October 30, 2026

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,




**It's fall y'all!** It is my absolute favorite season. I love the cooler temperatures, the beautiful colors, and the Thanksgiving holiday. And while Thanksgiving is technically a secular holiday, I am reminded of our continual need to give thanks to God for the many blessings he has bestowed upon us.

*"O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,*
*for his steadfast love endures forever."*
(1 Chronicles 16:34 NRSVUE)

As Thanksgiving approaches, we pause with grateful hearts to reflect on God's many blessings. We give thanks for His faithfulness, guidance, and steadfast love, which sustain us through every season.

I am deeply grateful for each and every one of you. Through our times of worship, prayer, giving, service, witness, and fellowship, you continue to demonstrate compassion and generosity. Each act of kindness and service strengthens our community and reminds us of the joy found in caring for one another.

May this Thanksgiving be a time of rest, reflection, and meaningful connection with family and friends. As we share our blessings, may we remember those who are facing hardship and look for opportunities to offer encouragement and support. May we share in our blessings when we see opportunities to spread God's love and extend our gratitude.

Thank you for all you do for the Kingdom of God. The Leechburg First United Methodist Church is filled with faithful followers of Jesus Christ who love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously. May your homes be filled with peace, your hearts with gratitude, and your days with renewed hope.

In Christ's service,

*Pastor Sara*

Dear Ones,

Thank you so much for all your expressions of appreciation for Pastor's Appreciation month. The cards, gifts, flowers, and poem meant so much to me. I am so blessed to be serving the Kingdom alongside all of you. I am so very thankful for each and every one of you.

Love,
Pastor Sara

# Worship Leader Schedule for November & December

| Date | Name |
|---|---|
| *November 1, All Saints Sunday Communion by Intinction | M.J. Cline |
| November 8, Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost | Deb Loftus |
| November 15, Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost/Laity Sunday | N/A |
| November 22, Christ the King Sunday | M.J. Cline |
| November 29, First Sunday of Advent | Don Sheaffer |
| *December 6, Second Sunday of Advent | Deb Loftus |
| December 13, Third Sunday of Advent | M.J. Cline |
| December 20, Fourth Sunday of Advent | Don Sheaffer |
| December 24, Christmas Eve | Deb Loftus |
| December 27, First Sunday after Christmas | M.J. Cline |

# Greeter & Usher Schedule for November & December

| Date | Greeter | Ushers |
|---|---|---|
| *Nov. 1, All Saints Sunday | Alana Gipson | Wally Prunty & Sam Sheaffer |
| Nov. 8. 24th Sunday after Pent. | Sandy Ashbaugh | Gloria Womer & Paul Wrona |
| Nov. 15, 25th Sunday after Pent. | Brentta & Don | Alana Gipson & Russ Lamison |
| Nov. 22, Christ the King Sunday | Pam McGranor | Janel Cibik & Pat Daugherty |
| Nov. 29, 1st Sunday of Advent | Dianne LeSueur | Don & Brentta Sheaffer |
| *Dec. 6, 2nd Sunday of Advent | Alana Gipson | Pam McGranor & Lynn Sibley |
| Dec. 13, 3rd Sunday of Advent | Sandy Ashbaugh | Leslie Buckingham & Chris VanDervort |
| Dec. 20, 4th Sunday of Advent | Brentta & Don | Wally Prunty & Sam Sheaffer |
| Dec. 24, Christmas Eve | | |
| Dec. 27, 1st Sun. after Christmas | Pam McGranor | Gloria Womer & Paul Wrona |

# November & December

*Birthdays and Anniversaries*

| NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS | |
|---|---|
| Gail Varine | 11/4 |
| Chris VanDervort | 11/8 |
| Pam McGranor | 11/8 |
| Ward Kepple | 11/10 |
| Darlene Schantz | 11/16 |
| Terry Snyder | 11/17 |
| Anna Cibik | 11/18 |
| John Varine | 11/22 |
| | |
| **DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS** | |
| Cheryl Carney | 12/8 |
| Kelly Remaley | 12/16 |
| Duncan Morrill | 12/16 |
| Amy Sheaffer | 12/24 |
| | |
| **NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES** | |
| James & Suzanne Swarts | 11/28 |
| | |
| **DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES** | |
| Brad & Pam McGranor | 12/21 |
| Bill & Lori Klingensmith | 12/27 |

If you would like to tell us when you birthday or anniversary is please let us know and we will put you in a future newsletter!



MEN'S MINISTRY

The Men's Ministry meets on the third Saturday of the month at Frankies. Come join the men for food and fellowship.

## Finance Committee

As has been our practice, we are providing financial information from the most recent Treasurer's Report at newsletter "press time". Following is a condensed version of the report for month ending September 30, 2026.

| | |
|---|---|
| **Beginning Balance** | **$32,867.84** |
| Deposits | $. 9,401.86 |
| Expenditures | -$12,780.65 |
| Transfers | -$ 50.50 |
| **Balance** | **$29,438.55** |
| Designated Funds | -$19,110.29 |
| **Working Balance** | **-$10,328.26** |

Deposits to the General Fund totaled $8,080.82 with the remaining $1,321.04 donated for specific causes and ministries or "designated" donations. Of the $12,780.65 in expenditures, $9,484.62 went to operating costs, utilities, payroll, etc., $530.00 to WPAUMC for Connectional Apportionment, $2,045.00 for Rise Against Hunger donation, and the remaining $721.03 for Crockpot Ministry, Casual Church, Rise Against Hunger meals and Gail's luncheon. $50.50 in Vanco donations intended for Trustees accounts were transferred. The Designated Funds total shown above includes monies raised for the Mission Journey to Red Bird Mission, along with donations to Outreach, Nurture, and Witness Committees, the Endowment Fund and other ministries.

Operating costs for the month ($9,484.62) were more than deposits to the General Fund ($8,080.82). Fortunately, the $1,403.80 shortfall was able to be covered due to the Endowment Committee approving the transfer of funds from their account to the General Fund in August. We are very grateful for the Endowment Committee's help to meet expenses. It remains our hope, however, that our regular weekly giving will be sufficient to cover expenses. This requires our collective giving to total a minimum of $2,500.00 weekly. Your generous support for our various missions and ministries is appreciated, and we encourage you to support the areas that speak most to your heart. At the same time, our General Fund is the heartbeat of everything we do, keeps the church running day-to-day, bills paid and makes all of our ministries possible. As you prayerfully consider your giving, please prioritize your support for our General Fund.

### Connectional Apportionment:

Our apportionment for 2026 is $18,573.00. Through September we have paid $11,511.50 (62%) leaving a balance of $7,061.50. To meet our obligation before year end will require monthly payments of $2,353.83. This will be a challenge, but we must continue working toward meeting our obligation. Please remember your connectional contributions not only help fund our local churches but missions and ministries worldwide. Our 2027 connectional apportionment will be $16,665.00, a reduction of $1,908.00 as compared to 2026.

### Reminders:

Our Pizza Hut Fundraiser is ongoing and benefits the General Fund. Just visit the Lower Burrell Pizza Hut any time during the last Tuesday of the month and present a "Fundraiser Ticket" to your cashier to ensure the church receives 20% of net sales. There is a supply of tickets in the vestibule.

Your consistent giving is vital to keeping the church operating. If you cannot be in church, remember that e-giving is always available. You can visit our website: LFUMC.org or LFUMC251@comcast.net and click on the Donation button.

Please keep the General Fund and Connectional Apportionment as priorities in your giving. With your support our work for God's Kingdom can continue not only locally but in many other areas as well.

*Blessings,*
*Don Sheaffer, Stewardship & Finance*

## The New Combined N.O.W. Committee

### Nurture Update

Our annual Advent Dinner will be held on Sunday, December 6 at 5:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. The main course will be baked ham with dinner rolls and beverages provided. A covered dish to share will be appreciated. Watch for more details and the sign-up sheet is in the vestibule. We hope everyone can attend for an evening of fun and fellowship.

The Nurture Committee sends Birthday and Anniversary cards as well as a get-well card when needed to our church family. Please be sure we have your special days on file. If you are not sure you can check with Pam in the office or a member of the committee.

Brentta Sheaffer
Nurture Committee

*I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another."*

John 13:34

**Bulletin and Altar Flower availability dates for:**

November
Bulletins: 8, 15, 22, 29
Flowers: 29

December
Bulletins: 13, 20, 27
Flowers: 6, 27

*Dates are good as of October*




**Coming soon - 2027 Flower & Bulletin Sign-Up Sheet**

## Outreach Update



Caring Crockpot Ministry will finish this year in November.

The dates for November: 4, 11, 18

The Rummage Sale, Chili Cook-Off and Bake Sale were a great success!

Totals for the event:
Bake Sale: $189.50
Chili Cook-Off: $557.00
Rummage Sale: $632.35
**Grant Total: $1378.85**

I would personally like to thank Pat Daugherty for her guidance in making the rummage sale such a success. Also, thank you to everyone who helped with donations, setting up for the sale, the bakers, chili makers, those who came out to help the day of the sale, and packing up after the sale. We really did have a blast!
*Thanks again, Pam*







The NOW Committee has decided to help two different families this year. One family being from the Erie area and the other local. Their wish lists will be released once we have more details. Please watch the bulletin for updates. Thank you for your support!

This year the Outreach Committee has voted to give out $30 gift certificates for Sprankle's. If you know someone who needs a gift certificate or if you need assistance, call Pam at 724 845-8761. The certificates will be distributed from November 9 - 23. Certificates will be distributed at the church and can be picked up between Tuesday and Friday, between 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. We will be having the certificates for Christmas also. Watch for details in future bulletins.



## RAMPS OF HOPE RECEIVES 2026 ACCF GRANT

We are pleased to announce that Ramps of Hope Armstrong was one of 57 nonprofits chosen to receive a grant from the Armstrong County Community Foundation at their Annual Dinner this year. Our award is in the amount of $11,000! This grant will greatly help us to meet the needs of some Armstrong County residents who need a ramp but do not have the financial means to afford one. With this grant, we will be able to make certain that they get the ramps they need for their safety and independence. We are honored to have our ministry chosen for this award and are extremely grateful to the Foundation, the Richard G. and Barbara A. Snyder Charitable Fund, the Board of Directors, Executive Director Jodi Beers, Executive Program Assistant Samantha Cribbs, and Marion Seavers. And thank you SO much to the congregations of Kittanning First UMC, Ford Memorial UMC, Union Ave UMC, and Leechburg First UMC for all the support and volunteers we receive from you. Without you as well as the Foundation, none of our work would be possible.

Blessings to All,
Lynn Sibley and Tim Scaife
Ramps of Hope Armstrong











On the last Tuesday of each month, we are asking that you help support us by either dining in or doing carry-out at the Lower Burrell Pizza Hut. We receive 20% of the net sales for everyone that presents a *coupon or let the server know that you are from LFUMC that night. Everyone has to eat supper so why not support your church while feeding your family.

This fundraiser does not require the church to front any money or require manpower to prepare and serve the food. This will also give us an opportunity to share in a time of fellowship for those that choose to dine in.

***Coupons are available in the vestibule!***



## Witness Update

The Leechburg Food Bank Fall Walk for Hunger was held on Sunday, October 4th. The Witness Committee provided hot dogs for the participants and observers. We want to thank M.J. Cline for her help and providing her sauerkraut and Pam and Brad McGranor for their help setting up and cleaning up, that help was very much appreciated. It was a nice day and a successful event Your donations and fundraiser support allowed us to distribute the hot dogs and we thank you.

**Reminders:**
Our ongoing fundraiser, which includes various Mary Kay products as well as several handmade items, all donated by Deb, are available for purchase and are located in the Fellowship Hall. There is a variety of items and purchases that support our efforts through the year.

If you have greeting cards, birthday, anniversary, thinking of you, etc. that you no longer need and would like to donate them to the card ministry, we are always happy to accept and use them. Each month our committee sends a card to our shut-ins with each receiving at least one per quarter. Your continued support of this ministry is appreciated.

We have a supply of "Visitor Bags/Packets" ready and available for visitors who attend Sunday services. If you bring or notice someone new to our church, please see a member of our committee for a visitor bag.

*Deb Loftus & Don Sheaffer*
Witness Committee Co-Chairs




**Sunday School**
**continues**
**9 AM in the Fellowship Hall**




**Packing & Distribution Dates for November**

Packing – Tuesday, November 17– 8 a.m.to 12:30 p.m.

Distribution – Wednesday, November 18

9:30 – 11:30 a.m. & 6:00 – 6:30 p.m.

**Packing & Distribution Dates for December**

Packing – Tuesday, December 15 – 8 a.m.to 12:30 p.m.

Distribution – Wednesday, December 16

9:30 – 11:30 a.m. & 6:00 – 6:30 p.m.

# COMMUNITY P.A.T.H.

PROVIDING ALTERNATIVES TO HUNGER

## How Can You Help A Child In Need?

Donate Money – Make checks to *Leechburg Food Bank.* Please note on check "Community P.A.T.H." Mail donations to: Leechburg Food Bank Treasurer, PO Box 127, Leechburg, PA 15656.

Sponsor a Child – If you'd like to sponsor a child, send a note with your check to above address. Please include name(s) & address(es) of the sponsor(s).

Each child's P.A.T.H. bag costs $3/week. Each child gets 1 bag/week, 50 weeks/year. Cost is $150/year, about $12/month

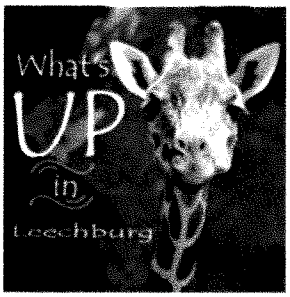
### Our Mission and Vision

changing lives
COMMUNITIES of transformation

The mission of Communities of Transformation is to move families from surviving to thriving by developing personal leadership skills and building authentic relationships.

The vision of Communities of Transformation is to take the church into the community, to invite the community into the church, and to build relationships that elevate families in the name of Christ.

Alle-Kiski Valley Site
Central Presbyterian Church
305 Allegheny Street, Tarentum
Thursdays from 5:30 - 7:30 P.M.




## Want to know what's going on in Leechburg Borough?

Our new Savvy Citizen app will keep you better informed of important borough news and happenings in our community.

Sign-up for Apple and Android users is simple and free.

Become more savvy and receive useful updates, community news, and event reminders by downloading today.

Visit SavvyCitizenApp.com for more info and download links

♦♦♦

changing lives
COMMUNITIES
of transformation

# Upcoming Events

## NOVEMBER

NOVEMBER 5TH | 5:30 PM

***Mental Health Program***
Rev. Karen Slusser

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NOVEMBER 12TH | 5:30 PM

***Coping With Grief Program***
Rev. Lynette Moran

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NOVEMBER 19TH | 5:30 PM

**COT Thanksgiving Celebration**

Central Presbyterian Church
305 Allegheny St | Tarentum PA 15084

From LAY SERVANT MINISTRIES to

# LAITY PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

*Equipping Every Disciple. Strengthening Every Church.*

## A VISION FOR THE WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

## OUR VISION

To become the Conference's primary resource for developing Christian leaders by providing accessible, practical, and spiritually grounded learning opportunities that equip laity to lead faithfully in their churches, communities, workplaces, and neighborhoods.

***"We don't just want more certified leaders. We want every disciple to become a more effective follower of and leader for Jesus Christ."***

**Robb Montgomery**, Director, Lay Servant Ministries
Email: robb.montgomery@wpaumc.org
www.wpaumc.org/lay-ministries

## OUR OPPORTUNITY

Lay Servant Ministries has faithfully equipped generations of certified lay servants. Today, the Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference has an opportunity to build on that strong foundation by expanding its purpose into a comprehensive leadership development ministry that serves every lay person, not only those seeking certification.

***Certification remains an important pathway—but it becomes one part of a broader strategy for equipping disciples to lead in every congregation and every community.***

## WHY THIS MATTERS NOW

As the Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference moves through a season of transition, we have an unprecedented opportunity to build a unified leadership development strategy for our laity.

By expanding the purpose of Lay Servant Ministries, we can provide every congregation with practical tools, inspiring learning opportunities, and a clear pathway for lifelong Christian leadership development.

## PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Expanding beyond certification to offer meaningful learning opportunities for ALL laity in every season of life and ministry.

**Discovering Spiritual Gifts & Calling**
Helping laity discover who they are in Christ and how God has uniquely gifted them to serve.

**Christian Leadership & Servant Leadership**
Developing character, confidence, and competence to lead like Jesus.

**Local Church Leadership & Governance**
Equipping laity to lead with clarity, faithfulness, and accountability.

**Evangelism & Making Disciples**
Inspiring and equipping laity to share their faith and help others grow in Christ.

**Bible Study & Small Group Leadership**
Training laity to facilitate gatherings where people connect, grow, and deepen their faith.

**Justice, Mercy & Social Holiness**
Forming disciples who love boldly and act justly in their communities.

**Racial Reconciliation & Cultural Understanding**
Equipping laity to build bridges, pursue equity, and live into God's inclusive kingdom.

**Healthy Communication & Conflict Resolution**
Building skills for faithful dialogue, healing, and unity.

**Mission, Community Engagement & Neighbor-Loving Ministry**
Empowering laity to serve, partner, and transform communities through Christ's love.

**Stewardship, Hospitality & Congregational Care**
Cultivating a culture of generosity, welcome, and care that reflects the heart of Christ.

## CONFERENCE-WIDE IMPACT

- **Develops** stronger leaders in every congregation.
- **Equips** laity for meaningful ministry beyond Sunday morning.
- **Increases** engagement across all generations.
- **Strengthens** churches during district transition with consistent leadership development across the Conference.
- **Creates** a unified learning experience regardless of district.
- **Raises up** future Lay Servants, Certified Lay Ministers, church leaders, and Clergy candidates.
- **Fosters** healthy, Christ-centered congregations equipped to make disciples and transform communities.

**Every lay person. Every church. One mission: making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.**




- Saturday, November 7th from 3-6 p.m. at Grace Assembly of God, 609 1st Street Ext. in Apollo. Call for details 724-478-5647.
- Thursday, November 26th at Cross Roads Community Presbyterian Church
  You can make a reservation at 724-845-1901 or https://crcpc.org/thanksgiving
  Take-out dinners will be available at 12:30 p.m./Dine in dinners will be served at 1 p.m.




We will decorate the church on
Sunday, November 22nd
after worship




Sunday, December 6 at 5:00 p.m.
The church will be supplying ham, rolls, and drinks.
We are asking the congregation to bring a covered dish.
Please see the sign-up sheet in the vestibule.

*Community Christmas Eve Services*
*Thursday, December 24*

*First Lutheran Church at 3:00 p.m.*
*Cross Roads Community at 7:00 p.m.*
***LFUMC at 7:30 p.m.***
*Hebron Lutheran Church - TBD*






First United Methodist Church | 251 Main Street | Leechburg, Pennsylvania 15656-1394



# The Stepping Stone

"Growing, Loving & Serving in Christ's Name."

**November/December 2026**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Prepared especially for...



***November/December 2026***

## *Livestreaming on YouTube*

CCLI #1601529 ~ Streaming Plus License #21214474