

January

2024

ELDERTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

JANUARY– NEWSLETTER – 2024

PASTORS PAGE

“The Beginning of Wisdom”

Psalm 111

We human creatures seem to be born to wonder, to love, and to praise. We are born for other things as well, of course. We work, we speak, we create, and we make and keep covenants together. All these things are found in the human communities we know about, and they take a central place in our lives as well. But wonder, love, and praise seem different somehow. They are expressions of our deepest being and deepest longing. No matter what happens to us or what we achieve, they point us to something greater, something better that surrounds our lives and makes us glad. The last lines of our psalm couple together the praise of the Lord with a life of developed wisdom and understanding.

Thankfulness is The Door of Life to Mature Spiritual Wisdom.

The eternal God, the Source of all, does not need our praise, to gain a healthy spiritual self-understanding, we need to remember that our lives are set in the midst of an unimaginable greatness and goodness. We must take moments in our lives to praise God and then continue to thank him for what he has done and who he is. Verse two and three speak to the praise of God... ² Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them. ³ Full of splendor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever.....It really is all about cultivating a sense of the presence of God. Thankfulness is The Door of Life to Mature Spiritual Wisdom.

Corporate Worship Teaches Thankfulness.

Our text reads... ⁶ He has shown his people the power of his works, in giving them the inheritance of the nations.⁷ The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy;⁸ they are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness..... When we sing a hymn together or when we sing with the choir, we are learning worship. We are participating with the heavenly host of God in praising God. We are being trained for the purpose of loving God throughout the challenges of the week. Sunday worship fortifies you for the rough patches that will come during the days of life. Worshipping God together means letting our lives be shaped by taking God's praise to heart. We give praise and become the praise of God at the same time. Corporate Worship Teaches Thankfulness.

Whoever Fears God is Blessed.

Knowing God, loving God, and serving God brings about a blessed life. Verse ten reads.... ¹⁰The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!.... The psalm is telling us that the first step is to have a proper attitude toward the holy and awesome God. Look at your life and ask what would my life be without the Lord? What kind of substance would my life have if it had not been for Jesus Christ? God imparts understanding to us on the journey of life. He continues to show that my life would be terrible if the Lord had not saved me.

Wherever people acknowledge and believe in God, there is a fear of God. The wisdom of God is more beautiful and valuable than anything we have ever seen or can imagine. Reverential fear is the main distinguishing mark of our respect for God, and it has its beginning in divine wisdom.

Your Brother Because of Jesus,

Angel

GREETERS & ACOLYTE'S

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. Close the doors when the service begins. You will also take up the offering, get the collection plates before the service begins; they 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>
January 7	Brett and Joanie Riggle	Jonah Scrips
January 14	Barb Spangler and Jeanne Speer	Aaron Quinn
January 21	Julie Quinn and Charlene DeLaCruz	Mia Scrips
January 28	Ryan and Sarah Scrips	Liam Scrips
February 4	Betsy Bertolino and Heather Bell	Travis Johns

FLOWERS FOR JANUARY

January 7 and 14 – open
January 21 and 28 – open
February 4 and 11 - open

The 2024 chancel flower calendar
is ready for signups.

All dates are available for 2024.

You must call Joanie to secure the date
you would like to donate flowers.

If anyone wishes to request
a date for chancel flowers,
an organ or table arrangement,
please schedule with Joanie 724-954-1671.



The new Elders and Deacons
will be installed
during worship service
February 4, 2024

A special thank you to all who participated in
the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.
The music was beautiful! We are blessed to
have you share your talent with us!

If you weren't able to attend that evening ,
you can watch it on FaceBook live.
Go to the Elderton Presbyterian Church
facebook page
scroll until you find December 24.



CHAIRPERSON'S & TREASURER'S

The written reports from the various committees will be due for the Annual Report to the church email on **January 5, 2024**.

The financial reports, which includes all bank statements, cancelled checks, etc., will be due in the church office on **January 8, 2024** or as soon as you get your statements and can balance the account.

2023 ANGEL TREE



"Participating Partner with CYS since 2012"

The 2023 Angel Tree Mission with Elderton Presbyterian Church and Butterfly Hill Preschool has been completed.

The names of families in need were obtained from Children & Youth Services of Armstrong County through their contact person, Taffie Lloyd. There were 15 families with a total of 49 persons. 119 Angels were made.

We would like to thank everyone who participated in taking an Angel and purchasing a gift. This mission is a success because of you.

On December 10, during worship service, the gifts were placed around the Christmas tree in the sanctuary, and blessed with a prayer before being delivered to CYS on December 11, 2023.

A special thanks to Jeanne Speer and Martha Dyott for their continuous dedication to this mission.

A special thanks to Cory and Joe Scrips for delivering the gifts to CYS. And a thank you to H2O Restoration employees, Dylan and Chandler, for helping load the gifts into the trucks.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING JANUARY 16, 2022

On **Sunday, January 28, 2024** we will have our **Annual Congregational Meeting** immediately after worship for the purpose of electing officers, approving the ministerial portion of the budget, reviewing reports, and any other business pertaining thereto. We hope everyone will make an effort to attend this meeting, thereby supporting the work of our church.



The Presbyterian Women Christmas luncheon was held December 13, 2023 at Nancy Schrecengost's home.

The women enjoyed a lovely afternoon of fellowship, good food and games.

The women meet monthly at Nancy's home for a Bible study.

In January they will start studying "Sacred Encounters" The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Lukes-Acts

Please consider attending in the New Year. It's a great way to get out of the house and learn more about Jesus.

Watch the bulletin for dates and times.

Per Capita Campaign

What is Per Capita?

Presbyterians share equally, responsibly, and interdependently
in the costs of governing the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.),
no matter the size of their congregations.

Our church is responsible for paying a per capita amount of \$37.40 per member,
this money is taken from the yearly budget.

The \$37.40 per member is divided and paid to the following:

\$25.00 - Kiskiminetas Presbytery,
\$2.40 – the Synod of the Trinity,
\$10.00 – General Assembly

In order to maintain our projected budget, the session is asking that each member of the
church pays for their per capita by placing \$37.40 in the yellow initial offering
envelope and placing it in the offering plate

or

mail it to the church office :

EPC

PO Box 159 Elderton, PA 15736



IT'S A BOY!

We extend our congratulations to Maryanne and Lee Xiong
On the birth of their son, Micah Paul Xiong.

Micah was born December 18, 2023.

Micah weighed 8 lbs. 6 oz. and was 21 inches long.

Micah was welcomed home by siblings,
Aliza, Savannah, Jonah and Rebekah.

We also congratulate grandparents, Blair and Lois Brown



Butterfly Hill Preschool "January 2024" Happy New Year!



Welcome 2024!

2023 ended with an awesome note here at Butterfly Hill Preschool. We had five amazing Christmas Programs. The children performed and sang their hearts out. What a blessing & joy to see.

2024 looks like a busy fun time:

Toddlers are recognizing their numbers, names and starting their ABC's. Learning new Bible songs and stories is also on the New Year's schedule. They are a busy, energetic group and eager to learn.

Caterpillars will be learning the Pledge of Allegiance, to write and recognize the alphabet. They will also have some fun units on Space and Ocean. The children will be learning more Bible stories and singing about Jesus' love and how to share it. They are a fun, happy group of children ready to learn.

Butterflies curriculum for 2024 includes writing and recognizing their last name; they have all mastered writing and recognizing their first name. They will also be continuing the Phonemic Awareness curriculum and new chapters will be added to the Phonemic curriculum. Bible stories and songs will continue and they will learn The Lord's Prayer. Our Butterflies are anxious to learn and we are so proud of the growth we have already observed this year.

As we move through the New Year, we will be adding more fun activities to keep our preschoolers busy!

Good Enough

*God wants me to be myself
For He created me this way,
And since God made me who I am,
Myself I'm quite content to stay.*

*In His eyes I'm good enough –
It matters not what others say;
I need not act as if I'm tough
Or copy other children's ways.*

*God doesn't care if I'm not cool
If I'm not stronger; thinner;
In His hands I am a tool
To reach out to another sinner.*

*Though I am still young and small
In Jesus Christ I'm strong and tall;
So when people look at me
May it be God's own Son they see.*

Belinda van Rensburgs

Thank You!

There are so many people in our congregation who take on many jobs throughout the year to see that the church runs smoothly and that many projects get done. We want to thank everyone, however, please know that if we miss someone in the process your work was not done in vain, God saw what you did!

To Tom Spencer, Tom and Sue Quinn for setting up the outside Advent wreath

To the Fleming Family for the beautiful Christmas tree.

To Cory Scrips, Nathan Johns, John Craig, Nancy Schrecengost, Terry Johns, Dave Smail, Jeff Elgin, Joe Scrips, Shawnee Hohl, Barb Spangler, Marcia Elgin, Betsy Bertolino, Adam Quinn, Aaron Quinn and Travis Johns for helping set up and decorate the Christmas tree and sanctuary for the Christmas season.

To all those who helped with the readings & lighting of the Advent wreath each Sunday.

To Blythe Johns for leading the choir weekly.

To the choir and bell choir for their inspiring music throughout the year.

To those who provided special music throughout the summer.

To Cassie Clowser for sharing her talents by playing the piano and organ for worship services.

To Cassie Clowser for her time & dedication with the sound system and music to make each worship service special.

To the Sound Techs for making sure the sound system and PowerPoint run smoothly each Sunday.

To Dee Craig for leading the Bell Choir, making the greeters list for the year, and for her work as Clerk of Session.

To Emily Spencer, Nicole Myers, Kathy Jo Scrips, Cory Scrips and Charlene De La Cruz for their leadership in teaching Sunday school.

To Kathy Jo and Cory Scrips for their dedication to the Youth Group.

To Joanie Riggle for scheduling the flowers for the chancel each Sunday and for taking orders for the poinsettias and Easter flowers.

To Jeanne Speer, Martha Dyott, Monette Adamson, Alice Stitt, Katelyn Crownover, Carolyn Crownover, Nicole Myers and Emily Spencer for their love and dedication to the Butterfly Hill Preschool mission

To Jeanne Speer and Martha Dyott for overseeing the Angel Tree Christmas Mission.

To all the preschool families and church families who participated in the Angel Tree Mission by purchasing gifts to make someone's Christmas special.

To Cory Scrips and Joe Scrips for delivering the Angel Tree gifts to CYS and to H2O employees, Dylan and Chandler, for helping load the gifts into the trucks.

To Terri Maughan for her devotion to the Food Bank mission by stocking the shelves and making sure people receive their monthly distribution.

To Cory Scrips for overseeing the replacement of the concrete pad and the new sidewalk addition.

To all those involved with the pictorial directory, it is a beautiful collection of our church family.

To Nancy Schrecengost for taking care of the flower beds through the summer, for leading Presbyterian Women, for overseeing the funeral dinners along with those who helped prepare and serve the meals.

To John Craig for trimming and mowing the back bank.

To Joanie Riggle, Sharon Aikins and Charlene De La Cruz for posting the weekly bulletins and worship services online.

To Sharon Aikins for maintaining the church website.

To Sheila Brumbaugh for overseeing the Helping Hands Mission and to those who help her.

To Nate, Loretta, Betsy, Sheila, Linda, Peg, Chet, Tom, Eric and Mark for counting the offering each Sunday.

To Terry Johns for overseeing the security system installation and being the chairperson of the Security Team, along with those on the committee for their dedication to keeping our church family and preschool family safe.

To John and Dee Craig for scheduling the carpet, pew pads and duct work cleaning.

To John Craig for overseeing the sanctuary and vestibule drywall repairs and painting.

To Dee Craig for organizing the plastic collection and encouraging it in the community.

To Cory Scrips for all of the things he does as the moderator of Deacons.

To Presbyterian Women and those who made donations for the purchase of new chairs for in Fellowship Hall.

Thank you continued.....

To the Deacons for planting shrubs and general clean up around the church and the work day at the manse.

To Terry Johns and Johns Craig for trimming the pine trees along the back alley.

To Linda Prugh for getting all of the prayer requests on the prayer chain and for sending cards to members of the congregation.

To Betsy Bertolino, Donna Howard, Barb Spangler, and Shawnee Hohl for cleaning the chandeliers in the sanctuary.

To Heather Bell for giving the Little Library a new look.

And to all those who give their time freely in overseeing projects and doing repairs inside and outside the manse and church building.

TO ANYONE WHO HELPED IN ANYWAY, IF WE MISSED YOU, WE APOLOGIZE, BUT REMEMBER GOD KNOWS WHO YOU ARE.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Sharon Aikins – 1st
Candy Mummert – 1st
Dave Smail – 1st
Deklan Shipley
Dee Craig – 5th
Sandy Wingard – 6th
Sue Pierce – 6th
Mike Cessna – 7th
Donald Kunkle – 9th
Mason Fleming – 9th
Cory Scrips – 10th
Coleson Myers – 11th – 1 year old
Tim Bertolino – 15th
Heidi Fleming – 15th
Anna Speer – 16th
Brenda Coleman – 17th
Brad Schall - 18th
Marion Kunkle – 19th
Tom Wingard – 19th
Shirley Schall – 22nd
Jonah Scrips – 25th
Kent Mummert – 29th

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Terry and Blythe Johns – 3rd, 1975
John and Jeanne Speer – 13th, 1979 – **45 years**
Dave and Martha Dyott – 22nd, 1972
John and Helen Bowser – 29th, 1960

January 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 10:00 – Office Prayer Time	3	4 10:00-3:00 - Helping Hand	5	6
7 9:15 – Sunday School 10:30 –Worship	8	9 10:00 – Office Prayer Time	10 1:00 –PW Circle meeting - Nancy's house	11 6:00 – Deacon's Meeting 6:00 - Session Meeting	12	13
14 9:15 – Sunday School 10:30 –Worship	15	16 10:00 – Office Prayer Time	17	18	19	20
21 9:15 – Sunday School 10:30 –Worship	22	23 10:00 – Office Prayer Time	24	25 6:00 – Christian Ed meeting	26	27
28 9:15 – Sunday School 10:30 –Worship Annual Congregational meeting following worship service	29	30 10:00 – Office Prayer Time	31			