



FROM THE
PASTOR'S DESK

Rev. Dr. Doug Rehberg



The Ultimate Safety Net

It took 52 months to build the Golden Gate Bridge. Completed in 1937, it is said to have utilized the finest safety methods known at the time: steel netting, helmets, and respiratory masks. But the truth is that none of those safety measures were employed until after 23 men had fallen to their deaths. After the 23rd fatality, public alarm was so intense that, for the remaining two and a half years of the project, a net was employed costing \$100,000 (that's roughly \$2.5 million in today's dollars).

After the net was erected, ten additional men fell from those soaring heights, but none were killed. In fact, the net not only saved ten lives, it also resulted in a 25% increase in efficiency in work accomplished over the same period. It seems that the presence of the net not only saved bodies, but it also eased minds.

Recently, our daughter Maggie returned from a 10-day climbing excursion to the Dolomites - the southern region of the Alps in northeast Italy. In describing certain climbing sections, she noted that there were places where climbers were encouraged to use helmets, harnesses, and carabiners to hook onto steel cables that ran across harrowing areas. When asked if she thought about refusing the suggestion, she said, "I might have been able to make it without those devices, until I wasn't." Smart girl!

Donald Grey Barnhouse once told the story of a man who owned a laundry. One month, his bookkeeper made a mistake and sent out duplicate bills to all his customers. The second bill was a mistake. But he found, after the mailing, that while two-thirds of his customers called his attention to their error, one-third simply trusted his honesty and paid the bill a second time. So, he said to himself, "If I work this deal right, I will make a killing." It was nearly a year before he was caught.

There are a lot of people who make God out to be like that crooked laundryman. Though Jesus has paid the bill for our sins and corruption fully, once and for all, they maintain that God requires another payment. But there's no second bill! When Jesus died for us, it was a full, final payment for all our sin - past, present, and future.

Think of the implication of knowing that and believing that. If you are His, through His death and resurrection, it will always be so. That's what Jesus means in John 10:29 when He says, "I give my own eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand." He then adds, "My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of my Father's hand." Talk about a safety net! No human works, no helmet, no carabiner needed! He assumes every risk for us in this life and the next. So go build away, to His glory!

*Mourning the loss of a loved one?
Find support here.*

GRIEF SHARE

*Join us
Mondays
6:30 to 8:30pm*



 **Maoz Tzur**
ROCK OF AGES
MESSIANIC JEWISH CONGREGATION
EXODUS 6:6-7

www.rockofagesmjc.org

*Growing a community of followers
of Yeshua — bringing Him to
Jewish Pittsburgh and beyond.*



**Join us on Thursday October 15th at 6:30pm
as we welcome speaker
Abraham Sandler II, Congregational Leader**
to talk about his 2 month ministry trip to Israel that
was extended to 5 due to the conflict with Iran.

Thank you :)

- To Ella Filson, Diane & Keith Johnston, Cheryl and Earl Kiser, and Kathy Sullenberger for work in serving Diane Brosnahan or Marge Anke's Memorial Service luncheons.
- To Susan and Glen Harmon, Andy Waszyn, and Dan Miller for cleaning up the water that came into our church in twelve different areas during the big storm on 9/3 when we also lost power for so many hours.
- To Michelle & Bill Beecy, Ed & Cheryl Schock, Susan & Glen Harmon, Kyle Dynys, Eric Batchelor, Zach Waszyn, Betsy Oyatsi, Chris Critchlow, Heather Duckett, Karen Crissman, Bill Martin and Jerry Detar, Taska Smola, Barb Rehberg, and Anna Marie Woodle for their love and devotion in teaching Sunday School or leading our young adult, lady's circle, and adult Bible study

For everything there is a **SEASON**,
and a time for every matter under heaven.

ECCLESIASTES 3:1

BUILD • CREATE • IMAGINE



**BRICK BY
BRICK FUN!**

**SATURDAY
OCTOBER 24TH
10:30-11:30AM**

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

*Hayride @ Goodman
Family Farm*

Saturday, October 10
Meet at 3:30pm -
Hayride at 4pm

Cost \$5

Join us for an afternoon of fall family fun!

We are booked for a group hayride at 4:00pm. There is a "boo barn" and large corn maze which are also each \$5.
(They accept cash/checks ONLY)

Local family owned and operated farm in Ruffs Dale. Even if you are not a hayride person, come out and support local! They have lots of fall decor, lavender, mums, hay bales, pumpkins, etc.
It will be a fun day!

GRATITUDE

Blossoms

The deacons would like to thank the members of the congregation for their generous donations of back to school supplies. We were able to provide 4 local schools with supplies as well as Target gift cards.



Thank you!

**Blessed
TO HAVE
YOU**

The deacons would also like to thank the congregation for opening up their hearts, prayers and wallets to our friends at the Irwin First United Methodist Church. In just 1 day of collecting at both services- we were able to give them \$3,165!! Thank you to Bob Morgan for delivering the donation.



As many of you know, the Irwin First United Methodist Church was severely damaged by the storm that hit our area on Sept 3rd. One of the many issues resulting from this is The Irwin Senior

Activity Center was displaced. We are happy to announce that we have welcomed this active group to call First Presby their home as repairs and renovations are made. This non-profit serves Senior Citizens 50+ in Irwin, North Huntingdon, and surrounding communities. They operate Tues, Wed, and Thurs weekly from 8am-3pm for coffee, exercise classes, line dance, drumming, crochet, crafts, lunches, events, movies, and more! Check out their facebook page for more info.



October Events

10/1 Oktoberfest Planning Meeting
10/4 New Member Meeting
10/6 Worship Committee Meeting
10/6 M-Team Meeting
10/8 D-Team Meeting
10/10 Oktoberfest Setup

10/11 Oktoberfest All Church Festival

10/12 Christian Ed Meeting
10/12 Internet Awareness Class Starts
10/13 Fellowship Meeting
10/15 Speaker Abraham Sandler II

10/16-18 The Carpenter Apprentice Fall Fix-Up Weekend

10/19 Finance Meeting
10/20 Circle 1
10/22 Session Meeting
10/23 Fellowship Movie Night
10/24 Pick Up for The Blessing Board
10/24 Lego Build
10/25 Deacons Meeting

10/25 Lance's Heart Strings Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

10/27 Circle 3

Looking Forward

Shoeboxes

distribution 10/18, due back 11/15

Angel Tree

tags out 11/15, due back 12/4

Norwin Light Up Night

brownie donations due 11/19

Irwin Cookie Tour

cookie donations due 12/4

Gingerbread House Baking Night: 11/5

Gingerbread House Set up Night: 12/3

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 & candy are requested
for each child signed up. Before the big event we do have some
Gingerbread prep work:



Gingerbread Set Up Night!

We'll be making icing, setting up
tables & prepping all the
decoration candy.

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

**Volunteers
needed!**

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

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

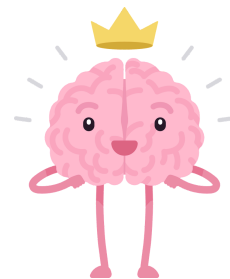
THURSDAY, NOV. 5TH, 5PM





1000 Bible Questions in Rhymes, Puzzles, Quizzes & Games

by Mildred Olive Honors
Pick (circle) the Right Answer



1. The city of Damascus was famous for? fish, steel, purple dyes.
2. "The beloved disciple" was? Simon Peter, Andrew, John.
3. Job was afflicted with? blindness, boils, leprosy.
4. A coat of many colors is associated with? Joseph, Moses, John the Baptist.
5. David played on the? trumpet, harp, flute.
6. Paul reached the island of Malta as the result of a? whirlwind, shipwreck, planned missionary journey.
7. Elijah disappeared in a? pillar of fire, chariot of fire, burning bush.
8. John the Baptist called his audience? "a generation of vipers", "a valley of dry bones", "scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites."
9. Which of these if NOT associated with the story of a lion? Samson, Daniel, Elijah.
10. "The lost cities of the plain" were? Dan & Beersheba, Sodom & Gomorrah, Nazareth & Capernaum.
11. Moses died on? Mt. Sinai, Mt. Ararat, Mt. Nebo.
12. We associate a slingshot with? David, Samson, Gideon
13. Manna was? A seamless garment, food in the wilderness, a month in the Jewish year.

Internet Security Awareness Class

In an age where we are always connected via the Internet, we need to know how to keep ourselves and our loved ones safe. In this class you will find out what tools are out there to help along on this journey. You can join no matter what level you are in technology.

**This Class will run for 7 weeks starting on Monday, October 12, 2026 @ 6:30 PM.
Bring the device you use (phone, tablet, laptop)**



What types of photos can you upload to your profile in our church directory?

- ✓ Studio Photos
- ✓ Vacation Pic.
- ✓ Selfies
- ✓ Holiday Pic.



Use the Instant Church Directory App and log in to check or update your contact information and upload (or update) a family photo. You must have an email address listed with us in order to gain access to the directory.

Answer Bank: 1. Purple dyes 2. John 3. Boils 4. Joseph 5. Harp 6. Shipwreck 7. Chariot of fire 8. "a generation of vipers" 9. Elijah 10. Sodom and Gomorrah, 11. Mt. Nebo (supposedly) 12. David 13. Food in the wilderness

Lance's Heart Strings Fund SPAGHETTI DINNER Fundraiser



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2026

RAINBOW VFD

2916 JACKS RUN ROAD, WHITE OAK, PA 15131

Spaghetti Dinner, Salad, Dessert & Beverages

ADULTS

\$12

KIDS 4-12

\$5

3 & UNDER

FREE

Take-out meals will be available.

**We will have baskets, raffle items,
50/50, t-shirts and more...**

Please join us.

You will not be disappointed!

*Monies raised will go to families in the Oncology and Heart
Floors at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. Through Lance's
Foundation, we will be giving gift cards to the families before
Christmas and help the families throughout the year.*

For more information & ticketing

Betsy Frye: Home 724-864-3433, Cell 412-915-5261



**ROB'S
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- Storage
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energy efficient lights



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

HONORING ALL WHO HAVE SERVED

VETERANS DAY LUNCH

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH 2026

617 MAIN ST. | IRWIN, PA 15642



DOORS OPEN - 11:45AM

LUNCH CATERED BY MISSION BBQ - 12:00PM

LIVE PERFORMANCE BY THE
PENN-TRAFFORD COMMUNITY BAND

TO RESERVE YOUR FREE SEAT, PLEASE
RSVP BY OCTOBER 23RD, 2026
(724) 863-5910 EXT. 113

Prayer Requests: John Anker, Jan Antos, Larry B., Kitten Barnhart, Jan & Russ Batchelor, Phyllis Bornak, Jacqueline Chandler, Betty Comer, Cookie, Phil Cortese, Frank D., Dana, Lauren Diffenderfer, Scott Diffenderfer, Cheryl Dufford, John Duncan, Selma Duncan, George Family, Megen Harmon, Mark & Lisa Harvey, Richard Himler, Gina Ilich, Inna & family, Becky Jadlocki, Joe & Linda, Troy & Briana Joseph, Kevin, Kim, Larry & Sharon Kramer, Joe Lissy, Vicki Luehm, Bob McCandless, JoAnn McKnight, Bob Magill, Bill Martin, J. Alan Minter, Tom Mosler, Isobel Nelson, Jack Noonan, Suzie Paul, Marnie Russell, Shirley Schmidtke, Steve, John Smith, Bev Sowash, Addie Spehar, Roberta Swinson, Brian Trumble, Tom, Bob & Pat Vaughn, 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. Adult classes: Freedom in Christ led by Jerry Detar, The Church in the Middle Ages led by Bill Martin, Working Women's Bible Study –topic: Worship, Circle One: Aging with Grace, and Circle Three: Angels – Finding Hope in God who Reigns over Heaven and Earth. It is never too late to join a class.

*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.



**SERVING CHRIST BY HELPING TO IMPROVE THE LIVING
CONDITIONS OF THOSE LESS FORTUNATE**

FALL FIX UP 10/16-18
Check Your Calendar

thecarpentersapprentice.org

What are some types of jobs I might be working on if I volunteer?

Repair or construction of:

- Steps, Porch & Decks
- Wheelchair Ramps

Safety improvements (grab bars, railings, etc.)

Exterior/Interior painting

Mobile home skirting

Weatherization

Landscaping



Other ways you can also support TCA:

Breakfast & Lunch are supplied to volunteers, you can donate items and/or help make bagged lunches & prep breakfast.



9/20/2026

Bexon Bradley

son of Nick & Morgan Bradley

WELCOME

to the

WORLD

**Elisabeth Susan Minor**

born September 14, 2026.

The proud parents are Joelle Schiller and Tim Minor
Grandparents are Jack & Margot Minor**Jonah Rudolph Madden**

born September 15, 2026

The proud parents are Colton & Talley Madden
Grandparents are Joe Rady and Colleen Rady
Great Grandma is Peggie O'Neal**Archer Graham Schofield**

September 22, 2026

The proud parents are Lindsey and Tyler Schofield
Grandparents are Ronald and Deborah Alberts

Upcoming Youth Activities



OCTOBER

- 10th Hayride @ Goodman Family Farm
- 11th Oktoberfest - All Church Picnic
- 16-18th The Carpenter's Apprentice Fall Fix-up
- 16-18th Pine Springs "The Big One"
- 18th Food Pantry Shopping
- 25th Shop for Shoeboxes

NOVEMBER

- 5th Gingerbread House Baking night
Parent Volunteers Needed
- 8th Advent Basket Build
- 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
Parent Volunteers Needed
- 4th Irwin Cookie Tour
- 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
- 24th Christmas Eve Family Service
- 27th NO Jumpstart

: : : : FIRST PRESBY OF IRWIN : :



OKTOBERFEST

✦ ALL CHURCH FESTIVAL ✦

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11TH 12:00PM

DRINK :
FOOD :
MUSIC :

*Sign up
to help*



make dessert,
setup, serving, clean up, etc....

YOUR \$5 TICKET INCLUDES:

Sausage/Hot Dogs
Sauerkraut
Pulled Pork
Hot Pretzels

Haluski
Mac & Cheese
Face Painting
Glitter Tattoos
Pumpkin Painting
Cornhole

Fall Themed Desserts
Fresh Popcorn
Cider Bar
Barista Bar



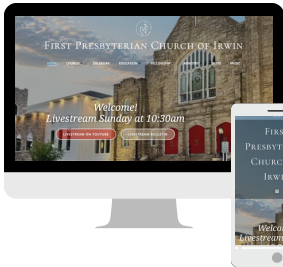
*Join us to celebrate the blessings of the season
and our wonderful growing church family!*

TICKETS AVAILABLE AFTER SERVICE IN THE BRENZIA ROOM

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

October
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