

Dear church family,

Building off of last week's chapter in The Story, we continue to think about the leadership and organization of our church and the ways in which the whole congregation plays a part in it. By the time this newsletter will reach you, we will have held a congregational meeting to elect officers for new terms beginning in 2024. This month I want to focus on the work of our elders.

If you have ever wondered where we get the word "Presbyterian" from, it derives from the Greek New Testament word "presbuteros" which roughly translates to elder. This means that our church and others who are part of the Presbyterian tradition are churches that are led by elders. Though I (Michael) serve as the primary shepherd of our flock, I do so in conjunction with the session—which is the name given to the board of elders who commit to spiritual and administrative leadership for the church. A somewhat little-known fact is that the pastor in a Presbyterian church technically has little power to make many of the decisions, most of which are entrusted to the session, with a few designated for the entire congregation to discern and vote.

Unlike some church traditions where the pastor, bishop or pope may singlehandedly discern the will of God for a local congregation, the beauty of our leadership system is that a group of people discern the will of Christ together. As your pastor, I find this comforting, because though I hope my leadership is inspired and led by the Lord's will, sometimes I can get in the way of that. We are all sinners, broken and incapable of perfection on this side of eternity. The upcoming chapters of The Story we will read this month cover the life of King Saul and those who served after him. It is fascinating to me that God did not want to put just one person in charge (read 1 Samuel 8-9 for the whole picture), but eventually God relents and lets Saul serve in this way. Over the long haul, the idea of having just one person as the spiritual and administrative leader of Israel does not work well.

It is for this reason and for many others I am grateful to lead our congregation in conjunction with our elders. Most importantly, as your pastor, with the elders and members of the congregation, we live and serve by the leadership of THE one and only King—Jesus Christ. Sometimes we will fall short of correctly discerning His will, but if we keep our eyes focused on the true leader of our lives, we will stay on the right path together. If you have served as an elder in the past, are currently serving, or are open to this call upon your life in the future, THANK YOU. Our church would not exist without God's people responding to the call. For those who have not, stay tuned, because in the next couple of months we will highlight three more main areas of service in our church where you can contribute.

With gratitude as we approach the Thanksgiving season,
-Michael



UPCOMING
Events

Sunday, Nov. 5	Sunday School at 9:30am Worship at 10:30am/Communion "The Story" Chapter 9, <i>The Faith of a Foreign Woman, Ruth 1-4</i> Women's Bible Study at 6:00pm		Tuesday, Nov. 21 Bible Study at 9:30am
Tuesday, Nov. 7	Bible Study at 9:30am Ministry & Mission Team mtg. at 6:00pm B&G mtg. at 7:00pm		Thursday, Nov. 23 Happy Thanksgiving
Sunday, Nov. 12	Sunday School at 9:30am Worship at 10:30am "The Story" Chapter 10, <i>Standing Tall, Falling Hard, 1 Samuel 1-15</i> Women's Bible Study at 6:00pm		Sunday, Nov. 26 Sunday School at 9:30am Worship at 10:30am David Goff preaching "The Story" Chapter 12, <i>The Trials of a King, 2 Samuel 11-19, 1 Chronicles 22, 29, Psalm 51, 32, 23</i> Decorate for Christmas after worship
Tuesday, Nov. 14	Bible Study at 9:30am Staff mtg. at 11:00am S&F mtg. at 5:45pm Session mtg. at 7:00pm		Tuesday, Nov. 28 Bible Study at 9:30am Presbytery mtg. at 6:30pm
Saturday, Nov. 18	Christmas Parade		
Sunday, Nov. 19	Sunday School at 9:30am Worship at 10:30am "The Story" Chapter 11, <i>From Shepherd to King, 1 Samuel 16-2 Samuel 6, 1 Chronicles 17, Psalm 59</i>		

The office will be OPEN Nov. 20, 21, 22 and CLOSED Nov. 23 and 24.

Pastor Michael will be on vacation November 22—27.



THE DEADLINE FOR DECEMBER IS NOVEMBER 17th.



Christmas Float



The church is entering a float in the New Castle Christmas Parade on **Saturday, November 18th**. Small wrapped candy is needed to hand out at the parade. Bins will be available in the Narthex and Welcome Area.



facebook.com/clemmoorechurch



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Mission Spotlight

November—CALEB

Caleb International Ministries October 2023 Update

"And for this Purpose, we also Labor, striving according to His Power, which Mightily Works within Us." (Colossians 1:29)

Caleb International Ministries is a Non-Profit Religious Ministry, committed to: 1

"Serving Those who Serve within the Body of Christ."

By God's Grace, since 1990, we have been able to travel and extend Theological Training to more than 35 Countries Internationally, Presently, we have 4 CLI—Institutes serving the international Community. In India our Institute in Hyderabad...in Africa we are in Accra, Ghana...in South America we are in Santos, Brazil...and in Europe we are in London, England. Sometime in the early part of 2023, we received an Invitation to conduct a Pastor/Leadership Conference in Madrid, Spain. God willing, this Conference will be conducted during the last week of November and the first week of December. We Covet your prayers. After much prayer, and waiting upon the Lord to guide our steps, we committed CIM to a 3-year Project called "The Ezra Project." God willing, it is our Goal to create a "Technical" Biblical Library, that Pastors and Teachers in the 3rd—World, can easily access, free of charge, that hopefully will enhance the developing of their Ministries. Year to date, 11 books of the Bible have been recorded, each having, their own Lecture.



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PUMPKIN ROLL ORDER FORM

Once again it is time for the Shenango Church Ladies **PUMPKIN ROLLS!!!**



If you would like to order one or more you may call the Shenango Presbyterian Church office at 724.654.2322, Tuesday or Thursday between 9:00am to 2:00pm.

The last day to order is Monday, November 13th, 2023.

Pickup dates will be Saturday, November 11th, and Saturday, November 18th, between 10:00am & noon.

Prices are: \$6 for a half roll and \$12 for a whole roll.

Thank you for supporting the *Church Ladies of Shenango!*



Communion will be served on the following dates:



Sunday, November 5th
Sunday, December 3rd



Generous Gestures



Being generous and saying 'Thank you' is what we'll do in November.

Many Sunday morning volunteers are especially who we remember. Those who unlock doors, count money, and teach the youth.

Provide morning snacks and lunch, sing praises, and work the AV booth.

Thank you to all who serve and are willing to get on board. Together as a church family may we seek to magnify the Lord!



Health Ministry November



"Autumn has so many opportunities for having fun and staying well! Here is one idea to enjoy by yourself or with friends or family:

Pick some apples! If there is an apple orchard nearby, make a day of it. Walking up and down through the apple groves is a fun way to get in those steps, and you will also get the health bonus of nature. Plus you will leave with a nutritious bounty—apples are an excellent source of fiber and heart—healthy plant compounds."

Don't forget that we have two apple orchards nearby—

Apple Castle and Dawson's!

Scripture: Meditate on this while walking thru the groves:

"This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us." (1John 5:14)

"Yes, He hears us—whether your needs today are great or small, God hears and God cares! What is it that you need to share with God? He is ready and waiting."

(Taken from Woman's Day, October 2023, page 22)



Everyone is invited to help decorate for Christmas! Many hands make light work so please stay after worship on **Sunday, November 26th** to help decorate the Sanctuary and other main areas of the church. A light lunch and refreshments will be provided. Just stick around and wait for instructions. Thank You!

Monthly Financial Snapshot

	September	YTD
Envelope, Loose, Rent, Misc. Income	\$ 16,946	\$ 218,276
Operating & Mission Expense	\$ 17,309	\$ 257,946
Difference	\$ (363)	\$ (39,670)
Mission Support—ARISE		