

# Pathways

*“Connecting Your Home With Your Church”*



NOVEMBER

2015

*First Church of Christ*

*330 N. Vesper St., Lock Haven, PA 17745*

*570.748.3519*

*Pastor: Steve Salmon*

*Secretary: Judith Kitchen*

*[firstcofc@comcast.net](mailto:firstcofc@comcast.net)*

*Sunday Worship: 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. (informal)*

*Sunday School for All ages: 10:30 a.m.*

*Bible Study: Tues. at 9:30 a.m.*

*Prayer Group: Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.*

*Youth: Wed. at 6:00 p.m.*

*Bible Study: Wed. at 7:00 p.m.*

## **OUR PURPOSE STATEMENT**

The First Church of Christ exists to  
**“Worship God, Evangelize the Lost,  
And Serve One Another”**

## Happy Birthday, December Friends!

Donna Barton	07	Isaac Salmon	21
Shannon Eisenhower	07	Gina Wert	21
Steve Salmon	08	Jesus Christ	25
Stacie Burns	11	Michael Gramley	25
Violet Moore	12	Erikia Staggert	25
Lola Sweitzer	12	David Friant	28
Kathryn Bowes	13	Bertha Strouse	31
Tom Lucas	13	Richard Toner	31
Connie Reeder	17		
Eleanor Probst	18		
Matt Gramley	19		

## *Shut-Ins*

### Heartland

**Ella Mae Poorman**

### Eagle Ridge

**Sylvia Barth**

### Susque-View

**Bill Wyland**

### At Home

**Pauline Murty**

**Pat Bickel**

**John Stiver**



Steve Salmon

### **The Delight-Filled Life**

Last night I watched the third Republican presidential debate. I don't know how much is actually accomplished through debates, but they at least provide a little entertainment. Maybe that is the real problem. We don't like to sit down for more than a few minutes unless we are being entertained in some way. Political debates should be opportunities to highlight the differences among the candidates, but they have become more like shows. One of the candidates compared the debate to a political cage match. In a cage match, you don't learn much about the combatants views on the economy, but a lot of people find them enjoyable. We should aim higher than simply finding entertainment from the passing things of this life.

God calls us to more. He calls us to love. We are to love Him and love the people around us. He calls us to obey as an expression of that love. Jesus' last words on earth comprised a command: tell the world about Him. One thing he didn't command us to do was to seek entertainment; nevertheless, it seems to be a great need each of us has. I believe that every need we have, especially emotional needs, are designed to turn us toward God. We can find entertainment in the arts, or television or movies. Music can delight us and lively conversation can make us feel more alive. We do well to seek them, but with a realistic expectation of their abilities to fulfill. At their best they whet our appetite for the real joy and delight that we can only achieve through the knowledge and worship of our Creator God. It is in Him that we find true fulfillment, joy and delight.

In His word we are commanded to delight in God and in the things that reveal Him to us.

Job struggles with the discipline of finding delight in God for obvious reasons. His friends urge him to seek his delight in God, but he is wracked with pain, both physical and emotional. The point of the Book of Job is that God is the only source of true delight. Life, whether easy or difficult never brings the delight God desires for us.

The Psalmists repeat the command to delight. We are called to delight in the LORD Himself (37:4), and in obedience to God (40:8). The 119th Psalm is a lengthy poem calling us to delight in God's word. In the New Testament the word often used to convey this idea is "rejoice." Paul reminds us to rejoice hope (Romans 12:12) and with one another (Romans 12:15). Love, he writes, rejoices in truth (I Corinthians 13:6). In his second letter to the Corinthians he simply reminds us to rejoice (13:11). Perhaps listing the reasons for rejoicing was simply impractical there since followers of Jesus have so many.

My prayer for myself and for you is that regardless of the joys or burdens that we might face every day our first and greatest source of delight we will find in the presence of God in His creation, and in His Word and even in us through His Holy Spirit.

Wow! Can you believe it; we celebrated our sixth annual fall festival. None of it would be possible without each and every person who helped from those who offered donations of items, set-up tables and chairs, game operators, food prepares, singers; the list goes on and is nearly endless. It is always amazing to see how each one of us joined together in unity can make such a powerful impact in our community. It reminds me of 1 Corinthians 12: 12-14 “Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.” In addition, I feel we are actively fulfilling the great commission (Matthew 28:19-20 “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age”) planting countless seeds for the kingdom of God. While we may not immediately see the growth, we trust that God will continue to water what was begun as good work in His name. This year we reached over 130 children and their families! This is the largest number so far! Thank you to each and every one of you. It is in many working together that we are able to do something so awesome for our community! Thank you! As the apostle Paul often said “I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus.” 1 Corinthians 1:4

Agape,

Linda Forster- Chair Fall Festival

*'Tis the Season!*



Baby Dedication 9 AM service Nov. 15

Pumpkin Rolls made Nov. 16, 17, 18

*(Plain is \$9 and with nuts \$10)*

Elaine Barth Christmas Concert Nov. 22 7 PM

Annual Congregational Meeting Nov. 29

Family Christmas Dinner 4 PM Dec. 13

Great Day of Christmas Music Dec. 20

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service Dec. 24 7 PM

Christmas Day Service 10 AM

End of Year Bash 10:30 AM Dec. 27

(Sorry this newsletter is so early. I am scheduled for surgery on Monday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of Nov. then will start chemotherapy followed by radiation. Please keep me in your prayers as I fight cancer again.)



On Saturday, October 17th we held our 6th annual Family Fall Festival. 139 children registered. This did not count their parent and in many cases parents in this total. We took almost as many pictures at our photo booth. The cotton candy machine was very popular as was the train ride and bounce house. It was a bit chilly, but was the largest turnout we have had in our 6 years. All crafts and games were popular. Thank God for His Blessings! Some crafts were finished by 1:30 and Olivia's "Walking Tacos" were no more by 2 p.m. The festival closed at 3 p.m. Everything again this year was free. Hope you enjoy the pictures. I am sorry the pictures are not in order. I do not know why, but I hope you can enjoy anyway. Darlene



