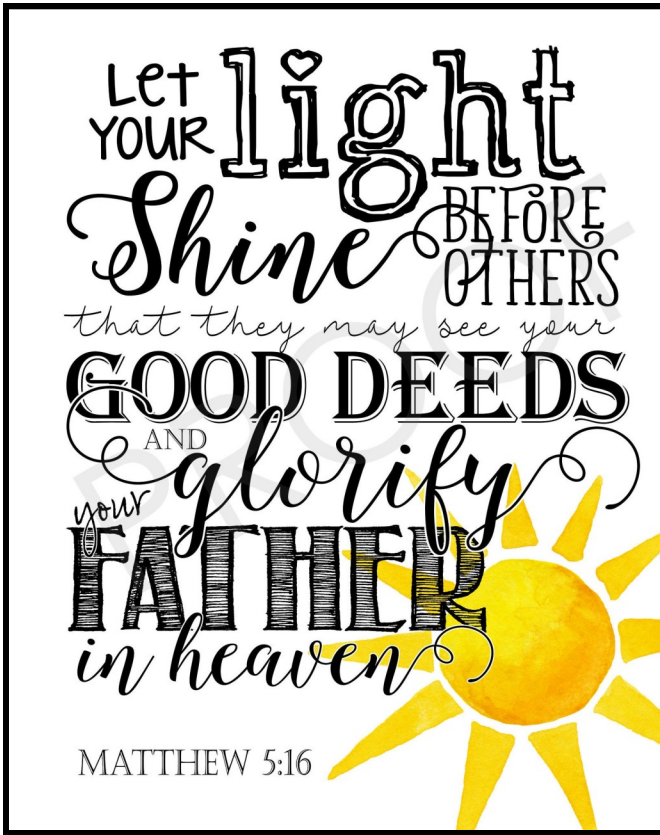


Mt. Pisgah Presbyterian Church

The View

OCTOBER 2025



Purpose: To inform, encourage, and promote engagement in Mt. Pisgah's mission in the community, and opportunities for spiritual transformation. To invite reflection on the process of personal spiritual growth. To emphasize the bond that holds us together, and avoid magnifying the differences that separate us.

Worship Service 9:45 am (see back cover for location)



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



Mt. Pisgah
VIEW
October 2025

¹ To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ's sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed: ² Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; ³ not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. ⁴ And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away. ⁵ In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble." ⁶ Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. ⁷ Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. ⁸ Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings. ¹⁰ And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. ¹¹ To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

1 Peter 5:1–11 (NIV)

I want to highlight our prayer focus for the month of October. Our prayer focus is “Holy God, guide Mt. Pisgah’s leadership with insight.” This prayer focus is crucial to our health as a congregation. Unless our Elders lead with wisdom and humility, we will flounder. This prayer focus is timely. This is the time of year that we acknowledge the call of God in the lives of our leadership, by vote. The Nominating Team of Session is discerning (intending to act with “insight”) the Lord’s leading as it identifies those members nominated to serve as Elders for the years ahead.

This prayer is crucial because navigating faithfulness in this day and age is a challenge. The leadership of any church in America these days faces a cacophony of voices, which advocate a variety of compromises to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Indeed, the enemy prowls like a lion ready to pounce! The enemy likes nothing better than to convince the church of Jesus Christ to pursue *the agendas of the powers* of this world, and to do so in *the ways of this world*, to the neglect of the Way of Jesus Christ. Peter provides healthy safeguards against the temptation to compromise. Elders with “insight” will lead by example, as they follow Jesus’ example. Elders with “insight” will be servants, leading from a posture of humility. Elders with “insight” will not shy away from suffering for the sake of the Gospel.

This last piece, suffering for the sake of the Gospel, is particularly important. In our American context, there is no shortage to the claims of “suffering for Jesus.” Across the political spectrum, there are some who claim to be suffering for Jesus Christ, when it is in fact only their political, economic, or some other ideology that brings them grief and conflict. In America, the tendency to wed the Gospel of Jesus Christ to a political, economic, or other

agenda, distorts the words of Peter above, and misguides the church at large. Peter alludes to the example of brothers and sisters around the Roman empire who suffer, along with the community to which he writes. If we are to lead and live with “insight,” we ought to be paying attention to those Christians around the world today who genuinely suffer for the cause of the Gospel, as followers of Jesus, for our inspiration and example. That is why, “Holy God, guide Mt. Pisgah’s leadership with insight,” is so important. It is an invitation to embrace our union with the church around the world.

Let’s join our hearts and minds this month by offering up this common prayer for the Spirit’s inspiration of Mt. Pisgah’s leadership. Let’s do so with the hope of being found faithful by our Lord, as we bear witness to the Gospel in this place and time where we have been planted by the Lord. Let’s do so with full confidence in the promise of eternal glory, which we will share with the church of Jesus Christ through the centuries, in the age to come.

Peace...Tom



Session News

ANNUAL PLEDGE DRIVE

Pledges for financial support in 2026 will be received beginning Sunday, October 5th through Sunday, October 19th. Pledge Cards are available in the Malawi Room and can be left at the offering plate.

TEXAS FLOOD RELIEF

Our church family joined in support of the people of Texas who were victims of this summer's flood that destroyed property and claimed the lives of many, including children attending a summer camp. We sent \$750 to the Pittsburgh Presbytery's Disaster Assistance fund, earmarked for this specific cause. The Session thanks all who contributed.

NOMINATING TEAM

The Nominating Team has begun its work to identify leadership for 2026. If you have anyone you would like to suggest for service on the Session, Nominating Team, or Audit Team, please let Marta know or complete the form on the Malawi Room table.

ANNUAL PLANNING MEETING

Our annual planning meeting will be held on Saturday, November 8th. The Session will review our ministry from 2025 and look to God for His direction in preparing for 2026. If you have been inspired with thoughts for our ministry, please share them with a Session member or Tom by November 8th.

STONE OF FAITH

In October, we will welcome back our friends from the Stone of Faith community for Saturday worship. Stone of Faith is a numerically small, but spiritually robust group of Christians who, with the use of our space, are able to gather for worship and build their ministry.

Please keep all of these activities and concerns in your prayers, seeking to continue your support.

For the Session, Marta Pletz, Clerk

Prayer Corner

“Again, truly I tell you, if two of you on earth agree about any matter that you pray for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, I am there among them. Matthew 18:19-20.

I’ve always been a proponent of the small church. I believe that a small church by design, not happenstance, has distinct advantages over large churches. One of these is in our fundamental identify as Christians: Prayer!

I realized recently that I often find myself “picturing” our church family in my prayers. I see them in their “seats” at worship; and let’s be honest, all but a few are in the same seats each week, so it’s a pretty stable picture! I can also see them by scrolling through our church directory; again, this is manageable because of its size and can include our “friends” who remain in the directory even after their official membership has ended.

The idea of a church family is very real in a small church. By definition, a family is “a group of people connected by ties of kinship, marriage, adoption, or commitment to each other, who provide mutual support, love, and a sense of belonging.” In strictly practical terms, how many families are able to maintain regular contact and know the joys and concerns of their relatives if the family is made up of 300, 400, 1,000 people?

A small church has this ability and opportunity, if taken.

So, here's some encouragement for us to maintain and strengthen our bonds of Christian brotherhood and sisterhood. During the week, try to work your way through our Directory or close your eyes and see all the people who you were in worship with on Sunday. And PRAY!

For the Prayer Corner,
Marta Pletz



The Prayer Corner Team consists of
Cindy Grindel, Marta Pletz, and Luann Walton

Would you like to join us in 2025? Let one of us know!

October Breath Prayer

Breathe In: God with us,

Breathe Out: hear our prayers for one another

Simple Living

God spoke: "Let us make human beings in our image, make them reflecting our nature so they can be responsible for the fish in the sea, the birds in the air, the cattle, and, yes, Earth itself..." Genesis 1:26



This month's "responsible living" tip comes from Everyday Cheapskate.com.

Adapted for this article by Marta Pletz for the Community Care Team. The Community Care Team is comprised of Jill Folkmire - Chair, Kim Cook, Don Folkmire and Marta Pletz

Say Good Bye to Plastic Wrap!

Let's talk about plastic wrap. That clingy, crinkly roll we all keep in the drawer—the one that sticks to everything except the bowl you're trying to cover. It's convenient until you stop and ask "Is this really the best we can do?" Well, it's not.

THE TROUBLE WITH PLASTIC WRAP

If you don't already know, you've probably guessed:

It's made from materials that don't break down. They end up in landfills, our oceans and even possibly in our bodies. Microplastics have been found in human blood, lungs and placentas. It's concerning. And, of course, it is single use. You use it, toss it, and it sticks around...forever.

THE GOOD NEWS? YOU HAVE OPTIONS

These alternatives are reusable, affordable, and far less likely to cling to your elbow while you're trying to wrap a casserole dish:



Beeswax Wraps: Cloth coated in beeswax, they are moldable, washable, and compostable. Warm with your hands to make it stick.



Silicone lids, stretchy covers: Think Yoga Pants for your bowls—they stretch and seal like a dream.



Glass Containers: The old reliable!



Cloth Bowl Covers: Like a shower cap... but for salad. Make it a fun sewing project in your favorite colors and patterns!



Plates on Bowls: Keeping it simple...our grandmothers' trick still works.



Reusable Silicone Zip Bags: They come in a variety of sizes, just like disposable baggies. They are heat safe, dishwasher friendly and sturdy enough to stand on their own.



Dear family and friends of Mt. Pisgah...

In addition to your own prayers of thanksgiving and petitions to our most capable Father in Heaven, creator and master of all things seen and unseen, all praise and glory be to Him who reigns victorious now and throughout eternity – “O, what a Savior!”

Prayer Focus for October:

***Holy God, guide Mt. Pisgah’s
leadership with insight.***

Hope to see you in worship Sunday morning, 9:45 am.
Submitted by the Worship, Learning and Prayer Team

From the Worship, Learning and Prayer Team:



Please join us after worship on the first and third Sundays of October as we continue a deeper dive into the Book of Matthew.

It would be our blessing to fellowship around tables with you of this most wonderful study of the Gospel written by Matthew, inspired by our risen Lord and Savior Jesus!



September worship services will be
based on the following:

October 5	Matthew 18:1-9
October 12	Matthew 18:10-35
October 19	Matthew 19:1-15
October 26	Matthew 19:16-30

***A revised schedule of remaining scripture readings,
“Preaching 2025 A Year with Matthew,”
is available in the Malawi Room.***



Tuesday, October 28, 2025

Pittsburgh Botanic Garden Tour

The weather has been so sunny and the trees are starting to change into the Fall colors, so DayTimers will head out to view Mother Nature. The Botanic Garden has an entrance fee of \$16/Person. It is handicap accessible to a point. There are places along the way so people can rest or just sit to enjoy the scenery. THE MOMENTUM is an exhibition at the Japanese Garden area until the Fall, so we may get to see it.



Please let Linda know if you plan on attending by
October 17 using the **contact information** below or
for any questions you may have.

FUTURE 2025 MEETINGS:

November 18 Pasta Recipes for Dinner and Sharing - Outreach Project

December 16 Annual Christmas Luncheon at a nearby restaurant.

DayTimers is still participating in the **Crafton Food Pantry**. They would like us to gather items that the Pittsburgh Food Bank Does Not Supply. At this time, the DayTimers will collect **Saltine Crackers (those in a box of 4 sleeves)** and **Ramen Noodle Soup Packages**.

DayTimers will continue our assistance in supporting the autistic class school teachers with Marta Pletz as our liaison.

If you have any comments or questions, call Linda Polaski, 412-921-8605, to leave a message or email rlpolaski@AOL.com. The church phone number is: 412-921-8444 to speak with Marta. Please check your email for any changes or updates.

Blessings,
Linda and Rich, Kim, Marta, Bob and Mary



AFTERSCHOOL NEWS

Do you remember our days of having Trunk or Treat for the neighborhood kids?



Well, stock up on some candy and mark your calendar for Friday, October 31st at 5 pm.

We are going to have a much simpler version of this activity for our Afterschool kids. Participants will be stationed throughout our indoor space and the kids will parade through and receive their treats.

It will also include a party that you are all invited to attend!

We have 12 students (and maybe some of their friends or siblings). So, a couple dozen or so of treats should suffice. (We'll have some back up treats in case someone runs short.)

Look forward to seeing you there...costumes welcomed, but not required!

~Submitted by Marta Pletz for the Community Care Team

The Community Care team consists of Jill Folkmire, Chair, Kim Cook, Don Folkmire, Marta Pletz

BIBLE TIMELINE

Put these events in order as they took place
in Bible history:

- _____ Solomon's Temple is built
- _____ John the Baptist is born
- _____ Noah builds an Ark
- _____ Jesus dies on Calvary & raises on the 3rd day
- _____ Abraham goes to the Promised Land
- _____ Apostle John receives visions of End Times
- _____ Paul spreads the Gospel during mission trips
- _____ Joseph is taken to Egypt
- _____ King David rules in Jerusalem
- _____ Gabriel brings a message to Mary
- _____ God places Adam and Even in the Garden
- _____ Jesus teaches throughout Galilee & Judea
- _____ Ten Commandments are given to Moses
- _____ Jesus is baptized



Answers can be found on page 18.



Dear Father God, we worship you this October, expressing gratitude for your blessings and mercy throughout the year. Forgive us as we forgive others. Help us embrace a season of change. We ask for the Holy Spirit to show up in our lives and guide us. Let us recognize that healing, change, and blessings are present now. Grant us patience, stability, and grace this month. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.



*This prayer will appear at the end of the BUZZ each week.
~Submitted by Marilyn Costantino for the Prayer Team*



***Due date to submit articles for the
November VIEW is October 19***

Email Sharon Devey @ 37.s.devey@gmail.com

On the Lighter Side . . .

Submitted by
Sharon Devey



REVEREND FUN WWW.REVERENDFUN.COM



I TOLD YOU GOD ANSWERS PRAYERS ... HE'S ANSWERED
MINE ON FRAMES ONE, THREE, AND SEVEN

OUR CONGREGATION CONNECTS . . .

1 Thessalonians 5:16 “Rejoice Always!”

Who will receive an **October**
birthday wish from **you**?

Blessings
ON YOUR
BIRTHDAY!

Bless this your child, Lord, in the year to come. May they know the comfort of your presence, the certainty of your purpose, and the consolation of your love at work in their life.

4th ... Greg Virgin

16th ... Jill Folkmire

18th ... Carla Bianco Becker

19th ... August (Gus) Standley

27th ... David Cook

31st ... David Rentz

“Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him or her up.” Romans 15:2

Solution to Bible Timeline:

- | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1. God places | 6. King David | 11. Jesus teaches |
| 2. Noah builds | 7. Solomon's | 12. Jesus dies |
| 3. Abraham | 8. Gabriel | 13. Paul spreads |
| 4. Joseph | 9. John the Baptist | 14. Apostle John |
| 5. Ten Command. | 10. Jesus baptized | |



Mark your calendar . . .

- 5th Adult Class following worship
- 5th - 19th Pledge Drive (*see page 4*)
- 19th Adult Class following worship
- 19th November VIEW articles due (*see page 16*)
- 20th Session Meeting 6:45 pm
- 26th SCRIP order placed
- 26th Worship, Learning and Prayer Team Meeting following worship
- 28th DayTimers Meeting 11:00 am (*see page 12*)
- 31st Halloween Trick or Treat 5:00 pm (*see page 14*)

Weekly

Wednesday, Prayer Group online 5:30 pm

Wednesday & Friday, After School Program, 4:10 - 6:00 pm

Mt. Pisgah Presbyterian Church

Noble Manor Shopping Plaza

2350 Noblestown Road, Suite 200

Pittsburgh, PA 15205

412-921-8444 / www.mtpisgahgreentree.org