

the Messenger



October 2023

Time after Pentecost



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Find all the signups at the [SignUp Hub](#) in the Commons or [online](#) at godslovenewtown.org/signups.

"The only thing you can count on is change." —Heraclitus

Indeed, the old adage rings true. Though we may nod our heads in agreement, we may miss the philosopher's wisdom, for change can stir up feelings in us of anxiety, fear, and grief. However, as Christians, we are reminded:

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever...

We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. (Hebrews 13:8; 6:19)

The Holy Spirit has indeed moved, calling Pastor Dan to another congregation in need. Pastor Dan has faithfully ministered to God's Love for eight years. Under his leadership, the congregation successfully navigated many challenges, including the pandemic, and continues to grow in its faith and witness to God's love in our world. Yes, Heraclitus was right. Change is constant but so too is our Lord and Savior who has been faithful to us in and through Pastor Dan's ministry and leadership and the blessed community.

I personally am grateful for Pastor Dan's mentorship and collegiality over the past three years of my own ministry, and for his exemplary discernment and care of God's people.

Though I am sad to see him go, I am pleased to continue as your pastor, and both Pastor Dan and I trust in God's plan.

For in their hearts, humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps. (Proverbs 16:9)

I invite you to join me in the coming weeks to celebrate Pastor Dan and our mission and ministry together. Watch for information on opportunities to connect with Pastor Dan and offer our thanksgiving and gratitude, to bless him and wish him Godspeed for the journey ahead.

Your sister in Christ, *Pastor Brandi*



Night Out at Shady Brook Farm

Fall Fest with Campfire

Saturday, October 21 • 5pm – 9pm

Purchase tickets at shadybrookfarm.com



This event is hosted by the Young Adults group and open to **all in the congregation**.

[Individuals purchase their own ticket\(s\) to Fall Fest](#) then gather with other God's Love members and friends at **Campfire Site #14** throughout the evening for s'mores and smiles. Fall Fest **tickets are \$30 each in advance**; the campfire and s'mores will be provided!

Fellowship Dinner



Fellowship Dinner

Saturday, October 7 • 6:30pm

Guru's Fine Indian Cuisine

230 North Sycamore Street, Newtown

Monthly Fellowship Dinners are open to all in the congregation looking for a social outing. Participants meet at the restaurant and pay for their own meal.

[RSVP HERE](#) for October's dinner, visit the [SignUp Hub](#) in the Commons or call the church office.

Questions? Contact **John Connors**.



New Member Orientation Sessions

Saturday, October 14, 10:00am – 11:30am OR Sunday, October 15, 2:00pm – 3:30pm

Prospective members are invited to attend either orientation session to learn more about the congregation and its ministries.

New members will be received during worship services on **Sunday, October 22**.

For more information, contact **Pastor Dan**.

Scripture Readings
for October 8

Isaiah 5:1-7
Song of the vineyard

Philippians 3:4b-14
The value of knowing Christ

Matthew 21:33-46
Parable of the vineyard owner's son

Grapevine of Friends

On September 26, 19 friends enjoyed a fall luncheon.

The next *Grapevine of Friends* event will be **Christmas Cookies and Music** on **Tuesday, December 12** at 2:00pm.

This is open to all looking for fellowship and connection.



"The essential fact of Christianity is that God thought all men worth the sacrifice of His Son."

Submitted by
Rebecca Wotherspoon

October Highlighted Collection: "SOCK-tober"

Socks are the number one item requested by people experiencing homelessness. You are invited to participate in this month's collection by donating NEW white or black socks for adults. Any type (other than dress socks) is appreciated, but the most requested are men's tall socks that don't slide down inside boots. Place your donation in the **Lobby of Love** by **Sunday, October 29**. All socks collected will be given to local agencies supporting the homeless.



Questions? Contact **Janet Nordberg** or **Sandy Anthony**.

God's Caring Stitchers

Fridays, October 6 and 20

1:00pm • Room A1

Molly Cohen from *Abramson Cancer Center* will be a guest speaker at our October 20 meeting. We have been donating handmade chemo hats to this organization since 2004 and will have 70 new hats to give her.

Newcomers welcome. Don't knit or crochet yet? We'll teach you!

Questions? Contact **Cindy Sundstrom**.



Sundays at 10:00am
Fellowship Hall

Texts of Terror 2.0 - an exploration of challenging scripture passages, led by Pastor Dan.

- **October 1:** God asks Abraham to sacrifice Isaac (Genesis 22:1-19)
- **October 8:** Jesus calls someone a dog! (Mark 7:24-30)

Shedding Light on the Darkness – a series on mental health

- **October 15:** "In Our Own Voice" a presentation by the National Alliance on Mental Illness
- **October 22:** The Importance of Dark Emotions

"Gather, Rest and Renew"

...a Day Retreat for Women of the ELCA

Saturday, October 14 • 9:00am – 4:00pm

United Lutheran Seminary Campus in Philadelphia

An opportunity to become more aware of God's presence in our lives and in our world.

Spiritual Director Rev. Leslie Richard will lead participants in

a time of sharing, prayer, discussion, and contemplative exercises. Open to all women over 15.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information or stop by the church office to register by October 6.



Good Stuff Thrift Fall Collection Drive

God's Love Parking Lot!

Saturday, October 21 • 9am – Noon

God's Love is partnering with *Good Stuff Thrift* for a fall collection; designed as a drive-thru drop off in the church parking lot. Clean out your closets and load up your car with *gently-used* clothing, housewares, small furniture, toys, etc.

Bring items church (October 21 only) and *Good Stuff* volunteers will unload your car and provide a tax receipt, if desired. For more information about how proceeds benefit children in need, visit goodstuffthrift.org/

NEW! Used laptops and Chromebooks in *any condition* will also be collected (October 21 only). They will be refurbished for donation to homeless shelters.



HOPE Supporting Those in Need

Fall is a time of bountiful harvest and gratitude, but also a time to remember those less fortunate.

God's Love provides lunches three days a week to the *Reach Out Foundation*, an agency that supports those who are homeless.

Every Tuesday, God's Love delivers bagged lunches containing sandwiches, snacks, desserts and drinks to help support those in need.

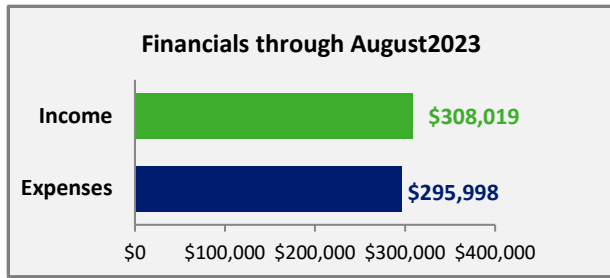
Want to help provide one or more of these items?

[SIGNUP FOR OCTOBER](#); [SIGNUP FOR NOVEMBER](#), or visit the **SignUp Hub**. Share your bounty!

Donations for the lunches are due in the **Lobby of Love** on **Tuesdays by 10:30am**. Non-perishable items can be dropped off any day. Sandwiches can be frozen and left in the church freezer.

Questions? Contact **Sandy Anthony**.





Questions? Contact Treasurer, **Bob Smoose**, or Financial Secretary, **John Tidd**.

Ways you can SERVE

Usher, Reader, Communion Assistant, Altar Guild, Nursery Assistant, Acolyte...

There are many opportunities for members of the congregation (adults and youth) to assist during our worship services. Any of these roles are wonderful opportunities to engage in service, meet new people, and deepen your own worship experience.

[SIGN UP FOR SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER](#), or visit the **SignUp Hub** to choose weeks and roles convenient for you.

New volunteers are encouraged! Instructions will be provided.



September was an exciting month of new adventures for the 2s, 3s, and 4s. It is so much fun to see how quickly they adapt to their new routines and make friends!

Christian Lessons, Chapel Time, Lunch Bunch, and Enrichment classes have begun. The Newtown Fire Department will be visiting to teach the children about fire safety. It's a wonderful opportunity for the preschoolers to see a fire truck up close, and to go inside.

Music and Gym classes will begin this month. The 3s and 4s classes will take a trip to Styer Orchard. There they will learn about apples and pumpkins and pick their own. We look forward to *Pumpkin Night* when the children come to school with their dads (or another family member) to decorate the pumpkins they picked at Styer's. Each class will read a story reminding us that, just like the jack-o'-lanterns with a candle inside, the light of God's Love shines inside each of us. We will end the month with Halloween parties and parades.



- **The Interfaith Food Alliance in Morrisville** Thank the congregation. *"Your donation of backpacks and school supplies are so much appreciated by our families. We are only able to do what we do because of friends and supporters like you and your congregation."* [Thank you to the **Webber family** for coordinating this effort each year!]
- **Bear Creek Camp** Thank you very much for your generous donation to the BCC staff. *Because of you we were able to enjoy a wonderful meal at our end-of-summer banquet. You are a blessing!*
- **To Church Council:** Thank you very much for your donation of \$350 to the Redeemer Lutheran Church food pantry. *We really appreciate that you continue to support our very important ministry. Thank you for being a blessing to those in need.* [This represents part of the 2023 distribution from our Endowment Fund.]
- **Caring for Friends in northeast Philadelphia** Thank you for the generous donation of \$1,000. *We truly appreciate the support. We are serving 3.8 million meals per year throughout the five-county region of Greater Philadelphia. Thank you for joining in our work to eliminate hunger and loneliness in our community.* [This represents part of the 2023 distribution from our Endowment Fund.]
- **The ELCA** Thank you for your gift of \$1000 to World Hunger. *The glory of God shines through you.* [This represents part of the 2023 distribution from our Endowment Fund.]

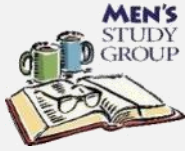


- *On behalf of everyone at **Rolling Harvest Food Rescue**, along with our local farm partners, we would like to thank you so much for your generous donation of \$1,000. We are on our way to supporting local hunger relief organizations with 4.5 million pounds of nutritious fresh food.* [This represents part of the 2023 distribution from our Endowment Fund.]
- **Pastor Violet Little** wrote to thank us. Here at the Welcome Church (in Philadelphia), we offer a team of care to a vulnerable group of homeless folks. *Your generous donation of \$1,000 helps us to provide masks, sanitizers, and so much more of what we needed during these COVID times.* [This represents part of the 2023 distribution from our Endowment Fund.]
- **Bucks County Housing Group in Pennel:** *Thank you for your generous gift of \$1,000. Your donation plays a pivotal role in combatting hunger and homelessness in our community.* [This represents part of the 2023 distribution from our Endowment Fund.]
- A thank you was received from the **ELCA** regarding the \$1,510 we collected in the *Christmas in July* program from our members. This money was earmarked for Lutheran Disaster Response to use as they see fit. Earlier this year council sent \$3,000 specifically to help with the earthquake in Turkey.



As of September 12, updated COVID-19 vaccines are now available that more closely target circulating variants. Schedule your vaccination soon. It is available at many local pharmacies at no cost with most insurance plans.

"To love your neighbor in charity is to love God in man." —St. Francis de Sales



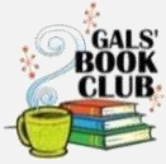
Monday, October 9

7:00pm • Lounge

A continuing study of the geography of the Holy Land, led by Pastor Dan.



The Ministry Resource Table in the Commons provides meaningful and timely ministry tools that help connect faith with our daily lives. Since October is the month in which we celebrate the birth of the Lutheran Reformation, all resources available will center on the history and theology of Martin Luther and the other reformers. **Guess what? All resources this month are yours to keep**—or give away to someone else after you've read them. Welcome.



Thursday, October 26

7:00pm • Lounge

Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus

Save these Dates

Sunday, October 15

Red Balloon Sunday
8:45am and 11:00am

Sunday school students will attend worship and sit as a class with their teachers.

Sunday, October 29

Reformation Sunday with Confirmation

ONE SERVICE at 9:30am followed by a reception in the Café

November 4 and 5

Farewell and Godspeed to Pastor Dan

Saturday evening November 4
(time and details TBD)

Sunday morning November 5

Worship 8:45am and 11:00am
Reception in the Café at 10am

OCTOBER 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Worship 8:45a & 11a Education 10a Worship Ministry 12:15p	2 Counters 9:30a	3	4 Bell Choir 6:30p Vocal Choir 7:30p	5	6 Knit & Crochet 1p	7 Fellowship Dinner 6:30p
8 Worship 8:45a & 11a Education 10a	9 Men's Bible Study 7p	10 Counters 9:30a Rejoice! 7:30p	11 NO CHOIRS	12 Exec Comm. 7:30p	13	14 Quilters 10a – 3p New Member Class 10a
15 Red Balloon Sunday Worship 8:45a & 11a Education 10a New Member Class 2p	16 Counters 9:30a	17 Rejoice! 7:30p	18 Preschool Pumpkin Night 6p Bell Choir 6:30p Vocal Choir 7:30p	19 Music Team 11a Adult Ed Team 1p Church Council 7p	20 Knit & Crochet 1p	21 Good Stuff Thrift Truck Pickup 9a – Noon Shady Brook Farm Fall Fest & Campfire 5p – 9p
22 Worship 8:45a & 11a Education 10a Confirmation Rehearsal 12:15p	23 Counters 9:30a	24 Rejoice! 7:30p	25 Bell Choir 6:30p Vocal Choir 7:30p	26 Property Team 11a Gals' Book Club 7p	27	28
29 REFORMATION AND CONFIRMATION ONE Worship 9:30a Reception following NO Education Hour	30 Counters 9:30a TLC Meeting 11a	31 HAPPY HALLOWEEN 	<p><i>"Honesty is the First Chapter of the Book of Wisdom" —Thomas Jefferson</i></p>			



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