community, we invite you to join us for this special season.**

**If you would be interested in being part of an Advent drama or lighting of the candles during worship, please contact Pastor Diane for more information.**

### December 3<sup>rd</sup> – Advent begins!

The First Sunday of Advent – HOPE!

Worship at 10:00 a.m.

- The Hanging of the Greens will take place following worship with a carry in lunch.
- The Tyke Shop will be open following worship.

### December 10<sup>th</sup> –

The Second Sunday of Advent – PEACE!

Worship at 10:00 a.m.

- Movies that Matter meets at 2:00 p.m. for the viewing of Bridge of Spies, a movie about the Cold War.

### December 17<sup>th</sup> –

The Third Sunday of Advent – JOY!

Worship at 10:00 a.m.

### December 24<sup>th</sup> –

Christmas Eve – LOVE!

Worship at 10:00 a.m. and

Christmas Eve candlelight service at 7:00 p.m.

- The Peace Light (a light brought from the legendary birthplace of the Christ in Jerusalem) will be included in our worship in both services.



Family of Frank Luhn  
Lynn Cook  
Tom Marshall and family  
Paulette Tyler  
June Stiner  
Maria Collins  
Ben Downing  
Family of Sharon Ferguson  
Jim Withhorn  
Sandy Wieser  
Larry Dumford  
Karen and Ed Long  
Dorothy Evans  
Wildfire Victims  
Family of Malcom Mc Millan  
Pat Crowe and family upon the  
death of her sister  
Megan- Betty's granddaughter  
Victims in Las Vegas  
AJ Ross  
Kim Berryhill  
Keith and Leslie Clements  
Orris Smallwood  
Keith St. Pierre  
Alzheimer Patients + caregivers  
Traveling Prayers  
Cancer patients + caregivers



Terry Allen- 620-4811

Dorothy Evans 317-5008 or 287-7219

Valerie Fairchild-Timmons 768-9971

Kim Hensley 848-4756

Allene Circle-Rader 848-8218

Donna Ruschau 429-2107

Sue Seiler 848-2043, 478-1426 or  
604-1426

Call with assurance of confidentiality, love  
and prayer



Susi Kircher

Geneva

Virginia

Darlene

Betty

Bud

Don

To visit or send cards please check with  
office for addresses.



**Time**



**Talent**



**Treasure**

Thanks to those of you who completed a time and talent form during the month of October. For those who have not yet completed a form, please consider taking time to do so. Forms are available in and outside of the office.

As Reformed Christians, we believe that our time and talents are to be applied in every part of our lives. They are used in our family life, in raising children, in our vocations, and throughout our daily lives wherever we may be. Our time and talents are also very important to the church. Please prayerfully consider how God might be calling you to use the time and talents you have been given in your daily life, and in the church community.

There are many year round opportunities for the sharing of time and talent, such as serving on a ministry team (Christian Education, Worship, Mission, Communication, etc.). There are also many, many opportunities for involvement that are much shorter – from serving as liturgist for a worship service, to helping with a single event, to bringing food for fellowship hour, and many more such opportunities.

There are a number of specific needs in the church that will be very important to the continued growth and mission of the congregation in the coming years. These include: serving in an Ordered Ministry as a church officer (Elder or Deacon); choir members; youth group leaders; individuals to welcome and follow up with visitors; and more. If you feel called to any of these particular roles, or would like an opportunity to discuss your time and talents and the church, please talk to any member of Session (Harry Crowe, Ben Radar, Al Evans, Sue Seiler, Joe Steuver, Ray Aldridge) or Pastor Diane.

To God be the Glory!



## LIVING A STEWARDSHIP

It is all about your heart...

Everything we have is a gift from God that we are to use to help others.

*Life*



**Bellbrook Presbyterian Church**  
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Bellbrook, OH 45305-1903

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