

SOUNDINGS

NOVEMBER 2023

November Events

Saturday, Nov. 4 – Sunday, Nov. 5

Bacon Fest in Downtown Easton
daylight saving time ends

Sunday, Nov. 5
All Saints Sunday
Pasta Sunday

Wednesday, Nov. 8
Mission Team meeting, 12:30pm

Friday, Nov. 10
Veterans Day (observed)

Sunday, Nov. 12
Stewardship Sunday
Brunch Bunch after worship

Thursday, Nov. 16
Session, 5:30pm

Sunday, Nov. 19
Church Lunch
Deacons meet after worship

Thursday, Nov. 23
Happy Thanksgiving!

Friday, Nov. 24
-church office closed-

Sunday, Dec. 3
First Sunday of Advent
deadline for Giving Tree gifts



On Sunday, November 19, we'll come together in Legacy Hall for a soup and bread lunch! Soup will be provided; bring something to share, if able.

***Contact Pat Koefoed with questions:
pkoefoed@yahoo.com.***

Stewardship Sunday, November 12

We will receive your financial pledges AND your pledges of time and talents in worship on Sunday, Nov. 12. A pledge card is included in this newsletter, or you may access it on our website.

Let's do lunch!



Our next church lunch is Sunday, November 19th right after the service.

EVERYONE is invited. Spread the word! Bring your friends.



Soup—We will have a variety of soups.

And you are invited to bring something to go with soup, Pot-luck style: bread, crackers, salad, dessert, etc.

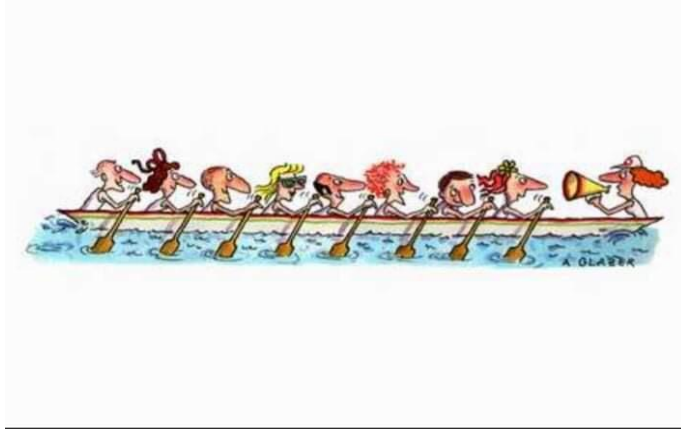
We will have signup sheets so we can have an idea of what is coming.

This is our opportunity to invite the community to share the love and fellowship that has blessed us in this place.

Come! Share a meal together.



PASTOR'S MESSAGE



Hello Friends,

The fall leaves are drifting slowly from their perches to the ground as we move further into the autumn season and the holidays seem like racehorses in the starting gate anxiously waiting for the bell to ring and the gate to open. With Halloween and all its silliness (boo!!!) now a recent memory, we'll soon be carving up the Thanksgiving turkey and before it is digested, we will be in the season of Advent. Hopefully we can slow the pace down and dwell a bit on the impact of our lives by the coming of the Christ child. Lots to do

and lots to think about as we move toward the celebration of Christmas Day.

It is autumn and along with the crisp air and brightly painted trees, it is also Stewardship season for the First of Easton. We are using the theme of "Pulling Together", as that is what we must do over the coming months. Our "Pulling Together" Sunday will be November 12th but during the interim, you will be receiving a letter from the Pulling Together Team (OK, Stewardship Team) asking you to support the church next year by pledging a specific dollar amount, and also requesting that you consider directly participating in an activity or joining one of the Teams crucial to maintaining our ministry. On November 12th, we request that you bring your completed pledge forms to the worship service where we will dedicate and offer them up to God for God's blessing and pray for the Holy Spirit to guide us in using your pledges.

As you prayerfully consider what you will pledge for 2023 and how you may actively participate, ponder for a few moments just why and how First Presbyterian Church of Easton is an important, if not an essential, part of your life and may your pledge reflect that imperative. God bless.

Pastor Larry Van Hise

A MESSAGE FROM SESSION

Session met on October 19. All teams are working hard, some with new members to help share the load. Please note, these teams are led by Elders on Session, but anyone can join a team, so think about how you could contribute.

*Session members are in italics

Mission Team

Nancy Udut, Chair
Candy Gulotta
Pat Koefoed
Peg Opthof
Carol Schroeder

Membership/Community Connection Team

Susan Mackay, Chair
Nancy Udut
Darcel Hayes-Bridges
Art Charlton
Noralee Manzek

Worship Team

Donna Van Norman, Chair
Bill Bartlett
 Elizabeth Campbell-Becker
Jim Middendorf
 Gloria Synder

Personnel Team

Art Charlton, Chair
 Ellis Finger
Bud Martin
 Victoria Opthof-Cordaro

Finance/Stewardship Team

Bill Schroeder, Chair
Susan Mackay
Bud Martin

Property Team

Rich Linnell, Chair
 Dave Foster
Noralee Manzek

The Property Team, with assistance from lots of folks, took in \$2600 in fundraising from Garlic Fest parking. The team is reviewing the needs of our church building and how we can pay for needed repairs. They welcome new members to the team.

The Mission Team is continuing its work on local missions such as the Blessing Box, Safe Harbor dinners, in partnership with Trinity Episcopal, monthly church lunches and more. This is a very active group! The Stewardship Team will be working on the 2024 budget when pledge results are in. Let's all pull together.

The Outreach/Membership Team is working on boosting our presence on social media (Facebook and Instagram). With the help of a free trial program from Outreach Digital, the same company that handles our "New Mover" postcards, we are posting on social media at least once a day. So, if you have FB or Insta, be sure to add Easton First Presbyterian Church to your groups so you will see the posts. And to spread the message further, hit "share" to your feed and it will go out to all your friends. We've already seen an uptick in the number of views. These posts are also being shared on Easton PA, and Everything Easton FB groups.

Session continues to explore rental options, through a local realtor and through Northampton County social services agencies. If you have any questions about your Session, please ask a Session member. We are here to represent you. - The Session

DEACONS

The Deacons have had a busy Fall! First of all, we would like to thank the congregation for support of the Honey Project! To date we've received \$228! We use these funds to support the care and fellowship of our "church family".

Stay tuned for "Who's Your Deacon?" as we introduce 1 Deacon every other week with a list of their congregational members.

Deacons are working on getting Narcan and an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) into the church by early 2024. Extensive training is involved - we'll keep you posted on the progress!

Does anyone have a spare small Christmas tree that we can use for our "Angel Tree" for the holidays? Please contact Ruthann if you have one.

GIVING TREE BY THE DEACONS AND THE MISSION TEAM

The Deacons and Mission Team's Shawl Ministry are joining forces to help the County of Northampton Children, Youth & Families Division make wishes come true. Like last year, we agreed to support ten (10) families and hopefully will have tags on the "Giving Tree" by Sunday, November 12 (tree will be outside of church office).

1. Please have any gifts you agreed to purchase for the families at church by **Sunday, December 3**.
Leave in the office or large box by tree.
2. DO NOT WRAP GIFTS, JUST TAG!

If you have questions, speak to a Deacon or Mission Team Member.

COFFEE HOUR

Deacons will be hosting the weekly coffee hour after worship, so that we can all enjoy some goodies and fellowship together. If you'd like to be a helper with a Deacon in a future coffee hour, please let Ruthann Arras know.

HELLO, HOW ARE YOU?

Every church family has a Deacon! Deacons will be calling members to chat, and share joys and concerns. You can expect a monthly or bi-monthly phone call from your Deacon.

DEACON HONEY

Your sweet tooth will be happy that the Deacons are providing local Heinsohn honey at coffee hour for a donation of \$8.00 per 1-pound jar. Check your cupboard to see if you're running low!

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

HANDBELL CHOIR

The Handbell Choir rehearses on Wednesdays at 5:30pm. If you would like more information or to join the Handbell Choir, please see Gloria Snyder.

CHANCEL CHOIR

The Chancel Choir will meet every other Sunday morning at 9:30am to rehearse for that Sunday's service. Dates for November will be **Sunday, November 5** and **Sunday, November 19**.

SAVE THE DATE!

The Easton Municipal Band will perform a holiday concert at First Presbyterian on **Sunday, December 10** at 5:00pm. The concert will feature a variety of holiday favorites and is **FREE** and open to the public! Following the concert, please join us for refreshments and to meet and greet the musicians!

MISSION

NEIGHBORHOOD SOCIAL

Where were you Sunday, October 15th from 11-2pm? Well, if you couldn't make our annual event, you missed out on a beautiful fall day with Genesis and our congregation...hot dogs, popcorn, apples, snacks, drinks, pumpkins and games, but most important: conversation, laughter and joy were present. The Mission Team wants to thank everyone that came out to help celebrate and work the event. We hope to see you there next year!

PASTA SUNDAY

Sunday, November 5 is Pasta Sunday! We'll accept your donations of canned, dry or microwaveable pasta as well as peanut butter until Tuesday, November 7 at 12:00pm when they will be delivered to ProJeCt 's Food Pantry. "...for I was hungry and you gave me something to eat..." - Matthew 25:35

SAFE HARBOR

Thanks to all who volunteered meals for November and December. We are partnering with Trinity Episcopal Church and will continue with this ministry in 2024. Watch for more opportunities to volunteer in the near future.



CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

Through the Christmas Joy Offering, we celebrate church leaders among us – past, present, and future – who have pointed and continue to point us to God. By supporting this offering, you help provide financial assistance to current and retired church workers while also developing future leaders in the church and in the world at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

50% of your gift honors current and retired church workers and their families in times of need, whether a family emergency, a health-care crisis or even assistance to pastors affected by natural disasters.

50% of your gift prepares the way for future leaders by making it possible for students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges.

This offering will be collected from now until December 24. There are envelopes by the offering boxes, or you can simply write "Christmas Joy" in the memo line of your check. Thank you!

THE STITCHERS (AKA THE SHAWL MINISTRY)

We are alive and well and still looking for anyone interested in helping with lap robes for Hospice and/or baby items for local hospitals and care centers. We are also making scarves, hats and mittens for the "Giving Tree" recipients. Free yarn, needles and patterns! Just ask Nancy Udut at naomiudut@yahoo.com. FYI: for the Neighborhood Social we placed hats on the fence posts in the front garden for those in need (see the picture) and they were received with a smile!



BLESSING BOX

The congregation has embraced this outreach mission 100%. We are so blessed to have the ability to share our blessings with others in Easton and neighboring areas. Every week the box is filled and emptied two to three times, which emphasizes the need. Easton is considered a "food desert" as there are no chain grocery stores within a mile or two. If possible, please sign up to fill the box, but if you are unable and still want to help, non-perishable donations may be put in the Blessing Baskets in the Narthex and by back entrance door.

HELP NEEDED!

Do you see an event you would like to help with, but not be committed for long-term? Or do you have an idea, but can't do it on your own? Watch for announcements and contact Nancy Udut or Jonathan in the church office for more information.

FAITH FORMATION AND FELLOWSHIP

BRUNCH BUNCH

Brunch Bunch will be going to Tacos and Tequila at 20 Kunkle Drive Easton on **Sunday, November 12**. Please let Ruthann know by November 10 if you plan to attend. All are welcome!



BOSCOV'S FRIENDS HELPING FRIENDS UPDATE

The church raised \$325 from Friends Helping Friends, beating our previous record of \$300! Thank you to all the Deacons who sold passes, and to YOU the congregation, for your support of this fund-raising event!

MEETING REMINDERS

The Mission Team will meet on Wednesday, November 8 at 12:30pm.

Session will meet on Thursday, November 16 at 5:30pm.

The Deacons will meet after worship on Sunday, November 19.

ONLINE WORSHIP

Our services are streamed live on our Facebook page - [EastonFPC](#) - at 10:30am Sunday. The recording of the live worship is posted each Sunday by 12:30pm- on our website: <https://eastonfpc.org/online-worship> and YouTube channel is [Easton First Presbyterian Church](#).

PROPERTY TEAM

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We will be offering paid parking for Bacon Fest, **Saturday, November 4** and after worship on **Sunday, November 5**. Volunteers are needed to help monitor the parking lot and take payments. If you can help, please contact the church office or speak to Rich Linnell.

BUILDING USE – RECOVERY PARTNERSHIP

We are pleased to have Recovery Partnership, a community drop-in center, renting Legacy Hall on a temporary basis, which will continue through November. They will be in our building 10am to 4pm Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

BUILDING USE - VIRELLA'S SWEETS AND TREATS

We are assisting Virella's Sweets and Treats by hosting them in our kitchen, as their storefront was damaged by heavy rain. They will be using the kitchen periodically for the next several weeks.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS



November 2	Kate Farrell
November 10	Carol Freebairn
November 10	Dorothy Wheelen
November 14	Briahni Bridges
November 15	Kylie Lalonde
November 22	Peter Becker
November 25	Kelsey Dicker
November 30	Jordan Barrow

PRAYERS

We pray for...

Peace and goodwill for all God's children, especially in places of war and conflict, especially in Ukraine, Israel and the Gaza Strip.

Our church, its leaders, staff, members and friends as we navigate planning for the future.

For neighbors near and far recovering from natural disasters and extreme weather.

Elizabeth Campbell and the Becker-Campbell family as Elizabeth undergoes chemotherapy.

Jim Middendorf's niece, who is in intensive care.

Rick Taylor and his family, at the passing of Margaret Taylor, Rick's sister-in-law.

Members addressing ongoing medical concerns, including Victoria Opthof-Cordaro and Bill Schroeder.

All those who live with dementia and their care givers.

Victims of gun violence and acts of hate.

Those who suffer from mental illness.

For injustice in our nation and world, that people of goodwill might work together for the greater good.

Prayers can be sent to office@eastonfpc.org, please include "prayer list" in the subject line.

**Soup
and
Study**

The great
REVIVALS
and
how they impacted
society.

The Great Awakening during
Colonial times and The Welsh
Revival of 1904.

Come and find out!!!

November 1 and 8, 2023
from noon - 1:30 pm.

Come for one or come for
both!!!

All are invited!



Community Presbyterian
Church

1755 S. Delaware Dr.
Mt. Bethel, PA 18343





CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Each year, our sanctuary is beautifully decorated for Advent and Christmas. If you would like to sponsor a poinsettia, please fill out the form below and turn it into the church office by Friday, December 8. The suggested donation is \$10.00; if you would like to take the poinsettia home after Christmas Eve, please indicate that below.

Name: _____

Phone/Email: _____

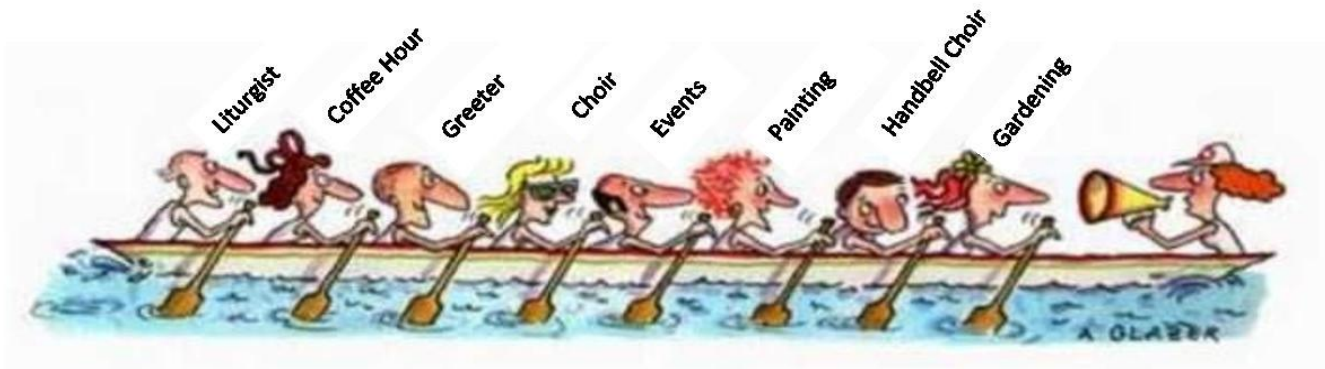
In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Amount enclosed: _____

Yes, I'd like to take the poinsettia home: _____

First Presbyterian Church of Easton
333 Spring Garden Street, Easton PA 18042
610-253-3579
www.eastonfpc.org



Pulling Together: Trusting in God, Growing in Faith

2024 Stewardship Commitment

Name _____ Phone _____

Street Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

E-mail _____

One Year Pledge For 2024 Operating Fund

My/Our 2023 One-Year Pledge to Support the Operating Fund of First Presbyterian Church is:

\$ _____ per week...or

\$ _____ per month...or

\$ _____ per year

One Year Pledge For 2024 Mortgage Fund

My/Our 2023 One Year Pledge to Pay the Mortgage of First Presbyterian Church is:

\$ _____ per week...or

\$ _____ per month...or

\$ _____ per year

I/we would like: _____ Weekly _____ Monthly offering envelopes.

One Year Pledge for Pulling on an Oar:

My/Our 2023 One-Year Pledge to Support this area or areas of ministry for 2024:

Mission:

- Provide Safe Harbor Meals
- Stock the Blessing Box
- Participate in special projects

Worship:

- Serve as a greeter
- Serve as a liturgist
- Provide special music
- Sing in the Chancel Choir
- Ring with the Handbell choir

Property:

- Help with custodial duties
- Gardening
- Repairs
- Painting

Tech Support:

- Assist with tech support Sunday mornings

Membership/Community Connections:

- Help with special events
- Help with social media projects

Something Else:

- I'd like to help by _____

**Please return your pledge cards via mail, email or in-person by Stewardship Sunday,
November 12.**

Thank you for your prayerful consideration!

And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love. 1 Corinthians 13:13