



First Presbyterian Church of Harborcreek

6724 Buffalo Rd.
Harborcreek, PA 16421
Telephone: (814) 899-1031

Email: office@hcpresbyterian.org
Website: hcpresbyterian.org

Live-Stream Worship: [Facebook@firstpresbyterianchurchofharborcreek](https://www.facebook.com/firstpresbyterianchurchofharborcreek)

October Newsletter Volume 2023, Issue 8

Church Leadership

Pastor.....Rev. Mike Wilson
Pastor Emeritus.....Rev. Sheldon "Tim" Logan
Music Director.....Chris Thomas
Organist.....Joyce Kriner
Secretary.....Mary Stewart
Custodian & Librarian.....Eileen Kriner
Treasurer.....Barbara Griffith

Committee Chairs—2023

Co-Clerks of Session.....Gil and Marlene Long
Membership Care &
Development.....NBA
Mission/Outreach.....Ann Nesgoda
Barb Griffith
Nominating & Training.....Don Duckett
Mary Ellen Flowers
Personnel.....Sue Kellerman
Gil Long
Scott Shunk
Property.....Bob Kellerman
Dave Maille
Spiritual Formation.....Jennifer Wedzik
Stewardship & Finance.....Dave Maille
Bob Kellerman
Barb Griffith
Worship.....Scott Shunk
Gil Long
Jared Mosier
Recording Secretary.....Cindy Skladanowski

Deacons

Chairperson.....Bill Nesgoda
Vice-Chair.....Nancy Way
Secretary.....Nancy Way
Treasurer.....Peggie Smith
Caring Tree.....Nancy Way
Correspondence.....Joanne Scott
Flower Coordinator.....Sally Wakeley
Funeral Dinners.....Sue Beighley
Greeters/Liturgists.....Deacon of the Month

A Message from Pastor Mike...

I'll confess that I've never been good with remembering exact dates for anniversaries, birthdays and other special occasions. *Of course*, I remember my wife's birthday (it's just two days after my own). And I know my sister's (October 4) and my mother's (November 29). My wedding anniversary is firmly in place. But beyond that, things are kind of hazy. My stepson was born in April, I recall, and my grandchildren have birthdays that their Nana knows by heart.

I think I will remember October 23, 2022 though. That was my first day in the pulpit at Harborcreek and Emmanuel. And I know I left Nashville with a heavily-laden Subaru the Wednesday before... so October 19.

It seems hard to imagine that I'm coming up on a year of service with you, but here we are! And it's been quite a year. Mary Louise and I really feel like Erie is home. We love our new house, neighborhood and neighbors. We can get around most places without GPS. We've tentatively settled on Beach #3 (Barracks Beach) as our favorite. This year we made the Greek and Irish Festivals with Italian and Polish already planned for next year. We've got a five-concert season ticket for the Erie Philharmonic. Mary Louise's spiritual direction practice has really taken off and works neatly on our sun porch where she can see neighbors walking their dogs as she meets with people from all over the country on Zoom. Our wiener dog, Hazel, has adjusted well. And of course, we've all felt warmly and immediately embraced by the Harborcreek and Emmanuel congregations. It really didn't take long for us to settle in.

But I hope in our worship, mission, evangelism and fellowship we don't settle in too quickly or get complacent. And now that I've followed your rhythms for about a year and experienced how you do it, I'm hoping that in this next year I can begin to introduce some of my own ideas and experiences. Because I've had the opportunity over the last 20-plus years to experiment, try new things and challenge the "way we've always done it," whether it's worship, outreach, mission, media, committees or sessions. I've learned some things that work. And I've experienced some helpful failures.

Continued next page...

...continued from first page

And while I know that in many ways, we are still getting to know each other, I hope that you've gotten to see some of my heart and felt the great affection I have for you. I hope that I've earned a measure of your trust. Because I don't believe any pastor is expected to only maintain the status quo. Teaching elders – Ministers of Word and Sacrament – I believe, should use their experience and training to assess the health, vitality and direction of their congregations and offer fresh insights and new perspectives. Most clergy are aware of not only what's happening in their particular congregations but also in the larger church and wider culture. As full-time church professionals, often with years or decades of experience in multiple contexts, we are perhaps uniquely situated to challenge our congregations and help them flourish.

My first executive presbyter, Rev. Wayne Yost, counseled four Ls: listen, learn, love, lead. He knew that pastors can't begin to truly lead their congregations until they've listened to them, learned who they really are and loved them as they are. And certainly, we should never stop listening, learning and loving; they are among the core practices and joys of ministry. And now that I'm approaching that first anniversary, having lived and laughed with you, mourned and prayed with you, as I've been welcomed into your homes and hearts – and you into mine – I hope that you'll be open to my leadership as we continue this remarkable journey together.

Grace and peace,

Mike

P.S. I promise that, at least for a while, this will be the last of my "this time last year" newsletter memoirs.

Media Ministry

We are asking for volunteers for the media ministry. Jeremy Stewart, Bill Nesgoda, and Jared Mosier have been bringing the streaming program to you for over 3 years now every Sunday.

Occasionally we get to have a Sunday off but those are rare. We would love to be able to spend time to join our families during the worship services also.

Up-Coming Events in brief...

Sunday, October 1st

World Communion Sunday
Hands Across Harborcreek
Worship will be followed with
light refreshments.

October 26th at 11:00 a.m.

Gathering & Fellowship
Harborcreek Presbyterian Fellowship Hall
Presenter: Gary Foster is a Chalk Muralist.
Lunch will be an "Adult Happy Meal."
See complete article on page 6.

October 28th

We are invited to Emmanuel's
Trunk or Treat. More information forthcoming.

November 18th at 7 p.m.

Music Night
with both choirs and the Harmonizers
at the Faith Cafe at Emmanuel.
This will be our November's
Gathering & Fellowship.

December 2nd at 7 p.m.

Christmas Concert with Angelo Phillips
and the Collective at Emmanuel
This will be our December's
Gathering & Fellowship.

We are invited to enjoy ReCharge Worship Band at Faith Cafe, 3520 Perry Street, Erie as they present their concerts:

Sunday, October 15
Sunday, November 19
Sunday, December 17

Light Meal 5:30 - 6 p.m.
Worship 6:00 - 7:15 p.m.

Those planning to attend and enjoy their light meal will need to register so Emmanuel can plan accordingly.

Blessings & Peace, Membership Team



Saturday, November 4, 2023

Fall Swiss Steak Dinner

Worship News...

Looking ahead to worship in October:



Sunday, October 1

World Communion Sunday
and Peace and Global
Witness Offering

Following worship, we will be gathering outside of the church as we pray for peace for our country and the world. And then, join in fellowship as we enjoy some light refreshments.

Sunday, October 8

Blessing of the Animals
at Harborcreek
Township Building
at 2:00 p.m.
Offering will benefit
the A. N.N.A.
Shelter



Sunday, October 22

Stewardship/Dedication Sunday



We celebrate the gifts and contributions of our members and friends.

Each member should have received a letter from the Stewardship Committee.

Inside that letter is a Commitment Card on which you can designate your estimate of giving for the coming year.

Sunday, October 29

All Saints/Memorial Sunday

Come and celebrate the lives of those we lost this past year. If you have a loved one you would like to recognize, please fill

out the form in this newsletter and return it to the church office by Sunday, October 22.



October Worship Leaders

	<u>Liturgists</u>	<u>Greeters</u>
October 1	Gil Long	Tracy Connor and Ava
October 8	Chris Thomas	Cindy Skladanowski
October 15	Jenn Wedzik	Brian & Nancy Caroll-Hunt
October 22	Bob Kellerman	Linda Blum
October 29	Don Duckett	Cliff & Tiffany Kephart

Lectionary Readings October 2023

Below are the readings suggested by the Revised Common Lectionary for this month.

October 1, 2023

Exodus 17:1-7 *Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16*
Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32 *Psalm 25:1-9*
Philippians 2:1-13 *Matthew 21:23-32*

October 8, 2023

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20 *Psalm 19*
Isaiah 5:1-7 *Psalm 80:7-15*
Philippians 3:4b-14 *Matthew 21:33-46*

October 15, 2023

Exodus 32:1-14 *Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23*
Isaiah 25:1-9 *Psalm 23*
Philippians 4:1-9 *Matthew 22:1-14*

October 22, 2023

Exodus 33:12-23 *Psalm 99*
Isaiah 45:1-7 *Psalm 96:1-9, 10-13*
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 *Matthew 22:15-22*

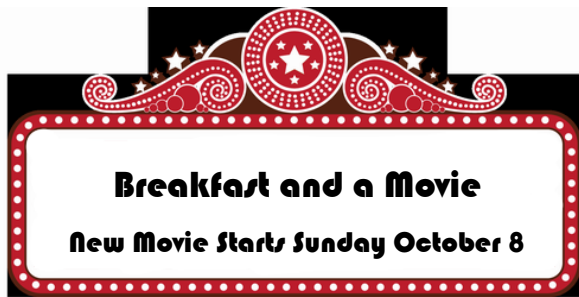
October 29, 2023

Deuteronomy 34:1-12 *Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17*
Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18 *Psalm 1*
1 Thessalonians 2:1-8 *Matthew 22:34-46*

All Saints

Revelation 7:9-17 *Psalm 34:1-10, 22*
1 John 3:1-3 *Matthew 5:1-12*

Spiritual Formation...



Breakfast and a Movie

New Movie Starts Sunday October 8

Please join us for BREAKFAST at 9:15 a.m., followed by an inspirational movie at 9:45 a.m. The new movie starts Sunday, October 8 with Brian and Barb Griffith leading.

ALL are welcome and now is a great time to make this a part of your Sunday routine.

First delicious light breakfast will be Sunday, September 10th. Please watch for a sign-up sheet to help supply the light breakfast



We, as a church family, care deeply about you and your family and friends. Through our Prayer Chain we can surround those in need with prayer. As we reorganize our chain, we invite you to join us in two ways:

1. If you would like to join the ministry of the prayer chain and receive prayer requests either by phone or text message, please call Pat Feddersen at 814-899-6054 or Nancy McNally at 814-450-2577 and have your name added to the list.
2. And if you have a prayer request do not hesitate to call either Pat or Nancy with your need. You need to let them know what information can be shared and if you want to add a name to the prayer list in the bulletin and newsletter.

Wine and the Word is back!!

6:00 p.m. at Harborcreek Presbyterian

The current book is "*Short Stories by Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi*" by Amy-Jill Levine



The study is held every other week.

Next meeting is Sunday, October 8.

Contact Brian Griffith at bgrif33@gmail.com or 814-459-8311 if interested.

2023 LAKE ERIE PRESBYTERY PRAYER LIST

Churches & Pastors, Commissioned Pastors (CP),
Members-at-Large (MAL),
Honorably Retired (HR),
Validated Ministry (VM) & Other Leadership

October 1

Franklin, First, Rev. Barry Jenkins, Pastor
Garland
Cochran

October 8

Port Allegany, CP Garen Smith
Rev. Bill Mills (HR)
Ghana Mission Network

October 15

Warren First, Rev. Lee Beckes, Stated Supply
Rev. Harry Johns (HR)
Rev. Hydie Houston (HR)

October 22

Meadville, Redeemer, Rev. Tim Solomon, TSP Rev.
George Espy (HR)
Rev. David Oyler (HR)

October 29

District Pastor, Rev. Christian Kabe
Second Pastor, Rev. Mawuli Agbo
Yendi District, Upper Northern Presbytery,
25 Congregations
Rev. Flag Officer G. Dotse
Rev. Captain C. Meteku
Chaplains, Tamale District,
Upper Northern Presbytery

Mission News...

MISSION COMMITTEE NEWS

THANK YOU – THANK YOU- THANK YOU for your generous support for the CROP WALK. Jennifer Wedzik did a wonderful job as the coordinator. THANK YOU, JENN!

Thank you to all those that walked to support such a worthwhile cause. When we know the final dollar amount raised by our church we will let you know. What a caring congregation we have.

Our next event will be THE PEACEMAKING and GLOBAL WITNESS offering that we will receive on October 22. In the past, we have used our share to support Women's shelters and other missions which promote the end to violence in our community. Please begin to think how you will be able to help. Please watch for updates about how this important offering is used.



Our last item for the month will be held on October 29, as we will serve lunch to the folks at the Upper Room on that Sunday. These men and women are so thankful for the caring and the lunches they receive. Say a prayer for all those less fortunate than we are. Please listen for updates and a list of items we may need.

THANK YOU ALL!

Mission Committee



We are still receiving donations for special mission projects. This is an easy way to make a big difference in the lives of people in our community and around the world! Just collect and drop off at church.

♥ Aluminum Cans for the Dick Smith Fund to benefit community members with emergency needs.

♥ Travel Sized Personal Care Products to be given to the homeless at The Upper Room.

♥ Cancelled Stamps The person we were sending our cancelled stamps to is not doing that any longer, so we have researched and changed the recipients of our cancelled stamp ministry. We will have more information on who that is in the next newsletter.

♥ Used Greeting Cards to be sent to be sent to St Jude's Ranch for them to repurpose and sell in their gift shop and on their website. Please do not cut cards or change cards in anyway. They need them whole for them to be transformed.

Elmwood Gardens

Thank you to everyone who contributed items or cash to support the residents of Elmwood Gardens Senior Care cart. You would be so pleased to see (all are welcome) the joy and smiles on the resident's faces as they get to choose goodies from the cart that the Auxiliary takes to them once a month. Through the support of church members in the area our hope is to continue providing treats and goodies on the third Wednesday of the month to those who now call Elmwood Gardens their home. They love choosing snack crackers, candy bars, Pepsis/Coke, game books, etc to have as their own.

I will leave a basket in the back of the sanctuary for use of future donations that will be taken to the residents of Elmwood.

You are a blessing,

Sue Kellerman

Don't Miss This...

YOU ARE INVITED - TO OCTOBER'S GATHERING WITH FELLOWSHIP

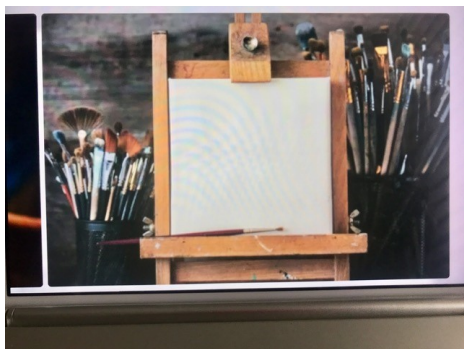
WHERE: FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HARBORCREEK FELLOWSHIP HALL
6724 Buffalo Road, Harborcreek, PA 16421 Phone: 814-899-1031

WHEN: THURSDAY, October 26, 2023

TIME: 11:00 A.M.

SPEAKER: Gary Foster is a Chalk Muralist. He has been chalking for over 30 years, giving historical and spiritual chalk messages to all ages. Gary has traveled as far as the Philippines, Vancouver B.C., and many cities across the U.S. Gary and his wife, Nancy, live in Lawrence Park after retiring from their flower shop, "Foster's Rose of Sharon". Gary also teaches pilates and strength classes at the Eastside Y.M.C.A.

LUNCH: ADULT HAPPY MEAL - PICNIC BASKET STYLE



Cost: \$7.00 - includes your choices.

Ham & Swiss Cheese Pinwheel sandwich _____

Cheese & Pepperoni Pinwheel sandwich _____

Banana Pepper & Asiago cheese _____

Coleslaw _____ Macaroni salad _____

Includes a package of Lay's Potato Chips

Lunch is prepared by BeBe's Basket of North East, Pa., while Bretz Baking Company provides the baked goods.

RESERVATIONS are due by October 19th. Your selections are needed by this date so food can be ordered accordingly. Complete the form and give to Cindy Skladanowski for their reservation with money for lunch.

Come and listen to this very interesting presentation and enjoy the fellowship.

Church Tee Shirts

I have been asked to once again arrange to have tee shirts with the picture and name of our church on the front available for purchase. The shirts will be the same as the ones I sold several years ago. I will share the final details once I have the information from the supplier. The sale of the shirts will not be for profit. —Sue Kellerman



Fall STEAK DINNER

Saturday, November 4, 2023

4:30-6:30 p.m.

\$13.00 per Meal

Same great meal, but take out style.

**Swiss Steak, mashed potatoes & gravy,
green beans, bread, cole slaw, applesauce,
and cookies**

Drive Thru Take Out Only

Preschool News...

September/October 2023

Hello, everyone! The new school year has begun and our Preschool has gotten off to a wonderful start! I am very glad to welcome back my terrific staff, who are all dedicated and hard-working individuals. I feel very blessed to have them back "on board" again this year!

Our preschoolers are doing very well! The returning children have jumped right back in and the new children are definitely becoming comfortable with all of us. Even the Bears (the youngest group) are getting used to "lining up" and are having fun moving from one room to the next. The children are talking, playing, exploring, moving, learning and enjoying! We are certainly off to a great start!

During these initial weeks of school, we talk about making friends, sharing, cooperating, listening to the teachers, staying in line, etc.- all those things that are needed to acclimate us to a Preschool setting. This is done *prior* to introducing the alphabet letters, which occurs toward the end of September -- by then the children have become used to our school routine.

A total of 126 preschoolers, parents and grandparents traveled to Waterford at the end of September to attend our Port Farm's "Family Fun" Event. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed all of the many and varied activities. Every time we visit there is more to see and do there!

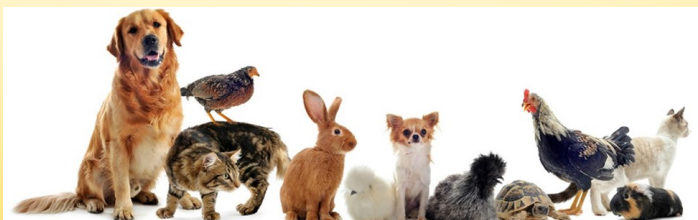
October is a busy month at Preschool! We are hard at work practicing our songs and poems for our annual Halloween Celebration and have started to learn and/or review our alphabet letters (right now concentrating on letters "A, B, C and D.") Our themes vary from year to year, and this year center around "exploring": *jungle animals, countries, musical instruments and types of transportation -- along with alphabet letters, phonics, letter sounds, sight words, numbers, shapes, colors, etc.!* Of course, the very important Christian values of "Caring and Sharing" are always an integral part of our curriculum.

We are very excited to have the Harborcreek firefighters bring their Fire Safety Program to the Preschool. It is soooo much fun to be able to climb inside those big fire trucks! We'll practice doing some fire drills beforehand, as well as "Stop, Drop, (Cover your Face) and Roll"

-- so we will be ready!

It is wonderful to see our classrooms filled with energy, enthusiasm, smiling faces, and caring hearts! There is nowhere else that we would rather be! Until next time ...take care and may God bless you and yours!

Char Chmielewski Director



**COMMUNITY BLESSING OF
THE ANIMALS SERVICE
Sunday, October 8, 2:00 p.m.
At the Harborcreek Township Barn
just west of the Twp. Building
at 5601 Buffalo Road.**

More News...

SPECIAL DONATION OPTIONS

During the year you may want to make a special donation in memory (or in honor) of someone.

Following are the many options available:

Memorial Fund: This is a special account to collect funds to be used within the local church for worship and education related expenses. Monies can be earmarked for special projects and sometimes a plaque is dedicated to the memory of a loved one.

Endowment Fund: Generally donations (often memorials) can be directed to this Fund that is managed by the Presbyterian Church USA Foundation and their New Covenant Mutual Funds. Yearly dividends are split between missions and capital improvements for our church. As with most endowments, numerous options for bequests and investing are available.

Capital Improvement Fund (CIF/Building Fund): Donations directed to this account are used to make payments towards any loans (none at this time) and to provide 'seed money' for future projects. Recent ones were exterior painting and maintenance of the church and manse and a new bell tower roof, paving of parking lot.

General Fund: Of course donations are gratefully accepted any time to help support the general running of the church and its programs.

Feel free to contact any member of the Stewardship & Finance Committee with your questions. Current members are Dave Maille, Kevin Graff, Bob Kellerman, Linda Blum, Lisa Baumgardner, Barb Griffith, Cindy Skladanowski.

All Saints Sunday and Memorial Sunday

We will be celebrating All Saints Sunday and Memorial Sunday on October 29, 2023. Please have all memorial information to the church office no later than Sunday, October 22.

Please try to attend church on October 29 to present your rose in memory of your loved one.



A big THANK YOU to the 20 people/families who participated in Erie Gives in August by donating \$10,365 with an added match of \$605 for a total of \$10,970!

492 non-profits participated this year and received over \$8.2 million dollars.



All Saints—Memorial Sunday

Sunday October 29, 2023

Presented by _____ Phone Number _____

In memory of _____ Date of Birth _____ Date of Death _____

In memory of _____ Date of Birth _____ Date of Death _____

Please return to the church office by Sunday, October 22, 2023

Church Family News...



October Birthdays

- 7 Ollie Palmer
- 8 Ed Ellwood
- 16 Bill Stewart
- 18 Pat Facchine
- 22 Norah Rose Woodward
- 19 Jane Wile
- 23 Debi Lyon
- 27 Mary C. Stewart
- 28 Jordan Lee Erickson
- 28 Marnie Logan
- 30 Jasmine Mosier



Anniversaries

- 9 Ron & Mary Ellen Flowers
- 11 Bill & Donna Fannin
- 19 Jared & Aye Mosier

Church Office Hours

Pastor Mike is usually in the office on Mondays and Wednesdays around 9:00 a.m. If you have a pastoral emergency, please call Mike at 412-298-9196.

The secretary's regular office hours are: Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

There may be times that the hours may be changed; Please call the church office to verify.

Church Office Phone number:
814-899-1031
New Email Address:
office@hcpresbyterian.org
Website: hcpresbyterian.org



Prayer List: For those serving in the armed forces: Adam Bojarski (Suter). For the Lake Erie Presbytery & its leaders; for our pastor, Mike Wilson, for church members, family & friends, we pray.

If someone can be removed from the prayer list or if you have someone to add, please call or email the church office with the information.

- | | | |
|----------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Barb Bemis | Dave English | Yvonne Peters |
| Tom Blose | Fannin Family | Wilda Resinger |
| Calvin Bowser | Joan Graham | Sandy Spangler |
| Claudia Brown | Judy Johnson | Peggie Smith |
| John Brown | Bridget Laughlan | Rich Smith |
| Family of Sue Butler | David Lyon | Carl Steiner |
| Connie Carrier | Dick May | Sandy Stewart |
| Margaret Crider | Mellish Family | Marge Suter |
| Robin Cuneo | Bob Morrow | Tina Wasiela |
| Ed Ellwood | Jeannie Pamula | Barry Wile |
| | | Abigail Wilkinson |

Remember Our Homebound

Some of you have asked about what you can do to keep connected to those who struggle to come to worship or participate in church activities. Listed below are some of those you could send a card or a note of encouragement.

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| Margaret Crider
Twinbrook Room 212
3805 Field Street
Erie, PA 16511 | Jessie Dennison
Wellmore Unit 4129
580 Robert Daniel Drive
Daniel Island, SC 29492 | Jacque Foust
8467 East Lake Rd.
Erie, PA 16511 |
| Dick May
6568 Iroquois Avenue
Harborcreek, PA 16421 | Peggy Nelson
2 Gibson St. Apt. 102
North East, PA 16428 | Esther Noonan
7554 McGill Road
Harborcreek, PA 16421 |
| Yvonne Peters
3913 Dexter Avenue
Erie, PA 16504 | Wilda Resinger
5456 East Lake Road
Barnabas Court South
Room 120
Erie, PA 16511 | Sandy Spangler
227 W. 22nd Street
Room 9
Erie, PA 16509 |
| Carl Steiner
c/o Heather Steiner
4847 Tramarlac Lane
Erie, PA 16505 | | |
| Ron Washe
4147 Bell Street
Erie, PA 16511 | | |





October 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 In-Person & Live Stream Worship 11:00 a.m. Breakfast 9:15 a.m. Sunday School Adult SS/Movie 9:45 a.m. <i>World Communion Sunday</i>	2 Women's AA 5:00 p.m.	3	4	5	6	7
8 In-Person & Live Stream Worship 11:00 a.m. Breakfast 9:15 a.m. Sunday School Adult SS/Movie 9:45 a.m. <i>Blessing of the Animals 2:00 p.m.</i>	9 Women's AA 5:00 p.m.	10	11	12 Deacon's Meeting 2:00 p.m. Session Meeting 6:00 p.m.	13	14
15 In-Person & Live Stream Worship 11:00 a.m. Breakfast 9:15 a.m. Sunday School Adult SS/Movie 9:45 a.m.	16 Women's AA 5:00 p.m.	17	18	19 Prayer Shawl Ministry 2:00 p.m.	20	21
22 In-Person & Live Stream Worship 11:00 a.m. Breakfast 9:15 a.m. Sunday School Adult SS/Movie 9:45 a.m. <i>Stewardship-Dedication Sunday</i>	23 <i>November Newsletter information is due!</i> Women's AA 5:00 p.m.	24	25	26 Gathering and Fellowship 11:00 a.m. at Harborcreek	27	28
29 In-Person & Live Stream Worship 11:00 a.m. Breakfast 9:15 a.m. Sunday School Adult SS/Movie 9:45 a.m. <i>All Saints-Memorial Sunday</i>	30 Women's AA 5:00 p.m.	31	<div style="border: 2px solid orange; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p>Elder of the Month: Gil Long 814-440-9457</p> <p>Deacon of the Month: Sue Beighley 814-460-1232</p> </div>			