

The Marketplace

NOVEMBER 2023

Ph: (717) 257-1270 | www.marketsquarechurch.org



Dear Market Square Beloveds,

I've been interviewing our ruling elders for Stewardship videos that we've circulated through *The Beacon Light* and posted on YouTube (If you haven't seen them yet, click <https://shorturl.at/jknvW> and go to the "Beacon Light" tab). As I've talked with ruling elders, several of them have said how challenging they perceive it to be to figure out how to give your time at Market Square Church. "Until I began serving on session, I had no idea about all of our committees and the ministry that is being done through them," said one. "Even as someone 'in the know' it's hard to know who to call or how to find out information about how to get involved" said another. It was challenging but also good for me to hear this.

The truth is that there's a lot going on at the church and it may just feel overwhelming to get involved, or frightening to put yourself out there and make the claim that you have gifts to offer, especially if you're new or if you don't know many people who are involved. It can be daunting to make a phone call or attend a meeting for the first time, even for self-assured adults! But there are good reasons to take the risk, not only for the sake of Market Square Church, but also for your own sake.

I firmly believe that each of you reading this article is here at Market Square Church because God called you here. Because you've been called here, that means that God has given you gifts to be used here. In Ephesians, the Apostle Paul insists, "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do (Eph 2:10)." So we can set aside any concern that you have nothing to offer.

Using your gifts in service benefits not only the church, but you! When we use our gifts to serve, we get more connected to the community in the church. Our service and connection to the community enable spiritual growth and the deepening of our individual relationship with Christ. Authors Sue Mallory and Brad Smith who wrote *The Equipping Church*, put it like this, "We do not live to ourselves, but we are called to live in community. When we express the attitude that we could walk more closely with Christ if it weren't for 'other people,' we counter the very purpose of our commitment to Christ, namely, to love others as Christ has loved us. The Great Commandment and the Great Commission are based on the understanding that we are called to live in community, and our personal relationship with Christ must be grounded in the accountability, grace, patience, and love that only community can provide. God uses the relationship, challenges, and joys of gift-based service to teach us about our relationship with God's own self. Our walk with God is not about 'me and my God,' but about 'us and our God.'"



**Pastor
Kim Wadlington**

Back on October 22, pledge dedication Sunday, we included a form in the bulletin that you could fill out to indicate either your interest in a particular area of the church's ministry or to simply ask for someone to call you to learn more. That form is still available at the church on Sundays and if you want to use it to indicate your interest, you can drop it in the offering plate or give it to one of the pastors. We're looking at other ways, both electronic and in person, to enable easier participation in the ministry of the church.

Many of you reading this already give of your time, talent, and treasure in significant ways and you make a big difference in the church and in the church's ability to serve in the community and world.

If you aren't yet connected as deeply as you'd like or if you would like to re-think the ways you serve please find one of those forms or send one of the pastors an email (wadlington@marketsquarechurch.org and smith@marketsquarechurch.org) we'd be happy to help you get connected.

Peace! **Kim**

Our Church Family

Happy belated birthday to Jane Shaffer! She turned 90 on October 21.

The Boyer family welcomed baby girl Katie recently. She joins parents Jared and Elsa and big brothers George and Wesley.

Susan Harding died on September 14. Susan had been a member of MSPC since 1996 and was ordained a deacon the same year.

Jamie Caffier's mom, Bonnie Gallagher, died on September 25 in Bowling Green, OH. She was 94.

Endowment Update and Planning for the Future

Save the date! December 11 at 7:00 p.m. we'll have a meeting at the church with members of the Bryn Mawr Trust Investment Team to hear a report on our endowment and give you the opportunity to ask questions about its use and sustainability. Stay tuned for more information on the full agenda in next month's *Marketplace*.

John Dame

Next Marketplace Deadline: Sunday, November 12. Please email articles and photos to both Nancy Sheets and Kari Hultman: sheets@marketsquarechurch.org and khultman@comcast.net

Market Square Presbyterian Church honored with **Peacemaker in Our Midst** award.



The Reverend Jennifer McKenna and **Jim Terry**, representing the Peacemaking Committee and the Anti Racism Task Force, accepted the award on behalf of Market Square. The award was given by the World Affairs Council of Harrisburg at its Peace Symposium on Saturday, September 16, at Elizabethtown College.

Transition Team Update

The Transition Team continues to meet and is working with our committees, taskforces, initiatives, and community partners (in short, our *ministries*) to answer the question, "Who are we as the people of God now?" The ministry we do together, and the services we offer, go a long way toward painting the picture of who we are. We're asking each of our ministries to give us:

- Some facts about who, when, and how much they spend.
- An origin story if one exists.
- Reflection on the mission of the ministry and how that connects to our overall mission.
- Some thinking about the core values that drive decision making for the ministry.
- A list of partners (inside or outside the church) and any other groups or people who inform the work of the ministry.
- A future vision for the ministry including any areas ministry members wish to explore more deeply and any concerns for the future.

As we compile the information, we'll be looking for trends and themes and the ability to paint a clear picture of Market Square today. If you're part of a committee or task force or ministry group, you'll have the opportunity to engage this part of the work. Look for opportunities to engage the next question, "Who is our neighbor now?" soon!

KDW

Coming Soon!

The Antiracism Task Force & the LGBT and Allies Committee are co-sponsoring a screening of "Rustin" soon.

The 2023 biographical film is about Bayard Rustin, a native Pennsylvanian and advisor to The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Rustin was the primary organizer of the famous 1963 March on Washington, but was often sidelined by the movement due to his sexual orientation. This film biography is a long time coming. *Watch your bulletins for more details!*



Children's Prayer Breakfast

We had our first Children's Prayer Breakfast in October which gathered a small but enthusiastic gathering of little ones! We shared pancakes and bagels, listened to the story of Jesus feeding the 5000 and did some coloring and singing. The kids learned that with God's help there is enough for all! The next day Teddy, who attended the breakfast, asked four or five times throughout the day if we could get in the car and go to the Sunday school. He can't wait to come back next month!

If you have a little one in your life who would like to join in the fun, our November breakfast will be on **Sunday, November 12, at 9:15 a.m. in the children's education suite**. Hope to see you there!

Rev. Allison Smith



A Note About Bistro

We must bring Bistro to a close after more than 30 years of success as a fund-raiser for Christian Churches United's HELP Ministries. Since the beginning of this unique event more than 30 years ago which helped bring together the congregation for what many expressed as the real beginning of Advent, Bistro has evolved gradually to become an heroic effort by fewer people, especially with the necessary changes required by Covid 19. A dignified retirement has been discussed every few years. Our annual gift of the proceeds from Bistro has varied between \$5,000 and \$7,000, but it has been more than just a source of funds as part of our community mission outreach. Bistro has been a unique gathering activity for the extended Market Square family. Current and new opportunities will be explored to keep us all busy in mission and fellowship.

Jane Murray, Chair of the Membership Committee

Worship and Preaching Schedule for November

Our English language worship services are livestreamed from our sanctuary every Sunday morning at 11:00 a.m. and can be viewed on our homepage. A live audio-only broadcast of the service is available on radio stations 960 AM and 102.9 FM as well as through the radio button on our church website www.marketsquarechurch.org. If you miss the Sunday morning audio broadcast, a rebroadcast is available on the front page of our website under the "Past Services" tab beginning late Sunday afternoon and then can be accessed there throughout the week.

Korean language sermons are posted on the Korean Ministries YouTube channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCH6wErNFfDWz41-3DHUMzHg>

November 5 – All Saints' Sunday

(See more about All Saints' Sunday at right)

- 9:30 a.m. Korean Language Worship in the Chapel
 The Reverend Ki Nam Lee preaching
- 11:00 a.m. English Language Worship in the Sanctuary
 The word this morning is offered in both song and preaching with the Sanctuary Choir offering *Requiem* by John Rutter and the Reverend Kim Wadlington offering a brief scriptural meditation
 The Sacrament of Holy Communion
Ritual of Gratitude and Remembrance for the Communion of Saints

November 12 – 24th Sunday after Pentecost

PCUSA Emphasis on Hunger and Homelessness

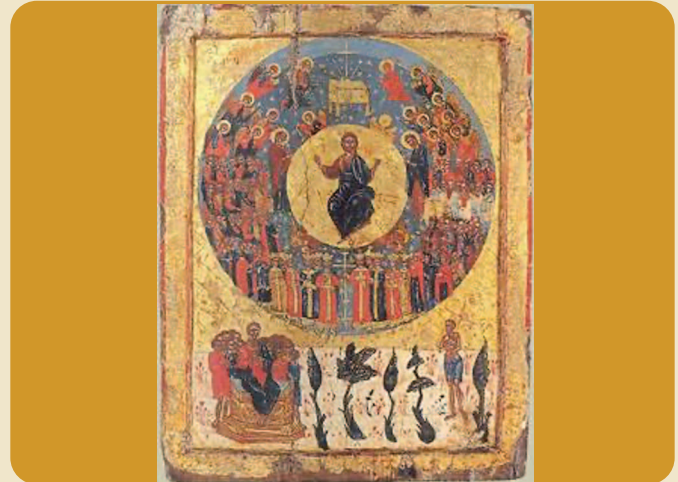
- 9:30 a.m. Korean Language Worship in the Chapel
 The Reverend Ki Nam Lee preaching
- 11:00 a.m. English Language Worship in the Sanctuary
 The Reverend Kim Wadlington preaching

November 19 – 25th Sunday after Pentecost and Thanksgiving

- 9:30 a.m. Korean Language Worship in the Chapel
 The Reverend Ki Nam Lee preaching
- 11:00 a.m. English Language Worship in the Sanctuary
 The Reverend Kim Wadlington preaching

November 26 – Reign of Christ

- 9:30 a.m. Korean Language Worship in the Chapel
 The Reverend Ki Nam Lee preaching
- 11:00 a.m. English Language Worship in the Sanctuary
 The Reverend Allison Smith preaching



All Saints' Day (PCUSA Mission Agency)

Above: Greek icon of saints and angels around Christ's throne c.1700.

In early Christian tradition, saints' days began as a way to mark the anniversary of a martyr's death — his or her "birthday" as a saint. By the middle of the church's first millennium, there were so many martyrs (particularly due to the persecution of Diocletian) that it was hard to give them all their due. All Saints' Day was established as an opportunity to honor all the saints, known and unknown.

All Saints' Day has a rather different focus in the Reformed tradition. While we may give thanks for the lives of particular luminaries of ages past, the emphasis is on the ongoing sanctification of the *whole* people of God. Rather than putting saints on pedestals as holy people set apart in glory, we give glory to God for the ordinary, holy lives of the believers in this and every age. The day reminds us that we are part of one continuing, living communion of saints. All Saints' Day then, is a time to rejoice in all who through the ages have faithfully served the Lord, to give thanks to members of the community who have died in the past year, and to pray that we may be counted among the company of the faithful in God's eternal realm.

Our All Saints' Day worship on Sunday, November 5, will incorporate John Rutter's lyrical and moving *Requiem* interspersed throughout the service. We will celebrate communion and have an act of remembrance enabling us to acknowledge those who have died in our own church and inviting us to light a candle in loving memory of those who have been dear to us, especially in helping shape our own lives of faithful discipleship.

Stewardship

| | |
|------------|-----------|
| YTD Actual | \$352,830 |
| YTD Budget | \$348,750 |
| Surplus | \$ 4,080 |



Tyler Canonico
Minister of Music

Dear friends,

November begins with **All Saints' Day**. In worship on Sunday, November 5, the Sanctuary Choir will be joined by a chamber orchestra and throughout the service, we will offer John Rutter's *Requiem*. It promises to be a very moving service. On Sunday, November 12, we will be focusing on hunger and homelessness. The College Choir from Lebanon Valley College will join us in worship, too, and along with our choir, share in music that focuses on social justice. The Market Square Ringers will return to worship on November 19, when we will celebrate Thanksgiving.

Hard to believe, but we end the Liturgical year on Sunday, November 26 as it is Christ the King Sunday. Where is the time going?!

I invite you to read about our Choral Scholars. We have a fabulous group of scholars and they just love being here at Market Square!

Arts on the Square will welcome **David Hurd** who will present an organ concert on **Sunday, November 19 at 4:00 p.m.** Dr. Hurd is widely recognized as one of the foremost church musicians and concert organists in the United States, with a long list of honors and achievements, and immeasurable expertise in organ performance, improvisation, and composition. He has composed numerous hymns, choral works, and organ works. Dr. Hurd is the Organist and Choirmaster at the Church of St. Mary the Virgin in New York City. He is a wonderful musician and I know he will dazzle the keys of our J. Nedra Schilling Pipe Organ.

Looking ahead to December, I hope you will join us for **Carols by Candlelight on Sunday, December 10 at 4 p.m.** We're calling this year's concert *A John Rutter Christmas* because the choir is going to share many of John Rutter's beloved Christmas works, including his Gloria! I hope you will join us for what will be a beautiful evening.

On a personal note, I will be taking some time off in November for surgery. The surgeon is confident that it's an easy surgery and that I should recover quickly. My surgery is scheduled for Thursday, November 16, and I would welcome your prayers. I will definitely be out of the office through Thanksgiving, and my hope is that I'll be fully recovered by Christ the King Sunday. If not, I should be back by Advent 1. 😊 Ethan Draper will keep the bench warm for me while I'm away!

Peace and love,
Tyler

Sanctuary Choir Repertoire for November:

November 5 (All Saints' Sunday) – "Requiem" by John Rutter

November 12 (Hunger and Homelessness) – "There Was a Time" by Elaine Hagenberg and "Since I Laid My Burden Down" by Kyle Pederson (College Choir). "Soon We Will Be Done" by Kyle Pederson (Sanctuary Choir)

November 19 (Celebrating Thanksgiving) – "O Be Joyful in the Lord" by Ainslee Cox and "Nun Danket Alle Gott" by Johann Pachelbel

November 26 (Christ the King) – "Awake the Trumpet's Lofty Sound" by George F. Handel and "Zion at Thy Shining Gates" by K. Lee Scott

Choral Scholars 2023



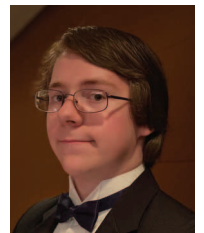
Kaitlyn Carr is a Senior music education major with a voice concentration from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She also involved in Messiah University's Women's Ensemble, Concert Choir, and Symphonic Winds Ensembles. Kaitlyn has been a part of Market Square's Sanctuary Choir since the Spring of 2022. She's incredibly honored to have been at Market Square for the past few years and is delighted to continue singing and being a part of the Market Square family for another year!

Elizabeth Hill is a senior Psychology and music major with clinical and voice concentrations. After graduating this December, she plans on going to grad school to become a clinical psychologist. Currently, Elizabeth works as a Crisis Intervention counselor. Outside of work and school, she loves to tap dance, sing, and find new recipes to make food with friends. She is grateful for the opportunity to sing with Market Square Church again this semester.



Oliver Lowe is a first-year student at Lebanon Valley College, majoring in Music Education with a voice concentration. From Carlisle, PA, Oliver graduated from Carlisle High School, where he filled his schedule with ten music classes over his four years and participated in musicals on and off stage. He also participated in PMEA chorus, earning a place in Districts during his sophomore year. Oliver is currently a tenor section leader in the College Choir at LVC, which is great, and he aspires to be a choir director!

Daniel Micsion is from Souderton, PA, and is currently a sophomore music education major at Messiah University. He is active in the Concert Choir and Chamber Singers at Messiah. This is his second year participating in the Sanctuary Choir and he's glad to be back!



Maira Myers is a Senior music education major at Messiah University. She grew up in Harrisonburg, Virginia with her parents, two older siblings, and their cute little dog. She was homeschooled through elementary school, and later attended the Eastern Mennonite School from sixth through twelfth grade. At EMS, she participated in soccer, volleyball, orchestra, choir, and a little bit of musicals. Maira has also worked as a camp counselor for a few years over the summer, which has been one of the best experiences in her life. She has always been interested in the outdoors, composing, and of course, choir music! Maira is excited to continue pursuing music and being a part of all the opportunities she is blessed to have.



Gabriel Nater Padro is currently a first-year student at Messiah University majoring in Music Education. During his time in high school, Gabriel participated in all the music ensembles and theatre productions from marching band to his senior production of Wizard of Oz. He also participated in PMEA choir festivals, reaching regional his senior year. Gabriel is currently in multiple ensembles at Messiah, including Concert Choir, Men's Choral Ensemble, and Vocal Jazz Ensemble, voicing Tenor in all state ensembles. His future goal is to become a high school choir director and slowly work his way to a PhD in music.



Bryant Rohrer is a bass from Duncannon, PA. He is currently a Sophomore music education major with a vocal concentration at Messiah

University, and this is his second year as a Choral Scholar at Market Square Church. At Messiah, he is currently involved in the Concert Choir, Chamber Singers, and Symphonic Winds. He is also the Vice President of Messiah's student chapter of the American Choral Director's Association. After graduation, Bryant plans on being a choir teacher and pursuing graduate studies.



Bethany Tome is a pivot singer from Marysville, PA. She is a First-Year music performance major with a voice concentration at Messiah University. Bethany plans on obtaining the necessary prerequisites to attend graduate school for speech-language pathology. She is involved in Concert Choir, Women's Ensemble, and the club field hockey team at Messiah. She has been in the Sanctuary Choir for almost two years now and feels so blessed to have the opportunity to remain in the choir through college.

Session Activities — October 2023 Activity Update

By Jonelle Darr, Clerk of Session

Market Square's Session is responsible for the church's mission, governance, and programs. Pastor Kim Wadlington moderates the Session. Current Ruling Elders may serve up to two consecutive, three-year terms.

| Terms Expiring in 2023 | Terms Expiring in 2024 | Terms Expiring in 2025 |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Cindy Bendroth (1 st term) | Sandy Bell (1) | George Blashford (1 st term) |
| Morgan Dame (Youth – 1 yr. term) | Kevin Burrell (1) | Beth Cate-Freeman (1 st term) |
| Jack Galan (2 nd term) | Keith Camilli (1) | Jonelle Darr (2 nd term) |
| Wil Henninger (2 nd term) | Andrew Hunter (1) | Theresa Elliott (1 st term) |
| Dale Laninga (1 st term) | Jane Murray (1) | Beth Hager (1 st term) |
| Dave Lehman (1 st term) | Jong Hwan Yi (2 nd term) | Nancy Snyder (2 nd term) |
| Steve McMullen (2 nd term) | | |

Mission Study and Transition Planning

1. Reviewed the work of the Transition Team to date, including its request for reports that describe each of the church's ministries. Reports, as prepared by each of the church's boards, committees, task forces and working groups, are due by November 17, 2023 and will be submitted electronically to Transition Team chair Dale Laninga.

Mission and Stewardship

2. As requested by the Homelessness Working Group, approved designating the 2023 Christmas Eve offering for the Market Square Homelessness Initiatives fund. Background: For the past two years, Session has designated the Christmas Eve offering to benefit the Market Square Homelessness Initiatives fund. Currently, the Homelessness Working Group is drafting guidelines for the fund's use. The fund currently has \$18,702.19.

Personnel

3. Approved a new position descriptions for Facility Manager and Church Sexton.

Membership Activities

4. Recognized the death of Deacon Susan Harding (b. July 17, 1954) who died on September 14, 2023 in Harrisburg. She joined the church on March 24, 1996, and was elected a deacon on June 9, 1996.

5. At their request, remove the Um family from the church rolls. Since the pandemic, they have been attending another church:

Harim (7259) – Ordained Deacon

Soohong (6002)

John (7354)

Paul (7284) – Ordained Elder

YoungJin (6003) – Ordained Deacon Zion (7225)

Organizational

6. Approved calling a Congregational meeting on December 3, 2023 immediately following the 11:00 a.m. worship service for the purpose of electing 2024 church officers.

7. Learned that the church's financial statements for 2021 and 2022 were found to be in good order by independent auditors Hamilton & Musser, PC.

8. Learned that the Presbytery of Carlisle will increase its 2024 per capita fee by \$2, bringing it to \$33 per member.

9. Appointed Ruling Elders George Blashford and David Lehman as the church's Commissioners to the Presbytery's meeting on December 5, 2023.

As of October 17, 2023, there were 475 members on the church roll. If you have any questions about Session activities, you may talk with me, a Session member, or one of our Pastors.

I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.
John 10:10

In June 2007 a small group from Market Square led by Pastor Jim Brown went on a pilgrimage to Palestine. Ironically enough considering the situation in Palestine and Israel today, the group came with the intention to look for signs of hope for peace and healing in the tortured land that was Jesus' home. For Pastor Mitri Raheb of the Christian Lutheran Church in Bethlehem, the vision for the Palestinian people was to have "life and have it abundantly."



Here, in 2023, November raises many very specific images of Thanksgiving. Just mentioning Thanksgiving creates a vision of groaning boards laden with sweet potatoes, green bean casseroles, cranberry sauce, apple and pumpkin pies, and of course, the turkey roasted to golden perfection.

It is also a time, for many, of family and friends getting together, and, need I say it, football. The Thanksgiving table is an image of material abundance. And, we hope that in witnessing this abundance we are inspired to offer prayers of thankfulness and acts of generosity for these blessings and the abundance of life that is all around us.

While I am sure Father Raheb hoped that all the material needs of Palestinians would be met, and met abundantly, by quoting Jesus in John 10, he was speaking of another abundance, more profound, and in many ways more elusive and spiritual than material abundance.

Join us during the month of November in the Room for the Inner Way (Room 421, 4th floor) each Sunday from 10:30 a.m. - 10:50 a.m. as we explore, share with one another, pray, and contemplate Jesus' statement that he came to give us life and life abundant.

Elizabeth Terry and Rev. Anne Ross

Chapel Renovations

In 2022, the House Committee began a process of reviewing areas of the church that needed attention. We identified areas that we felt were priorities and began a process of seeking bids from contractors to do the work. One area we found needed attention was the Chapel.

The Chapel had carpet that was rippling and was a tripping hazard for any that walked through it. We also saw cracks in the walls, tired pew cushions, blinds that were in need of replacement. We questioned if the tiles under the carpet contained asbestos. They did.

We began work in September by preparing the organ console to leave the space. Then, the electrical needed to be prepared. Chancel furniture, hymnals, and pews were removed. The carpet, tile and mastic came out. The walls were painted. As I write this, the back windowsill is being sanded and prepared to be refinished after years of sun bleaching and poinsettias being placed without care for water damage. Soon, new carpeting will be laid, the pews will be put back in place, new blinds will appear at the windows, and new pew cushions will be in place. Voila! A space is reborn!

We are grateful to the staff for all their support in taking pictures, letting contractors in the building, connecting and being the boots on the ground through this process. We thank our contractors for their professional workmanship: Dean Faulk, Newman Stare, Bahret Church Interiors, First Capitol Insulation, Aaron Borrás Painting, Holmes Construction, Essis and Sons, and Waggoner's Pew Cushions.

Once this project is completed, it will be a lovely space for our Korean speaking members, who use it weekly as well as other congregation members as they consider using it for weddings, funerals, and educational purposes.

We hope you will stop in and check out this refurbished space.

Phyllis Mooney, The House Committee



Below: While the Chapel is being renovated, the Korean congregation is using Geneva Hall for worship.



SEPTEMBER THROUGH MID-OCTOBER REPORT: AFGHAN REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT PROJECT

Note: This report is being sent to all Market Square and Pine Street Church members who have volunteered to help our Afghanistan families. Individuals from the ISC and others involved with the project are also on our mailing list. The families we currently help are the Afghanzadas in Mechanicsburg, the Azizyars in Grantham, and the Popals in Carlisle. The Resettlement Project is a partnership between Market Square and Pine Street churches in Harrisburg.

Afghanzada Family:

We know of no outstanding needs with this family. They appear to be living independently without needing our help. This is the goal we strive for.

Azizyar Family:

Students at the Messiah University School of Education have returned to help the family learn English at home. The mother, Roqia has resumed attending ESL classes at Immanuel Church in Mechanicsburg. The father, Azizullah advised his attorney at the immigration law firm said they hope to get the Azizyar's eldest daughter out of Afghanistan in the next 6 to 12 months. This is wonderful news for the family. We facilitated an application for Section 8 housing through the Cumberland County Housing Authority. We submitted this on October 6. The housing agency estimates a time of one year to get approval. Because the family currently lives in a small apartment and the family size will be increasing, a larger residence is needed.

Popal Family:

Mr. Popal continues his work as an auto mechanic at a garage in Harrisburg. Since the Popals have no car, he rides to work with a fellow Afghan. English teaching in the home is provided weekly by an ISC employee. The big item for this family in October was the scheduled pickup on October 7 of various household goods and furniture from the charity, New Digs. Difficulties were encountered in making this happen because of communication failures. We have

no contact with the family by email or phone so we must rely on the family case worker. As it turned out, case worker Dyna was on vacation and out of the country, so our emails went unanswered. We needed 2 volunteers to carry and load the furniture. We made arrangements for a pickup truck and driver. However, at the last minute we received word that Mr. Popal would not be able to help with the move; he was at work at the garage. We also received word that Ms. Popal would insist items from New Digs be new, not preowned. This last requirement killed the deal....items from New Digs are all preowned but in good condition. This incident was a learning experience for all.

Church Picnic:

The Market Square picnic held on September 17 was a success. Rain in the morning did not dampen enthusiasm; the picnic got moved into Fellowship Hall. All three Afghan families attended and brought native dishes. Church members attending had the opportunity to meet the families and put a face on our Refugee Resettlement Project.

Health Fair:

A Health Fair was held at the Harrisburg Area Community College on September 23. It was called a health fair but more accurately, it was a social services fair. Representatives from area social service organizations manned tables, passed out literature, and explained how they can help our refugee community. The fair was very well attended, and refugees wore clothing of their countries...it was a colorful display!

Respectfully submitted,

Roger Olson, co-chair, Market Square Presbyterian Church
housedoctr@hotmail.com

Audrey Light, co-chair, Pine Street Presbyterian Church
Alight206@comcast.net

World Communion Sunday

Greetings! I've had quite a few emails and texts from people who were very appreciative of our World Communion Sunday celebrations on October 1. They appreciated the lively music, the prayer and readings in different languages, and the different kinds of bread too. Thank you to each of you for your contributions in making it a celebratory and meaningful day!

KDW

World
Communion
Sunday
photos by
Alice Hamilton.



When Life Tumbles In, What Then?*

The year is 1927 and it is Sunday morning. The pastor of Aberdeen Church in Scotland is readying for Sunday worship. Only the day before, his life had suddenly been struck with tragedy, when his wife unexpectedly died. No doubt the word had quickly spread through members of his congregation. It would have been a very natural reaction to wonder if the pastor would be in church that day, let alone preach. So what did Arthur John Gossip, the pastor, do? He conducted the Sunday worship service and he preached. That sermon, titled “When Life Tumbles in, What Then?” is now considered a classic, and one of the best sermons ever preached. You can find it here — <https://shorturl.at/abnR3>.

I first encountered that sermon when I was taking a homiletics course while in college. The textbook we had contained some of the most well-known sermons preached. For example, one of the classic sermons was from the great American Puritan preacher, Jonathan Edwards — “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God.”

Here is one brief section: “The God that holds you over the Pit of Hell much as one holds a Spider, abhors you, and is dreadfully provoked; his Wrath towards you burns like fire.” While the fire and brimstone of Jonathan Edwards’ Christianity are attention getting, to be sure, they are hardly inspiration to live a Christian life.

I would expect that many of the members of our congregation have had sudden life challenging tragedies. If not having a tragedy happen directly to them, certainly they know of someone — a near relative or a friend or neighbor — who has suddenly had life up-ended.

My parents had just such an experience. While I am the eldest of their children, when I was three years old my sister Dorothy was born. My parents were missionaries in what was then Northern and Southern Rhodesia. This part of Africa is sub-tropical, and one of the most common diseases is malaria, which is transmitted by the bite of a mosquito. There is, and was then, prophylactic medicine for children and adults, but not for babies. Dorothy was bitten by a mosquito, and developed malaria. She became quite sick, and my parents took her to a doctor in a near-by town. However, there was nothing he could do for her, so he had them get on a train to get to the nearest hospital. No sooner had the train begun its journey than Dorothy, who now had a raging fever, arched her back and let out an awful high-pitched scream, and then collapsed in my mother’s arms and died. There was nothing to do — except to get the train stopped, and flag an on-coming train and return to the mission station. Given the sub-tropical climate, Dorothy was buried right away. My parents, especially my mother, went into a time of mourning. My father, who was the head of the mission station, threw himself into his duties, working through his grief. However, my mother became deeply depressed, and by her recollection didn’t sleep for about a month. But life went on — and eventually my mother and father took comfort in a favorite hymn of theirs titled “God’s Way is the Best Way.” The words of the hymn are in the footnote at the end of the article.

One other example of life tumbling comes from about a decade ago to two former members of our own congregation. Husband and wife, both retired, moved from Pennsylvania to their retirement home. As she was returning from the airport where she had dropped off her husband, she was involved in a horrific accident — caused by a distracted driver — and was rushed to the hospital. While she survived, she was left a paraplegic. For this couple, most certainly, their lives and life plans were completely up-ended.

I recently contacted her, and here is part of her response to me.

“When younger, I would wonder how I would deal with something traumatic or especially trying were it to happen to me or a loved one. What would I do? Well, the traumatic/trying event did happen. I found out. It was a huge blessing to me to have so very many people praying for me. I can honestly say, ‘Thank you, God, for the blessing of so many praying friends and listening to their pleas to support me through it with acceptance, hope, and a positive attitude.’ Thanks be to God.”

What do we do if we encounter a “when life tumbles in” moment?

Like the preacher Arthur Gossip, we keep on the path of the journey of our faith. From his sermon: *“I do not understand this life of ours. But still less can I comprehend how people in trouble and loss and bereavement can fling away peevishly from the Christian faith. In God’s name, fling to what? Have we not lost enough without losing that too?”*

Or, as my parents did, we keep the faith and trust that “God’s way is the best way.”

Or, as with the former Market Square member, we make something of the circumstance, that may NOT have been our first plan, but we persevere.

And we thank God for the many blessings we do have.

Donna Wenger

* That is the title of a hymn that was sung at Dorothy’s funeral, and continued through my parents’ lives as a favorite. Here is the first stanza and refrain.

*God’s way is the best way, though I may not see
Why sorrows and trials oft gather ’round me;
He ever is seeking my gold to refine,
So humbly I trust Him, my Savior divine.*

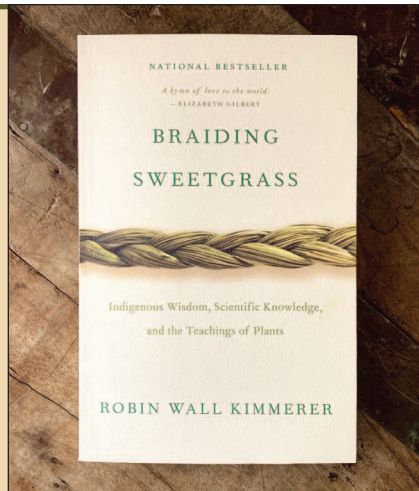
Refrain:

*God’s way is the best way,
God’s way is the right way,
I’ll trust in Him always,
He knoweth the best.*



Reformed Readers

Reformed Readers will be discussing a book suggested by the Ecology Action Committee this fall, *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer. The author is a botanist and a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. She asks questions of nature using the tools of science. And she embraces the idea that plants and animals can teach us. In this book she brings these two concepts together to show that we need to acknowledge a reciprocal relationship with the rest of the living world in order to become more aware of and begin to understand the generosity of God's earth. Four copies of the book are in the church library. And your local library will have copies, too. Or you can purchase a copy at a local bookstore!



PLEASE join us on **Sunday, November 12 after the 11:00 church service**. We will meet in the **conference room on the 3rd floor** beside the church offices. Please bring some food to share with others so we can have 'lunch', too. And please let Debbie Olson know you plan to attend (text 717-602-4122 or email dolsonmassage@hotmail.com) so we know how many chairs to set around the table. **HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE.**

CPR/Stop the Bleed training

Photos below: Members and Friends of MSPC attended a CPR/Stop the Bleed training on October 14. Representatives from Community Life Team EMS also demonstrated how to administer Narcan in the event of an opioid overdose and how to use the church's Automatic Defibrillator Devices (AEDs). The church has AEDs on every floor and soon will supply every first aid kit in the building with two doses of Narcan.



Council Of All Beings

Here are some more responses from those who attended on September 10:

"I am VALLEY. I contain paths into the wilderness. I have streams with clean cool waters to refresh travelers. I contain amphibians, birds, mammals, trees, berry bushes. BUT now I am fracked for natural gas. My quiet mornings are filled with sounds of pumps and turbines. My nights are filled with bright lights. My waters are polluted with poisonous chemicals."

"I am the TREE in your neighborhood. You drive past me everyday and never look up at me. I was lovingly planted by the builder of the house I shade and love. But now I'm older and the current owner doesn't prune my damaged limbs and complains when it's time for me to drop my leaves. See me. Please see me. I whistle when the wind blows. I cast shadows when the moon is full. I lovingly suck up your carbon exhausts. Remember our Creator said, 'Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.' I am your neighbor, too."



Save the date!

Active Shooter Response training will take place at Market Square on Saturday, November 11, from 1:15 p.m. to approximately 3:45 p.m. The Safety Committee has arranged for a representative from the Harrisburg Police Department to address protocols in the event an active shooter enters the church. The training will take place in Geneva Hall. *Please let Nancy in the church office know if you would like to attend.*



Follow the Dots: Fiber Art by Gloria McPherson

Arts on the Square exhibits kicked off a new season on Sunday, October 15, with a display of fiber artwork by Rev. Gloria McPherson of New Bloomfield, Pennsylvania. Rev. McPherson was recently commissioned by the Market Square Session to create the lovely banners for the church's Ordinary Time display in the Atrium.

Rev. McPherson also spoke to members of the Adult Forum Sunday School class on the morning of October 15 where she discussed the inspirations for her creations and her journey in quilt making and storytelling in her work. At noon, her exhibit, entitled "Follow the Dots" opened with a reception in Geneva Hall hosted by church members Ashley and Joe Robinson. "Follow the Dots" – which features over thirty vibrant and expressive quilts in Geneva Hall and in the Atrium – will be on display through Sunday, December 17. Please direct any inquiries to Exhibit Coordinator Beth Hager, bahager@earthlink.net. John Robinson is the sponsor of the exhibit season in memory of his sister, Rachel Robinson Bair. Photos were taken by Beth Hager.



ZUMBAthOn

for
UKRAINE

SATURDAY, NOV 4TH 2023

2:00-4:00 PM

5 BRIDGES HEALTH & FITNESS LINGLESTOWN

\$15 SUGGESTED DONATION

Payable at the door
Cash preferred - Venmo or PayPal likely available
All ages and abilities are encouraged to participate

Special guests, raffle prizes, water, snacks, lots and LOTS of dancing FUN!

INSTRUCTOR LIST



KIM LEHMAN



LINDA WOODIN



TIM POOLE



TRACY SHIRK



CINDY COMP

All proceeds benefit organizations providing relief for Ukrainian refugees, both fleeing into neighboring Poland as well as some being resettled right here in Greater Harrisburg.

To donate without attending the event, Venmo @tim-poole-zin or PayPal tim@hbh2.net and please note Zumbathon or Ukraine in the comments.

International Peacemaker

Market Square Peacemaking Committee hosted a PC(USA) International Peacemaker the first week of October. **Matilda Wokie Parker** lives in Liberia, a country of 5.2 million people on the west coast of Africa. She holds an Associates of Art in Accounting, a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, a Bachelor of Science in Computer Information System with magna cum laude honors and an Executive MBA from the University of Texas. She worked for several years in the United States before moving back to Liberia to serve her country. Matilda described Liberia as a very poor country (5th poorest in the world) having a strong need to educate its young people. She founded the Matilda Wokie Parker Foundation in 2009 with her own funds. The Foundation provides financial/tuition assistance to underprivileged young people and encourages them to become leaders, resolves land and electoral disputes in the 15 counties, and finds legal representation for low income families.

During her weeklong visit Matilda met with some Harrisburg pastors and enjoyed lunch with Kim, Allison and Rev. Dr. Gene Gordon from Capital Presbyterian Church. She made presentations to Pine Street Presbyterian Church and MSPC Adult Forum and delivered the sermon at Market Square's 11:00 service on October 8. She was able to take a tour of Downtown Daily Bread, a ministry of Pine Street PC, and helped serve the clients at noon-time. Members of the Peacemaking Committee enjoyed an evening get-together with her at Margee Kooistra's. She went to Broad Street Market, MSPC Food Pantry, Common Ground Coffeehouse in Allison Hill, the Peace Garden along Front Street, the 5 Senses Garden along the Harrisburg Greenbelt, Susquehanna Art Museum, our elegant Capitol building, the Milton Hershey School campus and the Hershey Story Museum.

The first student who completed school when she started her Foundation is now attending college in Pittsburgh. He came to see Matilda while she was here, along with two other friends from Liberia who live in Philadelphia. Matilda made a Liberian dinner for them and we enjoyed an evening of conversation, mostly political since Liberia held an election for president on Tuesday, October 10, and that was on all of their minds!

We hope our week with Matilda will extend far into the future of Market Square. The Peacemaking Committee will keep in touch with her and her Foundation. We have talked about possibly sponsoring a Liberian child's education and, if so, Market Square will watch that happen as the years pass. A blessing to us all.

Debbie Olson



Market Square Presbyterian Church
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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

Kimberley D. Wadlington, *Interim Pastor/Head of Staff*
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Jennifer McKenna, *Spiritual Director*
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Victor Morales, *Facilities Manager*
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Jose Maldonado, *Custodian*

Lizzie Camilli, *Nursery Caregiver*

Steve Jackson, *Parking/Events Staff*

Art Miles, *Community Breakfast Resource Person*

Ollie W. Silver, *Sunday Sexton/Events Staff*
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Newman Stare, *Audio Visual Technician*
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Madeline McConnell, *Livestream Technician*
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Some scenes from Spooktacular: Masquerade Ball on October 20. Photos by Beth Hager.

Sunday Services

Korean Language Service—9:30 a.m.
in the Chapel. Sermons on YouTube
([link on the church website's](#)
[Worship page](#)).

English Language Service—11:00 a.m.
in the sanctuary. Broadcast live on the
radio ([link on the church website's](#)
[Homepage](#)) and livestreamed
on the Homepage and
the church's YouTube channel.

The 11:00 a.m. service
is broadcast on WHYL 960 AM,
102.9 FM, and posted later in
the day on our website:
www.marketsquarechurch.org.



OUR MISSION

TO PROCLAIM AND LIVE THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST BY WELCOMING FRIEND AND STRANGER ALIKE INTO OUR DIVERSE AND INCLUSIVE FAMILY OF FAITH REGARDLESS OF RACE, CLASS, NATIONAL ORIGIN, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER IDENTITY AND EXPRESSION, OR WORLDLY CONDITION OF ANY KIND AS WE CELEBRATE OUR GIFTS, WORK FOR JUSTICE, PEACE, AND A SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT, REACH OUT IN MISSION, AND WITNESS TO GOD'S TRANSFORMING LOVE.