



Revelations

October

2017

Dear Friends,

This month marks the 500-Year Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. The Protestant Reformation ignited radical changes within the church and society of 16th century Western Europe and throughout the world. On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther nailed 95 Theses to the Wittenberg Castle church in Germany. In so doing, he identified practices by which he thought the church had fallen short of the glory of God. Martin Luther and John Calvin and the other Reformers gave birth to the Protestant church, of which Presbyterian is a part. As Reformed Christians, we believe that God's grace, revealed in Jesus Christ, alone saves us; the Bible is the inspired Word of God and the foundation of authority for the church; and the church is a community of believers called together by the Holy Spirit and gifted for ministry. In recognition of the many gifts of the Reformation, it is with joy that we celebrate this significant anniversary of the birth of our church.

For the month of October, we will mark the 500th Anniversary with a program that explores the impact of the Reformation on church and society, then and now.

Monday, October 9, 7:00-8:30 PM in the Sanctuary

Director of Music Tim Heavner and Organist Barbara McKelway will play and talk about the impact of the Reformation on music. Refreshments will be served.

Sunday, October 15, 3-4:00 PM at Waverly Presbyterian Church (590 S. Braddock Ave)

The Reformers taught us that in response to God's grace, we put our faith in action. Come help assemble hygiene kits for those affected by hurricane Harvey and Irma. Meet at the church at 2:30 PM to carpool together.

Monday, October 16, 7:00-8:30 PM in the Sanctuary

Dr. Kenneth Woo, Professor of Church History at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary will discuss the history and theology of the Reformation and answer your questions.

Sunday, October 22, 5:00-7:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall

Night at the Movies! Together we will eat and watch the 2003 movie Luther, followed by a discussion.

Sundays of October at 10:30 AM in the Sanctuary

I will preach a sermon series called "Family Values," exploring the tenets of the Reformed church: grace, faith, Scripture, and the priesthood of all believers.

Sunday, October 29, 10:30 AM in the Sanctuary

Come celebrate Reformation Sunday! Come worship with glory and splendor! Afterwards, enjoy fellowship and German Oktoberfest foods in the Narthex.

At each of the Sundays of October, during our Fellowship time after worship, we will serve coffee called "Reformed Roasters" including: Total Depravity Blend—"Because Men Love the Dark Roast!", Irresistible Grace—"Why Resist the Delightful Taste of Efficacious Grace?" and Perseverance of the Saints—"Your Daily Great Awakening."

I hope that you will invite a friend and come enjoy our 500th celebration of the Reformation!

Grace and Peace,



Growing with God

Last week in the “older kids” Sunday School class we started with the story of Adam & Eve. Would you believe the story of the first Temptation & the Fall could move so quickly to include Pancake tortoises? Turns out those turtles were vital to this discussion. It helped us talk about the difference between an “Oops” (your turtle escaping from his cage) and breaking a commandment (stealing your friend’s turtle).

I’m always amazed at the ideas kids get into their heads about how things work. They take the little bits they know and extrapolate. Simple conversations with kids can reveal a depth of thought and an amazing series of connections you never dreamed possible. Next, we had to determine if it was actually possible to break all 10 Commandments at once. Which led to a talk about which commandments are about our relationship to God and which are about our relationship to other people.

It’s a wild world out there, and even more fascinating through the eyes of a Tweener. If you asked your kids what did they do in Sunday School and they said “nothing”... now you know.) Those are the moments that make me thankful for being in that room. Thankful for the kids who are there and the parents who bring them. And Thankful for the God who created us all, especially the Tortoise.

Melanie Holcomb, Director of Christian Ed



What?
So What?
Now what?

Puzzled about how to handle
 Communion with your kids?



Kids & Parents, K - 5th grade, are invited to learn about the

Sacraments we Celebrate !
 (there are just 2)

October 1st from 11:30-1:00
Lunch is included

**Learn in age-friendly ways about what Sacraments are,
 why we do them, and what they mean to us.**

Please RSVP to melanie@cpcba.org

www.cpcba.org for Up To The Minute Info. TRY IT!! Really...go.



Sunday School
 During worship for
**1 Middle School class &
 1 High School class on
 October 22 nd**



Middle School Retreat
November 17-18-19

A weekend for middle schoolers to spend quality time unplugged from everyday life, while building resilience and coping skills.

- Meaningful Bible study for MS
- Group activities, laughter, & fun
- Good food, Great music.
- A chance for quiet time, nature & space.
- And, of course, camp fires.

Depart Church at 5:30pm Friday, Nov 17th.
 Return by 1:00pm Sun the 19th after lunch.

Cost: \$105 per person (Lots of Scholarships available! Please email melanie@cpcba.org!)

Registration: We need to register as a group. A 20% non-refundable deposit is required upon registration.

Deadline to reserve is Oct 29th



Oct 1 - Youth Group
5:00-7:00 pm

- Pizza and Caramel Apple Bar
- Fall Games w/ Guest Game Master

8 - NO youth group, but tomorrow...!

9 - Monday- (Columbus day—No school)

FALL FUN & FAITHFUL SERVICE

Spend the whole day or do what you can...

11:00 AM Bring \$10 + food money

Travel to Bedner's Farm

Hayride, Corn Maze, Hay mountain slide, Pony races, Tether-ball, Zip line, Pumpkin Launch. All the things!

We'll have fun on the farm, then serve at the Shelter.

5:30-8:00 pm

- Serve meal at Men's Shelter
- Cook Shepherd's Pie at church, then travel to Shelter to serve.

15 Youth Group 5:00-7:00 pm

22 Youth Group 5:00-7:30 pm

- **Movie night, Reformation Style**
- **Big screen, Fellowship Hall w/ Popcorn**
- 500th anniversary of a guy who got ticked off and nailed a list of his 95 problems to the church door.
- He got death threats, argued with the Pope, hid in a castle. The newly invented printing press probably saved his life.

29 Youth Group 5:00-7:00 pm

- Pre-Halloween?! What makes your pumpkin light shine? Candy?

www.cpcba.org for Up To The Minute Info. TRY IT!! Really...go.

REFORMATION RUMBLINGS

Jean Henderson

Question – “How many Sacraments are there – 2, 7, 10?”

The word ‘sacrament’ means ‘oath’ or ‘vow.’ The Roman Catholic Church believed they were rites ordained by Christ or his disciples to convey divine grace to believers. From the 12th century, the RCC recognized seven: baptism, confirmation, penance, Lord’s Supper, marriage, ordination to the priesthood, and anointing of the sick.

The Reformers reduced the number to two, baptism and the Lord’s Supper, since these were the only ones instituted by Christ for ALL persons. The Reformers saw the Sacraments as ‘outward signs of an inward grace.’ Grace is not provided automatically; the Sacraments must be received in faith.

And ten? Just kidding!!! Unless you have some you want to add...like, watching the eclipse or...listening to Beethoven or the Beatles!

QUESTION FOR NEXT MONTH – Were there any ‘pushy women’ Reformers?

LIVING WITH LOSS

Have you experienced a loss in your life? A loss of a loved one, a friend, a pet, or a job? Loss is a way of life, but it’s not easy; we need help learning to live with it. And so we are starting a support group called “Living with Loss.” We will meet on the **2nd Tuesday of each month, from 7-8:00 PM** at the Community Presbyterian Church of Ben Avon. Leaders are trained in grief counseling. Child care is available if needed. To register, call Tracey in the church office at 412-761-1233. Questions? Email Donna Giver-Johnston at pastordonna@cpcab.org or Susan Fink at SusanMFink@gmail.com. Come or tell a friend about it.

Gift and Craft Show

**Saturday, December 2 (10:00 AM - 4:00 PM) and
Sunday, December 3 (11:30 AM - 2:00 PM)**

This will be CPCBA’s 7th Annual Gift and Craft Show. We will be playing holiday music, creating a wonderful holiday atmosphere as people stroll through the various vendor and crafter tables to make their selections. Of course the CPCBA Café will be open for the shoppers to refuel, perhaps while enjoying the company of a friend or neighbor.

Maybe you would like to be one of the vendors? There are two types of tables that we are looking for. The first would be those who have a craft or product to sell in order to raise funds for a particular charity; the second type of table would be a local artisans/crafters. This would include anyone in the congregation and or community who has something that is made by hand or baked/cooked by hand and would like to sell at this event. There is no charge for a table. However we would appreciate a \$10.00 donation to help defray the cost of advertising. We do this as a way of opening the church to the community and encouraging people to stop in and visit.

So if you have a favorite organization that you would like to support or have a talent you would like to share, please let me know. You are also welcome to pass this information on to those in the community that might have an interest. **Please contact Sandy Stauffer at 412-761-0704.**

Again this year we will be having a table with items donated by church members and have those proceeds given to the church. You wouldn’t necessarily have to make a lot of items or be there to sell them unless you wanted to. **If you have any questions or items to donate please contact Barb Barcousky at 412-766-1499 or email at barcousky@aol.com.**

BOOK CLUB

The Book Club's October meeting will be on **Tuesday, October 3.**

Everyone is invited to participate. We meet at **7:30 PM**, in the **Conference Room**.



The October book is **Home** by Marilyn Robinson. Discussion will be led by Donna Giver-Johnston. The November book is **The Underground Railroad** by Colson Whitehead and will be lead by Merle and Kent Culley

Book club meets each month from September through May on the first Tuesday of each month.

If you would like the book list for the year or have any questions please contact Merle Culley at merleculley@zoominternet.net

Prison Ministry Thank You

A big "Thank You" to all those who donated to our Prison Ministry. Lorrie & I went through the donations and separated the items into 11 boxes.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 3 boxes of paperback books | 1 box of children's paperbacks |
| 2 boxes of very nice clothing | 2 boxes of puzzles |
| 1 box of calendars (2018 of course) | 2 boxes of personal hygiene items |

We also received two \$50 Walmart gift cards! What a generous congregation we have!

Denny Brown

Community Theatre Players (CTP)



Community Theatre Players' 2017 fall production will be **Southern Hospitality**, a Jones, Hope, and Wooten comedy.

Show dates are October 20, 21 and 26, 27 and 28. The performances begin at 7:30 PM. There will be dinner before the Friday performances beginning at 5:30 PM. For reservations call 412 695 3113

PRAYER AND BIBLE STUDY GROUP



The Prayer and Bible Study Group meets 10:00 to 11:30 AM Wednesday mornings in the Conference Room. The Scripture passages for the coming month are:

- October 4** Psalm 121; Romans 1:1-17 (Faith)
- October 11** Psalm 19; 2 Timothy 3:10-17 (Scripture/HS)
- October 18** Psalm 99; 1 Peter 2:1-12 (Priesthood of all believers)
- October 25** Psalm 1; Matthew 11:28-30, 28:16-20 (Salvation & Service)

for **NOVEMBER Revelations** is **OCTOBER 15**

If article submitted by e-mail, please indicate **NOVEMBER REVELATIONS** In topic line.

NewsLetter
DEADLINE

OUTREACH

OUTREACH GRANT PROGRAM

In 2017, the Outreach Committee established a major initiative to focus our resources on local groups and agencies — ones we truly know and have a relationship with in order to have greater impact which will be visible to all members of the church. A key step in this initiative was to test a one-time grant program to address specific needs of these groups. The test was not only an excellent learning experience, but was a success that will positively impact hundreds of people in our area. The Outreach Committee plans to make this an annual process.

This grant program was a portion of the Outreach Committee budget and did not eliminate funding to the organizations our church has supported in the past. This one-time grant enabled us to see the tangible benefits we provide to groups and agencies. The grants were to be for one-time or special projects and not meant to provide ongoing operating money.

We solicited applications from 10 organizations and received 8 applications of which we accepted 4. We found the groups and agencies excited by this opportunity to address a pressing need they had not been able to fulfill themselves.

This year a portion of your Outreach dollars positively impacted those in our community by purchasing:

- 18 new chairs for the Senior Group Exercise and Lounge area at **North Boroughs YMCA** program center. The center is used regularly for senior activities, including exercise classes and meals. \$558
- A commercial grade food processor, mixer, knives and other kitchen supplies at **North Boroughs/ Sewickley Area Meals on Wheels**. This will allow the kitchen to upgrade its equipment without dipping into the funds needed to purchase food. \$610
- A picnic table with attached seating and a stand-alone umbrella for an outdoor area at **POWER**, an organization that serves women in recovery from addiction. Our church has worked on the garden area at POWER as part of Faith in Action. The garden area gives women a serene place to relax and enjoy the outdoors. \$1,000
- Backpacks and supplies for clients of the **North Hills Community Outreach** who are experiencing homelessness.. This is a new program that the group has not been able to fund until this grant. Supplies included in the backpack will be basic hygiene necessities, survival items such as an emergency blanket, winter apparel items and non perishable food. \$1,000.

ASSEMBLE HYGIENE KITS FOR HURRICANE VICTIMS

Sunday, October 15

3:00 - 4:00 PM

Waverly Presbyterian Church

The East Branch of the Pittsburgh Presbytery is sponsoring this event to aid hurricane victims. Please consider donating items and/or helping to assemble these kits.

Items needed for a kit are:

hand towel (approximately 16" x 28")

bar of soap (bath size in wrapper)

toothbrush (in original packaging)

10 Band-Aids® or other adhesive bandage strips

washcloth

nail clipper

wide-tooth comb

Please place all donations in the basket located in the Narthex.

There will be worship and the sacrament of the Lord's Supper to bless the kits on their way. There will be a special offering at the event for those who prefer to give financially.

Meet at the church at 2:30 PM if you would like to carpool together.

OUTREACH

Update: HFI Specialized Learning School

Our church has been busy learning about and supporting the Holy Family Institute Specialized Learning School. We have a three-pronged approach: helping students, staff, and the facility.

In 2016, we donated proceeds of the inaugural annual Jazz/BBQ event to the school. This \$1502 was used to purchase Chromebook computers and instructional software, as well as to make initial purchases for the weekend food program. That initiative began in February 2017 and continues into the new school year, providing nutritious food and easily prepared meal items to students each Friday.

CPCBA also has had teams help with the facilities in the last two Faith In Action Sundays. In June 2017, our team of 14 worked with HFI staff to weed the front area of their new school building (the former Seville Elementary School, which had been vacant for many years) and to plant dozens of annuals. The school's principal, Ron Zangaro, expressed great thanks to us for making a welcoming, clean greeting to students this fall.

Mr. Zangaro also invites us to visit the school at their inaugural Open House on Friday, October 6 from 12:00-3:00 PM.

**The school is located at 100 Enger Ave, Pittsburgh 15214
(5 minutes from Giant Eagle on Brighton Road, Bellevue).**

During the upcoming school year, we will continue to deepen our relationship with Mr. Zangaro and his team, looking for opportunities to uplift the staff and serve the students. This fall, we're planning to have an initiative in each of our three focus areas:

- Weekend food program (students) – we'll be soliciting donations of food or money, as well as volunteers to staff food collections at local supermarkets
- Monthly staff appreciation (staff) – once each month, we hope to provide some sort of appreciation to the school staff, such as donuts/coffee, gift cards, etc. Ideas and volunteers are particularly needed to uplift the hard-working HFI team!
- Furniture assembly (facilities) – the school has received donations of furniture from local corporations and needs help assembling the tables, shelves, etc. and placing them in school rooms; we'll be scheduling one or two work days in upcoming weeks

More information about these initiatives will be available in the weekly e-blast/Sunday bulletin and at the church. In addition, though, if you're able to support this outreach or have suggestions, please contact Deb Sadowski at scnmom@yahoo.com or 724-719-0144. Thank you!



NHCO Collecting New and Gently-Worn Winter Coats

NOW - SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8

NHCO Collecting New and Gently-Worn Winter Coats Here is one of the blessings of living and worshipping in this community: The beginning of fall is marked by a drive to help families in need prepare for the winter, and we have an opportunity to participate in that effort. From September 1 through mid October, North Hills Community Outreach is accepting donations of new and gently worn CLEAN winter coats (because NHCO does not have the funds or the facilities to wash coats, only clean coats can be accepted) to be distributed to low-income families in need. All sizes are needed, but highest demand is for children and adult sizes XL and larger. Hats, scarves and gloves are also welcome. The Outreach Committee is coordinating our church's participation in this program. Beginning September through Sunday, October 8, you can bring coats to the church and place them on the rack located inside the Rostrevor entrance.



JETHRO TREE

At CPCBA, we are:

***Bringing Christ
to our Community...***

***Bringing our Community
to Christ.***

***We Invite all to:
Come, just as you are...
Find the joy and inspiration you seek...
Become the person you were created to be.***

Revelations

Community Presbyterian Church of Ben Avon
7501 Church Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15202

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
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Pittsburgh, PA
Permit No. 221

*"The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen."
Revelation 22:21*



Staff

Ministers The Whole Congregation
Pastor..... Rev. Dr. Donna Giver-Johnston
Administrative Assistant..... Tracey Mundorf
Directory of Music..... Timothy Heavner
Director of Christian Education..... Melanie Holcomb

Board and Committee Leadership

Clerk of Council..... Deb Sadowski
Trustees, President.....
Treasurer Trudy File
Deacons Moderator Stephen Fockler
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Financial Secretary Barbara Barcoucky
Christian Education..... Alison Trexel, Teresa Beshai
Fellowship Kate Colville, Diana Petruska
Mission & Outreach Lyn Robertson
Nominating..... Bob Nadin
Personnel..... Ralph Fink, Amy Reed
Property Jeff Houser, Sr.
Finance John Buchanan
Stewardship Bob Nadin, Diana Petruska
Worship & Music..... Susan Abramowich
Stephen Ministry Jean Henderson
Debbie Daff-Siggins
Lyn Robertson

TOGETHER WE ARE THE CHURCH

Deacon Comfort and Joy Contacts

For Meal Assistance:

Susan Geist (412-427-8339 or email: susangeist@verizon.net)

For Grief Support:

PJ Jones (412-400-4346 or email: pj@rbjonescorp.com)

For Visitation:

Mary Witul (412-734-2772 or email: marywitul@comcast.net) or
Sue Turk (814-323-6399 or email: sturk215@gmail.com)

For Card Ministry:

Lindsey Spatholt (716-998-2535 or
email: lindsey.spatholt@gmail.com)

Please help the Deacons share the concern of our community
by letting us know whether you, or a friend or family member,
would welcome a visit. Requests can be made to any Deacon.

Prayer Concerns

If you or someone you know is in need of prayer,
Please email Sandy Stauffer at esstauff@verizon.net or
you can call Tracey in the church office at 412-761-1233.

Church Office Hours are Monday-Friday—9:30 AM-3:30 PM

† Phone: 412-761-1233; 412-766-1800 † Fax: (412) 766-1801 † E-mail: office@cpcba.org † Web site: www.cpcba.org