MONTHLY

NEWSLETTER



MESSAGE FROM PASTOR ADRIENNE

November begins with celebration of All Saint's Day, observes a day of Thanksgiving in the middle, and ends with the very first Sunday in Advent. While some people may be busting out the Christmas decorations early, November still offers us a chance for some reflection before we enter into all the celebrations and chaos of December.

On All Saint's Day, we remember and give thanks for all the Christians that came before us. We remember not only the ones who performed miracles and changed the world, but also the regular, every day saints. The ones that taught us in Sunday school, cooked for us during hard times, and offered a helping hand whenever needed. While the holiday is only one day, we can continue to remember and celebrate these saints all month long.

When Thanksgiving comes around, we give thanks to God for the people that came before us and the people that sit beside us. Even when times get hard, God's blessings can be overwhelming, if we know to keep our eyes open for them.

The last Sunday of November is the first Sunday of Advent. Advent serves as its own season of reflection and contemplation, of which giving thanks is a part of. How could we celebrate Christmas without first giving thanks to God for the gifts he gave us through the prophets, disciples, and Jesus Christ himself?

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Stewardship**
  November 15th 10am
- **Veteran's Day**
  November 11th
  Office Closed
- **Christ the King**
  November 22nd 10am
- **Thanksgiving**
  November 27th
  Office Closed
- **Day After Thanksgiving**
  November 28th
  Office Closed

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Thank you to Debbie Anderson and Karen Opilla for completing our bulletin boards in the Fellowship Hall. Parents, please note that our schedule for November remains the same, that the children will attend church, for communion, on the first Sunday, the 1st. There will be SS on all remaining Sundays. Our Christmas program will be on Sunday, December 20th. Please have your children attend as often as possible so that they will be able to practice our song. There will be no SS on the First Sunday of December, the 6th, so that our children may attend our "Greening service".

SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSISTANTS

We have teachers staffed through January. We are missing quite a few Sundays for assistants. A signup sheet is in FH. Please consider helping out. No experience is required!

OUR NURSERY

is staffed and running well..now we can only hope to get some more children involved.

NEXT MEETING

Monday, November 9th at 3:30pm for the purpose of finalizing our plans for our Christmas program.

ADULT EDUCATION

- Our current Bible study of Genesis will conclude on Thursday, Nov 19th. We will then resume on Thursday, Dec 3rd with an Advent study and will compare our church hymns to their reference in the Bible. Please consider joining us for some enlightening discussions.
- The Discovery & Discussion group will meet after church on Sunday, Nov 15th at 11:20am. We will learn about Pastor Adrienne's recent trip to Greece.

CONTACT US

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CHURCH NEWS

DAISEY ROE THRIFTS SHOP

Only Christmas donations will be accepted to November 7th. Daisey Roe thanks you for your donations and support. See you in the Spring!

CHRISTMAS PARADE

In preparation for the holiday season the Fellowship Committee is planning to continue with the hot chocolate stand in front of the Fellowship Hall again this year. All are welcome to volunteer to help with the hot chocolate stand or simply join us in watching the parade.

FOURTH QUARTER LOCAL MISSION

Since 1997 Family Promise of Sussex County has provided services to assist families and single men and women as they work towards housing stability and self-sufficiency. Family Promise of Sussex County works to eradicate homelessness in Sussex County and provides resources to strengthen children and families. They provide emergency shelter, meals, counseling, and intensive case management services. Your contributions will go to this very worthy program to help our Sussex County neighbors who are in dire need. You may mail a check made out to “First Presbyterian Church of Branchville” with "Family Promise" in the memo. Your contributions to special mission projects make a big difference!!

WALK N’ TALK

Fall/Winter 9am-10am, September 1st to June 1st. Monday - Saturday: On Monday, Wed, Fri, and Sat we walk around the circle by Selective Insurance, (the old fairgrounds), or through town. We park and meet by the tennis courts. Tuesday at Frankford Park, we park and meet by the basketball court. Thursday at Woodbourne Park, we park and meet by the first parking lot. Any questions – please direct to Beverly Keur.

PER CAPITA

Just a friendly reminder for those who have not yet paid their Per Capita this year. It is $44.00/person and helps our church a great deal when we don’t have to take such a large sum from our already tight budget. Thank you for your anticipated generosity!

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CHURCH NEWS

JEANS FOOD PANTRY- THANKSGIVING BASKETS

A heartfelt thank you to all who have given generously to Jean's pantry throughout the year. Your kindness and support will provide Thanksgiving dinners to 15 families in our community. Your monetary donations will be used to purchase items needed for these holiday meals. The Deacons will do the shopping!

We will accept turkey donations. Please have them to the church by November 15th. Thank you!

SESSION UPDATE

- Session passed an anti-Harassment policy, a policy which the Presbytery requires us to have.
- We will create a standalone Instagram account for the Sunday School. Young adults are major users of Instagram and we think this will be an effective communication tool.
- Pastor Adrienne will be conducting a "call campaign" to introduce herself to people who are members but we haven't seen in church in a while.
- We raised $600 for the third quarter mission
- The repairs to the sanctuary roof are complete. The final cost was $46,900.
- Daisy Roe would like to fund a lift for the front stairs to the sanctuary. We are investigating the viability of that proposal.
- Stewardship Sunday will be November 15th.

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STEWARDSHIP

2027 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN KICKS OFF

We're kicking off the Stewardship Campaign beginning October 25 with a series of speakers on the topic, "Why I give to Branchville Presbyterian". They've been asked not only to talk about financial support, but also why they support the church with their time and talents. We'll have three different speakers on the topic and I'm looking forward to hearing what they have to say.

I want to kick this off the 2027 Stewardship campaign by making a plea. Yes, we need money. We're currently running a small deficit every month. Fortunately, we're blessed with a healthy surplus, and we can run this deficit for quite a while before we're forced to close our doors. Money is good and more is better.

But ultimately, the answer isn't going to be for all of us to dig deeper. I'm sure everyone understands that our congregation skews old. God bless those people who have been the backbone of our church for decades, giving so much of themselves to keep our church running smoothly and being the foundation of a lovely little country church where we worship God and tell the good news of Jesus Christ. BUT...the long-term viability of the church depends not so much on giving more money as it does getting new people – YOUNGER PEOPLE – involved in the church.

So, my ask today is simple. Yes, dig as deep as you can to support the church financially in 2027. And continue giving of your time and talents. But, most importantly, support the growth of the church. If you know a young family looking for a church home, suggest ours. If you see a young family visiting for the first time, welcome them warmly. (But be careful that we don't overwhelm them and scare them off!) And remember, we're all in this together. If you have any good ideas for bringing new families into the church, don't keep them to yourself. Any member of Session will be more than happy to discuss any good ideas you have.

Thank you, in advance, for supporting our church as we prepare our planning for 2027.

Mike Lutz
Stewardship Chairperson

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First Presbyterian Church

November Recipe

Psalm 34:8 – "O taste and see that the Lord is good."

Best Stuffing Recipe

Ingredients:



- 24 ounces bread, cut into ½-inch cubes (about 12 cups)
- ½ cup unsalted butter, plus 3 tablespoons for topping and for the pan
- 1 large yellow onion, chopped
- 5 celery stalks, diced
- 3 garlic cloves, chopped
- ¾ teaspoon sea salt
- ½ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- ¼ cup chopped fresh sage
- Heaping ¼ cup chopped fresh parsley
- 1 teaspoon chopped fresh rosemary
- 1 teaspoon fresh thyme leaves
- 3 cups vegetable broth, plus more as needed
- 2 large eggs, beaten

Directions:

1. Preheat the oven to 350°F and grease a 9x13-inch baking dish with butter.
2. Spread the bread cubes in a single layer on a large baking sheet. Bake for 10 to 25 minutes, or until dry and crisp. Remove from the oven and transfer to a large bowl.
3. Melt the butter in a large skillet over medium heat. Add the onion, celery, garlic, salt, and pepper and cook for 5 to 8 minutes, stirring occasionally, or until softened.
4. Pour the onion mixture over the bread and sprinkle with the sage, parsley, rosemary, and thyme. Toss to coat. Add the broth and eggs and toss again. The bread should feel pretty wet. If it's still a bit dry, add more broth as needed to moisten it. I often add another ¼ to ½ cup at this point.
5. Transfer the mixture to the baking dish. If making ahead, stop here, cover the dish with foil, and store in the refrigerator until ready to bake.*
6. When ready to bake, check if the stuffing feels dry at all. If it does, drizzle with a bit more broth. Melt the remaining 1½ tablespoons of butter and drizzle over the stuffing. Bake, covered, for 30 minutes. Uncover and bake for 5 to 10 more to crisp the top.

NOVEMBER 2026

USHERS

11/1/26 - John Newcomer/OPEN
11/8/26 - Linda W./Linda O.
11/15/26 - Buzz & Marion Alden
11/22/26 - Linda Osborne/OPEN
11/29/26 - Linda Osborne/OPEN

LAY READERS

11/1/26 - Linda Wistermayer
11/8/26 - Mike Opilla
11/15/26 - OPEN
11/22/26 - OPEN
11/29/26 - OPEN

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Vanessa Baker 11/6
Sarah Jones 11/7
Liz Yaden 11/7
Jeanne Grau 11/15
Audra Preste 11/22
Henry Cardinale 11/23
James Decker 11/25
Linda Osborne 11/30

NOVEMBER COFFEE HOUR

Bell Choir

VISIT US ON

Facebook
Instagram@fpcbranchville
Youtube@firstpresbyterianchurch
www.fpcbranchville.org

Upcoming Events

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BRANCHVILLE

FOR MONTH OF NOVEMBER

NOVEMBER 1ST - 7TH

Sunday, Nov 1st	Worship 10:00am - Communion
Monday, Nov 2nd	Music & Worship Meeting 3:00pm
Wednesday, Nov 4th	Food Pantry 10am - 12pm
Thursday, Nov 5th	Bible Study 5:30pm
	Chancel Choir 7:00pm
Saturday, Nov 7th	Thrift Shop 9am - 1pm

NOVEMBER 8TH - 14TH

Sunday, Nov 8th	Worship 10:00am
Monday, Nov 9th	Christian Ed Meeting 3:30pm
	Session Meeting 7:00pm
Wednesday, Nov 11th	Veteran's Day (Office Closed)
	Food Pantry 10am - 12pm
Thursday, Nov 12th	Bible Study 5:30pm
	Chancel Choir 7:00pm
Saturday, Nov 14th	Thrift Shop 9am - 1pm

NOVEMBER 15TH - 21ST

Sunday, Nov 15th	Worship 10:00am - Stewardship
	Discovery Group 11:20am
Tuesday, Nov 17th	Deacon's Meeting 7:00pm
Wednesday, Nov 18th	Food Pantry 10am - 12pm
Thursday, Nov 19th	Bible Study 5:30pm
	Chancel Choir 7:00pm
Saturday, Nov 21st	Thrift Shop 9am - 1pm

Upcoming Events

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BRANCHVILLE

FOR MONTH OF NOVEMBER

NOVEMBER 22ND - 28TH

Sunday, Nov 22nd	Worship 10:00am - Christ the King
Wednesday, Nov 25th	Food Pantry (Closed)
Thursday, Nov 26th	Thanksgiving (Office Closed)
Friday, Nov 27th	(Office Closed)
Saturday, Nov 28th	Thrift Shop 9am - 1pm

NOVEMBER 29TH - 30TH

Sunday, Nov 29th	Worship 10:00am - Advent