


**The First Presbyterian Church of Sharon, Pa.**

# Emphasis

OCTOBER 2026

## Telling Stories

I'm back reading in the classroom. For years I read in Mrs. Romo's 1st Grade classroom at Case Elementary, twice a month on Wednesday mornings. It was great fun. And I felt like I was supporting Mrs. Romo, education, and the kids in the classroom.

So I'm back reading in the classroom. This time it will be in the Head Start class at 1st Church. The class has 13 kids 3, 4, and 5 years old. We love having them here. The teachers and kids are great. I'm glad to once again support the teachers, education, and the kids.

Story telling is part of what it means to be a human being. We tell and listen to stories. It's how we find meaning and make sense of life. It's how we come to know others and share about ourselves. From the beginning of time when our earliest ancestors gathered around a fire, they told stories.

Unfortunately there always have been troubling stories. These stories are about selfishness, anger, racism, fear, and hopelessness. These stories cripple how we see ourselves, our world, and our future. People and communities are worse because of them. There are many being told today.

But there are also good stories being told. These stories are about courage, generosity, kindness, patience, and hope. These stories build character, families, and community. They encourage us to our better selves. People and communities are better because of them.

As Christians we believe that some of the best stories are found in the Bible. The story of Abraham is about trust. The story of Elijah is about courage. The story of the Good Samaritan is about kindness. The story about the Prodigal Son is about the deep grace of God. Some writers consider that story one of the best short stories ever told. And the story of the death and resurrection of Christ is about hope in the love and power of God when we too face evil, sin, and death. For 25 years at 1st Church I've made it a point to tell and teach Bible stories. And I've encouraged all the staff who have worked with kids and youth to make sure to do the same. If we do nothing else, we need to tell the good stories of our faith.

And so I'm back to reading stories in the classroom. With all the bad and troubling stories being told today, I'm pleased to be part of something better. And by the way, the Head Start teachers at the church are looking for more readers. If you would like to find out more, contact Nancy in the church office.

Glad to Be a Storyteller, Glenn

# October 2026 Preaching and Worship Schedule

4 **(Fall Schedule Begins. Worship at 11:00AM in the Sanctuary)**
World Communion Sunday. James 1:19-27. Dr. Hink preaching.

11 Name Tag Sunday. James 2:14-20. Dr. Hink preaching.

18 PW Award. II Peter 3:1-18. Dr. Crooks preaching.

25 St. Andrew's Sunday. I John 3:11-18. Dr. Hink preaching.

## Worship Notes

*We return to the fall schedule on October 4th: worship at 11:00AM, back in the sanctuary, choir, and organ.

*The fall sermon series will be selected texts from the "Catholic Epistles" (general letters passed between early churches); James, I &II Peter, I, II, III John and Jude.

*We are pleased to once again celebrate our Scottish Presbyterian heritage on St. Andrew's Sunday. Worship will include a processional, pipers/drummers/fiddler, and an adapted 16th C Scottish liturgy. Everyone is encouraged to wear plaid.

## A Look Ahead at Worship

*Jazz or Blue Grass Sunday returns November 8th.

*Thanksgiving/Stewardship Sunday is November 22nd.

*The 1st Sunday of Advent is November 29th.




Dr. Crooks and Dr. Hink will once again be teaching Sunday School beginning October 4th 10:00-10:45AM. The topic will be The Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 5-7. One of the five collections of Jesus' teaching in Matthew, it is both fascinating and challenging. Originally written to Jewish Christians, it emphasizes that faith shapes a particular type of Christian life. Historically The Sermon on the Mount has been used as instruction on deeper spiritual life. Everyone is welcome.

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S HARVEST SALE. As part of this year's Holiday Sale, Presbyterian Women are making and selling fresh vegetable soup, canned applesauce, and canned apple butter. Everything will be made at the church on October 21 and 22 and on November 5. Please sign up in the back of the Library if you would like to help. Order forms are in the bulletin or place an order with Patty Fletcher at 724 301-9490. Feel free to leave a message. Pickup is either at the Holiday Sale on November 7 or after church on November 8. Pay when picked up. Orders are due by October 4.**



**Presbyterian Women's Harvest Sale - ORDER FORM**
**Fresh Vegetable Soup, Canned Applesauce,**
**Canned Apple Butter**

**VEGETABLE SOUP - $8.00-quart Number of Quarts _____**
**APPLESAUCE - $7.00-quart, $4.00-pint Number of Quarts_____**
**Pints_____**
**APPLE BUTTER - $5.00-per pint Number of Pints _____**

**Pickup: Church kitchen during Holiday Sale on Saturday, November 7 or after church the next day. PLEASE PAY AT PICK UP. Orders are due by October 4. Call Patty Fletcher at 724 301-9490 and leave a message to place**

BASKET TIME! It is time for the Presbyterian Women to start preparing for our annual Holiday Sale. Last year we created 180 baskets to sell at our holiday sale, which will be on Saturday, Nov 7th this year. The funds raised from this fundraiser allow us to help numerous organizations. The baskets we create are a variety of themes for men, women and children of all ages. Some are big, some are small, some have gift cards, some do not. We are asking if anyone would like to make just ONE basket to add to the sale, it would be greatly appreciated and get us closer to our goal. Any theme, any size. They can be delivered to the church on November 5th or 6th. Call Linda Clark with any questions or if you would like to help set up, bake, or work the sale 330-534-5060. Thank you.

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN NEWS



Presbyterian Women are having a **"Books, Baskets, and Baked Goods" Holiday Sale** on Saturday, November 7th (9AM-3PM). Set up will be Nov. 4th and 5th from 9-3 and Nov. 6th 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, VHS TAPES, 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.

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




The Sharon Schools Pantry Program has pantries in all 3 Sharon Elementary Schools and the Middle/High School. This program aids the free breakfast and lunch program by getting food to needy kids and their families. In Mercer County, 1 in 7 adults and 1 in 5 children are food insecure. This means they do not know when or where they will receive their next meal. Those numbers are higher than the PA average. And Sharon is even higher.

The Sharon Schools Pantry Program costs about $40,000/year. On average 700-800 different kids use the program at least once a month. Once again 1st Church is asked to lead the funding of the program. Our goal is $8,000. Our latest totals are over $10,235 in donations and pledges. Amazing!! Thank you to everyone who supports the Pantry Program. Every dollar goes toward the purchase of food. The Pantry Program makes a difference.

A mailing also went out in September regarding funding a mission position at Evangelical Theological Seminary in Cairo, Egypt. In March of 2025 the Presbyterian Church USA called all their foreign missionaries home. And so ended generations of mission partnerships around the world.

So to "fill the void," alternative means of funding missions are underway. One of those ways is endowing a chair of Biblical interpretation at ETS, the largest Protestant seminary in the Middle East. In honor of Dr. Ken Bailey, an internationally recognized scholar of Middle Eastern Biblical interpretation, the chair will be named The Dr. Ken Bailey Chair of Biblical Interpretation. In the mid-90's, Ken and his wife Mickie retired from the mission field to New Wilmington. There Ken continued to travel, lecture, and write. Ken occasionally visited 1st Church to teach. Ken passed away about 10 years ago.

If you would like to support this "endowed chair mission position," return a check made out to 1st Church in the envelope in the mailing with "Dr. Bailey Chair" in the memo line. You can also drop a check in the offering plate on Sunday or mail one to the church office. Just make sure it's made out to 1st Church and that it's clearly marked for the "Dr. Bailey Chair." Contact Dr. Hink with any questions.

## Church Attendance for August 2026

| 2025 | | | 2026 | | Online |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3rd | 81 | | 2nd | 75 | 75 views |
| 10th | 87 | | 9th | 91 | 56 views |
| 17th | 86 | | 16th | 91 | 77 views |
| 24th | 89 | | 23rd | 96 | 68 views |
| 31st | 74 | | 30th | 90 | 86 views |
| | 417 | 31% | | 443 | 37% |

## Financial Giving News
## August 2026

| Operations Budget | |
|---|---|
| 1st Sunday | 3,531.80 |
| 2nd Sunday | 2,775.30 |
| 3rd Sunday | 5,596.30 |
| 4th Sunday | 2,848.30 |
| 5th Sunday | 2,478.30 |
| Total for August | 17,230.00 |
| Budget for August | 15,718.42 |
| Balance for August | 1,511.58 |
| Total for Year to Date | 120,898.87 |
| Budget for Year to Date | 125,747.33 |
| Balance for Yr to Date | (4,848.46) |

| Mission Budget | |
|---|---|
| 1st Sunday | 307.40 |
| 2nd Sunday | 129.90 |
| 3rd Sunday | 1,234.90 |
| 4th Sunday | 109.90 |
| 5th Sunday | 254.90 |
| Total for August | 2,037.00 |
| Budget for August | 1,333.33 |
| Balance for August | 703.67 |
| Total for Year to Date | 12,243.50 |
| Budget for Year to Date | 10,666.67 |
| Balance for Yr to Date | 1,576.83 |






## Music Ministry: Back in Rhythm This Fall

Can you believe fall is already here?

As summer winds down, choir and bell choir rehearsals are back in full swing, and it is wonderful to have everyone together again. There is something special about returning to familiar rhythms — reconnecting with fellow musicians, settling back into the routines of rehearsal, and preparing to lead our congregation in worship through song.

We are grateful, as always, to the guest musicians who blessed our services throughout the summer. Their gifts brought fresh energy and perspective to worship, and we are thankful for their willingness to share their talents with us.

Fall brings its own character to our music-making — the tradition of St. Andrews, the anticipation building toward Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas, and repertoire chosen to help us listen more deeply for God in this season. Our Sanctuary Choir and Carillon Choir are both hard at work preparing music that will inspire us and our worship in the months ahead.

For those who have never sung with us or rung a bell before, this is a great time to step in and see what it is all about. You do not need formal training — just a willing spirit and a desire to offer your gifts in service to the Lord. Whether it is lifting your voice in the choir loft or ringing bells in the Carillon Choir, there is a place for you.

As we settle back into the rhythm of the program year, we do so with gratitude for the summer behind us and excitement for the music still to come. It is good to be back, and we look forward to raising our voices — and our bells — in praise together.

In harmony,
Stephen




1st Church has a new website. In August the new site went "live." To check it out just use the former address: www.1stpcs.org. There you will find sermons, past monthly church newsletters, the history of 1st Church, staff contact info, and much more. There are still more pictures and text to be added.

1st Church also has an active Facebook Page. On that page you'll find current church information about events, pictures and information about past events, comments about 1st Church activities, and much more. To visit the 1st Church Facebook Page go to; www.facebook.com/1stpcs.

And 1st Church continues to have an excellent online worship service. To watch the online service live, or to watch a previous service, simply go to the new church website and click on the home page where you see "Watch Our Worship Service." The link will take you directly to the 1st Church YouTube Channel.

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Over the years, many 1st Church members have decided to leave the church a gift from their estate. And over the years 1st Church has faithfully managed those gifts. Today about 60% of the operation's budget is funded by the Endowment. And because of that we are able to enjoy more programs, staffing, and ministry. Through gifts to the endowment, we are also able to maintain and update our beautiful facility.

There will be a special "1st Church Endowment Luncheon and Discussion" following worship on October 25th. The discussion will include an overview of the endowment, how it's managed, what it funds, how members can participate, and a Q & A time.

Through faithful management, generous gifts and wise investments, the endowment has grown over the years. We are thankful for this wonderful gift. And we are committed to faithfully hand it on to the next generations at 1st Church. If you would like to attend the luncheon and discussion, contact Nancy in the church office (724-981-2211 ext. 1, or nancy.fritz@1stpcs.org.)

# 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*




Mission Sunday LIVE update: Another story from the backside of mission! After Lyle Derrenbacher sang a beautiful song about sharing hope, one of our members from the deacon's team decided to do just that! Rosanne Sauers would not want credit for this because she likes doing things behind the scenes. But she had a great idea to take the sanctuary flowers to "the man in the purple house" over across from the lot at Fifth and Fullerton. Jeff Goodridge helped her do this. In talking to the man in the purple house, they were able to find out his name! His name is Jerry! He simply said "thank you" and that his wife would love the flowers. Look here for other exciting news about upcoming mission projects! Tracy Plyler reporting under cover, uncovering other mission stories as they unfold!

Mission would like to thank the many behind the scenes helpers who make telling our mission stories easier. And all the people who came to hear our message of mission bringing hope. Also thank you to those who brought food or made food for the lovely luncheon. We extend our hand to those who would like to be a part of mission and there are many ways! Just ask Janis, she will fill you in!



## KAYAKING AND PICNIC

**Join the D&M team for an afternoon of fun, food, and fellowship at Pymatuning State Park, Sunday October 18th. Kayaking @ 2:30, picnic at 4:30. Meeting at Shelter #10. We will Kayak from the mortals key launch and then return to shelter following. Restrooms, playground, volleyball, and softball field. D&M will provide hotdogs, hamburgers, and fixings. Please bring a dish to share. Cost for Kayaking is $15 for a single kayak and $20 for a double kayak. Please sign up at the table in the library by Sunday October 11th so we can reserve the kayaks. Not kayaking? Join us for the picnic! ALL are welcome! I nvite a friend or 3!**

## You'rx nxxdxd!



Evxn though my typxwritxr is an old modxl, it works quitx wxll— xxcxpt for onx kxy. I havx many timxs wishxd it workxd pxrfxctly. It's trux that thx othxr kxys work grxat, but just onx kxy not working makxs a hugx diffxrxncx.

Somxtimxs our church sxxms likx my typxwritxr — not all thx kxy pxoplx work. You may say to yoursxlf, "Wxll, I'm just onx pxrson. I don't makx or brxak thx church." But it doxs makx a big diffxrxncx bxcausx a church, to bx xffxctivx, nxxds thx activx participation of xvxry pxrson.

So, thx nxxt timx you think your xfforts arxn't nxcxssary, rxmxmbxr my typxwritxr and say to yoursxlf, "I'm a kxy pxrson in thx congrxgation, and I'm nxxdxd vxry much."

# Puzzle!

## NAMES OF GOD

Every name of God tells us something about his power, love and care for his people. Use the Scripture clues to uncover just some of these special names.



F _____ (Matthew 6:9)

A _____ and O _____ (Revelation 1:8)

I A __ (Exodus 3:14)

Y _____ (Exodus 6:2-3)

G _____ M _____ H _____ (Genesis 14:19)

G _____ A _____ (Genesis 17:1)

R _____ (Psalm 18:2)

J _____ (Psalm 75:7)

F _____ (Psalm 18:2)

H _____ O _____ (Isaiah 40:25)

Answer key: Father, Alpha and Omega, I AM, Yahweh, God Most High God Almighty, Rock, Judge, Fortress, Holy One

# Give Thanks with Music



Music is one way to give thanks to God. Make these simple instruments to accompany your singing!

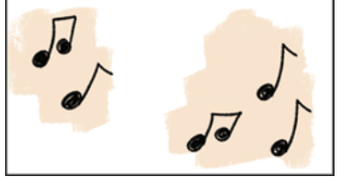
**What you need:**

- 3 small coffee cans with lids
- 1/2 cup dry pinto beans
- 1/2 cup unpopped popcorn
- 1/2 cup uncooked rice
- Heavy-duty tape
- Construction paper
- Glue
- Scissors
- Markers or crayons for decorating




**What you do:**

1. Put the beans in one can, the popcorn in another, and the rice in the third.
2. Secure the lids and tape around the rims.
3. Cover the cans with construction paper and glue it in place.
4. Decorate the cans with markers or crayons.
5. Shake the cans to hear the different sounds, then use them to make joyful music for the Lord!






## Remember Our Shut-Ins

**Ridgewood 724-347-0998**
**One Elston Way,**
**Hermitage, PA 16148**
**Gail Hink, 206**
**Bill and Dory O'Donnell, 505**

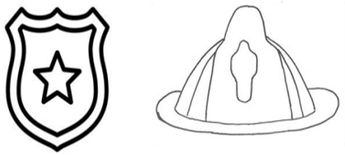
**308 W. Warren St., Rm. 108**
**Cadiz, OH 43907**
**Betty Hudson**

**Market Street, New Wilmington, PA**
**239S**
**Mary Lou Sample**




1 Judy Leonard
3 Judith Jones
3 Sherry Rose
3 Linda Behary
5 Mark McCormick
6 Connie McGinnis
6 Timothy Wilcox
7 Fred Ray
9 Barbara Rogers
9 Barney Scholl
10 Nancy Netzel
12 Ellis Smith
14 Debbie Derrenbacher
14 Kathy Ray
16 Trip McBride
19 Meredith Gilchrest
19 Shirley Gibson
23 Beverly Nelson
23 Cole Litman
24 Mary Catherine Nespor
25 Sophie Nespor
27 Paul Edmiston
27 Max Warren
27 Charlie Ross
28 Fred Heiges
28 Arabella Lindey
29 Henry Frei, Jr.
31 McClellan Pyle



MISSION TEAM
PRAYER PROGRAM

**Sharon Police Department**
**October Adopt-a-Cop**
**SRO Jeffrey Jennings**

**Sharon Fire Department**
**October Adopt-a-Firefighter**
**Thomas Rollinson**



## Special Dates in October

- Pastor Appreciation Month
- World Communion Sunday, *October 4*
- Columbus Day, *October 12*




# Fall Funnies!




# OCTOBER 2026

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ***Sunday Worship @ 1st***<br>9:15 Choir Practice-303<br>10:00 Adult Sunday School Class-FH<br>11:00 Worship in the Sanctuary<br>12:00 Fellowship@1st in the Library<br>FH=Fellowship Hall CR=Conference Room | | | | 1 | 42 | 3 |
| 4 | 5<br>6:00 Scouts-Scout Rm, Gym, Library<br>7:00 SVC Rehearsal-FH | 6 | 7<br>1:00 Staff Meeting-Rm. 106 | 8<br>3:00 Presbytery Budget Team-CR | 9 | 10 |
| 11<br>10:00 D&M Team-Library<br>12:00 Worship Team-Parlor<br>12:00 Mission Team-FH<br>12:00 Deacons-106<br>12:30 Carillon Choir Rehearsal-311 | 12<br>5:00 Presbytery Operations-CR<br>6:00 Scouts-Scout Rm, Gym, Library<br>7:00 SVC Rehearsal-FH | 13<br>PWCT-106 | 14<br>7:00 Men's Fellowship-Panera<br>1:00 Program Staff-CR<br>5:00 Admin. Team-CR | 15 | 16 | 17<br>10:00 SVC Board-Rm. 206 |
| 18 | 19<br>7:00 SVC Rehearsal-FH | 20 | 21<br>1:00 Staff Meeting-Rm. 106 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 St. Andrew's Sunday<br>6:00 Session-106 | 26<br>6:00 FLOW Meeting-Library<br>6:00 Scouts Halloween Party-Gym, FH<br>7:00 SVC Rehearsal-FH | 27<br>6:00 Radio Club-FH | 28<br>7:00 Men's Fellowship-Panera | 29 | 30 | 31 |