

THE PARK BENCH

Franklin Park Baptist Church - Pastor's Page

Greetings in the name of The Lord and Happy 500th Anniversary of the Reformation!!!

So who, besides a bird perhaps, would be even remotely interested in a *Diet of Worms*? Yuck! How did Martin Luther get so fat in all those pictures we see of him? He apparently didn't stick to his worm diet. Ok...maybe we should do a teeny-weeny bit of historical homework.

A *Diet* was an imperial meeting of the Holy Roman Empire. Official business was conducted in these meetings that changed things throughout the entire empire. Luther was called to the Diet that took place in Worms, Germany. There, he was told to renounce everything he wrote and taught. Luther responded that he could not in good conscience deny his writings because they proclaimed the truth of the Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ. And then his famous lines...

*"Unless I am convinced by Scripture and plain reason - I do not accept the authority of the popes and councils, for they have contradicted each other - **my conscience is captive to the Word of God.** I cannot, and I will not recant anything for to go against conscience is neither right nor safe. God help me. Amen."*

And from there....it was ON!!! The Reformation was not about anything new, but about returning to truth. The celebration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation should not a time for simply reminiscing, it is a time to return: to the truth, to the basics, to the foundation.

The Reformation can be summed up in a brief statement by Luther: **"I must listen to the Gospel. It tells me, not what I must do, but what Jesus Christ, the Son of God, has done for me"** (*Commentary on the Epistle to the Galatians*, Chapter 2). Because of Jesus, God turns toward humanity in love. God forgives all those who have faith in Jesus. After His death on the cross, Jesus rose from the dead. He conquered death for all those who believe in Him.

Luther discovered and taught that humans can't and don't earn God's love by trying to please Him. While God's gift of grace through faith is free to us; it did not come cheap to God. This is the good news of the Gospel. Faith in Jesus as God's Son and our Savior gives forgiveness of sins and eternal life.

Luther read the Bible and discovered that God has made Himself known to us as a God of love. Luther's fundamental discovery was discovered in *how* he read the Bible. Unlike many today, who have never even opened God's Word and examined it, yet still have an aversion towards it; Luther's heart skipped for joy when He studied God's Word, because in it, he understood God's character. God shows mercy to the guilty and love to the unlovable. Luther saw himself as the recipient of God's undeserved kindness, not the target of His deserved anger.

Jesus did more than die for us on a Roman cross 2000 years ago.... He lived for us the perfect life that God demands; the one we could never live on our own steam. Salvation is not merely the forgiveness of sins; it is the gift of righteousness, received by faith. Theologians refer to this as *'the great exchange'*. (We receive what He deserves — rewards for His good works — given as a gift. And He received what we deserve because of our deeds — punishment.) Now THAT is Good News. God works to save us. He gives us the fruit of His labor by grace. We receive this through faith. This Good News is the focus of the Scriptures. We do nothing. God works. And His works are very good. Our good works are done in response to salvation. We live according to God's will out of thankfulness to His love; not through some vain attempt to earn it. Luther also desired that every person could have access to the Word of God. The battle cry of the reformation

was *Sola Scriptura*, meaning that Scripture alone has the authority to bind the heart and conscience of man. He translated the Bible into German so that every person could read it. A result of Luther's translation was the multiplication of Bible translations and the manifold increase of media through which God's Word is freely available. The Word is to be read, taught and proclaimed. The Word informs us of God's love and instructs us in His will. Just as the Word made flesh came for the whole world, so God's written Word is given for all people.

Let us reflect upon the Reformation as it has laid the platform for us to freely share and proclaim the Word of God even here in the West, and has provided us with virtually uninhibited freedom and protection to fulfill the Great Commission.

Now THAT is something that the first American Colonist's would have found worthy of celebrating at our Thanksgiving table this year.

Are we taking full advantage while God holds the door open?



May the Lord bless you and keep you!

Pastor George



- 4 Shelley Maxwell Lee
- 5 DOROTHY & ED CRESS
- 9 Shawn McKenna
- 10 Dale Nagel, Jr. (1955) his 60th in 2015
- 11 Jane Nagel (1924) her 91st in 2015
- 11 Cindy Merriman
- 17 Sally Cunningham



Counting blessings

Numbered lists grab our attention. In the checkout aisle or on the internet, we gravitate toward headings such as "10 ways to lose weight by summer!" or "3 simple steps to acing that test!"

Ancient Jewish sages urged people to count out and speak at least 100 blessings, or statements of gratitude, each day. What would happen if we intentionally listed 100 blessings daily? Can you imagine?!

What if the first blessing we counted was simply the day itself? "Thank you, God, for this brand new day!" "Bless my use of this day, Lord, that I might glorify you." Scripture encourages such awareness and promises an additional blessing in return: "Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom" (Psalm 90:12, NIV).

—Heidi Mann

All are invited to the
After-church Decorating party and pizza

Sunday, November 19th following the
worship service the Guiding Lights invites
you to stay and help put up and decorate
the Christmas Tree in our sanctuary.
Pizza and pop will be enjoyed by after
everyone for a job well-done !



A special Veteran's Day Worship Service

will be held here at Franklin Park on

Sunday, November 12 at 10:30 a.m.

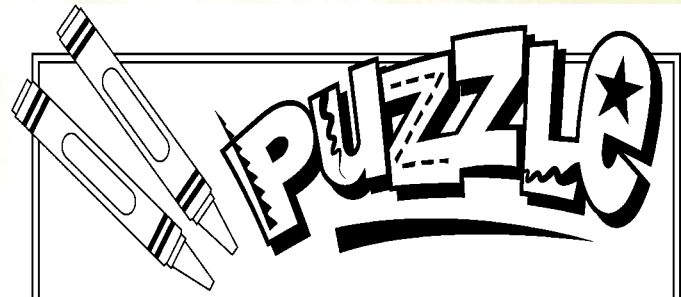
Ken Carlson will bring the morning message

and Lori Thee will be the musician for the

service with special selections.



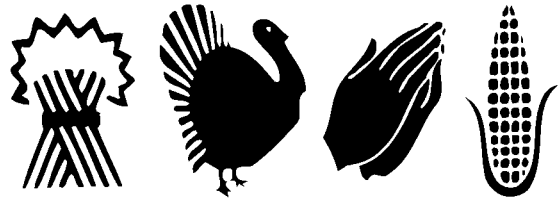
**Rev. Paul Aiello and his Cranberry
Barbershop Group will be here for a
concert at 7 p.m. on Sunday, November 5.
We will receive a free-will offering that will
benefit our Summer Mission Group trip for
2018. Come out to hear some great music
and support our mission outreach.
There will be ice cream after the concert !**



GIVE THANKS TO GOD

God gives us many blessings every day. How can we thank him?

Directions: To complete the Bible verse below, follow the code and fill in the blanks.



A=1, B=2, C=3, D=4, E=5, F=6, G=7, H=8, I=9, J=10,
K=11, L=12, M=13, N=14, O=15, P=16, Q=17, R=18,
S=19, T=20, U=21, V=22, W=23, X=24, Y=25, Z=26.

" _____ will _____

9 16 18 1 9 19 5

_____ , _____ name in _____

7 15 4 19 19 15 14 7

and _____ with

7 12 15 18 9 6 25 8 9 13

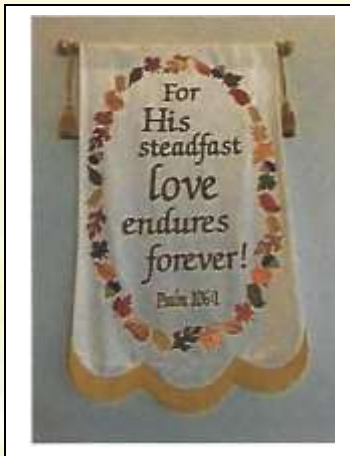
_____."

20 8 1 14 11 19 7 9 22 9 14 7

Answer: "I will praise God's name in song and glorify him with
thanksgiving." Psalm 69:30, NIV



The Thanksgiving Community Service will be held at Fairmount Church on Tuesday, November 21 at 7 p.m.



Please join us right after church for our annual **Thanksgiving Luncheon on November 12th**. The turkey, dressing, potatoes and gravy will be provided but each family is asked to bring a side dish or dessert. It's always a good meal and a great way to spend some time with good friends. Everyone is invited !

Upcoming Events

“One Voice” concert here in our sanctuary on December 10 @ 2 p.m. More information will be coming out soon.

Corrections to our new church directory:

Rev. Paul and Dee Aiello's email should read :
chapaiello@aol.com

Jack and Nancy Hurley's email should read :
stipnwid@consolidated.net

Worship Service Greeters:

Nov. 5 – Bill Smith
Nov. 12 – Doug Frazier
Nov. 19 – Ann Dobson
Nov. 26 – Ron and Marlene Merriman



The Men's Conference here at Franklin Park with 85 men in attendance !

Prayer Requests and Concerns**November, 2017**

- ^ **Shelby Cress** is in a hospital in Erie on a ventilator after suffering a severe allergic reaction. Please keep Shelby and her family in your prayers.
- ^ **Lois Cooper**, a friend of Carol Jean Keefer, is scheduled to have cataract and cornea eye surgery.
- ^ **Kaitlyn Frances, 16**, is continuing treatment for cancer. She is the great-granddaughter of Millie and John Flinchum.
- ^ **Bill Mooney** continues to deal with issues resulting from diabetes which keeps him homebound. We received a thank you card from Bill and his wife Eleanor expressing so much appreciation for the many prayers, meals and phone calls from the members of FPBC. It is posted on the bulletin board in the narthex.
- ^ **Prayer for all** the policeman and first responders who are in danger as they are out there doing their job. Especially Shawn McNaughton who is a member of this church family and works in Cecil Township.
- ^ **Those Who Have Lost Loved Ones** : The family of **Ryan McCutcheon**, 19, who died recently in an automobile accident. He went to North Allegheny and his brother is a classmate of Benjamin Cochran and Abby Hofstetter.
- ^ **Continued Concern For**: Ruth Cunningham, Jeremy Styron, Mr. Todd Stefan, Bill Craig, John Cress, Jean Willoughby, Bill Mooney, Cindy Foight's father Bill, Mary Glassburn, Katie Jones, Tim McCrory, Landon Noulett, Edith Yockel, Christians around the world who are being persecuted.
- ❖ **Those With Cancer**: Bill Smith, Lance Cunningham, Matt O'Leary, Robert Stinebiser, Horatia Hammerschmitt.
- ❖ **Missionaries** : **Becky and Larry Stanton** (Hungary); **Peter and Sarah McCurdy** (Dominican Republic / Cuba); **Carol Sydnor** (Nepal); **Nora and Pieter Kalkman** (Prague, Czech Republic), **Brian and Lynette Smith & their boys** (Haiti). **Valerie and Aaron Osterbrock** (East Malaysia) **Ted Parks**.
- ❖ **In Service of Our Country** : **Major Doug Bauer**, his wife Hope and children, Walker & Mackenzie in North Dakota serving our country.
- ❖ **Those In Assisted Living** :

Gene Worst Concordia of Franklin Park 1600 Georgetown Dr. Sewickley, PA. 15143

Dorothy McKinney Creek Meadows Personal Care 1630 Ellwood City Road Zelienople, PA. 16063

Mrs. Shirley Wright Passavant Retirement Community Trillium House Room 215 Zelienople, PA. 16063

George Green Cranberry Place 5 St. Francis Way Room 122 Cranberry Township, PA. 16066

Janet Tehois Broadmore Senior Living 3275 Washington Pike Apt. 221 Bridgeville, PA. 15017 412-559-2813

Homebound -

Jane Nagel & Dale, Jr. 4015 Wick Place Wexford, PA. 15090

Gloria Meinert 2915 Salisbury Court Wexford, PA. 15090

Jean Downing

Bill and Eleanor Mooney 221 Chickasaw Avenue Pittsburgh, PA. 15237

Children’s Sunday School Leaders Schedule

- Nov. 5 – “Life is Messy – The Cat In The Hat”. - Jane Myers
- Nov. 12 – “Oops and Uh-ohs – Batholomew and the Oobleck”. - Cindy Merriman
- Nov. 19 – “A Butter Way – The Butter Battle Book”. - Anne Cress
- Nov. 26 – “Go Green – The Lorax”. - Marcy Hofstetter
- Dec. 3 “Off We Go – Oh, the Places You’ll Go”. - Angie Cochran
- Dec. 10 – “Let’s celebrate! – Celebration Sunday”. ****
- Dec. 17 – “Gimme ! – How the Grinch Stole Christmas” ****
- Dec. 24 ****
- Dec. 31 ****

**** Please talk to Laurie Dauer if you can volunteer for a Sunday.**

Special dates

- All Saints’ Day, *November 1, 2017*
- Daylight-Saving Time ends, *November 5, 2017*
- Veterans Day, *November 11, 2017*
- Thanksgiving Day, *November 23, 2017*
- Christ the King Sunday, *November 26, 2017*

Sir Pizza Fund Raiser Day

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15

**From 11 a.m. – 10 p.m.
at the Wexford location.**

**(Please note that it will be the 3rd
Wednesday for this month.)**

You can go on-line to view their menu.

Sir Pizza Fund Raiser

WEXFORD LOCATION ONLY

Corner of 910 and Brandt School Rd.

Wednesday, November 15, 2017

11 a.m. – 10 p.m.

***Present this coupon when paying your check and
Franklin Park Baptist Church Summer Mission
Group will receive 15% of your guest check total.***

WWW.FRANKLINPARKCHURCH.ORG

