Winterstown UMC
12184 WINTERSTOWN RD
FELTON, PA 17322
717-244-1984
winterstownchurch.org

717-244-1984
Office Fax
717-246-7414
Office Hours
Monday - Thursday
10:30AM - 2:30PM
Bulletin Deadline
Tuesday by 10:00AM
Newsletter Deadline
20th of each month


October
2026

Worship
10:30 AM

"Make Disciples of Jesus Christ"
Winterstownchurch.org

Meet Our Staff

Pastor - Erin Elong
(717) 542-4957
Administrative Assistant - Amber Rusonis
Treasurer - Connie Human

Organist - Nancy Forry
Pianist - Rick Marks
Sr. Choir Director - Sandra Gingrich

Growing Friend's Child Care Director - Danielle Orwig
Assistant Director - Heather Gibson
717-246-8017

Bible Quiz

Psalm 103 (ESV) begins: "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name! Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his _____." What should we "not forget"?

A. goodness
B. kindness
C. gifts
D. benefits



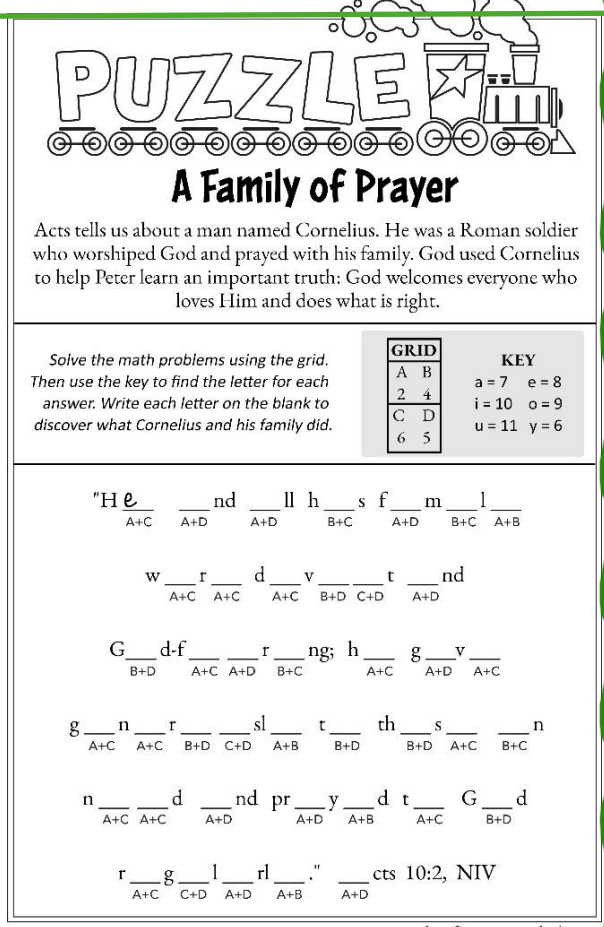
Answer: D (Psalm 103:2)


Give Thanks with Music

Music is one way to give thanks to God. Make these simple instruments to accompany your singing!

What you need:
- 3 small coffee cans with lids
- 1/2 cup dry pinto beans
- 1/2 cup unpopped popcorn
- 1/2 cup uncooked rice
- Heavy-duty tape
- Construction paper
- Glue
- Scissors
- Markers or crayons for decorating

What you do:
1. Put the beans in one can, the popcorn in another, and the rice in the third.
2. Secure the lids and tape around the rims.
3. Cover the cans with construction paper and glue it in place.
4. Decorate the cans with markers or crayons.
5. Shake the cans to hear the different sounds, then use them to make joyful music for the Lord!


PUZZLE

A Family of Prayer

Acts tells us about a man named Cornelius. He was a Roman soldier who worshiped God and prayed with his family. God used Cornelius to help Peter learn an important truth: God welcomes everyone who loves Him and does what is right.

Solve the math problems using the grid. Then use the key to find the letter for each answer. Write each letter on the blank to discover what Cornelius and his family did.

GRID	
A	B
2	4
C	D
6	5

KEY
a = 7 e = 8
i = 10 o = 9
u = 11 y = 6

"H e___ ___nd ___ll h___s f___m___l___
A+C A+D A+D B+C A+D B+C A+B

w___r___ d___v___ ___t ___nd
A+C A+C A+C B+D C+D A+D

G___d-f___ ___r___ng; h___ g___v___
B+D A+C A+D B+C A+C A+D A+C

g___n___r___ ___sl___ t___ th___s___ ___n
A+C A+C B+D C+D A+B B+D B+D A+C B+C

n___ ___d ___nd pr___y___d t___ G___d
A+C A+C A+D A+D A+B A+C B+D

r___g___l___rl___." ___cts 10:2, NIV
A+C C+D A+D A+B A+D

Answers: "He and all his family were devout and God-fearing; he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly." Acts 10:2, NIV

The Winters Town Crier

Winterstown United Methodist Church

October 2026

Volume 13, Issue 10

Inside this issue:

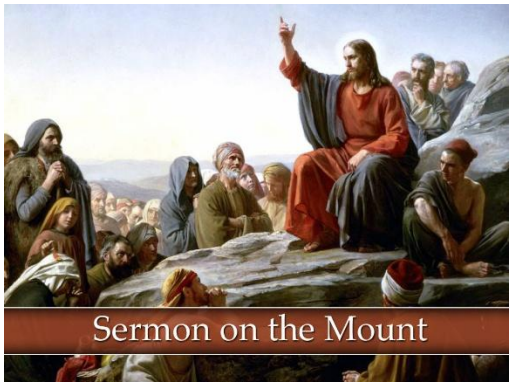
Growing Friends	2
Prayer List and News	4
Finance and Outreach	5
Birthdays and Anniversaries	6
Calendar	7

Message From the Pastor—

The Art of Stewardship: Cultivating Gratitude, Generosity, and a Heart for God

There is something beautiful about autumn. The leaves change, gardens give their final harvest, and fields remind us of the abundance that comes from the work of many hands—and from the generosity of God. Autumn is a natural time to take inventory. What has grown? What have we received? What are we carrying with us into the next season?

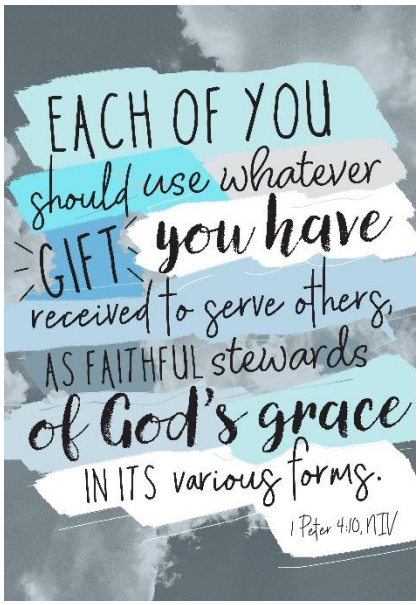
Perhaps stewardship begins with those same questions. We often hear the word stewardship and immediately think about money, budgets, and paying the church's bills. But Jesus invites us to see stewardship as something much bigger. Stewardship is not simply about what we give to the church. It is about how we live with everything God has entrusted to us. That includes our time, our abilities, our relationships, our homes, our resources, our experiences, our very lives.



Jesus talked about money more than we might realize. And when he did, he often wasn't simply giving financial advice. He was talking about the heart. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus says: "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" in Matthew 6:21. Notice that Jesus doesn't say, "Where your heart is, there your treasure will be." He says the opposite: where we put our treasure, our hearts often follow. What we choose to value, invest in, protect, and give ourselves to shapes who we become. That gives us a different way to think about stewardship.

Stewardship is an opportunity to ask: What does my life say I treasure? When we give generously, we are practicing trust. When we share what we have, we are practicing gratitude. When we give our time to serve someone, we are saying that people matter. When we use our gifts to bless our church and our community, we are participating in God's work in the world.

This is why stewardship is not simply about keeping the lights on or paying the bills. Those things matter, and our financial gifts make ministry possible. But the deeper invitation is to become people whose hearts are shaped by gratitude and generosity. As we look at the harvest around us this October, perhaps we can take a spiritual inventory, too.



Let us ask ourselves: What has God placed in my life? What gifts have I been given? What resources can I share? Where is God inviting me to be generous? What do I treasure—and where is my heart being drawn?

The answer will look different for each of us. For one person, stewardship may mean giving financially. For another, it may mean volunteering, visiting someone who is lonely, sharing a skill, preparing food, encouraging a neighbor, welcoming a new person, or simply making time for someone who needs to be heard. The beautiful thing about stewardship is that God can use all of it.

This autumn, may we see our lives through the lens of gratitude. May we recognize the abundance that surrounds us. May we take inventory not simply of what we have, but of what we have been entrusted with. And may our gratitude become generosity.

Because stewardship is ultimately an art: the art of receiving God's gifts with gratitude and offering our lives back to God with love. May our treasures reveal hearts that are becoming more generous, more grateful, and more like Christ.

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

<><,

Pastor Erin



Growing Friends



Happy October!

The fall will soon paint its beauty across the trees, and we will be awaiting the arrival of colder weather!

In September, we were blessed to have so many grandparents fill our center to spend time with their grand or great-grandchild. The grandparents even enjoyed a special lunch together in the All Purpose Room. It was wonderful to see everyone and watch the creativity that the teacher brought out in the children and even in their grandparents. Our children are surely loved! This month we are looking forward to having some fun as we gear up for the season of tricks and candy!



This month, the children will be learning about the following: Letters: D, E, F; Numbers: 4, 5, 6; Shape: Circle; Color: Orange; Additional Themes: Fire Safety, Nocturnal Animals, Pumpkins and Halloween

This month, there will be no school for our Red Lion children on: Friday, October 9th and Monday, October 12th. The children have a half day on the following days: Thursday, October 8th, and Friday, October 30th.

Preschool Program is off to a wonderful start. It is nice to see the classes filled with children from the community and not just our children. Registration has closed for the 3s class, and the 4s class is full. The children are excited to learn, and the teachers are excited to see the children blossom as they turn into smart little cookies! We wish them all a successful year!

Soccer Shot continues this month on Thursday morning. As long as the weather is nice, we will be outside on the school-age playground. If the weather is not feasible to be outside, then we will utilize the all-purpose room. During soccer shots, the children learn about the game and manners. The last session will be on Thursday, October 29th.

On Wednesday, October 7th, we have a volunteer coming in from Vision Works to check the children's vision. Every year they come in and take a picture of the children's eyes as a means of early detection of vision problems.

Book Orders are due on Thursday, October 22nd. If you would like to order books for that special child, please see a book order with instructions on how to order. Once the books are in, we will let you know to come and pick them up.



On Thursday, October 29th, we will have our Trunk or Treating fun! Our younger children will trick-or-treat at 10am and our older children will go at 3:30. If you are interested in helping hand out candy, let Amber or GF directors know. We expect to have approx. 40 kids in the morning and 30 in the afternoon. If it is bad weather, we will move the fun indoors. This is always a fun morning watching the kids in their costumes!



GF Staff news: We are looking to fill an open position in our Infant/Ones/Toddler classroom. This month, the following employees share their work anniversaries with us: October 8th, Ms. Alicia (6 years), Ms. Debbie (4 years). No staff birthdays this month.



FUNDRAISER NEWS: Thank you to everyone who purchased a Bundt Cake in September! This was a new fundraiser for us and turned out to be a great hit!
On Saturday, October 3rd, from 10 am to 3 pm, we will have 40+ vendors set up in the field selling their finest crafts and goodies! We will also have food (pulled pork, hot dogs, hamburgers, shaved ice, cotton candy, etc.) for sale and a food truck set up in our parking lot. Come out and support these crafty vendors and have some fun as well!

Enjoy this colorful month!

Much appreciation,
Ms. Danielle
Email us anytime at: GrowingFriendsChildCare@gmail.com
Call us: Monday - Friday, 6:00 am to 6:00 pm (717) 246-8017

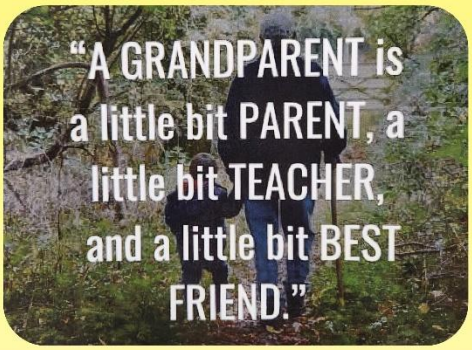
National GRANDPARENTS Day





















Please Keep the Following in your Prayers:

Pastor Erin Elong, Jean Felix, and family, Growing Friends, North Hopewell-Winterstown Elementary School, North Hopewell-Winterstown Volunteer Fire Company, Conference Superintendent Don Rowe, Glenn Grove, Dianna Henry, Barb Huson, Eva Miller, Sandie Rock, Steve & Barbara Taylor, Sandy Wallace, Donna Overmiller, Eunice & Randy Criswell, Betty Bolyard, Trevor & Lucas Gannon, Tabitha Gilbert, Bob & Lois Arsenault, Sam Cooley, Janet Vanderlipp, Susan, Jeannie, Holly, Lee, Colleen & Family, Becky, Paul & Family, Brandy & Family, Brad, Wynn, Lacey, Shirley & Deb, Julie & Troy Hildebrand, Candy Thompson, Grayson Gilbert, Nancy, Sue Peterman, Eunice's brother Jim, June Windon, Julie Harrison, Ethel, Ed W, Rick's uncle Scott, Luke Martin, Rich, Bill Henry, Deb Henry, Betsy Enfield's SIL Joyce, Dwight & Marilyn Honecker, Janet Overmiller, Nancy Forry, Joe, Eileen McGowan, Judy, Conor, Tina, Alexandra, Cassandra, Junior, Jerry Eberly, Bob, Bella Wetzel, Rev. Keith Schmuck, Diane Anderson, Evans Winemiller, Kevin K., Cora & Harper, Wes Griffin, Ryan Span, Larry, Rob Horn, Faye and Monty Kinard and family, Pat & Barry Beck, Bill Waldrup's brother, Deb's neighbor Jack, Grace Lemoyne Church, Maddie's mother, the Parsonage Rebuild project, the family of Richard Slack, the family of Galen Grove

Discipleship Support

Discipleship Support Circle: October 17th at 10 AM in the Parlor

What if church could be a place where you don't have to have all the answers? Join us for a Discipleship Support Circle—a simple space to slow down, listen, share, and encourage one another in the journey of faith.

Inspired by the Wesleyan question, "How is it with your soul?", we'll make room for honest conversation about where we are with God, what we're experiencing, where we're growing, and where we may be struggling.

There will be no lectures, no pressure, and no fixing one another. Instead, we'll practice the holy work of listening—giving one another the gift of being heard, accepted, and encouraged.

Come as you are. Bring your questions, joys, struggles, and stories. You don't have to have the right words. You simply have to be willing to listen and share. Come make space for your soul—and for one another.

Trunk or Treat

TRUNKS WANTED for the 10/29 event!!!

We are looking for volunteers to decorate their trunks and hand out candy during the Growing Friends Trunk-or-Treat event! If you are interested in setting up a trunk for this event, please sign up for this event on the bulletin board outside the All Purpose Room.

All Saints Day

Preparing for All Saints Day: In worship on Sunday, November 1st, we will be remembering the great cloud of witnesses, those faithful people who have gone before us. In worship, we will remember and honor all whose lives of faith continue to encourage and inspire us. We will name those who passed from this life into God's eternal glory in this last year.

Please email any names and photos you wish to have honored this All Saints Day to adminassist@winterstownchurch.org no later than Monday, October 26th by 2:00 pm.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Charge Conference will be held on **Saturday, November 7 at 2pm** at Bethany UMC in Red Lion. All are welcome to attend.



Engage In Ministry

Be a Greeter

GREETERS



NEEDED

If you are interested, see Bob or Lois Arsenault!

Visit the Homebound

If you have a heart for visiting our folks who are homebound, then please let the office know you are willing to be a part of a visitation ministry. Your visits are a way for these people to experience love and to know their church family does not forget them.

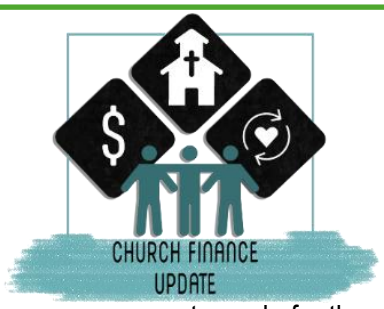
Send information to:
adminassist@winterstownchurch.org
Or call (717) 244-1984

Grocery Gift Card Fundraiser

Orders due by the
2nd Sunday of the month
Grocery cards distributed
the 3rd week of the month

Tithes & Offerings

To give online one-time or for a recurring offering, you can use this QR code:



2026 Shares Of Ministry		2026 Shares Paid to Date	
Benevolent	$6,533.27	Benevolent	$0.00
Connectional	$9,722.90	Connectional	$0.00
Clergy	$10,468.72	Clergy	$0.00
TOTAL:	$26,724.89	TOTAL:	$0.00

The paid YTD numbers are through September 2026.
There were no payments made for the months of January through September 2026. The amount in arrears through September 2026 is $20,043.63.

Financial Standing

The month of August ended showing a year-to-date ordinary net loss of $15,048.50 for year 2026. This reflects the operating expenses exceeding the operating income year-to-date. The trend has shown that most individual months reflect more expenses than income.
The 2026 Shares of Ministry have not been paid from January through September with payment in arrears of $20,043.63.
With the onset of colder weather comes additional expense for heating oil. The next oil delivery for the church is currently scheduled for November 29.
A new Electronic Security Fire System was installed in February at a total cost of $19,123 with a 30% down payment of $5,737 paid in February. Through September, we have made six of the remaining twelve monthly payments of $1,115.50 per month. The remaining balance due as of the end of September is $6,693.00. This is a capitalized expense and not part of the operating budget. If you are interested in contributing to help pay this expense, donations can be designated to the Capital Fund and included along with your Sunday tithes or offering.
Thank you for the sharing of your time, service, and financial support as we work to make disciples of Jesus Christ and help all persons Encounter God, Experience Love, and Engage in Ministry.

United Women in Faith

Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 12th, 2026 @ 7:00 pm
Join us for a special project! We will be making No-sew fleece Tie Blankets for children at this meeting These blankets will then be distributed to area hospitals.
Our meetings are open to all ladies! If you've never attended before, please feel free to join us at any time! We'd love to see you there!!

Missions & Outreach:

Winterstown United Methodist Church has joined a partnership with LifePath Thrift Stores to participate in their CORNERS OF YOUR FIELD Program.
Everything you donate will be credited to our church, and donations will be converted into gift cards to be used at their Thrift Stores. They will send us these cards quarterly for us to distribute to those in our community as needs arise.
We have received a bin (which is currently in the back parking lot area) for donations of clothing and shoes. These items will be picked up every Saturday.
Donations can also be dropped off at any of the LifePath Thrift Stores and If you have larger items or a large quantity of items, you can call to schedule a free pick-up.
If dropping off or scheduling a pickup just be sure to request that the donations should be credited to Winterstown United Methodist Church.
Clean out those closets and attics!!! and Share this information with your friends and family! This is a great way to support both LifePath Thrift Stores Mission as well as our churches Mission to support our communities!
Carrie Anderson



19th – Ann McGinnis
24th – Troy Hildebrand
27th – Mark Spangler



10/9	Willingham, Leah & Hunter	5 years
10/15	Markel, Blaine & Angie	32 years
10/15	Streett, Abby & Robert	15 years
10/18	Gannon, Matthew & Bryanne	8 years
10/23	Peterman, Chuck & Sue	55 years
10/31	Rusonis, Amber & Tony	1 year

October 2026 Volunteers

Greeters:	Counter Coordinator:	Sound & Media Shout Coordinator:	Sunday School Coordinator:	Greeter Coordinators:
MJ Watson & Lois Arsenault	Brian H.	Bill W.	Tammy W.	Bob & Lois Arsenault

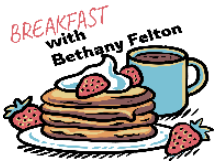
Liturgist	Counters	Sound & Media Shout	Sunday School Teachers & Helpers
10/4 – Bill W. 10/11 – Madi W. 10/18 – Dawn B. 10/25 – Vince A.	10/4 - Deb S. & Brian H. 10/11 - Dawn B. & Terri L. 10/18 - Richard J. & Brian H. 10/25 - Deb S. & Brian H.	10/4 – Buddy M. & Brian H. 10/11 – Dawson G. & Dawn B. 10/18 - Quinn W. & Amanda L. 10/25 – Bill W. & Tammy W.	10/4 - No Sunday School 10/11 – Sherri F. & Tabitha G. 10/18 – Tammy W. & Linda A. 10/25 – Eunice C. & Ann M.

If you are interested in serving as a liturgist during Sunday services, please contact the office at 717-244-1984 or send an email to adminassist@winterstownchurch.org

Worship Service 10:30 AM

***APR: All Purpose Room**

october

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 Mission Central Trip – 7:45AM Growing Friends' Makers Market 10:00AM-3:00PM
4 **World Communion Sunday** Bethany Felton - 9:15AM Sunday School - 9:30AM Worship - 10:30AM	5	6  Simply Loved – 3:30PM	7  Small Gathering - 10:00AM Choir Practice – 7:00PM	8 Praise Band Practice -7:00PM	9	10
11 **20th Sunday after Pentecost** Bethany Felton - 9:15AM Sunday School - 9:30AM Worship - 10:30AM Children's Sunday School ~10:45AM	12 United Women in Faith – 7:00PM	13 Lunch Bunch Brunch @ Lion's Pride - 11:30AM Jolly Timers @ Bethany Felton - 2:00PM Simply Loved – 3:30PM	14 Small Gathering - 10:00AM Choir Practice – 7:00PM	15  @Lion's Pride – 8:30AM Praise Band Practice -7:00PM	16	17
18 **Laity Sunday** Bethany Felton - 9:15AM Sunday School - 9:30AM Worship - 10:30AM Children's Sunday School ~10:45AM	19	20 Simply Loved – 3:30PM	21 PRIVATE EVENT IN APR – 6:00AM-1:30PM Small Gathering - 10:00AM Choir Practice – 7:00PM	22 Praise Band Practice -7:00PM	23	24
25 **Reformation Sunday** Bethany Felton - 9:15AM Sunday School - 9:30AM Worship - 10:30AM Children's Sunday School ~10:45AM	26 Leadership Team Meeting – 6:00PM	27 Simply Loved – 3:30PM	28 Small Gathering - 10:00AM Choir Practice – 7:00PM	29  Growing Friends' Trunk-or-treat event 10:00AM & 3:30PM	30	31