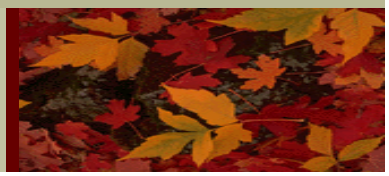
FORKS OF THE BRANDYWINE EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# The Living News

October 2026



## From the Pastor's Pen

### Does God Exist Now?

Time is an inescapable reality in our lives. All of us have clocks in our home and calendars on our phone. We look forward to weekends and dread Mondays. We have schedules and face deadlines. Parents give their children bedtimes and curfews. Everyone has memories, and everyone makes plans. Time permeates our whole lives. This is what it means to be "in time."

A better word for "in time" is *temporal*, which refers to the quality of being related to time. There are three ways to be related to time: earlier than, later than, and simultaneous with. All the moments and events of time are related to each other in the chronological order of earlier, later, or simultaneous. Anything that falls within this chronological order is temporal. We are temporal because some moments and events of our lives are earlier than others. Whatever you are doing in any given moment, someone else is simultaneously doing something in that same moment. To be temporal, then, just means having these **temporal relations** of earlier, later, and simultaneous.

Having temporal relations entails two additional facts: temporal location and temporal succession. Temporal location refers to the *points* of time, and temporal succession refers to the *passage* of time. On one hand, a person has **temporal location** if that person's life can be mapped onto a timeline. In other words, that person's existence, experiences, and actions are time-stamped like the segments of a YouTube video; they occur at a time. For example, some things happen now, or yesterday, or at 2:00pm, or six years ago, or in the time of Jesus. On the other hand, a person has **temporal succession** if that person's life passes through a series of moments one after another. This means a person's existence, experiences, and actions are sequential; they occur in the order of before and after. When your alarm goes off, getting out of bed precedes brushing your teeth. One action is subsequent to the other. Having temporal succession, then, means your life has a past, present, and future. You don't live it all at once.

We now have a philosophical account of what it means to be temporal beings. But what about God? Is God temporal? Is God related to time, or is he timeless? When we say that God is "outside of time," what we really mean is that God is not temporal, that he is completely unrelated to time. Therefore, if God is timeless, he has no temporal relations, succession, or location. Now notice the implications that follow if God is not temporal. The timeless God's life (his existence, experiences, and actions) has no chronological order. Nothing is earlier, later, or simultaneous. When God parted the Red Sea, that action was not later than creation, nor was it earlier than today. Nothing in God's life is before or after anything else. The incarnation of Christ was not before God heard your prayers this morning, nor did God experience the 20th century after he experienced the 1st century. Strangest of all, it is false to say that God exists *now*. "Now" refers to the present moment, but the timeless God is not related to the present moment. So there is no such thing as *now* for God, or any other time. He did not exist in the days of Jesus, nor will he exist tomorrow.

What do you make of these implications? Do you really believe it's true that God does not exist *now*? Is it really the case that God did not create the world *before* he created you? Do you believe it is biblical to say that, for God, the resurrection of Christ is not *later than* the crucifixion, or the second coming is not *after* the moon landing? Is it false that God exists *simultaneously* with us?

If God is timeless, these are the absurdities we are committed to. Why go on believing it? It makes so much more sense biblically and philosophically to see God as temporal, i.e., that God is really related to time and that he really does exist right now. The doctrine that God is "outside time" is a traditional Christian belief that most of us assume without question, but it seems to me there are good reasons to reject it. Perhaps it is time to say goodbye to the timeless God.

Grace and peace, Pastor Wesley

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# October is Pastor Appreciation Month!




## Pastor Appreciation Covered Dish Dinner
## &
## Spare Parts Quartet Performance

**Saturday, October 17th**

**Meal 5:30 PM; Performance 7:00 PM**



Our Fellowship Committee is planning a special **Potluck Dinner**. Each family is asked to bring a main or side dish to share, optimally enough for 10-12 people (this is optional).

**There is a Sign-Up Poster** in the Gathering Room to sign up and list what you may be bringing.

**Special Musical Performance by** the **Spare Parts Quartet** after dinner at **7:00 PM** in the sanctuary. The performance is **open to the public**, so please encourage family, friends and neighbors to come and enjoy their musical talents.






Left to Right: Bruce McCrae, Ron Guenther, Todd Christopher, Daryl Eshelman

Please plan on attending and take this opportunity to show our appreciation for the blessing of having Pastor Wesley Grubb leading our church family, and Pastor Dan Stewart and Pastor Steve Wilson who are always here to support him and to fill in when needed.

**The whole month of is October is Pastor Appreciation Month**, so let our pastors know how much they are loved! Please take time throughout the month of October to encourage all of them with cards of encouragement, small gifts, or a gift of your time!

This year, we also congratulate and celebrate our new Pastor Intern, Israel Sanchez and Victoria!

## New Sunday School Class with Pastor

Pastor Wesley is starting a Sunday School class. If you are not currently attending Sunday School, this is a perfect opportunity to join a class, connect with friends, and learn more about your faith.

**Class begins October 4th at 9:00am** and will be held downstairs in the Education wing. Pastor Wesley will cover a new topic each month. If you see a topic that interests you, plan to come that month. The October topic is, ***"How Do I Know I'm Saved"?***

## New Discipleship Group Forming

Our discipleship groups continue to flourish as people grow in their faith and in their relationships with one another. This is an important element of our ministry at the Forks, and we encourage everyone to be in a group. We are starting a new discipleship group to give more people an opportunity to participate. If interested in joining the new group or an existing group, please list your name on the Sign-Up poster in the Gathering Room.

## Forks Cancer Support & Encouragement Group

The group meets the second Monday of the month (*unless there is a conflict). Anyone is welcome to join us for support, prayer, and encouragement.




**Next Meeting: Monday, October 12th at 1:00 PM in the MPR.**

**Mission** - Our mission is to reflect Christ's love by offering spiritual encouragement and emotional care rooted in hope, prayer, and compassion. We provide supportive community for those affected by chronic illness or cancer—uplifting patients, caregivers, and all who come alongside them with understanding, strength, and Christ-centered love.

Any questions contact Lisa Westervelt at 484-678-5452, text or call.

## SAVE THE DATE!

## Designer Bag Bingo Fundraiser




**Friday, November 13, 2026**

**The KATW mission trip may be over, but our commitment to Veron is still going strong!**
We are beginning our prep for the **Annual Designer Bag Bingo,** which is the biggest fundraiser for the meal packing event in March 2027.
**Would you like to help?** We could use help getting **Gift Cards, Raffle Baskets and or Raffle Basket Items** for the event.

There are other ways to help as well! Just let us know if you're interested!

See Diane Shumaker, Erika Snyder, or Karen Hall.

# Fellowship News

## *Forks Worship & Picnic in the Park, Sunday, August 30th*

We praise God for the beautiful day, the word of God preached, praises sang, good food, and fellowship!

Thank you to the Forks Fellowship Committee for their hard work in planning, coordinating, set up and preparations for the lovely day.

Thank you to all the volunteers who transported tables, chairs, etc; for all who helped set up, decorated the tables, and manned the grills, and for all who brought the delicious food items to share!

Thank you to Kyle Hall for transporting all of the audio and sound equipment to record the worship service, and to Paul Pelusi for playing the keyboard, and anyone else who helped that may have not been mentioned.













# 12th Ladies Evening Out - Tuesday, December 1st

**Our Ladies Evening Out, on December 1st**, will be here before we know it, and we are so grateful to those of you who have so generously committed your time and talents to decorate/host a table in the past 10+ years! Thank you! **Will you please consider decorating a table again this year?**

**New Table Decorators/Hosts Needed**: We need enough ladies to decorate (12) round tables and (2 )long rectangle tables!

**Table Decorating**: (2 people often go together to decorate a table- what one doesn't have, the other does).

- There are numerous **floor-length*** various colored (plenty of white) tablecloths that are a vailable at the church, along with toppers (do not go to the floor).

o I will be sending out an inventory of the tablecloths, and you can email me if you would like to reserve a certain color – first come, first serve.

✦ **All tablecloths must be floor length**

✦ Provide place settings for 8 persons*: dinner plates, water glasses/stemware, cups & saucer or mugs for hot beverage, cloth napkins or high-quality paper ones, silverware (the church does have silverware if you choose to use it instead of your own).

o *Round tables set for 8; long tables can be set for 8-10 persons

o **Decorate your table however you desire** (Christmas, or a Theme-sports, beach, woodland; a color scheme, etc.) using a centerpiece, candles, favors, etc**.**

o **Feel free to reach out to me if you would like to borrow any items: I have plain white Corelle dishes w/mugs**, **napkins** (red, green, white, blue), **napkin rings, various votives and candle holders, strings of gold, silver, blue, red & green beads, or other table ornaments for your table…and more! I have so much inventory from doing LEO for 10+ years. Red/green theme, blue theme, white/gold theme, centerpiece items, etc.,** and will send you photos upon request.

More details will be provided to those who choose to be a Table Host/Decorator for the evening. Decorating the tables will begin after worship on Sunday, November 29th

**Your consideration to participate is greatly appreciated. Please contact Glady Toth (office), if you have any questions.**



Table from 2024 Ladies Evening Out

# Deacons Ministry

## New & Gently Worn Coats Being Collected

The Deacons are again collecting **winter coats** (new or like-new), along with **hats & gloves**, this Fall for the women and children of **Honey Brook Food Pantry local families.**

This is just a reminder that now might be a good time to start looking for deals at Walmart, Boscov's, Kohls, and other stores.

If you have, or plan to purchase coats, you may bring them and pass them along to a deacon, or bring them to the church office. We will store them through the end of October.




Contact Ron Lefferts, or any deacon*, if you have any questions: Email: rlefferts1@gmail.com

## The Giving Tree - Coming Soon!




We know it's only October but it's time to begin planning for our annual support to local organizations. The Giving Tree will support: Bridge Academy (Coatesville kids), Bridge of Hope (single mothers leaving homelessness), and Chester County Migrant Ministry (southern Chester County migrant families).

The evergreen trees will be in the Gathering Room on Nov. 1st,with tags that indicate the requested gift. The Deacons request that the tags be signed out on the nearby clipboards and the gifts be returned on or before the specified date on the gift tag in order to support the individual organizations' distribution processes.

The gifts will be due back the last Sunday in November or the first Sunday in December.

**Thank you for your continued support of this ministry.**

## Deacons: What are they?

The office of deacon as described by Scripture is one of sympathy, witness and service after the example of Jesus Christ.

The standard for deacons is to follow the pattern Christ, who came "not to be served but to serve" (Matthew 20:28). To witness, serve and show compassion.

**<u>The Vision of the Deacons is</u>:**

⇒ To minister with love, charity and hope
⇒ Praying, acting and engaging the church family to help those in need
⇒ Use church provided resources to help those in the surrounding community

**The Forks Deacons are:**
Cate Pedrick
Ron Lefferts
Pete Dawson
Tim Rigg
Judy Larson
Kathy Dix



# Youth News

FORKS YOUTH

## Fall Dates

Fridays 6-8pm on:
September 11
September 25
October 9
October 23
November 13
November 27
Dec 11

**Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes**

**The Youth will be supporting the shoebox drive. More info to follow.**

**(see back cover of newsletter)**




SAVE THE DATE

## Youth Group Christmas Party

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11

FORKS YOUTH GROUP

## Pictures from a fun time in August at Cape Henlopen State Park in Lewes, Delaware!







## Troop Schedule

**Oct 5, 12 and 19:** Troop Meetings

**Oct 23-25:** Campout at Artillery Ridge Campground in Gettysburg, PA.

**Our yearly Beef Jerky fundraiser is coming up in October!**

**Trail Life troop meetings are the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month at 7:00p.m.**

**Trail Life Troop Committee meetings are the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00p.m.**

# Faith & Blue Trunk or Treat - Saturday, October 24th

## Register to Be a Sponsor!

**These Registration forms are available at the Trunk or Treat Display table in the Gathering Room.**

Forks of the Brandywine Church &
West Brandywine Police Department

### FAITH & BLUE
### TRUNK Or TREAT EVENT

**Saturday, October 24,2026 1-3 PM**

### Car Trunk Registration Form

Name:_____

Address:_____

_____

Email:_____

Phone Number:_____




- To be held in Forks of the Brandywine Church Parking lot
- **Set up any time after 1 PM on Saturday, Oct 24.**
- **Provide candy or treats for 150 children.**
- Provide own trunk set up/decorations.
- Trunks and costumes must be family friendly/no scary decorations or costumes.
- **This is free for the community to attend.**

Please return to Gail Craig at gcraig529@gmail.com or mail* to church office **by Sat, Oct 17th**.

*Forks of the Brandywine EP Church
1648 Horseshoe Pike
Glenmoore, PA 19343*





## A Unique Way to Celebrate America's 250th Anniversary!

Carol Specht is the woman who portrayed Martha Washington at the Forks for our 290th Anniversary Celebration that was held on October 11, 2025. She is a wonderful presenter, and here is an opportunity to see her again at St. Mary of Providence Center.






American Red Cross | Community of Giving

# FORKS CHURCH BLOOD DRIVE

## 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

8am-2pm, Mon-Fri

**Forks of the Brandywine Evangelical Presbyterian Church**
**1648 Horseshoe Pike, Glenmoore, PA 19343**

redcrossblood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | Download the Blood Donor App

© The American National Red Cross | 161501

# OCTOBER 2026

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | 1 1:00 PM Ladies Bible Study at church<br>6:45 PM Choir Rehearsal | 2 6:30 AM Men's Breakfast<br>4:30 PM Karate | 3 9:30 AM Karate |
| 4 9:00 AM Adult & Youth Sunday School<br>10:30 AM Worship<br>6:00 PM Prayer Hour | 5<br>7:00 PM Trail Life & American Heritage Girls | 6 | 7 No Bible Study | 8 1:00 PM Ladies Bible Study at church<br>6:45 PM Choir Rehearsal | 9 6:30 AM Men's Breakfast<br>4:30 PM Karate<br>7:00 PM Youth Night | 10 9:30 AM Karate |
| 11 9:00 AM Adult & Youth Sunday School<br>10:30 AM Worship w/ Holy Communion<br>6:00 PM Prayer Hour | 12<br>7:00 PM Trustees | 13 | 14 7:00 PM Bible Study | 15 1:00 PM Ladies Bible Study at church<br>6:45 PM Choir Rehearsal | 16 6:30 AM Men's Breakfast<br>4:30 PM Karate | 17 9:30 AM Karate<br>Pastor Appreciation Covered Dish Dinner<br> |
| 18 9:00 AM Adult & Youth Sunday School<br>10:30 AM Worship<br>6:00 PM Prayer Hour | 19<br>7:00 PM Trail Life & American Heritage Girls | 20 | 21 No Bible Study | 22 1:00 PM Ladies Bible Study at church<br>6:45 PM Choir Rehearsal | 23 6:30 AM Men's Breakfast<br>4:30 PM Karate<br>7:00 PM Youth Night | 24 9:30 AM Karate<br>1-3:00 PM TRUNK orTREAT at East Brandywine Twp Park<br> |
| 25 9:00 AM Adult & Youth Sunday School<br>10:30 AM Worship<br>6:00 PM Prayer Hour | 26<br>3:30 PM Deacons | 27<br>7:00 PM Session | 28 7:00 PM Bible Study | 29 1:00 PM Ladies Bible Study at church<br>6:45 PM Choir Rehearsal | 30 6:30 AM Men's Breakfast<br>4:30 PM Karate | 31 9:30 AM Karate |

# Birthdays & Anniversaries







## ADULT BIRTHDAYS

5—Barry Hartz
11 - Dave Holloway
16 - Ralph Brown
18 - Steve Wilson
21 - Lew Larson
22 - Susan Hein
24 - Kathy Stewart
25 - Pete Dawson
26 - Bonny Hirpo
28 - Phyllis Moore
29 - Margaret Moore

## Children to Sr. Teens

2—Ainsley Stirling (14)
12—Fianna Dressler (1)
Boaz Troxell (15)

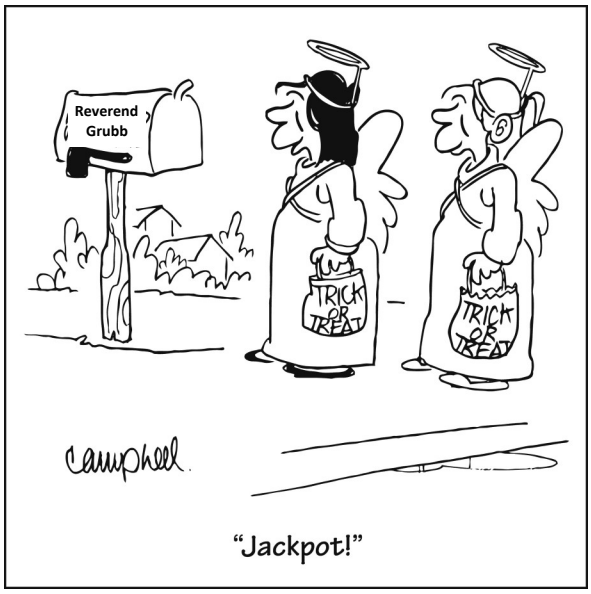



11 - Laurie and Matt Troxell
12 - Olga and Brian Dressler
15 - Kathy and Paul Wills
16 - Karen and Kyle Hall
19 - Carol and Dave Holloway

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




## Unimaginable Impact!!

You don't know how many people have been strengthened because you asked God to encourage them; how many people have been healed because you prayed for their bodies; how many spiritual runaways have come home because you prayed for their souls. None of us may ever know the true effects of our prayers this side of death. But we do know this: History belongs to the intercessors.

—John Ortberg, *The Life You've Always Wanted*

## Beyond the Building

The Christian does not go to the temple to worship. The Christian takes the temple with him or her. Jesus lifts us beyond the building and pays the human body the highest compliment by making it his dwelling place, the place where he meets with us.

—Ravi Zacharias




## A Strong Harvest

Seeds of strength are planted in the soils of weakness. Your most uplifting strength tomorrow may grow from your most debilitating weakness today.



**"Here is a test to find whether your mission on Earth is finished: If you're alive, it isn't."**

## Aw-fall!

Share some laughs — or groans — with these autumn-themed jokes:

- What did the tree say to autumn? "Leaf me alone!"
- What did one autumn leaf say to another? "I'm falling for you."
- How do you fix a broken pumpkin? With a pumpkin patch.
- Why are trees very forgiving? Because in the fall they "let it go" and in the spring they "turn over a new leaf."
- How do leaves get from place to place? With autumn-mobiles.
- What's the ratio of a pumpkin's circumference to its diameter? Pumpkin pi.

## Keep Clinging

When his wife received a stage-four cancer diagnosis, Mike Nappa was asked why he wasn't angry at God. His first answer: Anger is "beyond futile," as it can't change tough circumstances. His second answer was another question: "Why would I lash out in anger toward the only thing that brings me solace? That'd be akin to punching the lifeguard who's trying to save me from drowning."

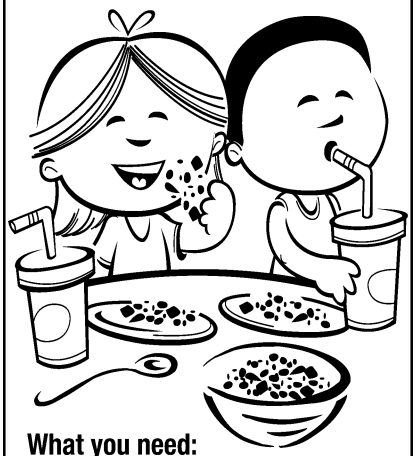
"I must cling to Christ — desperately, determinedly, gratefully — for strength to see myself through every moment, both good and hurtful, both joyful and sorrowful," Nappa writes. "I've found Jesus to be more than sufficient. He is a man of sorrows who knows how to share mine and who tells me gently, in ways that I can believe, that in the end, everything is going to be OK. God is good; he is always good."

—Adapted from *Hard Way Home* by Amy & Mike Nappa.
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# Kid's Page

## HARVEST Trail Mix

This portable snack combines favorite fall flavors.



**What you need:**

- 1/4 cup maple syrup
- 1 tsp. pumpkin pie spice
- 1/8 tsp. salt
- 2/3 cup pecan pieces
- 1/3 cup roasted pumpkin seeds
- 1/3 cup almonds
- 1/4 cup raisins
- 2/3 cup dried fruit (any)

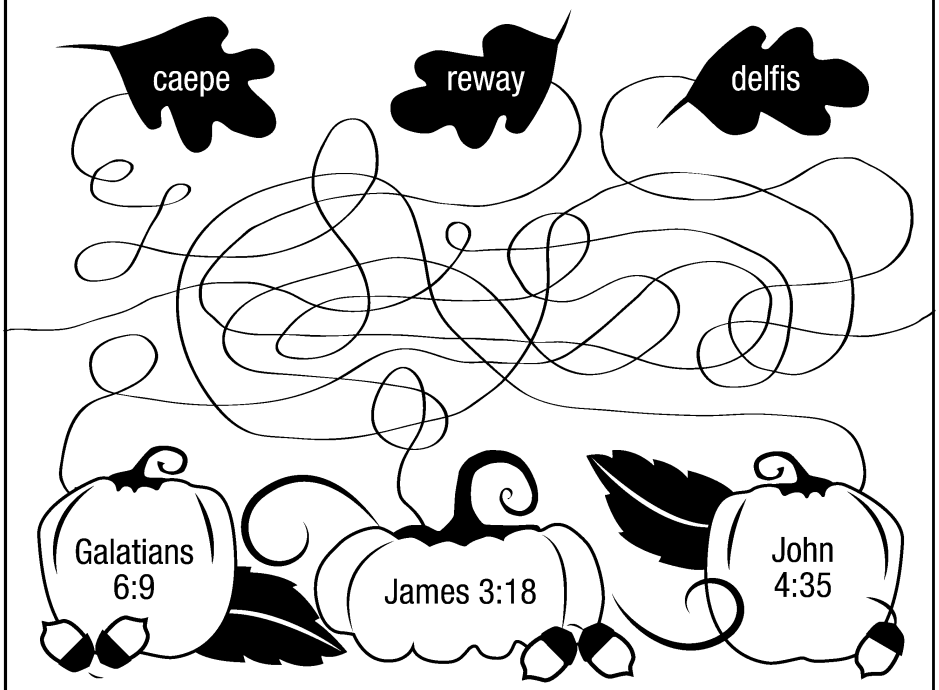
**What you do:**

1. Microwave syrup, spices, seeds and nuts for 30 seconds at a time, stirring frequently, until mixture thickens.
2. Spread the mixture on a baking sheet lined with wax paper. Let cool and harden.
3. Break the candied nuts into chunks. Combine with dried fruit.
4. Store in airtight container.

## PUZZLE

## Harvest hunt

***Directions:*** *After unscrambling each leaf's word, follow the vine to complete the Bible verse.*




Peacemakers who sow in _ _ _ _ _ reap a harvest of righteousness. James 3:18, NIV

Let us not become _ _ _ _ _ in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Galatians 6:9, NIV

I tell you, open your eyes and look at the _ _ _ _ _ _! They are ripe for harvest. John 4:35, NIV

Answer: peace, weary, fields

# NEWSLETTER

**FORKS OF THE BRANDYWINE EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

1648 Horseshoe Pike
Glenmoore, PA 19343

Phone: 610-942-2626
Fax: 610-942-7066
E-mail: office@forkschurch.org

**We're on the web:**
**www.forkschurch.org**




## Operation Christmas Child Needs Your Support!




### Only 6 Weeks to Fill a Shoebox!

**Operation Christmas Child is in Operation and needs YOUR help!**

**This year we are depending on the congregation to fill shoeboxes and/or to supply items for the Youth Packing Night !**

There will be a Donation Box and printed Shoeboxes in the Gathering Room beginning Sunday, October, 11th.

If you choose to shop for items, instead of filling a shoebox. The youth won't be going shopping this year, and kindly ask for donations to fill boxes (Dollar Tree is a great place to shop, but get there soon as a lot of local churches are thinking shoeboxes right now!). Financial donations towards items can be placed in an envelope and put in an offering box. Make sure to write "Shoeboxes' on the memo line of your check.

Perhaps you'll prayerfully consider making a financial donation to help with the cost of shipping the shoeboxes. The shipping cost this year is $10.00 per box. **Make checks payable to: *Samaritan's Purse* with "*OCC Shoebox Shipping*" on the memo line**.

There are pre-printed envelopes at the display for your financial donations and to place in your shoebox with the shipping cost. It also has the boy/girl/age group labels on it to tape to the outside of your shoebox.

**SUGGESTED SHOEBOX ITEMS:**

**SCHOOL SUPPLIES:** Pens, pencils and pencil sharpeners, crayons or markers, stamps and ink pad sets, **small** writing pads or paper, (Please note that **composition books do not fit in shoeboxes**)

**TOYS**: Small cars or trucks, small balls, dolls, stuffed animals, kazoos, harmonicas, jump ropes, toys that light up or make noise (with extra batteries), Slinky, etc.

**OTHER:** T-Shirts, socks, ball caps, sunglasses, hair clips, watches, **flashlights with extra batteries**, sippy cups, **small** melmac or hard plastic bowl, etc.

**DO NOT INCLUDE:** Used or damaged items, war-related items such as toy knives, guns or military figures; **chocolate or food**; **no candy or gum**; **no toothpaste**; **no liquids or lotions**; medications or vitamins, or breakable items.

**Any Donated ITEMS for the Youth to pack are due by Sunday, Nov. 8th.**
**ALL Filled Shoeboxes are Due Back by Sunday, November 15th.**