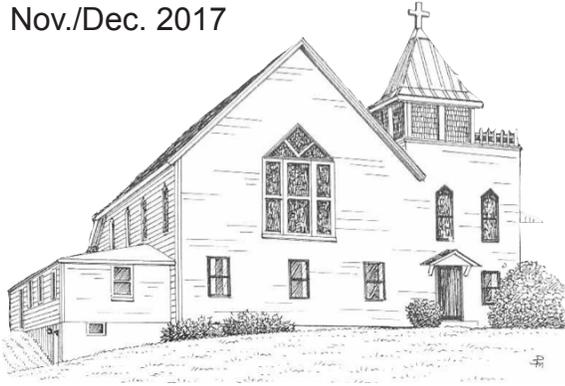


Nov./Dec. 2017



# Crestviews

**Newsletter of the  
Crestview Community Church, PCUSA  
in Gallery, PA**

Loving God ♦ Following Jesus ♦ Serving All

## **Kids' Club Fall Session**

**Wednesdays through  
November 15,  
4:30-6 p.m.**

Kids' Club will meet on Wednesdays for children ages 3 through 6th grade. All are welcome!

## **Teen Time**

**Sundays, 7-8:30 p.m.**

A new venture this Fall has been a time for teens to meet on Sunday evenings. We've just begun and there is always room for another friend in the group. We're planning on meeting on Nov. 12, 26 and Dec. 17 before taking a Christmas break. Teens and their families are also welcome for the Advent Adventure.

## **Deacon Baskets**

The Deacons are collecting food for baskets for families in need at Thanksgiving time. Please place your donations on the counter in the Fellowship Hall.

## **Building Project Updates**

The retaining wall is nearing completion as the blocks are all stacked. Wow, that took a lot of blocks to build a wall that stands 9' tall and is 80' long. It was back filled with 6' of gravel behind with a geofabric tying everything together every three courses of block. We still have railings to build and with the weather changing blacktop work will wait until Spring. We will move on to the railing, porch and ramp as weather allows. Our deep thanks to Sandy Marburger for his leadership with his project and to Gary Schwartz, Ryan Wharrey, Wayne Roccia, Dave and Duane Cerra, Brian Wilson and Pastor Bob for help along the way.

Inside we are returning to work on the entry where the wallpaper has been stripped. Thanks to Claudia Ripper, Gary Schwartz, Peggy Roccia, ChrisAnn Goossen, Darla Gates and Debbye Shackelford. Denny Hasenflu is helping with plaster repairs. We hope that additional drywall work and painting will happen soon.

## **Fun & Fellowship: Painting Party**

**Brush and Barstool**

**209 Main Street, Butler**

**Saturday, November 18, 7 p.m.**

Dorothy will instruct our group as we each paint our own "Fall Trail." Register online at [www.brushandbarstool.com](http://www.brushandbarstool.com). Use the "dwntwnbutler" coupon code for a 20% discount—net cost \$28.00. Contact Claudia with questions or for help with registration.

## **Adult Bible Study**

**Wednesday, Nov. 29, 7 p.m.**

Our Adult Bible study is focusing on Advent using Old Testament scholar Walter Brueggeman's devotional *Names for the Messiah*. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall. New faces are welcome!

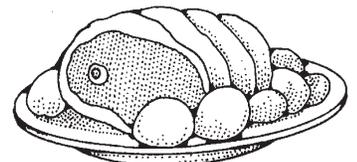
## **Mister Rogers' Sweater Drive**

Since 2000, the Children's Museum has collected more than 35,500 sweaters to share with families in need throughout our southwestern Pennsylvania "neighborhood." Drop off new or gently used sweaters of all sizes to the bin in the Fellowship Hall by December 15 and we'll see that they go to someone in need.

## **Crestview Family Dinner**

**Sunday, December 3,  
Noon**

Join us, following worship, for a festive feast on the First Sunday of Advent. Meat and drinks will be provided by the session. Everyone is invited to bring a side dish or dessert as you are able.



## NOVEMBER CALENDAR

### Wednesday, November 1

Kids' Club, 4:30-6 p.m.  
Adult Bible Study, 7 p.m.

### Wednesday, November 8

Ministerium, 12 p.m.  
Spiritual Formation, 3 p.m.  
Kids' Club, 4:30-6 p.m.

### Thursday, November 9

Choir Practice, 7:15 p.m.

### Sunday, November 12

Teen Time, 7-8:30 p.m.

### Monday-Friday,

### November 13-17

Pastor Bob on Study Leave

### Wednesday, November 15

Kids' Club, 4:30-6 p.m.

### Thursday, November 16

Choir Practice, 7:15 p.m.

### Saturday, November 18

Painting at the Brush &  
Barstool, 7 p.m.

### Sunday, November 19

Rev. Clark Sawyer will lead the  
worship

### Thursday, November 23

*Thanksgiving*

### Sunday, November 26

Teen Time, 7-8:30 p.m.

### Wednesday, November 29

Adult Bible Study, 7 p.m.

## Study Leave

Pastor Bob will be on study leave from November 13-19 as he takes a class on Transitional Ministry at Pittsburgh Seminary. Rev. Clark Sawyer, recently retired pastor from Hill Presbyterian Church in Butler, will be our speaker on the 19th.

## From the Pastor's Desk

### Of Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas,

ChrisAnn and I give thanks for the blessings of some recent time to relax, reset and rejuvenate. We had a marvelous trip to North Carolina last month, which included a week at Montreat for a class on Celtic Spirituality. Patrick, and others, brought the Christian faith to Ireland, sharing the good news of the gospel in the 5th century. They found that it was often to their advantage to work with some of the pre-Christian traditions of the Emerald Island people. One of these traditions is the idea of thin places, those spots where the veil between this world and the next is almost porous. A place where one might hear the beckoning of the Spirit. A place where you can encounter God. Holy wells from time immemorial dot the Irish landscape and are their version of a thin place.

The missionaries had a choice, embrace the Holy wells or push back against them. Embrace them they did. In such the people knew that they were loved and their love of God flourished. Thin places are quite Biblical. Moses went up the mountain to hear God's voice. Jesus took three disciples up the mountain to meet Moses and Elijah. The quiet of the garden was a place for our Lord to pray.

Thin places can be very individual, one's own special prayer nook or walking path where contemplation opens oneself to God. They are also communal such as a church or a retreat center, the seashore or a mountain overlook. Montreat is a thin place for us and for many who spend time there. Thin places may also be found at the bedside of a family member or friend as the angels wait upon them. They may be at the breakfast nook or in the middle of a long, dark night when sleep has evaded the mind. Thin places may even be with a favorite devotional writer on your electronic device.

In this season of Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas the calendar fills with more activity than any other time of year. Every extra event means time needed to plan, prepare and participate. All this drains us, often times moving us further away from the Spirit of the season instead of deeper into it. I hope that you can take time to go to one of your thin places in the fulness of these days. Take time to lift to God the longings of your heart, to rest in God's grace and the holiness of your sacred space. May time in our thin place lead us to a curiosity about where God is inviting us to walk alongside with what God is up to in our world.

In this season, we find that pushing back against all that is today's culture will probably alienate us from those who need to hear the good news the most. Being filled with the love of Christ and his grace we might just offer a searching soul the hope that is everyone's in the birth of a Savior. Then may we kneel at the manger together.

Faithfully yours,



Pastor Bob Goossen

## Family Advent Adventure

Wednesday, December 6, 4:30-6:30

Kids' Clubbers and Teens, along with their families, will have an Advent Adventure! We'll be creating more crèche figures, hearing a Christmas story, singing carols and sharing a meal together.

### Fun & Fellowship:

## Family Sugar Cookie Bake

Saturday, December 16, 1 p.m.

Join the cookie pros in the Crestview kitchen for a joyful afternoon of baking and decorating sugar cookies for Christmas. All you need to bring is your rolling pin to make some sweet treats.

## Joy Gift Offering

The Joy Gift offering will be collected during the Advent season. Gifts to this special fund support PCUSA pastors in needy situations and our racial ethnic affiliated colleges. Watch the bulletin and Sunday announcements for details.

## Annual Meeting

Sunday, December 17, Noon

The Annual Congregational meeting will be held to celebrate the year just past, receive reports, elect officers and approve the 2018 terms of call for Pastor Bob.

## Christmas Eve Worship

Christmas Eve lands on a Sunday this year. We will have our regular morning worship at 11 a.m. as we mark the fourth Sunday of Advent. A Christmas Eve Carols and Candlelight service will be held at 8:30 p.m. Our special offering will go to support the Deacon's Fund as they assist family and friends in times of need. Come, kneel at the manger.



## Baptism

Sunday, December 10

Kiley Elaine Wiles, daughter of Megan DeHart and Dennis Wiles, will receive the Sacrament of Baptism on December 10. Delighted grandfather is Bill DeHart.

## Church Family Celebrations

### November Birthdays

- 10 Mary Marburger
- 12 David Cerra
- 22 Keiran Mazzoni
- 25 Kim Fyock

### November Anniversaries

- 3 Chuck & Donna Cahall
- 9 Bob & ChrisAnn Goossen

### December Birthdays

- 2 Darla Gates
- 7 Greg Schwartz
- 12 Elaine Settlemire
- 21 Carol Baker  
Cooper Stadtfeld
- 26 Mary Koepke

## Crestviews

Crestview Community Church,  
PCUSA

210 Kline Avenue, Box AA  
Callery, PA 16024

724-538-8559

Email:

[crestviewpcusa@  
zoominternet.net](mailto:crestviewpcusa@zoominternet.net)

Website:

[www.crestviewpcusa.org](http://www.crestviewpcusa.org)

Facebook:

Crestview Community Church

Crestviews is published monthly except January and July. Please have submissions to the church office by the 20th of the prior month. If you wish to receive our newsletter, send us a note with your email or physical address.

**Crestview Community Church, PCUSA**  
210 Kline Avenue, Box AA  
Callery, PA 16024

❄ ❄ ❄ **DECEMBER CALENDAR** ❄ ❄ ❄

*We worship each Sunday at 11 a.m.*

**Sunday, December 3**

*First Sunday of Advent*  
worship service, 11 a.m.  
All Church Dinner, 12 p.m.

**Monday, December 4**

Session, 7 p.m.

**Wednesday, December 6**

Family Advent Adventure,  
4:30-6:30 p.m.

**Thursday, December 7**

Choir Practice, 7:15 p.m.

**Sunday, December 10**

*Second Sunday of Advent*  
worship service with  
Baptism of Kiley Wiles,  
granddaughter of Bill  
DeHart, 11 a.m.

**Wednesday, December 13**

Ministerium, 8:30 a.m.

**Thursday, December 14**

Choir Practice, 7:15 p.m.

**Saturday, December 16**

Sugar Cookie Bake, 1 p.m.



**Sunday, December 17**

*Third Sunday of Advent*  
worship service, 11 a.m.  
Annual Meeting, 12 p.m.  
Teen Time, 7-8:30 p.m.

**Thursday, December 21**

Choir Practice, 7:15 p.m.

**Sunday, December 24**

*Fourth Sunday of Advent*  
worship service, 11 a.m.  
*Christmas Eve* worship  
service, 8:30 p.m.

**Monday, December 25**

*Christmas Day*

**Sunday, December 31**

Worship Service, 11 a.m.