



The MESSENGER

October 2021



Worship Committee

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the Rev. Jeffrey Lang

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Director of Music and Organist

Kate

Choir Director/Vocalist

Paisley

Videographer

Maya

Vocalist

Deborah

Administrative Assistant

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Items for the November edition of this newsletter are accepted in the church office through 9:00AM, Monday, October 26, 2021.



Early submissions are joyfully accepted.

Submitted information will be edited for clarity, accuracy, and length.

The Origins of World Communion Sunday

The first Sunday in October is designated as World Communion Sunday, as you may already know. But the first occasion and the way the yearly practice came about is a story of its own.

The practice, which was first called “World Wide Communion Sunday,” has direct Presbyterian roots. The first celebration of World Communion Sunday took place at Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, PA. The year was 1932. This service was conceived as a special communion intended to bring churches together in Christian unity.

The concept caught on very slowly, even among other Presbyterian churches. But in 1940, the body which was the predecessor to what would eventually become the National Council of Churches made the determination that World Communion Sunday should be promoted, just as the name suggests, across the globe.

During the crucial era of World War II, World Communion Sunday came to represent “the effort to hold the world together, spiritually.” It seems very appropriate now in 2021, during a global pandemic and in a time of political and social division in our country, that we pause to consider Paul’s writing about participating in this sacrament.

Paul tells us that we are “to discern the body” (1 Corinthians 27) when we celebrate communion, being mindful that we note our relationships to all our brothers and sisters in Christ, as we partake. These are surely words to consider prayerfully.

As you have been invited back into the sanctuary for the cooler months, please plan to attend on communion Sundays, and on all the Sundays in between, too! Your presence with us as we listen to the Word, reflect on Reverend Lang’s sermons, and pray together is an essential part of our church community.



From the Pastor's Desk

*Loveliest of trees, the cherry now
Is hung with bloom along the bough,
And stands about the woodland ride
Wearing white for Eastertide.
Now, of my threescore years and ten,
Twenty will not come again,
And take from seventy springs a score,
It only leaves me fifty more.
And since to look at things in bloom
Fifty springs are little room,
About the woodlands I will go
To see the cherry hung with snow.*

A.E. Housman's poem 'Loveliest of Trees' was included in his *A Shropshire Lad* published in 1896. Housman offers a reflection on the brevity of human life by way of allusion to Psalm 90:10, 'The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty; yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away.'

Moving from Housman's reflection on Spring, to Autumn instead, there is a certain melancholy beauty to the season – falling leaves, cooler temperatures, and shorter days. The beauty of Autumn can be a reminder of its brevity. Before long, the striking colors of gold and orange leaves gives way to the denuded landscape of winter. Perhaps it is a lesson from nature concerning the human condition. Autumn can remind us of our own finitude. It is fitting, at least in the Northern Hemisphere, that the last days of October and first of

November bring us All Hallow's Tide, the triduum of All Hallow's Eve (October 31), All Saints' Day (November 1), and All Souls' Day (November 2).

The Bible's Story has it that nature itself has been marred by the effects of humanity's fall into sin, including the introduction of death into God's creation.

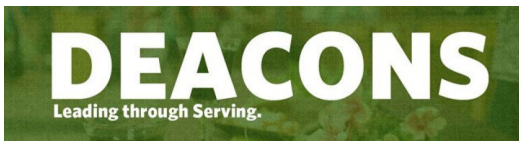
Genesis opens with God speaking the universe, this world, and all of its creatures into existence.

Later, in the New Testament, John's Gospel is a reimagining and a retelling of Genesis. Jesus is presented as the word which God spoke in the Genesis creation story incarnate as a human being.

John's Gospel becomes a new Genesis in which Jesus is God's discourse, God's wording forth, to humankind. Jesus is God's word of saving love to humanity, to all of creation.

For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. John 3:17

Life is a gift which passes through its own successive seasons – childhood, adulthood, old age each in its turn. We find assurance in the Bible's Story that through and beyond the transient seasons of our life's span, God is our foundation amidst impermanence and change. His love for us never changes and always endures.



The Deacons offer prayer, companionship, rides, or meals, but don't always know where care is needed. If you know of a need (your own or another's), call the church office or any of our Deacons: Susan A, Marianna B, Jane J, and Susy S (Moderator)

William B
Levi C
Dottie E
Fern E
Dolores G
Mary M
Jackie O
Lila O
Carolyn S
Jim S



We sadness we share with you the death of our former Interim Pastor, the Rev. Steven G.

Steven died September 9 at his home in Lancaster, Ohio.

A memorial service will be held in Camp Hill, PA, Saturday, November 13.

You can see Steve's obituary on the Church House bulletin board.

Defending your name

Hundreds of people recently brought pool noodles to a Nebraska field to "fight" for the name they all share: Josh. The event was the brainchild of Josh Swain, who jokingly suggested a battle to keep that moniker.

The #JoshFight was tongue-in-cheek, but how strongly do we stand up for our name as Christians? "Defending the faith to the best of our ability is not a luxury or an indulgence in intellectual vanity," writes R.C. Sproul. "It is the task given to each one of us as we bear witness to our faith before the world."



Pool noodles may not work well for this task, but we have God's armor and the cross. As the hymn notes, "Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim / Till all the world adore his sacred name."

—Stephanie Martin

Spotlight on



In lieu of our October monthly food offering, we will accept food and band-a-buck donations beginning Sunday, October 1 through our Fill the Glendale Village Square with Food event on Saturday, October 16.

Forty golfers enjoyed a great day of golf at our 24th Annual Outing in memory of Tom and Sylvia A. Following golf, about ten members of the congregation and others joined the golfers in the clubhouse for a buffet of hors d'oeuvres and beverages followed by golf awards and our raffle.

September Food Offering



Sixty-four pounds of food and personal care items was delivered to Valley Interfaith Community Resource Center. In addition, items were taken to Pam, of State-ments Salon, to add to her collection for the Glendale Street Fair on September 25. Pam is one of our best supporters at our Fill the Glendale Village Square with Food and we thought it only right to support her efforts.

Thank you, everyone, for helping to feed and care for our neighbors in need.

Profit from the Outing will go to the Veterans Guesthouse at the V.A. hospital, the Andy Caress Melanoma Foundation, the William Breidenstein Fund, and the Valley Interfaith Community Resource Center in Lockland.

Financial results will be announced soon.



We're still collecting pill bottles!

Matthew25Ministries is thrilled to have any size empty pill bottles—prescription and/or over-the-counter. You may place them in the blue trash can outside the church office.

If you can, please remove the label. To help us more completely fill the can, please remove your bottles from the bag you carried them to church in.

M i s s i o n s

Fill the Glendale Village Square with Food—Again!

Saturday, October 16; 8AM-2PM



Canned goods (fruit, vegetables, soup, tuna, chicken, peanut butter, jelly...), boxed goods (cereals, pasta, mac-n-cheese,

crackers, rice, noodles...), personal hygiene

(bath soap, shampoo,

toothbrush, tooth-

paste, deodorant,

shaving cream...),

household cleaning

(dish detergent,

laundry detergent, floor cleaner...), will be

gratefully accepted. Cash and checks (made payable to First Presbyterian Church Glendale) are welcome too!



We will follow the Covid safety precautions in place that day as we accept your food and monetary donations. We will also have a group of enthusiastic helpers ready, willing, and able to accept your drive-through donations. Find your way to the Square, open your trunk, and we will do the rest!

Your donations and funds will be shared with Valley Interfaith Community Resource Center, Princeton Closet, Andy Caress Melanoma Know More, and the William Breidenstein Foundation.

Thank you for your donations!



During a 2020 meeting with Chief Dave W., Ret., we learned that this church is the only Glendale church partnering with the Glendale Police Department to provide Thanksgiving Boxes to our neighbors in need.

Inside each empty box available in the Church House you will find the revised list of items to include. We hope this will make your shopping a little less stressful and will provide peace of mind that you are meeting the needs of your neighbors who need a little extra help during the holidays. Please read the list carefully and provide only the items listed in the amount suggested.

Thanksgiving boxes will be available in the Church House Sunday, October 31 and Sunday, November 7. Filled boxes should be returned to the Church House no later than Sunday, November 14.

Remember to find the number on your box and write your name beside the corresponding number on the sheet on the table.

Thanks to your generosity, 25 Glendale families receive a box of food and a Kroger gift card (supplied by the Mission committee) so they can enjoy a traditional Thanksgiving meal.





OCTOBER

Birthdays and Anniversaries

<i>Pam and Ken C</i>	3
Carolyn C.....	6
Alison H	9
Paisley L.....	12
<i>Kate and Will K</i>	12
Catherine K	18
Donna L	18
Dave C.....	21
Robert C	30

Women's BOOKCLUB

Wednesdays, 10:00AM-11:30AM
October 6 and 13
Lunch follows at the Bluebird Cafe

Bring your favorite beverage and gather in the church library for the next two Wednesdays as we continue to read and discuss *A Year of Biblical Womanhood*, by Rachel Held Evans.

Fellowship continues with lunch at The Blue Bird Café.



**Gentle Yoga
resumes!**

Gather in the church library, Thursdays
October 7, 14, and 28 at 10:00am.
No experience necessary!



**Music Live at
Christ Church!**

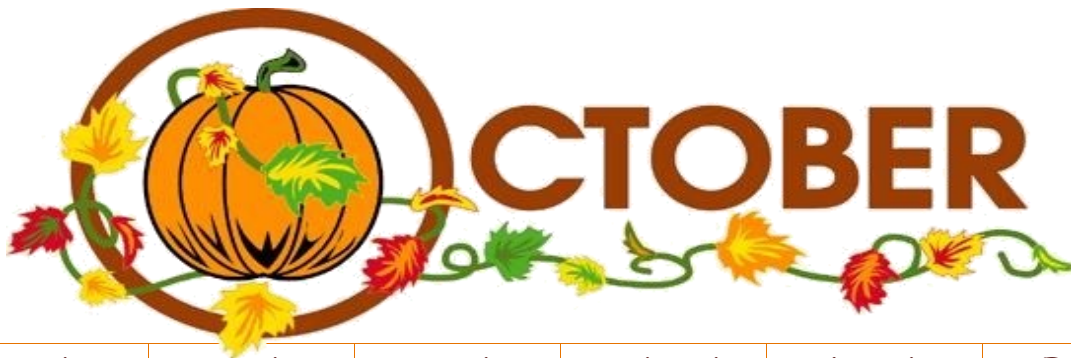
Wednesday, October 8
at 12:05PM outdoors in the front circle drive
(rain location: Historic Church)

The Brian Malone trio presents an eclectic mix of jazz standards and contemporary music in a fresh and accessible way.



Wednesday, October 13

All men are invited to lunch at Gold Star Chili
on Springfield Pike in Springdale.
Fellowship begins when you arrive;
lunch begins at 12:30PM.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>This calendar is a living document subject to frequent changes. Check the website (firstpresbyterianglendale.org) for the most accurate calendar. Please call the church office with calendar updates.</p>					1	2
3 WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY 10:30AM - Worship	4	5	6 10:00AM- Women's Book Club	7 10:00AM- Gentle Yoga 6:30PM - Ensemble	8	9
10 10:30AM - Worship	11 9:00AM- Session reports due	12	13 12:30PM- Men's Lunch (Gold Star) 10:00AM- Women's Book Club 6:00pm- Session mtg	14 10:00AM- Gentle Yoga 6:30PM - Ensemble Rehearsal	15	16 8:00AM- Fill the Glendale Village Square with Food- AGAIN!
17 10:30AM - Worship	18	19	20	21 6:30PM - Ensemble Rehearsal	22	23
24 10:30AM - Worship	25 9:00AM- November newsletter items due	26	27	28 10:00AM- Gentle Yoga 6:30PM - Ensemble Rehearsal	29	30
31 10:30AM - Worship						



First Presbyterian Church, Glendale

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Glendale, OH 45246

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glenpres@fuse.net
firstpresbyterianglendale.org

the Reverend Jeffrey Lang

Sunday, September 12, 2021 through
Sunday, June 5, 2022,
worship begins at 10:30AM

Church Office Hours

Monday, 9AM-3PM, Tuesday, 9AM-1PM
Wednesday, 9AM-1PM, Thursday, 9AM-3PM
Friday, closed

Shared with you in Christian love



Going to extremes

When a herd of elephants ventured into a town in eastern India, people chased them away. But soon they learned that a baby elephant had fallen into a 30-foot well and been left behind. Workers had to use three backhoes to free the calf, breaking down the brick well and digging a sloping trench for the youngster to walk out on.

Righting a wrong — and even saving a life — may require extreme measures. A structure holding someone captive may need to be torn down. And in many cases, it's better to allow the trapped one as much independence and agency as possible. Rather than hoisting the elephant out vertically, which might have been dangerous and traumatic, helpers made a path so it could take part in attaining its freedom.



God often works like this, restoring and equipping us to partner with him.

How can we assist others while granting them the dignity of being part of the solution?

—Heidi Hyland Mann

*Session is pleased to announce that indoor worship
services on Sundays will resume, starting on October 3rd*

We believe, however, that our only way forward in worshipping together inside during colder months must be guided by our individual and collective responsibility. Session is confident that all of us by now have received their vaccinations, and will arrange for booster shots when appropriate. Some of us are extremely comfortable about resuming all pre-pandemic activities and behaviors, others are less so. We ask you to respect the following guidelines, keeping in mind *others* who make up our church family. Some of our friends may have compromised immune systems, and occasionally break-through Covid infections do occur even among the fully vaccinated. Simply put, let's take the stance of protecting those who join us for worship each Sunday.

The following guidelines will be active for the month of October:

- * The A/C or heat will be turned off in the sanctuary by 10:30. Windows on each side of the sanctuary will be open (appropriate to the outdoor temperature) for fresh air cross ventilation. Please don't close these windows, but adjust your own seating accordingly.
- * If you have cold symptoms, or are feeling otherwise unwell, please stay home on Sunday. Take good care of yourself.
- * Entering the church building from any exterior door, wear a mask over nose and mouth. Keep mask on until you are outside again. Make all reasonable effort to socially distance from those outside our family groups while in the sanctuary.
- * Our three vocalists will sing wearing masks. Jeffrey will wear a mask unless speaking from behind the pulpit shield.
- * The congregation will not sing at this time.
- * As you enter the narthex, pick up a bulletin (and a disposable Communion cup on Communion Sundays) from the table. Your offering may be dropped in the basket nearby also. Hand sanitizer will be available for your convenience.

The video recording of the Sunday service will occur as always, and the duration of the entire service will be approximately 30 minutes.

Thank you and God bless you all-

Your Session