



The Presbyterian Church of Llanerch

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NOVEMBER 2016 News and Notes

NEW BEGINNINGS –

We take our first steps into a brand new chapter of the 107 year unfolding Story of the Presbyterian Church of Llanerch. What now? The session is making arrangements for a Bridge Pastor who will serve at least until the end of the year. What is next? Our future is evolving, each new step leading to another. We are all a part of this history – past, present, and future. Your involvement is valuable and necessary – your thoughts, prayers, participation, dedication, stewardship, service, devotion – all are so crucial at this new crossroad. We can't have success without U!

On November 6, there will be a special and different opportunity called “The Church Has Left the Building”. We have been hearing about this all October. Come to the church at the usual worship time at 11:00. Then you will choose from several options how you wish to witness and serve – either here in the building or in the community. After our work is done we will gather at the church (at about 1:40), and enjoy a communal lunch with friends from Beverly Hills Presbyterian in the Fellowship Room. After lunch, BH Pastor Kurt Pleim will lead a devotional service that will include the Lord's Supper.

November is a month containing three significant liturgical observances: November 1 (already past) is All Saints Day – a day of special remembrance of loved ones and all servants who have passed on to join the Church Triumphant, the communion of saints, and the great cloud of witnesses. Those who we lost this past year are Steve Zane and Jeanne Twining. November 20 is Christ the King Sunday, the last Sunday of the Liturgical year – a day of triumph in the reign and authority of Christ, the Lamb upon His throne. We will be treated to breakfast before worship. Then on the 27th, the Sunday immediately following, the first Sunday of the new Liturgical year, begins the season of Advent. During Advent we reflect on our deep need for light to come into our darkened and searching world, and we prepare our hearts for receiving God's wonderful gift – the incarnation of Jesus – Emmanuel, God with us. On this day we will have Communion in worship and the opportunity to make Advent wreaths for devotions at home.

November is also the month of that beautiful day when we give special emphasis to giving thanks to God for his abundant blessings – a day to share warm fellowship with family or friends – a day, too, to be mindful of the needs of so many who are less fortunate. This Thanksgiving Day, say special prayers of thanksgiving for the blessing of this Llanerch church family and for the many ways our lives have been enriched in its embrace. May God bless our new venture!

Soli Deo Gloria

Georgia Marshall Schrom

Minister of Music

Worship in NOVEMBER!

DATE:	CELEBRATION:	READINGS:	GOSPEL:
November 6th	25th Sunday after Pentecost "The Church Has Left the Building" 11:00 Commissioning Prayers and then service time in the church and beyond 1:40: return to the church for lunch 2:30 Concluding devotionals including the celebrations of the Lord's Supper	Haggai 1: 15b-2:9 Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21 or Psalm 98: 2 2 Thessalonians 2: 1-5, 13-17	Luke 20: 27-38
November 13th	26 th Sunday after Pentecost Rev. Patricia Calahan	Isaiah 65: 17-25 Isaiah 12: 2 2 Thessalonians 3: 6-13	Luke 21: 5-19
November 20th	Christ the King Sunday	Jeremiah 23: 1-6 Colossians 1: 11-20	Luke 23: 33-43
November 27th	1 st Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 2: 1-5 Psalm 122 Romans 13: 11-14	Matthew 24: 36-44

A Note on pastoral leadership and care while we take the next steps in transition at the Presbyterian Church of Llanerch:

Session has tasked the Nominating Committee of the Church to arrange for worship leaders for the coming Sundays. In the absence of a permanent pastor in the next few months we want to assure you that support is available to you if you should have a pastoral need. We have pastoral resources from the Presbytery of Philadelphia to call upon as we go forward. If you need pastoral care, or there is an emergency, please let Kelly Diiorio or Mary Kane know.

FALL Clean-up/Fix-up date set for November 5.

Join us at the church on Saturday, November 5 for our Fall Clean up day. Jobs will be available from 9-11 am, including trimming, lopping, and getting ready for the final plantings of the season. Troop 434 has already started the job of clearing leaves, but we'll appreciate your bringing gloves and tools including rakes and clippers. Coffee, hot chocolate, and doughnuts provided, so see you there!



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Don't forget the END of DAYLIGHT SAVINGS early on November 6.

Before you get ready for "The Church Has Left the Building" as you turn in on Saturday, November 5, remember to turn back your clocks one hour. We'll see you there.

The Church Has Left the Building is coming! ...Say what?

Have you heard about "Church has left the building?" There's been a little confusion, so let's clarify. "Church has left the building" is a way of describing a DAY OF SERVICE in which our congregation is committing to, in lieu of a traditional worship service. The idea is that rather than remaining committed to Sunday worship, we give up one Sunday as a way of connecting with other people and the world around us by serving in ways that look like and honor Jesus.



- ❖ This doesn't mean we're going to stop worshipping at Church!
- ❖ Nor does it mean we are abandoning our church building!

It means that for ONE SUNDAY (November 6th), when you come to worship you'll be invited to participate in SERVICE PROJECTS in and for our community!

Each Sunday in October, we were exploring the idea of our faith turned "inside out" as we seek to explore what it means to be "sent out" as a means of touching lives like Jesus. AND, the possibility that our service will help share and connect people in the community to our work and faith.

Other churches have tried this and liked it; so we're joining a number of churches in our Presbytery, including our friends at Beverly Hills Presbyterian Church, in participating in this program in 2016.

UPCOMING EVENTS

JOIN US!



We're planning our third annual "Breakfast Before Church" for Sunday, November 20th. Join us BEFORE the Thanksgiving Rush for breakfast and fellowship BEFORE worship. If you'd like to help, please speak with Phyllis Gibson.

Advent begins November 27th

Soon the Advent season will be upon us and once again the Christian Education Committee will be sponsoring our Advent wreath project. Details are still being ironed out, with a number of options under discussion. We will likely put the finishing touches on our wreaths after the church service on Sunday, November 27th. So save the date!



Look for forms to order your Advent masterpiece! All donations will benefit Heifer International. Check your weekly e-minder or church bulletin for more details.

We are still in need of live greens to decorate the Sanctuary and Fellowship Room. Please contact Joanne Janos if you have live greens available. The greens may be dropped off at the church parking lot on Friday, November 25th and Saturday, November 26th.

Thank you for your help and support!

SAVE THE DATES:

December 11th – our annual Christmas Covered-dish Luncheon and Tea/Carol Sing – after worship.

December 24th – Christmas Eve Service at 7:00pm

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Our Sunday School program is now underway. We will be following the Revised Common Lectionary, "Feasting on the Word." This year we are encouraging the children to bring an offering each week, along with their ENTHUSIASM!!



CARE CLOSET CANS are collected in worship on the First Sunday of the Month—Sunday, November 6th ! Bring your family's care closet can with you to worship!

Per Capita Appeal



*Per Capita -
For Love of
Christ's Church*

Our church is a member of the Presbytery of Philadelphia, and our support of the Presbytery is the backbone of our connection to the larger church. Each year, we offer an amount to support the Presbytery based on our membership, known as the per capita apportionment. This money supports local and regional staff members and the operation of the General Assembly in Louisville, Kentucky. You have already received a letter and envelope for you to use to help us meet this obligation! The support we receive from Presbytery is real, so thank you for making this part of your giving.

MISSION NEWS

Thanks for all the support of the Total Mission Project. Three panels of posters now celebrate our Mission outreach and will stay up till we decorate at Advent. A few more posters have recently gone up and new information and thoughts are always welcome. We are not through serving, and we have learned a great deal by showing ourselves where and who we have had a chance to reach out to.

The church has been partnering for several months with Christ Community Church (Riverview Presbyterian in Lansdowne) helping with their periodic service to the Life Center in Upper Darby. They serve on the 5th Saturday of the month, which means about 5 times a year. In July, a crew of cooks and servers from the church went to the Life Center with the CCC crew and helped serve a church-prepared dinner to more than 170 adults and families. In October, the date fell on top of our busy last weekend and we opted not to serve this month. To help out, we have made a collection of snap-top containers (used to take left-overs back home to other family members) and collected donations for a large delivery of fruit. Access to fresh produce is a recurring problem in neighborhoods in West Philadelphia, and the display of fruit we made was very enthusiastically received.

Sad Good-byes at Chester Eastside Ministries now that long time director Rev. Bernice Warren has announced her retirement. The CEM is searching for a new director, full of hope for the continued vitality of the program now that it has found a new home and successful transition to its space in St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Thanks to all the church members who have supported our food offering to Chester Eastside and to Peter Hiebert for doing the delivery. Our November offering will be received on November 20.

Mission opportunities on the horizon: we will be making a "White Gift" offering to the residents and families at the Children's Village in Rosemont in mid-December. Time to start looking at displays and bargains for items for the children and teens in that program: toys, sporting goods, personal items, cozy clothing, and gift cards.

SCOUTING NEWS

Boy Scouts from Troop 434 are in full swing with fall activities this fall. The big camping trip this month was to Gettysburg National Historical Park. There was a lead-up of preparation on the history of the event and a special tour and hike around the Park. This is a tradition for the troop and has been important in preparing a number of boys for the "Citizenship in the Nation" merit badge. Later in the month, Life Scout Max Wilson will convene a group of volunteers in for the first steps in his Eagle Scout project, a segment of a walking trail leading to Merry



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Place from Burmont Road. Scouts from the troop have created almost 3 miles of trails through the township. Back home at Llanerch, Scouts will also begin their Fall service project to the church in raking up the leaves of our big oak tree as the weather turns colder.

The troop also joined with the church's cub pack (462) for their traditional funnel cake booth during Haverford Township day. The weather was great, demand was high, and the scouts raised a record amount of money for their camping tent resupply project. They will also soon install a box next to the Preschool shed for some of their camping equipment.

The next outreach project for the troop will be serving the Scouting for Food project in the Llanerch and Chatham Park neighborhood. Specially marked bags will be left on front steps on November 12 and picked up full of your donated food on November 19. If you live in another neighborhood, you may be served by another troop but the schedule will be the same. Food from this drive goes to St. Mark's church in Broomhall. Some of that food goes to stock the shelves at the St. Mark's Food Pantry, which serves residents of Haverford Township as well as Broomhall. Another large amount is distributed to 11 other food centers and food pantries in Delaware County, including Chester Eastside Ministries. Thank you for your support for this important project and say 'hi' to the smiling scout on your front porch.

GENEROSITY & STEWARDSHIP

A financial update was presented at the Congregational Meeting on October 23. Our overall financial situation for the year is positive, due to the impact of generous bequests from church members. Our budgeted figure for adult giving based on stewardship pledges shows that we are slightly behind the amount pledged for this year. We encourage you to make a catch-up or year-end offering that will put us back on track. Thank you for your support of our programs. Be ready to participate in our NEW stewardship program starting in January. This will cover our budget and programs for the 2017 year. Think also about making the switch to Online giving and enjoy a year of worship, mission, and fellowship without having to wrestle with pesky envelopes and checkbooks.



CONVENIENT PLEDGING. GIVE IT A TRY!

WE'RE GLAD TO MAKE ONLINE GIVING AVAILABLE FOR FINANCIAL GIVING TO OUR CONGREGATION.



You can make secure, online gifts to our congregation by using our web portal provided by the Presbyterian Foundation. It takes less than a minute, and your pledged giving can go directly from your checking/savings account to our Church account. You can schedule your gifts for the whole year, make contributions monthly, or give weekly. If you haven't tried it, you might like it!

Access the "Give Now" Button on the "Donate" tab on our website, or use your smartphone or tablet to scan the QR code on the right!



Notes from all over: Fredrik Hiebert has been busy in November...

A Closer Look Inside Christ's Unsealed Tomb

By Kristin Romey

Jerusalem: (October 26, 2016) For the first time in centuries, scientists have exposed the original surface of what is traditionally considered the tomb of Jesus Christ. Located in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in the Old City of Jerusalem, the tomb has been covered by marble cladding since at least 1555 A.D., and most likely centuries earlier.

"The marble covering of the tomb has been pulled back, and we were surprised by the amount of fill material beneath it," said Fredrik Hiebert, archaeologist-in-residence at the National Geographic Society, a partner in the restoration project. "It will be a long scientific analysis, but we will finally be able to see the original rock surface on which, according to tradition, the body of Christ was laid."

According to Christian tradition, the body of Jesus Christ was laid on a shelf or "burial bed" hewn from the side of a limestone cave following his crucifixion by the Romans in A.D. 30 or possibly 33. Christian belief says Christ was resurrected after death, and women who came to anoint his body three days after the burial reported that no remains were present.

The shrine that houses the traditional burial place of Jesus Christ is undergoing restoration inside the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem.

This burial shelf is now enclosed by a small structure known as the Edicule (from the Latin *aedicule*, or "little house"), which was last reconstructed in 1808-1810 after being destroyed in a fire. The Edicule and the interior tomb are currently undergoing restoration by a team of scientists from the National Technical University of Athens, under the direction of Chief Scientific Supervisor Professor Antonia Moropoulou.

The exposure of the burial bed is giving researchers an unprecedented opportunity to study the original surface of what is considered the most sacred site in Christianity. An analysis of the original rock may enable them to better understand not only the original form of the tomb chamber, but also how it evolved as the focal point of veneration since it was first identified by Helena, mother of the Roman emperor Constantine, in A.D. 326.

Read more at <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/2016/10/jesus-tomb-opened-church-holy-sepulchre/>

POINSETTIA FOR CHRISTMAS – 2016



In keeping with our Christmas tradition, we will again use donated poinsettia to decorate the church. This year the price of each poinsettia will be **\$7.00.**

If you would like to order a plant, please complete the form below and return it with your payment by **DECEMBER 11th**, by placing it in the offering plate. Checks should be made payable to the Presbyterian Church of Llanerch with a notation "Poinsettia."

If you have any questions please call Kelly in the church office at 610-789-1639. Thank you.

POINSETTIA ORDER - \$7.00 each - Order due DECEMBER 11th

Donor _____ Date of order _____

Number of poinsettias: red _____ white _____

Amount enclosed \$ _____

In Memory of / In Honor of _____

___ I will take my poinsettia after the Christmas Eve service December 24th

___ I will take my poinsettia after the 11:00 AM service on December 25th

___ My poinsettia may be delivered to someone unable to attend worship services

ALL ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY DECEMBER 11th