



CONTACT

Reformed and Always Reforming?

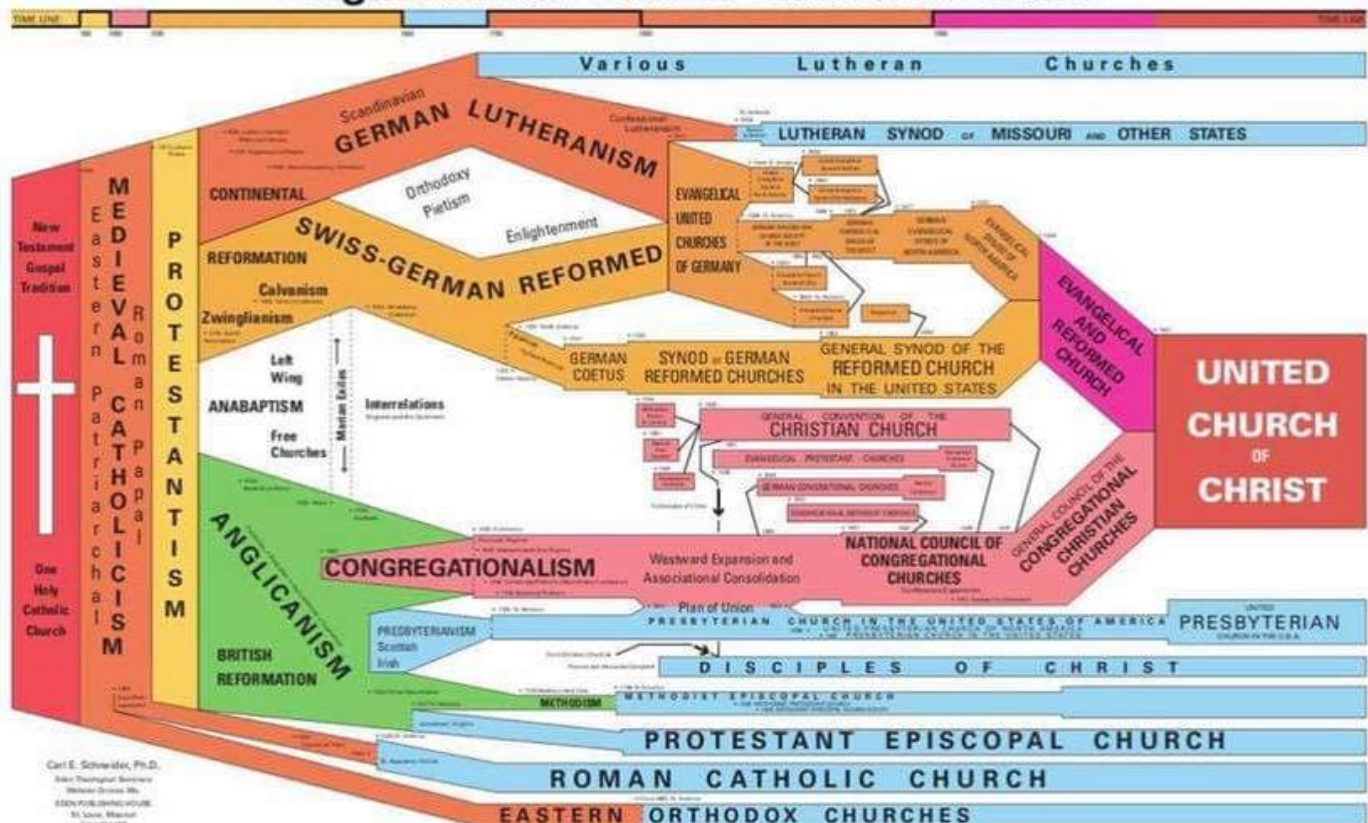
by Pastor Christina



We tend to think of the Reformation as something that happened a long time ago, on October 31, 1517, the eve of All Saints' Day. But really, Martin Luther's radical 95 Theses were the culmination of a great deal of prayer and study, that sparked a conversation that continues even today. Martin Luther didn't set out to start a new church; his desire was to create change in the existing church. But change, especially when it involves criticism and threats to those in power, is often met with hostility. For Martin Luther, it led to his excommunication from the dominant church in the West, the Roman Catholic Church.

Many different expressions of Christianity emerged from Martin Luther's original act, beginning with those who followed Luther. That original group split into the Continental Reformation, the British Reformation, and Anabaptism. And from there, well, we just kept on going, and going, and going... The diagram below doesn't even touch the vast array of churches that exist today! [continued next page]

Origins of the United Church of Christ



Reformed and Always Reforming? [continued from first page]

Always reforming doesn't mean newer is better; for the original Reformers, it actually meant reforming back to older practices. Always reforming means continually reevaluating our focus: have we become a church of consumers? are we still proclaiming the Gospel from the church into the world? are our faith practices helping us grow as disciples, or have they become a mindless routine? These are the kinds of questions an always reforming church asks.

In *The Great Emergence*, Phyllis Tickle theorizes that every 500 years, the church undergoes a reformation, and that we are in one such period right now. *"She identifies these periodic upheavals as the Great Reformation, the Great Schism, the Great Decline and Fall, and the Great Transformation, and says they stretch back into Jewish history as well."* (For more about this, go to <https://faithandleadership.com/phyllis-tickle-anthill>)

We are beginning a reformation process here at Church of the Redeemer. The development of mission and vision statements will help to give our church focus as we look to be doers of the Gospel in a world that is increasingly un-churched. As we move along the way, you might feel a little uneasy at times. There will be discussion about what we've done in the past, and you may feel nostalgic, or even full-blown grief at what was. New ideas that sound out of the world may be floated in conversation. Giving voice to the past or to new ideas does not mean that we affirm them as something we MUST do. It is simply brainstorming, throwing ideas onto a flip chart, and letting the discourse spark ideas in others.

We are embarking on a creative journey that will take time to fully develop. I imagine it like a monoprint. You can ink up the plate, press in an image, add paper, and pull a print to get a successful print. But if you add texture to the ink, take a break and let it dry, then add a different color, with a different texture, let it dry, and repeat that several times, your final pulled image will be full of depth and layers that provide more interest than the single layer print. The hardest part of the process is waiting for one layer to dry before adding the next layer. Being impatient only smears the work and turns the vibrant colors to mud.

The greatest gifts we can give to each other in this time of reformation (both of our church and of the Universal Church) are the gifts of time and space. We all have different ways of learning and understanding. I'm a verbal processor, and will talk out an idea. My Dad is an internal processor, who only tells you his idea once he has thought about it for months. My teenage years were tough on both of us. He would present me with something that he'd thought about for a long time, and expect me to accept it immediately. I'd hear it, and need to talk it out (or, as my Dad would say, argue it to death).

I hope you all are as excited as I am by what Reformation means for the Church. Why? Because I love a good rummage sale¹; you never know what treasures you will find, or what creativity you will unleash.

¹ Rt. Rev. Mark Dyer, an Anglican bishop known for his wit as well as his wisdom, famously observes from time to time that the only way to understand what is currently happening to us as 21st-century Christians in North America is first to understand that about every 500 years the church feels compelled to hold a giant rummage sale. And, he goes on to say, we are living in and through one of those 500-year sales. (<https://sojo.net/magazine/august-2008/great-emergence>)

November Leadership Team Update

By Kira Merkert, Chair



The Leadership Team met on October 14, 2021 for its regular monthly meeting. After our opening activities, Jonathan Bell presented the Treasurer's report. A few odds and ends came up for discussion. The suggestion was made that to save electricity, it may be worthwhile to look at replacing the refrigerator in the kitchen. It seems to leak at times, and we might be able to save electricity with a newer model. There was also interesting discussion about the zoning of the church property. The church and grounds is a separate parcel from the back lot and garage. The church portion is tax exempt, but the back lot is not. There may be opportunities to save money on taxes in the future if we were ever to look into having the back lot rezoned as church land and erecting a structure that would be used for worship. Likewise, the back lot would provide an opportunity to raise funds if we were ever to decide to sell it. This discussion was purely for informational purposes and is not something we are going to research further at this time.

As discussed last month, the Leadership Team approved a plan to have Verizon add a second internet line with a router in the sanctuary. This option is very cost effective for Redeemer and will allow for a stronger internet connection in the sanctuary. Tom Bell is in the process of scheduling this upgrade with Verizon.

A grant opportunity was discussed, which provides funding to UCC congregations in Dauphin County for sanctuary improvements. Jan Stong will research further to see if we might be able to request funds for either security upgrades or technology upgrades in the sanctuary.

The Leadership Team revisited the building Covid policy and decided that we will revert back to optional masks. We are still asking all who use the building to please be mindful of social distancing and cleaning meeting spaces

and restrooms after use. We also request that any group who learns of a positive Covid case within their group, please let the church office know.

Lorna Davis updated the Leadership Team on some discussions she had with folks about the building security options we are considering in regard to the sanctuary doors. These discussions are ongoing. If anyone is interested in seeing the meeting notes of options we have been learning about, please contact the church office.

Options were discussed for grounds maintenance/weeding. Discussion has been taking place about what we could do out front to make for easier maintenance. Options include removing the ivy and mulching or adding stones, or possibly building a retaining wall. We will be getting some estimates on the various options. There is also a possibility of bringing in groups of high school students for weeding as part of a service project.

Looking ahead, our annual congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, December 12 following worship. We will be presenting the preliminary budget on November 14 so congregation members can ask questions and offer input before the Leadership Team votes on the final budget. Please also prayerfully consider serving on the Leadership Team as we enter a new calendar year.

Our next Leadership Team meeting will be held on Thursday, November 11, 2021 at 7pm. As always, please reach out to the Leadership Team if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

Respectfully submitted,
Kira Merkert
Leadership Team Chair



My Lord God,

I have no idea where I am going.
I do not see the road ahead of me.
I cannot know for certain where it will end,
nor do I really know myself,
and the fact that I think I am following your will
does not mean that I am actually doing so.
But I believe that the desire to please you
does in fact please you.
And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.
I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.
And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road,
though I may know nothing about it.
Therefore, will I trust you always though
I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death.
I will not fear, for you are ever with me,
and you will never leave me to face my perils alone. Amen.

-Thomas Merton

Special November Celebrations

Happy Birthday! Have a great day!

Lois Wood

Happy Anniversary! Congratulations!

Matt & Betsy Baker



Kemmy Himmelberger Remembered

After the passing of our dear Kemmy, her family generously requested that donations be made to Redeemer in Kemmy's name. All total, Redeemer received \$575 from six contributors. Her family writes:

Dear Pastor Christina and Members of the Church of the Redeemer UCC,

Thank you all for your prayers and support during the past several months. We sincerely appreciate the many cards and the lovely flowers sent to the funeral home honoring our mother. She will be missed!

*Fondly,
Wendy (Carfagno) & Family*

November Love INC. Donation Drive

Love INC Hershey provides a myriad of services to individuals and families who are experiencing challenges in their lives. Redeemer supports their efforts in several ways that include offering meeting space for their Wednesday evening financial wellness classes and also support of their monthly drives for personal care or non-food grocery needs. These donations are shared with local food pantries in the Hershey and Palmyra area then distributed to those in need.

During the month of November, we will be collecting donations of dish detergents and/or household cleaners. A collection bin will be in the church lobby. **Thank you** for continuing to support these monthly drives. Please see Jan Stong with questions.





Important Redeemer Notices



Advent Book Study

Please join us for an Advent Book Study at 7pm on each of the four Mondays of Advent (**November 29, December 6, 13, 20**). If it is safe to have Soup for the Soul in light of the pandemic, we will eat at 6:30pm. More details will follow.



Choir Rehearsals are Starting Back Up!

If you've always enjoyed singing in the car or the shower, why not join the Redeemer Chancel Choir?!? Rehearsals are scheduled for **November 10th and 17th** at 6:30pm. Handbell Choir will start soon as well, immediately following Chancel Choir. What a blessing to be back together for fellowship, with hearts lifted in song, after a very long year-and-a-half hiatus.



Redeemer Annual Meeting Set for December 12

The Leadership Team has set the date of **December 12** for the 2021 Annual Meeting. The meeting will be held following worship service. Formal notice will be sent to all members two weeks prior to the meeting.

Gift Cards for UCC Homes Residents: Help to bring joy to UCC homes residents this holiday season *and* help Redeemer at the same time! Order **\$10 gift cards** from the Scrip Program (**ORDER DUE TO JAN STONG BY NOV. 10**) for the following: Walmart, Dunkin Donuts, Dairy Queen, Amazon. Scrip order forms are located in the sanctuary and in the pocket bin on the office door. You may also purchase **\$5 or \$10 gift cards** from Giant, Boscov's, CVS, Rite Aid, and Hobby Lobby. All cards are due to Audrey Baker by Dec. 13. Contact or see Audrey for details.



Holiday Decorating and Poinsettia Orders: As the holiday season quickly approaches, we wanted to give you a few heads up on our decorating plans. The tree will be going up in the sanctuary on Friday, Nov. 26 followed by hanging of the greens later that first Advent weekend, day and time to be determined. Poinsettia orders are due by **Monday, November 14**. Please be sure to pick up your order form in the sanctuary or contact the church office for more information. Poinsettias may be picked up following the Christmas Eve service.

"Fill the Sills" Food Drive

To date, we have collected 157 pounds of food for the drive. The final date for donations is Sunday, November 21. Thank you for placing your donations in the cart in the lobby so that they can be weighed and added to our total each week. Prefer to give a cash contribution? That works too!

Please make your checks payable to the Hershey Community Food Bank and submit them to Audrey Baker or the church office by 11/21.

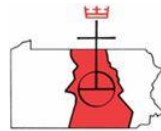


Feeding the Community

Thank you for supporting this year's drive!

BE THE CHURCH
*Protect the environment. Care for the poor.
 Forgive often. Reject racism.
 Fight for the powerless.
 Share earthly and spiritual resources.
 Embrace diversity. Love God. Enjoy this life.*

Call it a congregation
 UNITED CHURCH
 OF CHRIST



Dear Members and Friends of Penn Central Conference,

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith” (Hebrews 12:1-2a)

When I was a child, I attended a small UCC church in Elon College, NC. I was present in Sunday School about every Sunday as my father was the Sunday School Superintendent and the High School Class teacher. Every year as I prepare for All Saints’ Sundays two things come to mind – well several things come to mind but two that I will share in this space: Hebrews 11-12:2 and Sandy.

I am moved every time I read Hebrews 11 and the list of faithful examples in keeping and teaching and acting on their faith in God. I just love the mental images that cross my mind as I remember these stories. “It’s like the Holy Ghost running through”* me when I read that list of names: Cain, Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Jacob, Moses, Rahab...”and what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon and Barak and...” (11:32)

A challenge this week as you think about the cloud of witnesses who taught you faith in Jesus: read Hebrews 11:1-12:2. “Maybe even email me and tell me about your Holy Ghost experience!”

I turn to this reading each fall as the Church approaches All Saints’ Day because it stands as a reminder to me not only of the Biblical witnesses that form and inform my faith but also the witness of the great cloud of so many that have influenced my life with their earthly examples.

One person in the great cloud for me is Sandy. She was my Sunday School teacher for a lot of years. And she loved Jesus. She taught Jesus’ love and example. Then she did the most remarkable thing, she lived it. When I offered remembrances at her funeral several years ago, I noted that I had little knowledge of Catholic saints, but if they were anything like Sandy, their lives did indeed deserve veneration by the masses. She lived a life that was a living example of how we might bring the kingdom of God nearer.

The list of saints in my life grows and the cloud is remembered with great love. I wonder what souls you remember this year, or every year on All Saints’ Day. How do you celebrate their witness and legacy? How did they help you look toward Jesus?

Shalom,

Nora

Rev. Nora Foust

Associate Conference Minister

*Lyrics from "My Church" - songwriters: Maren Morris, busbee

Address Change! The PCC offices will be moving in the month of November. Please begin mailing any correspondence to our new PO Box:

**Penn Central Conference
PO Box 6625
Harrisburg, PA 17112.**

Our physical address starting the week of November 15 (Do not mail letters to this address!):

**St. Thomas UCC
6490 Linglestown Road
Harrisburg, PA 17112**



This month's recipe features an old favorite of Redeemer, once included in one of our old fundraiser cookbooks. Through the years, most, if not every, Redeemer knows that Shirley and Tim

Conrad love to bake. As a regular recipient of their handiwork, even I can attest to the mastery of their baking. In my time with Redeemer, on many occasions I found cute little baggies of cookies (most often seasonally themed in holiday specific shapes) on my desk including sweet little notes. I also came to find that Shirley doesn't have just a few cookie cutters, but **hundreds**, so many that to minimize her stress in finding the right one, hubby Dick lovingly built her a cabinet to house them all, categorized by drawer of course. **Thank You** to the Conrad Family, for their love of baking and for sharing that love with the rest of us.

Soft Sugar Cookies

- 2 Eggs
- 1 Cup Buttermilk
- 2 Cups Sugar
- 1 tsp Baking Soda in milk
- 1 Cup Shortening
- 4 Cup Flour
- Pinch Salt
- ¼ tsp Baking Powder

Cream shortening and sugar. Add eggs, salt, and baking powder. Add flour and milk, a little at a time. Drop by spoonfuls onto greased or parchment paper lined cookie sheet. Sprinkle with colored sugars (if desired). Bake at 400 degrees for 8 minutes. Make sure to add soda to milk over mixing bowl as it will foam up.

Makes 4-5 dozen

Penn Central Conference UCC Staff List

Rev. Dr. Carrie Call, Ph.D.
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Phone: 717-652-1560 ex. 12

Rev. Nora Driver Foust
Associate Conference Minister
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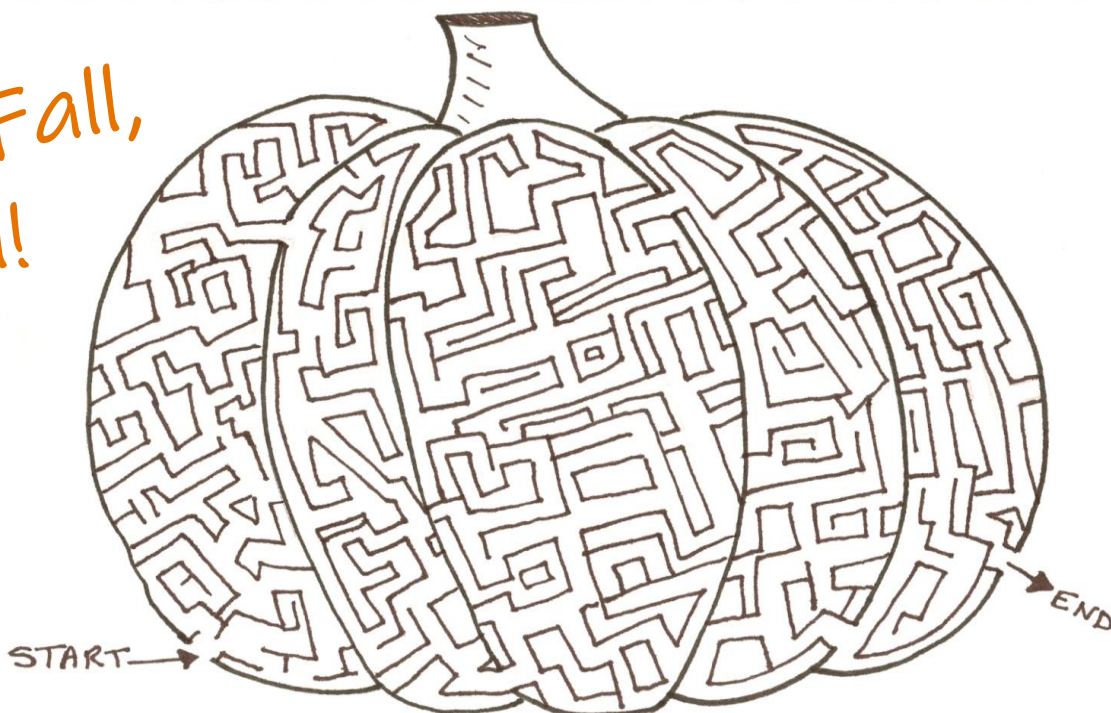
Rev. Dr. Marisa Laviola, Ph.D.
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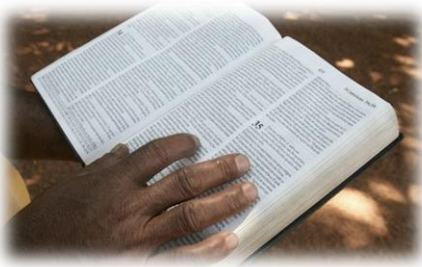
Rev. Rick Luciotti
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Office Manager
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Phone: 717-652-1560 ex. 14

Happy Fall,
Y'All!





November 30 Days of Scripture

Each of the scriptures below takes ten minutes or less to copy out. Commit to spending ten minutes each day listening to God's voice as you simply copy these texts out of your Bible.

Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law. Psalm 119:18

Day 1 – Psalm 95:1-7

Day 2 – 1 Corinthians 1:4-9

Day 3 – 2 Corinthians 4: 15-18

Day 4 – Isaiah 12:2-6

Day 5 – Colossians 3:12-17

Day 6 – 1 Thessalonians 5:12-18

Day 7 – Psalms 107:1-9

Day 8 – Philippians 4:4-9

Day 9 – Psalm 100:1-5

Day 10 – Psalm 136:1-12

Day 11 – Psalm 136:12-36

Day 12 – I Chronicles 16:8-14

Day 13 – I Chronicles 16: 23-36

Day 14 – Psalm 116:12-19

Day 15 – Psalm 147:1-7

Day 16 – 2 Corinthians 9:6-9

Day 17 – 2 Corinthians 9:10-12

Day 18 – 2 Corinthians 9:1-15

Day 19 – Psalm 28: 6-9

Day 20 – Psalm 69:30-36

Day 21 – Psalm 107: 28-32

Day 22 – Psalm 9: 1-2, 7-12

Day 23 – Lamentations 3:22-27

Day 24 – James 1:1-7

Day 25 - Psalm 118:1-7

Day 26 – Psalm 118: 8-14

Day 27 – Psalm 118:15-21

Day 28 - Psalm 118: 25-29

Day 29 – Psalm 105:1-7

Day 30 – Choose your own verse!



Prayers of Concern and Healing for

- **LaDora Field**, coworker and dear friend of Lorna, for healing after a fall
- **Briana Cook**, Sue's daughter, who had emergency appendix surgery on Wednesday
- **Ginny Weber**, friend of Pastor Christina, as she begins chemo
- **Jonathan Abrams**, grandson of Nancy's friends, hospitalized in Texas with severe Covid
- **Terry Thomas** who has been transferred from the Med Center to the Spang Crest Rehabilitation Center in Lebanon
- **Nickolas Fidanza**, Pastor Christina's father, who is recovering from open heart surgery
- **Pastor Christina**, as she manages her father's care
- **Mike Wojdylak**, for continued healing following his successful cardiac surgery
- **Randy Rupert**, a friend of the Baker's, who is battling throat cancer
- **Andy Brumbaugh**, son of Margie Crocker's longtime friend, Janet Brumbaugh, who was recently hospitalized and is home recuperating. Also, prayers for Janet's grandson **Tyler**, home from school with COVID, and Janet's son-in-law, **Matt**, who is also in quarantine.



Prayers of Support and Strength for


- **The Family of Connie Houser**, friend of Mike Wojdylak, at her death.
- **The Family of Suzanne (Forker) Patton**, Bev's daughter-in-law, who passed away on October 8.

Prayers for our world, our country, our state, and our community.

Lord, we ask for blessings on our leaders. May these servants who are in positions of authority take that responsibility seriously and do their very best each day. May they realize their need for you and for your direction. May they hear your voice as they make their decisions, and may they follow your guidance. May they have a passion for people, for truth, and for righteousness.

November 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 12pm Nooner AA 7:30pm OA	2 8:30am Hershey Ministerium 12pm Nooner AA Election Day! VOTE! 	3 9:30am – 7pm Colonial Park UCC Holiday Fair 12pm Nooner AA 6:30pm KISS AA 7:00pm Love INC.	4 9:30am – 7pm Colonial Park UCC Holiday Fair 12pm Nooner AA 12pm Focused Prayer	5 12pm Nooner AA 6:30pm KISS AA	6 7am Sunrise AA 10am Piano Recital 12pm KISS AA
7 Turn back your clocks! 9:15am Worship Communion 11:30am LGCCC 3pm KISS AA	8 12pm Nooner AA 7:30pm OA	9 12pm Nooner AA	10 12pm Nooner AA 6:30pm KISS AA 6:30pm Choir 7:00pm Love INC. Scrip Orders Due!	11 12pm Nooner AA 12pm Focused Prayer 7pm Leadership Team Mtg.	12 12pm Nooner AA 6:30pm KISS AA	13 7am Sunrise AA 12pm KISS AA
14 9:15am Worship 11:30am LGCCC 3pm KISS AA Deadline for Poinsettia Orders!	15 12pm Nooner AA 7:30pm OA	16 12pm Nooner AA	17 12pm Nooner AA 6:30pm KISS AA 6:30pm Choir 7:00pm Love INC. Scrip Orders In!	18 12pm Nooner AA 12pm Focused Prayer 5pm Pastoral Relations Team Mtg.	19 12pm Nooner AA 6:30pm KISS AA CONTACT Content Due!	20 7am Sunrise AA 12pm KISS AA
21 9:15am Worship 11:30am LGCCC 3pm KISS AA FOOD DRIVE ENDS!	22 12pm Nooner AA 7:30pm OA	23 12pm Nooner AA	24 12pm Nooner AA 6:30pm KISS AA	25 Happy Thanksgiving  Office Closed 12pm Nooner AA 12pm Focused Prayer	26 12pm Nooner AA 6:30pm KISS AA Office Closed	27 7am Sunrise AA 12pm KISS AA
28 9:15am Worship 11:30am LGCCC 1st Sunday in Advent 3pm KISS AA	29 12pm Nooner AA 7pm Advent Book Study 7:30pm OA	30 12pm Nooner AA				

Community Resource Corner

HEALTH WITHIN COMMUNITY HEALTH

Hope Within Ministries is the umbrella organization encompassing Hope Within Community Health, Counseling & Dental Center. We first opened our doors in Elizabethtown in 2006 to provide free primary health care, sound but low-cost sliding scale counseling, and donation based dental services. In 2020, the program received a 2020 Gold Standard Rating from the National Association of Free Clinics.

Hope Within has a base of more than 30 volunteer doctors, physician assistants, nurses, dental providers, therapists, and a psychiatrist. Our dedicated volunteers work full time in local hospital systems including Penn State Health, Lancaster General Hospital (Penn Medicine), UMPC Pinnacle and WellSpan, yet they come to Hope Within Community Health Center to volunteer a few hours per month on their days off.

These medical professionals have a huge impact on the patients who Hope Within serves. For instance, one man came to Hope Within Community Health in desperation with a painful infection in his mouth. He told the volunteer nurse from Penn State Health that he had not been able to get help and that his backup plan was to order antibiotics used for fish tanks. We were able to help him and relieve him of his pain. This is but one story of the positive impact our program has made on someone's life.

In the best of times, Hope Within's patient population typically works 2 or 3 part-time jobs — they are cooks, servers, single moms, and refugees. However, since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, most of our patients have lost the majority of their income placing them further at risk for lack of health care and an increase in stress, anxiety, and depression. People who have never used free health services before are now finding themselves in need, making Hope Within's work even more important to the community than ever.

To apply to become a patient, visit our website at hopewithin.org.

Anne Marie McAlestar
Executive Director

Note: Several members of the Hershey Ministerium visited Hope Within in early October, including our own Pastor Christina!

Hope Within Community Health, Counseling & Dental Center
4748 East Harrisburg Pike
Elizabethtown, PA 17022-9004
Phone: 717-367-9797 x313



500 West Chocolate Avenue
Hershey, PA 17033



Rev. Christina M. Fianza, Pastor
pastorchristina@redeemerchurchucc.org

Contact us at (717) 533-7300 or email @
info@redeemerchurchucc.org

Be sure to visit us on Facebook page and
our website at
www.redeemerchurchucc.org



HOPE WITHIN MINISTRIES COLLECTION DRIVE 2021

Items Needed

Personal Care: Body Wash, Deodorant (for women), Body Lotion, Shampoo, Conditioner, Sanitary products, Chapstick

Over the Counter Meds: Tylenol, Ibuprofen, Cough Drops, Low-dose baby aspirin

Supplements: Turmeric 500 mg, Probiotics, Melatonin, Zinc, Vitamin C

Equipment: Home blood pressure monitors, Heating Pads

The November issue of
CONTACT is sponsored by

Tom & Adrienne Bell