



October 2021

A Monthly Update in the Life of our Church

Contact



Halloween and Christianity *by Pastor Christina*

Out of the four seasons, I love Fall the best. I especially love October. It has the perfect combination of Fall weather, in-season apples, trees turning into a brilliant display of color, crunchy leaves, Halloween, and my birthday right in the middle of it all. Yes, I was born on Friday the 13th in October – it’s like I was meant to love Halloween.



Growing up, the only thing I didn’t like about Halloween was the plastic masks. There was a tiny open space for your mouth, and maybe some nose holes – it got hot and gross underneath, and if you wore glasses like me, they fogged up and you couldn’t see out of the eye holes.

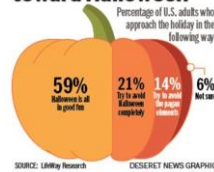


Where I grew up, there were city kids, development kids, and country kids. City kids and development kids could walk out their front doors and go trick-or-treating free of parents.

country kids had to have a parent (usually Mom) drive us to the nearest development.

Where I went, every house had a light on and candy at the ready. Except one – a family that firmly believed that Halloween was pagan and should not be observed by Christians.

American attitudes toward Halloween



Later in life, I became a Pagan, and learned how different American Halloween is from the Pagan holiday Samhain. Then I returned to Christianity, into a church that vehemently opposed the observance of Halloween. Times had changed from when I was a kid. Most churches where I lived had “Trunk-or-Treat,” and instead of going house-to-house, kids safely walked from car to car in the parking lot. Different churches had different rules about costumes and decorations. For some, it was regular Halloween, just done in a concentrated area with known people. Where I went, it was an anti-Halloween event, where the trunks were decorated as favorite Bible

stories, and costumes were limited to pretty princesses for girls, and rugged soldiers for boys.

One of the things I took with me from Paganism is that intent matters. If your intent is to celebrate the end of harvest, the beginning of winter, and the ability to interact with the dead, well, then you’re treading into Pagan territory. If it’s all about the fun of coming up with a creative costume and getting candy, well, that’s American Halloween, not Pagan Samhain.

This month, Halloween falls on a Sunday. October 31st is a significant day in Protestant Christianity because it is Reformation Day. Out of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation came the saying “Reformed, and always Reforming.” If we stop changing, the church never grows and thrives. The United Church of Christ was born out of a period of ecumenism that saw many denominations merging and creating new identities. What can we do to celebrate the growth of the Church? I’m a fan of JOY. Let us be joyful this month and come to church on October 31st in the red of Reformation Sunday AND the costumes of Halloween. Keep an eye out during the month for hints about what my costume will be.





PENN CENTRAL CONFERENCE



Empowering the church to demonstrate and declare the courageous love of Christ!

This past Saturday my family participated in a mission day at Wittle Farm with a group from our church, Christ UCC in Elizabethtown. We harvested hundreds of pounds of bell peppers, jalapenos, and potatoes. One group rebuilt a 90-year-old wagon while others took down some trees that will be chipped in to mulch on our next service day. We also cleaned a large corner of the barn in order to prepare for the new walk-in refrigerator installation.



Wittle Farm is part of the Lutheran Camping Corporation with whom Penn Central Conference has a partnership to provide outdoor ministry opportunities throughout the conference. Christ Church designated Wittle Farm for their Vacation Thank Offering this summer and in addition to financial gifts (some of which bought a cultivator tractor), members harvested hundreds of pounds of produce that was donated to local food banks, planted spring and fall crops, tended the pollinator garden, completed a number of farm projects and collected almost 800 pounds of compost.

Steve Stouffer, Consistory President and member of the Mission Team said, "When the idea (of partnering with Wittle Farm) was raised back in the early spring it seemed like a 'no brainer'. It was local. It was needed. It was something we are equipped to do with many members who can build (just about anything) and are hard workers who don't mind getting their hands and shoes dirty!"

Associate Pastor Fa Lane noted, "We are grateful that Wittle Farm has opened up this ministry opportunity for Christ Church who has a three-year mission structure: local, national, international. Because of this alliance, Christ Church was able to do local mission this year! It started from a contact with our Green Team to encourage local gardening and fresh produce to address food insecurity. Then the mission team decided to sign on too!"

We all know what it's like to put a plan together and have it go astray when new Covid guidelines come along. "Because it's been outside, we have been able to plan and execute and follow-through without continual changes in response to Covid", added Steve.

Our Conference Minister mentioned church gardens at the annual meeting and reading

about some of the growing projects, food donations and church gardens has been a real treat as some of you share stories with us about your local work. Is food insecurity or creation care a passion for your congregation? Think about ways that your church might look at land use policies to meet local needs or partner with other groups in doing so.

We are building a "how-to" session for starting church gardens, please let us know if you are interested in exploring this type of ministry at your church.

Shalom,
Nora
Rev. Nora Foust
Associate Conference Minister
Penn Central Conference

(Photos courtesy of Rev. Fa Lane)



Leadership Team September Meeting Highlights



The Leadership Team met on September 9, 2021, for its regular monthly meeting. After our opening activities, Jonathan Bell presented the Treasurer's report and continued our working discussion of the 2022 budget. We began discussing ideas for fundraising, which will be discussed in more detail by the Stewardship Team.

Tom Bell presented estimates for Wi-Fi upgrades for the sanctuary. After much discussion of all the options, 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.

The Building Security/Access Team met with Sergeant Clements from Derry Township police for a building security assessment. The walk-through was informative and gave us ideas for upgrading our security throughout the building and putting a security plan in place, based on the police's "run, hide, fight" strategy. The next step for the Team is to invite a conference disability/access specialist to walk

through the building and give us ideas to make the building more accessible for disabled and elderly folks who use the building.

The Pastoral Relations Committee met with Pastor Christina to begin open dialog on issues that affect the congregation. A few items that came up for discussion were to make sure volume levels of microphones are checked on Sunday mornings, and for Pastor Christina to give clear cues on when to stand and sit during worship. Worship with Pastor Christina is going very well and there is positive feedback. The Committee will meet quarterly to discuss any congregational and/or pastoral concerns.

Jan Stong met with Love, Inc. and shared information with Leadership Team about the "Loving Our Community" event that will take place from October 20-24. Items can be donated for auction.

In preparation for Jorja's leap into full retirement, Kira will work with Jorja to learn the ins and outs of the office during the transition between office managers. We are incredibly grateful for all Jorja has

done to bring organization to the office and keep things running smoothly!

Pastor Christina presented her Pastor's Report. She has been making her office more comfortable, and also participating in educational opportunities regarding sermon writing. Her Installation service will be planned soon.

The Hummelstown Arts Festival was a successful fundraiser for Redeemer. Beautiful, warm weather was perfect for selling ice cream! We are also looking forward to the Historical Society tours that will stop by Redeemer on Saturday, Sept. 25.

Our next Leadership Team meeting will be held on Thursday, October 14, 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



October Marks Redeemer's 63rd Anniversary

Join us on Sunday, October 24 as we celebrate Redeemer's 63rd Anniversary. A portion of our service will be dedicated to our birthday celebration to include a slide show that was created for the Hershey Historical Center Tour held on September 26 and featured Redeemer. Come to celebrate the inception of our congregation and to share in our history. A light birthday reception will be held following the service.



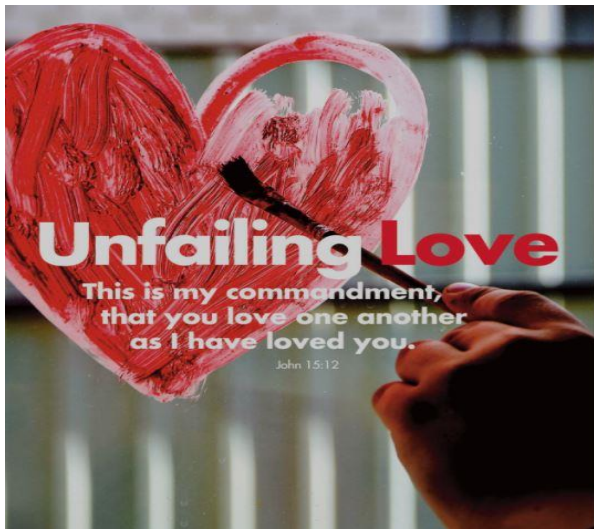
The Scoop Is In! Hummelstown Arts Fest 2021 Results

Just wanted to report on the annual ice cream stand fund raiser that we had at the Hummelstown Arts Festival on Saturday, September 18th. It was a beautiful day weather-wise for eating and selling ice cream. We had 11 members of the congregation help with set-up, sales, and clean-up. At the end of the day, the church made a profit of \$778.10. Thanks to everyone that helped this year and looking forward to next year's event!

Dave Stong, Coordinator



Neighbors in Need Offering Set for October 3

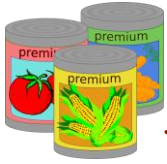


projects in their communities.

In 2021, Neighbors in Need “Unfailing Love” offering is focused on supporting organizations and projects that are serving homeless and immigrant neighbors or communities. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC’s Justice and Witness Ministries (JMM) to provide funding grants to UCC churches and organizations leading justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service

Most churches will collect the offering on October 3rd as part of World Communion Sunday, but contributions can be made at any time. Thank you for supporting this year’s Neighbors in Need offering on October 3rd.





Fall Happenings at Redeemer, Etc.!

The Annual Redeemer Food Drive, "Fill the Sills" in support of the Hershey Food Bank begins on October 1 through November 21. Non-perishable food items will be accepted and displayed on the windowsills in the sanctuary. Items will be delivered to the Food Bank in time for its holiday distributions. Last year, our building use partners also participated in the drive to *fill the sills*, helping us to surpass previous drives. Audrey Baker will spearhead the project again this year and seeks volunteers to help gather donations and deliver them to the Food Bank in November. Please see or contact Audrey for more information and **thank you** for your help to assist our neighbors in need during the holiday season. Let's try to surpass last year's drive of more than **390** pounds (312 meals*!) of non-perishable food! (*USDA meal = 1.2 lbs.)

October Love INC. Body Wash Drive

Redeemer has long supported Love INC in their mission to serve individuals and families in need in the local community. Love INC fills the gap that many have with personal care items and paper goods that are not covered by SNAP (food stamps) and are sometimes difficult to access through local food and grocery donation and distribution programs.



Jan Stong is serving as Redeemer's representative on the Love INC. community resources committee. As Love INC has needs for certain products that are in short supply from time to time, Jan thought to begin holding monthly drives to help to fill those gaps. During October, we will be collecting body wash products. A collection box for these items will be located in the lobby so that our building partners can also contribute to the cause. See Jan with questions and thanks in advance for your donations!

Annual UCC Homes Gift Card Drive is Coming! It's hard to believe that the Christmas Season is just around the corner. UCC Homes is once again holding their Gift Card Drive for residents. As a reminder, cards are to be in \$5 and \$10 denominations only. Cards are requested from the following retailers: Giant Foods, CVS, Wal Mart, Amazon, Boscov's, Dollar Tree, Michael's, Weis Markets, Dunkin Donuts, Dairy Queen, or Visa/MC. The official drive will be November 1 through December 5, but you can turn in cards to Audrey Baker, Drive Coordinator, any time between now and December 5. Please see Audrey with questions!

Hope Within Ministries Holding Chicken Barbecue October 16

Hope Within is holding a chicken barbecue to support their free and low-cost healthcare programs. To purchase tickets online go to: <https://app.etapestry.com/onlineforms/HopeWithinMinistries/BBQ2021Oct.html> or make arrangements to stop by Hope Within to purchase them directly. Call First! 717-367-9797. The deadline for ticket sales is October 6! Chicken pickup on 10/16 will be between 11am and 1pm.





This month's Recipe Corner features a great side dish, perfect as the weather begins to get a little colder. Our very own Lorna Davis says: "I got this recipe from a dear friend, and it has been a family favorite at Thanksgiving and Christmas. I usually have to make 2 of them and very little, if any, is leftover." Sounds and looks yummy, Lorna. **Thank you!**

Golden Cheddar Broccoli Bake

- 4 Tablespoons butter (divided in half)
- 2 Tablespoons flour
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 1 ½ cups milk
- 1 ½ cups shredded sharp Cheddar cheese
- ¾ cup cornflake crumbs (divided)
- 1-2 large heads of fresh broccoli, blanched (steam for 2-3 minutes)
(can blanch ahead and freeze)



In a medium saucepan over medium heat, melt 2 Tbsp. butter; stir in flour and salt. Add milk gradually, mixing until smooth. Cook mixture until it boils, stirring constantly. Add cheese, stirring until melted. Mix in ¼ cup of cornflake crumbs. Remove from heat.

Arrange blanched broccoli in an 8 x 12-inch baking dish or I use a round Corning Ware quiche dish. Pour cheese sauce over broccoli.

Toss remaining ½ cup of cornflake crumbs with 2 Tbs. melted butter. Sprinkle this mixture over casserole.

Bake uncovered at 350 degrees for 30 minutes.

Prayers of Joy for

- **Barry Mongold** who received news from his oncologist that he is cancer free!

Prayers and Best Wishes to

- **Gary and Annette Mastrangelo** who will be moving to Florida on October 12.

Prayers of Healing and Comfort for

- **Pam Marflak**, friend of Kim Merkert, who is currently undergoing chemo therapy
- **Andy Brumbaugh**, friend of Margie Crocker, who is currently in ICU with Covid-19
- **Suzanne Patton**, Bev's daughter-in-law, who is battling cancer
- **Mike Wojdylak** for continued healing following his successful cardiac surgery
- **Randy Rupert**, a friend of the Baker's, whose throat cancer has returned
- **Terry Thomas** recuperating from a few medical procedures. Sharon reports he's doing well!

Prayers of Support and Strength for

- **Those individuals** diagnosed and/or hospitalized with Covid-19 and those who are caring for them.
- **Prayers for the Larger Community** for those who serve and protect; for those in government who make decisions that affect our world, our country, our commonwealth, and our communities.





October 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 12pm Nooner AA 6:30 PM Kiss AA "Fill the Sills" Food Drive Begins
3 9:15am Worship World Communion Sunday Neighbors in Need 11:30am LGCCC Worship 3pm KISS AA	4 12pm Nooner 7:30pm OA	5 12pm Nooner AA 9:00am Hershey Ministerium Mtg (at Hope Within)	6 12pm Nooner 6:00pm Love INC. Financial Class 6:30pm KISS AA	7 12pm Nooner AA 12pm FP 6:30pm Worship & Music	8 12pm Nooner AA 6:30 PM Kiss AA	9 7am Sunrise AA 12pm KISS AA
10 9:15am Worship 11:30 am LGCCC Worship 3pm KISS AA	11 12pm Nooner 7:30pm OA	12 12pm Nooner AA	13 12pm Nooner 6:00pm Love INC. Financial Class 6:30pm KISS AA SCRIP Orders Due!	14 12pm Nooner AA 12pm FP 7pm LT Mtg	15 12pm Nooner AA 6:30 PM Kiss AA	16 7am Sunrise AA 12pm KISS AA Hope Within BBQ!!
17 9:15am Worship 11:30am LGCCC Worship 3pm KISS AA	18 12pm Nooner 7pm Wired Word 7:30pm OA	19 12pm Nooner AA	20 12pm Nooner 6:00pm Love INC. Financial Class 6:30pm KISS AA SCRIP Arrives	21 12pm Nooner AA 12pm FP	22 12pm Nooner AA 6:30 PM Kiss AA CONTACT SUBMISSION DEADLINE!	23 7am Sunrise AA 12pm KISS AA
24 9:15am Worship Anniversary Sunday CROP WALK Donations Due! 11:30am LGCCC Worship 3pm KISS AA	25 12pm Nooner 7:30pm OA	26 12pm Nooner AA	27 12pm Nooner 6:00pm Love INC. Financial Class 6:30pm KISS AA	28 12pm Nooner AA 12pm FP	29 12pm Nooner AA 6:30 PM Kiss AA	30 7am Sunrise AA 12pm KISS AA
31 9:15am Worship All Saint's Sunday Costumes Invited! 11:30am LGCCC Worship 3pm KISS AA	Happy Halloween! 	This Month's Celebrations! Birthdays... Have a Happy one! Tom Bell Bill Wenrich Anita Wenrich				

Notes

NEW!! October Love INC Donation Drive – Body Wash – Donation box in the lobby!
CROP WALK Donations: NOW through October 24 – Donation box is located in the sanctuary
 Annual Redeemer **"FILL THE SILLS"** Food Drive: October 1 through November 21

Crop Walk 2021 Set for October 24

Help us beat last year's donation total of \$612.00!!

WALK...GIVE...CHANGE THE WORLD

Our community believes in ending hunger and, in 2021, we will continue to fight against the new challenges of disease and disaster that leave people hungry. Join with us to help raise fund to help our neighbors get the food they need.

Due to the continuing health crisis, **CROP WALK 2021** will be a virtual again this year, a self-paced walk. Make a step goal for yourself and others or commit to raising funds in support of the Hershey and Hummelstown Food Pantries and Church World Service. Pray, meditate, and prepare to serve the world who continues to struggle with hunger.

This year, donations will be accepted October 1 through October 24. Checks are to be made out to **Crop Walk/Church World Service**. A collection box will be located in the rear of the sanctuary marked Crop Walk. Checks may also be sent to the church office.

Thank you to Audrey Baker for coordinating this year's effort. **Questions?** Please see or reach out to Audrey or call the church office!

Plan your walk

- Choose a specific time to walk with by yourself or with a few friends where social distancing is possible.
- Choose where to walk: a parking lot, city park or neighborhood block. Plan a hike on a local trail or plan out how many times you might walk your backyard to count up your steps toward a goal! Or come up with your own activity to mark the occasion.
- Please abide by local, state and CDC guidelines for health and safety.
- Tell your story on your own personal page. Record and post your own video, sharing why you are involved and challenging others to join you by donating and raising funds.
- Share your video on social media, tag your friends and potential donors.
- Connect to the why of walking. Bring your whole self, and spirit into this work!
- Pray or meditate each day leading up to the Walk.
- On your Walk Day, open with a prayer for the vulnerable and set aside time for quiet reflection or active excitement.
- As you Walk, safely fellowship with your group as you join in solidarity with others near and far.
- Post pictures of you and your team on social media – and be sure to tag them with #VirtualCROPHungerWalk or #EndHungerNow.

Share a picture of yourself with the church office so we can post it on our Redeemer Facebook and web pages!

This is new to all of us, and we welcome ideas and suggestions about how to virtually bring everyone together while we help as many hungry people here and around the world as we possibly can. We are being called, more than ever, to step up and make a REAL difference!! Our local hunger agencies and CWS will need our support even more after this crisis is over.

Together, we can help end hunger in our community and around the world.



CHURCH OF THE
REDEEMER
HERSHEY PA

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

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

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The October issue of CONTACT is
sponsored by Bev Patton in Memory
of her two dear friends

Thomas Welsh and Ronald Reale

