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A monthly publication of First Presbyterian Church

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Secretary of
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Cathy Wilson Treasurer

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Kelly Hanni Kim Whitman Geri Willis 2026 Mitch Hall*

Mitch Hall*
Jan Holbrook
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*2nd term of service

But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope. The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning **great is Your faithfulness.** The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in Him." (Lamentations 3:21-24)

am always intrigued with this passage of scripture. When we sing the hymn, Great is Thy Faithfulness, I am encouraged by the message of God's faithful love toward me. These words always inspire. What is interesting to me is the setting of these words in the context of Lamentations 3.

Lamentations is a series of "laments" about the condition of the world, Israel's situation and even the prophet's wailings. It is not a positive picture. Yet, in the midst of the "woe is me" are these gems of a truth! God's faithfulness is sure, dependable and fresh every day. To wake up each morning and realize that God is giving His creation another go at it; is a blessing in itself. To know that the Creator of everything has expressed His love and grace in such a way that we are cared for, is an amazing thought to ponder. *Great is His faithfulness!*

November is a month that allows us to express our thanks to Him for His care,

protection and provision. Though our lives may have reason to "lament" of the difficulties we face; it is important to remember to say "Thank You." God remembers us with new blessings each day. He can be counted on to provide you and me with His mercy, grace and love. *Great is His faithfulness!*

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The prophet, Jeremiah, realized that even in the midst of life's trials, that God can be trusted in every circumstance. No matter how bleak the outlook, He never leaves us to fend for ourselves. His Holy Spirit walks beside us in the midst of the chaos. *Great is His faithfulness!*

As we experience Thanksgiving Day later this month, let us never forget His faithfulness that is extended to all the world. And let us not forget the times that His mercies have been new every morning of our lives. With the prophet we can be assured of God's care and provision. We can comforted with the thought that He understands our need and seeks to meet them with His perfect gifts. *Great is His faithfulness!*

In these days, I invite you to sing with me – "All I have needed Your hand has provided. Great is Your faithfulness; Lord unto me."

Pastor Bill

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Stewardship Campaign for 2024



We are excited to announce that our Stewardship Emphasis for 2024 is **November 5–19.** This year's theme is "A Cheerful Giver." We have so much to be grateful for here at the church. God is using us to make a difference in the lives of many persons throughout our community, Commonwealth and the world. You will be receiving a letter with a faith-commitment card to be filled out and returned to the church by **Sunday, November 19**. Thank you for prayerfully considering your financial (and prayer) support of First Presbyterian Church, Ashland. Together, we all are making a difference for the Kingdom.

Operation Christmas Child

Thank you for providing a lot of joy in the lives of children around the world with your OCC shoebox! Please return your box(es) to the church by <u>November 12</u>. If you can provide \$10 for the shipping cost per box; we would be grateful. If unable to provide the money, please bring your box and we will make sure shipping is covered. Thank you for your generosity! Our children will be packing their OCC shoe-boxes during Children's Church on Sunday, November 5. Make sure your children are here so they can be a part of this wonderful project!

Baptism Sunday

We will be observing Baptism Sunday during worship on <u>November 19</u>. We are looking forward to celebrating with our children and adults who are being baptized at this time. The Lord is working in the midst of our congregation and it is exciting to see how He is becoming a vital part of our congregation's life. Please be in prayer for those being baptized and be ready to support them in their faith journey. To God be the glory forever!



Thanksgiving & Stewardship Commitment Dinner

Mark your calendar for <u>Sunday</u>, <u>November 19</u>, when we will gather in the Bethesda Community Hall following morning worship for a time of celebration and thanks giving for our Stewardship Emphasis success! The Church will provide turkey, mashed potatoes, green beans, rolls and drinks. We are being asked to provide salads, sides and desserts (you might even consider some cranberry sauce for Pastor Bill). We hope to see you as we celebrate together God's blessings in our congregation.



Family Night/Christmas Kick-Off

Please join us on <u>Sunday, November 26, from 5:30 – 6:45 p.m.</u> in the Bethesda Hall for a Family Night of CHRISTmas FUN!! We will make Family Advent wreaths, crafts, and Christmas Bingo!! Snacks and drinks will be provided. Please contact Kelly Hanni, 606.923.7826, with any questions.

Notes of Gratitude

- THANK YOU, THANK YOU and THANK YOU! On behalf of all the staff here at FPC, we want to express our deepest thanks for your love and generosity we experienced at the staff appreciation luncheon. We are privileged to serve you all and are so grateful for the cards, gifts, treats and words of affirmation!
- Thank you so much for the thoughtful Halloween and birthday goodies! The fudge and baked goods in the first package didn't last more than 24 hours—so delicious! I so appreciate the thought and time that went into sending those. I feel so loved! Looking forward to visiting soon. Logan Jones

Be A Volunteer!

Make plans to join our church family on <u>Sunday, December 3 from noon to 6 p.m.</u> to help sell trees for the Big Brothers/Big Sisters organization. The tree lot is located at the Ashland Tennis Center. Sign up sheet is in the Narthex. Please see Kelly Hanni for any questions.



Sunday Morning Study: 9:18 a.m. Armchair Theologians: 9:30 a.m. Sunday Morning Worship: 10:50 a.m.

Men's Bible Study: Wednesdays, 7 a.m., Bob Evans

Winchester Bells: Wednesdays, 5:45 p.m.
Chancel Choir Rehearsal: Wednesdays, 6:45 p.m.
Stewardship Campaign: Sundays, Nov. 5, 12, 19
Crafternoon Party: Sunday, Nov. 5, 12:15 p.m.
Horizons Bible Study: Monday, Nov. 6, 6 p.m.

Election Day: Tuesday, Nov. 7

Men's Lunch Bunch: Thursday, Nov. 9, 11:30 a.m.

Paper Angels: Thursday, Nov. 9, 1 p.m.

Ministry Teams Meeting: Monday, Nov. 13, 5:30 p.m.

Dames & Dinner: Thursday, Nov. 16, 5:30 p.m.

Baptism Sunday: Nov. 19, 10:50 a.m.

Thanksgiving/Stewardship Dinner: Nov. 19, Noon

Sew Blessed: Monday, Nov. 20, 6 p.m.

Finance Ministry Team: Tuesday, Nov. 21, 5:30 p.m.

Happy Thanksgiving: Thursday, Nov. 23

Family Night Christmas Kick-Off: Sunday, Nov. 26,

5:30 p.m.

Empty Nest Angels: Monday, Nov. 27, 5:30 p.m. **Session Meeting:** Tuesday, Nov. 28, 5:30 p.m.

Collecting Donations

We continue to receive donations for the Ashland Youth Services Center Thanksgiving Baskets, which are due by **November 12**. This is a wonderful outreach to many in our area who are struggling to make ends meet. We had an overflow of items last year. We helped feed dozens of families throughout the Ashland Schools in our area. You may drop off your donations here at FPC during office hours, Monday – Thursday or Sundays. Thank you for your giving spirit!

Items needed:		
Instant Mashed Potatoes	Gravy	Stuffing
Biscuit or Roll Mix	Cranberry Sauce	Canned Green Beans
Cream of Mushroom	Crispy Onion	Canned Sweet Pota-
Soup	Straws	toes
Brown Sugar	Marshmallows	Pecans
Canned Corn	Pumpkin Pie Filling	Canned Milk
Coffee and Tea	Hot Cocoa Mix	Clothes Baskets



Annie Miller—November 4
John Ferguson—November 12
Erik Adkins—November 17
Andrew Wheeler —November 18
Betty Jean Phipps—November 19
Mary Patterson—November 20
Jan Winans—November 23
Thomas Hall—November 27
Dillon Lambert—November 27
Barb Payne—November 28
Kate Hanni—November 29



A Chance to Say "YES"

During our Thanksgiving/Stewardship dinner following morning worship,

November 19; you will have another opportunity to "investigate" ways to become involved in the ongoing ministries of our congregation. Various tables will offer information for the ministry programs here at FPC. You are invited to peruse and decide where you would like to be counted in 2024! Everyone offering their gifts will energize our church!

Sanctuary Open for Prayer



Continuing through November on Wednesday evenings from 5:30 –8 p.m., our sanctuary will be available for you to come and meditate, reflect on God's love and/or pray. Volunteers will let you

in at the door at the top of the front steps. If you would like to volunteer as a host, see Heather Shay or sign-up in the Narthex.