



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



Sunflowers and Doing Good

It's a world record. At 35 feet tall, Charlie Babich has grown the tallest sunflower in the backyard of his home in Fort Wayne, Indiana. The flower is named “Clover” and was recently measured for the Guinness World Records. It's as tall as most power poles. A trellis helps hold it up.

Charlie immigrated to the United States in 1991 from Ukraine at 14 years old after the Chernobyl nuclear disaster. The sunflower is the national symbol of peace in Ukraine. After Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022, Charlie's commitment to growing sunflowers deepened. The sunflower is a statement and symbol of the hope for peace. And at 35 feet it stands out.

Charlie is also spreading hope. Like “Johnny Appleseed,” he and his family have begun planting sunflower seeds in various campsites they visit. And he hands out sunflower seed packets to various sunflower festivals he visits. He believes it's hard not to feel better when you see a field of sunflowers. With eleven sunflower paintings, Van Gogh believed the same thing.

This has been a difficult week. As I write it's the week of 9/11. And so those memories come back. And 31-year-old Charlie Kirk was shot and killed at political a rally for college students Utah Valley University. And my heart is still heavy over the shooting of children through a window at a Christian worship service in Minneapolis.

Violence and death are not just in national news. It also happens in our community. It seems that much too often disagreements devolve into violence and death. The grim news is reported in the Herald.

One of the many wise and faithful things Fred Rogers shared with children was that in scary times, “Look for the helpers.” It's easy to be overwhelmed with the dark. But Fred's point is that there are always people who share the light. There are always people in the midst of the dark who have the courage and hope to do what's good.

And so this week I'm thankful to read about Charlie Babich and sunflowers. He's doing his part to be a “helper.” And this coming Sunday is Mission Sunday at 1st Church. So we will hear about “helpers” in 1st Church and the community who do what is good. And my 8 year old grandson Peter is spending the night with me. I'm sure we will be “helpers” for each other.

“You are the light of the world.” -Matthew 5:13.

“Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good” -Romans 12:21.

Looking for Sunflowers (and Helpers), Glenn

October 2025 Preaching and Worship Schedule

- 5 World Communion Sunday. **Return to fall schedule; worship at 11:00AM in sanctuary.** Dr. Hink preaching; “Bread of Life.”
- 12 Dr. Crooks preaching; “Light of the World.”
- 19 Dr. Hink preaching; “Door for the Sheep.” PW Honorary Life Award.
- 26 **St. Andrew’s Sunday.** Dr. Hink preaching; “The Good Shepherd.”

Worship Notes

Worship returns to the fall schedule on October 5th at 11:00AM in the sanctuary with the organ and choir.

Dr. Hink and Dr. Crooks will be preaching on the seven “I Am” sayings in the Gospel of John. “I Am” is a short form of the name of God from Exodus 3:13-14. Theologians have long thought that John is saying something about how Jesus reveals the nature and way of God in the seven sayings.

Our annual St. Andrew’s Sunday is October 26th. We will once again use an adapted 16th C Scottish liturgy and have a piper, drummer, a fiddler, and a procession-al. This is a fun and special worship service at 1st Church.

A Look Ahead at Worship

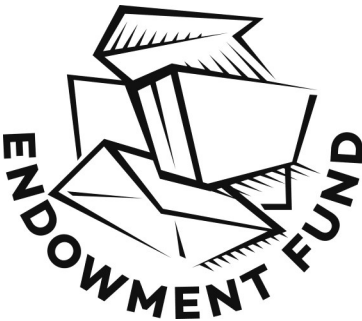
Jazz or Country Music Sunday is coming November 16th. Not only will that style of music be a part of worship, but also the structure of worship will change to fit the style of music.

Stewardship and Thanksgiving Sunday will be November 23rd.

The 1st Sunday of Advent is November 30th. We will once again begin the Advent season with our “Chrismon service” and communion.



Adult Sunday School will return on October 5th, 10:00-10:45AM, in Fellowship Hall. Dr. Crooks and Dr. Hink will once again team-teach the class. As of now a topic for the class has not be selected. But “chances are good” that it will be a discussion of a book in the Bible. Everyone is welcome.



The Administration Team at 1st Church is pleased to announce the receipt of a generous donation from the estate of Sara “Sally” Winland. Sally was a longtime faithful member of 1st Church. The names “David and Sara Winland” will be added to the endowment plaque in the hallway outside the sanctuary.

1st Church has a long history of faithfully managing all gifts given to the church endowment. Over the years that endowment has grown and now funds about 55% of the church operations budget. And because of that, 1st Church is able to care for its beautiful building, hire talented staff, expand its ministry and mission, and make the Shenango Valley a better place. Gifts to the 1st Church endowment fund make a difference. If you would like more information on the 1st Church endowment, contact treasurer John Rose or Dr. Glenn Hink.



Most of us are pretty good at planning—schedules, to-do lists, calendars filled to the brim. But what happens when God steps in with an unexpected detour?

Throughout Scripture, God often moved in the interruptions. Moses was tending sheep when he saw a burning bush. Mary was simply living her life when an angel appeared. Even Jesus was frequently “interrupted” by people seeking healing or hope—and He never turned them away.

“Interruptible faith” is a posture of openness. It’s saying, “Lord, here’s my plan—but I trust Yours more.” It means slowing down, paying attention, and being willing to let God rearrange our day for His greater purpose.

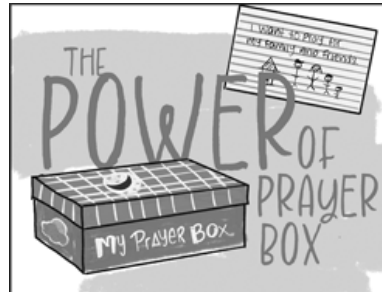
Proverbs 16:9 (NIV) reminds us, *“In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps.”* May we have the courage to let Him.

Puzzle!

Who made the following statements in the Bible?

1. "Am I my brother's keeper?"
Samuel, John, Cain, Andrew
2. "I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you."
Peter, James, John, Paul
3. "What is truth?"
Herod, Pilate, Simon Magus, Cornelius
4. "Choose you this day whom you will serve ... but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord!"
Abraham, Jacob, Moses, Joshua
5. "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."
Nathaniel, John, Peter, Paul
6. "In a short time would you persuade me to be a Christian?"
Herod Agrippa, Pilate, Caiaphas, Annas
7. "Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go."
Rebekah, Rachel, Ruth, Rahab
8. "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."
Paul, Peter, James, Barnabas

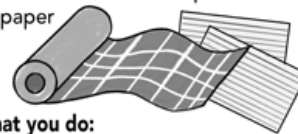
Answers: 1. Cain (Genesis 4:9); 2. Peter (Acts 4:36); 3. Pilate (John 18:38); 4. Joshua (Joshua 24:15); 5. Peter (Matthew 16:16); 6. Herod Agrippa (Acts 26:28); 7. Ruth (Ruth 1:16); 8. Paul (2 Timothy 4:7).



Create a simple and meaningful prayer box your family can use to share requests and pray together all week long.

What you need:

- Shoebox with lid
- Wrapping paper or decorative paper
- Scissors & tape
- Markers or crayons
- Stickers and other craft material (optional)
- Pens or pencils
- Index cards or small pieces of paper



What you do:

1. Wrap the shoebox like a gift, wrapping the lid separately so it can be opened.
2. As a family, decorate the box with drawings, favorite Bible verses, photos, or stickers.
3. Place the box somewhere central, like the kitchen or living room.
4. Keep index cards and pens nearby. When someone has a prayer request, they can write or draw it and drop it in.
5. Throughout the week, take turns praying over the requests as a family, or have a parent lead prayer time.

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.
—Colossians 4:2, NIV

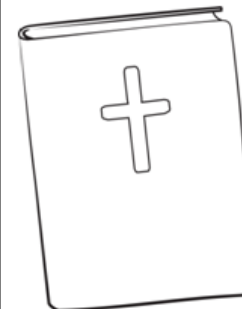


All Deacons, Elders, Program Staff, Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team, and other leaders of 1st Church are invited to a "leadership retreat" on Saturday, November 8th, 9:00-1:00PM. The retreat will be in the Casino at Buhl Park. The retreat will discuss the changing cultural and local context for ministry and mission, the strengths and challenges for 1st Church, and a direction forward for the next 2-3 years. The book *Being Church in a Liminal Time* will be used for some of the discussion. Copies of chapters 1 and 2 of the book will be handed out at the retreat. Anyone interested in attending the retreat and getting the book can do so through Amazon (about \$20).

The current vision statement, "Deep Well: No Fences," and mission statement, "Meeting Jesus on the Corner of Faith and Life," have served 1st Church well for the past 10+ years. Now is the time to revisit those statements and discuss their viability for 1st Church today.

If you are interested in attending the retreat please contact Nancy in the church office (724-981-2211 ext. 1 or nancy.fritz@1stpcs.org). We would like to have a general "head count" so to better prepare with set up, materials, snacks, and lunch. Contact Dr. Hink with any questions.

From Knowing to Becoming



Get to know Jesus well because the more you know him, the more you'll love him. And the more you love him, the more you'll want to follow him. And the more you follow him, the more you'll become like him. And the more you become like him, the more you become yourself.
—Ned Erickson



Church Attendance for August 2025

2024		2025		Online
4th	65	3rd	81	61 views
11th	90	10th	87	64 views
18th	79	17th	86	60 views
25th	<u>56</u>	24th	89	80 views
		31st	<u>74</u>	72 views
	290 27%		417 31%	

Financial Giving News
August 2025

Operations Budget		Mission Budget	
1st Sunday	1,286.40	1st Sunday	526.00
2nd Sunday	4,193.75	2nd Sunday	416.00
3rd Sunday	2,823.40	3rd Sunday	376.00
4th Sunday	1,926.44	4th Sunday	271.00
5th Sunday	<u>3,209.53</u>	5th Sunday	<u>306.00</u>
Total for August	13,439.52	Total for August	1,895.00
Budget for August	14,904.17	Budget for August	1,385.50
Balance for August	(1,464.65)	Balance for August	509.50
Total for Year to Date	120,603.86	Total for Year to Date	13,430.00
Budget for Year to Date	119,233.33	Budget for Year to Date	11,084.00
Balance for Year to Date	1,370.53	Balance for Year to Date	2,346.00

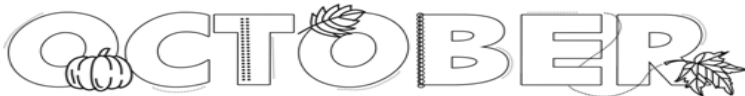
Mission Corner continued

Mission is about...putting the face and name of Jesus in front of those who don't know him. We can do that in many ways—any place and any day.

Sign-ups are through the Office or tell a Mission Committee member: Sandy Churlik, Debbie Datchuk, Debbie Derrenbacher, Lyle Derrenbacher, Jamie Goodwin, Millie Milheim, Tracy Plyler, Patty Fletcher, and Janis Benedict.



Mary Ellen Foltz
September 20, 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 October

- Pastor Appreciation Month
- World Communion Sunday, October 5
- Columbus Day, October 13

MISSION TEAM
PRAYER PROGRAM



Sharon Police Department
October Adopt-a-Cop
Evan A. Nan

Sharon Fire Department
October Adopt-a-Firefighter
Noah P. Amrhein



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!

♦ The entire congregation celebrated Mission Sunday on September 14th. We were invited to jump on the Big Yellow Mission Bus to reach out, take a risk, and find purpose outside ourselves. Thank you to Alexis Spence-Locke and Shari Getway for encouraging us.

What's Coming Up?

- ♦ Trunk or Treat on October 26th at Fifth & Fullerton provides a safe, clean, fun celebration for our neighbors. Volunteer your trunk! Call 724-981-2211.
- ♦ Adopt-A Firefighter starts this fall. Our children participate in this thank you to the men and women who protect us.
- ♦ As cold weather approaches, we are proud to announce the Blue Coats Work Team: Ed and Vicki Watson, Betty Bennett, Linda Behary, Debbie Datchuk, Sandy Churlik, Rebecca and David Moser, Patty Martel, and Janis Benedict. They will be preparing coats, boots, and gloves for distribution.

Can I Help?

- ♦ We need 2-3 subs for the Blue Coats Team when a member is unable to be there.
- ♦ Attendance at Trunk or Treat tells our neighbors that we are here and care about their children.

Outside Opportunity

- ♦ Prince of Peace is always in need of assistance. Contact them at 502 Darr Ave., Farrell, PA. 724-346-5777.

(continued on page 9)



1st Church Mission: Sharon Schools Pantry Program

1st Church is once again asked to take the lead in the Sharon Schools Pantry Program. Our goal is \$8,000 in donations and pledges for the 2025-2026 school year.

Last school year the Pantry Program replaced the Backpack Program. With the change, costs were cut in half and more children participated in the program. In fact, over March, April and May, 1,600+ children (grade school, middle school, high school) of the 2,000 in Sharon Schools used the pantry at least once a month. The Pantry Program is a partnership between Sharon Schools, the Mercer County Food Bank, and the community. 1st Church is the point for leadership of the community.

Mission Sunday at 1st Church was September 14th. All people sharing in the Pantry Program were asked to have their donations or pledge cards turned in by then. If you were able to do that, thank you. If you were not able to do that, or forgot, it's not too late. Please drop your pledge card or donation into the Sunday morning offering plate, or mail it to 1st Church. Please clearly mark any checks "Pantry Program." Contact Dr. Hink with any questions.



Providence and Pastries

After starting a new diet, I altered my drive to work to avoid passing my favorite bakery. I accidentally drove by the bakery this morning and there in the window was a host of goodies. I felt this was no accident, so I prayed, "Lord, it is up to you. If you want me to have any of those delicious baked goods, create a parking place for me directly in front of the bakery."

And sure enough, God answered my prayer! On the eighth time round the block, there it was!

OCTOBER

2026



Fall Funnies!



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sunday Worship @ 1st 9:00 Choir Practice-303 10:00 Sunday School Class-FH 11 00 Worship in Sanctuary 12:00 Fellowship @ 1st-Library FH=Fellowship Hall CR=Conference Room			1 7:00 Men's Fellow- ship-Panera 1:00 Staff Meeting- 106	2	3	4
5	6 6:00 Scouts-Scout Rm, Gym, 106 7:00 SVC Rehearsal -FH	7	8 11:30 Staff Lunch -FH 1:00 Program Staff- CR	9	10	11
12 10:00 D&M Team- Library 12:00 Worship Team-Parlor 12:00 Mission Team-106 12:00 Deacons-FH 12:30 Carillon Choir Rehears- al-206	13 6:00 Scouts-Scout Rm, Gym, 106 7:00 SVC Rehearsal -FH	14 3:00 Stewardship Campaign Mtg.- CR	15 7:00 Men's Fellow- ship-Panera 1:00 Staff Meeting- Rm. 106 5:00 Admin. Team- CR	16	17	18 10:00 SVC Board -206
19 6:00 Session-206	20 7:00 SVC Rehearsal- FH	21 1:00 PWCT-106	22	23	24	25
26 <i>St. Andrew's Sunday</i> 3:00-5:00 Trunk or Treat-the Lot	27 6:00 Scout Halloween Party-FH and Gym 6:00 FLOW-Library 7:00 SVC Rehearsal- Sanctuary	28 6:00 Amateur Ra- dio Club-FH	29 7:00 Men's Fellow- ship-Panera	30	31 	