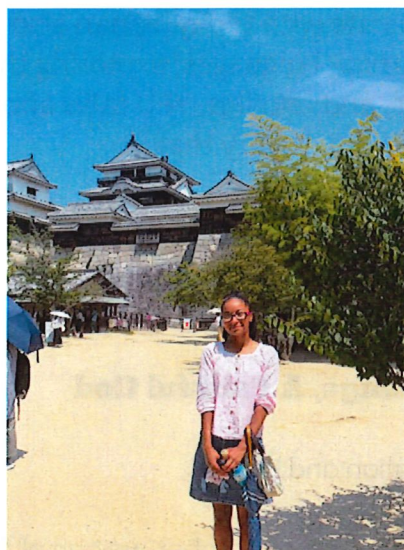




Reformed Church of Bushkill
5969 Milford Rd.
East Stroudsburg, PA 18302
570-588-6773 / bshklch@ptd.net
www.bushkillchurch.org (website)

"Striving to Do What Christ Tells Us through Scripture"



Hello! This summer, I was accepted by the YFU program and given a \$20,000 award to travel to Japan.

During my time there, I stayed with the Igarashi family, a family of three with many relatives. They were a very open and kind family, and we learned many things from each other from them teaching me Japanese, to me teaching them English, to long nights at the dinner table as my Okāsan told me about Japanese history.

Every day for school, I biked an hour from Tobe, Ehime, to Matsuyama, where I attended Matsuyama High School, Class 108. From learning how to navigate Japan alone on a bike or bus to talking with locals in Japanese, I learned so much.

Sometimes, as I walked through the halls, students would run up to me and try to communicate or become friends with me. It seemed like everybody knew my name, even though I was still trying to learn theirs.

Someone really important to me was my Okāsan, or my mom in Japanese. She never treated me any differently from the rest of the family and When we went to Hiroshima, she explained a lot of Hiroshima's history to me. She also taught me about Japanese traditions when we visited shrines and temples, like cleansing my hands before approaching the shrine. She brought me to many beautiful places throughout Ehime and taught me so much about Japan and its culture.

It also felt amazing being a teenager in Japan, going to cat cafés, hanging out with friends at festivals, and having late nights at Don Quijote.

Though definitely one of my favorite parts about Japan was after summer school. During summer school, school ended at around 12. I would bike into the city, explore stores and anime shops, and buy random things before biking back to school to attend club. At club, I met many students just like me, and we had really fun conversations including talking about anime. One of my favorite moments in Japan was my class party. All the students had brought snacks, and every single student in my class had written me a letter. Some students had also given me gifts. It was so nice to see how connected I had become with people I hadn't known for very long. It was crazy to think that I had only met them that summer.

Japan taught me much more than just how to navigate a new country. I expected to come back with souvenirs, anime figures, and maybe a few more Japanese vocabulary words. But I came back with much more than what could fit in my suitcase: new friends, adventures, confidence, and even another family that I still communicate with today. Japan also gave me new possibilities for my future and encouraged me to continue learning languages, exploring the world, and building bridges between different cultures, customs, traditions, and families. YFU talks about "making the world your home," and after this summer, I definitely feel like I did exactly that.

Thank you,
Analysia Cullum

A Season of Change, A Faithful God

Beloved Congregation and Friends,

As we step into the month of October, we can all feel the distinct shift in the air. The warm breeze of summer has given way to a crisp and familiar chill. The greenery above us is rapidly transforming into a beautiful canvas of brilliant oranges, deep reds, and vibrant yellows. Before long, these very leaves will drift gently to the ground, leaving the branches bare against the autumn sky.

To many, this season signifies a slowing down, a fading away, or the arrival of a cold and dark period. Yet, as a family of believers centered on God's Word, we view these changes through the lens of faith. Nature is putting on a spectacular display of God's perfect design and absolute control. The falling leaves remind us that there is a time and a purpose for every season under heaven. Even as the cold sets in, God is actively at work beneath the surface, preparing the earth for a future season of rest and eventual rebirth.

In our own lives, change can sometimes feel unsettling, much like the sudden drop in temperature. We face shifting circumstances, personal losses, or seasons of waiting. But we take great comfort in knowing that our Creator remains completely unchanged. He is our steady anchor. He is just as present and active in the cold, quiet moments of our autumns and winters as He is in the bright warmth of our springs and summers.

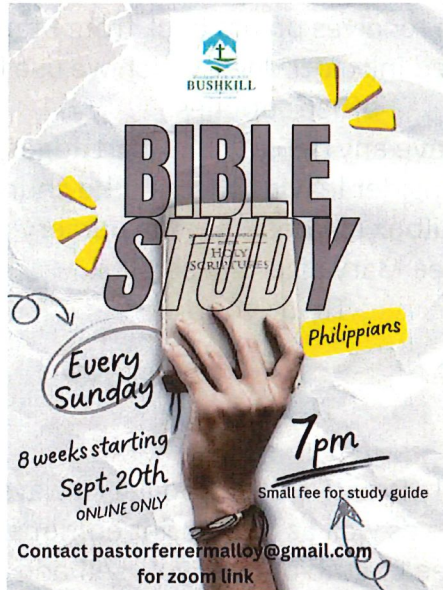
Let us use this month to slow down, reflect on His unwavering faithfulness, and look for unique ways He is moving among us. Take heart, stay warm, and let your faith be set ablaze even as the weather turns cold.

Come in from the cold and join us on Sundays for Bible study at 9:30 am followed by worship at 10:30 am and warm fellowship after service. Check out our other events on Facebook, our newsletter, or get on the office mail list.

May Christ be with you this season,
Pastor Marisol



On Sunday, October 4th, we will be serving
breakfast from 8:30-10:00 AM.
Come early and enjoy good food and
conversation with worship at 10:30.



The Philippians Bible study has
begun and it's not too late to join.
Although not necessary, if you'd
like a study guide, contact the
office for the link to purchase it.



The Happiest Birthday wishes go to:
Jonathan Schoonover - October 2
Dan Jiorle - October 7
Dawn Cullum - October 14

and Anniversary wishes to:
Steve & Jen Schoonover - October 12
Pastor Marisol & Paul - October 13 -
on 14 years together
Bob & Liz Craver

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

The Open Door is a great way to get the word out on what
your team is working on or upcoming events.
You can leave articles in the church office mailbox located
across from the nursery or you can email the church
office directly - bshklch@ptd.net.

On Sunday, October 25th, we will have an
"All Things Fall" theme for Fellowship Hour.
If you are able, please bring a favorite fall dessert
or side dish to share.

Work of the Spirit

But the fruit of the Spirit is
love
joy
peace
patience
kindness
goodness
faithfulness
gentleness
self-control;
against such things there is no law.
Galatians 5:22-23

Reformed Church of Bushkill Annual Retreat

What fruit are you producing?
FREE! Includes worship, guest
speaker, crafts, prayer,
workshops, lunch and goody
bag.

31 ST
OCTOBER 2026

5969 Milford Rd,
E. Stroudsburg, PA 18302
For more information: 570-588-6773
Like and follow on Facebook



The Angel's Closet is in our 25th year and we have made over 3,900 bundles since its beginning.

We are up to 127 bundles for this year so far.

We always appreciate the support of our church family; we are very blessed to be here. If you would like to help here are some things we could use:

size 3 diapers, wipes, sleepers in 0-12 months for boys and girls, new socks, new bibs, and receiving blankets.

A monetary donation is very appreciated and always put to good use. Thank you all!

If you'd like to make an appointment with Pastor Marisol, call the church office.

If you would like to be added to the e-mail prayer team or have a mid-week prayer request, please e-mail Jen Schoonover at schooent@ptd.net or call/text her at 570-534-5752.

Please bring in your Mignosi Foodtown receipts; there is a bin in the narthex. Mignosi's generously donates 1% of the receipts minus a few ineligible items.

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.

Thank you!

Our Daily Bread, a devotional, is always available as well as large-print editions. Feel free to grab one for yourself and for a friend.