



Restoration PRESSBYTERIAN

November -
December 2023

a bi-monthly publication of Restoration Presbyterian Church (PCA)

Our VISION

To be a church,
a community and a world
continually restored
by the grace of Christ.



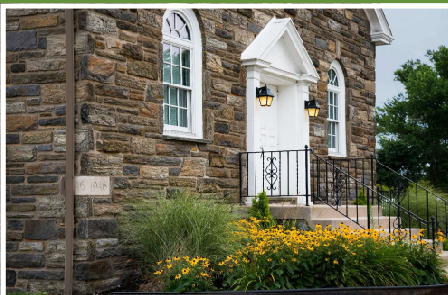
Our IDENTITY

We are strugglers, sufferers,
and sinners who share
in God's restoration
of all things -
our life with God, our
relationships, our community
and our world -
through the Gospel.



Our MISSION

To proclaim the Gospel
and serve in love
with the hope that God
will bring continual
restoration to our lives,
relationships, community
and world for His glory.



On the Lord's Supper and Thanksgiving

by Pastor Jon Bonomo

*"I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving,
and call on the name of the Lord."*

(Psalm 116:17)

When I hear the word "November," the things that come to my mind first are my family gathered around the table talking, laughing, and of course eating mass quantities of stuffing, mashed potatoes, candied yams, pumpkin pie, and turkey. (I purposely list turkey last because it is in fact my

least favorite part of the Thanksgiving meal!) What a glorious feast! However, it is a feast whose true glory is not primarily in the food that will leave us all in a coma by mid-afternoon, but

in the names and faces of those gathered around the table, and the bond that we share, which is represented in this moment, on this day, at this meal.



The Lord's Supper is for the church of Jesus Christ our *Thanksgiving Meal*. That may seem like an odd statement at first, given the fact that the food we see on the Table is just a loaf of bread and little cups of wine (*or juice* — either way I will still refer to it as wine!); but, it is true. The Lord's Supper is in fact THE Thanksgiving meal, because it is the meal that gives meaning to all other meals. This is actually why the church from very early on began to refer to the Lord's Supper as the "*Eucharist*": The word "*Eucharist*" comes from the Greek word, "*eucharistia*," meaning, "*thanksgiving*."

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by Sherrie Strain

As the twinkling lights adorn the streets, and the sweet aroma of freshly baked cookies fills the air, it is undeniable that Christmas is approaching. Yet, amid the excitement and festive hustle, let us not forget the true essence of this joyous season. To truly prepare our hearts for Christmas, we turn to the timeless wisdom of Scripture, which invites us to embrace love, joy, peace, and hope.

Embracing Love: Christmas is a celebration of love, and Scripture reminds us of the ultimate expression of love - the birth of Jesus Christ. In John 3:16, we read, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life." Let this truth resonate within us, inspiring acts of love and kindness towards others, just as God selflessly gave His Son for us.

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On the Lord's Supper and Thanksgiving

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The term "*Eucharist*" goes back at least as early as the late first century. An early Christian writing from this period called the "*Didache*" refers to the Lord's Supper as "*The Thanksgiving*" — "*Eucharistia*". (Part 2, chapter 9) However, the connection between *Communion* and *Thanksgiving* goes back even further than that, for it is derived from the example of Christ himself. When Jesus gave the bread to his disciples at the Last Supper, it says that he did so "*when he had given thanks*" (Luke 22:19), and Paul giving instructions to the church in Corinth on how to celebrate the Supper, he repeats this (1 Cor. 11.24).

So, what does this mean for you as we celebrate the Lord's Supper together on Sunday mornings? It means at least three things.

1. *The Lord's Supper is a Feast.* As great as our family Thanksgiving meals are; the Lord's Supper is far greater — as greater as the heavenly is than the earthly, the eternal than the transient, and the imperishable than the perishable. True, the physical elements that we see with our eyes, take with our hands, put in our mouths and swallow are just a little bread and a little wine. From the perspective of the world, this is rather meager and unremarkable; but from the perspective of the kingdom of God — *by faith and not by sight* — this is the bread of heaven and food of eternal life, true food and drink, received by faith, that will never perish, never leave you hungry, never thirsty;

nothing less than Christ himself in the saving beatitude of his holy gospel. For the thing that is sitting behind this morsel of bread and little cup is nothing less than the



overwhelming promise that God has given you in Jesus Christ: *his very self* as the food and drink of your soul. And therefore, as with David in Psalm 23, the Lord in this meal has prepared a Table before you in the presence of your enemies, he anoints your head with oil, your cup overflows, his goodness and mercy will pursue you all the days of your life, and you shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever. If ever there has been something to *give thanks for*, this is it!

2. *The Lord's Supper is about Family.* It is a family meal. In the Lord's Supper, not only do we celebrate what God has done for us as individuals, but we also celebrate the fact that he has bound us together with a new family — the family of those who have been adopted as God's children in the Lord Jesus Christ. This is one reason why we frequently call the Lord's Supper, "*Communion*" (the Greek word for this is "*koinonia*," meaning "*fellowship*," or "*participation*"). The Lord's Supper is *communion*, in two

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On the Lord's Supper and Thanksgiving

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ways. First and foremost, in the Lord's Supper, we have communion with Jesus. But then, flowing out of this communion that we have with Jesus, we also have communion with each other, *in Jesus*. One of my favorite parts of the Westminster Confession of Faith puts it this way: "All saints, that are united to Jesus Christ their Head, by His Spirit, and by faith, have fellowship with Him in His graces, sufferings, death, resurrection, and glory: and being united to one another in love, they have communion in each other's gifts and graces" (Westminster Confession 26.1). This is what the Lord's Supper is about — communion with Christ, and communion with one another in Christ. We are the family of the living God. Because of this, in addition to looking at the bread and wine when you take communion, it is also appropriate to also look around

the room. Look at the faces of the people you are eating with. *Look at your family*. Give thanks for them. Rejoice in them. Think about Jesus, Yes, but think about your brothers and sisters too. Pray for the Lord to work within your heart a deeper love both for Him and for them.

3. *The Lord's Supper is about Joy*. A lot of times, the spirit in which churches will celebrate the Lord's Supper is rather somber. To be sure, there are times when this is appropriate. One of the callings of the church in this world of sin and misery is to be a safe place for true lament. Indeed, we are those who *weep with those who weep*. Sometimes the Supper can be the place for this — when you are in a time of severe repentance from a particular sin that has destroyed you and your relationship with God; or when the church is mourning great loss; or when you are overwhelmed with tragedy in your life or in the world. Nevertheless, as a general rule, the prevailing spirit of our celebration of the Lord's Supper should be *Joy*. This is the case for at least three reasons: First, the Lord's Supper is not only about remembering the *death* of Jesus, but it is also about participating in the *life* of Jesus. Jesus lives! He is with us! He is present to feed us! When we remember His Death, we proclaim His Victory! *Rejoice!* Second, the Lord's Supper not only reminds us of our unworthiness, but it also *assures* us that God loves, receives, and feeds the unworthy! "This is my body, which is **for you**... This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is shed for many for the **forgiveness** of sins." Do you have sins that need to be forgiven? You qualify! Jesus came for the sick, not the healthy. Rejoice! And Third, the Lord's Supper is a fore-taste of that great feast that we will take on the last day, with Jesus in his eternal Kingdom. On that day, what we now grasp by faith, we will see with our eyes and touch with our hands. Then the glorious reality that this bread and cup now promise and pledge to us will be fully enjoyed by us. An imperishable kingdom, where death is no more, and every tear is wiped from your eyes. *Rejoice in this hope!*



So, beloved, when we gather together around the Table of the Lord, it is truly an occasion above all others for giving thanks. What a glorious feast this is! But, it is a feast whose true glory is not primarily seen in the elements spread out on the Table considered in themselves, but in those who are gathered there: the risen Lord Jesus as the Host who is present to feed those who are justified, sanctified, and adopted in him; and the bond that we share, which is represented in this moment, on this day, in this meal. *Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!* [2 Corinthians 9:15]

Grateful Hearts: Celebrating God's Unwavering Faithfulness

by Sherrie Strain

At this time of year we should find ourselves reflecting on the countless blessings that have graced our lives. It is a time of gathering with loved ones, sharing delicious meals, and expressing gratitude for the abundance that surrounds us. But amidst the festivities, let's not forget to give thanks to God for His unwavering faithfulness.

In a world that often feels uncertain and ever-changing, God's faithfulness remains a constant anchor in our lives. He is the steady rock that we can always rely on, the guiding light that illuminates our path, and the loving presence that fills our hearts with peace and joy.

As we gather around our tables, let us remember the countless times God has shown His faithfulness in our lives. Through trials and tribulations, He has been our source of strength, carrying us through the darkest of storms. In moments of doubt, He has provided us with unwavering hope, reminding us that His plans for us are greater than we could ever imagine.



Give thanks for His faithfulness in times of abundance, when our cups overflow with blessings. He has showered us with unnumbered mercies: good health, loving relationships, and opportunities for growth. His provision has been abundant, and His grace has sustained us through every season of life.

But let us not only remember the big moments; let's also give thanks for the small miracles that often go unnoticed. The unexpected phone call from a friend, the comforting presence of a loved one during a difficult time, or the simple joys that bring a smile to our faces – these are all reminders of God's faithfulness in the everyday moments of our lives.

During this season, let's cultivate hearts filled with gratitude, acknowledging God's faithfulness not just at this time of year, but every day. Remember that our thankfulness should extend beyond mere words, but manifest in our actions towards others. As we express our gratitude, let us also be instruments of God's faithfulness, spreading love, kindness, and compassion to those around us.

So, let our voices rise in unison, offering heartfelt thanks to the One who has been faithful in EVERY season of our lives. May our gratitude be a testament to His love and faithfulness, and may it inspire others to seek His unwavering presence in their own lives.

Let's celebrate with grateful hearts, for God's faithfulness endures forever.



*Worship at Restoration
with Ogden Baptist Church
November 22, 7:30pm
Speaker: Rev. Dan Hicks*

*Celebrate the
birth of our Savior!
December 24th, 5:00pm*



Corrie Ten Boom

by guest author Edwin McDaniel (brother and brother-in-law to Beth and Alan McCarrick)

Yad Vashem is the organization the State of Israel has tasked to give remembrance to those who perished in the holocaust.



There is a section for the “Righteous Gentiles;” those who protected and aided Jews during this terrible time. In the pages on the web site of Yad Vashem, there is a photograph of the Ten Boom family. Four family members died because they had helped the Jews.

When the Nazis overran Holland, one man’s life was in danger because he was Jewish. Corrie Ten Boom, wrote how she and her sister Betsie, quickly ushered the man into their home. While trying to think how to get him to escape, the sisters said at the same time

“Willem!”, (their brother). Willem had aided Jews fleeing Germany before the war.

When Corrie arrived at Willem’s house, he was not at home. Willem’s wife ,Tine, and Tine’s son, Kik, listened intently to her story. When she finished speaking, Kik said “Have him ready to go at dusk. Make sure the backalley light is off.” Then Kik said to his Mother, “I should be home tomorrow at 3.” Kik kissed his mother and aunt goodbye and was out the door.

In the silence that followed, Tine wiped the kitchen table and said “He is not a child any longer.” Corrie started to ask a question, and Tine said “Don’t ask, Corrie. If you don’t know, they can’t get the information from you.”

Kik disappeared one day. Years later, his family determined that he had died at the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp.

Kik’s father Willem was able to come home to die after his prison was liberated. His grandfather, Casper, died while in jail at Scheveningen. His Aunt Betsie died in Ravensbrück concentration camp in Germany.

In Corrie Ten Boom’s book, *In My Father’s House*, there is a section on hard times that they went through. She writes about a talk she had with her father and how it changed her:

“Father, what must we do? Everything is so terrible!”

“Don’t forget Corrie, underneath us are the everlasting arms. We won’t fall.”

“I didn’t know that expression, and I asked, “Is that in the Bible ?”

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Set aside some time during November and December to memorize (hiding God’s Word in your heart) these verses about GOD’S FAITHFULNESS! All verses are taken from the English Standard Version (ESV).

Deuteronomy 32:4: The Rock, His work is perfect, for all His ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity.

Psalms 33:4: For the Word of the Lord is upright, and all His work is done in faithfulness.

Psalms 36:5: Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens, Your faithfulness to the clouds.

Isaiah 25:1: O Lord, You are my God; I will exalt You; I will praise Your Name, for You have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure.

2 Thessalonians 3:3: But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one.

Faithfulness



This technique is borrowed from Pastor John Piper.



JEAN K!

by Beth McCarrick

To many, Jean might appear to be a first time visitor to our church, but to us old timers, she's been around. :-)

Jean was friends with Ellie Gentilini and attended a Bible study with her. It was through this study that Jean began her personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

At that time Jean lived in Bethel township and our church was just down Chichester Ave from her home which became a natural fit. Then in 1999, Jean's husband was offered a transfer to Houston, Texas so off she went. Their three children, Elaine, Jackie and Kevin were all in the area which meant their six grandchildren were also in the area. So, in 2007, Jean and Bill returned to Chester County.

Their new house was still too far from the grandchildren, so when her son Kevin and his wife and four children moved to Ridley Township from their former home in

Philadelphia, Bill agreed to look for a home closer to them. This past year, they purchase a home in Ridley Township and Jean returned to our church. She is now a regular attender helping where need be such as the missions conference working with the children.

Jean also has come on the board with Wilmington Women's Connection greeting people as they arrive and making sure they have their nametags. She also has volunteered with Bethel Township Preservation Society helping on our Founder's Day event in period costume. When she isn't busy helping others, she and Bill are still settling into their new home finding a place for everything and painting every nook and cranny. Ask Jean what her favorite shade of white is.

Jean's favorite verse is Jeremiah 29:11. "For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Her prayer request whenever asked is household salvation so welcome Jean back to our fold.



The Ten Boom Family

Corrie Ten Boom

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"It most certainly is. Moses spoke those words to the sons of Israel."

"How does that help us right now?" I asked rebelliously.

"Girl, it makes all the difference. Moses tells us in the book of Deuteronomy that God is a dwelling place. We have the promise of security when His arms are beneath us ... holding us ... supporting us ... strengthening us."

She then shared how she spoke to Betsie about this thirty years later at Ravensbrück. Betsie said "Oh yes, Corrie ... and they will never leave us"

The Ten Boom family saw the deadly situation for Jews in Nazi Germany and were moved by their Christian faith to act to save some, endangering their own lives while several paid the full price.

Church Calendar!

(LS: live-streamed)

Every Sunday: Sunday School, 9:15am
Worship Service, 10:15am, LS



NOVEMBER

- 1 Coffee Break, 10:00am, church
- 1 Prayer Meeting, 7:00pm, zoom
- 1 GRASP, 7:00pm, church
- 4 **Set your clocks BACK one hour**
- 5 Communion, during Morning Worship
- 7 **Election Day**
- 8 Coffee Break, 10:00am, church
- 8 Prayer Meeting, 7:00pm, church
- 10-12 Reality Factor Youth Retreat
- 11 **VETERANS DAY**
- 11 Men's Bible Study and Prayer, 9:00am, church
- 12 Youth Group, Noon, church
- 14 Philadelphia-Metro West Presbytery Meeting
- 14 Women's Book Study, 6:30pm, zoom,
Gloria Snyder
- 15 Coffee Break, 10:00am, church
- 15 Prayer Meeting, 7:00pm, zoom
- 19 Communion, during Morning Worship
- 19 Naaman's Creek Country Manor, 2:00pm
- 22 Coffee Break, 10:00am, church
- 22 **THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE with Ogden Baptist AT Restoration, 7:30pm**
- 23 **THANKSGIVING**
- 26 Youth Group, Noon, church
- 29 Coffee Break, 10:00am, church
- 29 Prayer Meeting, 7:00pm, zoom

DECEMBER

- 3 Communion, during Morning Worship
- 6 Coffee Break, 10:00am, church
- 6 Prayer Meeting, 7:00pm, church
- 6 GRASP, 7:00pm, church
- 9 Men's Breakfast, 9:00am, church
- 10 Youth Group, Noon, church
- 13 Coffee Break, 10:00am, church
- 13 Prayer Meeting, 7:00pm, zoom
- 17 Communion, during Morning Worship
- 17 Naaman's Creek Country Manor, 2:00pm
- 24 **NO SUNDAY SCHOOL**
- 24 Youth Group, Noon, church

DECEMBER (Continued)

- 24 **CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE, 5:00pm, church**
- 25 **CHRISTMAS**
- 27 Prayer Meeting, 7:00pm, zoom
- 31 **NEW YEAR'S EVE**
- 31 **NO SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Community Calendar!

Please see Beth McCarrick for more information about the below activities...

Wilmington Women's Connection
"TALES OF CHRISTMAS" Luncheon
Monday, December 11, 2023,
11:00am to 1:00pm
\$22.00 inclusive

The luncheon will be at Fava Ristorante Italiano (1102 Baltimore Pike, Suite 101, Glen Mills, PA 19342). This month's special guest is Gayle Haas from Aurora, Illinois. Gayle is a homemaker, teacher, dramatist / storyteller, and a nurturer who values family. She will be performing a historical, dramatic monologue entitled, "A Visit with Corrie". Corrie Ten Boom was a Dutch holocaust survivor during World War II. Corrie's book is entitled, "The Hiding Place". At the close of her performance, Gayle will also share her own story with us.

The Koinonia Bowling League is looking for women bowlers. 10am on Fridays, at Conchester Bowlero, \$15 per week.



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Finding Joy: Amid the flurry of gift-shopping and party-planning, it is easy to lose sight of true joy. However, the Bible calls us to rejoice always, regardless of our circumstances. In Luke 2:10, the angel proclaims, “I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.” Remember that the true source of joy lies not in material possessions but in the joyous news of Christ’s birth and His work of redemption, filling us with hope and promise.

Pursuing Peace: In a world often plagued by chaos and unrest, Christmas offers a reminder of peace. Isaiah 9:6 tells us, “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” Through Scripture, we are invited to find solace in the Prince of Peace and seek reconciliation with others, thereby demonstrating God’s love.

Nurturing Hope: Christmas is a time of hope, as we commemorate the arrival of the long-awaited Messiah. Romans 15:13 encourages us, “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” Let us cling onto this hope, knowing that God’s promises are true, and allow it to permeate our hearts, renewing our spirits and encouraging us to spread hope to those around us.

As we prepare our hearts for Christmas, let us remember that the true significance of this season lies not in the presents beneath the tree, but in the timeless message of love, joy, peace, and hope that Scripture imparts. May the wisdom and teachings of the Bible guide us in embracing the true spirit of Christmas, transforming our hearts and radiating the love and joy of Christ to all those we encounter.



RESTORATION

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