



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN NEWS

Presbyterian Women are having a **“Books, Baskets, and Baked Goods” Holiday Sale** on Saturday, November 8th (9AM-3PM).

Set up will be Nov. 5th

and 6th from 9-3 and Nov. 7th from 9-12. We

are asking for donations on these days of gently used Holiday decorations, dinnerware, linens, ornaments, trees, wreaths, jewelry, books, puzzles, games, etc.

For the BOOK SALE, we ask for gently used books for all ages. PLEASE, **NO** MAGAZINES, ENCYCLOPEDIAS, RECORD ALBUMS, VHSTAPES, OR CDS.

For the BAKE SALE, donations can be cookies, nut breads, or any other treats.

If you would like to help with the sale or have any questions, please contact Linda Clark at 330-534-5060.

Lunch will be available on Saturday from 10-2. Easy to take along items will be on hand including hot dogs, bags of chips, and drinks.

MARKYOUR CALENDARS to be sure to come check out all the baskets, books, canned goods, baked items, and more.



The First Presbyterian Church of Sharon, Pa.

E m p h a s i s



Turning On the Light for You

It's 7AM. It's dark. Winter is coming. So it's chilly. The street lights are still on. The Shenango Valley is waking up. Most lights in businesses along State Street are off.

But the lights at Panera Bread are on. It's Wednesday. The 1st Church Men's Group is meeting at Panera. Some employees arrive early to prepare and turn the lights on for us and other “early risers.”

I park in the dark parking lot and walk to the door. The lights say “welcome.” A few people are already there at their tables. The line to order a coffee and a pastry or breakfast sandwich is short. Things are not too busy at 7AM.

So I place my order: “Small coffee and a sausage, egg, and cheese breakfast sandwich. No aoli please.” I pay, fill my cup with coffee and wait for my breakfast sandwich. It's a routine by now.

And standing there is the manager. She has been at the store since “who knows when” to prepare the store and the employees for the day. And she greets me with a smile and a “Good morning. How's your day going?” I am surprised—pleasantly surprised. There are probably lots of reasons for her to be less than “chipper.” But she has gone out of her way to pass on a little happiness. And it invites me to do the same. And it doesn't happen just once; it happens every other Wednesday morning at 7AM when I arrive for the Men's Group.

Motel 6 and Tom Bodet used to have a commercial with the tag line “Leaving the light on for you.” It communicated welcome; a welcome light for you at Motel 6 whenever you arrive. It was a good commercial.

And I think that manager at Panera is doing a similar thing. But rather than “leaving the light on,” she's “turning the light on.” Of course she's physically turning the lights on in the store. And they shine brightly on a cold, dark Wednesday morning at 7AM. But in addition to that, she's turning on “the light of kindness and hospitality.” And that too shines brightly in a day when there's very little of either. And I give thanks for such a simple but important act.

November is stewardship month. This year we're invited to “live doxology.” That means living in ways to give thanks and share thanks. It means paying attention to all the blessings that come our way (like a kind greeting at 7AM), and passing an unexpected blessing on to someone else. In a way it's “turning a light on” for each other. And there's a lot of quiet joy in that.

November 2025 Preaching and Worship Schedule

- 2 (*Return to Standard Time) John 11:1-44 “Resurrection and the Life.”
 Dr. Hink preaching
 9 John 14:1-7 “The Way, the Truth and the Life” Dr. Crooks preaching.
 16 **Jazz Sunday.** John 15:1-15 “The True Vine.” Dr. Hink preaching.
 23 **Stewardship/Thanksgiving Sunday.** Luke 17:11-19. “Living Doxology”
 Dr. Hink preaching.
 30 **1st Sunday of Advent: Hope.** Chrismon service. Advent Wreath.
Communion.

Worship Notes

*Dr. Hink and Dr. Crooks will continue the preaching series on the “I AM” statements in John. These 7 statements are some of the best know texts in John and invite different aspects to faith in Jesus Christ.

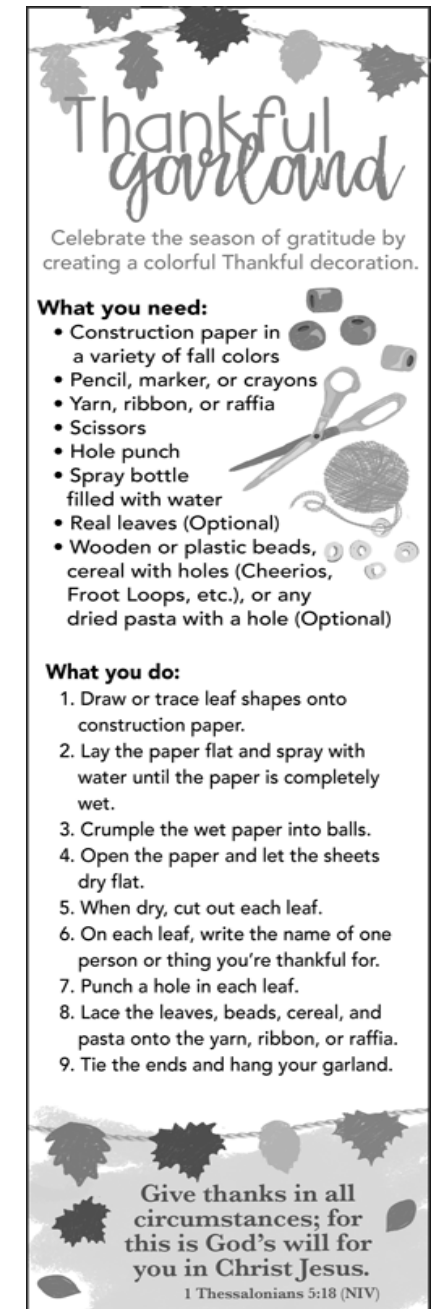
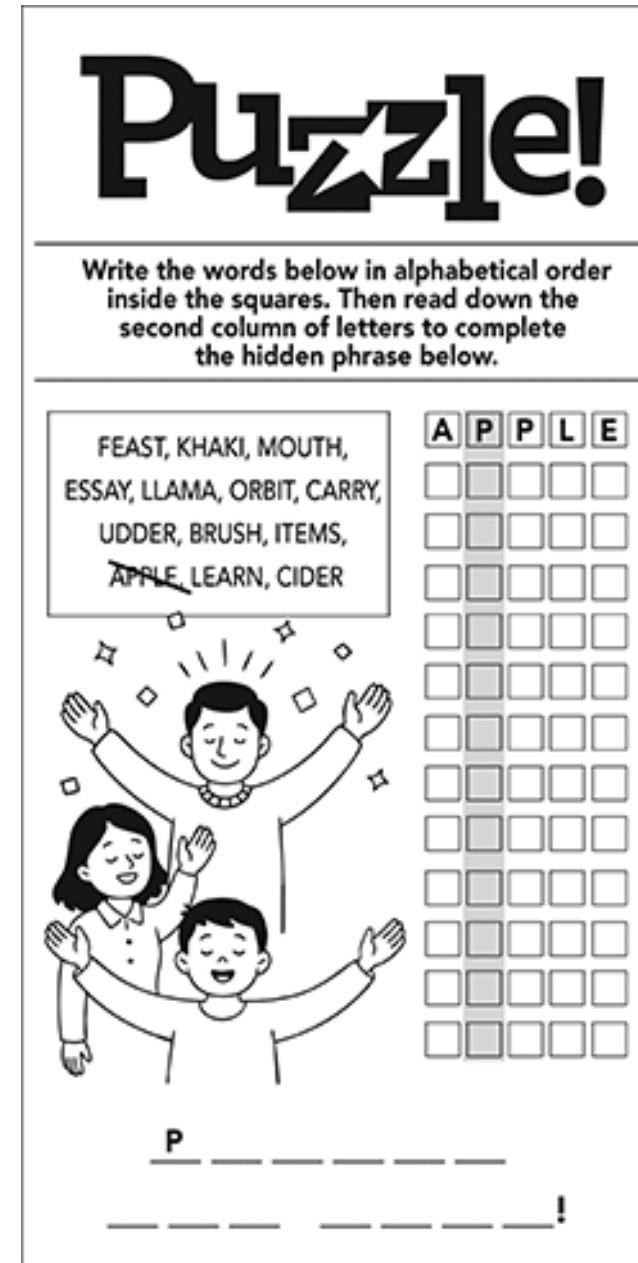
*The “cool” sounds of jazz will return to worship on November 16th. The worship order will also change to better reflect the feeling and sound of jazz. Jazz Sunday is part of the Arts @1st program.

*Stewardship Sunday is November 23rd. 1st Church members and friends are invited to bring their pledge cards to worship. The theme of Thanksgiving will also be part of worship as we give God thanks for the many blessings in our lives.

*Yep, the 1st Sunday of Advent is coming on November 30th. As is our tradition we will decorate the 1st Church Christmas Trees with Crismon ornaments during the worship service. The Advent Wreath will also be lit and we will share communion.

A Look Ahead at Worship

*The Advent and Christmas traditions are in “full swing” during December at 1st. Special music will include the Youngstown Fine Arts Brass and a Christmas Concert by Nicole and Friends. Christmas Eve will include two different worship service: Family and Friends service at 5PM with Terry Leonard leading “One Night in a Stable; Holy Night Service at 11PM with communion. In addition there will be the Shenango Valley Chorale’s Christmas Concert at 1st on Saturday, December 13th, 7:30PM, and the 18th Annual Boar’s Head and Yule Log festival at 1st on Sunday, January 4th. Plan to share in the joy, beauty and wonder of Advent and Christmas at 1st.





Music Ministry: A Joyful Start to the Fall Season

It's November already?!!

With the close of another summer, we give thanks for the new energy and possibility that the changing of seasons can usher in. For those already participating in our music ministry, it is a time to return to familiar rhythms, reconnect with fellow musicians, and prepare for a season of worship that honors God through song. For newcomers, it is an open door into a fellowship where music becomes both an offering and a shared joy.

As always, we want to extend a heartfelt “thank you” to our guest musicians who shared their talents with us this past summer. Their music enriched our services, added fresh perspectives to our worship life, and reminded us of the beauty of collaboration and hospitality in the Christian community. Each is a blessing, and we are deeply grateful for their willingness to serve.

The fall season offers a special quality to our worship, with the richness of the harvest, the crispness of the air, and the anticipation of Thanksgiving and Advent influencing our musical selections. Our repertoire will feature beloved hymns, familiar favorite anthems, and new compositions that encourage us to listen more profoundly to God's word and presence.

Mark your calendars for the upcoming concerts on our Arts@1st schedule:

- Sunday, November 16, 4:00 pm: Youngstown Symphony Orchestra Chamber Music Recital
- Sunday, November 23, 2:30 pm: Shenango Valley Chorale - Handel's MESSIAH
- Saturday, December 13, 7:30 pm: Shenango Valley Chorale - Christmas Concert
- Sunday, December 21, 1:00 pm: “Nicole and Friends” Christmas recital

If you have ever considered joining, now is the perfect time to step in. Whether you are a trained musician or simply someone who loves to sing, there is a place for you in our Sanctuary Choir or Carillon Choir (or both!). The only qualifications needed are a willing spirit and a desire to serve the Lord through music. In a world that often feels rushed and burdensome, the joy of creating music together is a source of peace and renewal for all involved.

As we progress into fall, let us do so with gratitude and anticipation—thankful for the work God accomplished during our summer season, and hopeful for what lies ahead. Together, we'll continue to raise our voices and bells in praise, creating experiences where beauty, hope, and God's presence touch all who gather.

In harmony,
Stephen

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“You are the light of the world...Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:14, 16)

Sharing 7AM Greetings,
Glenn



2025 Stewardship Campaign

November is “stewardship month” at 1st.

In early November a stewardship mailing will be sent out to 1st Church members and friends. The mailing includes a cover letter to encourage participation in supporting the operations budget of 1st Church, a pledge card, and an invitation from the Mission Team to also support mission at 1st Church. There will be a “Second for Stewardship” during worship on November 16th. And then on November

23rd, Stewardship Sunday, all members and friends are invited to bring their pledge cards to worship and place them in the offering plates. As it has been over the past few years, it is a simple and thoughtful campaign.

Pledge cards can also be returned via the mail, dropped off by hand, or placed in an offering plate before or after November 23rd. The key point is to return a pledge card. Pledge cards help with planning next year's operation budget. And pledge cards are personally important as a concrete expression of faith. Over the years 1st Church usually get less than ½ of the possible pledge cards returned. We hope to have a higher number this year.

If you have any questions about the stewardship campaign please contact 1st Church Treasurer John Rose or Rev. Dr. Glenn Hink.



Church Attendance for September 2025				
2024		2025		Online
1st	76	7th	74	73 views
8th	83	14th	75	95 views
15th	65	21st	69	48 views
22nd	70	28th	<u>80</u>	69 views
29th	<u>70</u>			
	364	27%	298	28%

Financial Giving News
September 2025

Operations Budget		Mission Budget	
1st Sunday	4,824.00	1st Sunday	343.75
2nd Sunday	3,583.94	2nd Sunday	2,103.75
3rd Sunday	3,030.00	3rd Sunday	83.75
4th Sunday	<u>2,077.00</u>	4th Sunday	<u>98.75</u>
Total for September		Total for September	2,630.00
Budget for September	14,904.17	Budget for September	1,385.50
Balance for September	(1,389.23)	Balance for September	1,244.50
Total for Year to Date		Total for Year to Date	16,060.00
Budget for Year to Date	134,137.50	Budget for Year to Date	12,469.50
Balance for Year to Date	(18.70)	Balance for Year to Date	3,590.50



My Journey to a Tithe

In my thirties I recall a sermon that Dr. David Hosick gave during our annual Stewardship Campaign. It was about tithing and he noted that one should give 10% of their earnings. Sitting in the congregation I thought that is an easy math problem but when I did that calculation, I realized that I was not doing that. I remember leaving the worship service that day feeling that I was letting God down. It took me a couple of weeks to decide to have a discussion with Dr. Hosick, a family friend of mine, about the issue. I remember him listening to me talk about the volunteer work that I did and after listening to my explanation Dr. Hosick told me that was fine and then he explained to me about “first fruits.” He told me that my volunteer work was fine but if I really wanted to be faithful, tithing would complete my service. I agreed that I would ratchet up my giving until I got to the tithe. It took several years but I finally made it. I must say that once you get to a tithing level, it feels pretty good. I have been blessed in many ways that I never thought possible and I am content to share my “first fruits.”

A Long-Time Faithful 1st Church Member

Barb McCullough
October 15, 2025



Remember Our
Shut-Ins

Ridgewood 724-347-0998
One Elston Way, Hermitage, PA 16148
Gail Hink, 206

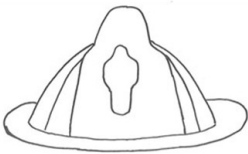
The Meadows
308 W Warren St., RM 108
Cadiz, OH 43907
Betty Hudson

St. Paul’s The Villas
339 E. Jamestown Rd.
Greenville, PA 16125
Jean Meyer

Special Dates in November

- Daylight saving time ends, *November 2*
- Veterans Day, *November 11*
- Thanksgiving Day, *November 27*
- First Sunday of Advent, *November 30*

MISSION TEAM
PRAYER PROGRAM



Sharon Police Department
November Adopt-a-Cop
Ryan J. Grace

Sharon Fire Department
November Adopt-a-Firefighter
Christina Boren



Mission Corner

"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters, you did for me." Mathew 25:40

Update!

- ♦ Mission of the Month: A new Blue Coats Work Team now helps Veterans and Homeless in our region. "No one should ever freeze to death" is their motto. Check out the Dorothy Ball Bulletin Board.
- ♦ Education continues as 1st Church received information on the new proposed Family Shelter for Mercer County. We are currently supplying a volunteer staff person to watch the plan evolve.
- ♦ Ten cars signed up for Trunk or Treat at The Lot. Our Frontlawners provided a safe, clean area for children to play...with face painting and candy for all.
- ♦ A new Adopt-A-Firefighter program started in October to support our first responders.

What's Coming Up?

- ♦ A Mission Trip is in the works for July 2026. More information to come.
- ♦ The annual "Hot Dog Bar" Lunch has become a tradition for the end of November.

Can I help?

- ♦ Please join us at our Hot Dog Lunch on November 23 after worship. We learn a little bit about outreach and eat lots of tasty treats!
- ♦ Pray, Pray, Pray for our fire fighters. We pledge our prayers for them in a handmade card: then include a small gift of thanks for putting their lives at risk for us.

Outside Opportunities

Mercer County Food Bank is always looking for volunteers. Contact them at: 724-981-0353.



Mission at 1st: Sharon Schools Food Pantry

The generous response to the Pantry mission has been wonderful. 1st Church was asked to once again lead the Shenango Valley Community in supporting this important mission. The goal was \$8,000. To date \$10,880 has been received. Wow!!

All donations go to the purchase of food for the pantries in the 3 Sharon Elementary Schools and Mid/High School. In Sharon 64% of children live at or below the poverty level. As a result, schools are increasingly a vital source of nutrition through free breakfast and lunch programs. Pantries help kids and their families with evening and weekend meals. Last spring over 1600 of the 2000 kids in Sharon Schools used a pantry at least once a month. And many kids used a pantry much more.

The Sharon Schools Food Pantry program is a partnership among the Mercer County Food Bank, Sharon Schools, and the community. 1st Church is a vital part of that community partnership. Thank you for helping feed kids in our neighborhood.—Dr. Hink

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES for ADULTS



Everyone is welcome to join the adult class in Fellowship Hall every Sunday, 10:00-10:45AM. Dr. Crooks and Dr. Hink are teaching the Psalms. The Psalms are the song book and prayer book of the Bible. Used by ancient Israel for worship, the Psalms continue to be used for worship in many different faith communities. They are also used for devotional practices and spiritual life. The laments and thanksgivings, requests and praises, give voice to the longings of the heart in the way of Christian faith. The Psalms also train readers in the way and language of prayer. The classes present some understanding of the Psalms, and then invite discussion. There are always surprises to learn. Contact Dr. Crooks or Dr. Hink with any questions.

NOVEMBER 2025



November Nuttiness!



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sunday Worship @ 1st 9:00 Choir Practice-303 10:00 Adult Sunday School Class-FH 11 00 Worship in Sanctuary 12:00 Fellowship @ 1st-Library FH=Fellowship Hall CR=Conference Room						
2 12:00 Packing Party-Youth Rm 12:30 Carillon Choir-206 5:00 Madrigals-303	3 6:00 Scouts-Scout Rm, Gym, 106 7:00 SVC Rehearsal-FH	4	5 9:00 PW Set Up-Gym 1:00 Staff Mtg-106	6 9:00 PW Set Up-Gym	7 9:00 PW Set Up-Gym	1 Fall Back
9 10:00 D&M Team-Library 12:00 Worship Team-Parlor 12:00 Mission Team-106 12:00 Deacons-FH 12:30 Carillon Choir Rehearsal-206 5:00 Madrigals-303	10 5:00 Presbytery Operations Team-CR 7:00 SVC Rehearsal-FH	11 1:00 PWCT-106 	12 7:00 Men's Fellowship-Panera 1:00 Program Staff Meeting-Rm. CR	13 5:00 Admin. Team-CR	14	15 10:00 SVC Board-206
16-Jazz Sunday 12:30 Carillon Choir-206 4:00 Youngstown Chamber Orc.-Sanctuary 5:00 Madrigals-303 6:00 Session-206 6:00 Poetry Prose Pastry-	17 6:00 Scouts-Scout Rm, Gym, 106 5:00 SVC Dress Rehearsal-for Messiah-Sanctuary	18	19 1:00 Staff Mtg-106	20	21	22
23 12:00 Thankful Lunch-FH 12:30 Carillon Choir-206 2:30 Messiah 30 Chris-mons/Communion Hot Dog Lunch 12:30 Carillon Choir-206	24 6:00 FLOW-Library 7:00 SVC Rehearsal-FH	25 6:00 Amateur Radio Club-FH	26 7:00 Men's Fellowship-Panera	27 Church closed 	28	29