

2016 LEHIGH PRESBYTERY WORLDWIDE MINISTRIES

“I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.” — John 15:5





MONTHLY PRAYER GUIDE

January 2016

Dear Brothers and Sisters of Lehigh Presbytery,

With the passing of the seasons we are made aware of the beauty of God's creation, may you in the passing of each month share in the good work of this faith community within and beyond the boundaries of this Presbytery.

Worldwide Ministries by its very signature is not unaware that we cannot separate local and global mission but we can find local ways to address global problems. Our relationships and witness of both local and global mission have been tested and this calendar is to some degree a summary of the tests. We have by and through our mission relationships learned how to:

-  better understand, in spite of our differences, how our faith shall make us one.*
-  gain a better appreciation for the spirit of renewal and new and different ways of expressing and sharing our faith.*

As you read and contemplate, all that has happened here is because people like yourself wanted their church to be part of God's gracious creation.

Shalom,

Jack Ferlino and the Worldwide Ministries Care Team

JANUARY 2016

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CATASAUQUA, PA

"Open my eyes to see wonderful things in your world." -- Psalm 119:18

Adventures in Missions



Both local and international mission is a very important part of our lives at the Presbyterian Church of Catasauqua. Christopher and Margeaux Cronce, the son and daughter-in-law of Pastor Doug Cronce, have been working with the Adventures in Missions, an "eleven months in eleven countries" program that brought them around the world. They served in partnership with churches and ministries in local communities to preach the Gospel, plant churches, work in orphanages, fight human trafficking and bring the restorative hope of God's love to many.

Our ongoing mission programs are still going strong as well. The Community Luncheon provides a free lunch once a month to the community. Through the Deacon Committee's "Soup and Sandwich" program, they are able to assist families with financial issues. The Presbyterian Women and the church mission team provides many community organizations with much needed funds throughout the year. This year our Vacation Bible School's mission was Heifer International, and we were able to raise enough money to buy a sheep, a packet of seeds, and a flock of chickens for a family in need.

Join us in prayer for:

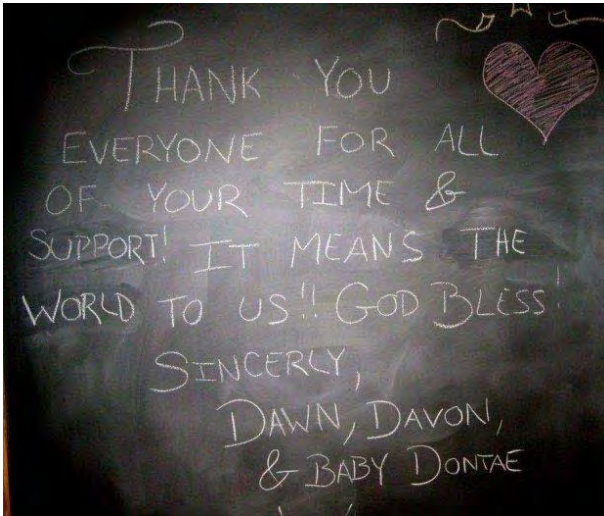
- *Chris and Margeaux's transition back to life in the USA.*
- *families who are in need and seek our help to grow in God's love.*
- *churches struggling to stay open .*

FEBRUARY 2016

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF EAST STROUDSBURG, PA

"Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." -- Matthew 25:40

Helping Those In Need Through Community Partnerships



The Mission Statement of East Stroudsburg Presbyterian Church challenges our members to serve humbly as the voice and hands of God in our community. Serving individuals and families who are struggling with homelessness, financial hardship, or addictive behavior has become a priority of our congregation. The church, located in the heart of East Stroudsburg, is well-situated to help those in need by partnering with local organizations.

For four weeks each year our church hosts Family Promise. Last year our members gave a total of 870 volunteer hours providing a safe place and good food for homeless families while

parents learned new skills, furthered their education, and searched for work.

Each November school nurses at two East Stroudsburg elementary schools, provide the Mission Committee with "wish lists" for children in four or five families who are struggling financially. Last year members donated nearly fifty wrapped gifts (including bicycles) to give ten children in four families a "Brighter Christmas."

Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, Al Anon, and Overeaters Anonymous meet daily or weekly for a total of twelve meetings each week in our church. People seeking help with addictions find our church to be a safe, non-judgmental place to receive support from those organizations on a continuing basis.

Join us in prayer for:

- *those who struggle every day due to financial hardship and/or addiction.*
- *East Stroudsburg Presbyterian Church that we may sustain our outreach to the community.*

MARCH 2016

FAITH UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PEN ARGYL, PA

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity . . . she became ill and died. . . . when Peter arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them . . . -- Acts 9:36-42



Most everyone is familiar with quilts. If you're not, you should know that they're made by attaching many smaller pieces of fabric to padding and a backing to form a warm covering or blanket. However, you may be surprised to know that making a true quilt the old-fashioned way is very labor intensive, requiring nearly a thousand hours to make. The "Quilters of Faith" in Pen Argyl are busy at work three hours every Tuesday making quilts that are sold for charity. They began their mission of love back in 2001 and have produced many quilts since then. Funds raised have gone to

St. Jude's Children's Hospital, Wounded Warriors, the Hope UCC food bank, Operation Smile, the Shriners and Relay for Life. For the past three years they have entered a quilt in the Plainfield Farmers Fair where they have won a Blue Ribbon each year.

Everyone in the group contributes one dollar each Tuesday so they can buy materials. The group then invests a lot of time into making these materials into a true work of art and a gift from the heart.

Join us in prayer for...

- *God's grace which teaches us that no talent is too small or too big. God uses all of us to show others his love.*
- *the continued ability to use our time, talents or treasure to do God's work. It is a sacred thing...indeed, it is an act of worship.*
- *the abundance of blessings we've received. God has been good to us and we have been blessed to be a blessing.*

APRIL 2016

PENNSIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, READING, PA

Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him? -- James 2:5

Family Promise



Pennside Presbyterian Church, in Mt. Penn, PA, has been supporting the Family Promise mission since its inception in Berks County, for approximately seven years, and our church hosts, families who are in the program twice a year.

Family Promise is a faith-based hospitality organization whose main goal is to keep families together as they try to re-build their lives and return to being independent. They have a network of organizations they work with to provide job skills and training, family counseling if needed, and ultimately help

to find and move into their own residence. There are about twenty churches in Berks County that act as hosts, and the families travel from church to church every Sunday for one week. During the week, the host church provides meals, volunteers to sleep over, friendship, and a listening ear. In addition, it has also been a wonderful way for church members to build camaraderie with each other as they volunteer their time. Some of our local Girl Scout and Boy Scout troops have gotten involved every time we host because they love the program so much, and the families certainly appreciate their time!

Family Promise has a very high success rate because they are very selective about the families accepted into the program, and they must adhere to the rules of the program. Family Promise provides transportation for children to daycare and their schools, in an effort to keep stability in their lives, and the low level of absenteeism and success of the children in school during this difficult time is evidence of how important that is.

Join us in prayer for . . .

- *the continued success of the Family Promise organization as they continue to meet legislative challenges that affect funding.*
- *the host congregations who support this important mission through their volunteering members.*
- *not only the families who are in the program trying to regain their independence and financial stability, but families everywhere who face these issues.*

MAY 2016

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, EASTON, PA

"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." -- 1 Peter 4:10

Serving the Local Community through SHARE



First Presbyterian Church of Easton has been seeking ways to serve the local Easton community with a total population of 26,800 (2014) with 23.3% whose income is below the poverty level. Easton is a "food desert" with scattered convenience stores within its four square miles. The closest supermarket is five and one half miles away. These statistics led our Mission Team to bring the Philadelphia based SHARE Food Program to Easton. The Philadelphia Self Help And Resource Exchange (SHARE) is a non-profit organization that began in 1986.

For two hours of community volunteerism SHARE participants can purchase quality food on a monthly basis at budget friendly prices. Participants in SHARE can be from any income level; cash, checks, money orders, credit cards, SNAP vouchers and ZEBT/ACCESS cards are all acceptable forms of payment.

Our church began publicity and acting as a "host site" in October 2014. Members of our Mission Team, our pastor, our church secretary, as well as volunteers from the church have helped with taking orders and monthly distributions to participants. We started out taking "baby-steps" as we learned the process and plan to "grow" it as we continue to reach out to those who could benefit the most.

Join us in prayer...

- *that we may reach Easton's needy individuals and make new disciples through our service.*
- *for enthusiastic volunteers willing to make SHARE successful in our community.*
- *for God's guidance as we work out a few problems we have encountered.*

JUNE 2016

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, LEHIGHTON, PA

For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst. –
Matthew 18:20

Bible Fellowship



Laughter and animated conversation pour from the tables that are pushed together on Tuesday mornings at The Beacon Diner. Another breakfast eating patron looks at the group and asks the waitress what is going on? "Oh," she replies, "That is the Presbyterian Bible Study group." He answered, "I never knew Bible Study could be so much fun."

Weekly, a group of between six and twelve people, invade the diner for food, fellowship, and Bible Study.

The group started about six years ago for a group of people from the Lehigh church who said Bible Study was intimidating and they didn't know enough. Moving into the diner on Tuesdays to eat and talk, opened the door for discussions in a comfortable setting that didn't seem like "church". People who had felt Bible illiterate found that they did have something to say and the Bible could and does speak to them.

The three "f's": food, fellowship, and fun serve as a witness and minister to participants as well as to the diner community. Several weeks ago, a waitress came over to our table and requested prayer for her uncle who had become very ill and needed to be transported. The group quickly honored the request for prayer for her and her family. Taking the "church" out of the building and into the community is one way our congregation is learning to minister to those beyond our walls.

Join us in prayer for:

- *the group as they meet and study God's word.*
- *the people with whom they come in contact as they seek to be good witnesses.*

JULY 2016

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, STROUDSBURG, PA

" And now these three remain: faith hope and love. But the greatest of these is love."

1 Corinthians 13:13

Deep Roots at Clairvaux Farm



Over the past twenty-two years, First Presbyterian Church has enjoyed the relationship with a community for families experiencing homelessness. Clairvaux Farm is located in Maryland and offers help to those living on the farm and to families in the community so they can stay in their homes. Beyond programming, Deep Roots at Clairvaux Farm offers a relationship. It is the relationship that provides hope in the chaos of homelessness. This is the lesson that we have learned year after year as several adults and youth travel the short trip for one week in the summer. We ask, "What work is planned?" And we hear some ideas about projects, but the most important emphasis is on our time with the children and their families.

In July of 2015, a group of thirteen made their way to Maryland to be at the farm. Activities included basketball with the kids (particularly a six year old boy who rarely missed a basket), a gathering of the children for an art project, a rainy day at the movies, games of tag, and painting a mural on the side of a building. Each night at dinner a different child would say grace for all that gathered. The week flew by as we busied ourselves with projects: cutting down a huge old tree, gardening, painting the fence, helping with meals and clean up, and making new friends. Love is shared and healing takes place for all.

Join us in prayer for...

- *our search for a pastor.*
- *the accessibility and organ restoration projects.*
- *us to seek God's will in all things.*

AUGUST 2016

FIRST UNITED METHODIST-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ASHLAND, PA

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." -- Luke 10:27

Bountiful Blessings



"What can we, as a church do to serve our community?"

This is the question that members of the First United Methodist Presbyterian Church (FUMP) were wrestling with in 2013. They knew that many of their neighbors had been affected by the slow economy and high unemployment in the region. A food bank, clothing distribution, and weekday meals were already in place locally.



Their answer came through the Bountiful Blessings program (www.bountifulblessingsinc.org), which is a Christian based charity that serves need-based families who are often the working poor, unemployed, and senior citizens. It is unique because it offers items not covered in many government programs, such as cleaning products, toiletries, paper products, and personal care products. The program offers a "hand up" not a "hand out" as those who receive must also "give back" by volunteering three hours each year.

FUMP Church became a Bountiful Blessings site in April 2014. The program is open at the church the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month from 9:00-11:00 AM and is staffed by volunteers from the church and, also, by recipients who are "giving back" through their volunteer hours. Individual prayer is available for any who request it.

We all have times we need to receive – whether it is basic necessities, or encouragement, or emotional/spiritual support – and we all have something to give. Recipients are encouraged when they realize that their help is valued and needed to run the program. Several recipients are attending worship, and church members are growing in faith as they step out of their comfort zone to assist and love their neighbors.

Join us in prayer for:

- *recipients to know they are loved and valued by God.*
- *the church to grow as faithful followers of Christ in sharing their hope in Christ and in loving and serving their neighbors.*

SEPTEMBER 2015

HELPING HANDS OF LEHIGH PRESBYTERY ALLENTOWN, PA

"I give thanks to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength for my work. I thank him for considering me worthy and appointing me to serve him...." -- I Timothy 1: 12

In 2015, the *Helping Hands* mission team of Lehigh Presbytery entered into its tenth year of service rebuilding the homes of people affected by natural disasters. Their ministry began in October of 2005 in response to catastrophic devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina in the Gulf Coast. Members of several area Presbyterian churches felt called to help those in need. Ideas were shared and plans made for the first Helping Hands mission trip to Mississippi. After that first trip, Helping Hands entered into a five year commitment with the Presbytery of Mississippi for ten trips to help with disaster relief. Most of the rebuilding was done in the area of Long Beach, Mississippi.



Since its inception, Helping Hands has had approximately 150 volunteers give their time and talents to rebuilding the homes and lives of victims of disasters. They began their work with grant money, but since then, this group of dedicated volunteers has been self-sustaining through generous donations from churches, individuals, and volunteers. They average about two trips a year.



The group has done construction in states from New Jersey to Missouri and from New York to Mississippi. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) provides hospitality sites, churches to host volunteers, while assorted other organizations provide the houses to work on. The goal of everyone is to put families' back in their own homes.

Join us in prayer to . . .

- *pray for God's direction and guidance in all we do.*
- *continue to respond to people affected by natural disasters.*
- *seek volunteers with a passion for mission work.*

OCTOBER 2016

PLEASANT VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BRODHEADSVILLE, PA

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose." -- Romans 8:28

Keep Sunday Holy

In 2013 a teenager writes a letter: to whom it may concern. The Pastor in her Catholic church invites other churches in town (Brodheadsville, PA) to review this letter and see if there would be something they could all do collectively about the concern of this young woman. She wrote about the stress put on her family by the "mandatory" sports practices she was to attend on Sunday mornings. Part of the family thought she should go to practices on Sunday mornings, and another part of the family felt church attendance is more important.

Beginning in November of 2013, the group that formed around this concern calls itself, "*Keep Sunday Holy*". The effort is ecumenical and non-controversial. We want to allow our people the freedom to practice their faith while also participating in community activities. The team has come up with a logo and mission statement (see photo). They have had a booth in several local fairs, a prayer service and breakfast, letters to editors, lawn signs, T-shirts and a Facebook page. The team has grown from six churches to fifteen as of June 2015.

Pleasant Valley Presbyterian Church has been on the team since the beginning and we have witnessed the joy of fifteen churches united in an effort to promote a spiritual foundation for families. God must enjoy seeing this unity among His believers..



Join us in prayer...

- *that the importance of a spiritual foundation be realized in families exposed to our message.*
- *that church attendance grows according to God's will.*

NOVEMBER 2016

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ALLENTOWN, PA

"Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality." -- Romans 12:13

The Knitting Ministry



The Knitting Ministry at First Presbyterian Church of Allentown started in 2006 as a Prayer Shawl Knitting Ministry. Three years later we combined a Saturday of Service project with our support for Roosevelt Elementary School and the Knitting Ministry was born when hats were made for each first grade student. Making hats for children continues to provide us with an opportunity to demonstrate living God's love for our community.

Each hat is hand made by members, friends, relatives, neighbors, and co-workers. This ministry has opened the door to new friends throughout our community. Donations of time, talent and yarn make it all possible.

We love to meet practical needs – like helping these children keep warm in the winter. Our true joy comes when we have the privilege of going into a classroom and help these little ones select their very own hat. One can't help but be moved by the gratitude of these little ones. Eight of the elementary schools in our city received a visit and over 1,000 hats given away.

No one knows what the future will bring for this mission ministry. Participants continue to feel secure in the knowledge that our heavenly Father sees what we are doing and who we are: a faithful servant of the living King.

Jesus' life was a continuous stream of selfless service: He fed, healed, and washed feet giving us the ultimate sacrifice of His life.

Join us in prayer for . . .

- *the children that live in your community that they may experience the love of those around them.*
- *all families that live in your community that they may experience the support of those around them.*
- *those that use their time to love and support the children and families that live in the heart of your community.*

DECEMBER 2016

HOPE OF CHRIST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, SUMMIT HILL, PA

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! -- 2 Corinthians 5:17

At Hope of Christ Presbyterian Church, the congregation tries to assist in a variety of small mission projects throughout the year. Through prayer and active participation the members are immersed in many spheres of service.

They prayed for the people in Guatemala and donated funds for a project called SWIG (Safe Water In Guatemala). This program establishes wells in areas with no safe supply of water. Partnering with another church, they were able to build two wells. A donation was sent to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to help the people of Nepal after a massive earthquake devastated that area.



Throughout the year, their Help Brother Christian Fund assists local individuals in need, by helping with heating costs, rent payments, homeless prevention, clothing, medical bills and even funeral assistance. They collect the

necessary staples as well as special holiday foods and treats for their local food pantry, Harvest Home.

They collect gifts for Samaritan's Purse –Operation Christmas Child mission. 2015 will be their twenty-second year of participation of filling shoeboxes and sending them to children around the world to bring the good news of the birth of Christ and His gift of salvation. Their Presbyterian Women's group holds a "Bake-less bake sale" to raise money to send assistance boxes around the world to people who are in need of supplies or food because of a natural disaster or political invasion. They also have a long term mission project assisting the Manual Indian School in Albuquerque, NM.

Hope of Christ's longest ongoing mission is the Winnie the Pooh Pre-school. They are in their 42nd year of providing a Christian background and learning center for three and four year-old children in the area.

Join us in prayer for:

- *the congregation as we begin a new chapter with a newly installed pastor.*
- *the Winnie the Pooh preschool and the families we serve through that ministry.*
- *those in our community who are in need.*

Covenant

“that we may be mutually encouraged by each other’s partner.” Romans 1:12

Believing...

- ...that Christ has called the church into being,
giving it all that is necessary for its mission in the world;
- ...that we are called to give living expression to the unity of the church in Christ
that is beyond any human boundaries;
- ...that by knowing more about each other, our lives and our churches,
we will also know more about how God is at work, in many different ways in the world;
- ...that by listening to each other, God will speak to us in new ways and we can grow spiritually;
- ...that by praying for and with each other, the power of the Holy Spirit will energize us;
- ...that by doing mission activities together,
we will witness to those who need Christ sharing with them,
God’s love that crosses all national, political, cultural and economic barriers;
- ...that our relationship will become deep, strong, and loving;

We the

**Transylvanian Reformed Church District of the
Hungarian Reformed Church in the Carpathian Basin,**

&

We the

**Királyhágómellék Reformed Church District of the
Hungarian Reformed Church in the Carpathian Basin,**

&

We the

**Lehigh Presbytery, Synod of the Trinity
Presbyterian Church (USA)**

Together we Covenant to:

Pray for and with, communicate with and listen to, learn and teach, work, rest, and celebrate,
stand in solidarity with, and Witness to God’s reconciling work of love as agreed with our
partners.

**On behalf of the
Transylvanian Reformed
Church District**

*Dr. Géza Pap, Bishop
Tibor Kiss, Counselor*

**On behalf of the
Királyhágómellék Reformed
Church District**

*István Csúry, Bishop
Zoltán Kovács, First Elder*

**On behalf of the
Lehigh Presbytery
Presbyterian Church (USA)**

*Matilda Chase, Moderator
Robert Nickels, Stated Clerk*

Worldwide Ministries Care Team

*Jack Ferlino, Past Chair
Pat Noga, Chair*



Signed this 17th day of May 2010

International, National and Local Mission Works of Lehigh Presbytery Congregations

FAITH UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PEN ARGYL

www.faithunited.net

- **Quilters of Faith**

HOPE OF CHRIST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,

SUMMIT HILL, PA

www.hopeofchristchurch.org

- **Mission Outreach & Prayer**

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ALLENTOWN

www.fpcallentown.org

- **Knitting Ministry**

LEHIGH PRESBYTERY, ALLENTOWN, PA

www.lehighpresbytery.org

- **Helping Hands**

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF EASTON

www.eastonfpc.org

- **SHARE**

PENNSIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, READING, PA

www.pennsidepresby.org

- **Family Promise**

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF LEHIGHTON

church phone: 610-377-5111

- **Bible Fellowship**

PLEASANT VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,

BRODHEADSVILLE, PA

www.pleasantvalleypresbyterian.org

- **Keep Sunday Holy**

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF STROUDSBURG

www.fpcstrodsburg.org

- **Clairvaux Farm**

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CATASAUQUA

www.cattypresbyterian.com

- **Adventures In Mission**

FIRST UNITED METHODIST-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ASHLAND, PA

church phone: 570-875-4020

- **Bountiful Blessings**

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF EAST STROUDSBURG

www.espresbyterian.org

- **Community Partnerships**

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