

Good Tidings

The Newsletter of Brick Presbyterian Church

November 2017

A Pastoral Reflective Prayer for Thanksgiving

O God, Giver of every good and perfect gift; I pause to say thank you for how you have touched my life. When I asked you for strength that I might do great things, you made me weak that I might be humbly dependent upon you and obey your bidding.

When I asked for health that I might do greater things you gave me infirmities that I might do better things with compassion. Thank you, Lord.

When I asked for riches that I might be happy, you gave me poverty that I might grow wise and understand the needs of others better. Thank you, Lord.

When I asked for power and influence that I might have the praise others, you gave me weakness that I might feel my need for you. Thank you, Lord.

And so, I thank you Lord, for the gift of this day, for it reminds me of your grace that overcame and got me through the troubles of yesterday.

Thank you for the people you send into my life – for those who remain active and connected to the church community despite its/our imperfections exhibiting compassion in times of pain – offering forgiveness in moments of error and fault – exhibiting encouragement in times of challenge and difficulty – exhibiting courage in the face of that which causes fear – and exhibiting hope when that is all we have.

Thank you for those who do so much, whose efforts too often go unnoticed and without praise, yet whose labors are so necessary for making your church and my life better.

Thank you for those who see things differently and don't always agree with me, that help me to re-examine my faith, actions, and perspective so I may be truer to You O Lord, for those who show me my way is not the only way, for they remind me there are other ways and that only Jesus is the Truth, the Way and Life.

Thank you for those who drive me nuts, who upset my apple cart for you use them to teach me patience, understanding, forgiveness, as-well-as my need to be forgiven at times.

Thank you, Lord, for the heritage you have given to me in those who have paved the way for me – shared their faith and inspired me with the love of Jesus – for those who gave themselves as a living sacrifice to make the world and your church more faithful.

Thank you, Lord, for the ears of faith that have heard your calling to live in your community of the faithful (the church) – for every reminder you send our way that calls us to do more than say “we believe,” but calls us to let you more fully rule in our lives and direct our actions as you will.

Thank you, Lord, for laughter that lightens sorrow – for sunny days that remind us that not all is overcast and rain in life – for life's little victories that remind us that defeat is not the last word – for the energy and optimism of youth and the wisdom from years of experience – for times of doubt and uncertainty that draw us to you and that which is greater than ourselves.

Thank you, Lord, for not giving up on us, but continue – seeking to mold us like clay in the hands of You our Potter – until we are like Christ. Thank you, Lord, for your amazing grace that goes out not just to us but to all people, as you long for us to one day all be gathered at your great Thanksgiving Table in Christ. Amen.



Veterans Day Service

On **Sunday, November 12th**, we will be having one worship service *honoring our Veterans* in the **Family Life Center**, with a *meal to follow* supplied by our Fellowship Committee.

Christmas Eve Services

We invite you to celebrate Christ's birth with us on Sunday, December 24th at Brick Presbyterian Church. The services will be held at **5:00pm** and **8:00pm**. Our Christmas Eve Services are a wonderful way to worship the one born King of Kings. So, come and bring family and friends for a special time of worship.



Christmas Eve
SERVICES

The **5:00pm** Christmas Eve Service is a more *family oriented* service. The **8:00pm** Christmas Eve Service will feature more *traditional style* music with our choir and soloist. **Both services** will feature lighting of candles at the end of the service.

There will be only *one morning service* on Sunday, **December 24th** and Sunday, **December 31st**. **Both services** are at **10:00am**. There will be **no Sunday School** on either **December 24th** or **31st**, so *please bring the children*, having them remain in the Sanctuary as we enjoy "Praising Our Lord" and thanking him for the Gift of His Son.

Christmas Flower Donation

The envelopes for the **Christmas flower donations** will be in the pews starting **November 26th** and will remain there *until December 17th*. If you would like to donate a Poinsettia for Christmas, please do so during this period to ensure inclusion in the Christmas Eve bulletin. We request that you print clearly on the envelope. Thank you for your cooperation.



Community Thanksgiving Service hosted by BPC!

On Sunday, **November 19th**, Brick Presbyterian Church will be hosting the Brick Community Thanksgiving Service from **4:00pm-5:00pm**. *The offering for this service will be canned food items for local food pantries.*



Worship Schedule Change

On **Sunday, December 3rd**, we will have one **Communion Service at 10:00am**. Following the service, the Sunday School will be having a special program – *A Visit to Bethlehem* – in the **Family Life Center**.



We would like to thank everyone who supported our **Boscov's** Friends Helping Friends event on October 17. *We hope you all had a great shopping day!*

Our committee would also like to say **thank you** to everyone who attended our **Second Annual Italian Dinner** on October 21 in support of our Deacons and the charitable work they do. We would like to extend a very special **Thank You** to the **Fellowship Committee** for all of their help coordinating this event but **especially for the delicious meal!!**

Christmas Wreaths and Poinsettia Plants

Pre-orders for wreaths and poinsettias will continue through the first several weeks of November with a *delivery/pick-up* date of Sunday, **December 3**. The 26" decorated wreaths can be purchased for \$30, the 6" Poinsettias for \$15.00 or 3/\$30.00 and the 8" Poinsettias for \$25.00 each.



Holiday Pie Sale

We are now taking orders for our Holiday Pie Sale and we are offering the same delicious pies we had last year! **Orders will be taken until November 12** and pies will be brought fresh from the bakery to the Church on Tuesday, November 21. Pies will only be available for **pickup on the 21st** – hours will be announced. Please see our poster outside the FLC and see the wide variety of flavors available for your Holiday table.

Craft Show

The Holiday Craft & Vendor Fair is coming back again to Brick Presbyterian Church this season. The Fair will be held in the Family Life Center on Saturday, **November 18, from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.** Admission is free, so stop by and see some of the unique items that will be offered by these crafters and vendors.



Lifetouch Photo Directory

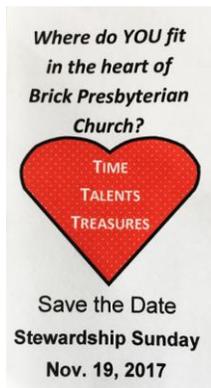


We have begun taking appointments for our new Church Directory. Photo dates are **December 6, 7 & 8 from 2:00 – 9:00 p.m.** Please see us for information, questions and to make your appointment.
.....Your pets are welcome too!!

Stream Energy and AmazonSmile

Please ask about our ongoing fundraisers with Stream Energy (*save on your energy bills*) and AmazonSmile (*Amazon donates to BPC*).

Come Celebrate God's Love on Stewardship Sunday, November 19th



In this season of Thanksgiving, we remember 1 Chronicles 29:14, **“Lord...Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand.”** Our very existence and the mission we share at Brick Presbyterian Church is an expression of God’s love. The ultimate expression of God’s love was the gift of Jesus Christ and His sacrifice as the atonement for our sins. We strive to share the depth of this love in our prayers, our worship, our study, our care of our church family, our outreach to the community and the world at large. *The success of all these depends on the dedication of prayers, time, talent, and treasure that each of us offers.*

As we examine the opportunities and challenges that lay before us, there is no question that each and every one of us has a vital role to play. For a variety of reasons, we have seen a decline in our membership and resources, yet our commitment to sharing God’s love and carrying out the example set before us in the mission of Jesus Christ remains strong and paramount. *We find great opportunities before us as we remain committed and envision new avenues for our congregation.*

We ask you to prayerfully consider the ways in which you can support the ministry of this church in the coming year and invite you to **join us on Stewardship Sunday, November 19th**, *as we dedicate our pledges of support.*

Junior High Youth Group

A **BIG** Thank You to all of you who supported our Bake Sale. All proceeds go to our *"Earn Your Wings"* project. We are off to a good start and look forward to providing Christmas gifts to the many less fortunate children in our community.



Earn Your Wings

Both Youth Groups will be participating with a **Fall Cleanup** on **November 19th** at **11:30am**. We will meet in the church parking lot.

Invite a Friend

November is the season of thanksgiving. Why not invite a friend to church any time during the month of November who might be looking for a church home.



Invite a Friend to Church

Greetings from the Board of Deacons!

"You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God." (2 Corinthians 9:11)



FOOD PANTRY

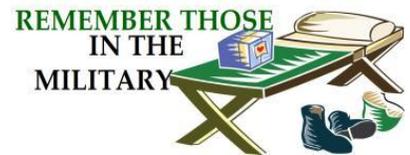
The Deacons are in the process of getting the Food Pantry stocked and ready for the upcoming holidays, and we continue to need the help of the congregation. Our current food needs include:

| | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Coffee/Tea | Canned vegetables | Jelly |
| Gravy | Canned fruit | Canned dinners |
| Stuffing | Rice | Canned meat & fish |
| Cranberry Sauce | Jello | Beans |
| Potatoes (box) | Mac & cheese | Powdered milk |

All unexpired non-perishable items are appreciated. **EVERY donation helps.** Thank you very much for *your generous contributions!*

PLEASE SUPPORT THE ACTIVE MILITARY

There will be a special **Veteran's Day** worship service on **Sunday, November 12th**, at Brick Presbyterian Church. The Deacons are asking for your help to **support the men and women** who are serving overseas to protect our country and our freedom. There is a **box** in the **narthex** for donations and once we have enough items, they will be boxed up and taken to a drop off point.



Here are some of the most requested items:

MOST NEEDED ITEMS:

| | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Chap Stick | Q-Tips (<i>sm. packs</i>) | Razors | Eye moisture drops |
| Socks (<i>white or green</i>) | Protein Bars | Mouthwash | Toothbrushes |
| Granola/Cereal Bars | Hard Candy | Batteries | Tissues |
| Foot Powder | Gum/Breath Mints | Cookies | Microwave Foods |
| Popcorn | Suntan Lotion | Writing Paper | Pens, Pencils |
| Used Cell Phones | Cough Drops | Vitamins | Shaving Cream |
| Wipes | Deodorant | Coffee packets/tea bags | |
| Small powered drink mixes (<i>to add to water bottles</i>) | | | |

All items should be medium or small in size.

No pump type bottles.

Thank you.



Make sure to *invite a friend* on **Sunday, December 3**, the *First Sunday of Advent*, there will be only **one worship service** that morning at **10 a.m.** in sanctuary; followed by a **Christmas program** presented by our Sunday school students in the FLC.

THANK YOU TO THE FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

The Fundraising Committee organized the recent **Second Annual Italian Dinner** which was attended by many members of our congregation as well as the community at large. *Thank you very much for dedicating the proceeds of ticket sales to the Deacons Fund*, so that we may continue to serve those among us who are in need.



A BIG GIANT THANK YOU!

Friends, a big thank you to all who put hygiene kits together as well as a thank you to our Youth Groups.

There was a total of **100 kits** that were sent out.

Brick Presbyterian really came through!



THANK YOU TO OUR WALKERS AND TO OUR SPONSORS!

The CROP Hunger Walk was an interfaith event held on **October 15th** that built community while raising funds to end hunger in our own community *AND* around the world. *Thank you to everyone who participated as a walker or as a sponsor.* Your participation impacted individuals and families in more than **35 countries**. Watch for an update with further details about this year's event in the December newsletter.