



# The Celtic Cross

November 2014

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## Letter from the Co-Pastors

The rise of ISIS in Syria and Iraq, the devastation caused by ebola in Africa and the first appearance of cases here in the United States, a suddenly falling stock market—there have been times this Fall when fear among Americans has been palpable. In such times, the theme chosen by the Stewardship Committee this year, “Fearless Generosity” is either particularly timely and helpful—or particularly misplaced and inappropriate.

We vote for the first option. Why? Because the opposite of faith is not doubt; it is fear. When we are fearful, we are showing a loss of confidence and trust in God’s promise to provide what we need, no matter what. Fear also robs us of our ability to love, because when we are fearful, we huddle with clenched fists to hold on to what we have, rather than reaching out and risking ourselves with open hands. Perhaps that is why “Fear not!” is such a common phrase in the Bible. And perhaps that is why Jesus makes sure to tell his disciples: “Do not fear for I have conquered the world.”

How can we combat fear in our lives when it raises its ugly head and robs us of peace, hope, and love?

- Worshipping regularly. When we focus on who God is and what God is like as revealed in Jesus Christ, we are reminded that God is greater than anything we might fear. And when we gather with God’s people, we are reminded that we are not alone, but have companions with whom to share our burdens and fears—and joys.
- Praying regularly. As Paul tells the Philippians, “Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”
- Give thanks regularly. In naming our blessings and in being reminded of what God has already done in the past, we can be more confident of what God can do in the future.
- Give regularly of our money and time. God’s gifts to us make us givers to others, and in our giving, we grow in our recognition of our blessings and our reliance on God. “No gift ever made any man or woman the poorer.” Indeed, the more we give, the richer we feel.

Fearless generosity—it is the example set for us by God in Jesus Christ. Fearless generosity—there is no better way for us to rob fear of its power over our lives. May we all, with God’s help, learn to live with fearless generosity not just when we dedicate our gifts on November 9—but throughout the year!

Grace and peace,  
Carter and Kerry

## Worship Matters

### **Our Sunday Schedule:**

**9:15 Sunday School for all ages. 10:30 Service of the Lord's Day**

### **November 2—All Saints' Sunday**

Remembrance of Those Who Have Died in the Faith

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

### **November 9—Service of the Lord's Day**

Dedication of our offerings of time, talent, and treasure for 2015

Cherub Choir sings

### **November 16—Service of the Lord's Day**

Celtic Choir sings

### **November 23—Service of the Lord's Day**

Thanksgiving Sunday

**7:30 p.m.: Community Thanksgiving Service at First Methodist Church**

### **November 30—First Sunday of Advent**

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

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## Music Notes

*“Best of all is it to preserve everything in a pure, still heart, and let there be for every pulse a thanksgiving and for every breath a song.”*

This quote, by Von Gesner, resonates the theme of the anthems performed by the Chancel and Handbell choirs during the month of November. Beloved standards such as “We Gather Together,” “For the Beauty of the Earth,” “Shall We Gather at the River,” Psalm 100,” and “Bless this House” will embellish our worship services as we continue to make a joyful noise to the Lord, serve the Lord with gladness and come into His presence with singing and ringing!

—Cindy Foust, Music Director

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## New in the Library—Written by a church member!

Have you ever gone to the movies and had your foot fall off? That is exactly what happened to Jothy after the amputation of his right leg due to bone cancer. Becoming a one-legger was hard physically and emotionally. With the help of family and friends, Jothy accepts and overcomes the challenges of living life as a one-legger.

Jothy, My Kind of Different is based on a true story, and is written by our own Sara Hulse Kehs (and illustrated by her sister, Ellen Hulse Permoda). Check the book out and enjoy. Ask Sara about how she helped the real Jothy “put his foot back on.” You can see why many children’s hospitals have asked for copies.



## Spiritual Formation Opportunities

### **SUNDAY MORNING—9:15 to 10:10 a.m.**

(You can pick up a cup of coffee before class in Fellowship Hall)

- **Forum (Community Room)**

**Nov. 2 and 16: Dr. Jennifer Koosed, Chair, Department of Religion, Albright Univ.**

Join us as we welcome once again Dr. Koosed, an archaeologist and professor teaching both Old and New Testament studies from a Jewish perspective. She will help us look at some familiar Old Testament stories through the prism of archaeological discoveries about bread and food practices.

**November 2: Ruth and Naomi's Crisis of Bread Production**

**November 16: David the Bandit: Bread and Rebellion**

**November 9, 23, and 30: Porter-Broward Fund Recipients**

In 2014, the church received a grant from the Mary Porter Fund (a long-time church member) of the Broward County (Florida) Foundation. Our church used some of that money to make grants to area organizations meeting important needs in our community. Hear from the recipients about their organization's mission and how First Presbyterian's gifts are making a positive difference in the community.

**November 9: Dr. Myra Forrest, Foundation for Pottstown Education**

**November 23: Janice Center, Rickett Center and Olivet Boys and Girls Club**

**November 30: Lisa Heverly, Operation Backpack**

- **Faith and Relationships Class (Library)** Teachers: Sharon Trevoy and Rob Wade.

**Topic: Football: The Real American Idol?**

In this study Christians will take a look at some of the ethical issues facing the National Football League (NFL). They will also discuss what these ethical issues might say about American culture and its values.

- **Men's Sunday Mornings (Pastor's Conference Room)** Teachers: Gary James, Paul Leopard, Tim Peckham, and Carter

**Topic: "Genesis"**

- **Sacred Space for Women (Mary Ann Yost Room—110)**

Teachers: Kris Barcus, Donna Force, Debbie Remelius, and Jan Rose.

**Topic: To be determined**

### **WEEKDAY OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWING IN FAITH**

- **"Sisters of the Way" Bible Study:** 9:15-10:45 a.m. every Thursday. Teacher: Kerry

- **Next Week's Sermon:** Nov. 11, 7:30-8:30 p.m. Teacher: Carter

- **Praying the Scriptures:** Tuesdays, Nov. 4 and 18 at 7:30 p.m. Join Kerry and others for a quiet hour of learning the ancient but simple way of praying the Scriptures.

- **Theology Reading Group:** Will meet again in January. Check with Carter for our next reading.

## Children and Youth News

### Music and Rec

Music and Rec is in full swing! Every Wednesday from 4:30-5:45 we all gather together to spend some time playing games and singing. The games are fun, the songs are exciting, but the best thing of all is spending time with our church friends! This month, we're building up to the Christmas pageant!

Grades 2-5. Contact Jeff Fox-Kline for more information

### Junior Seekers

#### **November 2 at 5:30 p.m. Stewardship Dinner**

Junior Seekers will be helping out at the Stewardship Dinner. Stewardship emphasizes giving of ourselves to the church. The Junior Seekers will be at the Stewardship Dinner helping clean up and helping serve the church.

#### **November 16 Family Game night! 6:00-8:00 p.m.**

Bring this classic family tradition to the church family! Bring your favorite family game and get ready for some competition. All parents and siblings of Junior Seekers are welcome to join us for this evening.

#### **November 30 Hanging of the Greens**

Pack treat bags for Operation Backpack kids. Spend the first Sunday of Advent with your church family!

#### **Junior Seekers Advisors:**

Rosie Roseo, Sandro Roseo, Jeff Pinard, Sarah Pinard, Elizabeth Lester, Jeff Fox-Kline

### Senior Seekers

#### **November 1 at 9 a.m. Church Work Day**

Join in the Fall work day. Help clean up the church and get it ready for the winter.

#### **November 2 at 5:30 p.m. Stewardship Dinner**

We will be helping clean up after the Stewardship Dinner. This is a big night in the life of the church, and it will be a great chance to participate together.

#### **November 8, 9 Fall Beach Retreat. Meet at church at 8:30 Saturday, Return to the church at 4 p.m., Sunday.**

Rituals, Rites and Traditions: Who are we and why should we even care? Explore this theme together as we learn what it means to be who we are together. Cost is \$50. See the details on the flyer that went to your house.. **Bring something that connects you to your history and a story of a tradition to share**—and the other stuff listed in the flyer. Scholarships available

#### **November 23 Movie night and Blankets for Project Linus 6:00-8:00**

The Senior Seekers will spend the evening making fleece blankets to donate to children in hospitals. All this, and we get to watch a movie together, what more could you want?!

#### **November 30 Hanging of the Greens**

Come help little hands make a Christmas craft.

**Senior High Bible Study**, meets at 4:30 each Sunday afternoon

**Senior Seekers Advisors:** Donna & Gary Rhoadarmer, Tim and Gwen Allen, Don and Melinda Kisela, Kim and Phil Wheelles,

## **Opportunities for Fellowship (see also p. 3)**

### **Senior Follies, Sunday, November 16 at 2 p.m.**

Join Kurt and Sharon Holloway on Sunday, November 16, at 2 PM at Steel River Playhouse (downtown Pottstown) to enjoy a fun and entertaining show. This is a special musical revue produced for and performed by senior adults as part of the special programming at Steel River. Kurt's Guarantee: It will be one of the most enjoyable Sunday afternoons you have had all year. No fine print, no disclaimers, no kidding! See Kurt or sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board for reservations. You can pick up your tickets and pay for them at the theater on the day of the show.

### **Men's Breakfast, Saturday, November 8, 8-9 a.m.**

The guys gather one Saturday of the month for food, fellowship, and devotionals led by Carter. David Allebach is our chef this month. All are invited.

### **Prime Timers—"Senior Follies" and "Sound of Music"**

Join your church family in attending Senior Follies on Sunday, November 16 (see above). In December, we will be attending the "Sound of Music" production on December 5. Order your tickets on the church bulletin board by November 13.

### **Faith and Nature Group Expedition to Conowingo Dam, Sat, Nov. 29**

Here is your chance to see eagles up close and in flight! See details on p. 7.

### **Hanging of the Greens, Sunday, November 30 at 6:30 p.m.**

Begin Advent with a gathering for all ages. We will enjoy dessert at 6:30 p.m., decorate the church, Senior seekers will help young children do a craft, Junior Seekers invite senior adults to join them in packing treat bags for Operation Backpack, and all of us will gather at the end to sing carols. There is something for everyone to do—whether sitting or standing, young or old. Bring holiday cookies and nibbles to share. Please sign up on the bulletin insert, on the church bulletin board or by calling the church office.

### **Faithful Friends (formerly Young Adults), Sat. November 22 at 6 p.m.**

Join Carter, Kerry, and other faithful friends for a potluck supper and fellowship on Saturday, November 22 at Seth and Elisha's house. To find out what to bring or for directions, contact Seth or Elisha, Carter or Kerry.

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## **Opportunities for Service**

### **Church Work Day, Saturday, November 1, 9 a.m. to noon**

Join the Deacons for our annual Fall church work day. We will clean up outside and inside. For the outside, please bring your tree and hedge trimming tools, rakes, etc. An inside crew will be cleaning the pews. If you sign up, we can contact you in the case of rain.

### **Miller-Keystone Blood Drive, Tuesday, November 4, 3:30-7 p.m.**

Mark your calendar's for this fall's blood drive...Wednesday, November 4th. Please sign up on the church bulletin board or contact Jeannette Feroe with any questions.

## Opportunities for Service cont.

### **Prayer Shawl Ministry, November 18 at 7 p.m.**

Join us as we knit prayer shawls together. Completed shawls are shared with church members and friends facing difficult challenges. Questions? Contact Jane Barndt.

### **Instant Mashed Potatoes Challenge—300 boxes by Nov. 30**

Put your donations in our Mission basket to help us fill the Cluster's Christmas baskets.

### **New Clothes for Kids for Christmas**

You can make it possible for a child in need in Pottstown to have new clothes and/or cozy pajamas at Christmas. Due to an increasing need this year, we have a choice of providing clothes or pajamas for children. Cards will be available in the church foyer during November. Select a card and purchase a new outfit or pajamas in the proper size. Bring these gifts, unwrapped and in a Christmas gift bag, to the church by **December 7**. The gifts of new clothes will be distributed to those waiting children by the Cluster of Religious Communities, and you will have the joy of knowing you brought a smile to a child's face at Christmas. Thanks for your support!

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## **Faith and Nature Group**

One of the things I really enjoy about leading this group is that it gives me the opportunity to get to know other members of our church family beyond the doors of the church. When new faces show up it not only creates a new chance for me to get to know others, but also for the other folks who go along on our hikes. The casual give and take seems to happen almost instantly in the midst of the beauty and peace of God's forests and woods that we travel through. On September 28<sup>th</sup> that camaraderie happened again as we hiked the Six Penny Trail in the Hopewell Big Woods of French Creek State Park. It was a nice mix of familiar and new faces. I got to know Richard and Peggy Whitaker who joined us for the first time, along with Rob Land, Keith Harrison, and Lisa Bush. We enjoyed a spectacular Indian summer afternoon exploring the trail that included the remains of the old Six Penny Lake and recreation area dating back to the 1930's. It was a truly fine day outdoors.

The date has been set for our most popular and spectacular event of the year. Join us on Saturday, November 29<sup>th</sup> as we travel to Conowingo Dam to view the annual eagle migration. You will see eagles up close and in flight. We usually see over one hundred eagles, so if you want to see this amazing creature in the wild, this is your best chance. No hiking required, just park your car and the birds will be all around. There is also an opportunity for a short hike along the Susquehanna River. Following the hike we will stop for lunch in the village of Port Deposit. This is always a great day. Meet at church @ 9:00am to carpool or follow the caravan on your own. We will return approximately 4:00pm. Sign up on church bulletin board or contact me by phone at 484-524-8072 or e-mail: [mdeegs16@aol.com](mailto:mdeegs16@aol.com)

“When thou sees an eagle, thou sees a portion of genius; lift up thy head!” - William Blake  
I hope you will join us.  
-Mike Deegan

## Session Digest

At its October meetings, the Session:

- Shared joys and concerns.
- Reviewed what we said last year this time about “what God is calling us to accomplish in the next year or two?” and reviewed under each ministry goal what has in fact been accomplished.
- Received notification that the church has received a bequest from the estate of Lorraine Reidenouer and designated the gift for the Endowment Fund.
- Approved the baptisms of Payton Rose Grace Vogt, Theodore Jacob Vogt IV, and Ryan Connelly Vogt, children of God and sons and daughter of Brad and Amanda Vogt on Sunday, October 12, 2014, and since they regularly attend church here with their grandparents Ted and Kay Vogt when Brad and Amanda are fulfilling their military and police commitments on weekends, Ted and Kay also participated in the baptism.
- Approved the baptism of Gracie Marie DeNicco, child of God and daughter of A.J. and Katie DeNicco, on October 26, 2014.
- Heard that Carter will be serving on the Transition Team (with Tim Peckham) for the merger of Camp Kirkwood and Camp Brainerd (Lehigh Presbytery). Camp Kirkwood will be the surviving camp property. Also heard that Kerry continues to serve on the Greater Pottstown Area Health and Wellness Foundation.
- Received the Treasurer’s Report. No monthly allocation was made to the Mission or Capital Improvement funds.
- Heard that the pastors and interested elders will be meeting with three members who were not able to attend the first “evening of prayerful conversation” regarding gay marriage.
- Received an interim report from the Admin. Committee on its investigation into how best to protect our sanctuary windows and prevent water penetration.
- Received a report from the Mission Committee that nearly \$1500 was raised by our congregation on the “virtual CROP walk” and from donations made at the door Sunday.
- Heard from Personnel that staff evaluations and meetings have taken place with all of the staff except for the pastors, which still has to be scheduled.
- Elected Chad Stacks as the second elder on the Nominating Committee.
- Heard reports also from the Spiritual Formation, Endowment, Hospitality, Nominating, and Stewardship Committees and Deacons.
- Approved replacement of two church tents with money from the Memorial Fund.
- Please keep in your prayers the following:

Personnel: thanksgiving for our staff.

Nominating: for wisdom and discernment on the part of the committee and those asked to serve.

Stewardship: thanksgiving for volunteers who are making the program and dinner possible and that people will respond to the opportunity for church members to grow deeper in Christ and reach farther in love.

Spiritual Formation: thanksgiving for our teachers and Advent devotion volunteers.

Worship: gratitude for our music ministry.

Hospitality: thanksgiving for those who show warm and welcoming hearts to visitors.

Mission: for our alternative gift market.

Endowment: thanksgiving for the committee members and our investment advisors.

Admin: thanksgiving for John Marshall’s many years of service on the Admin. Committee.



## Financial Report

Budgeted income for the year:	\$566,947
Budgeted income through September 30:	425,210
Actual income through September 30:	404,301
This time last year:	388,547
Budgeted expenses for the year:	589,270
Budgeted expenses through September 30:	441,952
Actual expenses through September 30:	422,003
This time last year:	359,843
Deficit to date:	(\$27,341)*
Surplus this time last year:	\$28,705**

\*After all mission/cap imp. allocations paid.

\*\*Surplus last year due to AP position not yet being filled.

## Counters' Corner

Thanks to the counters for November. Our Head Counter Nov, 2-23 is Bill Dupree, Nov, 30: Sharon Trevoy. Other counters are Don Grim, Bob and Barbara Lisi

Thanks as well to our Coordinator of Counters, Hank Phillips.

## Church Family News

Please keep in your prayers the following people who have been ill, hospitalized recently or undergoing tests: **Sarah Boyer, John Davis, Don Grim, Betty Rissell, and Faye Bush.**

We wish for a long and happy marriage for **Donna Hutchison and David Force** who were married in the sanctuary recently.

We remember and send condolences to the family of **John Marshall** who passed away recently and also to **Gina James and family** upon the passing of her father, Gino Longo and to **Andy Hazeltine and family** whose father Larry passed recently.

A big thank you to the following who helped with the annual Apple Fest: Missy Weber and Elaine Siever, co chairs, Mim DeRenzo, Ted Reed, Sandro and Rosie Roseo, Julianna Roseo, Erin, Julian and Emily Weber, Matt and Sharon Sgriccia, Jacki Wagner, Jane Hopple, Gwen and Tim Allen, Marguerite Detwiler and Barbara Lewis.

## Deacons' Bench

**Cluster Report:** We have committed to collecting 300 boxes of instant, plain mashed potatoes for the Holiday Baskets that will be delivered to needy families at Christmastime. Place your donations in the Cluster Basket by the front door. We are collecting Redner's receipts and Professional Pharmacy receipts for the Cluster. There is a clearly marked envelope taped to the Cluster Basket for your receipts.

The **Deacons Meal Ministry**, for folks in the church family, is in need of family sized dinners and low salt dinners. which we can keep in the church freezer and deliver as needed. If you have questions, talk to Audrey Buckley.

## Lectionary Readings for November

### **For the week of November 2 to 9:**

Joshua 24: 1-3, Psalm 78: 1-7, I Thess. 4: 13-18, Matthew 25: 1-13

### **For the week of November 10 to 16:**

Judges 4: 1-7, Psalm 123, I Thess. 5:1-11, Matthew 25: 14-30

### **For the week of November 17 to 23:**

Ezekiel 34: 13-16, Psalm 100, Ephesians 1: 15-23, Matthew 25: 31-46

### **For the week of November 24 to 30:**

Isaiah 64: 1-9, Psalm 80: 1-7, I Cor, 1: 3-9, Mark 13: 24-37

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## Kitchen Corner—Cross Contamination

One of the biggest reasons that we get sick from the food that we eat is cross contamination. This occurs when pathogens are transferred from one surface or food to another. Cross contamination can cause a food-borne illness in many ways: contaminated ingredients are added to food that receives no further cooking; ready-to-eat food touches contaminated surfaces; contaminated food touches or drips fluid onto cooked or ready-to-eat food; a food handler touches contaminated food and then touches ready-to-eat food; or contaminated cleaning towels touch food-contact surfaces. Next month we will discuss more specific examples of cross contamination.

Thanks so much!  
Marcia Zeigler

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## Poinsettia Orders

In November, you can order poinsettias for Christmas. The poinsettias will be used to decorate the sanctuary and then after worship on December 21, you can take them with you. You may dedicate them in the honor or memory of a loved one. Cost will be \$9. Deadline for orders: Dec. 8.

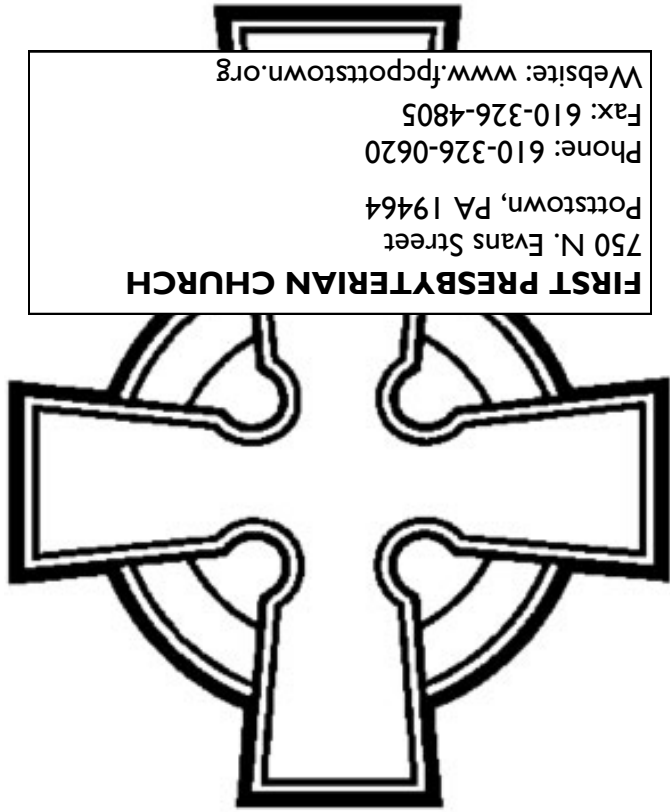
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## News from the Community:

**Operation Backpack, the Pottstown Public Library, the YWCA, Steel River Playhouse** and 11 other charities will benefit from a silent auction and dinner fundraiser on November 13 at the Sunnybrook Ballroom. For more information, go to <http://tcnetwork.org/celebrity-auction/>.

# November 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Nov. 30</b> Sun. Sch. 9:15 Worship 10:30 6:30 p.m. Hanging of the Greens						<b>1</b> Workday 9 a.m. Stewardship Dinner Set up
<b>2</b> All Saints Sun. Sch. 9:15 Worship 10:30 Seekers B. S. 4:30 Stewardship Dinner 5:30	<b>3</b> Cubs 7	<b>4</b> Polling Site Bloodmobile 3:30-7 p.m. Boy Scouts 7 Lectio 7:30	<b>5</b> M/R 4:30 Evening Prayer 7:15 Committees 7:30	<b>6</b> Sisters Bible 9:15 Meal 5 Bells 6:30 Choir 7:30	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Men's Breakfast 8 a.m. Sr. Seekers to Beach Retreat 8:30 a.m.
<b>9</b> Sun. Sch. 9:15 Worship 10:30 Dedication Sunday Sr. Hi Retreat returns 4 p.m.	<b>10</b> Cubs 7	<b>11</b> Boy Scouts 7 Next Week's Sermon 7:30	<b>12</b> Music/Rec 4:30 p.m. Relay for Life 6 Deacons 7:30	<b>13</b> Sisters Bible 9:15 am Meal 5 Bells 6:30 Choir 7:30	<b>14</b> SOUP Preparation	<b>15</b> Alternative Gift Market set-up
<b>16</b> Sun. Sch. 9:15 Worship 10:30 Alternative Gift Mkt. 11:30 Jr. Seekers Family Games 6	<b>17</b> Cubs 7	<b>18</b> Shawl 7 Lectio Divina 7:30	<b>19</b> M/R 4:30 Session 7:30	<b>20</b> Sisters Bible 9:15 Meal 5 Bells 6:30 Choir 7:30	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Faithful Friends @ Rios' 6 p.m.
<b>23</b> Sun. Sch. 9:15 Worship 10:30 Sr. Seek 6 Thanksgiving Service @ 1st Mth. 7:30 p.m.	<b>24</b> Cubs 7	<b>25</b> Boy Scouts 7 Choir 7:30	<b>26</b> Music and Rec 4:30 Comp. Friends 7:30 HENS Closed	<b>27</b> Happy Thanksgiving	<b>28</b> HENS Closed	<b>29</b> Nature Walk @ Conowingo Dam leaving 9 a.m.



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