
THE BELLRINGER



Volume 2, Issue 1

November 2016

Pastor's Study

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

As I write this I am blessed by beautiful sunshine, a cool fall day, the colors of changing leaves, and zinnias in pink, yellow, and orange that continue to bloom into these fall days. The beauty of the earth and all of the natural wonders that fill it just sort of bring about a feeling of thanksgiving. What a privilege and treat to take in the sights, sounds and smells of this season.

In addition to the beauty of fall, November brings an annual day of formal thanks for us as we celebrate Thanksgiving with neighbors, friends and family. It is fun to hear different family traditions at Thanksgiving - - favorite foods, who brings what, where we gather, and what prayers are shared. We have so much to be thankful for.

To help us celebrate as a community, I would like to ask you to bring in (to church/worship), email in, or mail in a thanksgiving prayer or a meal time prayer that you use now or that you grew up using. Please put your name and if you have a little bit of information about the prayer (it was a childhood prayer, it was a prayer prayed with your children, it is a prayer you pray each day, etc.) on the paper with the prayer. I am also happy to come and pick up prayers - - if you want to say them out loud, I can write them down and put them together that way also. Please bring in or send in your prayers by Wednesday, November 16th. I will put these together so that we can each have a copy, and we can use them at home with our meals and at church when we gather. And with help from some volunteers we can make a digital recording of the prayers also for those who would like the prayers that way.

As we collect prayers this month I would also like to ask you to take extra time to lift prayers up. As we continue to discern where God is calling TBPC, and what God seeks for us to do, I hope you will pray for the church and for each one who is a part of the church. Possibly we could all take our Members and Friends lists and pray through that list over the month of November, so that two or three people/families are prayed for each day. Please also pray for our community, our nation, and the world - - there are so many needs.

I am thankful for you. Truly thankful for you. I think of you each day and pray for you on an ongoing basis, and of course will continue to do so. May we rejoice and give thanks during this month, for all that God has blessed us with.

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In Christ, Diane



Every faculty you have, your power of thinking or of moving your limbs from moment to moment, is given you by God. If you devoted every moment of your whole life exclusively to His service, you could not give Him anything that was not in a sense His own already.

– C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

Our understanding of stewardship often gets limited to a time of year when the church asks for money, but stewardship is much more than money - - it is a reflection of everything that we are and have. Scripture tells us that “the earth is the Lord’s” (Psalm 24:1).

The Message translation of this verse is “God claims Earth and everything in it, God claims World and all who live on it.” As the Creator and the Almighty, everything that surrounds us and comprises us belongs to God.

When we see the world as a world that belongs to God, our view changes. The Earth is not something to be taken from or used, but respected and cared for as God’s hands made it. The things that inhabit the earth, creature and humankind, God carefully crafted each one in perfection, and breathed life into bodies that otherwise would have none. When we look into the face of another, we are looking at a creation of God.

Our resources, too, are the Lord’s. We tend to think of what we have as “mine” - - from a very young age we mark our pencil boxes and backpacks with our names so that we know which things are “ours”. But rather than owning and possessing, what we have, truly belongs to God and has been entrusted to us. The houses we live in, the yards where we grow a garden, the time we have each day, the financial resources we have - - all of it - - God claims, and entrusts to us to use for God’s work, purpose, and glory.

C.S. Lewis wisely tells us in the quote at the top of this page, that we could devote everything - - all of our time, all of our talent, all that we have, to God and not give God anything that wasn’t God’s already. So what is the point, then? If it already belongs to God and we are entrusted with it, then why bother with stewardship at all?

Stewardship, of our time, our talent and our resources, is essential to accomplishing the work of Christ as the church in the world. If we did not give of our time and talent and our resources collectively, there would not be a church – no bulletins, no choir, no building, no pastor, no one to greet visitors and answer the phone. Our giving funds our work and mission. *But more importantly, stewardship is one way that we can give thanks to God, and communicate that we understand something that much of the world does not - - the Earth is the Lord’s; and faithfully walking on the earth, and being a true steward with that which is entrusted to us proclaims that Almighty God is Lord of All.*



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

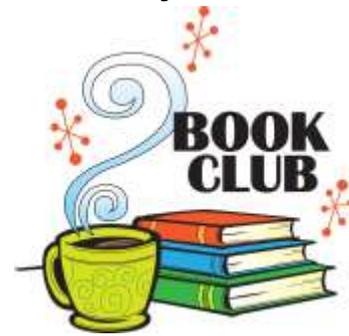


- 1 – Phil and Sally Smallwood
- 23 – Frank and Leslie Luhn

Special dates

- All Saints' Day, *November 1, 2016*
- Daylight-Saving Time ends, *November 6, 2016*
- Election Day, *November 8, 2016*
- Veterans Day, *November 11, 2016*
- Christ the King Sunday, *November 20, 2016*
- Thanksgiving, *November 24, 2016*
- First Sunday of Advent, *November 27, 2016*

Bellbrook Presbyterian Book Club



Join Us for our next meeting on
November 17 at 9:00am
at Saxby's

**Book: A Dog Walks Into a Nursing Home:
Lessons in the Good Life from an
Unlikely Teacher**
by Sue Halpern

At loose ends with her daughter leaving home and her husband on the road, Sue Halpern decided to give herself and Pransky, her under-occupied Labradoodle, a new leash—er, lease—on life by getting the two of them certified as a therapy dog team. Smart, spirited, and instinctively compassionate, Pransky turned out to be not only a terrific therapist but an unerring moral compass. In the unlikely sounding arena of a public nursing home, she led her teammate into a series of encounters with the residents that revealed depths of warmth, humor, and insight Halpern hadn't expected. And little by little, their adventures expanded and illuminated Halpern's sense of what virtue is and does—how acts of kindness transform the giver as well as the given-to.

Funny, moving, and profound, *A Dog Walks into a Nursing Home* is the story of how one faithful, charitable, loving, and sometimes prudent mutt—showing great hope, fortitude, and restraint along the way (the occasional begged or stolen treat notwithstanding)—taught a well-meaning woman the true nature and pleasures of the good life.

Upcoming Events



The Deacons are hosting a lecture by Scott Royal who will be telling the story of Louis Zamperini, an Olympic runner-turned-war-hero. Against nearly impossible odds, Zamperini managed to survive years of extreme deprivation and torture, first spending 47 days lost at sea after his plane crashed several hundred miles from Oahu, Hawaii, and then becoming a POW in Japan, where he was targeted by a malevolent, violent commander named Mutsuhiro "the Bird" Watanabe.*. The lecture will be held in the Fellowship hall and the sanctuary on November 15 at 7pm. Coffee and cake will be served afterwards. Cost is FREE.



On Saturday, November 19 at 1 p.m. the ladies of the church will be having a special day for the kids, both boys and girls. We will all be making fleece scarfs with cat faces for the mitten tree. We may need another Saturday to finish all we want to make but this should be a joyful time with fun for all ages.

You are welcome to come and join in or just watch. See you all there.



Mark your Calendars!!

**When: December 4
Time: following worship**

More information to follow!



Out N About

Steve Berryhill was to have a triple bypass on October 13 but they were only able to do a double because the third was buried deep in the heart and hard to find. The surgery was quite long and he could function without it so they didn't do that one. They had also discovered a problem with his kidneys (stage 3 kidney disease) so those had to be carefully monitored also. So much has been caused by the diabetes. The doctors were pleased with his recovery so he was able to come home October 18. He and Sharon are so thankful for all of the prayers. God is good!

Phil Rogers and his cousin went to Pigeon Forge TN for 3 days from October 11-14. They saw 3 shows and did a lot of sightseeing. They had a wonderful time together.

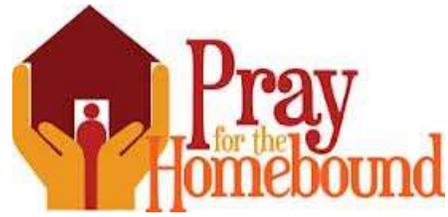
Al and Sharon Sawyer spent 10 days visiting his sister & brother-in-law in Texas then going to Kansas to visit Sharon's brother Jack and sister-in-law Andy. They had a great time and weather was beautiful.

Mike and Sue Seiler took a month long trip with Sue's brother and wife. They traveled to Iceland, Amsterdam, Switzerland, Italy, Spain and much more. They had a wonderful time and we welcome them back!

Sally and her husband Phil took a little trip to Louisville to celebrate their 30th wedding anniversary. They enjoyed some good food, interesting ours and wonderful fall weather.



Family of Janey Hacker
Eve Shaneyfelt
Tom Greiner
Hurricane victims
Mark Hoyng
Family of Steve Hodson
Channing- ben's Great granddaughter
Denelda- Glen's mom
Clown threats
Kayla Moody
Anji Erikson
Glen Janus and his mother
Drew Paige- Val Fairchild's grandson
Steve Berryhill
Josie
John Laurens
Susie Benson
Randy Pavlak and family
Joyce Rivers
The Turner Family
Family of Gail Dumford
Lindsey Hambly
Those suffering from anxiety
Family of Myra Sloan
Geneva Edgington
Alice Hopping
Pam Reuber
Kathy Beleny
Darlene Wilson
Leslie and Frank Luhn
Lisa Graham
Betty Cornette
Jane Betz
Susi Kircher
Traveling Prayers
Alzheimer Patients + caregivers
Cancer Patients + caregivers
Cancer Patients + caregivers



Susi Kircher
Geneva
Virginia
Darlene
Betty
Bud

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



Terry Allen- 620-4811

Dorothy Evans 317-5008 or 287-7219

Valerie Fairchild-Timmons 768-9971

Kim Hensley 848-4756

Allen Circle-Rader 848-8218

Donna Ruschau 429-2107

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

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 NOVEMBER

		1	2	3	4	5
		Winter's Library Marvel Club 5-6 & 6-8				 Turn your clocks back before you go to bed!
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Communion 8:45 am Keystone Class 10:00 am Worship 10:20 am Children's Sunday School 11:00am Fellowship Hour	Deacons 10am		11:00am Bellcreek Seniors (FH) 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Troop 75	Ministerial Association Meeting 12:00pm Worship Meeting 7:00 Trustees Meeting 7:00		Meeting of the Presbytery @ 9am First Presbyterian in Middletown
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Birthdays 8:45 am Keystone Class 10:00 am Worship 10:20 am Children's Sunday School 11:00am Fellowship Hour- birthday cake	Historical Society 6:30pm		11:00am Bellcreek Seniors (FH) 7:00pm Choir 7:0p Troop 75	Book Club @ Saxby's 9:00am Session 7:00pm		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Anniversaries 8:45 am Keystone Class 10:00 am Worship 10:20 am Children's Sunday School 11:00am Fellowship Hour	NO SCHOOL	NO SCHOOL Men's Breakfast 8:30 (BBC) 	NO SCHOOL 11:00am Bellcreek Seniors (FH) 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Troop 75	NO SCHOOL 	NO SCHOOL	
27	28	29	30			
8:45 am Keystone Class 10:00 am Worship 10:20 am Children's Sunday School 11:00am Fellowship Hour		Winter's Library "frosting fun" 4-6				



A thank everyone who helped with the **Bean Supper**. Tammy was the “Bean Supper super hero”. She was here all day with six roasters going. The soup was delicious. Candy made the decorations so beautiful and welcoming. Penny and Janet handled the Bazar and bake sale.

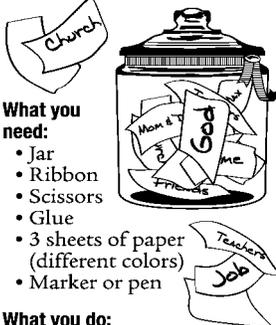
And so many others – makers of fudge, pies and bread for the bake sale, those who cleaned tables and wiped trays, those who carried boxes and bags, the cashiers, dishwashers, and do-ers of many other things. Thank you!



Children's Corner

BLESSINGS JAR

Thanksgiving reminds us of our many gifts from God. Count your blessings all month long with this craft.



What you need:

- Jar
- Ribbon
- Scissors
- Glue
- 3 sheets of paper (different colors)
- Marker or pen

What you do:

1. Measure and cut enough ribbon to wrap around the jar's neck, below the lid. Glue in place and let dry.
2. Fold each piece of paper in half three times, resulting in eight rectangles per sheet. Cut along the fold lines, and you'll have 24 rectangles.
3. Each day in November until Thanksgiving, write down one blessing from God. Then place that blessing in the jar.
4. On Thanksgiving, open the jar and read all your blessings to your family and friends.

The **Christian Education committee** met a few **Sundays** ago to discuss some repurposing and updating of the Christian Education space. This endeavor will begin after Christmas. We will wash walls, organize the cupboards, paint, clean the carpets, and re-arrange the rooms. We will need help with fetching tools, rags, etc., bringing drinks or snacks to the workers, watching to help others not miss spots, and doing the cleaning, painting, organizing, and re-arranging. If you can do any of that, please volunteer when the request comes. If you have questions please see Nancy Hearrell or leave a message for the secretary at secretary@bellbrookpc.org.

In October we began not be having Sunday School classes on the first Sunday of each month so the children can remain in the sanctuary and experience our church service and communion. Additional materials for families with children will be provided.



As we prepare for the tyke shop in December, we are asking for new donations. Keep in mind what a child might like to buy for their parents, grandparents or siblings. Jewlery, picture frames etc. As always we thank you for all you do for the children of the church.



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Bellbrook, OH 45305-1903

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