

The Thread

WESTMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



OCTOBER 2026

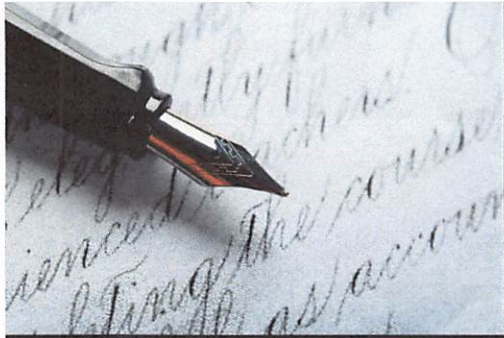
Germes at the Lord's Supper

Most Presbyterians are accustomed to receiving Holy Communion by individual, small cups (since the 1918 influenza scare.) In recent years, at Presbytery meetings, the juice has been offered by intinction, which is a piece of bread dipped into a common cup. So, is there danger of infection from these practices?

1. Community does involve risks. We can't have community without germs in the air, etc.
2. A 2001 study by the Anglican Church in Canada found that there are more germs passed by intinction than by using the common cup. This will be news to many.
3. The journal of the American Medical Association has studied this issue since at least 1939. Using saliva with as much as 300,000,000 bacteria per cc, wiping the silver chalice and turning it, reduced the count to .00007%. So, the risk of infection from using wine in the silver common cup is minimal.
4. Certain churches using small cups with grape juice have questionable & dangerous practices such as filling the cups too early and leaving them out without refrigeration, etc.

Elderly people...

...who study the Bible, attend religious services or pray every week are 40 % less likely to have high blood pressure than those who do not take part in such religious activities, says a study by Duke University professors funded by the National Institute on Aging.



From Pastor Jim's Desk



The Book of Revelation: SANE & SIMPLE

Offered by

The Rev. Jim Farrer / Teaching Elder*

WHEN: Sunday October 11

Sunday, October 18

WHERE: WPC, Koinonia Room

TIME: 9AM to 10AM

Finally understand this confusing Bible book.

**Pastor Jim studied Revelation with New Testament professors at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and Princeton University Seminary.*

Don't Miss This!!!

Services and Sermons

OCTOBER 04 World Communion Sunday

OCTOBER 11 "Porcupine Christians"

OCTOBER 18 "Jesus & Women"

OCTOBER 25 "The Most Uplifting Verse In The Bible"

NOVEMBER 01 Holy Communion

NOVEMBER 08 Jim Farrer Vacation

Pastor: The Rev. Robyn Weaver, wife of our Executive Presbyter

NOVEMBER 15 "Jesus & The End Times"

NOVEMBER 22 "What Jesus Thinks of Fools"

SCOTLAND TOUR August 8 to 20, 2027

Jim and Sheila Farrer invite Westmont Presbyterian Folks and Friends to join them on a small group tour to the highlights of Scotland. They have co-led ten such pilgrimages in the past.

We spend three nights close to the Castle and the Royal Mile in Edinburgh during the Royal Military Tattoo featuring pipe bands and dancers from around the world. We visit Stirling Castle and *Braveheart* territory. We have the rare opportunity to connect with the Standing Stones of Kilmartin.

Our trip hinges on the availability of rooms for three nights at the St. Columba Hotel on the Holy Isle of Iona from where Scotland and Europe were Christianized. We also visit the dramatic scenery of the Isle of Skye.

This trip is not inexpensive since we stay longer than most. Our co-leaders are a very experienced Scottish tour expert and a PhD in History. First come/first served.

See Jim or Sheila for a full brochure.



I'd Like to Know Questions

with Answers by Jim Farrer



Which is the toughest Bible book to understand?

In the New Testament, the Book of Revelation, which I will do a Bible study on soon.

Which Bible book should a beginner start reading?

The Book of Mark is the shortest of the four gospels. It moves very quickly like a kid asking questions "and then what happened?"

Isn't our Preacher's desk pretty messy?

Yes, it is for several reasons.

1. I have a version of ADHD so I'm flitting from thing to thing. Harvard PH.D's wrote a book on those people called, "Fast Minds," so there are pluses and minuses to my make-up.
2. have lots of stuff to produce:
 - weekly order of worship, which I like to change a little (The Apostle's Creed is not the only creed)
 - newsletter stuff which a transition pastor is trained to do.
 - And yes, sermons and trying to make them sometimes concise.
3. Mostly, I am able to find an item on my desk.

Why didn't we have the Lord's Supper at the Scottish Service?

1. I was concerned about the length. (It ended up at (1) hour!)
2. Like many churches today, they had infrequent Holy Communions.
3. To be historically accurate, we would have used a common cup which only Lutherans, Catholics and Episcopalians regularly use.
Our people either would have NOT taken the cup or freaked out!

Aren't the Ten Commandments pretty much just what most societies and religious believe is the standard for civilized people?

1. Yes, the moral code is similar in most religions: Don't murder, don't steal. Don't lie and don't slander. Do show sexual restraint.
2. No, since several of the Commandments are offensive to other religions. The first and second say, have and worship no other gods except Yahweh God. And the 4th Commandment says we are to keep the Sabbath, to honor the fact that Yahweh created the world. These are offensive to many people and cultures.



Sheila's Corner

Sheila Farrer

As Westmont Presbyterian Church prayerfully considers its giving for the coming year, members might find a review of what the Bible says about tithing and giving helpful. Some questions and answers appear here.

1. What is a "tithe"?

A tithe is one tenth of annual produce and earnings. In the Hebrew language the word "tithe" literally means "a tenth."

2. Does the word "tithe" appear in the Bible? Yes. In the Old Testament, we find it as a part of the Mosaic Law and in the writings of the Prophets.

Deuteronomy 12:6 "...you shall bring your burnt offerings, and your sacrifices, and your tithes and the offering that you present, and your votive offerings (vows), and your freewill offerings, and the firstlings of your herds and of your flocks."

Malachi 3:10 "Bring the full tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house; and thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of Hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing."

3. Does the word appear in the New Testament? Yes. See the words of Jesus below.

Matthew 23:23 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weighty matters of the Law, justice and mercy and faith; these you ought to have done, without neglecting the others."

Luke 11:42 "But woe to you, Pharisees! For you tithe mint and rue and every herb, and neglect justice and the love of God; these you ought to have done, without neglecting the others."

These passages are similar, both spoken by Jesus but at different times: the Matthew verse in the Temple in Jerusalem; the Luke quote in the house of a Pharisee.

Jesus knew the Old Testament scriptures well and what the Law taught about tithing. He also knew that the Pharisees were very strict about observing the Law and about tithing even the produce of their gardens.

The Pharisees were looking for praise for their practices of tithing, while at times ignoring the needs of others, and for this in the Matthew verse, Jesus calls the Pharisees hypocrites.

In both passages, Jesus teaches to practice the latter (mercy/compassion and faithfulness) without neglecting the former (tithing).

4. What is *per capita*? This term does not appear in the Bible. It is a Latin phrase meaning "by or for each person." In the Presbyterian Church USA it is a set amount for each church member that congregations pay to their presbytery, synod, and General Assembly. It is used to fund ecclesial (church related) work, mission and ministry coordination, judicial and legislative action, and ecumenical partnerships. For WPC members per capita is \$55

Session



STEWARDSHIP

Reviewed and signed letter to PC USA regarding World Wide Communion brochure.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

Additional work at the Wayne Street Manse approved.

CHRISTIAN ED

Youth Sunday School classes resume September 13. Mark your calendars for Trunk or Treat on Saturday, 10/17.

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Communion will be by Intinction on 9/6. "Four Freedoms" concert 9/13. Scottish Sunday is 9/20.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

New website updates and expenses approved.

KOINONIA

Movie night on September 26 / Fellowship Hall.

**Next Session Meeting:
SEPTEMBER 16 7 PM**



Finance

Barney Custer

September General Income - \$ 21,421

2026 YTD General Income -\$ 253,918

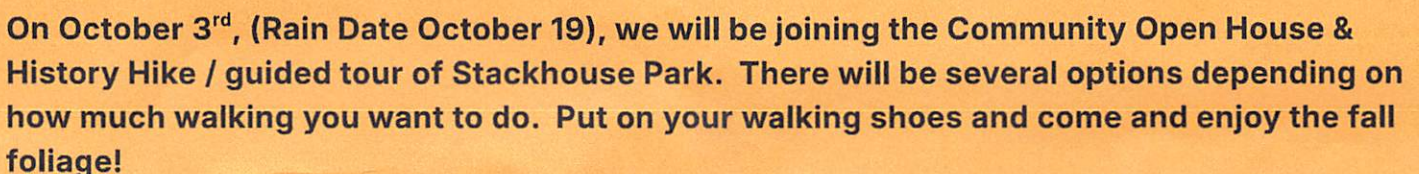
2026 YTD Budget \$ 255,000

2025 YTD General Income - \$ 241,567

2026 YTD Expenses _ \$ 253,651

YTD Surplus (Deficit) \$ 267

Donna Prothero





You're Invited!

Growing in Faith & Growing the Church

Faith that grows. Churches that thrive.

Practical steps and biblical insights for
building a church that makes disciples
and multiplies.



Tuesday, October 6, 2026 • 5:30 PM



**Westmont Presbyterian Church,
601 Luzerne Street, Johnstown, PA 15905**



For church leaders, ministry teams &
anyone who cares about **the future of our church**

Pizza will be served!

Fellowship. Food. Vision.
Come hungry!



**Featuring
Jim Farrer**

*"I look forward to covering some of
your agenda with facts and fun."*

Let's grow together!

westmontpc.org | 814-536-0796



FAITH IN ACTION MISSION FAIR

On October 25th the ministries and committees of our church will have tables set up during Fellowship Hour after service to share information on their goals and missions. You can talk to members of each group and if interested, sign up if you wish to join. A light lunch will be provided



Youth News

The **Youth Group** is going on a field trip to **Haunted Hollow** on October 3rd. We will meet in the church parking lot and leave at 5:30 PM. There will not be a youth lunch this month as Trunk or Treat is on the 17th. All youth are welcome to come help with Trunk or Treat.

As a reminder, all communication regarding GND, our youth group, will be done through the Band app. This will allow events to be posted and responses do be done all in the app, as well as sending any additional messages.

CE Announcements

CE will be hosting our annual Trunk or Treat in October and we need your help! We are asking for donations of candy or small toys to hand out to the kids who attend & cars that want to participate in the event. Candy donations can be placed in the bin outside of the sanctuary and you can sign up to participate in Fellowship Hall. **If you are doing a car, please arrive for set up between 2:30-3:00 PM on the 17th.**

We are excited to announce that we are doing a play called "Not Another Nativity Play!" for the Advent Pageant. CE is looking for people of any age who would want to participate. You can sign up in Fellowship Hall.

Upcoming Events

OCTOBER

- 10/03** Youth Group Trip to Haunted Hollow
- 10/04** No Sunday School
- 10/11** Sunday School & CE Committee Meeting
- 10/17** Trunk Or Treat

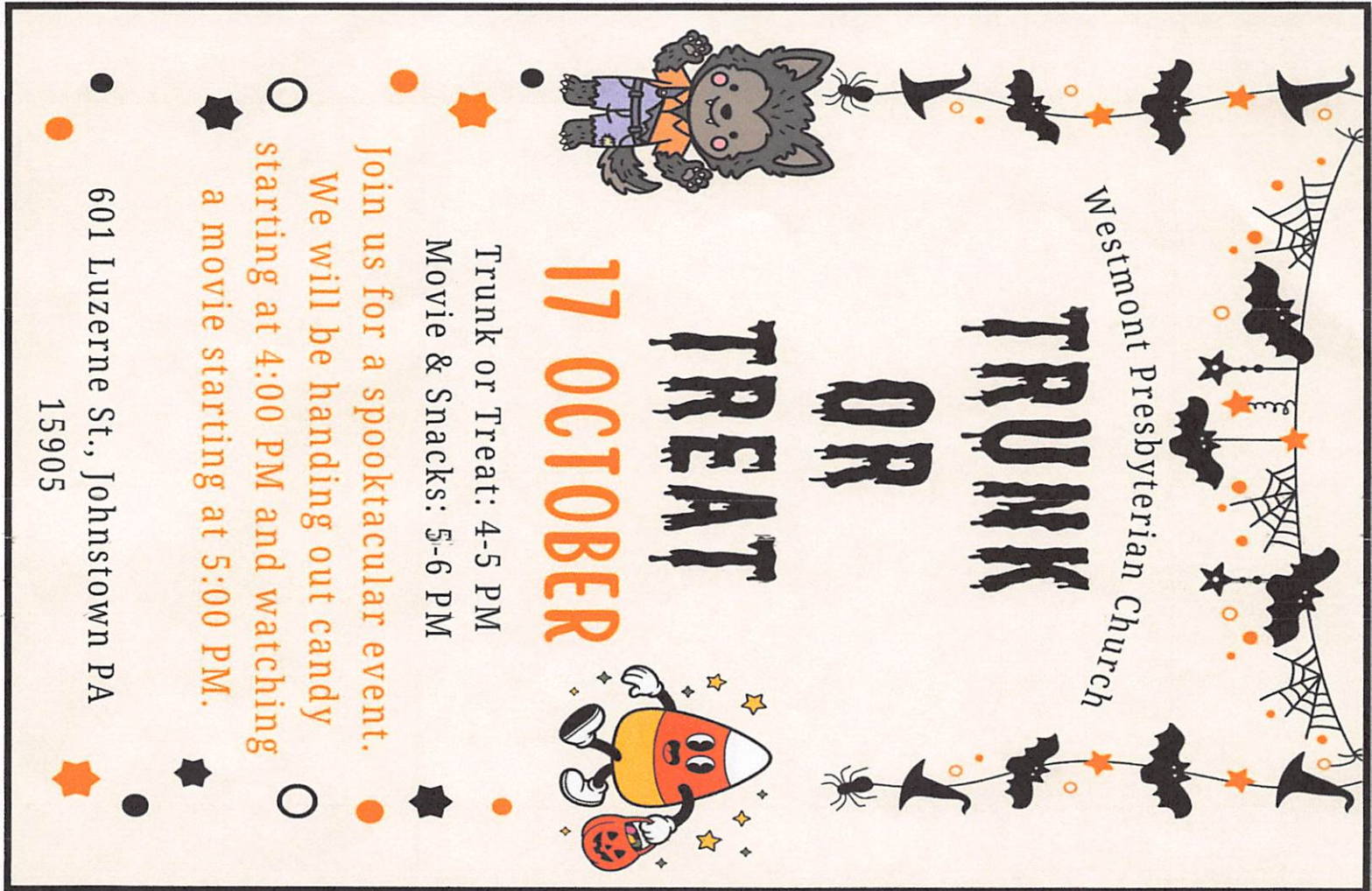
NOVEMBER

- 11/01** No Sunday School
- 11/07** Veteran's Dinner
- 11/08** Sunday School & CE Committee Meeting
- 11/21** Youth Lunch
- 11/29** No Sunday School

DECEMBER

- 12/06** No Sunday School
- 12/13** No Sunday School- Advent Pageant
- 12/20** Sunday School Christmas Party
- 12/27** No Sunday School - Winter Break





TRUNK OR TREAT!!!

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!!!

What: Annual event for the kids in the church and community.

When: Saturday October 17th

Where: WPC Parking Lot

Time: 4-6PM

EVERYONE is welcome to attend!!!

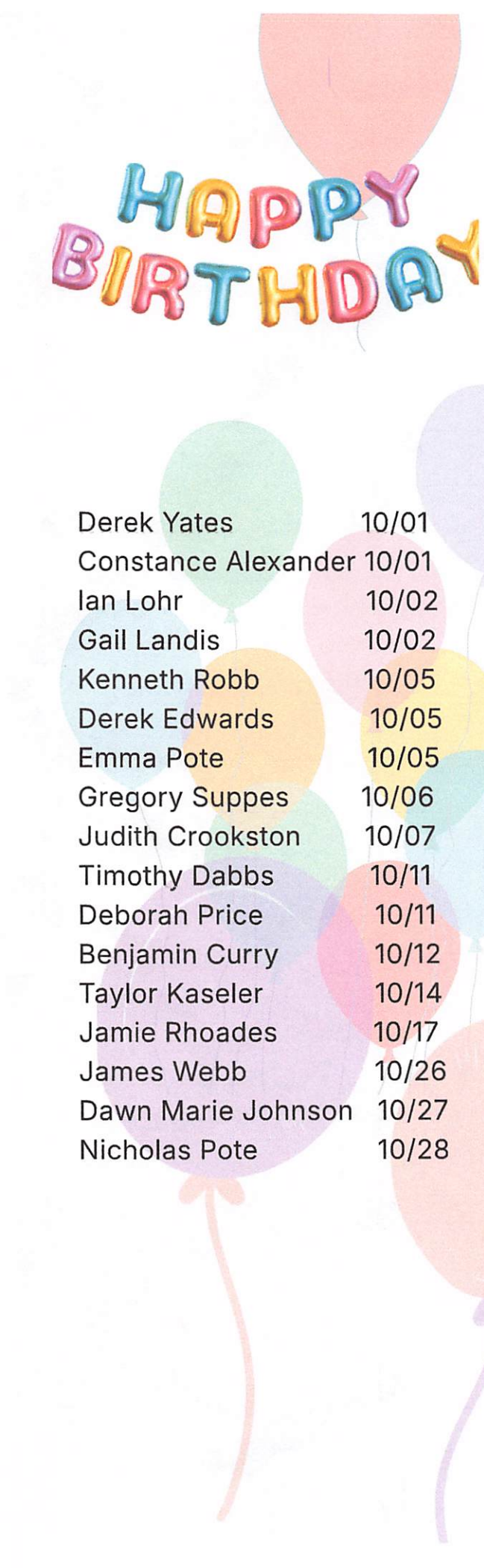
- Candy will be distributed from 4-5PM.
- A movie and refreshments will follow in Fellowship Hall.

Sign-Up To Decorate Your Trunk: @Fellowship Hall

Please consider joining our generous, fun loving church community to decorate your trunk and distribute candy and goodies to the children.

Trunk Set Up Time for Those Doing Trunks:

Please arrive between 3-3:30PM to set up.



**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

Derek Yates	10/01
Constance Alexander	10/01
Ian Lohr	10/02
Gail Landis	10/02
Kenneth Robb	10/05
Derek Edwards	10/05
Emma Pote	10/05
Gregory Suppes	10/06
Judith Crookston	10/07
Timothy Dabbs	10/11
Deborah Price	10/11
Benjamin Curry	10/12
Taylor Kaseler	10/14
Jamie Rhoades	10/17
James Webb	10/26
Dawn Marie Johnson	10/27
Nicholas Pote	10/28

LITURGISTS

10-04 John Norris
10-11 Mark Parseghian
10-18 Deb Lichtenfels
10-25 Joan Rush

CHILDREN'S CHAT

10-04 No Children's Chat
10-11
10-18
10-25

FELLOWSHIP HOUR

10-04 Deacons
10-11 Marge / Vivian
10-18 Camille Maravalli, Heather, Coralie
10-25 Joe & Tammy Golojch

USHERS

John Norris, Christine Wiegman, Karen Marsinko,
Monica Black, Tom Ball, Jim McCann, Marge Tarsovich,
Vivian Dunkle, Christine Wiegman

ACOLYTE

WPC CHOIR

FLOWERS

10-4 Mary Meck
10-11
10-18 Joan Rush
10-25

OPENERS/CLOSERS

10-4 Kevin / Jim
10-11 Kevin / Kevin
10-18 Kevin / Chiz
10-25 Kevin / Dave

Deacons' Corner

John Norris

PRAYER BOARD

WPC, Laura & Nate, Tracy, James, Angela, Lyn, Lynn, Cindy H., Mike R., Evan, Chris S., Rodney Eatman, Laurel Eatman, Paul Baribault, Stephen Meck, Dan Kovacs, Sharon Pletcher, Virginia, Ted Nyland, Tina, Jim Darr, Deborah DeGol, John Norris, Jean Livingston, Dave Livingston, Leslie Winters, Sylvester, Vince, Beverly, Michael, Jeanne Strunk, Jasmine Connor, Ted & Carole Corey, Gretyl Lauf, Anne Bradford, Kathy J., Nancy C., Alan Burnosky, Kay, Lynn, Matthew, Rick & Denise Mezyk, Skip & Adelle Picking, The Fleegle Family, Pastor Roland, Mike & Angie Hale, Marian Allen, Cory Locher, Bonnie & Barry's daughter- Robin, Dave and Debbie's daughter- Jenny, Deb Lichtenfels, Gretchen Parseghian, Bill Harris' niece, Linda Thomson, Dave Wilson, Larry Riddle, Marge Tarsovich, Megan, Hazel, Walter, Edward, Britton Halle, Mike Long, Carol Burnworth, Dan Gaydos, Patty Hagerich, Matthew Yeager, Betty Jo, Rick Krisko, Linda Batey, Dave, Janet Kokel, Linda Capp, Holly Capp, Lori Begg, Suzanne Bryon, Max Stevanus, Dan Gaydos, Carol Burnworth., Dorothy Glass, Tina, Marge D., Tina, Bill Miller, Ella Brawley, Ted Sendry, Jimmy Smedo.

DEACONS PICNIC at LAUREL VIEW VILLAGE

One August 25, the Deacons held a picnic for our member residents at Laurel View Village. Due to limited seating, attendance was just for residents, family members, and Deacons. We had 25 attend. It was a beautiful sunny day. Everyone had a wonderful time. We plan to do it again next year.

DEACONS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Due to the power outage on September 6, the Deacons could not kick off our September birthday celebration in Fellowship Hall. We will hit the re-set button and do the kick-off on October 4th and continue on the 1st of each month through September 2027. Come down and help us celebration member birthdays for the month.



Prayers & Squares

Can you touch a prayer?
YOU CAN!!! ... if it is tied into a prayer quilt made by our Prayers & Squares group. Know someone in need of prayer support who would like a prayer quilt? Would you like to join the quilters?

Please contact:
Linda Capp: 814.241.6963
lcapp@atlanticbb.net
Holly Capp: 814.270.0509
hollyhock11@gmail.com





CHURCH INVITES YOU TO
OUR



ANNUAL VETERANS DINNER

A free dinner for Veterans, their families,
and those currently serving in our Armed
Forces.



Appetizers: 4:00-5:00 PM

Dinner: 5:00-6:00 PM

SATURDAY

7 NOV 2026

5:00 PM



Please call the church office to RSVP with
the number attending by Monday Nov 2

(814)536-0796



October 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	Oct 1	2	3
Children & Youth Sunday School	Prayers & Squares	Bulletin Announcem't Deadline 3P	Men's Breakfast @ Jax	Staff Meeting		FARMERS MARKET
Fellowship Hour	Bridge Club		Thread Mail			Stackhouse Park Tour
	Ferndale Good News Club		Bridge Club			Youth Field Trip
	Girl Scouts Shelley Boback		WFCM			
			PNC			
			Koinonia Committee (P)			
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Worship Service	Prayers & Squares	Bulletin Announcem't Deadline 3P	Men's Breakfast @ Jax	Staff Meeting		FARMERS MARKET
Fellowship Hour	Bridge Club	Spiritual Direction	Bridge Club	Westmont Good News Club		
Adult SS	Ferndale Good News Club	Pastor Farrer Grow the Church Seminar	PNC	Finance E & P		
	IOC					
	Prayer Group					
	Deacons Meeting					
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Worship Service	GARDEN CLUB	Bulletin Announcem't Deadline 3P	Men's Breakfast @ Jax	Staff Meeting	Session Reports Due	Trunk Or Treat
Children & Youth Sunday School	Prayers & Squares		Bridge Club	Lifelines Spaghetti Dinner		
CE Meeting	Bridge Club		WFCM	Westmont Good News Club		
Fellowship Hour	Ferndale Good News Club		PNC			
Adult SS	Girl Scouts Shelley Boback					
Confirmation Class	IOC					
	Prayer Group					
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Worship Service	Prayers & Squares	Bulletin Announcem't Deadline 3P	Men's Breakfast @ Jax	Staff Meeting	Thread Articles Due	
Children & Youth Sunday School	Bridge Club	Spiritual Direction	Bridge Club	Westmont Good News Club		
Fellowship Hour	Ferndale Good News Club		PNC			
Adult SS	IOC		Session			
Congregational Meeting	Prayer Group					
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Worship Service	Prayers & Squares	Bulletin Announcem't Deadline 3P	Men's Breakfast @ Jax	Special Needs Halloween Party !!!		
Children & Youth Sunday School	Bridge Club		Bridge Club	Staff Meeting		
Fellowship Hour	Ferndale Good News Club		PNC	Westmont Good News Club		
Adult SS	Girl Scouts Shelley Boback		Koinonia Committee (P)	GPS Halloween Party		
Confirmation Class	IOC		Thread Assembly			
	Prayer Group		B & G			