



# THE GRAPEVINE

The Newsletter of the Reformed Church of the Ascension, United Church of Christ  
1700 West Main Street, Jeffersonville, PA 19403, (610) 539-1693  
The Rev. Dwayne A. Mosier, Pastor

Volume 29, Issue 01

November 2020

## The Mission of Ascension Church

is to reach out to the local and world community with faith and joy. We will commit our spiritual and material resources, and our personal involvement to share the word of God through worship and Christian living. We will provide spiritual support, care and hope for all as we teach and grow in the love of Christ through the Holy Spirit.

***O God of our salvation;  
you are the hope of all  
the ends of the earth  
and of the farthest  
seas. By your strength  
you established the  
mountains; you are  
girded with might, you  
silence the roaring of  
the seas, the roaring of  
their waves, the tumult  
of the peoples. Those  
who live at earth's  
farthest bounds are  
awed by your signs;  
you make the  
gateways of the  
morning and the  
evening shout for joy.***

**Psalm 65:5b – 8**

In the lectionary readings for Thanksgiving the Psalmist sings praise to God. "O God of our salvation, you are the hope of all the ends of the earth."

A powerful statement to come out of a psalmist's mouth, and a powerful voice to hear, read on Thanksgiving day.

I have always loved Thanksgiving. It is a great day. I love the gathering of family, the parade, the dinner table. I love it! I love the turkey and mashed potatoes, but my favorite is the pumpkin pie. In school we would dress up as pilgrims and native Americans and pretend we were at the first Thanksgiving.

There were probably a lot of inaccuracies in our retelling of the story. We blurred the story of the first feast in 1621 and a service of prayer held later in 1623. Yet, we understood that it was all about giving thanks. The early settlers understood they had reason to be thankful. Very few of them had survived the voyage to America. More had died during the harsh winter that had followed. That year had

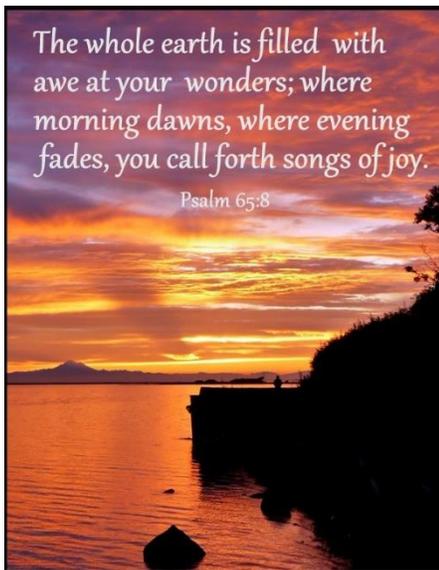
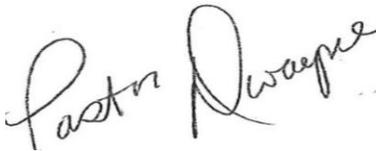
produced a good harvest and they had the provisions they hoped would see them through the coming winter. Maybe some of our stories and legends did not get it all exactly right, but I believe we got the part of giving Thanks to God right.

Although the celebration of Thanksgiving traces its history back to the early 17<sup>th</sup> century, it was not observed. It was not a National Holiday until Abraham Lincoln supported legislation that would make it official in 1863. Hard to believe that the holiday of Thanksgiving became official during a time of great civil unrest and Civil War. A nation divided, 620,000 dead in our nation's bloodiest war, and a day was set aside for a nation to come together and give thanks to God.

Thanksgiving this year will be different. We may not be able to gather with as many people around our tables. Our church sanctuary remains closed. 2020

has been a difficult year -- a world pandemic with COVID-19, nearly 250,000 people dead in the US (and we do not know what the final number will be when the pandemic is over), the economy a mess, many out of jobs, a divisive national election. We may wonder how we can gather for Thanksgiving.

I believe that this year, as in 1863, we need Thanksgiving more than ever. This year may we lift our voices and pray to God. Like in 1621, we have seen some very difficult times, but remember how they looked toward the coming year, giving thanks to God for a harvest that would see them through the coming winter. Let us join with the Psalmist in giving thanks to God.



I want to take this opportunity to thank all those who have mailed in their offerings to the church, dropped them in our mailbox, or have given on-line through our PayPal account. The ministry of Ascension Church continues, we need your support. Although we cannot gather in the building right now, we still have our expenses to pay and our outreach continues.

We deeply appreciate your sacrifice and generosity to Ascension, and we continue to pray for all of you and ask you to continue to pray for us as well. We look forward to when we can gather again, in person!

Blessings to you all,

Judy Parker, Financial Secretary

## Consistory Corner

### Report from Financial and Stewardship Committee

#### September 2020 Financial Results

Total Income	\$ 9,332.91
Total expense	\$16,515.09
<b>Net Income (Loss)</b>	<b>(\$ 7,182.18)</b>

#### YTD Financial Results (9/2020)

Same as Above

# **Important Information**

- **Thanksgiving Prayer Service -- Ascension will have a Thanksgiving Prayer Service (Thursday, 11/19) via Zoom along with Christ Church and Peace in Zion. We will send the Zoom link when this is available.**
- **During Advent Mary and Joseph will be traveling around our community looking for a place to stay. We will be prerecording this event on a video. We will be using safe distancing practices with no contact. These recordings will become a part of our Sunday morning worship services. If you would like to participate and have the Holy Family visit you, please contact Pastor Dwayne.**
- **Advent candles -- We will be distributing advent candles. You may light the candles with us at home on Sunday Worship, with your personal devotions, or during our Morning prayer services.**
- **Christmas Eve Photos -- Please send us your photos and videos of Advent and Christmas at Ascension. We would like to put together a collection of our memories of worship and activities.**
- **Offering Envelopes -- We are currently looking into options on sending out our giving envelopes to our members. More information will be forthcoming once a final decision is made.**

# BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

## October Birthdays

2 Joe Sullivan  
Shirley Berry  
Patty Youmans  
3 Chris Logan  
Rich Lotsch  
4 Rev. Judith Meier  
5 Kitty Trow  
12 Bud Fryer  
13 Ray Paine  
18 Richard Fryer  
19 Ginny Kleinert  
Sue Wendt  
21 Roi Westgate  
23 Linda Gieringer  
24 Sally Chillington  
25 Lia Rhen  
26 Sharon Hoffman  
29 Barbara Thampi  
Csilla Suto  
Hannah Hessler  
31 Lynda Waltman

## October Anniversaries

11 Mike & Nancy Perez  
22 Rick & Robin Weed  
25 Dele & Bud Fryer  
Sally Lindemuth & Carol Kidd  
27 James & Loretta Rhoads  
29 Mike & Jan Thierfelder

## November Birthdays

3 Grace Harvey  
5 Aaron Mosier  
Rosemary Hessler  
7 Kristin Ladd  
8 Katie Cavanaugh  
11 Tonda Ryder  
12 David Fryer  
13 Sally Lindemuth  
14 Brandon Gieringer  
18 Jacob Satterwhite

26 Adam Kleinert  
27 Jaclyn Dzedzy  
Barbara Firth  
27 Amanda Shaw  
Pat Beazer  
Nancy Fryer  
29 Jackie Walsh  
Michael Clayboss Jr.  
Lucille McGinley

## November Anniversaries

1 Rick & Laurie Fryer  
7 Joseph & Mabel Clayboss  
11 Adam George & David Gilberto  
15 Jay & Patti Ernst  
16 Todd & Linda Gieringer

## December Birthdays

6 Charles Billitto  
7 Brielle Kleinert  
9 Abigail Lynn Monaghan  
11 Brian Paine  
15 Dorothy Hahn  
17 Jack Hale  
19 Robin Weed  
20 Irene Hessler  
21 Katelyn Snyder  
Kim Weigner  
Lawrence Guido  
22 Eleanor Morello  
Carole Kleinert  
26 Juliana Satterwhite  
27 Jay Ernst  
28 Jozaline Kline  
30 Mike Thierfelder

## December Anniversaries

6 Mike & Dawn Clayboss  
22 Stela & Emeric Suto

**Ascension United Church of Christ**

an open and affirming congregation

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