



The Open Door - October 2025

The Reformed Church of Bushkill
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"Striving to Do What Christ Tells Us through Scripture"

Pastor's Corner

Greetings Congregation and Friends,

As leaves begin to turn and the cold air creeps in, we are reminded of the beauty of God's creation and the rhythms of His design. October brings with it the harvest season, a time to gather the fruits of our labor and give thanks for the abundance in our lives. Spiritually, it is also a time to reflect on the seeds of faith planted in our hearts and celebrate the harvest of spiritual growth that God has brought forth.

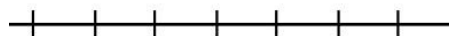
Throughout this month, we will come together as one during World Communion Sunday, where Christians around the world will join together in celebrating the body of Christ. We need to focus on unity. Let us share in this powerful sacrament together as one body. And you know it's time for all things pumpkin, so come try out some Fall favorite dishes on October 19th, feasting on all things pumpkin. At this time, we also will explore the themes of stewardship and gratitude, reflecting on how we can better tend to our faith through prayer, worship, and service. Let us not only give thanks for our blessings but also be a blessing to others.

Throughout this month, turn away from gadgets and walk together with Jesus, observing the beauty around and embracing opportunities for growth and spiritual renewal. Genesis 8:22 reminds us, *"While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease."* I look forward to seeing everyone in worship and at upcoming events.

Faithfully,
Pastor Marisol, Transitional Minister



We will be serving breakfast
on Sunday, October 5th,
from 8:30-10:00 AM.



The Discernment Team is hosting the Timeline Event on Sundays October 5, 12, and 19 where the congregation will be putting colored Post-It notes along the church's timeline.

- Pink Post-It notes stand for a time that was good, great or positive.
- Blue Post-It notes stand for a time that was difficult, hard or conflicted.
- Yellow Post-It notes stand for a time you could see the Holy Spirit at work, a time of growth.

Your name is optional on these notes.

If you will be on vacation, etc. and will not be here on these dates, call or e-mail the church office and we will make sure your Post-It notes are on there!



Pastor Marisol will be doing a 12-week Bible study via Zoom on the Book of James from 7:00-8:00 PM on Sunday evenings, beginning October 5th and running through December 21st.

The flyer with each week's study info will be emailed on Fridays along with a link to the Zoom meeting.

The Deacons are hosting a Yard Sale on Saturday, October 11th from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

Tables outside are \$10 each; tables inside are \$20 each. Food will be available.

This is a rain or shine event.

For more info, call Kristen VanWhy, 570-994-3056

Articles for the November *Open Door* are due by Wednesday, October 15th.

Leave them in the church office mailbox across from the nursery or e-mail directly to the church office: bshklch@ptd.net

The Healing Place is open before service on Sundays for your own meditation.

The next session led by Pastor Marisol after church will be on Sunday, October 19th.

To be included in the next session, email her at: pastorferrermalloy@gmail.com



We will hold a Pumpkin & All Things Fall themed coffee hour on Sunday, October 19th. If you are able, please bring a fall main dish, side dish or dessert.



Happy Birthday greetings for the month:

Jonathan Schoonover - October 2

Dan Jiorle - October 7

Dawn Cullum - October 14

Happy Anniversary wishes to:

Steve & Jen Schoonover - October 12

Bob & Liz Craver

God's Promise

Just recently we lost a close young man, actually more like an adopted son, a member of the family, a young man who would give the shirt off his back and help anyone in need. As I drove to the church office to do some work, I asked God why ... Why not me? My life was full and Matt's had just begun at the age of 31 with a wife, a daughter of eight months; life was just beginning.

I know we are not supposed to ask but we do ... we ask. So I accept God's will even though I don't understand it like all of us. We don't understand the actions of God. We do, however, trust in Him and have faith in His enlightenment and awakenings He gives us through our trials and our mishaps of life.

All we need to do is ask and He provides the comfort we seek and the awakening we need if we look to Him, the creator of life. Of life, yes of life, as even in death there is life for those who believe in Him who have fallen asleep, and those who are here still mourning as we continue with our daily living, wondering but keeping the trust and faith, putting our hurt into His hands and not ours.

Sometimes our biggest questions are ... did the person believe about God or in God? That answer sometimes and almost always lies with God Himself as once again we trust in the One who made us and who knows all.

Throughout our many conversations, one of Matt's main statement was: "Only God knows." How true! As I was pondering the questions myself as I was in the office working, or rather staring at the white wall and asking God, "Now what Lord?" As I looked more at the wall where we have three plaques hanging up with God's Word, one stood out so deeply: "*For I know the plans I have for you,*" declares the Lord, "*plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*" (Jeremiah 29:11)

You know I believe that when I first read this at least for me, I think of the plans He has for me tomorrow or the next year especially when He talks about the future, but for me on this day He gave me new insight as God is not only talking about the future as we wait or hope for tomorrow but about the future we have with Him, an everlasting life, a future with God. It says "I know" (that is God himself knows). And as Matt would say "Only God knows".

Jeremiah goes on saying:

"¹² Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. ¹³ You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. ¹⁴ I will be found by you," declares the Lord, "and will bring you back from captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have banished you," declares the Lord, "and I will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile."

God's Word stands true just as I was praying to Him and seeking Him, He came to me, and I found Him. And He brought me back from my own captivity (being in my own mind dwelling in my sadness, a captivity we all face from time to time whether from loss or despair or trouble in our daily life). So even when we feel banished by Him, He will bring us back. Back to a safe dwelling, a place where we are comforted by His presence, His Word. As we go through our life and have these questions and wonder about His plan for us, let us seek Him with full heart and prayer and He will be found by us as He will hear our call.

I pray that as we all face the trials and discomforts that we go through, that we seek Him and await His answers and see His answers as we rest in His care. His promises are true!

God bless,
Elder Bob Craver

Financial Report - MaryAnn Conza

8/01/25 to 8/31/25	1/1/25 to 8/31/25
Income 21,618.97	Income 83,955.21
Expenses <u>17,649.84</u>	Expenses <u>122,776.40</u>
(\$ 3,969.13)	(\$ 38,821.19)

The deficit was lowered due to funds received from the Lewis Fund of \$13,173.30. A 10% amount of \$1,317.33 will be given to the Deacons Fund in September We will now be depending on the Lewis Fund.

"Know therefore that the Lord thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love Him and keep His commandments to a thousand generations."

Deuteronomy 7:9

Blessings to you all,
MaryAnn



We are so blessed by the support of our church family. We thank everyone who places donations in our basket, and also to those of you who have given monetary donations as well.

We've had a busy year and the number of bundles will continue to grow, but as of now we are up to 170 bundles.

Sleepers and warmer clothing are always needed in sizes 0-3 months as well as 12 months, for both boys and girls. Thank you all!

If you have a mid-week prayer request for our e-mail prayer team please e-mail Jen Schoonover, schooent@ptd.net or call/text her at 570-534-5752.

Please bring in your Mignosi's Foodtown receipts.
There is a bin in the narthex for them.
Mignosi's generously donates 1% of the receipts minus a few ineligible items.
Thank you!

The *Our Daily Bread* devotional is always available in the narthex as well as large-print editions.

Feel free to take a copy and some extras for your friends and family.

The church receives points back from Staples for recycled ink cartridges, which we use for office supplies.

If you have any depleted ink cartridges, please consider leaving them in the church office mailbox located near the nursery or see Mary after the service.