



Pennington Presbyterian



FAITH + COMMUNITY + SERVICE



PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

Thanksgiving is right around the corner. I am looking forward to the holiday tradition of our community Thanksgiving service. This year we will be hosted at the United Methodist Church. The service is on Tuesday evening, November 22 at 7:30 pm. It is great to be able to worship side by side with relatives who have gathered from out of town as well as with brothers and sisters in Christ who worship and serve in other congregations.

Meister Eckhart, a German theologian from the 13th century once said, "If the only prayer you ever say in your entire life is thank you, it will be enough." That got me to thinking about gratitude and prayer and life. Several of my Facebook friends have taken up a 30 day challenge to pay attention to their lives, to look for the blessings, and to record on Facebook one new thing for which they give thanks each day. It has been fun to read. The first few days are pretty predictable, like being thankful for spouse and children. As the month goes by, this practice takes more thought.

If I were to take up this challenge, you the people of Pennington Presbyterian, would be high on my list. I am still amazed at God's grace that brought us together. I am thankful for all you are teaching me. I am grateful for your deep and abiding faith and for the gifts for ministry that you use for God's Kingdom day by day, week by week. I am also grateful to all who have responded so positively to our stewardship campaign for 2012 and to our "An Open Door" capital campaign. Many of you brought forward your pledge cards in worship on November 6. Do you know that we bring them forward on purpose? We could have simply had a box in the narthex and asked folks to drop them in on their way out. It is so powerful to be part of a stream of church members, young and old and in-between, getting up to say yes to God's call by bringing forward our pledge cards. These gifts represent a sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to God.

If you have not yet participated in our pledge campaigns, it is not too late. Each gift, each sacrifice, makes a difference in our ministry. This Sunday,

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OF SPECIAL INTEREST IN THIS EDITION:

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**Next issue: 12/7;
Deadline Monday 12/5
9:00 AM**

Focus is issued the first and third Wednesdays of each month, except July & August. During those two summer months, only one Focus newsletter is published per month.



CALENDAR

November 20, we will announce our pledge totals to date so that we can together say "Thank you" to God. I hope your pledge will represent a portion of this group effort.

We can pray, "Thank you". We can say, "Thank you." And by God's grace we can live "Thank you."

Happy Thanksgiving to you all!

In Christ,
Nancy
Nancy Mikoski



*Happy
Thanksgiving*



REGULAR WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday

9:00 AM— Church School for all ages
10:15 AM – Worship Service followed by coffee hour

(Note: Cherub Choir for pre-k through grade 1 meets during part of the worship service)

7:00 PM—Jr./Sr. Highs

Wednesday

9:15 AM—Shalom Women's Bible Study
4:30 PM—Genesis Choir (grades 2-5)
5:15 PM—Gloria Deo Choir (grades 6 and up)

Thursday

7:00 PM—Bell Choir
8:00 PM—Adult Choir

LOOKING AHEAD...

Nov. 17 – Pres Plus - CANCELLED
HomeFront meals

Nov. 20 – **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**
& lunch

Nov. 21– Book Group

Nov. 22 – Nursery School Board

Nov. 22 – Ecumenical Thanksgiving service at Pennington Methodist Church

Nov. 25 – church office closed

Nov. 28– Parish Callers
Nov. 28 – Session

Dec. 2 – OAM Committee

Dec. 4 – Men's Breakfast

Dec. 5 – Personnel Committee

Dec. 6 – Deacons

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**13 S Main Street
Pennington, NJ 08534**

WORSHIP SCHEDULE Sundays

- **Sunday, Nov. 20, 10:15 AM** – Sermon: Rev. Nancy Mikoski
[Congregational Meeting & lunch in Heritage Hall following worship service on Nov. 20](#)
- **Sunday, Nov. 27, 10:15 AM** – Sermon: Rev. Nancy Mikoski

CHILDREN'S CHURCH SCHOOL Sunday 9 AM

- **J.A.M.I ("Jesus and Me!"); k-thru-5th grade** meets in Lower Titus Hall to be shepherded to weekly hands-on workshops. Through science, drama, music, art, cooking, and more kids gain insight into recurring Bible stories and themes. ■ **INFANTS THROUGH PRE-K** please see page 3 for room locations.

ADULT CHURCH SCHOOL Sunday 9 AM

- **FORUM** (topics include current events, community concerns, theology, the Bible and Mission) ■ **MAKING FAITH REAL** (group-led open discussion of faith and Spirit in our daily lives). ■ **BIBLICAL LITERATURE AND FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH** (two tracks – one focusing Biblical books, themes and questions and another focusing on core beliefs and practices of the Christian faith)

See website for current offerings

Sunday School's not just for kids!

KIDS, FAMILY, AND SEASONAL DOINGS

■ SR. HIGHS (9-12 GRADE) & JR. HIGHS (6-8 GRADE)

SUNDAY, 7 – 8:30 P.M. (unless stated otherwise)

Nov. 20 – Sr. Highs will prepare & serve lunch at the congregational meeting.

Nov. 20 – Jr. Highs meet in Heritage Hall. Make mashed potatoes for HomeFront.

Bring a 5 lb. bag of potatoes.

Nov. 27 – Sr. Highs & Jr. Highs will not meet as it is a holiday weekend.

■ SUNDAY AM CLASSROOM ASSIGNMENTS:

Infants – 2yr. olds: Room 209

3 yr olds - Pre-School: Room 102

6th – 8th: Balcony classroom

Sr. Highs: The Pit

Interpreting the Bible: The Upper Room

Forum: Heritage Hall

Making Faith Real: Room 206

Rotations for K-5th grade: Start in Lower Titus Hall then rotate to different locations.

■ **THANK YOU** Thank you to everyone who donated food to make Thanksgiving food boxes for children who attend the Children's Day School in Ewing and their families. The need is great this year and Emily Mattek, our contact at the school told us how much they all appreciate the efforts of our congregation on behalf of the students there. Please see the Star Tree information below for the Christmas Star Tree food appeal, which will begin at the end of November. ■ **STAR TREE** The Mission Committee invites you to help provide Christmas food boxes for 30 families from the Children's Day School. A tree of stars will be set up in Upper Titus on Nov. 27, with each star listing a food item or household product that you can purchase for one of the food boxes. All items should be returned to Upper Titus by Sunday, December 18, when the boxes will be packed and delivered. Please take several stars if you can; the need for this food is even greater than last year. Thank you for helping to make Christmas a happier holiday for area families! Questions - Call Hope Anderson at 320-3285 ■ **ANGEL TREE** The Deacons are once again sponsoring the Angel Tree for underprivileged children from the Children's Day School. Each angel has a toy and a clothing article listed. Angels are available after worship in Upper Titus Hall. Share an angel with a friend! Please remember to sign up for the angels that you choose.

Wrapped gifts with the Angel tag should be returned to Upper Titus Hall no later than Sunday, December 11. If you have any questions, please call Karen Schmutz at 865-6693 or Karen Kelly at 737-9176. ■ **PROGRESSIVE DINNER** PPC's Annual Progressive Christmas dinner will be held Saturday, December 10. Everyone will gather at one home for hors d'oeuvres, then break away and go to various homes for dinner and dessert. We even had a vegetarian dinner last year, so don't let special dietary requests hold you back from participating! This is a wonderful way to begin the holiday season with your church family. For further information, you can call Cindy Carothers at 737-2629, Carol Meyer at 730-9608 or Sarah Gregg at 737-3066. ■ **MELITA JOHNSON** Melita is home from the hospital and would love to hear from you: The Meadows, Room #407, 2160 Warrenville Rd., Montoursville, PA 17754.

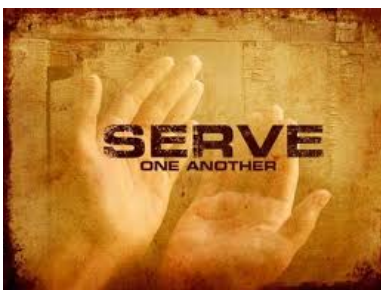
■ **POINSETTIAS** You may order poinsettias, \$10 each, in honor of or in memory of loved ones. See this week's Focus insert for a form. Forms are also available outside the church office. The deadline for ordering: Friday, Dec. 9. ■ **RED KETTLE** You can be a part of the Salvation Army Christmas Tradition! Pennington Presbyterian Church will take a turn ringing the bell in support of the Salvation Army on Saturday December 10 at the Pennington Market, between 10:00 AM and 8:00 PM. We need a minimum

of two volunteers for each two hour shift. Scott Reeder will have a sign- up sheet available after church.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Sovereign God, we praise and glorify you. We thank you for the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ, who walked among the people and ministered to them where they were. Help us to serve like Jesus served. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

-from PPC Mission Yearbook



OUR CHURCH FAMILY

■ We extend our sympathy to Bill & Sheryl Stone and family on the recent death of Bill's father.

■ We extend our sympathy to Charlie & Dorothy Bryan and family on the death of their son, Paul. Paul grew up in PPC and he and his wife, Sharon, and their children Jonathan, Laura & Nathan were members of PPC until they moved to New York several years ago. A Memorial Service for Paul will be held in our sanctuary on Nov. 17, 10:00 AM.

■ We extend our sympathy to Judy & Lloyd Bodden and family on the death of Judy's mother, Helen Lord.

■ We extend our sympathy to Kelly Hamdan & family on the recent death of Kelly's father-in-law.



The session of Pennington Presbyterian Church is calling a congregational meeting for Sunday, Nov. 20, 2011 following worship. The meeting will be held over lunch in Heritage Hall (note: contributions for lunch will be a fundraiser for the Sr. High Mission Trip in summer 2012). The business before the congregation includes approval of Rev. Nancy Mikoski's Terms of Call for 2012, electing new elders & deacons and an opportunity for questions about any aspect of our PPC life together. Of course we'll have some fun and fellowship, too!



GROUP EFFORTS



CHILDREN AND YOUTH INVITED TO BE PART OF THE FAMILY CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE! DECEMBER 24, 2011, 5:00 P.M.

The Family Christmas Eve Service will be an opportunity for the children and youth of the church to lead in worship. The preschool and JAM classes will be preparing a dramatic retelling of the Christmas story. The Cherub, Genesis, and Gloria Deo choirs will be singing. Middle School and High School youth will be invited to lead in the liturgy and usher. There may be other opportunities to help lead in the worship service! See this week's insert for more information and a form to fill out and return indicating your desire to be involved.

■ **ECUMENICAL THANKSGIVING SERVICE** This year's service will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 22, 7:30 p.m. at the Pennington United Methodist Church on Main Street. All are welcome! ■ **BOOK GROUP** The PPC Book Group will meet on Mon, Nov. 21, 7:30 PM, at Jacqueline Saba's house (56 Jacob Ct., Ewing, NJ) to discuss [A Place Called Wiregrass](#) by Michael Morris. No meeting in December. Newcomers are always welcome! Call Jane Simpson (466-4075) with any questions. ■ **HOMEFRONT MEALS PREP & DELIVERY—THUR., DEC. 15** If you can provide cookies, please call Dee Wilson at 737-7675. (Please note: The cookies can be store bought.) Have questions about HomeFront? Call Dee at the phone number listed above. ■ **SHALOM BIBLE STUDY** Women of all ages are invited to join Shalom in a fascinating study entitled "The Face Is Familiar: Remembering Unnamed Women in Scripture." The nine-week study, to be led by Shannon Smythe, will begin on Wednesday, December 7. Shalom meets each Wednesday from 9:15 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. in The Upper Room. Resource books will need to be ordered; so if you are interested in participating in the study, please let Shannon Smythe (shannonsmy@gmail.com) or Madeleine Mansier know by Tuesday, November 22. ■ **ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS MARKET** This is the true art of giving. Every purchase is very significant to the well-being of the crafters or to the project we are helping. We urge you to participate, as you will be able to purchase exceptional and unusual merchandise for family and friends. Featured: Heifer Project International and crafts from SERRV. Join us during coffee hour on Sunday, Nov. 27 and Dec. 4. ■ **DONATIONS NEEDED FOR FAMILY ADVENT CRAFT AND CAROLING EVENT** We are collecting empty tin cans (the size of a normal can of beans, corn, etc.) for one of our Advent crafts at our upcoming Family Advent Crafts and Caroling Event happening on Sunday, December 11th from 3:00-5:00pm. We also need to borrow hammers to use for this craft. Please help us by bringing your labeled hammers and your clean, empty tin cans to the church office no later than Monday, December 5th. All hammers will be returned to their owners. All tin cans will not! Questions: contact Shannon Smythe, shannonsmy@gmail.com, (609)240-2109 ■ **ADVENT BOOKLETS** Advent Booklets will be available November 20. They are free and may be picked up at the church office or Reception Room.

PENNINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

13 S. Main Street
Pennington NJ 08534

Return Service Requested





**Children and Youth invited to be part of the
Family Christmas Eve Service!
December 24, 2011, 5:00 p.m.**

The Family Christmas Eve Service is a wonderful opportunity for the children and youth of the church to lead in worship.

The preschool and JAM classes will be preparing a dramatic retelling of the Christmas story. The Cherub, Genesis, and Gloria Deo choirs will be singing. Middle School and High School youth will be invited to lead in the liturgy and usher.

If you would like to be in the service, please return this form to the church office or to Shannon Smythe by Sunday, November 27th. Our planning committee will look over all the forms and let you know what we would like you to do.

Everyone who will take part in leading this service must commit 1.) to being at a brief rehearsal in the sanctuary after church on Sunday, December 18th and 2.) to come to the church at 4:00 p.m. the day of the Christmas Eve service, for a final run-through.

Contact person: Shannon Smythe, shannonsmy@gmail.com.

Student's Name: _____ Age: ____ Grade: ____

Phone number: _____ Email: _____

Please indicate your first, second, or third choices for participation in the Family Christmas Eve Service:

___ Leading in Liturgy (for 6th-12th graders)

___ Christmas Story speaking part to be rehearsed in Sunday School (for preschool-5th grade)

___ Usher (6th-12th graders)

PLEASE RETURN FORM BY SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27TH



POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

Each year at Christmas, we decorate our place of worship with a bank of **poinsettias**. If you would like to share in this project as a memorial or in honor of a loved one, please fill out this form and make a check payable to the Pennington Presbyterian Church (writing 'poinsettias' on notation line). Send to Pennington Presbyterian Church, 13 South Main Street., Pennington, NJ 08534, or place order form and check in envelope and place in the offering plate. **Price is \$10.00 each.**

Unless you indicate your wish to take the plant(s), they will be delivered to someone who is in a hospital, nursing home, home bound, sick, or recently bereaved. **Fri., Dec. 9 is ordering deadline.**

_____ enclose a donation of \$_____ for _____.
Name of giver(s) # of poinsettias

This form will tell us how you would like the acknowledgement to appear in the bulletin. Thank you so much for helping to beautify the sanctuary during the Christmas season.

Name(s)

M (in memory) **G** (give)

H (in honor) **T** (take)

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____



Come Celebrate the Season!

Family Advent Crafts and Caroling

Sunday, December 11th

3:00-5:00pm

Heritage Hall, Pennington Presbyterian Church

- ❖ Come make Advents crafts for younger and older children, which can be done as a family.
- ❖ Cookies and Hot Chocolate will be provided.
- ❖ We will all go caroling to a group of church members who live at Pennington Point at 4pm. Song books provided.



Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. Luke 2:14