



# The Presbyterian Church of Llanerch

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## NOVEMBER 2015 News and Notes

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Brothers and Sisters,

In just over a fortnight it will be Advent. Are you feeling hurried, yet? Or, harried? There are so few shopping days left until the real shopping season begins <smile>. But if you've ventured into just about any store these days you see we skipped right from Halloween to Christmas. Normally, I'd be tempted to opine about how we need to celebrate Thanksgiving; but while it might be time to "talk turkey," I'm daring to talk about Advent.

Today's liturgical calendar allows for 4 weeks of Advent. Four, almost always completely full weeks of Advent to get ready for Christmas. And almost every advent these days offers little or no room to breathe. In the holiday rush and crush—at least in my house—I often find it difficult to remember to allow time for our family's Advent devotions. There's so much to get done, lots of extra activities, and daylight is shortest, so it's rush, rush, rush and I even feel like I'm getting crushed.

Relax. It's not Advent—at least, not yet. Some years ago, and I've shared with you before that one Advent tradition was for a season that lasted 7-9 weeks ahead of Christmas. That'd put Advent starting right about NOW. Last year, right before Christmas, some of our Church members were asking if we could have a "reminder" about celebrating Advent and Christmas—because with the seasonal crush, it'd be nice to have a chance, near the end, to reflect and be re-centered. It's a nice idea. I like the thought of a late-season "Advent/Christmas Refresher." But a few days before Christmas makes it hard to pull off. UNLESS... we put our minds to something, like, NOW.

What if we started now! OK, OK, don't pull out the decorations just yet. What if we used this time before Advent to do some family Advent planning? What if we sat down as families, as couples, what if we called up our kids and had a conversation about Advent and Christmas. Everyone gets to name what they'd like to do, what they'd like to shop for, how they want to celebrate. And then, we get to carve out our time together, making room for everyone's important "to-do's."

IKEA, the furniture and everything store, recently put out an online/television commercial. They asked children to "write a letter to Santa," and the children predictably named all the toys and things they wanted. Then, they asked children to "write a letter to Mommy & Daddy" about what they wanted "Mommy & Daddy to know or give them." It wasn't shocking, but these delightful children named a lot of stuff that was important, mostly for Mommy & Daddy. The children wanted "time together," to eat "dinner together more often;" they wanted mommy to "play soccer" with them, or for daddy to "spend a whole day with them."

Frankly, you don't have to be a parent of small children to know that the people in our lives need more of us, rather than less. Families, AND friends at church and around the neighborhood—you know who those people are for you. And we all know, that unless we name what we want and make plans for it—it won't happen. Our Session has shared this recently, "Failing to Plan is a Plan to Fail."

Brothers and Sisters, this is the Advent Pre-Game Season. It's time to name what we need and say what we want in hopes that those around us can listen and play a part in a happy, holy, holiday season. Now's the time to make plans and adjust the rest of our calendars around what's most important to us. This is the time to include worship, and dinner gatherings, and spur-of-the-moment-exciting-breakfasts! Take a deep breath. Make some plans. And celebrate!

So, slow down a moment. Think about those you love, what you want to give and share with them that isn't available by shopping. Come join us in worship and bring those you love closer to the God who comes among us—in the flesh. No credit card required—just hope, joy, peace, and love.

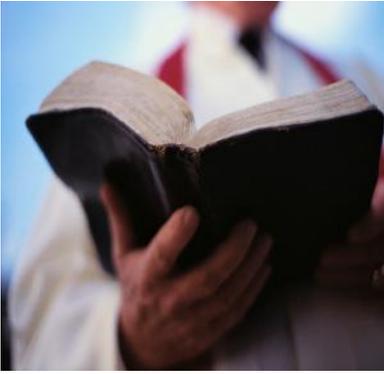


*David L. Hipp-Bethune*

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# Worship & Music News

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## Worship in NOVEMBER

Remember these things about worship in November:

1. Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup> is STEWARDSHIP DEDICATION SUNDAY. Bring your pledge forms with you to worship to participate in a special dedication of pledges.
2. Sunday, November 15<sup>th</sup> we will again be accompanied in worship by our clarinet duo. Join us for this special “addition” to our music and worship program.
3. Sunday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>. “Thanksgiving Sunday” as we prepare to celebrate Thanksgiving. We’re hosting a special holiday breakfast before worship, so join us early that morning for special fellowship and nourishment! We celebrate Christ the King Sunday in worship at 11:00am!
4. November 29<sup>th</sup> is the first Sunday of the new Liturgical Year. We’ll celebrate the FIRST Sunday of Advent, including a celebration of our Lord’s Supper during 11:00am worship.

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DATE:	CELEBRATION:	FIRST READING:	GOSPEL:
November 8th	24 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	1 Kings 17: 8-16	Mark 12: 38-44
November 15 <sup>th</sup>	25 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	1 Samuel 1: 4-20	Mark 13: 1-8
November 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Christ the King/Reign of Christ	2 Samuel 23: 1-7	John 18: 33-37
November 29 <sup>th</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent	Jeremiah 33: 14-16	Luke 21: 25-36

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## ADVENT begins November 29<sup>th</sup>!

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## Church News & Events

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### FALL INTO MUSIC

The Senior Choir will have rehearsals on Thursdays at 7:45pm in the Fellowship Room beginning November 5.

The Handbell Choir will have rehearsals on Sundays at 9:30am in the Sacristy beginning November 1.

## JOIN US!



We're planning our second annual Breakfast Before Church for Sunday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>. Join us BEFORE the Thanksgiving Rush for breakfast and fellowship BEFORE worship. If you'd like to help, please speak with Phyllis Gibson.



We are collecting empty toilet paper rolls for our Advent Wreath project for the start of the Advent Season. A collection box is in the Fellowship Room, so bring all the rolls you can safely use up! An experienced, dedicated group of Advent Wreath Makers will transform them for a festive, useful, holiday spiritual enrichment and enhancement device. Safe to use indoors, around oxygen, or a hospital ICU. Perfect for children and adults. Check the sign-up sheets and forms to order your hand-made Advent masterpiece!

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## MISSISON NEWS

Thanks to all who contributed food for our donation to the Chester Ministries this month. These donations, in addition to the commodity food provided in bulk, make a big difference to hundreds of families served by the Food Bank. Rev. Bernice Warren sends her warm greetings to our congregation. She noted that she is collecting grocery gift cards to help make up Thanksgiving food baskets with donated turkeys for the end of the month. Please see Rosemarie Trainer if you can help with this project. Our regular offering of food will be dedicated on November 15, the week before Thanksgiving.

Are you ready to start thinking about Christmas parties? The Church has long supported Christmas festivities at the Children's Village in Rosemont with our White Gifts offering. These gifts go to children living at the Children's Village residences as well as families being served by the Children's Village staff in the community. Gifts for children, teens, and families are all appropriate. Gifts and gift cards wrapped in white paper (they will be re-wrapped by the Village staff for a particular child) will be dedicated in worship on December 13, for delivery that week. A list of most-appreciated gifts (and most useful and appreciated stores for small gift cards) is posted on the "Local Mission" bulletin board in the Fellowship room.

Looking ahead to January and March, the Mission Team is planning its calendar of support for the Connect-By-Night Program in partnership with Christ Community Church at the Riverview Center in Lansdowne. As in past years, Llanerch is serving the homeless adults at the Connect shelter with fellowship, a hot snack, and a bag lunch on every other night. Our service nights in January will be Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays on January 10 and 24. There are ways for every church member to help shop, plan, cook, deliver, and support each other. Let Kate Hiebert or Phyllis Gibson know if you would like find out more about the program, to sign up to serve, to partner with another volunteer, or to extend our reach by connecting with others who want to serve at work, in neighborhoods, and other organizations you may be involved in.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Our Christian Education Team is starting to provide a simple *pre-Sunday School experience for our younger children—our 3, 4, and 5 year olds* who aren't yet reading. These learning and story-telling opportunities will begin in October on the FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH and are being scheduled for the fall. If the first Sunday doesn't work, arrangements for a different Sunday can be made. We're starting younger and building our passion for the stories of Jesus!



CARE CLOSET CANS are collected in worship on the First Sunday of the Month. November 1<sup>st</sup> and December 6<sup>th</sup> are the next collections. Our Care Closet Cans were recently upgraded by our Children's Sunday School; so please remember to bring yours on the first Sunday!

## SCOUTING NEWS



The Scouts in Troop 434 had a wonderful month in October, starting with a successful funnel cake sale at Haverford Community Days. The rainy weather wasn't ideal but led to steady sales of hot funnel cakes for the Scouts and hot chocolate at the Cub Scout booth. The ceremonial event for Fall was a Court of Honor held in the Social Hall. Hundreds of merit badges from summer camp were awarded, a camp anthem composed by Troop musicians was performed a capella, and many boys moved up in rank. It was bittersweet for the Troop to say good-bye to longtime leader John Leonard and his wife Anne. John has been a leader in the Pack or Troop since 1996, and was awarded a handsome fez and other gifts as a sign of appreciation of years of volunteer service. The Church also warmly appreciates how much the Leonard family (including three Eagle Scout sons) has done for boys in the community.

Camping this month was a Troop Fall classic: tent camping in Rickett's Glen State Park. The main activity was hiking over rugged terrain interspersed with traverses and scrambles among the famous waterfalls. The food and campfires were great, but the peak excitement for Scoutmaster Fran Connell was finding himself eye-to-eye with a bear early on Sunday morning. Everyone returned safely a few hours later. Next month the Scouts will be moving into lodge camping for the year, where they'll enjoy the "Father and Son" campout at Camp Rodney on the Chesapeake Bay. Next month their big service project will be the "Scouting for Food" bag drive in the Llanerch, Chatham, and Beechwood neighborhoods. If you get a bag on your door, fill it with food and a smiling Scout will pick it up and start it on its way to one of 12 Delaware County food pantries and centers.

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# Generosity and Gratitude

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**Thank you to everyone who's participating in our 2016 Pledge Drive.**

**FORGOT YOUR PLEDGE FORM? You can receive one by contacting the Church Office, or you can download and print a form online. Use our website, [www.llanerchpres.org](http://www.llanerchpres.org) and click the "Donate" tab.**

**It's the end of year giving season. If you have extra dollars to share, our church is a tax-deductible contribution! All gifts made online or instantly acknowledged by e-mail. No need to wait for a statement from the Church!**

**Threats about "Black Friday" are real! There will be overshopping. Before you shop, consider #GivingTuesday as an opportunity to spread hope in the world and among her people!**





## YOU CAN MAKE FINANCIAL GIFTS AND PLEDGES ONLINE!



You can make one-time or schedule monthly or weekly gifts using your checking or saving's account or credit card.

The easiest access is to go online to our church website, [www.llanerchpres.org](http://www.llanerchpres.org), click on the "DONATE" tab on our homepage and then click on the "Give Now" button that appears on that page (the "give now" button looks like the one above left, heading this article). Alternately, if you have a tablet or a smartphone, you can scan this QR code to go directly to our giving portal page.



If you have questions about online giving, please contact Rev. Stipp-Bethune or our session members.

The Haverford Township Ministerium presents...

# Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Sunday, November 22  
7:30 pm Worship  
8:30 pm Refreshments  
The Haverford Area YMCA  
891 N Eagle Rd, Havertown

"Praise the Lord, Give thanks to the Lord,  
who is good; God's love endures forever."  
- Psalm 106:1

The logo for "the YMCA", featuring the word "the" in red lowercase letters, a large stylized "Y" in red and orange, and the word "YMCA" in yellow uppercase letters below it.

# Ways You Can Help



## Our Llanerch Presbyterian Preschool is Looking for More Registrations!

If you know anyone who could use a top-quality, wonderful, amazing Preschool experience for their children, please share the word about our Preschool! Brochures are available at Church. We're currently taking registrations for the next school year that begins in September—and it's not too late! Great teachers, a welcoming staff, amazing stories, 60 years' experience! We'd like to share this gem with the community and help change the world—one preschooler at a time. This is part of the mission work and outreach of your congregation!



## We need Worship Leaders and Ushers

One of the worship values we hope to create is that worship belongs to the people as an expression of our diversity and inclusivity. The good news of Jesus Christ is that people "belong." We believe there is a place for everyone at Llanerch. And one of the ways we live that out, is *inviting people to participate in leading worship!* From reading and leading worship to

opening the doors and greeting we need willing volunteers with bright shiny faces ready to help members, friends, and guests, experience the love and grace of Jesus Christ. Sign up by talking to Rev. Stipp-Bethune or sending an e-mail to the Church Office. Worship Leaders can also sign-up online by using this link: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1ifd7-lkfpGH2SCq3TwT36yUIMsSAh5ZuZAjmgIxAYl0/edit?usp=sharing>.



## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

	EVENT	DAY/DATE	LOCATION
	The Abigail Circle	TBD	???
	The Lydia Circle	TBD	???

## HELPING AND GETTING HELP

Do you need a ride to church or know someone who does?	If you need a ride to church, the Deacons are happy to help! Or, if you or someone you know needs a meal, or a visit, please contact our Deacons.	Please see or call Vicki Murphy (610.446.0637) or any member of the Deacons.	
Monthly Care Closet Offering:	Will next be received on Sunday, December 6 <sup>th</sup> —in worship	If you know someone in need, please speak with Rev. Stipp-Bethune or Vicki Murphy	

## Overview of New Beginnings for an Individual Church *Including Outcomes for Each Step Along the Way*

### Phase One: Assessment (One Day)



Your assigned assessor spends a portion of that day with you, per the letter she or he will send to you. You are expected to arrange for people to do the building tour, the community tour, the meeting to review finances and the calendar. Your assessor meets with the pastor and the people over dinner and then either leads or takes notes at a feedback evening session with the congregation. The presbytery is involved in finding a facilitator for that evening. The assessor will take notes on what you or she learned and goes home and writes your report.

*Outcomes: Your New Beginnings report.*

### Phase Two: Leader Training (Four hours)



The church will receive a little over four hours of training. During this training we introduce you to the foundational concepts undergirding New Beginnings, teach you how to read your report and how to plan for your small group meetings. We spend a little time on leading change in small groups, but the majority of the time is on understanding the report and the ongoing process itself. You want to have anywhere from 5 to 10 people on the team that should be willing to consider being small group leaders for the next phase. You will also serve on the team that will oversee the New Beginnings process. This training is offered in person on a weeknight, typically running as a working dinner meeting from 5 to 9 pm. It can also be done during the day if you prefer.

*Outcomes: Leaders ready to run the process plus your small group meeting process ready to launch.*

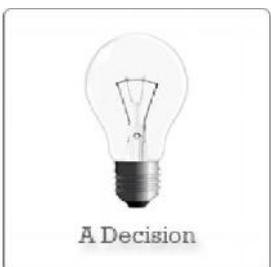
### Phase Three: Discernment (typically 6 weeks)



The House Meetings (small group meetings held in homes or at the church) should involve at least 50% of the worshipping congregation to discuss the report. The schedule for these meetings is determined by your church. Participants will engage the conversation and discuss what they believe is God's mission for the church. Through conversations about the report and questions, you will begin to name and claim what you feel God is calling you to do and how in your community.

*Outcomes: A recommended decision for your church's future from each small group.*

### Phase Four: Decision (usually takes a minimum of 6 weeks)



Each congregation does this step a little differently, but it is when you bring together the results of all the groups and make a decision together. Typically the small groups report pull together their results, report to Session and then make a report to the congregation.

*Final Outcome: A decision about the future of the congregation.*