



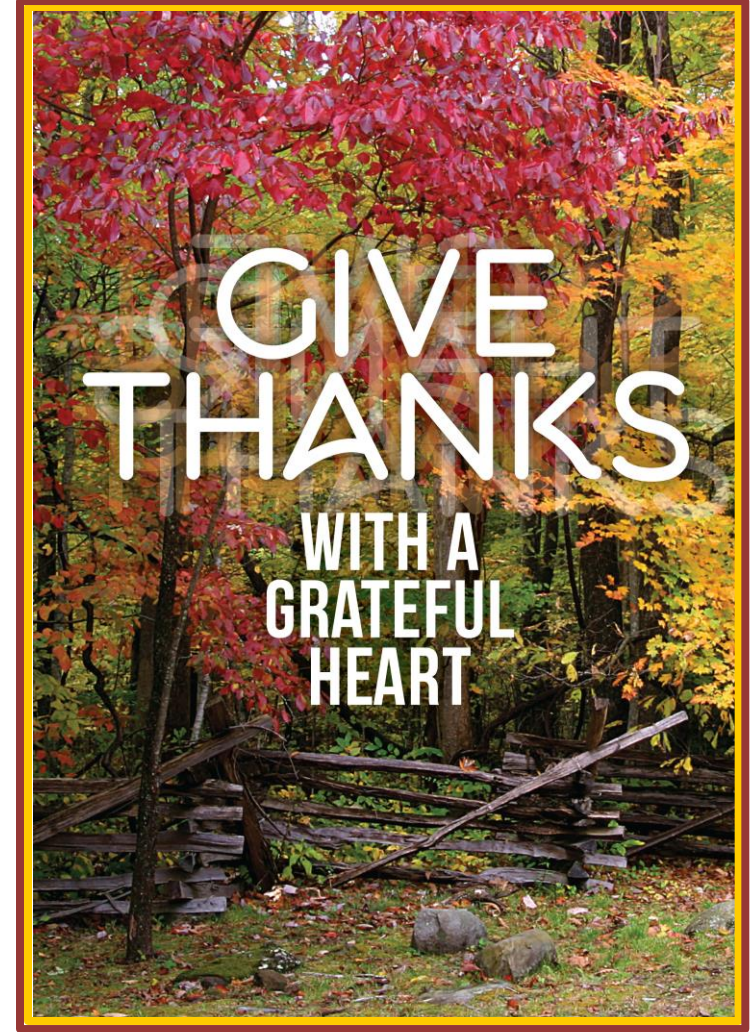
The NOVEMBER 2023
CARILLON

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NOVEMBER WORSHIP THEMES

November 5: "Who's Been Helped?" - Jim Benedict

Worship Theme: The most important question is not who gets the credit, but rather who has been helped. To become the servants we are called to be, we have to keep chipping away at our craving for human approval, our desire for applause, and our longing for admiration.

Scripture Text: Matthew 23:1-12

November 12: "Past Imperfect" - Jim Benedict

Worship Theme: Ever try out for a team, a cast, or a choir, only to find out that you didn't make the list? It can be a painful experience, but we manage to survive. Far more important is the list of those who live by faith in the promises of God. Are you on it?

Scripture Texts: Hebrews 1:15-23

November 19: "Thanks for You" - Jim Benedict

Worship Theme: The things I'm most thankful for aren't *things*. They are people. Give thanks for the people who have made and are making a difference in your life.

Scripture Text: Ephesians 1:15-23

November 26: "Shepherds 1, Giants 0" - Jim Benedict

Worship Theme: As the story of David and Goliath reminds us, situations are not always what they seem. The obvious answer is not always the right answer. God's power can still surprise us.

Scripture Text: 1 Samuel 17:32-51

It is interesting to note that this was likely true of many people when Thanksgiving first became a national holiday. It was President Abraham Lincoln who first called for an annual day of Thanksgiving to be held each year in November, and he called for it in 1863 – in the midst of the Civil War. It was an incredibly hard time for people throughout the country, particularly those whose fathers, sons, husbands and brothers were among the thousands killed, wounded and missing. Others had had property destroyed, lost their means of making a living, and lived in fear. No clear end was in sight.

I suppose it is true that we can always find things to be thankful for if we try hard enough, but it is a lot to ask of people in certain circumstances. So what should we make of the upcoming holiday, and more importantly, what should we make of the Bible's repeated call for the people of God to give thanks? Through the years, I have reached the conclusion that it is wrong and generally pointless to ask people to feel something they aren't feeling, so I am not in favor of telling people they should feel gratitude. Nonetheless, I do believe there is value in giving thanks (expressing gratitude) even if we aren't feeling it at the time.

The call to give thanks is a call to reflection on our own particular lives and on the nature of life overall. Our feelings at any given moment are real and should be respected, but they tend to distort our perspective. Immediate, specific troubles tend to blind us to longer-term, more general blessings. When called upon to give thanks, we can admit our present life is hard yet acknowledge goodness in the past and hope for better times in the future. Equally important to remember when called upon to give thanks is the fact that practices – things we do – sometimes change how we see the world. Giving thanks, especially with others, can bring a little light into our darkness and we may begin to see things that sorrow, despair, or fear have hidden from us.

However you are feeling this year as Thanksgiving approaches, do your best to join in events and expressions of thanksgiving when you can. You don't have to pretend. Just be present, and try to let the light in, because giving thanks is more than just good manners – it is good for you.

Peace,

Pastor Jim



Join us in person on Sunday mornings!

Stop by the Welcome Center for a cup of coffee, tea, or cocoa before Sunday School at 9 a.m.

Our Worship Service begins in the sanctuary at 10:30 a.m. You may also join us via Zoom or Live Stream on the *Mechanicsburg Church of the Brethren* YouTube Channel.

Bulletins and Hymn Lyrics are emailed on Friday mornings. Not on our email list? Call the church office at 717-766-8880 or email us at mcob-secretary@verizon.net

Worship videos are posted to our YouTube Channel and our Website on Sunday afternoons. Go to www.mechanicsburgcob.org and click on "messages". Follow us on Facebook.

More Than Just Good Manners

*"O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever."
Psalm 107:1*

Like most parents, Kathy and I worked hard to teach our children good manners, and like most parents, we were not always successful. For example, we tried to impress upon them the importance of offering apology when they had hurt someone. Usually they did, but on one memorable occasion our son got on his older sister's nerves and she slugged him. His wailing brought us to the scene, and after we figured out what had happened, we asked our daughter to tell her brother she was sorry for hitting him. In a very serious tone of voice for a five-year-old, she replied, "But I'm not sorry."

Know the feeling? It can be awkward when good manners suggest we say or do something, but our emotions just aren't "there." That can apply in all kinds of situations, including when we are called upon to give thanks. As we move into the month of November, which holds the national holiday of Thanksgiving, I find myself thinking of those for whom this holiday may be complicated because their emotions just aren't "there."



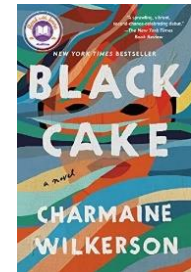
Bible Study continues on Wednesday mornings at 9 a.m. via Zoom.

Please contact Pastor Jim if you would like to join.

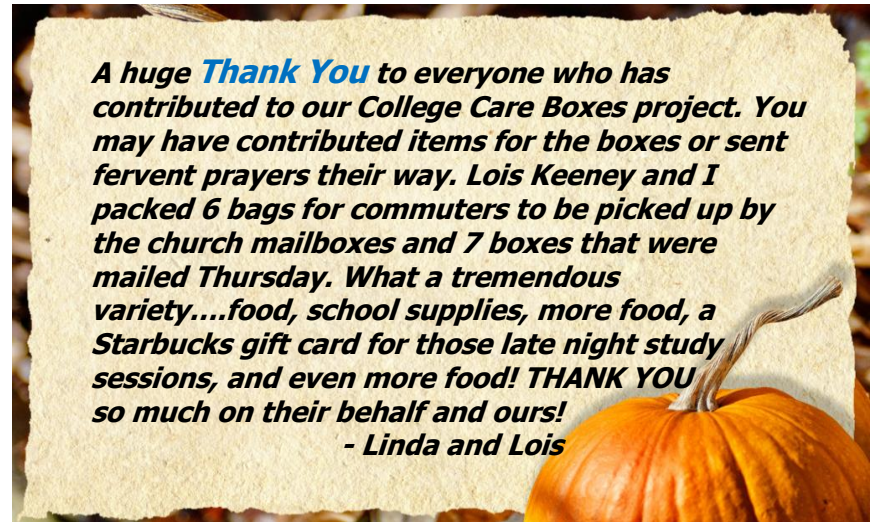
The **Church Book Club** will meet on Monday, November 27th at 7 p.m. via Zoom.

This month's selection is *Black Cake* by Charmaine Wilkerson.

Our discussion leader is Linda Crook Saylor.



A huge Thank You to everyone who has contributed to our College Care Boxes project. You may have contributed items for the boxes or sent fervent prayers their way. Lois Keeney and I packed 6 bags for commuters to be picked up by the church mailboxes and 7 boxes that were mailed Thursday. What a tremendous variety....food, school supplies, more food, a Starbucks gift card for those late night study sessions, and even more food! THANK YOU so much on their behalf and ours!
- Linda and Lois





Daylight Savings Time ends on Sunday, November 5th. Remember to move your clocks *back* 1 hour on Saturday night.



Library Help Wanted

We are currently seeking an individual to be the Church Library Coordinator.

This individual should have good organizational skills and comfort with Microsoft Excel spreadsheets.

An abbreviated form of the Dewey Decimal System is used.

This position does not require an excessive number of hours to complete and excellent training is available.

This is a volunteer position.

Please contact any member of the Christian Education or Leadership Teams.



**THE WALKING ROOTS BAND
AND THE SOIL AND THE SEED PROJECT
WEEKEND NOVEMBER 11 & 12**



**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 3-4 PM
CHILDREN'S CREATIVITY WORKSHOP**
Designed for children Pre-K thru 8th grade. Please register by scanning the QR code.

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 7 PM
ETOWN COB SANCTUARY
THE WALKING ROOTS BAND CONCERT**
Free and open to the public.

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 9:15 AM
INTERGENERATIONAL FAITH FORMATION HOUR**
The Walking Roots Band will lead music for the worship service at 10:30 am using their "little liturgies" Soil and the Seed Project materials.

All are welcome!

Questions? Contact the church office at info@etowncob.org or 717-367-1000.



Lunch & Learn Fellowship

Tuesday, November 14th at 11:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Our guest speaker will be Ron VanSteenacker from Thrivent who will be presenting a program on Grandparents and Grandchildren.



Trindle Springs Lutheran Church
presents
"Music at the Springs" Concert Series

Sunday, November 12, 2023 at 3 p.m.
Dr. Robert Lau
Organ and Piano

A critically acclaimed composer and performer, Dr. Lau has published more than 550 choral, keyboard and organ works. His works have been performed in churches and concert halls throughout the United States, as well as 49 other countries, including such venues at St. Peter's Basilica and Notre Dame Cathedral. Dr. Lau will be performing a variety of his best loved works. As a long-time resident of Central PA, he is thrilled to have the opportunity to share his music with a hometown audience.

Concert is free and open to the public.



The Arts in November

- 4 Messiah University Percussion Ensemble
High Center, Parmer Hall, 7:30 p.m.
- 7 Messiah University Jazz Combo
High Center, Foundation Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m.
- 9-12 & "Alabama Story"
17-19 Climenhaga Building, Miller Theater
9-11 & 17-18, 8 p.m., 12 & 19, 3 p.m.
- 12 Messiah University Unite Voices of Praise
High Center, Parmer Hall, 3 p.m.
- 13 Messiah University Chamber Ensembles
High Center, Foundational Recital Hall, 7 p.m.
- 14 Messiah University Brass Choir
High Center, Parmer Hall, 7 p.m.
- 16 Blue Christmas
Climenhaga Building
Poorman Black Box Theater, 7 p.m.
- 16 Faculty Reading: Matthew Roth (poetry)
Tara Whitehead (fiction)
High Center, Foundation Recital Hall, 7 p.m.
- 17 Messiah University Wind Ensemble and
Messiah University Symphonic Winds
High Center, Parmer Hall, 7: 30 p.m.
- 28 Messiah University Vocal Jazz
High Center, Foundation Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m.

Arts.messiah.edu



The Sock and Mitten Tree will be up on November 2nd in the back-gathering area.

Please consider helping our neighbors in need by placing socks, mittens, hats, gloves or scarves to help keep little ones and their families warm during the winter months.

All items will be donated to "Operation Wildcat" for their Christmas baskets to be given to needy families within the Mechanicsburg Area School District.

Deadline for items on the tree is Sunday, December 3rd, as volunteers will be packing the Christmas baskets that week.

You have all been generous in the past. Let us continue this tradition of helping others so everyone may have a warm and joyous Christmas holiday!



POINSETTIA ORDERS DUE NOVEMBER 26TH.

It's time to think about ordering your poinsettia plants for Advent. **Poinsettia Sunday is December 24th**, when the flowers will be displayed as we honor or to remember our loved ones. **Pick up arrangements will be announced.**



If you would like to order one or more poinsettias, place your completed order form in a brown envelope **w/payment** in the basket provided in the **NARTHEX** by the office window.
CONTACT Drinda Hock with any questions.

POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

(Order Deadline: **Sunday, NOVEMBER 26th**)

The Poinsettias are **RED** or **WHITE** – 6 ½" pots – 5+ blooms

Cost is \$10.00 each **(Circle Color Choice below)**

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Your Name _____

Please use the Envelopes provided for payment and mark "For Poinsettias" on it. Place your order form With Payment in the basket provided.

Number ordered _____ **RED** or **WHITE** Amount Paid _____

(Circle One)

West Shore Interfaith Thanksgiving Service



Sunday, November 19, 2023 - 6 p.m.
Shiremanstown United Methodist Church
125 E Main Street, Shiremanstown PA 17011
Fellowship Hall (behind the church)

Attendees are encouraged to bring non-perishable food donations to be distributed to our community through New Hope Ministries.

A time of fellowship will follow the service.

Sponsored by Mechanicsburg Area Council of Churches,
Temple Beth Shalom, B&H Islamic Center,
and representatives from Messiah University.

CHRISTMAS TREE
FESTIVAL
CAMP
Eder

DECEMBER 8TH & 9TH 5-9PM

- CHRISTMAS LIGHTS & MUSIC
- HAY RIDES FRIDAY AND SATURDAY NIGHT 5-9PM
- TREE DECORATING CONTEST
- DELICIOUS TURKEY DINNER & SOUP (PER DONATION)
- LUMINARY GARDEN (HONORING OUR LOVED ONES)
- DECORATED TREES
- WARM DRINKS AND LOTS OF COOKIES (FREE)
- BAKE SALE
- KID'S ACTIVITIES
- COZY FIRES & S'MORES
- LIVE MUSIC

"AND THIS IS THE TESTIMONY: GOD HAS GIVEN US ETERNAL LIFE, AND THIS LIFE IS IN HIS SON." - JOHN 1:5-11

COME JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF FAMILY FESTIVE FUN! THE WOODS WILL BE ILLUMINATED WITH LOTS AND LOTS OF CHRISTMAS LIGHTS, WARM FIRES, HOT COCOA AND CHILDREN ACTIVITIES WILL BE HAPPENING EACH NIGHT. THIS IS A BEAUTIFUL FESTIVAL YOU MOST CERTAINLY WILL NOT WANT TO MISS!

WWW.CAMPEDER.ORG 717-642-8256
914 MT HOPE RD. FAIRFIELD, PA 17320



HELP
US
DECORATE!

The Nurture Team invites you to come and help decorate the Christmas Trees at church on Sunday, November 26th after the morning worship service. A pizza lunch will be provided.

Save the Date!

Church Christmas Dinner
Sunday,
December 17th
Following the morning
worship service.

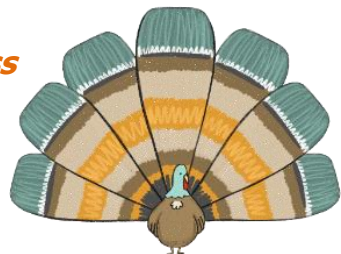
After dinner, we will go
Christmas Caroling in
the neighborhood.

Stay tuned for more
information!

New Hope Ministries *Thanksgiving Blessing Express*

is in need of:

- gravy
- green beans
- boxed instant potatoes
- canned fruit cocktail
- cranberry sauce
- dried beans
- *turkeys or coupons for turkeys
- canned corn
- canned yams
- stuffing mix



Donations may be placed in the shopping cart (located in the back of the sanctuary) through November 5th.

*Turkeys should be placed in kitchen freezer labeled "New Hope".

You are also welcome to drop your donations off at the New Hope Ministries Center on Trindle Road – deadline for drop off is November 10th.



New Hope Ministries ***CHRISTMAS BLESSING EXPRESS***

where guests are able to shop for unwrapped gifts for the whole family. Collection boxes will be at both entrances on November 1st with "Wish Lists" attached to receive your donations **through Sunday, December 3rd.**

We also want to bless our guests with a Christmas 'Basket of Food'. Suggestions: ham, turkey, vegetables, gravy, potatoes, canned fruit, cranberry sauce, pie filling, pie crust, boxed stuffing, cereal and macaroni & cheese. Please place food items in the shopping cart in the sanctuary.

Turkey and Ham donations should be placed in the freezer in the kitchen with a note marked for "New Hope Ministries".

Questions to Linda Wevodau or any member of the Witness Team.

Advent Outreach Program

Heifer International

As we enter the season of Advent and reflect on the Best Gift the world has ever received, we have an opportunity to share our blessings with those less fortunate through the programs of Heifer International.

As last year, the Witness Team will have a Giving Tree in the narthex where you can choose an ornament with varying gift amounts. Your gift will help reduce world hunger by providing livestock to families around the world. Watch for more information as the Advent season approaches.
Janet Zeiters, Witness Team



Senior Day at Camp Eder is Wednesday, November 8th

- 9:30 a.m. Check in/Breakfast
- 10:00 a.m. Craig Caltagirone brings his one-man song and dance act with musical selections from Classic Broadway show tunes and the Great American Songbook.
- Followed by Apple Tasting Activity
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch (Pork and Turkey meal, stuffing, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, salad, apple crisp and ice cream.
- 1:00 p.m. Afternoon Program: Seasonal Craft Time

Cost: \$20.00 per person

RSVP by calling 717-642-8256 by November 1st



Carlisle Truck Stop Ministry 2023 Cookie Collection

Calling all Bakers!

Mechanicsburg COB will provide cookies for this event. Bakers should prepare cookies to distribute by packing 5-6 cookies in zip-loc bags and then put into brown lunch bags (which may be decorated) for distribution. (Colorful Christmas card fronts stapled to the bag are great!) We encourage you to enclose a friendly note, Bible verse or tract.

Cookies should be at the church by December 10th
and then will be delivered to Carlisle on December 11th.
Questions to Janet Zeiters.

NOTE: Due to ongoing COVID concerns, we are asking you to wear masks and gloves while preparing and packaging cookies, and that you seal the bags with staples, bows, etc.

Each bag should have either your church information or the Truck Stop Ministry contact information:

Carlisle Truck Stop Ministry, Inc.
P.O. Box 851
Carlisle, PA 17013-0851
717-385-7932

Thank you for making this a great success!

*Decorative Christmas lunch bags are available near the sign-up sheet in the narthex.

November

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
			1 9 a.m. Bible Study (Zoom) 9 a.m. Quilting 7:30 p.m. Choir	2 6:30 p.m. Hand Bells	3	4 
5 Food for New Hope 9 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship Daylight Savings Time Ends	6	7 6/8 p.m. Fellowship Hall Reserved (John)	8 Senior Day at Camp Eder 9 a.m. Bible Study (Zoom) 9 a.m. Quilting 11:30 a.m. Ladies Luncheon 7:30 p.m. Choir	9 6:30 p.m. Hand Bells	10	11
12 9 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship	13 1 p.m. Knitting Group (Library)	14 11:30 a.m. Lunch & Learn Fellowship 6/8 p.m. Fellowship Hall Reserved (John) 7 p.m. Leadership Team Meeting (Reorganization)	15 9 a.m. Bible Study (Zoom) 9 a.m. Quilting 7:30 p.m. Choir December Newsletter Deadline	16 6:30 p.m. Hand Bells	17	18
19 9 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship 6 p.m. Interfaith Thanksgiving Service	20	21 1 p.m. Caregiver Support Group (Library) 6/8 p.m. Fellowship Hall Reserved (John)	22 9 a.m. Bible Study (Zoom) 9 a.m. Quilting 7:30 p.m. Choir	23 Office Closed Fellowship Hall & Kitchen Reserved 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. (Keeney) 	24	25
26 9 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship Poinsettia Order Deadline Tree Decorating	27 1 p.m. Knitting Group (Library) 7 p.m. Church Book Club (Zoom)	28 6/8 p.m. Fellowship Hall Reserved (John)	29 9 a.m. Bible Study (Zoom) 9 a.m. Quilting 7:30 p.m. Choir	30 6:30 p.m. Hand Bells		

2023