



GOOD NEWS

LETTER

*Forest Presbyterian Church
Living God's Heart, Hands, & Voice*

Newsletter for Forest Presbyterian Church, Forest, Virginia

November 2024

From Generation to Generation

For the first time in my life, I recently found myself temporarily with no church family. There have been many shocking developments in my life – beginning with the death of my mother when I was a two-year-old. I lost my father the year I turned 50. I was technically an orphan. I became a widow not quite two years ago. With each loss a part of my identity was stripped away. But nothing could have prepared me for the sense of loss I felt when I realized I was not tethered to the family of God. You, of course, might remind me of Presbyterian polity. After all, as a minister my membership belongs to the presbytery and not a congregation. And still, the reality of not being woven into the fabric of a local congregation hit hard.

So, what is it about the local congregation that makes it an integral part of my life? First, and foremost, it is the place I routinely worship God. It is a slowing of the rhythm of my life. But more importantly, it is a reminder that God is with us – from birth to death – and that is evidenced when I see an infant baptized, little children eagerly coming forward to hear a message, a teen actively participate in a skit, a young mother nursing her baby, a child sitting next to an elderly woman who never bore children, or widows who share the same pew so they don't have to sit alone. I see it when men of all ages come together to do work around the church or to flip pancakes in the kitchen. I see it on the face of God's children when they are shepherded into eternal life. In these glimpses of communal life, I realize that there is NOTHING that I will experience that someone else hasn't also experienced. I do not need to be self-sufficient nor should I experience joys and sorrows apart from the family of God.

We learn best about God's faithfulness when we do it together. We are meant to rub shoulders with one another. In the process of sharing our lives, we also rub away some of the rough edges from one another. So, this month we acknowledge that we are going to welcome one another into our family of faith. There will be some things that won't seem familiar. There will be times when we don't see eye to eye. You will think I'm strange, and I will think you stubborn, but my guess is that I can out stubborn a mule. It's genetic. It comes in handy. It means I'm resilient. But, alas, our strengths are often our greatest weakness. I once kept a two-by-four in my office. It's gone but feel free to bring your own.

My role is unique for such a time as this since I am called as a stated supply to facilitate your own discernment about what God has in store for the future of Forest Presbyterian. I'm the one who will challenge you, ask questions and provoke questions of one another. Let's wrestle with the hard stuff together, but let's never forget that we are part of the family of God where every individual plays an important role. Let's show one another grace. Let's assume the best of one another. Let's capitalize on the strengths of Forest Presbyterian – one of which is you started as a close-knit group with a goal to serve God in this place.

Let's be willing to learn from one another as we labor in the work of God's kingdom. Most importantly, may we commend or brag on God's work, tell others of God's power and wonderful acts, proclaim or speak of God's incredible deeds, celebrate God's goodness with joy, and sing of His righteousness from one generation to another (Psalm 145:4).

Come and worship on Sunday, Nov. 3 as we unpack those themes together. May the day be filled with worship, testimony, joy, and the glorious privilege of singing God's praises together.

PB

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**Forest
Youth
Reaching
Everyone**

College Care Packages

A Special "THANK YOU" to everyone who sent words of encouragement to our College Students. They always appreciate hearing from us. Feel free to drop them a quick card through out the school year!

FYRE YOUTH GROUP will meet at the church on November 3 and November 17 - 2-4 pm. **All local youth in Middle and High School are welcome to come!**

November Birthdays

- 2 Carl Sims
- 3 Kirk Baston
- 4 Ben Harrison
- 17 Kurt Heideman
- 18 Grace Nicosis
- 25 Bob Crie
- 25 Laura McCurry
- 26 Cindy Harper
- 26 Kathy Fraley
- 29 Holly McCray



November events

- ⇒ Handbells - Every Wednesday, 6 pm
- ⇒ Adult Choir - Every Wednesday, 7 pm
- ⇒ Daylight Saving Time Ends - Sunday, November 3
- ⇒ Reception for PB - November 3, 11:30 am
- ⇒ Angel Tree Begins - November 10
- ⇒ Newsletter Deadline - Tuesday, November 12
- ⇒ Commitment Sunday - November 17
- ⇒ Session - November 19, 6:30 pm
- ⇒ Two-Cents-A-Meal - Sunday, November 24
- ⇒ Thanksgiving Day - November 28

*Daylight Saving Time Ends
Sunday, November 3*



A Word From FELLOWSHIP

FELLOWSHIP TIME TOGETHER!

We have started back offering coffee on Sunday mornings with a great time of fellowship together. We started our Stewardship kick-off with a well received catered lunch on Sunday, October 20. What a wonderful time of encouragement to each other.

WELCOME RECEPTION FOR PASTOR BETH

The Fellowship Team along with the Transition Team will sponsor a reception following worship service on Sunday, November 3 to welcome Pastor Beth to Forest Presbyterian Church. We are asking our Forest family to provide items for the reception. Some suggestions include finger foods (sandwiches), vegetable or fruit dips, cheese balls, meatballs, deviled eggs, also desserts of all kinds. Please email/text/call Lisa Klingenfus no later than Wednesday, October 30 with what you would like to bring. The church will provide beverages. Lisa's contact information is:

Cell - 434-944-4009, Home
- 434-525-9290,
email - lklingenfu@aol.com



Christian Education

A Word From CE

This Fall, Church School classes have discussed and explored Jesus' teachings and healings through scripture, discussion, and activities. This has included the following topics:

- *The importance of prayer*
- *Being doers of the Word, not just listeners*
- *Jesus extending his ministry to non-Jews*
- *How we should behave and act as followers of Jesus*

This month, we finish the liturgical year and the Fall curriculum with the following:

November 3 – “Naomi and Ruth” (Ruth 1:1-18)

November 10 – “The Widow’s Offering” (Mark 12:38-44)

November 17 – “The Destruction of the Temple” (Mark 13:1-8)

November 24 (Christ the King Sunday) – “Jesus before Pilate” (John 18:33-37)

Come and explore Jesus' teachings every Sunday at 9:00! It's never too late to start whether you can only come occasionally or every week, all are welcome! Adults meet in the church sanctuary. Youth and Children meet downstairs.



Confirmation Class

Confirmation classes for 8th – 12th graders will be starting in early November. We will be using the “Professing our Faith” eight session course. Each class will be 2 ½ hours long and cover two sessions for four total classes. Class dates will be determined based on the schedules of the participants.

If you have not been contacted by Laurie Brownson and have a child who should be participating in this class, contact the church office to get them added to the list.



MISSIONS

2024 Angel Tree -

Angel tree goes up in the Commons Sunday, **November 10**. You can pick an angel from the tree or if you are unable to come to the church, you can contact Denise Kennedy at (540-871-0494) to request an angel. The angels will consist of Bedford County Residents that are elderly or disabled, and any children that live in those households. Please return your wrapped gifts (*with the angel attached*) under the tree by Sunday, **December 8**.



Shepard's Table -

They need you! Can you spare 2 hours on 3rd Friday of each month to pass out box meals from 10:30-12:30. If you can, contact Ginny Fiddler or Denise Kennedy. Desserts are needed on the 3rd Friday of each month to be placed in the box meals. This can be cookies, brownies, cakes or anything sweet. Your help is much appreciated!

Bedford Christian Ministry and Food Pantry -

The October collection of linens was a huge success. Over 200 items were delivered to BCM for their clients. Thanks to all of you who helped supply these items.

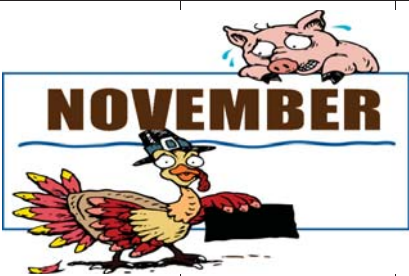








BCM food pantry continues to need snack and drink items for children who don't have them in their homes. Please pick up extra when you are doing your own grocery shopping.



THANKS to all for living God's heart and hands and sharing your love and compassion with the families who are served by Bedford Christian Ministries.



NOVEMBER 2024

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|-----|
| |  | | | | 1 | 2 |
| | | | | |  | |
| 3 Daylight Saving Time Ends Communion Reception for Pastor Beth FYRE 2-4p | 4 | 5 Election Day | 6 6p Handbells 7p Choir practice  | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 Angel Tree begins | 11 | 12 Newsletter Deadline  | 13 6p Handbells 7p Choir practice  | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| | | | | |  | |
| 17 Commitment Sunday FYRE 2-4p | 18 | 19 6:30p Session  | 20 6p Handbells 7p Choir practice | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| | | | | |  | |
| 24 2-Cents-A-Meal | 25 | 26 | 27 6p Handbells 7p Choir practice | 28 Thanksgiving Day  | 29 | 30 |

ABBREVIATIONS

a - am
p - pm

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:30 am - Church School
10:30 am - Worship Service

Stewardship note

As trustworthy stewards we can make a difference in Christ's name in our community, across this nation, and around the world. Come and worship **EAGERLY, JOYFULLY, and GENEROUSLY!**

As we approach Commitment Sunday (November 17), think about how you can show your gratitude to God in a tangible way. Think also about how you can show your gratitude by giving of your time and talents. Consider increasing your gift for 2025 beyond mere convenience - For the Lord. It is not the size of the gift that matters, but the size of the heart that is giving it.

2 Corinthians 9:6-8 says: *Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.*



Christmas Poinsettias

We will be decorating the church with poinsettias for the Advent Season. The cost of a poinsettia is \$12 and can be donated in remembrance or in honor of someone. Use the form below or look for a bulletin insert to make your donation and specify your recognition. Donations are to be made by the second Sunday of Advent, December 8, as the poinsettias will be placed in the sanctuary the third Sunday of Advent, December 15. Donations can be placed in the offering plates or returned to the church office. For additional information, please contact Denise Kennedy.



Poinsettia



Help decorate the sanctuary for Christmas by donating \$12 towards the purchase of Poinsettia Plants. Please fill out the form below and place it in the offering plate or mail it to the church office by **Sunday, December 8**. Please enclose your payment with your order. If you have questions, please contact Denise Kennedy (1-540-871-0494 or denise_a_k@hotmail.com).

PLEASE CIRCLE ONE BELOW:

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Given By: _____

Advent

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Starting the first Sunday of Advent, December 3, we will need families or individuals to light the candles on the Advent Wreath. This involves reading a short message about the candle(s) to be lit - lighting the candle, reading a scripture, and closing with prayer. A total of six presenters are needed – one for each of the four Sundays of Advent plus one for each of the two Christmas Eve services. If you wish to volunteer yourself or your family, please contact Denise Kennedy.



Lunch Club Note

Ladies we need to know if you are still interested in having a Lunch Club at Forest. Please either call or email Robin Carter to let her know if you are interested, or if you are not interested in continuing with lunch. Her email is: robind55@verizon.net, phone number is: 434-525-3845. She needs to know in order to make plans for any future lunch dates.

Walking Group!

We continue to march across the country toward Olympia, Washington, the next state we plan to visit. We left Richmond, VA. the second week in September and at the beginning of October we were as far as eastern Iowa with still over 1,400 miles to go. As we collect around 250 miles per week, it will be quite a while before we reach it. And once there, we will have to immediately start back east toward Charleston, West Virginia, a distance of 2,152 miles. Care to join us on our trek? We would enjoy having you. Just contact Ginny Lenz and walk with us!



In The church family...



FPC Members and Friends,

Noel and I want to thank you for your cards, phone calls, and especially your prayers while he was taking his chemo for Lymphoma. He is now considered to be in remission with no cancer cells present. We are so thankful and praise be to God for his unfailing mercy and grace.

Love in Christ,
Noel and Joan Austin



New E-mail:

- Trish Hendricks
hendrixtricky@gmail.com

Choir Notes

GETTING READY FOR CHRISTMAS

The choir meets on Wednesday evenings in the sanctuary 7 - 8 pm, and there is a seat waiting just for YOU! Choir members have a lot of fun making music together! We are working on our Christmas music now, and have some beautiful music planned for the holiday season and the new year too. Join us - you will be welcomed with smiles and open arms!

