



FROM THE
PASTOR'S DESK

Rev. Dr. Doug Rehberg



The Essence Of Contentment

Nearly 50 years ago, James Taylor recorded the hit "Secret O' Life." It goes like this: "The secret of life is enjoying the passage of time. Any fool can do it. There ain't nothing to it. Nobody knows how we got to the top of the hill. But since we're on our way down, we might as well enjoy the ride..." Now that's one destined-to-fail way to find contentment. Another is offered by Paul near the end of Philipians.

Twenty-five years ago, I spoke with a man whose wife had died, leaving him with a two-year-old son. Within 18 months, he had remarried and had three more children, all the while his preaching ministry was taking him all over the world. In fact, it was in Israel that his second wife got sick, becoming an invalid needing round-the-clock care.

I asked, "How do you cope? How do you continue your ministry while at the same time caring for your wife, who can't walk and has the faculties of a kindergartener?"

He looked at me and said, "The Lord's been gracious. Some people have a prayer time. I have a prayer life."

I said, "But in all those years, you must have asked why?"

He said, "I never asked why until one morning about ten years ago. I was in prayer. I looked up and said, 'You know, You could heal her if You wanted to!'"

He continued, "Now, I can't explain it very well, but it was if you had been there. And when you heard, 'You could heal her if you wanted to,' you struck me across the face. The next thing I knew, I was against the wall about six feet away. As I got up, I heard the Lord say, 'Years ago, you asked me to use you for My glory, and today you're asking me to heal your wife. Which is it?'" The man stared at me and said, "I never mentioned it again. I've come to see that my wife's infirmity is bringing Him glory all around the world."

When Dan Crawford, the successor to David Livingstone, a famous explorer and missionary in Central Africa, was found dead in his room, a copy of the New Testament was found in the pocket of the coat he was wearing. On the flyleaf, someone had scrawled, "I cannot do it alone! The waves dash fast and high; the fog settles and the light goes out in the sky. But I know that we two shall win in the end – Jesus and I. Coward and wayward, I change with the changing sky; today so strong and brave, tomorrow too weak to fly. But He never gives up, so we two shall win – Jesus and I."

Continued on page 9



BUILD • CREATE • IMAGINE

BRICK BY BRICK FUN!

**SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 21ST
10:30-11:30AM**

Join our free LEGO Building Group!
Build, create, and have fun with your imagination!

**rsvp 724-863-5910 x113
by 11/19 to sign up**

FIRST PRESBY IRWIN
BRICK SQUAD

Angel Tags available starting
Sunday, November 15

Return *unwrapped* gifts by
Friday, December 4

Wrapping supplies needed to include with the gifts

Angel Tree

Advent Readings

Readers and Candle Lighters are needed this Advent Season for both the 8:15 and 10:30 services. Sunday November 29th, December 6th, 13th and, 20th and Christmas Eve.

If your family is interested please contact Heather@firstpresbyirwin.org to check availability and sign up.

Preparing for
Advent

ROB'S HOLIDAY LIGHTING LLC

FREE QUOTES!

724-201-4091

Text or call for more information & to schedule your installation soon!

robsholidaylighting.com

Services include:

- Installation
- Removal
- Maintenance
- Storage
- Commercial-grade, energy efficient lights

Mention to Rob that we referred you & we both receive \$100 off the price of the install.

**GRIEF AND LOSS
SUPPORT**

Grief & Share®

JOIN US
MONDAYS
6:30-8:30PM



Pine Springs Friends Dinner

We're so grateful for everyone who joined us at the Pine Springs Friends Dinner on Sunday, October 25th! What a blessing to gather in celebration of all God has done - and continues to do at Pine Springs Camp. We celebrated the fact that this summer PSC hosted 1,460 campers - the most summer campers in the history of PSC! We celebrated the growth of the Mission EX Program, the middle school service camps, which pours hundreds of hours of service into the Johnstown area. We celebrated the expansion of the traveling day camps to four sites - the newest located in Washington County. While the growth in numbers and program is always exciting, the mission has remained the same over the past 79 years - to provide every camper with a vital encounter with Jesus Christ that leads to growth in Christian faith and discipleship.

We heard from parents, campers, and pastors about how Christ has transformed their lives and how PSC played a part in that transformation. What a gift to witness the impact that this ministry has had on generations of people. It was a wonderful evening with friends celebrating the great place and ministry of Pine Springs Camp. To God be the glory!



November Events

- 11/1 Cheapest Lunch
- 11/2 Worship Committee Meeting
Community Outreach Meeting
- 11/3 Election Day - Poll Location
M-Team Meeting
- 11/5 Gingerbread Baking Night
- 11/6 2nd Annual Cornhole Tournament
- 11/7 Veterans Day Luncheon
- 11/8 Youth Fellowship Food Pantry
Shopping Trip
- 11/9 Christian Ed Meeting
- 11/10 Fellowship Meeting
- 11/11 Redstone Fellowship & Communion
- 11/12 D-Team Meeting
- 11/15 Deacons Meeting
Shoeboxes Due In
- 11/16 Finance Meeting
- 11/17 Circle 1
- 11/19 Irwin Light Up Night
- 11/22 Congregational Meeting to
Elect Officers
Youth Fellowship Angel Tree
Shopping Trip
- 11/24 Circle 3
- 11/24 **Thanksgiving Day/office closed**
- 11/28 Deacons Decorate for Christmas
Pick up for the Blessing Board
- 11/29 **First Sunday of Advent** -
Communion

Looking Forward

Gingerbread House Baking Night: 11/5

Shoeboxes
due back 11/15

Angel Tree
tags out 11/15, due back 12/4

Norwin Light Up Night
brownie donations 11/19

Gingerbread House Set up Night: 12/3

Irwin Cookie Tour
cookie donations due 12/4

Gingerbread House Event: 12/5

Christmas Eve Services:
Family Service 5pm
Traditional Service 7pm

A Few Photos from Last Month!



It's
**GINGERBREAD
HOUSE TIME**
at First Presby Irwin

**SATURDAY
DECEMBER 5
1-3 PM**

All are welcome: bring your kids,
grandkids, nieces, & nephews!
Come build a Gingerbread House! All you
need is your imagination 🍪 We supply
the house pieces & the decorations



Watch for the sign up sheet in November! This is a free event, however, one bag each of powdered sugar and candy are requested for each child signed up. Before the the big event we do have some Gingerbread prep work:

**Volunteers
needed**



Join us for a fun evening of
baking - **Gingerbread Bake
Night!**

(No experience necessary;
we'll all figure it out together!)

THURSDAY, NOV. 5TH, 5PM

**Gingerbread
Set Up Night!**
We'll be making icing,
setting up tables &
prepping all the
decoration candy.

**THURSDAY,
DEC. 3RD, 5PM**





1000 Bible Questions in Rhymes, Puzzles, Quizzes & Games

by Mildred Olive Honors
Pick (circle) the Right Answer



1. The talents referred to in the parable were _____. the abilities of man, valuable coins, scrolls of the Law
2. Zechariah is _____. A book in the Old Testament, the father of John the Baptist, a son of Jacob
3. A covenant is _____. A Grecian robe, a solemn agreement, a small boat
4. The Ark of the Covenant is associated with _____. Noah, David, Jeremiah.
5. A man named _____ came to Jesus at night to discuss religion. Nehemiah, Nicodemus, Namaan
6. The child Samuel was brought up by _____. Eli, Elijah, Elisha
7. The disciples were first called Christians in _____. Jerusalem, Antioch, Rome
8. Spikenard is _____. A fish from Galilee, a perfume, a kind of sword
9. Ecclesiastes, is _____. A clergyman, a book in the Old Testament, a Latin word meaning Alleluia
10. Stephen was _____. Beheaded, crucified, stoned to death
11. _____ bought gifts to King David because her husband had been rude to him. Miriam, Abigail, Dinah
12. Joseph's second son was named _____. Ephraim, Ezra, Ichabod

Scenes from OKTOBERFEST

OCTOBER 11, 2026 ✦ ALL CHURCH FESTIVAL ✦



Oktoberfest 2026 is in the books!

It was a fun day to share a meal together and fellowship with one another. There was pulled pork, sausages, hot dogs, sauerkraut, haluski, mac-n-cheese, hot pretzels, popcorn, and we had lots of yummy desserts donated by some fabulous bakers from our congregation.

Activities included: face painting, glitter tatoos, pumpkin painting, bobbing for apples, and cornhole.

Thanks to all who came out and joined in the fun!



Answer Bank: 1. Valuable coins 2. A book in the Old Testament 3. A solemn agreement 4. David 5. Nicodemus 6. Eli 7. Antioch 8. A perfume 9. A book in the Old Testament 10. Stoned to death 11. Abigail 12. Ephraim



2026 Fall Fix Up Weekend Information

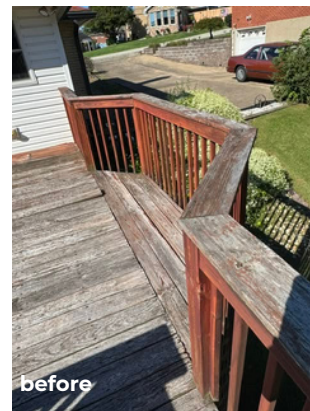
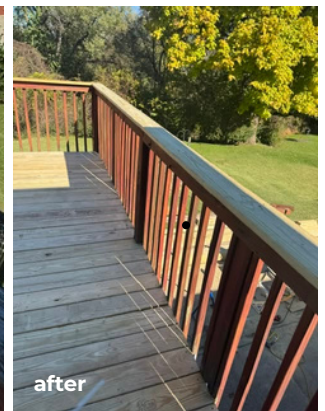
The work we did during the Fall Fix Up weekend, and continue to do, was made possible thanks in part to the donations we received from the January Thaw fundraiser. We also received generous contributions from many people and organizations including the

First Presbyterian Church of Irwin M Team, Community United Methodist Church, Norwin Christian Church and the Norwin Church of the Nazarene, all supporting the mission work of The Carpenter's Apprentice. We were blessed to have the M-Team along with other friends and Church family members bake cookies, donate items, and prepare and provide a breakfast and lunch for our volunteers for all three days that we worked. We had 24 volunteers working to complete the home repairs that were done during the Fall Fix Up weekend. Thanks to the help from many people, we have and will be able to complete a total of 32 projects at 13 different work sites this fall.

This Fall Fix Up consisted of many larger and more multi-faceted than normal projects, requiring "prebuild" work to be done before the Fall Fix Up and work to be done after the Fall Fix Up weekend. We purchased materials (about a 1000 items), tools and rental equipment totaling approximately \$8,200.00 that were used to complete the Fall Fix Up projects. To help support the work of The Carpenter's Apprentice, Lowes in Greensburg gave us a discount of \$675.81 (approximately 11%) on the materials that we purchased from them. We were able to help the First Presbyterian Church M-Team by using Giant Eagle gift cards to purchase the materials we used.

The Carpenter's Apprentice Outreach Care Team is represented by the four Churches making up our organization. They visit with the residents we serve, offering prayer and providing information about our Churches. We look for this outreach to continue to grow in many ways.

- The Carpenter's Apprentice would like to thank the following people who helped by working on the projects that were completed: Mike Baker, Rick Burdelski, Mark Claycomb, Brad Dandar, John Devlin, Andy Dynys, Ken Dzialowski, Jan Harris, Scott Heckert, Sam Hensell, Keith Johnston, Rich Keller, Earl Kiser, Rick Morrison, Tim Okel, Mark Pogue, Ron Romeo, Mark Smith, Joe Smola, Bill Waggett, Dennis Walker, Michael Walker and Andy Waszyn.
- We also want to thank Lisa Smarick for leading a great team of helpers that put together a fantastic breakfast and lunch for the workers. This was only possible thanks to the many people who baked and/or donated lots of items that were used to prepare the breakfast and lunch. I'm not sure where it all came from, but there were more items donated and more people helping than we ever expected. It was greatly appreciated and enjoyed by all.
- While working at the sites, the residents told us they would like to thank our Outreach Care Team, Pastor Mark Smith, Sandy Kutz, and Donna Oesterling, for coming to visit and sharing with them the care packages they put together. It meant a lot to them, and they were happy to tell us about the visit.
- The residents we served greatly appreciated everything that was done to help them. The work we do is only made possible through the continued support we receive from so many people. There were a lot of people helping in various ways to prepare for the weekend that didn't get mentioned. Thank you for all you do! The success of this weekend was thanks to many people helping in many different ways.
- Although we feel a great sense of accomplishment, we do this all for the glory of God our Lord and Redeemer.



Thank you :)

- To all those who helped in any way at the Octoberfest. So many people enjoyed it. The food was great!!! Conversations lingered around the tables, at times it was hard to find a seat. Fun activities were enjoyed by our kids and face painting was a hit.
- To Paula McFarlane for thinking to use the leftover pretzel rods from Octoberfest and creating the amazing chocolate covered pretzels for Cookie Hour Fellowship. They were a well enjoyed treat!
- A praise and thank you for all the hard work and dedication of The Carpenter's Apprentice volunteers.

Prayer Requests: John Anker, Jan & Ron Antos, Larry B., Linda B., Kitten Barnhart, Jan & Russ Batchelor, Andi Cartwright, Jacqueline Chandler, Sara Chandler, Betty Comer, Phil Cortese, Frank D., Dana, Lauren Diffenderfer, Scott Diffenderfer, Cheryl Dufford, John Duncan, Selma Duncan, Ron Friedman, Megen Harmon, Mark & Lisa Harvey, Richard Himler, Gina Ilich, Inna & family, Becky Jadlocki, Joe & Linda, Troy & Briana Joseph, Kevin, Kim, Chuck Kovach, Larry & Sharon Kramer, Joe Lissy, Vicki Luehm, Jackie McGrail, JoAnn McKnight, Bob Magill, J. Alan Minter, Tom Mosler, Isobel Nelson, Jack Noonan, Suzie Paul, Darcy Riazzi, Marnie Russell, Shirley Schmidtke, Archer Schofield, Steve, John Smith, Bev Sowash, Addie Spehar, Roberta Swinson, Brian Trumble, Tom, Bob & Pat Vaughn, Vivian & family, and Jeff Youell*

Church Outreach Programs: The Carpenter's Apprentice, The Blessing Board, Church Food Pantry, College Outreach project, GriefShare. Refresh Classes for all ages. Prayers for the volunteers and the families supported by these programs.

Our Service Personnel: Jeff Cmar, Master Sgt. Zachary Coleman, SFC James Davis, Dominic Duke, Vaughn Estep, Sgt. Luke Frye, Sgt. GY Sgt. Chris Keba, 2nd LT Andy Marlin, CDR Timothy Minor, Sr. Airman Zane Moore, Sgt. Noah Rady, Connor Ramage and Col. Brian Trumble

Praise and Thank You: : All God's People, Thanksgiving for improved and healing health, & recovery: Cindy Betar, Phyllis Bornak, Rick Burdelski, Cookie, George Family, Bob McCandless, Bill Martin, and Margot Minor

*If the person you placed on the prayer list has been **removed** or moved to **Praise and Thank You** in error, please contact either Taska Smola at tsmola@verizon.net or Ginny Pellis at Ginny@firstpresbyirwin.org with updated information. Thank you.



531 5th Street
Oakmont, PA 15139
www.PLF.org

Dear Friends at First Presbyterian Church of Irwin,

Thank you for your generous donation of \$2000.00 to the Pittsburgh Leadership Foundation and Amen to Action (Murrysville Christian Concern Site).

Your gift allows us to continue the ministry of leadership coaching and counseling for individuals and organizations in Pittsburgh and beyond.

I am excited to see what He will do as we lead and serve together for the advancement of His Kingdom in Pittsburgh and for His glory.

Yours in Jesus
Matthew Geppert
President, Pittsburgh Leadership Foundation



First United Methodist Church

310 Oak Street
Irwin, PA 15642
724-863-6858
office@irwinfirstumc.org

Rev. Hyung-Suk Joe, Pastor
(412)389-2803

Dear Members of the First Presbyterian Church of Irwin:

Words cannot fully express how grateful we are for your generous donation to Irwin First United Methodist Church following the recent flooding of our church building.

The flood has been a difficult and unexpected experience for our church community. It has affected not only our building and finances, but also our ability to gather and continue the ministries that are so important to us. In the midst of this difficult time, your love and generosity have been a wonderful reminder that we are not alone.

Thank you so much for your generosity! Your gift will help us address the many needs resulting from the flooding and will help our church continue moving forward with hope.

I truly believe that God provides for us and works through people like you to care for His church. Your generosity is a blessing to Irwin First United Methodist Church and is helping us continue the ministry God has entrusted to us.

May God richly bless you for your kindness, generosity, and support during this challenging time.

With heartfelt gratitude,
Pastor Hyung-Suk Joe
and the Congregation of
Irwin First United Methodist Church

Brownie Bakers Needed!



It's time to make the brownies!
Due NOVEMBER 18-19

The Community Outreach Committee will be passing out brownies and hot chocolate for Irwin's Light Up Night on Thursday, November 19th. We are asking for your help by baking a pan of brownies (please no nuts). They can be dropped off at the church either November 18th or 19th. If you are available and would like to help out that night, please call Sandy Kutz at 724-493-8246. Thank you in advance for helping make this event a success.



The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world. Through this project, Samaritan's Purse partners with the local church worldwide to share the Good News of Jesus Christ and make disciples of the nations.



"Let the children come to Me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God."

Mark 10:14, ESV

For children around the world, a shoebox is often their very first gift. Given together with the Good News of Jesus Christ, it communicates God's love to a boy or girl in need. So, it is important to make sure your gift is ...

FUN - includes a "wow" item and other quality toys

FULL - packed to the brim with additional school supplies and personal care items

PERSONALIZED - prayed over and contains a note and photo, which are often the child's favorite items!

FILLED SHOEBOXES ARE DUE BACK NOV. 15TH

"Every box is an opportunity to reach a child with the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

—Franklin Graham
 President,
 Samaritan's Purse



Welcome New Members

Please extend a warm welcome to the following new members of our congregation.

Nick & Morgan Bradley

Bill Waggett

WELCOME to the WORLD



Emmelia June Kovach

born September 20, 2026

The proud parents are Chuck and Brianna Kovach

Grandparents are Linda and Nick Kovach

Great Grandma is Renee Drylie



Jacob Vincent Ondek

born October 4, 2026.

The proud parents are Melanie Ondek and Jeff Miskis

Grandparents are Deb and Vince Miskis

Upcoming Youth Activities



NOVEMBER

- 1st Advent Basket Build
- 5th Gingerbread House Baking night
Adult Volunteers Needed
- 8th Food Pantry Shopping
- 15th Shoe Boxes Due/Presentation
- 18th Kids bake brownies
- 19th Light Up Night
- 22nd Angel Tree Shopping
- 25th NO Youth Club
Happy Thanksgiving!
- 29th NO Jumpstart
MS/HS Bonfire

DECEMBER

- 3rd Gingerbread Set Up Night
Adult Volunteers Needed
- 4th Irwin Cookie Tour
- Cookie donations requested
- 5th Gingerbread Build
- 6th Youth Deacons Host Cheapest Lunch
- 13th Food Pantry Shopping
- 16th Youth Club Christmas Party
- 20th Youth Fellowship Christmas Party
- Christmas Eve Play Rehearsals 22nd or 23rd (TBD)
- 24th Christmas Eve
5pm Family Service
- 27th NO Jumpstart

IRWIN COOKIE TOUR: 12/4

Calling all bakers!

We are looking for volunteers to bake 1 batch (3-4 dozen) of Christmas cookies to be dropped off at the church 12/3 or 12/4.

Thank you for participating!

WE WILL BE HANDING OUT COOKIES, COFFEE, & HOT CHOCOLATE IN THE BRENZIA ROOM

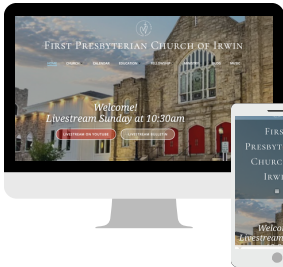
The Essence Of Contentment *Continued from page 1*

Both those men knew what Paul knew: contentment comes in knowing you're not alone. To trust God means being so immersed in Him that everything that happens is seen through Him. That's why Paul says, "I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation." He's talking about being so connected to Christ that prayer is a way of life, that positive thoughts possess you regardless of circumstances, and the certainty of the companionship of Christ breeds contentment. It's from contentment that true thanksgiving flows.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF IRWIN
617 MAIN STREET
IRWIN, PA 15642
www.firstpresbyirwin.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

November
2026
NEWSLETTER



Visit [our website](#) for
the most up-to-date
calendar
information!



CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Dr. Douglas Rehberg	Minister x115
Rev. Sam Strohm	Ministry Associate
Daniel Miller	Business Manager x114
Karen Crissman	Administrative Assistant x110
Ginny Pellis	Receptionist/Secretary x113
Heather Duckett	Children's Ministry Leader x116
Joseph Halaszynski	Facilities Technician
Kyle Dynys	Youth Ministry Leader x117
Katie Redmond	Childcare Supervisor
Judy Baker	Youth Choir Director
Diane Johnston	Bell Choir Director