

BEAVER-  
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PRESBYTERY



**Weekly Update for October 22, 2024**

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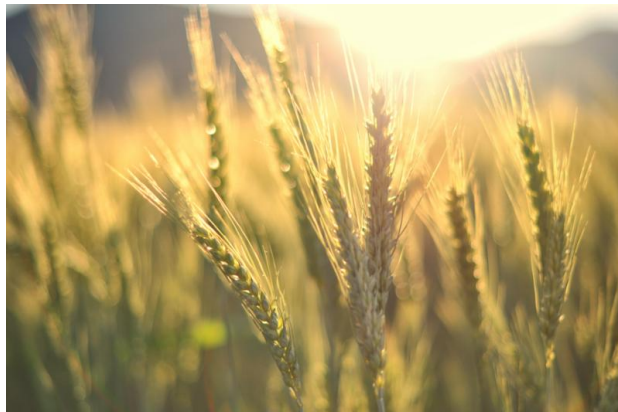
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*Those who go out weeping,  
bearing the seed for sowing,  
shall come home with shouts of joy,  
carrying their sheaves.*



## Worshipping Generously Workshop Summary

*Kerry Dowdy, committee member of the Encouraging Churches to Flourish Unit, provides a summary of the second workshop in the Worship Workshop Series*

As part of the Encouraging Churches to Flourish Unit of Beaver-Butler Presbytery's Worship Series, stewardship was the topic of the second workshop. This tough subject to tackle causes congregations to cringe. But it doesn't have to be and presenter, Ellie Johns-Kelley, MRO of the Presbyterian Foundation, challenged us to talk tithing and stewardship.

This lunch time Zoom workshop had about eight participants listening and learning. If you couldn't attend, a recording is available and is posted on Beaver-Butler Presbytery's YouTube channel.

[Continue reading...](#)

[Watch the video...](#)

[Access the series videos...](#)



## Is God Calling You to Further Leadership?

If you are a Ruling Elder, might God be calling you to preach or become more involved in pastoral service to a church? Whether you are interested in becoming a commissioned pastor or interested in growing in the faith in biblical/theological knowledge and practical ministry areas, this is a great opportunity for more substantive Adult Christian Education and Formation.

A group of local presbyteries including Beaver-Butler Presbytery has a training program, called Inter-Presbytery Leadership Formation (IPLF), to prepare possible Commissioned Pastors. The Spring Term of 2025 meets on Saturdays, January 4, February 1, March 1, April 5, and May 3. The course in the morning will be Old Testament with Rev. Dr. Jerome Creach.

The afternoon elective workshops will be:

- Creative Worship for All-Size Churches
- A Lenten Journey with Luke
- Preaching Laboratory

- Church Leadership: A Shared Responsibility
- Church as Community Resource

If interested, please get in touch with the Beaver-Butler Presbytery Office.

[Learn more about IPLF...](#)



## Celebrating All Saints' Day

**Friday, November 1**

In early Christian tradition, saints' days began as a way to mark the anniversary of a martyr's death—his or her "birthday" as a saint. By the middle of the church's first millennium, there were so many martyrs that it was hard to give them all their due. All Saints' Day was established as an opportunity to honor all saints. All Hallowed Eve or Halloween is celebrated the day before All Saints Day on October 31.

All Saints' Day has a rather different focus in the Reformed tradition. Rather than putting saints on pedestals as holy people set apart, we give glory to God for the ordinary, holy lives of the believers in this and every age. This is an appropriate time to give thanks to members of the community of faith who have died in the past year. We also pray that we may be counted among the company of the faithful in God's eternal realm.

The Presbyterian Mission Agency has prepared resources—prayers, liturgy, and acts of remembrance—for churches to use for a Sunday service following All Saints Day.

[Go to resources...](#)



## Retirement Conversations

**Orientation—  
November 6, 11:30 a.m.-12 p.m**

**Conversation Sessions I and II—  
November 20, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.; 2:30-4 p.m.**

The key to a successful transition into retirement is thoughtfulness, intentionality, and proper planning—and the Board of Pensions is there to support you through that journey. Virtual Retirement Conversations sessions provide education and support for members, spouses, and surviving spouses who are within one year of retirement.

Registration closes on **October 30, 8 p.m.**

[Learn more and register...](#)



## Unlock Your Property Potential

### Open Houses

- Tuesday, October 29, 3 p.m.
- Tuesday, November 12, 3 p.m.

The PC(USA) Office of Innovation and partners at Rooted Good invite you to an exclusive virtual Open House to learn more about *The Good Futures Accelerator*, a vital resource designed to help congregations and mid councils reimagine church property for impactful ministry.

This self-guided tool is already making a difference in communities by providing step-by-step support for social enterprise initiatives such as affordable housing development, economic justice initiatives, and more.

[Register...](#)



The first General Assembly in America was convened by The Rev. John Witherspoon, one of the few ordained ministers to sign the Declaration of Independence.



## Consider Serving on a GA Entity

The online application forms for the following special committees, commissions, and task forces created by the 226th General Assembly (2024) are now available in the Nominations Portal. Please consider offering your gifts, talents, and skills—or those of others who would serve well—on any of the following:

- Task Force to Write a New Study Document on “Denouncing Antisemitism and Islamophobia” (ECU-07)
- Task Force to Review the Divestment Strategy of the PC(USA) (FIN-02)
- Administrative Commission on Mid Councils (MC-01)

Applications are due Thursday, November 7.

For more information please contact Assistant Stated Clerk, Valerie Izumi at [valerie.izumi@pcusa.org](mailto:valerie.izumi@pcusa.org).

[Go to the Portal...](#)



## Prayers for Our Nation on Election Night

**November 5, 2024, 6-6:30 p.m.**

Join the PC(USA) Office of Public Witness as polls begin to close for a time of prayer for our nation on election day.

This service of prayer will offer an opportunity to come together as a denomination regardless of hoped for outcomes, to reflect upon our shared values of faith, democracy, and social justice. Scripture readings, prayer, song, and silent reflection are aimed to inspire peace, hope, and unity for our nation by Christ's example.

The service will be streamed live on Zoom and a recording will be posted as soon as possible as polls continue to close.

### Worship Leaders

- Rev. Jihyun Oh, *Stated Clerk*
- Rev. Tony Larson, *Co-Moderator*
- Rev. CeCe Armstrong, *Co-Moderator*
- Rev. Jimmie Hawkins, *Advocacy Director*
- Rev. Christina Cosby, *Domestic Policy Representative*

[Learn more and register...](#)



## Listening to Jewish Voices

### Reckoning with Antisemitism

**Wednesday, November 20, 6:30-8:30 p.m.**

Pittsburgh Theological Seminary  
John Knox Room  
616 N. Highland Avenue, Pittsburgh

*Hosted by Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania and the Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh*

For Christians, reckoning with antisemitism is the journey of seeing, confronting, and disrupting the ways our tradition has caused harm to our Jewish neighbors. You are invited to learn from Jewish leaders who will share how antisemitism has affected their lives and community.

Please register by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, November 19.

[Learn more and register...](#)

[Download and post flyer...](#)



## Adjust Your Clocks!

Daylight Saving Time ends on Sunday, November 3 at 2 a.m. when we “fall back.” Reminding your congregation to set their clocks back one hour will keep them from arriving early for worship!

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## Presbytery Meeting Hosts Needed

We are looking for churches to host the 2025 presbytery meetings. Consider joining forces with a neighboring church to share the responsibility. If your church would like to serve in this way, please let the presbytery office know.

### Hosted needed for:

Saturday, January 25, 10 a.m. (Lunch)

Tuesday, March 25, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, May 27, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, September 23, 4 p.m. (Dinner)

## ADVENT DEVOTIONALS

Congregations and individuals are encouraged to find an Advent study or devotional to observe a sacred time of waiting for Christ's arrival.

Click on the titles of the sources below to access.

### Presbytery Resource Center

Borrow Advent studies and devotions for adults and families. Stop in during office hours or make an appointment with ChrisAnn Goossen

([chrisanngoossen@beaverbutler.org](mailto:chrisanngoossen@beaverbutler.org)).

### Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

Free as printable or delivered as email; also Advent Resource Kit for personal use and worship

### Presbyterian Outlook

*Patterns of Divine Possibility*—\$35

Digital product perfect for printing into booklets, inserting into bulletins, or emailing

### PC(USA) Store

2024 Advent Resource Guide—click on title or cover to go to product page; click



## TRUNK OR TREAT EVENTS

Support and promote these community events  
by congregations in our presbytery.

**Glade Run Church Parking Lot**—1091 Pittsburgh Road (Route 8), Valencia  
Saturday, October 26, 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Free Event

***Download and post flyer...***

Send event information to [chrisanngoossen@beaverbutler.org](mailto:chrisanngoossen@beaverbutler.org).  
Attach flyers as PDF documents.

## CHURCH EVENTS

Support and promote worship, fellowship, and fundraising events  
by congregations in our presbytery.

### **FIRST AID CLASS**

**Saturday, November 2, 7 a.m.-12 p.m.**

Ohio United Church—1236 Longvue Avenue, Aliquippa  
Instruction in First Aid, CPR/AED, and Stop the Bleed will be provided. Cost is \$120 payable day of class. Reserve a spot by contacting Mark Douglass at [mwd1958@verizon.net](mailto:mwd1958@verizon.net).

### **PLANNING 101: End-of-Life Informational Seminar**

**Saturday November 2, 2 p.m.**

Concord Church  
2832 Conway Wallrose Road, Baden

***Download and post flyer...***

### **CALL TO PEACE AND UNITY WORSHOP**

**Saturday, November 7, 9 a.m.–12 p.m.**

New Sewickley Church—101 Big Knob Road, Rochester  
Clergy can explore “practices and skills” necessary for people to live in harmony as faith communities play a key role in teaching and fostering unity.

***Download and post flyer...***

### **PLAINS CHURCH HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR**

**Saturday, November 9, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.**

326 Plains Church Road, Cranberry Township

***Download and post fair flyer...***

***Download and post vendor flyer...***

Send event information to [chrisanngoossen@beaverbutler.org](mailto:chrisanngoossen@beaverbutler.org). Attach flyers and brochures as PDF documents and slides as PowerPoint documents.

## PRESBYTERY EVENTS

[Click here for additional information...](#)

### RACIAL RECONCILIATION BOOK CLUB

Wednesdays at 7 p.m. by Zoom

October 23, November 13 and 27

**CANCELLED DUE TO CONSTRUCTION—**

### YOUTH GROUP WEEKEND RETREAT

Friday, October 18—Sunday, October 20 (Rescheduled for April 25-27, 2025)

Camp Lambec—West Springfield, PA

## SYNOD OF THE TRINITY EVENTS

[Click here for information...](#)

## PRESBYTERY NEWS

[Click here for news you may have missed...](#)

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

[Click here for position descriptions and contact information...](#)

### Administrative Assistant

Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania

### Administrative Assistant

Jefferson Center Church, Saxonburg

### Church Worship Accompanist

Vanport Church, Vanport

### Bookkeeper (Part Time)

Plains Church, Cranberry Twp.

## THE PRESBYTERY OFFICE

### Regular Office Hours

Monday-Thursday, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m.  
or by appointment.

### 2024 Holiday Schedule

New Year's Day...January 1  
Martin Luther King Day...January 15  
President's Day...February  
19 Memorial Day...May 27  
Juneteenth...June 19  
Independence Day...July 4  
Labor Day...September 2  
Veterans' Day...November 11

### 2024 Presbytery Meetings

**Saturday, January 27, 10 a.m.**

Lunch

North Sewickley, Ellwood City

**Tuesday, March 19, 6 p.m.**

Calvin, Zelienople

**Tuesday, May 28, 6 p.m.**

Concord, Baden

**Tuesday, July 30, 6 p.m.**

Clinton, Saxonburg



Thanksgiving Day...November 28  
Christmas Eve...December 24  
Christmas Day...December 25  
Christmas Week...December 26-29

**Tuesday, September 24, 4 p.m.**

Dinner

Hosted by First, Darlington and  
The Galilean, New Galilee  
New Galilee Community Center

**Tuesday, November 19, 6 p.m.**

New Sewickley, Rochester

**2025 Presbytery Meetings**

Saturday, January 25, 10 a.m. (Lunch)  
Tuesday, March 25, 6 p.m.  
Tuesday, May 27, 6 p.m.  
Tuesday, July 22, 6 p.m.  
Tuesday, September 23, 4 p.m. (Dinner)  
Tuesday, November 18, 6 p.m.

**Beaver-Butler Presbytery Center**

(P.O. Box 279) 134-B South Main Street, Zelienople, PA 16063 | 724-452-7515  
office@beaverbutler.org | www.beaverbutler.org

**Beaver-Butler Presbytery**



**Beaver-Butler Presbytery Youth**



**Presbytery Weekly Update**

To share announcements and news or to add names to the mailing list,  
contact ChrisAnn at [chrisanngoossen@beaverbutler.org](mailto:chrisanngoossen@beaverbutler.org). To access back issues,  
go to [beaverbutler.org/weekly-update-e-newsletter/](http://beaverbutler.org/weekly-update-e-newsletter/).

Beaver-Butler Presbytery | 134-B South Main Street | Zelienople , PA 16063 US

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