



All Saints

One of the quietly important days on the Church calendar is All Saints' Day. As such, we will celebrate especially the members and friends who've died during the past two years on All Saints' **Sunday, November 4th** at our 10:15 service.

This year, the congregation has been invited to bring a picture of a loved one for display during the service. Two tables will be set up at the front of the sanctuary. You are welcome to bring a framed picture with you that morning or to stop by and leave one for us to include.

All these loved ones are now part of that 'great cloud of witnesses' described in the book of Hebrews. We hope you will participate in this sacred time of remembering.

Harvest Home

The Deacons will be meeting **Saturday November 10th** to decorate for Harvest Home. The display will be up for two Sunday's to view in the sanctuary. If you have any items that you would like to donate to the display please contact a Deacon.

Fall Back

Don't forget to turn your clocks back for Daylight Savings **November 4th**!

In this Issue

Deacons

Youth Group

Thanksgiving Baskets

Trunk or Treat

Hanging the Greens

Flower Chart

November

Birthdays/Anniversary's

November Assistants



A Posting from the Pastor

We are nearing the end of the exhausting, demeaning, fearmongering exercise known as the mid-term elections. The outcome carries a significance no matter which side you favor. These are challenging times for this democracy which is trying to do something never done before, according to historian Joseph J. Ellis: "...create a fully and genuinely multiracial society in a huge nation."

In a recent edition of *Christian Century*, eleven responses were garnered to answer the question: 'Do Politics Belong in Church?' They are measured, thoughtful, passionate and articulate – and it is not possible for me to capture the gist of all in these few paragraphs. So let me simply hold these snippets for your consideration as people of faith, something that has implications other interest groups do not.

In such times as these, the preacher's task is to remind the congregation that basic tenets of our faith – grace and mercy, radical hospitality, love of neighbor – go beyond politics but have political implications.

I often lift up justice and love, endeavoring to create a space for a little peace and quiet, reflection, consideration of the big picture, and renewal of our individual and collective relationship with our Creator.

We witness to the in-breaking of God's reign of love, justice, beauty, and abundance in time and space. We lament brokenness, evil, and violence. We proclaim that these dastardly realities are ending ever as we groan and press toward God's redemption of humanity and all of creation. Our prayers, songs, sermons, and testimonies are acts of political speech.

So when Christians are in church they should be at their most political. But what is essential is how to avoid letting what passes as politics determine the political agenda of the church. Christians must learn again how to reframe issues in a manner that makes clear that the politics of Jesus is different.

Our secular political culture feels less and less inclined toward respectful dialogue and creative political thinking. Our church culture sometimes feels just as divisive. This is a time for us in the church to come together, across political disagreements, to articulate and reaffirm the Christ-centered goals that we do share, even as we will argue reasonably and prayerfully for different ways of reaching them.

The work of theological discernment leads us to strange places, standing against police brutality while nevertheless engaging the police as community partners. It leads us to stand with our Muslim neighbors because of – not in spite of – our passion for Jesus. And we get things wrong. We move too slow. Or we move too fast. We do the right thing for the wrong reason – and vice versa. There is no great victory to report.

Perhaps this fallibility most starkly distinguishes theological discernment from political ideology. Political pundits – both paid and pretend – win points at all costs. Theologians pray time and again: 'Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us sinners.'

The one responsibility we carry as faithful Americans is to vote. Our calls as servants of the Living Christ is to pray and practice a faith that looks like him.

Join us as we worship, seek peace and share our hopes and hurts together.

Pastor Steve

Gingerbread and Fellowship

The Deacons will be hosting a Christmas social which will include decorating gingerbread houses **Sunday December 2nd** following worship. Everyone is welcome to join us as we celebrate and prepare for Christmas!



Youth Group Fundraisers

It's that time of year! The holiday's are upon us and so are fundraisers! Our youth group will be holding several fundraisers this month into December. Starting off with the school boy race **Saturday November 17th** and the Run for the Diamonds **Thanksgiving Day**. We will be in need of individually wrapped and labeled baked items. We can also use some muscle to setup and tear down tables and the tent. Baked goods can be dropped off in the office Friday November 16th. Any questions please contact Keith or Heather Botto. Thank you in advance for your continued support of our youth!

Communion Dates 2018

November 4
November 25
December 24

Help Bring Thanksgiving to Those in Need

The Berwick Ministerium members agreed that each church who was able would contribute one or two thanksgiving baskets of food this year. The Salvation Army and Bower UMC will be the distributors. Our Deacons agreed to put together two baskets and Session thought the whole congregation might want to take part as well. If you would like to make a monetary donation to this project, either mark your check or envelope with the amount for BASKETS. Monies must be received no later than Sunday, Nov. 11.

Thank you for continuing First Presbyterian Church's commitment to mission, at home, in country and abroad.



School Boy Race
Fundraiser
November 17th

Trans-Siberian Orchestra
November 18th

Run for the Diamonds
Fundraiser
November 22nd

No Trunks All Treats

The rainy weather didn't stop us from holding a very successful Trunk or Treat on October 27th. Instead of meeting with decorated trunks in the parking lot we moved all the festivities inside the church. Approximately 120+ kids made their way through the building gathering treats in a warm and dry location. Treats and cider were served and pumpkins were handed out at the end. Thank you to everyone who helped make this event another success! Pictures can be found on our Facebook page and website!

Hanging the Greens

We will be meeting **Saturday December 1st** to decorate the church for Advent and Christmas. Many hands make light work. Any help is greatly appreciated!

Flower Chart

Just a reminder that the flower chart is totally open from now through the remainder of 2018. Please check out the flower chart to place flowers today!

Who's in the Pulpit?

We welcome back Sally Dries as our guest preacher November 11th.



November Birthdays

Julie Hart	11/2
Brandon Birt	11/4
Wade Casaldi	11/5
Sally Johnson	11/7
Emma Botto	11/9
Wayne Strausser	11/10
Kathy Thomas	11/16
Debra Force-Moore	11/23
Penny Siesko	11/27
Wendy Eveland	11/30

Happy Birthday!

November Assistants

November 4

Greeters: Janice Moskaluk

Ushers: Steve Hiller, Al West

Assisting Elder: Joan Thomas

Acolyte: Morgan West

November 11

Greeters: Bill & Shirley Birt

Ushers: Tom & Barb Huntington

Assisting Elder: Penny Siesko

Acolyte: Tyrone Birt

November 18

Greeters: Walter & Alison Hause

Ushers: Joan Thomas, Eugeniu Grigorescu

Assisting Elder: Jim Ross

Acolyte: Emma Botto

November 25

Greeters: MaryAnn Marshman, Fran Kirchdoerfer

Ushers: Ernie Botto, Keith Botto

Assisting Elder: Eugeniu Grigorescu

Acolyte: Aaliyah DAngelo

Deacon Visitor for November: Ernie & Joan Botto

Have a wonderful month with family and friends!

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

320 Market Street

Berwick, PA 18603

Mail to: PO Box 325

570-759-9461

bwkpresby@pa.metrocast.net

www.bwkpresby.org



Worship service 10:15am

Sunday school for all ages during worship

Salt + Light Youth Group

Nursery available

