



The Falling Waters Messenger

Issue Ten

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It's a curious thing, I suppose, to understand oneself as a pastor, let alone to feel called to preach. By nature, I would admit that I'm not an especially preachy sort of person. Still, I can get animated in the moment. Speaking to a congregation, though, seems to call for a sense of honesty and restraint.

Too often, I find that I have to admit that some of what I say is mediated by however much or little I know, how little or how much I know my congregation, and an honest appreciation of my limits. After 38 years as a pastor, I know that people sometimes expect me to speak for the congregation, while they also suspect that I may be speaking with a different understanding. None of us has a perfect understanding of the mind of God. Every honest pastor that I've encountered has similar thoughts. As pastors we strive to be leaders of a flock, empathetic with others, and listening to their concerns. As preachers, though, we are sometimes called to be teachers, leaders, and even prophets – as God may give us wisdom and wit.

Everyone should be able to identify, if they are honest. We want clear answers from God. We want to hear comforting words that are still true. For those who reject God, there is still a desire for wisdom and truth. For people of the Word, we look to God, to scripture, to our traditions and fellowship, and to experience for guidance. As parents, family, and friends, not to mention – faithful opponents, at times, we all seek a good word, to hear, receive and share.

May the Lord guide us all in Spirit and in truth, that we might become the people we are created to be.

Rev. Bob Osborne



Pray Without Ceasing

The Arvon Family
 Avalon Blizzard
 Larry Brown
 The Family of Clarice Bushee
 Don Campbell
 Christi Heaton
 Shirley McDaniel
 Gloria Penwell
 Sandy Pohlenz
 Patty Runkles
 Nancy Shipper
 Carolyn and Larry Spicer



Happy Birthday -October

- October 1 Bill Berg, Jr.
 2 Crystal Mason
 8 Tina Sloan
 8 Chuck Mosher
 8 Gloria Penwell
 15 Lauren Ruble Kerns
 26 Trey Arvon
 29 Andrew Ruble



Wish These Friends a
 "Happy Birthday!"

Trunk Or Treat



World Communion Sunday

October 6, 2024

World Communion Sunday is an ecumenical celebration started by Presbyterians in the 1930's. It affirms the power of the Lord's Supper to unite the churches of Jesus Christ. Join us on October 1st as we join Presbyterians and other denominations all over the world to celebrate communion.



WORLD
 COMMUNION
 SUNDAY

On World Communion Sunday, Presbyterians are challenged to support the annual **Peace and Global Witness Offering**. This offering is used in various ways to promote peacemaking in innovative ways to alleviate violence whether it is domestic or otherwise. This offering is one of the four offerings of national and international scope that we at Falling Waters Presbyterian church support. **It will be collected on October 13.**

The offering is divided so that 25% goes to our own Amazing Grace Fund, another 25% links congregations in ministries of peace and reconciliation throughout presbyteries and synods. 50% advocates for Christ's peace and justice in cultures of violence through education and Christian witness. Checks may be made payable to FWPC and marked "Peace" on the memo line.

Please join us after worship on Sunday, October 27, in the back parking lot for a **Trunk or Treat** time for our children, with hot cider/punch to follow up at the pavilion. You can decorate your trunk anyway you desire – not necessarily scary, but any theme which catches your fancy (within reason, of course). Invite your grandchildren, nieces and nephews and/or your neighbor to join us for church and then fun and games that day. This will be a grand opportunity to interact with the future of our church, so don't be a stick-in-the-mud and come join the fun.

Fall Fellowship Dinner Dates

October 20

November 24



How Can I Help?

Are you a new member or a new regular attendee of our congregation and looking for a way to volunteer your time and get more involved in the life of the church? Are you a long time member looking for a new way to serve? Here are just a few ways you can help:

Host a coffee hour.

Our church enjoys a spirited coffee hour after worship on Sunday mornings. It is a fun time to connect with our church family, catching up with established friends and getting to know our new members. Traditionally, coffee hour consists of a hot beverage in the winter and a cool one in the summer along with a cookie or donut. Some in our congregation, however, enjoy using this time to make favorite recipes or to experiment with new ones. Please remember that if you sign up, all that is expected of you is a simple treat to accompany the beverage. Those volunteering are responsible for set up and clean up. If you have any questions please call Kathy Goodell at 754-3607.



Become a Nursery Attendant:

Do you have a heart for toddlers? - volunteer once a quarter to watch the cutie patooties in the nursery during worship. There are always two attendants per Sunday. Parents usually bring their own diapers, wipes, etc. but there are also diapers in the downstairs women's restroom. If you would like to be included on the nursery attendant list, see Fawn, 754-8211.

Fix something.

Are you handy? The Maintenance Committee is always looking for willing hands to maintain our beautiful historic church, grounds and pavilion. Jobs currently needing attention are posted on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. See John MacDonald to volunteer your services.

Help with the order of worship on Sunday mornings.

Pastor John is always looking for ways to get the laity (translation: the nonclergy - you and me) involved in the worship service. Are you willing to read scripture, collect the offering, sing in the choir, or be a greeter? Call the church office - 754-8211 - if you would like to assist with worship.

Make a visitor feel welcome.

We have all been newcomers at one time or another and know how it feels. Welcome our visitors with a smile and give them a Guest Bag located in the vestibule and on the small table directly inside the sanctuary. Show them where the bathrooms are located. If they have small children, accompany them to the nursery if they so desire. Invite them to stay for coffee hour.



Operation Christmas Child

Is our heart broken by the desperate plight of millions of children around the world? Whether they are refugees of civil war, survivors of a natural disaster or victims of extreme poverty, these little ones need to know that they are precious to God. That's the motivation behind **Operation Christmas Child**, the unique project of Samaritan's Purse that enables caring people to share God's love with hurting girls and boys in the far corners of the globe.

Plastic boxes will be available the first Sunday in October with content guidelines inside. FWPC will again this year participate in OCC. Content guidelines are small toys, school supplies, hygiene items, hard candy, T-shirts, socks, ball caps, sunglasses, hair clips, toy jewelry, and watches. Do not include used or damaged items, war-related items such as toy guns, knives or military figures, chocolate or food, liquids or lotions, medications or vitamins, breakable items such as snowglobes or glass containers or aerosol cans.

Shoe boxes will be collected on November 5. Please donate \$10.00 for shipping costs. Watch your bulletin for further information.



We have **9 Sessional Committees** dedicated to overseeing the work and ministry of the church. Many hands make for light work. Assess where your talents can best be of use and get involved.

Christian Education oversees anything to do with the education of our members, i.e. children and adult Sunday School, the Sardines (teen youth group), Vacation Bible School, the church library, Confirmation or new member classes.



Congregational Nurture responds to members in crisis, coordinates visitation, and keeps the pastor informed of the congregation's needs through the Shepherd Program and the Prayer Chain.

Outreach concentrates its efforts on service in the community, seeking ways to reach out to the unchurched in our community, and church growth.

Fellowship and Recreation strives to keep our congregation connected through hospitality - covered-dish meals, picnics, after worship coffee hours and other special occasions.



Finance works with the Session on budgetary and financial matters. Formulates the church budget.

Maintenance is responsible for the church building and property, the pavilion and the manse. (excluding the cemetery) It recruits volunteers for snow removal, and grounds maintenance.

Mission coordinates the participation of our congregation with mission projects of the Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly, by promoting special offerings and seeking opportunities to participate in overseas and local mission programs.



Mission Needs

Personnel serves as a liaison between the Session and church employees, reviews employment responsibilities and policies annually and conducts yearly reviews of all paid employees.



Worship Committee

Worship assists the pastor in the planning, evaluating, and enhancement of the worship service, prepares and sets up the elements for

communion, coordinates greeters and ushers, supports the work of the church organist and choir director and makes arrangements for sanctuary decoration for special occasions and holidays.

These are just a few of the many ways you can make a difference. Our church has remained vibrant and alive for 260+ years because the enthusiastic ministry of all who enter it's doors. Help us continue to keep it that way.

Guest Speakers for October

October 6 - Rev. Rick Hill

October 13 & 20 - Rev. Bob Osborne

October 27- Mr. Jon Huff

Flock Notes

Congratulations to JR Sloan who recently became engaged to his college sweetheart, Christina Denison. JR, who is the son of Tina and Rob Sloan and the grandson of Kathy and Dick Goodell, is currently pursuing his Masters Degree at WVU.

Patty Runkles wishes to thank the congregation for its prayers, cards, meals, visits and flowers over the past few months. She and Galen are very appreciative of their church family and its many acts of kindness.

Congratulations to Tyler and Madison Henry who were married on September 21st. Tyler is the son of Jason and Beth Henry and the grandson of Brenda Carper.

Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to the Arvon Family. Manny's father passed away on October 20.

You are Invited

to Berkeley Springs Presbyterian

The Berkeley Springs Presbyterian Church combined with Duckwell and New Hope Presbyterian Churches is celebrating 150 years of worshipping in Berkeley Springs, and would love to have you help us celebrate this remarkable milestone in our history.

We are planning a wonderful service and celebration on October 6, 2024, with a coffee hour beginning at 10:00 am, regular service beginning at 11:00 am, a catered lunch buffet at 12:30 pm and a short program thereafter highlighting the life and history of BSPPC over the past 150 years.

For planning purposes, please RSVP by September 15 by email at www/bspresbyterianchurchwv@gmail.com or phone the church at 304-258-1352 and leave a message.

HACC News

HACC is collecting Halloween Candy for hand-out with food boxes at the October 26th distribution. Items need to be at the church by Sunday, October 20th. Also collecting toiletries (soap, shampoo, deodorant, etc.) and paper products (paper towels, toilet paper, tissues, etc.) for this quarter.

Additional Pantry items are always needed: (these are the items put in the monthly boxes) Pasta Sauce, Pasta, Canned Fruit, Soup, Peanut Butter, Mac & Cheese, Canned Vegetables, Baked Beans, Rice, Syrup, Pancake Mix, Cereal, Hamburger Helper

Monetary donations can be made to:

Hedgesville Loaves and Fishes

P.O. Box 726, Hedgesville, WV 25427

For more information contact:

Karen - 301-992-1368 or Bill - 571-216-9320

Please note the P.O. box number for HACC monetary donations has been changed to 726. Until we complete our transfer of all entities under the umbrella of HACC, checks may be written to Hedgesville Loaves and Fishes or HACC. The bank currently accepts both. Thanks so much for continued generosity.

Warm the Children

The Journal is partnering this year with the United Way for Warm the Children. The program relies entirely on volunteers - those who coordinated the program and those who donate their time to shop with the parents. Checks may be made payable to Warm the Children and cash can be given to Patty and Galen Runkles. Cut off date is November 24. Patty thanks you for your generosity in the past and hopes you will continue to support the program this year.

Shared Thoughts With Judith Lawrenson

My dear neighbor across the street has a little day care business and I watch her out my window every morning walking her little ones to the bus. She also decorates her house and yard totally and beautifully for EVERY holiday. I see her yard from my upstairs window and it is such a pleasure just to see the seasonal and holiday spirit she always shows. As I look out today I see tons of pumpkins and baskets of baby mums everywhere. I think holiday decorations are so fun and I especially love the Fall colors.

On that note, you will have seen by now that our church has been decorated up a bit and I always enjoy doing that. Patty Runkles and I have been doing it for I think it is six years now. Patty has not been able to share in the fun this year but in the past we have always done it together and enjoyed not only the end product, but also just the fun of doing it. We go out for lunch or coffee or something after we are done and say to each other what a good job we did, too!

We have generally done it seasonally not monthly, and for Christmas Crystal Mason and Susie Cushwa are the decoration masters. They generally start the day after Thanksgiving when we take down the Fall things and, as you know, they totally transform our historic church into a thing of beauty. We sometimes invite friends and neighbors and family to church just to see how beautiful it looks. I think that this reflects how much we value the holiday season .

All that being said, and having done this for six years now, Patty and I are ready to hand over not the baton, but the artificial flower to the next decor queens. You don't need talent or artistic ability. Just ask me, I haven't got either one. I just enjoy making the church look special. There are tons of supplies and I sometimes buy a few more things when I feel like it but this is all up to you. This is a fun service for the church and gives pleasure to all of us. Please do consider taking over this ministry. Let me know, or give Patty or Fawn a call. I know you will enjoy it as much as Patty and I have done! Thanks so much.