

# The CORNERSTONE

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A publication of Westfield Presbyterian Church—an ECO Congregation

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## A Missionary Journey Westfield Hosts Missionaries from Indonesia

Imagine spending the last 40 years in cross-cultural ministry. Imagine being a field worker in a part of the world where professing Christianity is dangerous. Imagine helping to make the Apostle John's vision of a *"great multitude ... from every nation, tribe, people and language"* (Revelation 7:9) closer to being a reality!

12 as we listen to and learn from our missionary couple serving in Indonesia. This is a great opportunity for us to offer our prayers and blessings IN PERSON while they are on furlough and to ask questions about their current joys and challenges. They will lead our 11 A.M. worship service that day and will be our guests at the potluck that follows. This year our Thank Offering, which will be received on November 22, will support their continuing work.

Please join us for a special combined adult Sunday School at 9:45 on November

## Honoring Our Veterans Join us for a potluck dinner on November 12

Join us in honoring the Veterans of our Westfield family on Sunday, November 12, at a potluck dinner following the 11:00 service. We encourage everyone to attend and especially Veterans and their families.



If you would like to share a photo of yourself or a family member in their uniform, please submit it to the church office by November 5. Feel free to include a brief explanation of service, branch, and rank.

Let's show our appreciation to these special people by sharing some delicious food and conversation.



## Remember: Shoeboxes Due November 5

Christmas shoeboxes are due on November 5. In past years you've blessed many children through this ministry that grows every year at Westfield. Let's keep up the good work. "Just one more" box will save one more child!



# Looking to Advent, Looking for Hope

by Pastor Bobby

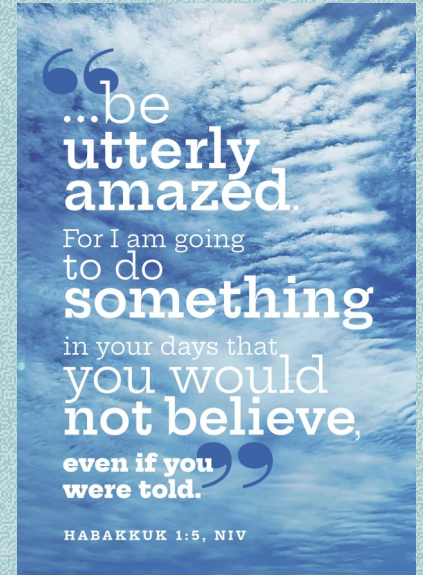
Thanksgiving and Advent are just around the corner. I know I have said this before, but I adore the Thanksgiving season. I love the family gatherings, the food, the weather, and the way Western Pennsylvania feels during this time. It's also a great time to get out family recipes, spend time with people, and enjoy the beauty of the changing season.

For Advent, we will have three Sundays where we look at the ancient writing of the Prophet Habakkuk. He lived in a time where Israel had been decimated by Babylon because of judgment. There was sadness at destruction, corruption, greed, and abuse. At the same time, there was a longing for salvation, justice, and for hope to take hold.

We will look at the theme of "waiting on the world to change" because, like Habakkuk, sometimes it seems like the world is spinning out of control, evil has won, and we want God to make things right. That's the longing of Advent – we want God to make things right.

### Advent Study

On Mondays during Advent, we will meet for a deeper study and discussion of Habakkuk. This is where we can come together and look at stuff that doesn't get mentioned in the sermon time. And we can ask questions together! Mark your calendar for 7:00 P.M. on December 4, 11, and 18.



# Christmas Caroling for All Ages!

## Save the Date: December 10

December is surely a busy time for everyone but plan to take some time out of your schedule to share the gift of fellowship and song with your Westfield family members who are unable to get out and about during this Christmas season.

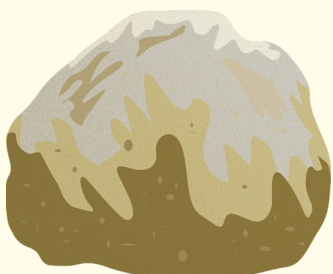
A light lunch will be provided for those who plan to participate. Following lunch, around 1:00, we will carpool out into the community for some good old fashioned caroling. We will visit some of our Westfield family shut-ins and others to bless them with a few songs. Don't worry if you're not the best singer or don't know the words! Songsheets will be available and when we blend our voices together it will be beautiful!

There will be a sign up poster in the Narthex area beginning November 19. This is a great activity for kids and adults alike. We also need a few people to commit to being drivers. We hope you will make time in your busy holiday season to join us and help spread the Christmas message of love.

"Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven."  
— Matthew 5:16



## Christian Symbol



**ROCK** — We call Christ "the Solid Rock," remembering his parable about the wise and foolish builders (Matthew 7:24). Jesus changed his disciple Simon's name to Peter, meaning rock, saying he'd build his church "on this rock" (Matthew 16:18). Although some Christians understand Peter to be the rock-foundation of Christ's church, others interpret the foundation as faith in Christ, which, Jesus said, was revealed to Peter by God.

## Prayer is a Powerful Resource

by Jennifer Griffith, Director of Children's Ministries

This past week I was reading Tim Keller's devotion on Proverbs\* and there is one entry regarding children that I found insightful. Proverbs 22:6 says "*Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.*" Most of us are familiar with that passage, but Dr Keller mentions that

there is an ambiguity that sometimes comes with it. Does it mean let everyone find their own path? Does it mean there is only one path for everyone? And what if a child does not embrace the teaching of his or her parents? Whose fault is it? Sometimes it could be the result of foolish parenting, but also some children make the wrong choice on their own.

There are three factors that determine the way a child grows up – the hearts they are born with (nature), the quality of parenting they receive (nurture), and their own choices. Only God can control the outcome, and therefore a parent's most powerful resource is prayer.

We can either feel too responsible for our children's choices, or too little. God put us as parents into their lives to point them to Him, but their hearts are in His hands, not ours. Pray that God will open their hearts, and that He will give us more consistent, godly lives for their sake, and help us to entrust our children to Him.

*\* God's Wisdom for Navigating Life: A Year of Daily Devotions in the Book of Proverbs by Timothy Keller & Kathy Keller*



## You Are Welcome at Moms of Faith

by Jennifer Griffith

"For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven." Ecclesiastes 3:1

If your current season gives you a free hour on every other Friday (from 9:30 to 10:30 A.M.) we would love to have you join our Moms of Faith gathering. Some of us are young moms who need encouragement (and coffee!), some of us are middle moms who are trying to navigate all the changes in our kids lives. Some are more seasoned moms who miss the little kid stage, but are enjoying some freedom, and maybe (just maybe!) have some wisdom to share with others. Some of us

aren't moms yet, but hope to be someday, and just want to hang out with some new friends. All of us are needed. All of us are welcome. We can't, and we shouldn't, do life alone. Hope to see you!



## A Giving Tradition

In this season of giving, give the gift of warmth! Help us decorate the hat & mitten tree near the front entrance with new warm mittens, gloves, hats and scarves for men, women and children. We are also gathering toiletry items and stuffed animals this year.

We will be collecting through November 26 and all donations will be distributed locally.



## Christmas Cookie Exchange

Do you have a special holiday cookie you would like to exchange for other Christmas cookies? There will be a sign up board in the Narthex beginning November 5 for all those who are interested. Please add your name and type of cookie on the board. Each baker will make 1 dozen cookies for each participant. Place cookies in a cookie box or Ziploc bag for the exchange. If more than 10 sign up, we will break into smaller groups so no one will have to make 50 dozen cookies!

Please bring your cookies to the fellowship hall before the 11A.M. service on December 10. Following worship, please return to the fellowship hall to pick up your other cookies. If you have any questions please contact Barb Cody at 412-576-8715.



## Send a Greeting of Good Cheer by Phyllis McCullough

Our annual Christmas card “post office” will be open from December 3-17. If you are not familiar with this, it is a chance for our Westfield family to send each other a Christmas card and save the stamp. Each local family has a mailbox located in the conference room across from the church office. Simply place your cards in the appropriate slot and don’t forget to check your own box each week!

Please be mindful of the cards you are sending. If you have cards that are going to someone out of town, please go ahead and mail those. Also, please be sure to get an updated name and address list. We sometimes find cards for families who no longer attend for various reasons and those cards are unfortunately discarded if we don’t have current contact information.

What to do with your cards each year? Some folks keep the cards in a basket and take one out each day and pray for that sender. Also, when the season comes to

an end, cut the front of the card off and save them. Some nursing homes use them as crafts for their residents.

No matter what you do, we all love to get cards. Think of those in our church family who may not get too many cards in their mail and be sure to include them. Rather than just routinely making a stack of cards to hand out, pray for the recipient of each card that they may feel the love of Christ through your card.

Luke 6:31 *“And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.”*



## Special Friends

**Margie Benson**  
at Carriage Manor

**Janet Davis**  
at her residence

**Bonnie Ernst**  
at Masternick Memorial

**Ann Fox**  
at her residence

**Bob Kenny**  
at his residence

**Eileen Mateer**  
at the Grove—New Castle

**Hazel Pence**  
at Quality of Life—New Castle

**Mary Lou Trotter**  
at her residence



## Community Worship is November 19

The Mohawk Area Church Association plans a community Thanksgiving Worship Service for Sunday, November 19, at 7 P.M. It will be held at Beth-el EPC Church in Enon Valley.

Refreshments and a time of fellowship will follow in the church hall. Everyone is welcome.



## JOY-ful Update

by Jessie Yauch, Director of Senior Ministries

In October JOY focused on recognizing the good things that happen in our lives and ways to express our gratitude, giving thanks should not be restricted to one day in November. One way of showing gratitude is by doing something for others. That is exactly what we have been doing during our activity time. We spent two Thursdays counting and putting craft kits together for the Fall Festival. We also helped Lynn Lytle with a project for the Community Meal and we collected men's socks for the SOCKtober drive. It is through these small acts of charity we

move from a *happy life* to the *meaningful life* that God intends for us.

In November, we will do some crafts, play games and have a Thanksgiving Celebration. Our schedule may change due to the construction at the church, I will announce, if need be.

If you are 50 or older, and you are looking for fellowship and meaningful friendships, or you just want to get out for a couple of hours, come to JOY to see what we are all about. Exercise at 11 A.M. and lunch at noon, followed by activities and fellowship.

## Touched by Nathan Baking Day!

Support the work of the Touched By Nathan Foundation in our community by baking cookies with us on Saturday, November 25, from 8:30A.M. to noon. Lunch will be provided.

[Touched by Nathan Foundation](#) was formed to provide support for families with babies born with fragile conditions. Please see Brenda Stewart to learn more about Touched by Nathan or our baking day.



## Hunger Help

by Westfield Deacons

Food prices have skyrocketed for everyone. Our schedules eat up all of our time. Daylight hours are short. Everyone is tired. It's not easy to remember to provide for the needs in our community.

Next time you get a grocery order try to remember ONE item for the THE BLESSING BOX located at MoCo House. Our deacons supply it with food each month but it disappears FAST. The collection box at church is located by the showcase. Or, just take your donation to the Blessing Box the next time you stop at MoCo for coffee!

Instant food that does not require a preparation is best such as:

- a shelf stable box of milk
- an easy-open can of stew, tuna or soup

- a jar of instant coffee or teabags
- a can of chicken
- a box of cereal
- a box of crackers
- a jar of peanut butter

If we have ten people remember to bring one item every Sunday we will collect 40 things in the Blessing Box every month!

The one who blesses others is abundantly blessed; those who help others are helped.

Proverbs 11:25 MSG



The Blessing Box at MoCo

# Fall Fellowship & Fun

Enjoy these photos from recent events at Westfield including our Day at Moraine, YO!'s Fall Party, and the Fall Festival





NOVEMBER

## Happy Birthday

- |                       |                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Maribeth Jones      | 17 Nancy Hogue       |
| Cyndee Patton         | Bob Hopper           |
| Drax Liggett          | 18 Arissa Ciavarino  |
| 2 Hope Murberger      | 19 Scott Palmer      |
| 3 Jace Rouser         | 22 Shauna Singer     |
| 10 Ethan Kerr         | 24 Kinsley McConnell |
| 11 Jennifer Griffith  | 26 David McKinney    |
| 14 Simon Itle         | 27 David McCullough  |
| Neil Murphy           | Jamey Stivers        |
| Garrett Ruffin        | 28 Ali Ciavarino     |
| Andrea Hopper         | Travis Trotter       |
| 15 Aaron Breuer       | Rob Whiting          |
| 16 Vanessa Pasumarthy | 30 Katelyn Stivers   |



## Happy Anniversary

- 1 Peggy & Ed Clark  
4 Amanda & Kent McDowell

- 7 Carol & Bob Grimm  
25 Jodi & Bob Hopper