



The First Presbyterian Church of Sharon, Pa.

E m p h a s i s

February 2025

A Great Number

66. Last December 27th I completed another circle around the sun. 66 to be exact.

As I pondered that on my birthday I began to wonder how that happened. How could I be 66? Most days I still think of myself in my 40's (until a stiff back or thinning hair tell something different). My daughter is turning 40 this year. And my oldest grandson is 11. I guess 66 makes some sense (sort of).

66. It's probably the mid-fall of my life. And so I began to wonder how much of the day to day living of life I had missed in 66 years. I have a tendency to think ahead, plan ahead and solve problems. That's good in some ways. But I've also noticed it can mean I miss what's happening now because I'm thinking about tomorrow. How many todays have come and gone in my 66 years without much notice?

The last couple of years I've added 15-20 minutes of meditation to my daily devotional routine. Meditation is a disciple that helps people to pay attention. I think it helps me. But I still feel like I'm missing some of the life happening right in front of me.

66. I was pondering this number when my daughter in law texted. She texted to say "Happy Birthday." I shared I wasn't so sure I liked being 66. She wished me a Happy Birthday.

A few minutes later her son Brixton, my second oldest grandson, called. He called to say "Happy Birthday." And then he said, "66 is a great number." I replied, "Is it? Why do you think so?" Brixton answered, "Because 66 is the number on my New Castle football jersey." To which I replied, "Well, yes it is. And 66 is a great number."

We hung up a few minutes later. But something had changed. Now 66 felt good. It was a good number. Why? Because it was my grandson's jersey number. And that's a good thing.

It's a simple thing to speak kind words to people. And sometimes it makes a big difference. Like "66 is a great number, grandpa." And so it became.

February 14th is Valentine's Day. Certainly it's a day to celebrate romantic love. But it's also a good reminder to practice other types of love in speaking kind words to people we know and don't know. I suspect those words make more a difference than we often believe. In a season and culture of too many sharp and hurtful words I believe followers of Jesus can be different. We can make any number "a great number."

66 for Another Year,
Glenn

February 2025 Preaching and Worship Schedule

- 2 Dr. Hink preaching. I Samuel 3:1-4:1a. Minute for Mission: Trent Litman, Book Network
- 9 Dr. Hink preaching, I Samuel 4:1b-11
- 16 Dr. Crooks preaching. I Samuel 5:1-12.
- 23 Scout Sunday. Dr. Hink preaching I Samuel 6:1-7:2.

February Worship Notes

Dr. Hink and Dr. Crooks will continue the winter sermon series in I Samuel. I Samuel tells the story of Israel moving from a loose confederation of 12 tribes to a united nation under one king. It also theologically reflects on the leadership of Samuel, the 1st king Saul, and the great king David.

We are pleased to have the Scouts and their families from Troop 3 join us for worship. Troop 3 is the 1st Church Boy Scout Troop. Some of the scouts will assist with worship. Please welcome the scouts and their families. This special event bring 40+ additional people to worship.

A Look Forward in Worship

The Church season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on March 5th. Lent is a 40 day season of reflection and preparation before Holy Week and Easter. Our Ash Wednesday service will be at 7:00PM and include the imposition of ashes for anyone who wants to receive ashes. Ashes have a long biblical and Church history as a sign of repentance and mortality.

The 1st Church traditional Lenten communion service will be on March 9th. Dr. Hink and Dr. Crooks will be preaching from I Corinthians during Lent. I Corinthians is a letter from Paul to the church in Corinth addressing questions and problems in the church. Both the problems and Paul’s answers have a very contemporary sound.

Are you wondering about when there will be another Jazz Sunday? Or perhaps you like the sound of banjos and are thinking about a Blue Grass Sunday? Well, if you think about such things 1st Church is your place. Director Music Stephen Barr and Dr. Hink are working on bringing in musicians for a Jazz Sunday and a Blue Grass Sunday this spring. This is all part of the Arts @1st program as we find ways to let art bring beauty to our church and community.

Puzzle!

Use the clues to fill in the boxes. Then write those letters on the correct numbered lines below to complete 1 John 4:16 (NIV).

A place to live

1	2	3	4	5

Opposite of dark

6	7	8	9	10

Companion

11	12	13	14	15	16

Hand greeting

17	18	19	20

Male adult

21	22	23

8	2	16	13	4	6	2	19	5			
17	9	2	5	19	5	12	6	7	19	5	4
13	15	6	2	19	20	6	7	19	14	4	
13	15	8	2	16	18	15	16				
8	2	16	13	23	10	1	14	21			

1 John 4:16, NIV

Answers: house, light, friend, wave, man; God is love, Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. 1 John 4:16, NIV

a lovely aroma

Make this sweet-smelling gift for a friend or valentine.

What you need:

- Colored felt
- Scrap paper
- Permanent marker
- Scissors
- String
- Essential oils (rose, lavender, etc.)

What you do:

1. Draw a flower shape on paper and cut it out.
2. Place the flower template on felt and draw around it with the marker.
3. Cut out the felt flower. Then cut a small slit or hole through it.
4. Cut 8 inches of string. Thread it through the felt flower and tie off to form a loop for hanging.
5. To the felt, add 3 to 5 drops of essential oil. This air freshener will last about 2 weeks.
6. Revive the scent, as needed, by adding a few drops of essential oil.



Ridgewood 724-347-0998
One Elston Way,
Hermitage, PA 16148
Gail Hink, 206
Shirley Sankey, 303
Mary Ellen Foltz, 305

Gables Care Center
351 Lahm Dr, Hopedale, OH43976
Betty Hudson



1 Sarah Litman	16 Mary Lou Sample
2 Piper Raatz	17 Virginia Reed
3 Margaret Malsom	17 Brodie Miller
4 Debbie Datchuk	17 Kaylie Smoot
5 Trent Litman	18 Jeff Goodridge
5 Doug Pyle	18 Stephen Brown
5 Jessie Roberts	18 Susan Szakacs
5 Michele Esper	18 Tracy Plyler
5 Heath Miller	20 Cassie Nespor
7 Catherine Woodings	21 Carol Rauch
9 Robyn Ruth	23 Park Lenhart
10 Conlin Frazier	23 Elizabeth Goodman
10 Sonya Ouattara	25 Marcia Moyer
11 Rhett Getway	25 Julia Schmucker
12 Alexis Sherba	26 Dr. Francisco Yao
13 David Moyer	26 Babs Quincy
14 Larry Shearer	26 Kiara Wilson
15 Wanda Marks	28 Michael Jones
16 Tom Litman	

February SPECIAL DATES

- African America History Month
- ♦ Valentine's Day, February 14
- ♦ Presidents' Day, February 17



Dr. Crooks and Dr. Hink will resume the Sunday School class on Jesus' parables on Sunday, February 2nd, 10:00-10:45 AM in fellowship hall. The class will take a more in-depth look at the literary, theological and historical contexts of Jesus' well-known parables. And as often happens, something new is discovered. Everyone is welcome.

Have you been visiting 1st Church and wonder about history, mission and ministry of 1st Church? Have you been wondering about become a church members?

Dr. Hink will lead a church membership discussion on Sunday, February 23rd, 10:00-10:45AM, in either his study or the 3rd floor conference room. The discussion will briefly look at 1st Church history, vision and goals, ministries and missions, organization, and what it means to become a member. It's a "no pressure," fun discussion.

If you are interested contact Nancy in the church office (724-981-2211 ext. 1 or nancy.fritz@1stpcs.org) so appropriate preparations can be made. Contact Dr. Hink with any questions.



SAVE THE DATE !

Sunday February 2, 2025

Chili & Soup Cook-off.

MISSION TEAM PRAYER PROGRAM

Adopt-A-Cop is an international prayer protection ministry for law enforcement officers.

It was founded by Chaplain Sgt. Ken Rochell of Michigan State Police in 1998 to serve as a bridge between local churches and their local law enforcement agencies.

The purpose of **Adopt-a-Cop** is to assign law enforcement officers to a group, or individual who will pray daily for them. While 1st Church is not involved directly or officially with this Ministry, the Mission Team wanted to maintain the spirit and encourage the congregation to pray for our own local police officers. The Team will announce a new officer each month and ask for prayers for them and their family. Our youth will make cards and the Mission Team will include a \$25 gift card for each officer of the month.

February

Steven J. Winans

Sharon Police Department



Church Attendance for December 2024				
2023		2024		Online
3rd	86	1st	95	48 views
10th	88	8th	95	72 views
17th	73	15th	65	161 views
24th	76	22nd	80	96 views
24th	160	24th	215	90 views
31st	<u>57</u>	29th	<u>67</u>	68 views
540 33%		617 39%		

Financial Giving News
December 2024

Operations Budget		Mission Budget	
1st Sunday	3,271.80	1st Sunday	387.00
2nd Sunday	4,444.80	2nd Sunday	137.00
3rd Sunday	1,767.80	3rd Sunday	117.00
4th Sunday	2,000.48	4th Sunday	317.00
5th Sunday	11,758.10	5th Sunday	642.00
Total for December		Total for December	1,600.00
Budget for December		Budget for December	1,180.00
Balance for December		Balance for December	420.00
Total for Year to Date		Total for Year to Date	14,485.00
Budget for Year to Date		Budget for Year to Date	14,160.00
Balance for Yr to Date		Balance for Yr to Date	325.00



Boar's Head & Yule Log Festival

Thank you for joining us at our recent Boar's Head Festival as we offered praise to Jesus Christ at his Epiphany. Thus we concluded our 17th Boar's Head celebration. The Boar's Head committee would like to thank everyone who had anything to do to make this year's festival one of our best! It was such a moving, magical afternoon complete with beautiful music, colorful costumes, delicious cookies and a story filled with wonder. It was truly a holy place at First Presbyterian Church, with a star beaming bright and hearts full of Love.

Alleluia - Lord Most High.



The Deacons are currently engaged in taking home communion to our shut-ins. If you or someone you know would desire this ministry, please call the church office and let us know. We will gladly add your name to our list and contact you as soon as possible.



The Book Network

To date, The Book Network has been able to deliver almost 1,400 books to Akron Children's Hospital that were donated by members of First Presbyterian Church!

The Mission Team is proud to announce its pledge to donate \$300 worth of books. In February there will be a box outside of the sanctuary for donations and it will remain there until March 1st. Trent will deliver the books on March 2nd. The Hospital asks for newly purchased books with the age range from 0-18.

If you would like to make a monetary donation, just make sure to include a note so the financial secretary will know where to direct the funds. Members of the mission team will purchase books on your behalf.

Trent will be addressing the congregation on February 2nd during Minute for Mission. Trent and The Mission Team would like to thank you in advance for your support!

***Trent will be off to college in the fall to play baseball
at Garrett College in Maryland.
For his last year, let's try to beat his record
of 520 books from 2023!***



Rev. Ronald McGinnis
January 13, 2025



New Staff at 1st Church

Jason Slemmer began his job as the Head of Maintenance of 1st Church on January 2nd. Jason is married, lives in Clark and has two daughters. Jason comes with experience in property maintenance and construction, including electric, plumbing, dry wall and painting and equipment use and repair. We are pleased to have Jason join the 1st Church Staff.

Former Head of Maintenance Tom Blance retired on 12/31/24. Tom then worked with Jason 1/2/25-1/17/25 teaching him Head of Maintenance responsibilities for the boiler system, cleaning and repair, set ups, and custodian schedule. We are thankful for Tom's wonderful work at 1st Church and wish him nothing but the very best in retirement.

1st Church has also hired Nate Willey as a custodian. With the retirements of Ralph Robinson and Terry Keath as backup custodians, another custodian was needed. We are pleased to have Nate join the 1st Church Staff and help with building clean up and set up. We are also thankful for the many good years Ralph and Terry have worked at 1st Church.



"Try to be a rainbow in someone's cloud."—
Maya Angelou

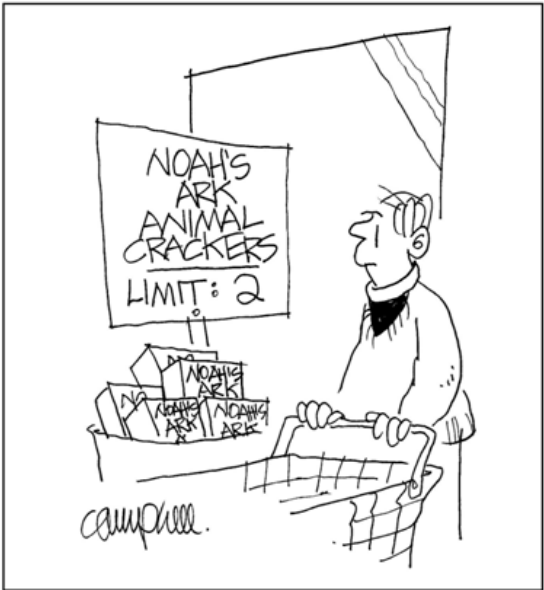
"Love is something eternal; the aspect may change, but not the essence."—Vincent van Gogh

"There are no seven wonders of the world in the eyes of a child. There are seven million."—Walt Streightiff

"Without Valentine's Day, February would be ... well, January."—Jim Gaffigan



February Funnies



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sunday Worship @ 1st 9:30 Choir Practice-303 10:00 Adult Sunday School-FH 11:00 Worship in the Sanctuary 12:00 Fellowship @ 1st in the Library FH=Fellowship Hall CR=Conference Room						1
2 10:00 Choir Practice 12:10 Congregational Meeting-Sanctuary 5:00 Chili and Soup Cook-Off-FH	3 6:00 Scouts 6:00 SVC-FH	4	5 7:00 Men's Fellowship-Panera 1:00 Staff-106	6	7	8
9 10:00 Choir Practice 10:00 D&M-Library 12:00 Deacons-FH 12:00 Worship Team-Parlor 12:00 Mission Team-106	10 6:00 SVC-FH	11	12 12:00 Mary/Martha Circle-FH 1:00 Program Staff-CR 5:00 Admin. Team-CR	13	14 	15 10:00 SVC Board -206
16 Scout Sunday 6:00 Poetry Prose Pastry-Library	17 6:00 SVC-FH	18 1:30 PWCT-106	19 7:00 Men's Fellowship-Panera 1:00 Staff-106	20	21	22
23 6:00 Session-206	24 6:00 Scouts 6:00 Writers' Group-Library 6:00 SVC-FH	25 Shenango Presbytery Mtg.-Sanc. & Library 6:00 Amateur Radio -FH	26	27	28	