Forks of the Brandywine Presbyterian Church (EPC)

The Living News

NOVEMBER 2026

From the Pastor's Pen

A Gospel of Repentance

One of the most important elements of the gospel is **repentance**. Isaiah 55:6-7 emphasizes this point, "Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked *forsake* his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him *return* to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon." If you want to know what repentance is, we have here the two parts of repentance clearly stated.

First, we must forsake our wicked ways. We must leave behind the life of sin that we used to live. A life of sin doesn't just mean doing horrible and immoral things all day, every day. That's only one kind of sinful life. The other kind is a life of self-righteousness. This kind of sinful life is more deceptive because self-righteousness can often look very religious and respectable. But if we are living for self instead of Christ, for the things of this world instead of the things of God, we are living a life of sin. The Bible says, "Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him" (1 John 2:15). "Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God" (James 4:4).

So wickedness can take two forms. It can look like debauchery, or it can look like decency. It is easy to tell that grotesquely immoral people are living a life of sin, but the nice, kind, decent people you know, who think they're doing just fine without Jesus, are also living a life of sin. Either way, the Bible says the ways of both are wicked, and the gospel calls all of us—both the unrighteous and the self-righteous—to forsake such ways.

This leads to the second part of repentance. Once you have forsaken your wicked ways, you must turn around and start walking in a new direction—the direction of obedience to Jesus. Again, Isaiah 55:6-7, "Let the wicked *forsake* his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him *return* to the LORD." Notice that word "return." That's the central idea behind the word repent. It means to turn around, to change course, to go in a new direction, to take a different path. Once you leave behind your wicked ways and forsake the life of sin, you change your ways and take up a new life of righteousness. You begin to walk in the ways of Jesus, to live like he lived, to walk as he walked. "Whoever says he abides in [Christ] ought to walk in the same way in which he walked" (1 John 2:6). The life of repentance is marked by steady growth in godly living.

When we repent, we forsake the life of sin and return to the God of the gospel, the God of mercy, grace, and forgiveness. In repentance, we fall on our face before God, in brokenness over our sinful hearts and lives. We cry out for his mercy and grace, and we receive his free forgiveness and full salvation by faith alone in Christ alone. But that's not the end of the story. God also gives us his Holy Spirit so that we then rise to our feet with new hearts in our chest, new freedom in our will, a new purpose in our life, a new resolve in our mind, and new power in our soul to begin walking down a new path—to take up our cross daily and follow Jesus, our new Lord.

This is the biblical gospel. It is the gospel of a Jesus who is both Savior *and* Lord.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Wesley

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OTA—Operation Troop Appreciation Ministry



Operation Troop Appreciation Celebrated its 20+ Year Anniversary with a Grand Opening of their New Headquarters in West Mifflin on Saturday, September 20th.

Forks member, Carol Holloway and her husband, Dave, are very proud of her daughter, Kristen Holloway Querriera. This is from the OTA website: **Our History:** Kristen Holloway, founder and retired President of Operation Troop Appreciation, embarked on a personal project in March 2004 to provide Under Armour® t-shirts to a local Pennsylvania National Guard platoon (1/107 FA, Alpha Company 759 MP) of 38 soldiers deployed in Iraq. [The Forks and members came along side of Kristen to support her ministry start and some members continue to support this ministry]*.

An overwhelmingly positive response from the soldiers, those who helped with the project and from family and friends proved to be the spark that gave birth to Operation Troop Appreciation. It only took a few months to grow this one simple project into a national organization; and on July 1, 2004, Operation Troop Appreciation was established as a Pennsylvania non-profit corporation, with federal 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status.

In 2014, recognizing an increased need in the veteran community, we launched "Welcome Home", a veteran support program that provides critical basic need services to veterans at risk of, or coming out of homelessness or hospitalization from physical, psychological or combat related substance use issues.

Since that time, hundreds of thousands of members of the military and veteran communities have received support from Operation Troop Appreciation. The generosity of private individuals, small business partnerships, and corporate sponsors, has enabled Operation Troop Appreciation to present a united front of appreciation to our American heroes.

***Here is a recent email from Kristen to a Forks member who continues to support OTA:**

My mom passed me your email, and it is so wonderful to hear that you are still supporting OTA! We are into our 22nd year!

The organization is still going strong, and it's actually being run by the woman that helped me start it back in 2004. Her name is Monica Orluk and she is the current president. She's been serving in that role since I retired from the organization about 10 years ago when the Military was moving us all over the place and I had young kids. She kept it rolling and has made it bigger and better than ever! We have never merged with anyone, and the tenets of the organization are still the same as when I started it way back when. Still 100% volunteer, no paid staff, still supporting deployed troops, and also returning veterans who are at risk for homelessness, slipping out of society, etc.

Here is the Website. https://operationtroopappreciation.org/

The landing page has a picture of our new headquarters, which is our forever home, after being bounced around for 20 years between armories, small space, etc. We had a ribbon-cutting ceremony last September that I flew out for, and spoke at the ceremony. It was wonderful to see so many old volunteers and friends that helped me start this way back when still being actively involved!

Thank you so much for your continued support of OTA, our troops into our veterans. I can't tell you how thankful I am for all that you have done to support our work since the very beginning. God bless!

Kristen"

"This is an exciting update to OTA. We are going to be featured on PBS, as part of Andy Garcia, the actor, and his project to highlight homegrown Good News! The production crew visited OTA late in the summer, and it is supposed to be aired sometime later this year. **Here is a press release about that.**

https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/from-basement-roots-to-national-impact-all-access-hosted-by-andy-garcia-highlights-operation-troop-appreciation-302868983.html?tc=eml_cleartime

There are multiple people from the church still supporting OTA for which we are grateful!
Thank you,
Kristen Querriera, Carol & Dave Holloway's daughter"

Bingo Night Fundraiser – 0ne Meal Food Packing Day

It's that time of year for us to have the 4th Annual Bag Bingo Fundrniser* to raise money for the Kids Around the World **One Meal Food Packing Event** scheduled for **Saturday, March 13, 2027.**

We need to raise $17,000 to pack 40,000 meals again. If you were able to attend - last year, you know how much fun and what a blessing it was for everyone!

You can support the event by donating in the designated "Fundraiser One Meal Food Packing Event envelopes winch are located on the Information table at the bottom of the steps in the Gathering Room or by the Bag Bingo Event Display.

Designer Bag Bingo will be on **Friday, November13th** (see below poster)_ If you can, kindly share the poster or information on your social media sites (Facebook, Instagram, community groups, etc.), and with your family and friends!

"**Tickets are on Sale Now by contacting one of the event coordinators**:
Diane Shumaker, Janice Williams, Erika Snyder, Karen Hall, or scan the QR code on a flyer

"We are also in need Raffle Baskets and Gift Cards to use as Raffles at the event.

Please keep this event in your prayers We also look forward to seeing how we can continue to encourage, engage with, and bless our 'adopted' Veron Community in the Dominican Republic.

Thank you for all your prayers and donations. Any questions, please contact: Diane Shumaker, Erika Snyder, Karen Hall, or Janice Williams.



Ladies Evening Out

Tuesday, December 01, 2026 6:00 PM

You are Cordially Invited by

The Forks of the Brandywine Evangelical Presbyterian Church

1648 Horseshoe Pike, Glenmoore, PA 19343

Dinner Catered by
Pomod'oro Italian Restaurant





Elegantly Decorated Tables



Entertainment by Storyteller, Cynthia Pollard

Melodious Harp Music by Lisa Hartman

Reservations are Necessary for this Event.

Payment must accompany your reservation to confirm your seat. The cost is $25.00 per person.

Reserve Your Seats Now! Tables are Filling Up Quickly!

Make all checks out to "Forks Church". Reservations with Payment may be placed in the "Fellowship" church box, an offering box, or can be mailed to or dropped off at the church office.

For more information, Email Kathy Rigg at mkrigg@comcast.net; or Call 610-842-8176

13th Ladies Evening Out - Tuesday, December 1st

RESERVATION FORMS AVAILABLE! RESERVE YOUR SEAT(S) EARLY, as seats are almost gone! Reservation Forms are available on the Information Table in the Gathering Room.

Note: Payment must be included with your Reservation Form to confirm you seat(s).

Contact: Glady Toth or the Church Office if you have any questions.

The Fellowship Committee is Excited to host another Ladies Evening Out! Make Your Reservations Now!

The evening is very elegant and consists of a catered dinner, special music and entertainment.

The tables are all set and beautifully decorated by volunteers.

Reservation Forms are on the Welcome Table in Gathering Room.

The meal will be catered by Pompd'oro Italian Restaurant, in Downingtown.

The entertainment will be storyteller, Cynthia Pollard, and special music by harpist Lisa Hartman.

Photos of some Tables from previous Ladies Evening Out.



Seats are almost Sold Out, so reserve your seat(s) now!

Payment must accompany your reservation to confirm your seat(s).

All Reservations w/Payment Due No Later than Sunday, Nov.22rd!



Make all checks out to "Forks of Brandywine Church" with "LEO" on the memo line: Place reservations and payment in a sealed envelope and place in the Glady Toth's church mailbox, or an Offering Box.

For more information, or any questions, contact Glady at: office @forkschurch.org or 610-942-2626



The cost for this event is $25.00 per person!

RESERVATIONS are NECESSARY for this event.



CHURCH HAPPENINGS

Order Your Christmas Poinsettias

It has been a long standing tradition at The Forks to place poinsettias in the sanctuary in memory of or in honor of loved ones.

Once again this year, Ford's Greenhouses will be offering 6-inch pot multi-flower poinsettias (multiple colors) for your convenience.
Cost per plant is $8.40.

Cash or Check (payable to "Ford's Greenhouses") must accompany your order.

Deadline to order is Sunday, November 29th.

If you plan to purchase your own poinsettia, please mark it with your name. **The flowers will be in the sanctuary on Sunday, Dec. 13th for our Christmas Program**. There will be an insert in the bulletin with your flower dedications listed.

Watch the Sunday bulletins, beginning November 15th, for the order forms.





Volunteers Needed to Put Up Christmas Decorations!
Sunday, November 29th - 12:00 Noon

We are looking for individuals who are willing to put up Christmas decorations around the church on Sunday, November 29th, after worship.

Everyone is invited to stay after worship for light refreshments and to join in the festivities of decorating our church for the Christmas season. This normally only takes an hour to 90 minutes with enough volunteers.

"Many hands make light work."

If you are willing to help with the decorating of our church, please see or call/text Karen Hall, 908-797-0940, or Glady Toth — Email or Call the church office.

Annual Christmas Dinner Sunday, December 13th



With the busy Christmas season upon us, **mark your calendars now** so you won't miss our annual Christmas Dinner...a hot Turkey Dinner with all the trimmings!

Dinner will follow the worship service, which will be our Christmas Program. **Watch for the Sign-Up Posterboard in the Gathering Room beginning Nov. 22nd**, to provide the fellowship committee with a headcount for set up and food. Thank you!



Christmas Dinner

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

Operation Christmas Child – Please Fill a Shoebox!

Our Shoebox Drive comes to an end on Sunday, Nov. 15th. Pre-printed shoeboxes are available on the table in the Gathering Room at the Operation Christmas Child display and on the landing to the sanctuary.

If you choose not to fill a shoebox, perhaps you can help to cover the cost of shipping our shoeboxes.

Samaritan's Purse requests a fee of $10.00 for each box to cover the cost of shipping.

Preprinted shoeboxes and donation envelopes are on the table in the Gathering Room at the display.

If you are able, kindly consider providing a check or cash to sponsor one or more boxes. Your donation can be in any amount.

Checks for shipping are to be made out to: "Samaritan's Purse", with a note on the memo line, " Shoeboxes".

Operation Christmas Child demonstrates God's love to hurting Children. Will you help to support their efforts?

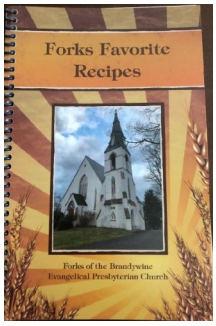
Please pray for this ministry and all the hurting children. Pray that these shoeboxes will provide the clear message of God's love to each child who receives a box.

Thank you for sharing God's love and making a difference in the lives of millions of children around the world!



You Can Bring FILLED Shoeboxes In Until Monday, November 16th

Forks Church Family Cookbook Available



The Fellowship Team gathered over 200 favorite recipes from our church family and put them together in this personalized cookbook!

The cost of the Cookbooks is $10 each.

They would make a nice gift for your holiday gift-giving – (try new recipes for Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner!)

A Sample of the Cookbook is on display on a table in the Gathering Room.

Kindly place orders/payment in Glady Toth's church box, or place in an Offering Box.

Looking Ahead....

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Thursday, December 24th at 7:00p.m.



Youth News

Registration is now open for the Forks Youth Retreat! It will take place at Black Rock in Quarryville, PA on February 12-14 2027.

At the retreat we will have Bible talks led by Israel on the theme: *Lead the Way - Godly Leadership in a Wild World*, seminars to discuss real life application, Q&A time, plenty of indoor and outdoor adventure activities, and free time to relax and enjoy the beautiful forest setting.

Who is invited? All Forks Youth and their friends. If you invite a friend who is not a regular at Forks, they will get a third off the regular price of $150. Look out for our upcoming fundraiser as a way to support!





Youth group meets on Friday nights - see the term card to the left - and every Sunday morning at 9am for youth Sunday school.

If you have friends or family in the youth age bracket (10-18), feel free to invite them and they'll be sure to receive a warm welcome from our small but lively group!

We have enjoyed games and good food on Friday nights - thank you to the members of the congregation who have brought meals - and learnt about inspiring missionaries Jim and Elizabeth Elliott and Corrie Ten Boom in our most recent Friday night series.

On Sunday mornings the youth are working through a big picture overview of the Bible and memorizing key verses and book order. Thanks to everyone who has donated gift cards for prizes!

We look forward to meeting in November to pack shoeboxes and looking ahead to our Christmas party on Dec 11th. Don't forget to pray for the Forks Youth Ministry!

Youth Group is Open to ALL Kids ages 10 years thru grade 12.

If you have any questions about our youth program, please feel free to contact:
Victoria Sanchez, Israel Sanchez via What'sApp, or
Email: vickyc234@gmail.com Phone: 484-703-7742

Deacons Ministry

The Annual Giving Tree is Up!

The Annual Giving Tree

The Deacons have put up the annual *Giving Tree* in the Gathering Room.

The Giving Tree represents our commitment and responsibility to follow Christ's example: 'Giving to the Needy' (Matthew 6:1-4) says, "*Be careful not to do your 'acts of righteousness' before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you." (NIV)*

We are supporting three local ministries this year - Bridge Academy—Coatesville Kids (County Corrections Gospel Mission), Chester County Migrant Ministry and Bridge of Hope. Gift tags for specific gifts will be on the tree. When you take a tag off the tree, be sure to write your name in the corresponding space on that ministry's clipboard.

Please return the gifts on or before the date requested on the tags. Purchase and wrap a gift, (note: Gift Cards* for Bridge of Hope are **not** to be wrapped, as indicated on the back of the tag) and bring the gift in and put it under the tree during the month of November.

Thank you for being a blessing.



Please return the gifts on or before the requested date on the tag.

*** Gift Cards are to be placed in Cate Pedrick's or Kathy Dix's church box, or handed directly to one of them.**

Read More About the Ministries Supported by The Forks and The Giving Tree

Chester County Migrant Ministry - Search on website directs to pachurches.org

Which contains information on the CC Migrant Ministry - farm workers

'Chester County migrant ministry is a nonprofit Christian ministry, serving the immigrant community in Chester County and the surrounding area. They share the love of Jesus by offering assistance with immigration procedures, citizenship classes, a Christmas for migrants program, blankets, coats, health kits, donated furniture, and appliances, distribution of food baskets, and other services.
Their office is in Kennett Square, PA.'

Bridge of Hope Chester County
chestercounty@bridgeofhopeinc.org

The Bridge Academy - Coatesville kids
thebridgeacademy.org

December/January Newsletter **Deadline - Friday, Nov. 20st**

Kindly Email all announcements, articles, events, schedules, etc., to the church office no later than Sunday, November 22nd.



NOVEMBER 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:00 AM Adult & Youth Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 6:00 PM Prayer Hour	**2** 7:00 PM Trail Life & American Heritage Girls	**3** 7:00 PM Fellowship	**4** No Bible Study	**5** 1:00 PM Ladies Bible Study at church 6:45 PM Choir Rehearsal	**6** 6:30 AM Men's Breakfast 4:30 PM Karate	**7** 9:30 AM Karate
8 9:00 AM Adult & Youth Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship w/Holy Communion 12:00 PM Congregational Meeting 6:00 PM Prayer Hour	**9** 7:00 PM Trustees	**10**	**11** 7:00 PM Bible Study	**12** 1:00 PM Ladies Bible Study at church 6:45 PM Choir Rehearsal	**13** 6:30 AM Men's Breakfast 4:30 PM Karate 6:00 PM Youth Night	**14** 9:30 AM Karate
15 9:00 AM Adult & Youth Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 6:00 PM Prayer Hour	**16** 7:00 PM Trail Life & American Heritage Girls	**17**	**18** No Bible Study	**19** 1:00 PM Ladies Bible Study at church 6:45 PM Choir Rehearsal	**20** 6:30 AM Men's Breakfast 4:30 PM Karate	**21** 9:30 AM Karate
22 9:00 AM Adult & Youth Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 6:00 PM Prayer Hour	**23** 3:30 PM Deacons 7:00 PM CBS Coed Study at Darnall home 7:00 PM CBS Ladies Study at Stern home	**24** 7:00 PM Session	**25** No Bible Study	**26** THANKSGIVING Let Us Give Thanks	**27** 6:30 AM Men's Breakfast No Karate 6:00 PM Youth Night	**28** No Karate
29 9:00 AM Adult & Youth Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 12:00 PM Decorate the Church for Christmas 12:00 PM Set Up for LEO –Fellowship Hall 6:00 PM Prayer Hour	**30** 2:00-7:00 PM Blood Drive 7:00 PM CBS Coed Study at Darnall home 7:00 PM CBS Ladies Study at Stern home					

NOVEMBER



ADULT BIRTHDAYS

1 - Steven Manness
2 - Rebecca McClintock
3 - Peg (Mike) Erdmann
- Staci Miller
4 - Herb Warner
11 - Lisa Fleager
14 - Matt Westervelt
- Michael Woods
16 - Marie Kuhn
20 - Claudia Rigg
22 - Dawn Ammon
25 - Janice Williams
28 - John Darnall
30 - Judy Larson
- Russell Stirling

Children to Sr. Teens

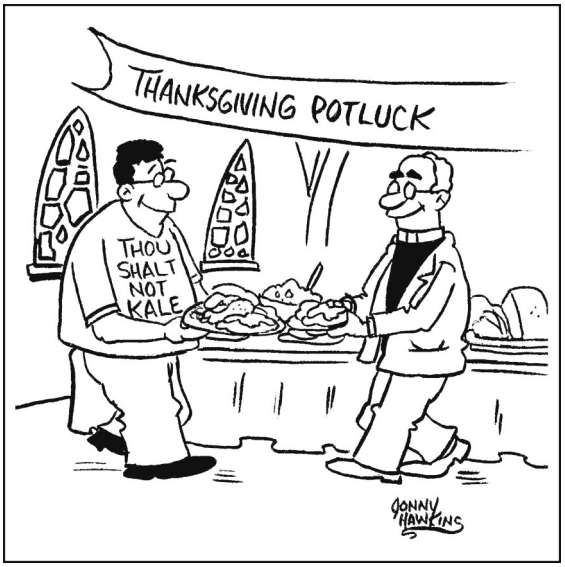
20 - Keyin Rigg (17)



11 - Lori and John Gebert
22 - Lisa and Rob Westervelt

If we have missed your birthday or anniversary, please notify us by placing a note in Glady Toth's mailbox located in the Gathering Room.

THOUGHTS & SMILES



The Generosity Cycle



God makes us rich in every way so we can be generous on every occasion, which will result in thanksgiving to God. ... God doesn't bless us to provide for our own needs; he blesses us so we can be generous.

—Rick Warren (based on 2 Corinthians 9:11)

"Do your little bit of good where you are; it is those little bits of good put all together that overwhelm the world."

—Bishop Desmond Tutu

"Be thankful for what you have; you'll end up having more. If you concentrate on what you don't have, you will never, ever have enough." —Oprah Winfrey

"What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make."

—Jane Goodal

Little Word, BIG Difference

God says to give thanks in everything. That doesn't mean you need to give thanks *for* everything. You don't need to give thanks *for* that bad day. Or *for* that bad relationship. Or being passed over at work. Financial hardship. Whatever it is — you are not to give thanks *for* the difficulties but rather *in* the difficulties.

That is a very important distinction, and one I think we often miss. Giving thanks ***in*** everything shows a heart of faith that God is bigger than the difficulties and that he can use them, if you approach him with the right heart and spirit, for your good and his glory.

—Tony Evans

Thank You, Veterans!



On Veterans Day, we honor men and women who've served and sacrificed in one of America's armed services.

On November 11, 1918, America and her allies signed a truce with German leaders, ending World War I. In 1919, President Wilson decided the United States should remember with gratitude the end of that war and honor military members by marking Armistice Day, or "truce" day. In 1954, Congress changed the name to Veterans Day, honoring veterans of every era.

Veterans Day highlights our country's quest for peace, justice and freedom throughout the world. Followers of Jesus, the Prince of Peace, pray for unity among all nations and for the day when "*nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore*" (Isaiah 2:4, NIV).

THANKSGIVING candles

Brighten your dinner table with these festive candle holders.

What you need:

- An adult's help
- Miniature pumpkins (palm size)
- Tea light candles
- Pencil
- Sharp knife
- Spoon

What you do:

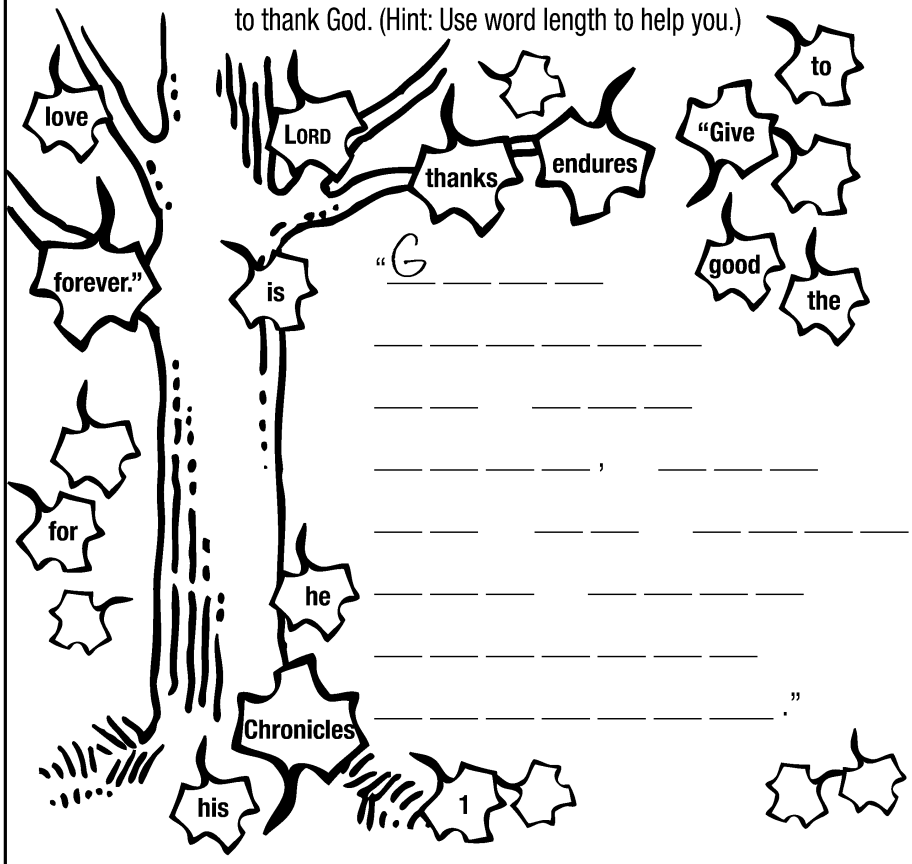
1. Place a candle on top of each miniature pumpkin and trace around the candle's base.
2. Have an adult cut around the circle.
3. Scoop out the pulp and seeds.
4. Place a candle inside. Keep scooping, if necessary, so the candle sits inside the pumpkin nicely.
5. Decorate your dinner table with the pumpkins. Have an adult light the candles for you.

PUZZLE

Why we're thankful

Leaves falling from trees are a sign of autumn's arrival. Giving thanks to God is a sign of our gratitude for his many blessings.

Directions: Using the words in the leaves, discover why it's good for us to thank God. (Hint: Use word length to help you.)



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NEWSLETTER



FORKS OF THE BRANDYWINE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
(EPC)

1648 Horseshoe Pike
Glenmoore, PA 19343

Phone: 610-942-2626
E-mail: office@forkschurch.org

We're on the Web!
www.forkschurch.org

Congregational Meeting, Sunday, November 8, 2026

All members are strongly encouraged to stay after worship to attend this meeting.
The sole purpose of this meeting is to elect the new church officers for the Class of 2029.





FORKS CHURCH BLOOD DRIVE

GIVE Blood

MONDAY, November 30, 2026
2:00 pm – 7:00 pm

For an appointment, please visit redcrossblood.org
Sponsor Code: FORKS
Or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767),
or **Register on Church Website: www.forkschurch.org**
Registration Is Required.

Contact Information:

Glady Toth, Blood Drive Coordinator
Church Office: 610-942-2626