

FEBRUARY

2023

ELDERTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FEBRUARY– NEWSLETTER – 2023

PASTORS PAGE

“THE GOD OF OUR FAITH”

Hebrews 11:8–16

What Is Faith?

Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. The unknown author of Hebrews approaches the audience through their experience of faith. This book has already reminded us as readers that the once-for-all nature of Jesus' sacrifice should bolster our confidence in the realities of faith, hope, and love, sufficient to sustain hope and provoke each other to deeds of love. Faith is believing to the point of action. Faith is to trust; to rely upon God for one's life. The Christian lives a life of faith

God Is Bigger Than Our Faith.

Religious historians write that the type and fervor of religious belief is often cyclical. The Middle Ages is referred to as an Age of Faith. During this period, intense belief reigned. The Reformation has been called an Age of Revelation, where religious people renewed their emphasis on the revealed Word in Scripture. The seventeenth century began the Age of Reason, with Thomas Paine, Thomas Jefferson, and others arguing for the power of the mind in critiquing religion. The twentieth century has been called an Age of Experience, as charismatic faiths have exploded and modern Americans have looked to experience religion. A well-known writer on the history of U.S. foreign policy stated recently that his next book will be entitled the “Age of Faith,” for he believes the twenty-first century will again be a time where intense belief reigns. I don't know if this will be true or not. I do know it seems that people are giving serious consideration to faith and its place in their lives. God's blessings went beyond Abraham's faith. Abraham left all of what he knew to follow God.

God Is Better Than Our Faith.

Sarah's accomplishments by faith. She bore the promised seed: Isaac. She was well past the age to do so. But notice how small her faith. According to Gen. 18:12 She laughed when given the promise. She lied about her laughing. (Gen. 18:15) Mustard seed faith moves mountains (Matt. 17:20). All God requires of us is that we have a mustard seed of faith. Abraham and Sarah believed God and their belief was rewarded. Abraham's faith shined brightly out of a dark background.

God's Promises to Build Our Faith

By faith Abraham offered up Isaac. How could Abraham do this? God's promises concerning Isaac of whom it was said, “Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.” He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back. Faith grows as we take in God's Word. So, faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ. Claiming Bible promises increases our faith. I can do all things through him who strengthens me. God builds our faith through the rough patches we endure.

Trust God for the Impossible.

Though the line of faith stretches back beyond Abraham through Noah, Enoch, and Abel to the very earliest of times, it is not surprising that Abraham, the progenitor of the Hebrew nation who was commonly regarded as the father of the faithful, is more fully portrayed than anyone else in this gallery of heroes of faith. God gives us an example of faith by sharing the life of Abraham and how that life of faith can be our life of faith. The story of Abraham and Sarah can speak to our situation and motivate our life of faith.

Your Brother Because of Jesus,

Angel

GREETERS & ACOLYTE'S

(Mark Your Calendars)

This is the only list you will receive – so PLEASE look this over

If the date assigned to you conflicts with your schedule, **PLEASE TRADE** with someone else on the list and let the church office know of this change.

GREETERS should be at the door at 10:10 AM and the bell should be rung 10 times at 10:15 and again at 10:30 AM. Please hand out the morning bulletin. Before worship – open doors into the sanctuary and close when the service begins. They should also get the collection plates before the service begins; the collection plates are on the first pew in the back section of the church (in the black cloth bag).

Please lock the front doors into the church. Pull to make sure the door is latched, use the small “key” found on the window ledge, insert it into the bar of the door and turn until the bar pops out. The handicap door will remain unlocked until 10 minutes into service (Cassie will take care of this.)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>GREETERS</u>	<u>ACOLYTES</u>
February 5	Dave Smail and Chet Schall	Travis Johns
February 12	Tom Spencer and Gary Henderson	MaKayla Scrips
February 19	Eric and Susan Schrecengost	Emily Johns
February 26	Amber and Eric Pinkerton	Jonah Scrips
March 5	Sue Quinn and Julie Quinn	Mia Scrips

FLOWERS FOR FEBRUARY

February 5 and 12 - open
February 19 and 26 – open
March 5 and 12 – Shirley Schall
March 19 and 26 - open

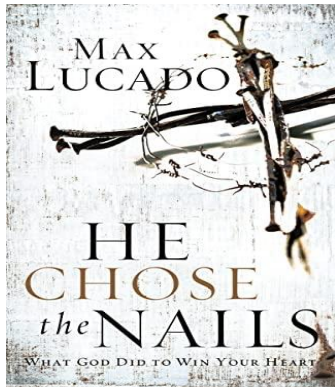
Joanie Riggle is the contact person for the flower calendar. If anyone wishes to request a date for chancel flowers or for an organ or table arrangement, please schedule with Joanie 724-954-1671.

Ash Wednesday Service
February 22, 2023
at 6:00 PM

Ashes will be distributed.



LENTEN BIBLE STUDY
February 28, March 7, 14, 21, 28
6:00 PM in the Upper Room



Please join us each Tuesday as we study
the power of the cross.

To sign up and get your book, please call the
church office 724-354-3117 or see Susan



Please join us for communion during
worship service to celebrate
Transfiguration of the Lord Sunday

February 19, 2023



Universal Church Directories will be taking pictures
at the church for a new pictorial directory.

April 14 and 15, 2023

You will receive a FREE 8x10 photo, a directory,
and can purchase additional photos.

Watch your bulletins and newsletters
for more information.

We need volunteers to make this a success,
if you would like to help, please contact the
church office - 724-354-3117 or Marcia Elgin.



BE A GAMECHANGER!

FEBRUARY 12, 2023

**JOIN OUR SOUPER BOWL OF CARING
AND HELP TACKLE HUNGER!**

As you leave the sanctuary, the youth will be
at the doors holding soup cans
for you to drop your donation in.

This offering will remain at our food bank!

Thank you for helping those who
suffer from hunger!

THE ANNUAL REPORT

I deeply apologize to the
Glenna Mae Shughart family for
omitting "Toots" name in the statistical
report of the annual report.

Therefore, the total deaths for the year
for members was 4 leaving the
total membership at 134.

If you have an annual report, please adjust
the last page to reflect Toots' passing.

-Dee Craig, Clerk of Session



*We're "On Our Way" to something exciting,
and we want you to be a part of it!*

The Elderton Presbyterian Church
would like to invite your teens (grades 7-12 only)
to join us on

Sunday, February 19, 2023
5:00-8:00 PM

for our first Youth Group gathering.

We are kicking it all off with a Pizza party and movie!
Please RSVP, and let us know how many will be joining us.

Please RSVP to Kathy Jo Scrips at 724-664-4607 or
Elderton Presbyterian Church at 724-354-3117

DOING OUR PART FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

The Elderton Presbyterian Church and Butterfly Hill Preschool
is starting a plastic recycling project.

We have 6 months to collect 500 pounds of plastic through
the Trex Company.

CAN YOU HELP US WITH THE CHALLENGE?

The process is easy. Bring in any plastic listed below to the church. There is a garbage can marked in the kitchen for the plastic. Please make sure it is only the plastic listed below and it is clean and free of food, (pretty much any plastic that has a little give- none that are hard and brittle like plastic bottles)

We will weigh the bags of plastic then take them to a distribution center. Once we have collected 500 pounds, we will receive a composite bench free of charge to donate to any non-profit organization.

We are planning to have containers at the Elderton Post Office and H2O Restoration for you to deposit plastic as well. Let as many others know through work or other organizations so we can accomplish this worthwhile mission. If we need containers for other locations, let us know.

Taking care of God's earth is our responsibility.
Let's do our part. What do you say? Are you in?
If you have questions, please call Dee or the church office.

What can be recycled?

All plastic must be clean, dry and free of food residue



Grocery bags



Bread



Bubble
Wrap



Dry Cleaning



Newspaper
sleeves



Ice
bags



Plastic shipping
envelopes



Ziploc & other reclosable
Food storage bags



Cereal bags



Case Overwrap



Salt Bags



Pellet Wrap &
Stretch Film



Wood Pellet Bags



Produce bags



BUTTERFLY HILL PRESCHOOL

The children were very excited to be back at preschool in January! Our month was busy and full of fun activities.

The Butterfly class continues to work hard on their letters. They are also enjoying learning about winter weather, winter animals and fun winter sports. Their favorite song was "*Shoveling*".

The Caterpillar class also talked about winter, but added a unit on Dinosaurs. You might hear them roaring if you are in the church. Their favorite song was "*We Are the Dinosaurs*".

Toddler Time is finally calming down. No more criers, just lots of happy smiles when they come to preschool! They are learning their colors and shapes. Also, we are doing a lot of directional activities and still working on sharing. Their favorite song is "*Hurry, Hurry Drive the Fire Truck*".

We have had a great month and are looking forward to a "Fun Filled February"!



*"Children are a gift from the Lord,
They are a reward from Him". Psalm 127:3*

*"Happy Valentine's Day"
to everyone!*



Children, Youth and Family Services
COUNTY OF ARMSTRONG

Paula McClure, Administrator
James A. Favero, Solicitor

310 South Jefferson St, Kittanning, PA 16201
724-548-3466 Phone - 724-548-3279 Fax
1-833-839-2832 Toll Free
After hours emergency phone 724-543-6509

January 5, 2023

Elderton Presbyterian Church
PO Box 159
Elderton, PA 15736

Attn: Jeannie Spear, Martha Dyott and Butterfly Hill Preschool

Dear Pastor, Parishioners and Butterfly Hill Preschool:

Thank you for your donations and support of 35 children and 14 families of this Agency for the 2022 Christmas season. The overwhelming response in support of some of the children and families involved with our Agency is always so welcome when we think of the hardships some of these children and families have endured at this special season.

In total this Agency served 101 children for this Christmas Season. This Agency has seen an upswing in children's needs during this past year. Housing, food assistance, truancy and general parenting are some of the issues that are overtaxing agencies. This Agency is devoted to our central mission of protecting children from abuse, neglect or exploitation. In conjunction with that mission is our belief that family life and relationships within the family are key ingredients in promoting healthy, safe settings for children. You have supported that goal in your kind and generous efforts.

We at Armstrong County Children, Youth and Families extend our best wishes to you and your families for 2023.

Sincerely,

Taffie D. Llovd
Administrative Assistant

Paula McClure
Agency Administrator

PM/tdl

CLASSES OF ELDERS AND DEACONS

Class of 2024

Jennifer Johns - 6
Chester Schall - 6
John Craig - 6
Nancy Schrecengost - 6

Class of 2025

Blythe Johns – 6
Tom Spencer – 6
Susan Schrecengost – 6
Heather Bell – 3

Class of 2026

Dee Craig - 6
Terry Johns - 3
Dewey Hixenbaugh - 6
Marcia Elgin - 6

THE BOARD OF DEACONS

Class of 2024

Cory Scrips - 6
Nathan Johns - 6
Travis Anderson - 3
Barb Spangler - 3

Class of 2025

Ryan Scrips - 3
Betsy Bertolino – 3
Donna Howard – 3
Dave Smail – 3

Class of 2026

Jeff Elgin -6
Shawnee Hohl - 6
Linda Richardson - 6
Joanie Riggle - 6

CORPORATION OFFICERS

President –Nathan Johns
Vice President- Chester Schall
Secretary- Linda Richardson
Treasurer- Mark Schrecengost
Financial Secretary – Tom Spencer
Auditors- Sheila Brumbaugh, Betsy Bertolino,
Laurie Pritt, Linda Prugh, Alt- Sue Quinn

COMMITTEES FOR 2023

CLERK OF SESSION- DEE CRAIG

DEACON'S MODERATOR- CORY SCRIPS

1. **FINANCE/STEWARDSHIP/MISSION**

ELDERS: TOM SPENCER (CHAIRPERSON), TERRY JOHNS, DEWEY HIXENBAUGH, CHET SCHALL

DEACONS: NATHAN JOHNS, LINDA RICHARDSON, TRAVIS ANDERSON

AT-LARGE: ERIC SCHRECENGOST, MARK SCHRECENGOST, PEG ROWAN

2. **MUSIC AND WORSHIP**

ELDERS: BLYTHE JOHNS (CHAIRPERSON), DEE CRAIG

DEACONS: NATHAN JOHNS, LINDA RICHARDSON, BARB SPANGLER

AT-LARGE: CASSIE CLOWSER

CHOIR DIRECTOR: BLYTHE JOHNS

MUSIC COORDINATOR: CASSIE CLOWSER

BELLS: DEE CRAIG

TECH ADVISOR: HANNAH SCHRECENGOST

3. **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

ELDERS: SUSAN SCHRECENGOST (CHAIRPERSON), JENNIFER JOHNS, HEATHER BELL

DEACONS: JOANIE RIGGLE, DONNA HOWARD, TRAVIS ANDERSON

AT-LARGE: HANNAH SCHRECENGOST, CHARLENE DE LA CRUZ, KATHY JO SCRIPS

4. **CHRISTIAN LIFE AND EVANGELISM**

ELDERS: NANCY SCHRECENGOST (CHAIRPERSON) MARCIA ELGIN, JOHN CRAIG

DEACONS: BETSY BERTOLINO, SHAWNEE HOHL, JEFF ELGIN

AT-LARGE: LOIS BROWN

5. **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

NANCY SCHRECENGOST

6. **PERSONNEL**

ELDERS: CHESTER SCHALL (CHAIRPERSON), TOM SPENCER, HEATHER BELL

DEACONS: DONNA HOWARD, BARB SPANGLER, RYAN SCRIPS

7. **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

ELDERS: JOHN CRAIG (CHAIRPERSON), MARCIA ELGIN, SUSAN SCHRECENGOST

DEACONS: JEFF ELGIN, SHAWNEE HOHL, DAVE SMAIL

AT-LARGE: SANDY WINGARD

8. **DEACONS (SUBCOMMITTEES)**

PROPERTY- CORY SCRIPS, NATHAN JOHNS, TRAVIS ANDERSON, DAVE SMAIL, JEFF ELGIN

FOOD BANK- TERRI MAUGHAN

FEBURARY BIRTHDAYS

Emira Shipley – 1st
John Speer – 4th
Madilyn Silvis – 5th
Scott Craig – 8th
Brian Schall – 11th
Kai Shultz – 11th
Matt Brown – 12th
Joe Bertolino – 14th
Shelby Clowser – 14th
Nicholas Schall – 15th
Bob Coleman - 17th
Dave Dyott – 18th
Aaron Quinn – 18th
Jillian Shaffer – 20th
Brandi Bertolino – 21st
Janet (Mrs. Don) L. Rearick – 23rd
Linda Lynch 26th
Amanda Perry – 26th
Haley Brumbaugh – 26th
Donna Howard – 27th
Paige Beers – 27th
Ashton Beers – 27th
Sarah Pritt – 28th

FEBURARY ANNIVERSARIES

Melvin (Buster) and Lori Rodgers – 7th, 1981
Paul and Marilyn Meyers – 17th, 1968 – **55 years**

IT'S A BOY!



We extend our congratulations to Carmen (Riggle) and Ryan Myers on the birth of their son, Coleson Lee Myer.

Coleson was born at Mount Nittany Medical Center,
January 11, 2023 at 5:13 PM.

Coleson weighed 7 lbs. 7.5 oz and was 21 inches long.

We also congratulate grandparents, Brett and Joanie Riggle.

February 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2  Ground Hog Day	3	4
5 9:15 – Sunday School 10:30 –Worship Service	6	7 10:00 – 3:00 Helping Hand	8	9 6:00 - Deacon's meeting 6:00 – Session meeting	10	11
12 9:15 – Sunday School 10:30 –Worship Service	13	14 	15	16	17	18
19 9:15 – Sunday School 10:30 –Worship Service Communion 	20	21	22 6:00 – Ash Wednesday Service	23 6:00 – Christian Ed Meeting	24 4:00-7:00 Elderton Firehall- Fish Fry 	25
26 9:15 – Sunday School 10:30 –Worship Service	27	28 6:00 – Lenten Bible Study				