

# The Heavenly Herald

“We will share the love of our Lord, building on our past, reaching in faith toward our future.”

## A letter from the Pastor...

*How very good and pleasant it is  
when kindred live together in unity!*  
Psalm 133:1 NRSV

It may seem like the year 2024 should be far away, but I promise the next few months are going to fly by if we don't pay attention!

This coming weekend is World Communion Sunday. Please join us on Sunday, October 1, to share in the breaking of the Bread and the drinking of the Cup as we remember the great love of God shown to us in Jesus Christ! This will be a great way to center ourselves on why we work so hard at being the church as we begin the (sometimes incredibly busy) business of being the church right here in Houston, PA.

October 13-15 marks the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Pumpkin Festival in Houston and our church is very involved. Please consider signing up to help with the Deacons' Food Booth, the Christian Ed. Cookie Decorating Stand, and even march in the Parade!

October 28 we are going to have a Family Fun Fall Fest at the church from 6-8pm. If you want, wear a costume and join us for a fun game night inside and outside. We will have Fun, Fellowship, and Food!

October 31 we will again host Trunk-n-Treat in the church parking lot and welcome guests from the community as they hit the streets trick or treating. This is a great way for us to introduce our church to the many young families that surround us. Consider signing up to decorate a Trunk and hand out treats to the kids!

All of that is just for October! In November we will again be collecting Shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child and getting ready for Thanksgiving. On December 3 we will begin the Advent Season and enjoy our Annual Christmas Tea. And for Christmas Eve this year you are invited to Sunday morning worship and also to the 7pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Cantata and Communion Service.

Sometimes it can be busy being the church but when we work together it's amazing what God can accomplish through our hard work! What a blessing it is to be united together through our Lord Jesus Christ.

In Christ,  
Pastor Ben

OCTOBER, 2023

**First United  
Presbyterian Church  
102 North Main Street  
Houston, PA 15342  
724-746-3040  
houstonpresbyterian.org**

**Pastor  
Ben Libert**  
1379pbl@gmail.com  
724-469-1244 (Cell)

**Secretary**  
Angela M. Itzel  
secretary@houstonpresbyterian.org

**Clerk of Session**  
Sandy Wallace

**Music Director**  
Karen Jones  
jonesykj@verizon.net

**Custodian**  
Robin Spiker

Pastor Ben's Letter	1
Birthdays & Anniversaries	2
Prayer Lists	3
Schedule of Servers	4
Rise Against Hunger	5
Men's Night Out	6
Christian Ed/Family Fun Night	7
October Worship Info	8
October Calendar	9



Oct. 2nd	Bruce Mitchell	Oct. 3rd	Jacob Wylie
Oct. 4th	Alyson Ferrari	Oct. 7th	Katherine Anestis
Oct. 12th	Jim Rungo	Oct. 12th	Lily Coppola
Oct. 13th	Dorothy Jean Fazzolari	Oct. 13th	Judy Lesso
Oct. 13th	Jamison Westcott	Oct. 18th	Lane McFarland
Oct. 19th	Bob Culp	Oct. 19th	Courtney Zanaganlio
Oct. 20th	Jayne Marshall	Oct. 21st	Carson Craig
Oct. 22nd	Marjorie Breth	Oct. 23rd	Bill Vogel
Oct. 25th	Leon Young	Oct. 26th	Tonya Skirpan
Oct. 26th	David Myers	Oct. 27th	Cat Morgan
Oct. 31st	Hazel Parrino	Oct. 31st	Grady Paxton



Oct. 1st - Josh & Tonya Michtak  
 Oct. 9th - Bob & Cindy Culp  
 Oct. 10th - Lewis & Amy Comer  
 Oct. 18th - Jeff & Linda Paxton  
 Oct. 26th - Drew & Kristin McCarty

Oct. 7th - Harlan & Jackie Shober Jr.  
 Oct. 10th - Jim & Susan Jaap  
 Oct. 14th - Ralph & Evie Scarcell  
 Oct. 21st - Keith & Joanie Bish  
 Oct. 29th - Kevin & Lisa Ferrari

## PRAYER LIST

### ONGOING PRAYER REQUESTS:

Joey Dadum, Baby Emilia Lemon, Mindy Kelley, Brandon Craig, Darren Spiker, Cat Morgan, Rev. Don Austin, Millie Romeo, Tim Lynch, Melanie Donahoo, William Young, Patti Nagy, Ronnie Casper, JoAnn Pitcock, Amanda, Matthew Scears, Brad Pitcock, Brian Baumgardner, Bill Brown, Sophia Desmond, and Bill Ensley.



### OCTOBER PRAYER REQUEST:

Nancy Magera, Joey Dadum, Baby Emilia Lemon, Mary Lou Patsch, Bo Lesjak, Bell Family, Evelyn, Bill Kelley, Bob Washabaugh, Marion Marcase, MaryAnn Clark, Curtis Marcase, and John Orlando.



### PLEASE ALSO PRAY FOR:

Pastor Ben and our Houston Church Leaders,  
Our Nation and our Nation's Leaders, and  
all unspoken requests of our church family.

November Newsletter Articles  
due by Friday, October 24, 2023.

# SERVING THE CHURCH IN OCTOBER, 2023

Communion will be celebrated on Sunday, October 1, 2023.

## GREETERS

### Deacon Greeters:

#### October 1st -

(MV) Emmy Homitz  
(GV) Virginia Bayne  
(GH) Janice Bloesel

#### October 8th -

(MV) Nancy Isiminger  
(GV) Haley Steere  
(GH) Dodie Hanna

#### October 15th -

(MV) Mary Skirpan  
(GV) TBA  
(GH) TBA

#### October 22nd -

(MV) Virginia Rockwell  
(GV) Haley Steere  
(GH) Janice Bloesel

#### October 29th -

(MV) Nancy Isiminger  
(GV) Virginia Rockwell  
(GH) Virginia Bayne

### Elder Greeters:

#### October 1st -

(MV) Gloria Schmalz  
(GV) Pastor Ben  
(GH) Sandy Wallace

#### October 8th -

(MV) Linda Young  
(GV) Bo Lesjak  
(GH) Pastor Ben

#### October 15th -

(MV) Pumpkin Festival  
(GV) Pumpkin Festival  
(GH) Pumpkin Festival

#### October 22nd -

(MV) Pastor Ben  
(GV) Bob Blough  
(GH) Jonnie Swarow

#### October 29th -

(MV) Linda Young  
(GV) Pastor Ben  
(GH) Karen Jones

Music: Karen Jones

Audiovisual: Leon Young

Liturgist: Jordan Simpson

Trustees: Stacey Simpson &  
Karen Jones

### October Acolytes:

October 1st - Henry Libert  
October 8th - Bridget Layton  
October 15th - Pumpkin Festival  
October 22nd - Mako Morgan  
October 29th- Baker Libert

## NURSERY SCHEDULE:

October 1st - Gloria Schmalz  
October 15th - Pumpkin Festival  
October 29th- Sandy Wallace

October 8th - Kayleigh Valley  
October 22nd - Jami Craig





On August 26 seven members from our church participated in the Rise Against Hunger event at the West Alexander Fair grounds.



This year's event raised enough funds for 30,000 meals. We were able to prepare and pack 23,000 meals. The meals that we were not able to finish will be completed at another event. The meals that we prepared are going to Africa. As I mentioned before there is a job for everyone no matter the age.







# 3RD ANNUAL MEN'S NIGHT OUT

## SEPTEMBER 21, 2023





A decorative border of various autumn leaves in shades of red, orange, yellow, and green surrounds the text. The leaves are scattered along the top, bottom, and sides of the page.

## Christian Education

Sunday School classes have resumed for pre-school through adults every Sunday at 10 a.m. Bring the kids, friends, yourselves and enjoy some fellowship and opportunity to enrich your spiritual journeys.

The Pumpkin Festival will be held October 13<sup>th</sup> through October 15<sup>th</sup>. The Christian Education Committee will, once again, have a cookie booth and participate in the parade. The booth will be open Saturday and Sunday only. We need to fill a schedule with two-hour slots. The duties are: spread icing on cookies, let kids decorate, and be a friendly representative from our church.

If you would like to help out, please see Sandy Wallace.

P.S. Look for our scarecrow in the competition!

It may look a little familiar!

# Family Fun Fall Festival

## Saturday, October 28

### 6-8 p.m.

Join us for a fun night of games, crafts, snacks, and stories for the whole family. Invite your friends and neighbors, too!

Donations of wrapped candy would be appreciated.

We could use some extra hands if you can help.

Any questions, see Sandy Wallace.

# PASTOR BEN'S OCTOBER READINGS

## **WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY**

OCTOBER 1, 2023

26<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Philippians 2:1-13

Matthew 21:23-32

*“A Man with Two Sons”*

OCTOBER 8, 2023

27<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Psalms 19:1-14

Philippians 3:4b-14

*“Sweeter Than Honey”*

## **PUMPKIN FESTIVAL**

**WORSHIP at 9:45am**

OCTOBER 15, 2023

28<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

OCTOBER 22, 2023

29<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Welcome Rev. Bill Sukolsky!

## **REFORMATION SUNDAY**

OCTOBER 29, 2023

30<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Deuteronomy 34:1-12


Matthew 22:34-46

*“Moses, David, and Jesus”*



# OCTOBER, 2023

Regular Events  
 Worship -11:00am  
 Tuesday Bible Study 10:30am

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1- World Communion Sunday	2- Ministry Mtg. 6:30pm	3- Deacons Mtg. 6pm	4-	5-	6-	7-
8-	9- Mission & Nurturing Mtg. 6:30pm	10-	11-	12-	13- Pumpkin Festival	14- Pumpkin Festival
15- Pumpkin Festival 9:45 Worship 	16- * Pastor Ben Away	17- *	18- *	19- *	20- *	21- *
22- Welcome * Rev. Bill Sukolsky	23- *	24-Pastor Ben Back	25-	26- Meals On Wheels Volunteer Luncheon 11am	27-	28- Fall Family Fun Festival 6-8pm
29- Reformation Sunday	30- Session Mtg. 6:30pm	31- Trunk 'N Treat Parking Lot				

*Address Service Requested*

Nonprofit organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Houston, PA 15342

**Church Office**  
724-746-3040

**Pastor** Ext: 313  
1379pbl@gmail.com

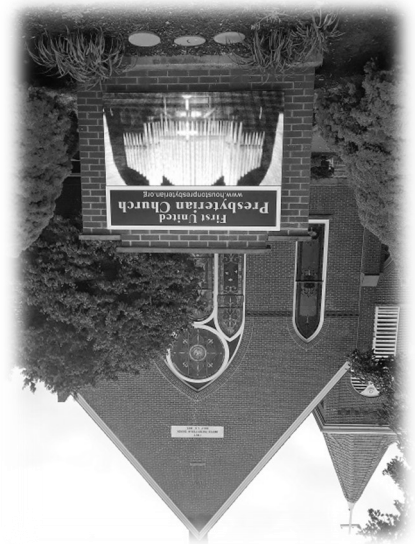
**Secretary** Ext: 310  
secretary@houstonpresbyterian.org

**Meals on Wheels** Ext: 314  
**Open Door Nursery** Ext: 311

**Website**  
houstonpresbyterian.org

**Sunday School**  
Sunday School Begins  
Sept. 18th at 10:00am  
**Sunday Worship Service**  
**September — May at 11:00 a.m.**  
Nursery Available  
June-July-August at 10:00 a.m.

**Bible Study**  
Tuesdays  
10:30 a.m.—11:30 a.m.



First United Presbyterian Church  
102 North Main Street  
Houston, PA 15342

## Gifts and Offerings

**First United Presbyterian Church**  
102 North Main Street  
Houston, PA 15342



Member     Visitor

Name \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_

Please apply my offering as follows:

Regular Offering        \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Deacons Fund            \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Building Fund            \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Project           \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Memorial Fund         \$ \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed         \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your generous gift.