

October 2017

St. Paul's United Church of Christ

the Cornerstone



Mark Your Calendar

10.1

World Communion Sunday

10.9—10.12

Shoo Fly Pie Sale

10.15

Nov. Newsletter Articles Due

10.22

Discussion on Griffith Coaching

10.22—10.28

Pastor's Continuing Ed Week

10.29

Reformation Sunday
**** 500th Anniversary ****

3-Fold Blessing Praise Group Preforms
during Worship

Congregational Meeting

10.30

Boy Scouts Halloween Party

Special Congregational Meeting

October 29

There will be a special Congregational meeting held in the sanctuary after service on October 29 to discuss the possible benefits of engaging Griffith Coaching and to vote. A question and answer session will be offered on Sunday October 22 after service for those who seek more information.

After the two-day Reaching New People workshop, Consistory decided it will be best to hold the special congregational meeting at the end of the month in order to give the workshop participants and leadership time to organize all of the information and learnings from the workshops. Our church had 22 in attendance for the Reaching New People workshop and we formed three separate break-out session work groups. The findings of our three work groups must now be consolidated to form one unified report.

The Griffith workshops were well attended with 23 other churches participating and 140 participants. The workshop appeared to be very well received as it generated a great deal of interest in Griffith Coaching among the participating churches.



Sabbatical Wisdom & Insight

It is with deep appreciation that I thank this congregation for the wisdom of including sabbatical time in your pastoral covenant. As I left for this year's August sabbatical I had thoughts and plans in my mind about what I wanted do and what I planned to learn during this time. However, as is often the case, God's thoughts are not necessarily my thoughts, and God's plans are not necessarily my plans. Due to this truth I discovered a greater richness to the sabbatical time than what I was planning for.

One of the unexpected deep wells of wisdom during the sabbatical time was worshipping at various congregations throughout the region. The plan was to worship with congregations either offering "contemporary" worship or who advertised themselves as being a "different kind of church" (the tag line for one of these congregations being: "Church for people who don't like Church.") These worship services took me to retrofitted warehouses, church auditoriums, school cafeterias, and even a traditional sanctuary. Through these visits I had the opportunity to see different approaches to God's worship and to ask "Why do we do what we do?" but I also was given the unique opportunity to see what the experience of church is like for a first time guest. With my kids in tow I discovered how much I need good greeters and ushers when I first arrive at any congregation, that handing my children over to a children's ministry program involves a whole lot of trust, and leaving the worship space after worship is one of the most isolating times as everyone rushes to get out leaving me to find my own way.

The other deep well of learning is one I was not expecting at all. As part of the sending liturgy, you blessed me to a time not only of study and reflection, but of family and rest. The assumption on my part was that family and rest went together. But what became evident, and remained evident throughout the entire sabbatical, is that time with family does not equate to rest. With schedules to keep, illnesses to care for, and the continued occurrence of dead of night wakeup calls, even being on sabbatical did not allow for full and complete rest....because I am still a husband and a father who is highly invested in the care of my family. As such, I gained a new found awareness of needed self-care that takes into consideration the impacts of my family and my vocation.

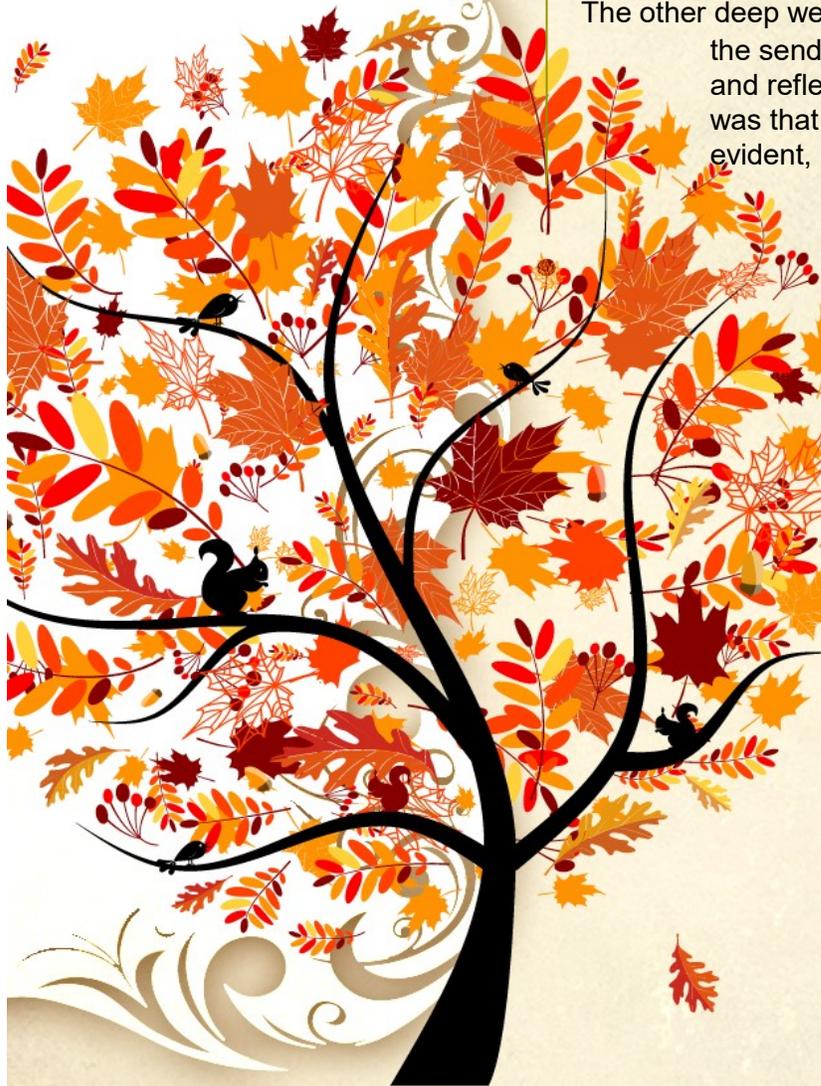
Sabbatical also brought with it a blessing of books read, Mission Trip Birdsboro policies being developed, UCC financial planning resources utilized, office space cleaned and organized, and technology transitions completed. But of all the tasks completed the most cherished one was that of allowing myself to seek the rhythm God was setting for my day, and in that to pick up and lay down things as God nurtured my spirit in a sense of peace and renewal.

The blessings you have provided for during this sabbatical time are ones of God's blessings. For this I thank you and pray that the blessings received may be ones that flourish in the ministry we now again enter into together.

Sincerely Yours In Christ, Pastor Joe

*Lord,
teach us
to keep prayer
in our lives
throughout the
changing of the
seasons.*

*Help us
to understand
your power,
great presence,
and love.*



Prayer Around the Cross

We make time for family, for friends, for ourselves... God longs for this too! Consider this an opportunity for you to focus on God alone. You'll hear a few words you can meditate on and also experience some soothing silence -- all you need to do is be present and open to Love.

Our next prayer service is **Wed., Oct. 25**, beginning at 7:00 pm and wrapping up in a half-hour. Come to St. Paul's sanctuary and experience for yourself a time of quiet and of peace.

Worship Steward Training

During the month of October we will be holding a training session for all new and existing worship stewards. If you have an interest in exploring this ministry possibility, please speak with Pastor Joe. Currently we are seeking for 3 individuals to join the worship steward team so that individuals can generally be scheduled to serve once every other month. Thank you for your prayerful considerations.

Boyer's

1% Caring & Sharing Cards

The holidays are upon us so while you're shopping, don't forget to use your Boyer's 1% card for all of your grocery purchases at Boyer's. St. Paul's can earn a rebate of 1% on all purchases. No Receipts to Save, No Receipts to Add Up! If you don't have a card, just notify the office and we can get one to you ASAP!

Light the Night

Mark your calendars now to participate in the October 31st, 6:00-8:30pm, Light In the Night event. Sharing food, games, crafts, and God's love, last year we connected with nearly 200 community members. Look for more information coming soon on how you can share in this fun filled night of embodying, nurturing, and sharing God's Loving Light!



Memorial Gift Donations

Thank you to the following people who generously gave donations in memory of *Robin Long* to St. Paul's Memorial Fund.

Jeanie & Dane Dierwechter
Eloise Stevens
Wendy Glassi
Lucy Lendacky
Joe & Jeanne Nuss
Helping Hands
Stewart Hughes
Ruth Grant
Marcia Humberto
June Baer
Barb Kerper

Tim & Sue McGee
Doug Johnson
Marjorie Amodei
Jesunathan & Family
Kevin & Pat Stober
Mary Jane Doaty
Carole Audette
Dorothy Girton
Jan & Eileen Fisher
Donald Weaver
Joe & Jessica Motz
Janeen Adil

Passing of a Member

In your hands, O Lord, we humbly entrust our brothers and sisters. In this life you embraced them with your tender love; deliver them now from every evil and bid them eternal rest.

Robin Long	12-19-2017 / 7-19-2017
Madelyn March	12-29-1920 / 9-1-2017

Team Update // Mission Trip Birdsboro



Want to be a Part of 2018 MTB Planning?

A planning meeting is being set for the end of October to schedule the work week and begin coordinating leadership teams for next year's mission work.

If you are interested in participating in this coming year's leadership team, please

2017 Highlights

We thank everyone for your support of this year's Mission Trip. It is hard to imagine how far we as a congregation have come in just these past 4 years. This year 25 homeowners were assisted (with a few others helped in the weeks following the mission week), 5 community improvement projects were completed, over 40 sponsors contributed, 6 congregations took on leadership roles, and 99 individuals gave of themselves for the sake of Gospel and for the sake of our community. Without question this congregation one who allows God's Loving Light to shine well beyond the walls of our congregation!

Look for more information to be coming soon about our 2018 kickoff planning meeting and possible April 21st benefit 5K to be run through the streets of Birdsboro.

Visioning For 2018

This November we are inviting you to participate in developing the congregation's 2018 financial mission plan. The Consistory President, Treasurer, Ministry Chairs, and Pastor need to be there, but we want you to be there as well. To participate in discerning God's leading, contact Richard Wolf or the church office by Tuesday Nov. 3rd to be among the 10 people who will engage in this visioning work.

The meeting dates are currently scheduled for:

Thursday, Nov. 6th (6-8pm)
Tuesday, Nov. 7th (6-8pm)
Thursday Nov. 16th (6-8pm)

Shop with Scrips

Stock up on all of your gift card needs by shopping with SCRIP this holiday season!

A list of all participating vendors will be available at the church beginning Oct 15, so please grab a copy and start making your list.

Orders will be due on November 5th and order delivery will be November 12th, at the church – in time for Black Friday shopping!

If you are unable to be there on the delivery date, your order can be picked up at the church office, during office hours.

If you have questions about the program, please contact Luwaina Baker or Sherry Hunter.

Box Tops – Meet Your New Champions

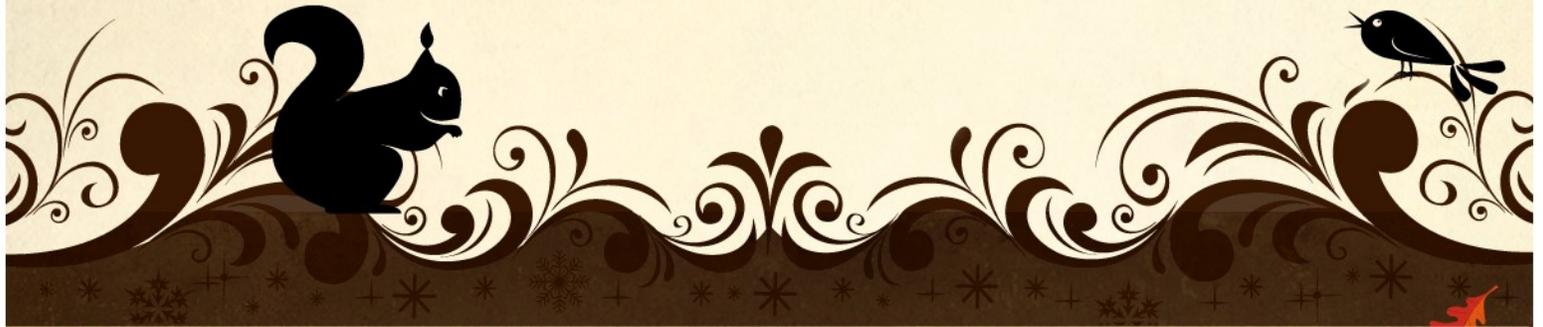


Natalie and Olivia Motz will be serving as our congregation's Box Top Champions for this school year. Already they've connected your \$32 worth of donated box tops to their school for use in classroom book purchases and other school supplies that benefit every student. Look for a new Box Top collection container coming soon (Campbell's labels for education program is coming to an end) and look for their presentation during one of October's worship services in order that you might learn more.



**Home Communion—
Can We Serve You Better?**

If you are a congregational member not currently receiving home communion, but would like to begin doing so, please contact the church office to be included in this regularly scheduled visitations.



**Southeast Berks Ministerium's
Annual Crop Walk
for Church World Service
at Daniel Boone Homestead
Sunday, October 8**

We want YOU to be part of it!

We all see the news of famines and floods and world poverty and we feel pretty useless to help, BUT just for a day your footsteps, your presence, your support can be part of a large effort that Church World Service undertakes to provide seeds and wells and food for people around the world and here at home. One quarter of the money raised by local walkers goes to help local folks who have a need in our community and the rest goes where it is most needed around the world. (Church World Service was on the scene right after Houston's flood with prepared health packets for people in shelters and clean-up supply buckets for the people going back into their communities.)

How can you help? Become a walker – Joe Cisick and Wanda Druzba have donation envelopes and literature to get you signed up. OR, support a walker - Donate to someone walking either by cash, check or online at crophungerwalk.org. Click on the "Donate" button and give to our team "St Paul's UCC Birdsboro". There now, don't you feel like you've made a difference? YOU HAVE!

Once again this year, all walkers will enjoy food and fellowship before setting out on the hike. After church lunch is covered – community picnic for ALL from noon to 4pm. Walk registration at 1:30 and the walk begins at 2:00. Consider walking, you'll feel good inside and out – or sponsor a walker.

This year's motto:

"Walk. Give. Change the World."

Sunday Worship Schedule

At the heart of our faith is our shared act of worship, where we proclaim in word and action that God is the lord of our lives and that we have no lasting hope but through God alone.

Oct 1st, 9:30am

World Wide Communion Sunday
(pew communion)
Traditional Preaching
Children's Message

Oct 8th, 9:30am

Traditional Preaching
Youth Education Classes (0-9th grade)

Oct 15th, 10:30am

Interactive Preaching
Youth Education Classes (0-9th grade)

Oct 22nd, 10:30am

Interactive Preaching
Youth Education Classes (0-9th grade)

Oct 29th, 10:30am

**Reformation Sunday
(500th Anniversary)**
Three-Fold Blessing Praise Group
Children's Message
Communion (intinction)



Worship Leadership – October

Worship Date	Worship Stewards	Greeters	Acolytes	Ushers	Nursery
Oct 1	Janeen Adil	-	-	Steve Flanagan, Stuart Wells, John Hunter, Tom Manney	-
Oct 8	TBD	-	-	Mary Motz & Nancy Dragan	Jamie McGee & Nancy Hughes
Oct 15	Pat Babel	-	-	Sandi Swavely & Lenette Wells	Jamie McGee & Nancy Hughes
Oct 22	TBD	-	-	Barb Kerper & Anna Oister	Jamie McGee & Nancy Hughes
Oct 29	TBD			Pat Babel & Carole Audette	-

Ministers of the Gospel of Christ

All Members

Consistory

Stuart Wells, President · Sherry Hunter, Vice President · Dawn Fear, Secretary · Johnny Hunter · Jeff Baker · Star Gunn · Bonnie Frankhouser · Steve Flanagan

Ministry Team Leaders

Richard Wolf & Sherry Hunter, Personnel · Dee Christman, Special Events · Rev. Joseph Motz, Worship, Touching 1,000 Lives, Mission Trip Birdsboro, Finance, Buildings & Grounds, Christian Education · Anna Oister, Helping Hands · Richard Wolf, Opportunity House Meals · Eloise Stevens, VBS · Sherry Hunter, Hoagie Sales · Wanda Druzba, Organist Search · Janeen Adil, Elders

Supporting Ministers

Rev. Joseph Motz, Pastor · Janeen Adil, Minister of Christian Spirituality · Luwaina Baker, Administrative Assistant · Barbara Kerper, Sexton · Richard Wolf, Treasurer · Rachel Flanagan, Bookkeeper · Tim McGee, Financial Secretary

To become more actively involved in the life and ministry of St. Paul's United Church of Christ in our mission to celebrate the living presence of our Lord, contact a ministry team leader or contact Pastor Motz to see where you might begin.