



THE HEBRON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Dear Members & Friends,



I love this time of year—the Season of Autumn! I believe we are finally experiencing the change to more “fall like” temps. By now, as you have come to know me well, you are aware that it is not only the falling of colored leaves from trees, not orange pumpkins resting in farm fields, or even the pops of brilliant hues found on Mums that excite me. Several of us love those visual cues to the Season. You know I love Autumn because of Football! Go ahead; have a good chuckle—yes, yes, Pastor Heidi loves her sports and is diehard about Penn State Nittany Lions and Philadelphia Eagles football. Cheering for my teams, watching them play is therapeutic for me! It is one way that I unwind, and just have pure fun! It is a good way to exercise my lungs!

But, what many of you may not have picked up from me yet, is that I enjoy Autumn for the shifts it takes us through on our Christian calendar. I love all things related to early church history! I’m fascinated with our roots, our faith heritage! I enjoy the discovery of ancient practices and rituals; I’m drawn to unpacking and explaining the symbols and observances of Christian communities through the ages. And...in Autumn, there are a ton of them!

The Sunday before October 31st is ALWAYS Reformation Sunday. Big deal, you ask? Oh yes! Very big deal! On the Eve of All Saints Day (our Halloween here in the States) in 1517, an obscure Augustinian priest and college professor named Martin Luther nailed 95 Theses (questions for discussion), to the door of the Wittenburg, Germany, Castle Church. In those days church doors were often used as bulletin boards. So...when Luther posted his questions on that door, he was hoping for folks to take notice and start talking together about the meaning and purpose of the Church and about the depths of their Faith. This was like using facebook today! Post your comment, and wait for others to reply. Generate discussion and debate.

I’m sure Luther didn’t envision kicking off the Protestant Reformation that tore across Europe. He was simply following the Spirit of God to urge his brothers and sisters in Christ to examine their faith. He wanted folks to review what they believed and why they believed it, and why they did what they did to observe it. He

was simply trying to wake people up from the complacency that had fallen into their faith practices, their religion. He was dusting off the cobwebs of rituals in the early Roman Catholic Church that had become weights and burdens to ordinary folks in their pursuits of holiness.

“Sola Scriptura; Sola Fida” literally means “Scripture Alone; Faith Alone”. These were among the phrases Luther spoke to folks across Germany. His famous line: “Here, I Stand!” shook the land! He challenged people to revive their spirits through the reading of God’s Word for themselves and to place primary emphasis upon their faith in Jesus Christ alone for salvation. God used Luther in Germany to light a lamp upon person’s souls! Revival often starts small and then grows! Men like Luther, Calvin, Zwingli, and later on Wesley, Otterbein, and Boehm rocked not only Europe but eventually the colonies years and years later. I’m convinced that our world today needs a 2nd Reformation---one that in the same way, stirs the church to review, renew, and be revived! With these themes in mind for this Autumn 2017, I invite you and your families to travel with me through Church history to rediscover the richness of Revival!

October ends with Reformation Sunday and just around the corner, with the month of November, begins an honoring of the memory of departed Christians that we name “All Saints Day”. One symbol associated with that observance is a CROWN. The Crown of Life is given to all who persevere in the faith. In the book of Revelation the Lord promises: “Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the Crown of Life.” (2:10) From All Saints Sunday, we will travel through the month of November looking at several scriptures in both the Old and New Testaments that will encourage us to focus on “The Lamb of God Upon the Throne”. Who is this Lamb? Are we serving and following this Lamb? How does this Lamb even become our Shepherd?

We will gather in our homes and churches to celebrate a National Holiday that we designate as “Thanksgiving”, which certainly has some faith connections to early Jewish and Christian practices of thanking God for the Harvest. We say “thanks” to God for the abundance and bounty of food, and pray for continual provisions, and also for a renewed harvest of men’s and women’s souls!

Then we reach that last week of the Christian calendar that culminates with “Christ, the King Sunday”. We give glory, honor, and praise to the Christ, the Lamb Upon the Throne, who is and will be King for all eternity! We anticipate that future reign, and life that we will have with him! The Christian calendar helps us as a faith family to order our days, and to reflect upon the importance of our faith heritage roots! You and I won’t find Hallmark Cards for Reformation Sunday, or All Saints Day, or even Christ, the King Sunday, but all these mile markers on our faith journey are important to us!

When we take time to pause and reflect from where and what we have come, we understand ourselves better. The lesson history gives us is to learn from the strengths and weaknesses of our ancestors. When we allow the Christian calendar to inform our faith journey, there is something powerful that happens each year when we revisit those roots of faith. The cycle of the calendar ends with one year, and then a new one begins again! We begin again with the anticipation of Christ's Advent (his first coming to us) as a child born in a manger.

Why do we gather during the Sundays in Advent, light candles on a wreath, and celebrate Christ's birth on Christmas Eve with lighting of small candles? Because the Light of Christ has come! The darkness of life, of this world he lived in, and we now live in today, **CAN NOT OVERCOME HIM!** We are refreshed and renewed by this truth, this mystery, this promise from God! It is indeed good to look to Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith. (Hebrews 12:2) He is "the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End!" (Revelations 22: 13).

So...ya see! Christ is A to Z on our calendars! It is to Christ Alone and our faith in him through the scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, that reveal him to us,...that we receive our marching orders to continue (carry on!) our journey of faith among the faithful!

Autumn is not just a time to celebrate Falling Leaves and Football! (Yes, I did write that!) Autumn is a time to remember our need for Reformation and Revival! We pray and we sing for renewal in our hearts and spirits! Revive us again, O Lord God!

Peace in Christ,

Pastor Heidi Silliman

COMING UP IN NOVEMBER:

Tuesday, November 7th: Election Day; Hebron Church building, polling location, polls open at 7:00 AM.

Tuesday, November 14th: 6:30 p.m. Combined Charge Conference with other Lebanon UM churches, taking place at Covenant UMC; chairpersons of our different groups, and members of Ad Board are able to attend. Come meet our new District Superintendent, Rev. B. K. Chung of the new District we are now a member of, The West District.

Wednesday, November 22nd: 7:00 p.m. Lebanon Mission Connexion Churches Thanksgiving Eve Service, held at Kochenderfers UMC, Reb. Sean Dougherty, new Pastor at Bethany Mission UMC is this year's preacher.

COMING UP IN DECEMBER

Sunday, December 3rd: Holy Communion observed during morning worship service, 1st Sunday of Advent.



COOKIE SALE – FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8TH

CALLING ALL BAKERS! The Fund Raising Committee is having a cookie sale on Friday, December 8th from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM, or until sold out, in the Adult Sunday School room. It is open to the public. We need LOTS of cookies, so if you would like to participate by baking cookies for us, there will be a sign-up sheet located on the table in the back of the Sunday School room. We will also need volunteers to come in Wednesday or Thursday of that week to help package and price the cookies.

We are also planning to do some gift baskets to sell on that day. This is not a silent auction. Some suggestions for the baskets are for pets, children (toys, games, etc.), pasta, crafting, tea or coffee, movie night, etc. Please help us to make this a huge success!

Sunday, December 17th: During morning worship, our younger children will present a Special Christmas musical program called, Heaven's Little Angels.

Thursday, December 21st: Prayer Circles, Blue Christmas, note time change for first circle (2:00-2:30pm), second circle remains the same time, 6:30-7:00pm. If you are struggling with finding joy this Christmas because of loss, or change, please come and share some quiet time with Pastor Heidi. You will be blessed!

Sunday, December 24th - Christmas Eve Day:

9:00 AM Sunday School classes meet.

10:15 AM, A Family Service with a Children's Christmas Story entitled "Quintilius: The Star That Shone", written by Rev. William B. Thielking. A special gift handout will be shared with the children during morning and evening worship.

11:00 PM Candlelight Christmas Eve Service with brief devotional entitled, "The Love That Keeps on Giving", singing of Christmas Carols, reading from Luke 2, and Brass Ensemble.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

The Disciple Sunday School Class will again be sponsoring the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child. Last year we sent 95 shoe boxes from Hebron Church to needy children in troubled countries. Can we reach 100 this year? Would you like to help us?

By filling a box, you can help share the joy of Christmas with a needy child in a troubled country. Help spread the joy and peace to hurting children by taking part in this special Christmas project.

We will again be providing clear plastic boxes for you to put your "goodies" in. That way the child receiving the box will have a sturdy box in which to keep his or her "treasures". These boxes are on the table in the Adult Sunday School room. If you are filling a box or two or three for Operation Christmas Child – **please feel free to take one and fill it but be sure to return it when it is complete. THANKS!!!**

The shipping cost has gone up to \$9.00 this year for each shoe box. Also, different this year, they are asking that **NO candy** of any kind be included in the boxes and **NO** toothpaste. Thank you for helping with these changes.

Please bring your filled box back to church by **Sunday, November 12th**. The Disciple SS class will be packing and delivering the boxes on that day. Thanks again for supporting our class with this special mission project. This is the 21st year Hebron Church will be sending shoe boxes.

Thank you !!

Thank you !!

Thank you !!

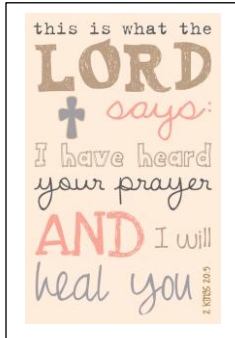


CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS

The sewing ladies are busy making 150 Christmas stockings. We need your help in filling the stockings. Each stocking will have a toothbrush, toothpaste, chapstick, deodorant, and a pack of Kleenex.

The stockings go to Cedar Haven and other nursing homes health centers Wernersville State Hospital, and Hamburg State Hospital. This is a small token gift so people don't feel like they have been forgotten. Let's bring some Christmas cheer to some lonely friends.

Please use the envelope for your gift.



UPDATED SHUT-IN LIST

Stoneridge Intowne Center Residents:

Bessie Reedy, Room # 208

Bob Royer, Room # 109

Judy Smith, Room # 112

When sending cards or letters, include their name and room # and Mail to:
Stoneridge Intowne Center, 7 W. Park Ave., Myerstown, PA 17067

Dorie Cooper, Interfaith High Rise, Room # 315, 101 South Railroad St., Palmyra, PA 17078

Mary Lou Edwards, Juniper Village, Room # 232, 1125 Birch Road, Lebanon, PA 17042

Roberta Greenawalt, Linden Village, Building: Tabor, 100 Tuck St., Lebanon, PA 17042
(her room # keeps changing so, don't have it)

Theresa Kreichbaum, 725 Maple St., Apt. 103, Lebanon, PA 17046

Edie Kreiser, Oak Terrace, Apt. # 105, 1407 Oak St., Lebanon, PA 17042

Dot Ryland, 37 Mine Rd., Lebanon, PA 17042

Nancy Sanger, Spangcrest Nursing Home, 945 Duke St., Lebanon, PA 17042 (her room # also keeps changing, last one I had was #103 and I'm sure that is the most recent one)

Julia Schott, 144 East Chestnut St., Jonestown, PA 17038

Earl Walters, 122 South 4th Ave., Lebanon, PA 17042 (we haven't really designated Earl as a shut-in cause he does get out on his bicycle, but less and less.

HOMELESS SHELTER: Here are the dates for the Homeless Shelter for 2018: May 7th thru May 21st. Mark your calendars. Thanks, Carole



EARTH'S DARK FLOOR AND SNOWFLAKES

Whiteness veiled the village
as sparkling snowflakes fell,
garbed in white were hillsides,
forests, meadows, dells.

Winter's darkened earth-floor
became a sparkling sight,
all because of snowflakes
God sent to earth that night.

What a transformation!
God changed the earth's darkened floor
into one of whiteness
by opening Heaven's door.

Earth's dark floor and snowflakes...
Just then my mind was stirred;
I recalled God's promise,
according to His word.

Though our sins be scarlet,
they'll be made white as snow
if we'll trust in Jesus,
redeemer of our souls.

By: Loise Pinkerton Fritz

Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord; though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow.
Isaiah 1:18

BIRTHDAYS

November

- 06 Ian Hartman
- 15 Sharon Mason
- 27 Sandra Johnston
- 27 Joan Culotta-O'Hara
- 29 Zach Ryland

December

- 01 April Aurentz
- 02 Lindy Aurentz
- 04 Bill Hoover
- 06 Tim Miller
- 06 Brandyn Harter
- 08 Robert Bickel, Sr.
- 17 Robert Neblock
- 19 Dottie Readler
- 19 Sharla Lester
- 25 JESUS**

- 26 Chuck Gerberich
- 28 Heather Beamesderfer
- 29 Delaney Camasta
- 31 Alex Guenther



November:

Head Head Usher: Chuck Gerberich

- 05 Jason Bewley
Shane Bewley
Bob Hogleund
- 12 Nancy Miller
Rose Swisher
Russ Swisher
- 19 Carole Wagner
Jacob Hill
Allen Beamesderfer
- 26 Nick Taraschi
Gary Gettler
Bill McMichael

December:

Head Usher: Allen Beamesderfer

- 03 John Mertz
Josh Tiffany
Kelsey Tiffany
- 10 Russ Aurentz
Chuck Aurentz
Ashlyn Rhoades
- 17 Don Fertig
Dawn Fertig
Drew Gerberich
- 24 Gary Gettler
Nick Taraschi
Bill McMichael
- 31 Jason Bewley
Shane Bewley
Bob Hogleund



UPDATE INFORMATION FOR CHURCH DIRECTORY AND COMPUTER

We are in the process of updating the church directory and computer system and need your help. Would you please take a few minutes to fill out the information below and return it to the church as soon as possible.

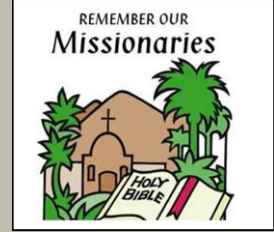
	HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD	SPOUSE
Name		
Birthday		
Anniversary, if applicable		
Address, City, State, Zip		
Email Address		
Home Phone		
Cell Phone		
	CHILDREN	CHILDREN
Name		
Birthday		
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Thank you for your cooperation.		

NOTE: As of October 15th, we have not received many of these up-date forms. Please try to submit them to HUMC by December 15th so we can up-date our Directory. Thank you.

November 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 7:00PM Council on Ministries Mtg.	3	4 DST ENDS Turn clocks back tonight 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous
5 9:00AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship	6 2:00PM Women's Bible Study	7 9:00AM Ladies Sewing Election Day – voting poll open here.	8	9	10	11 VETERANS DAY 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous
12 9:00AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship	13 2:00PM Women's Bible Study	14 9:00AM Ladies Sewing 6:30PM Combined Charge Conf. @ Covenant UMC	15	16	17	18 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous
19 9:00AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship	20 2:00PM Women's Bible Study	21 9:00AM Ladies Sewing	22 7:00PM CombinedThanksgiving Eve Serv. @ Kochenderfers UMC	23 HAPPY THANKSGIVING	24	25 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous
26 9:00AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship	27 2:00PM Women's Bible Study	28 9:00AM Ladies Sewing	29	30	Notes:	

MISSION CORNER



Received this from Debby & Greg September 11, 2017

Dear Praying Friends,

It has indeed been a while since I have written, or at least all the events in our lives makes it feel like a long time. Our Annual Conference for GEM in Slovenia was an usual encouraging as well as enriching. I always love hearing what my fellow co-workers are up to in their countries. I love how God calls each one of us to serve Him in very different ways. And I also love how we can encourage each other and teach each other through our experiences.

Since our conference things have been full of surprises for us. I recently heard someone say that God is not surprised by anything. So I have begun to see things that happen and that may make me anxious or worried, as discoveries. I am discovering what God already knows. So I am choosing to walk in the discovery and ask God what else He knows that He wants to show me. How wonderful to know that He knows all things already. (And here I would include the recent natural disasters)

Some recent events in our children lives have brought us to a decision to come to the States for several months this winter. Both of our children will be making big transitions and we feel that we are needed here for a little while. While we are thrilled to be nearer our family, we are also aware of the work that will not receive full attention back home. So it is with mixed emotions and with the attitude of adventure that we enter these months.

As of November we will mostly be in PA, near to our son. While on the east coast we hope to visit some of our supporters. It has been a while since we were able to do that. Selina is currently in Thailand for two months. She is helping at an orphanage there. She may or may not try to extend her stay. In the case she does not, we do not know where she will land. More discoveries.

Greg just finished a week in Ukraine which went amazingly well. He had the privilege of teaching from his book which is now published in Russian. I have been in Wheaton helping pack up Nic's place so he can move to PA. It has been a busy, busy time and all the while we are putting our trust and having our eyes on the Lord who sustains us through all things good and difficult. While here in Wheaton I will also be attending the beginning of my 2nd year of the Spiritual Formation course through Moody. I am extremely excited to be accepted into this program again this year.

In October we will be in Prague where we will make arrangements to tidy up our home for a few months (with a slight chance that someone will rent it for that time). We will also be hosting a conference/retreat for Greg's leaders that he oversees, and if we have the energy, we will be attending a conference in Switzerland. We return to the States in November.

I am and will be missing my Iraqi friends and Petra dearly during this time, but God has them all in His hand and I am resting there as well. Thank you again for standing with us. We are ever grateful for you and your huge part in our lives.

Debby for Greg too

Received this information for Debby and Greg on September 28, 2017

Dear Praying friends,

Greetings from Prague. Yes, you have read it correctly. We are just arriving back from a whirl wind month of September. Having stepped out of the hot humid weather in Chicago and into the cool of the season in Prague, our hearts feel equally refreshed.

The past weeks have been busy with helping our son relocate to Philadelphia where he has been offered a job and a place to live. We are thankful for the path that has taken him to this place, despite how it has been and may still be at times.

Our daughter will most likely return from Thailand in November. At that point, she is still uncertain which State she will land in. She is applying to colleges in various States. Prayers for wisdom and guidance are appreciated.

Our coming month is a full one indeed. Next week we will be hosting a retreat/conference for Greg's team that he oversees. The following week will be full of packing and getting our house ready to possibly rent out when we are gone for the winter months.

The third week has us in Switzerland where we will be attending some training classes with LifeCare in the old buildings where Bob Evans first began to found our mission agency. We are excited for the training as it will be helpful in our interaction within the leadership of our mission as well as other interactions we find ourselves in. After that week, we have a few days to finish things up with our house before attending our Czech field retreat.

On October 31st, we will be coming back to Chicago. Greg will be heading to CO for some more meetings and then we will finally go to Philly to be closer to Nic for a few months.

I will let you know what happens as we know more. It is a big puzzle right now with God revealing one piece at a time. It is as if He had a light on it but only illumines a little more of the picture as we go along. The first pieces He showed us seemed dark but it is becoming more and more apparent how beautiful the picture really is. We are so thankful for so many blessings. We have had people come beside us, offering places to stay, offering financial support, offering emotional support, offering wisdom from on high, offering friendship and offering God's grace. How rich we are!

I will write more once there is more to tell.
Until then, know we cherish each and every one of you!.

Blessings,
Debby for Greg too

WATCHMAN ON THE WALL

Refreshed in spirit; Renewed in mind; Restored in strength; Reignited in passion

August 2017: I traveled to Venice, Italy and saw the sights with three missionary sisters on two very hot, sultry days, then basked in the five star Slovenian hotel on the Adriatic coast at GEM's annual conference with the theme, *Worth the Risk*. (A book with this title can be ordered from GEM's website-telling the thrilling risk-taking account of GEM's origins and a contemporary mission of risk in present day Europe.) After conference I was in Portugal for just a week keeping very busy- I attended a Baptist celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, hosted a Timor sister and her daughter for a meal and showed them how to make peach pie and attended the inauguration of a member care center a colleague of mine was opening just north of Lisbon. Finally I prepared for my stateside trip, taking a few plants needing some TLC to a friend's and taking Sweet Pea to her sitter's for the six and half weeks of my states sojourn.

USA 2017: I bought a smart phone; saw my immediate family; traveled safely from the east to the west coast of the United States and back again touching down in seven states; gave reports in two supporting churches; shared in my home church at prayer meeting, a picnic gathering and a prayer band/Portuguese meal time; visited with ten prayer partners-supporters; slept in 8 different beds; ate my way through my days sampling a meal in more than 20 restaurants or homes; renewed acquaintance with former co-workers in Portland; enjoyed spending time with dear forever friends; was blessed in reading two contemporary missionary stories that reached my hands as "freebees;" had fun shopping for new and used items in stores and impromptu garage sale venues; visited Multnomah and BIOLA college campuses; was stimulated by hearing Os Guinness speak in chapel at BIOLA; my mind was piqued exploring the Nixon and Billy Graham libraries; sat in awe watching the *War Room* movie and collected a list of other quality movies to see at a later date; enjoyed reminiscing with college friends; heard inspiring teaching and music at the *Revive our Hearts, Adorned* women's conference in Indy; had a serendipitous prayer meeting in the executive lounge of Indy's Marriot hotel with sisters in the Lord from Memphis and two sweet single friends; had four dips in pools during the Indian summer days of September. Blessed beyond measure, my cup is full!

Portugal October 2017: I landed back home on the morning of October 5th and eight hours later was making a road trip south to attend a three day conference, "*The Bible Between Us*," already in session at the Portuguese Bible Institute, with Sweet Pea in tow. (She had a bit of a stomach bug when I returned, but has since bounced back to health.) Messages at the conference surveyed reformation themes from the book of Romans and were highly motivating. The worship music was very uplifting and biblical! (I always loved singing Scripture songs in my youth. ☺) Portugal's present and historical evangelistic activity were elaborated in two stimulating panels. Fellowship with new and old brothers and sisters was heart warming! A time well spent, and so my "tank" is FULL!

Praise the Lord for His care, protection and blessing during my States sojourn. I feel very much like I had an unplanned mini sabbatical.☺

Prayer for God's work:

Moral's classes in four schools- Colleague Sirine is helping out in one of these schools; pray for students to be motivated and disciplined; guidance in preparing appropriate curriculum; witness to school staff- talked today (10/9) to a women named Emily- she is at a crossroads in her life and told me she is attending free classes at a Spiritism center. I learned that she has a Bible, but has never read it!

Less than five minutes upon entering school the History department head found me to talk about my proposal of a project to do with the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. PTL she is gong ho! The history department will meet later this month to discuss the details. Part of the event may be postponed to the 2nd semester of school to coincide more with when the students study the material on the reformation.

On the eve of my trip to the USA I received a phone call inviting me to teach a children's Sunday school class in a Brethren church in the area and then also be responsible for the children's Christmas program. The children range in age from 5 to 11 and normally there will be about 4 to 8 students, so I will have to adapt the lessons to the number and ages week by week. Pray for me to organize the time well and challenge these youngsters from believing families to love Jesus.

I hope to organize a gathering for the women in ministry fellowship on October 26th.

Pray for physical strength for all the opportunities before me, discipline in balancing my time and letting God lead the way!

As always I am grateful for your faithful support and prayers!

Rich blessings in Christ,

Nancy



**HEBRON CHURCH
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER
2017 NEWSLETTER**