



The Mustard Seed

"... If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed,
nothing shall be impossible to you."

Matthew 17:20

The newsletter of The Hermitage Presbyterian Church, 421 Highland View Drive, Hermitage, TN 37076

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LES IS MORE

Ah, Thanksgiving: the commencement of the holiday season.

Although we are thankful for all we have every day of our lives, Thanksgiving affords us an opportunity to *really* think about it and to be intentional in our thanks. Thankfulness, after all, is the remedy to most of our spiritual woes. When we give thanks for what we have, greed, lust, and covetousness take a back seat. When we are thankful that God continues to provide for us, fear and stinginess hit the road. When we thank God for our abilities, ego and pride vanish. Giving thanks re-establishes the proper perspective of who we are in relationship to who God is. We receive all good gifts from God.

The holiday season – Thanksgiving through Epiphany – is massively busy. Remember to sit down and breathe once in a while. Meditate on the following Psalm-prayer taken from Psalms for Praying by Nan C. Merrill (from Psalm 18):

I abandon myself to You, O Living Presence, -
my strength.
You are my rock, my stronghold,
my freedom,
Almighty One, the rock and
foundation of my life,
Just One, tower of strength,
the source of truth and light,
I call upon you, Heart of my heart,
singing praises to your Name,
and fear no longer holds me.

Hope to see you in worship!

Yours in Christ,

Leslie

NEWS FROM THE SESSION

The Session held its regular stated meeting on Sunday, October 15 following worship. Here are some highlights from the meeting.

There has been some concern about the safety of some of the benches on the church property. Session authorized the Business Team to dispose of the ones considered unsafe for regular use.

Session is strongly urging those members and groups who have keys to the church to make sure the doors are locked when they are finished using the buildings. Doors have been found unlocked when the buildings are not in use. This is also a safety issue that needs to be addressed. Our facility use policy also states that our facility is weapons free.

Work has begun on creating the budget for 2018. Session voted to make our website a priority in 2018 by increasing the amount in our budget for next year. There will also be a line for youth, with the amount to be determined when the budget is finalized.

Session continues to be mindful of being good stewards of the contributions given to HPC by its members and friends. Planning the budget is a priority in Session meetings at this time of year and the responsibility is not taken lightly. Thank you for prayerfully considering your pledge for 2018.

Kathy Johnson
Clerk of Session

ADVENT

December 3 is the first Sunday of Advent. Make plans to come and help decorate the church buildings on Saturday, December 2. We will start taking orders for Christmas poinsettias soon. Watch for order forms in the bulletin, or call the church office.

WELCOME FRIENDS

Tori Martini
Wayne, Penny, & Mackenzie Grafton

FLOWER CALENDAR

The following people have signed up to provide flowers in October:

November 05 James & Nettie Hayes
November 13 Jeff & Linda McCann
November 19 Corky Smith
November 26 Open

Let the church office know if you are providing flowers in memory or honor of someone.

LITURGIST NEEDED

We are in need for people to sign up to be the liturgist on Sunday morning. This is a great opportunity to participate in your church and anyone (even youth) can do this! All materials are provided so that you just have to read your part to lead the worship. You can choose whether or not you want to lead the Children's Sermon; we welcome you to do this, but it is NOT a required part of the liturgist's responsibilities. Please reply to the church office, or to Renee Dugger (ireneedugger@gmail.com) to volunteer or for more information.

FOOD CLOSET FOOD OF THE MONTH

Throughout the month of October, HPC will be collecting *Beef Stew and/or Chicken & Dumplings* for our Food Closet. We greatly appreciate your generosity, either by donating purchased food items or monetary donations that enable us to purchase needed supplies for the food closet. There is a sign up sheet in the narthex if you would like to help.

Thank you to all who have volunteered to man the Food Closet on Fridays 10:00 a.m. – Noon.

THANK YOU

Room In The Inn

Over the summer we collected 125 cases of water. Thank you – Thank you! During the months of November, December and January, we will be collecting throws.

Artisan Craft Fair

Thank you to the many volunteers that helped out at this year's Craft Fair. We could not have made it without everyone coming together and getting it done!

Even though we had a little bit of rain, it did not stop people from attending. **The crowd was great!**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>November 2017</h1>						
			1 10:00 am - Good Sam 6:00 pm - Supper 6:30 pm - Children/Youth 6:45 pm - Adult Study 7:30 pm - Chancel Choir	2 10:00 am - Day Circle 6:30 pm - Barnlofters	3 10:00 am - Good Sam	4 8:00 am - 3:00 pm - Weeblo Pin Day
5  SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK! 9:45 am - Sunday School 11:00 am - Communion Noon - Planned Giving 8:00 pm - A.A.	6 10:00 am - Good Sam 11:30 am - A.A. 7:00 pm - BSA #263	7 7:00 pm - BSA Roundtable	8 10:00 am - Good Sam 6:00 pm - Supper 6:30 pm - Children/Youth 6:45 pm - Adult Study 7:30 pm - Chancel Choir	9 6:30 pm - Barnlofters	10 10:00 am - Good Sam 7:00 pm - Venture Crew	11  HONORING OUR VETERANS
12 9:45 am - Sunday School 11:00 am - Worship Noon - Stewardship Luncheon 8:00 pm - A.A.	13 10:00 am - Good Sam Noon - A.A. 7:00 pm - BSA #263	14 9:30 am - 1:00 pm - Live - Laugh - Learn/Flower arranging 6:30 pm - Cub Scouts	15 10:00 am - Good Sam 6:00 pm - Supper 6:30 pm - Children/Youth 6:45 pm - Adult Study 7:30 pm - Chancel Choir	16 6:30 pm - Barnlofters	17 10:00 am - Good Sam 6:30 pm - Barbie Doll Club	18 Dinner Club
19 9:45 am - Sunday School 11:00 am - Worship 12:15 pm - Session 8:00 pm - A.A.	20 10:00 am - Good Sam Noon - A.A. 7:00 pm - BSA #263	21 6:30 pm - Cub Scouts	22 7:30 pm - Chancel Choir	23  Thanksgiving	24 7:00 pm - Venture Crew	25
26 9:45 am - Sunday School 11:00 am - Worship 8:00 pm - A.A.	27 10:00 am - Good Sam Noon - A.A. 7:00 pm - BSA #263	28 11:30 am - Lunch Bunch, Famous Dave's 6:30 pm - Cub Scouts	29 10:00 am - Good Sam 6:00 pm - Pizza & Game Night 7:30 pm - Chancel Choir	30 6:30 pm - Barnlofters		



- 01 Cat Bingham
- Kyle Dugger
- 04 Wendell Kirk
- 05 Nancy Abbott
- 08 Scott Deathridge
- 09 Chuck Cantrell
- Don Jost
- Jeff McCann, Jr.
- 10 David Baker
- 11 James Hayes
- Jean Judd
- 12 Michael Bengtson
- Vivienne Morrison
- 14 Johnnie Hunt
- 17 Karen Bengtson
- 24 Sara Sedgwick
- 27 Roger Byrd

NOVEMBER SCRIPTURE READINGS

- Nov. 05 Joshua 3:7-17; Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37; 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13; Matthew 23:1-12
- Nov. 12 Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25; Psalm 78:1-7; 1 Thessalonian 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13
- Nov. 19 Judges 4:1-7; Psalm 123; 1 Thessalonian 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30
- Nov. 26 Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Psalm 100; Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-46

In order to keep our birthday list accurate & up-to-date, let the office know of any corrections & additions.

HOMELESS MINISTRY

We continue to accept clothing for the homeless served by the Downtown Presbyterian Church. The following is an updated list of items needed for winter:

Men's and Women's long sleeve shirts: all sizes

Men's and Women's sweatshirts: all sizes (hoods preferred)

Men's and Women's jeans: all sizes

Men's and Women's underwear: MUST BE NEW

Socks for Men and Women: MUST BE NEW

Winter Coats: all sizes for Men and Women

Gloves, Hats, and scarves for Men and Women

Sample Size Toiletries

NOTE: Goodwill has \$.99 day every week. Check there for sweatshirts.

LIVE – LAUGH – LEARN

The Live – Laugh – Learn team will host a winter flower arranging day on Tuesday, November 14, 10:00 a.m. We have all the seasons and holidays covered for decorating the church, yet we have nothing for winter. So, as you shop, please look for winter flowers. Lunch will be provided. Contact Malinda Burns or Sandra Byrd for more information.

FELLOWSHIP AND MORE

November and Thanksgiving and Stewardship! It is a good time to become more involved in all of the activities at Hermitage Presbyterian. Plan to join us on Sunday morning, Wednesday nights, and other activities in between.

Wednesday, Nov. 1, 8, 15, 29	Wednesday Night Supper and Study, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
Thursday, Nov. 2	Day Circle, 10:00 a.m.
Sunday, Nov. 5	Daylight-saving Time Ends Planned Giving Speaker and light snacks after worship.
Sunday, Nov. 12	Pledge cards due. Stewardship Luncheon
Tuesday, Nov. 14	Winter flower arranging, 10:00 a.m.
Sunday, Nov. 19	Session, 12:15 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 18	Dinner Club
Thursday, Nov. 23	Thanksgiving
Tuesday, Nov. 28	Lunch Bunch, Famous Dave's 11:30 a.m.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPERS, STUDY, AND YOUTH, 6:00 P.M.

Nov. 01	Lasagna Salad Garlic Bread Dessert	Nov. 08	Soup and Salad Crackers Dessert
Nov. 15	Chicken & Dressing Veggie Salad/Rolls Dessert	Nov. 29	Pizza and Game Night

CHURCH LIBRARY

All the church history has been moved to the library in the sanctuary building. We will feature a different book each month. The book will be left on the table for you to read and enjoy.

"Presbyterians of Old Hickory" by Spencer C. Murray is our first book chosen. This is the story of the first Presbyterians to settle in the area in 1780.

SEPTEMBER TREASURER'S REPORT

	<u>SEPT.</u>	<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>	Year-to-Date Income over (under) Expense
Regular Giving	\$ 12,694	\$ 136,300	
Operating Expenses	\$ 15,515	\$ 146,957	\$ (10,657)
Mission & Other			
Designated Giving	\$ 3,100	\$ 48,659	
Mission & Other Expense	\$ 1,238	\$ 8,555	\$ 40,104
TOTAL ALL GIVING	\$ 15,794	\$ 184,959	
TOTAL ALL EXPENSE	\$ 16,753	\$ 155,512	\$ 29,447

Jeff McCann, Sr, Treasurer

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Operation Christmas Child collects shoeboxes filled with gifts and delivers them to children in need around the world. Every one of these shoe box gifts is an opportunity for the Gospel. In the hands of local churches, it is powerful tool for evangelism, discipleship and multiplication. Many shoebox recipients also enroll in a 12-lesson follow-up discipleship program, The Greatest Journey, where they can be a part of this worldwide effort to grow the Kingdom of God even in places where the Gospel has never been heard.

What do I need to know about packing a shoebox?

1. Get a standard shoebox or use a preprinted one that can be picked up in the narthex.
2. Select a quality "wow" toy such as a doll, soccer ball with pump, or stuffed animal.
3. Fill with other fun toys, hygiene items and school supplies. (You can not include toothpaste or candy this year.) Place label, marked with boy or girl and the age group of the gifts, on top of the box.
4. Most importantly, pray for the child who will receive your gift. You can include a personal note and photo.
5. Include \$9.00 for each box, which is critical to cover shipping and other project costs.
6. Please have your filled boxes turned in by Sunday, November 19, so we can get them taken to a drop-off site.
7. If you don't want to pack a shoebox, you can help with shipping of boxes filled by items donated. Please make check payable to HPC and note Christmas Shoebox. All donations are appreciated to help cover the shipping costs.

NOTE: For additional gift suggestions and more, visit samaritanspurse.org/occ