

THE HERALD

October 2020

Let's Talk About Halloween

During my last two years of seminary I left every Sunday morning early (about 7) to drive south of Pittsburgh 50 minutes....through the rural twists and turns, the lowlands and hills of the Allegheny mountains. It was lovely drive; I just spiritually sailed....every Sabbath!

I mean, here I was, a kid from a ranch in New Mexico, up against some of the most verdant woodlands in our nation: farmland rich with grain, harvests of pumpkins (sometimes by the many hundreds) spilling down a hillside to the road where I drove on by.



And then, one Sunday morning (it must have been early October)something changed. It - was -kind of spooktacular! Almost every home, almost every curve....there were ghosts and goblins, jack-o-lanterns and spooks laughing back at me. And then.....splat! There was a witch,, a full sized with on a broom....who had 'flown'into the front door of a farmhouse.

It was so funny.....I had to laugh out loud! I had never seen such a decoration...but it was far, FAR from being the only one that cropped up everywhere that October. Each week it seemed the spirits were multiplying: balloons wrapped in white sheets hanging on trees, like so many specters floating in the breeze. And some of these farmers had serious funny bones. Like this sign on an entry gate:



Why do I bring this up? Because....we Christians....are human. We seem to be able to demonize just about anything. (And we do!)

The first fall I was serving in Washington, a colleague in the Presbytery asked if I would come lead his youth group one October evening. Because, a new family had joined his rural church. And the parents...of their kids in youth group, the parents believed Halloween was evil, a tool of Satan. And of course I had come across that before.

It had become such a volatile subject for his church that he was hoping for a pastor from outside...to come in and help ameliorate...the conflict. To speak the truth in love...and help heal..the divide.

So I went, to Eighty-Four, Pennsylvania (yes, that is the name of the town)....and spoke that evening about fear....and faith. And how faith overcomes all fear. Even of ghosts and goblins. That yes, God wants us to be careful; to not give power...to idolatry...or evil. But also to not be afraid of the dark. And especially....grinning goblins!

What about you, beloved? Are you afraid of this current dark? Do you fear bad things lurk in the quarantine? Or this season? Or this month?

Behold, I tell you the Truth: the Word of God is a light in the dark, more powerful than evil, yea, even stronger than death! There is nothing to fear...for those who cling to the Lord; he will walk with us through every valley of shadow.

And so, let's give the children their laughs and giggles, and fill their plastic jack-o-lanterns safely....with healthy candy. Let's look to the dead who have gone before us and apprehend the Truth: you and I are surrounded by a cloud of witnesses. So good, so perfect in Heaven....that we need not fear again. Ever!

Happy, happy holidays, beloved; here's to GOoD days...all the way to the New Year.
Amen.

Jeff



OCTOBER BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

04 – Sebastian Newman
08 – Andy Singaas
10 – Dawn Thompson
17 – Judy Guilliat
18 – Frances Beurivage
20 – Sharron Scheidt
22 – Curtis Pester
28 – Ron Smith
28 – C. Harvey Traudt
28 – Clint Werner
31 – Sharon Baker



HERITAGE BIRTHDAY CLUB

Anyone may join or renew their membership in Heritage's Birthday Club. Donations (usually 1 dollar per year of life) is made to our endowment fund.

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES



03 – Tom & Patty Doering
03 – James Robertson & Jane Bitney
05 – Bruce & Dehnia Bullerdiak
06 – Arnold & Sharon Wells
09 – Duane & Barbara Kennedy
09 – Andy & Kate Singaas
17 – Robert & Dorothy Hill

Please notify the church office if your birthday or anniversary was omitted or incorrect so we can make the necessary changes.

CROP WALK – OCTOBER 11

Thank you to those who have already donated to the 2020 CROP Walk. We are still accepting donations either through the CROP Walk website or mark your donation as CROP Walk and give to the church office. Please give to help end hunger around the world!

STEWARDSHIP

We are seeking a chairperson for stewardship this year. If interested, please contact Sue Nelson.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

We are needing nominees for the nominating committee. Please contact Sue Nelson for more information.

PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING

This year's theme for the Peace & Global Witness Offering is Peace at all Times in all Ways (2 *Thessalonians 3:16*). The Mission Committee invites you to join us to be a part of the work for peace in our world. This offering provides a concrete way to contribute to the work of peacemaking in our communities, region, and world.

FAIR TRADE PRODUCTS

We have finally been able to purchase additional Palestinian Medjool Dates. They can be purchased for \$12.00/package. They are delicious!

Now that the days and nights are getting chilly, don't forget your Fair Trade coffee and tea products! Tea, coffee, oil and/or chocolates are available for pick-up or delivery! Please call your order to either Karen Griffin Sieber (402-470-3669) or Pat Zink (402-560-0917). We will either deliver to your home or arrange a time for pick-up from the church office. The following products are available:

- Teas (\$2.50/box): Mint Green, English Breakfast, Irish Breakfast, Peppermint, Green tea with Ginger, Earl Grey, Chamomile, Chai
- Coffees: French Vanilla, Bright Day Brew, Toffee Caramel, Breakfast Blend, Love Buzz, French Roast (price varies \$6.50 - \$7.50)
- Chocolate bars: Milk chocolate or Dark chocolate minis (5/\$1), Large bars (\$2.50) – Dark Choc Almond, Dark Choc Caramel

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our Sunday School is ZOOMING! Age 3 through 5th grade are welcome to join us at 9:15 am on Sunday mornings for a 20-30 minute session.

<http://bit.ly/HeritageSundaySchool>

Meeting ID: 811 4824 5328

Passcode: 782765

If you need the worksheets, please contact any Sunday School teacher or Leanne Miller (pip_pb@yahoo.com) to have them emailed to you.

DUCS YARD SALE FUNDRAISER

Thank you to everyone who help with and supported the DUCs Yard Sale. The DUCs made over \$600.

PRAYER LIST

Please contact the church office or Christie Werner with any prayer requests.

- Dorothy Hill's grandson (heart surgery)
Patty Kouba recovery
- Danny Broeder – Mom hospice
- Wanda Wilson – Gary Printer (cancer)
- Officer Herrera family (loss)
- Stewart family (loss)
- Judy Guilliat – grandson
- Alan Shuman – rehab
- Missy Bahr – illness
- Audrey Schneider and family – passing of retired Rev. Dennis Hett

REACH OUT TO OUR CHURCH FAMILY

During this time of social isolation, please take a few minutes to pick up your phone and call members of our church family who are self-isolating to protect their health. Or send a card to let them know that someone is thinking of them. Together we will get through this pandemic!

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Heritage Presbyterian Church

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www.HeritagePres.org

**DEADLINE FOR THE
NEXT HERALD**

October 25, 2020

Items received after this
date may not be included!

Heritage Presbyterian
 880 South 35th Street
 Lincoln, NE 68510
 402-477-3401
pastorheritagepc@gmail.com

OCTOBER 2020

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------------|--------|------------------------|
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 <i>World Communion Sunday</i> 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship | 5 7:00 PM Troop 20306 Girl Scouts | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 <i>CROP Walk</i> 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship | 12 <i>Columbus Day / Indigenous Peoples' Day</i> | 13 6:30 PM Bible Study | 14 | 15 7:00 PM Troop 39 Boy Scouts | 16 | 17 |
| 18 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 <i>Reformation Sunday</i> <i>Newsletter Deadline</i> 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship / Congregational Meeting | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 <i>Halloween</i> |

Please refer to the online calendar for updated/changed events.