Aston Press

Monthly Newsletter

October 2026 Events

October 4th - World Communion Sunday
October 12th - Columbus/Indigenous People's Day - Offices are Closed
October 25th - Reformation Sunday

Elder of the Month

James Coia

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Church Office Hours*

Erin Schuler Coia
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Mondays 10am - 2pm
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From the Pastor's Desk

Fall is in the air. Pumpkin Spice is everywhere. It's time to put away our summer clothes and get out sweaters.

We begin this month with World Communion Sunday when we celebrate communion along with Christians around the world. As is the custom here at Aston Presbyterian Church we will celebrate communion with breads from around the world. I always like to point out that World Communion Sunday was started at a Presbyterian Church and that church was in our state. World Communion Sunday first celebrated in 1933 at the Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, PA. It was adopted by our denomination at the General Assembly in 1936. The idea spread slowly to other denominations. Today it is an international ecumenical celebration of Christian unity that demonstrates the interconnectedness of Christian churches, regardless of denomination.

On October 31st most people celebrate Halloween. As Protestants though we remember the October 31st in 1517 when the German monk, Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenburg, Germany. For us the last Sunday in October, the 26th is Reformation Sunday. Martin Luther's action led to the Protestant Reformation and led to the recovery of the truth that salvation comes by grace alone through faith alone. In Ephesians 2:8-10 Paul writes, "[8] For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- [9] not by works, so that no one can boast. [10] For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." From this we can see that good works result from our faith they do not cause our salvation. It is not something we earn but is given to us by God's grace.

Let us pray unity among all Christians around the world. God's blessings to all, Rev. Christine

APC Committees

October Birthdays

October 9th - Brittany Wellbrock
October 12th - Caleb Wellbrock
October 13th - Donna Perryman
October 26th - Ruth Voss

October Anniversaries

October 26th -
Paul Kugelman & Pat Zebley

World Communion Sunday is Sunday, October 4th. The APC Bread Basket will be on display and available for all to share. We hope to see everyone.

Buildings & Grounds

Fall clean up is taking place, if interested, please see James Coia for dates and projects.

Mission Committee

OCTOBER - Church World Service - GOAT MONTH

During this month all funds collected through Cents-Ability and specified donations will go to Church World Service to supply animals, seeds, water and other necessities to those in need of creating a food supply for their families.

In past years the funds collected were sufficient to purchase a goat, bees for pollinating, chickens for laying eggs to feed a family but also to have sufficient eggs to sell them for other items needed by the family. Many options are available: goats; sheep; pigs; chickens and feed; beehives; seeds; food plants; shovels; water and containers to store it; school supplies and hygiene kits to name a few. Many options are available.

Perhaps you or your family would like to supply a specific item. A list of the cost for various items is available.

ANY AND ALL donations will provide needed food and other items to help sustain a family and/or their community.

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO TO SHARE GOD'S LOVE WITH OTHERS.

Once again, Fall is upon us with turning leaves, there is a crisp cool feel in the air that lifts our spirits and gives us God's promise of a great future. As we breathe in the cool crisp air of Fall, we pause to look back at past October's in our Worship and witness for Jesus Christ our Savior.

Five years ago -2021- Pastor Christine Callaway in her "From the Pastor's Desk Column" wrote about the beautiful colors of fall that show off God's creative work. She thanked the congregation for welcoming her to the ministry at Aston Presbyterian. She said that God in fall blesses all of His creation. Day Care events: October 21st -Trunk or Treat, October 29th-Halloween Parade.

Ten years ago - 2016- Pastor Graham Robinson in the "From the Pastor's Desk column" spoke about celebrating the gifts that endure forever. He quoted I John 2: 17, "The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever," Pastor Graham also said, "Praise God for a Church that leads us to gifts that endure forever." Day Care News: Storyteller Vicki Town visited a magician with a Halloween themed program performed for the students; a Halloween Parade was held followed by refreshments.

Fifteen years ago - 2011- Rev. Jane Ritterson wrote that Worldwide communion Sunday was when we join with our brothers and sisters around the world across Christ's Table. She also noted that she and Megan Kok would soon be going to Uganda on a peacemaking mission in November. Day Care News: October 5th- Apple Day, October 13th - APC Day Care Pride Day, October 18th - Trip to Highland Orchards, October 31st- Halloween Parade and Refreshments

Twenty years Ago -2006- Bill Schuler, Jr, in the "From the Clerk's Desk Column" wrote that the Session has hired the Rev. Diane Burkland to be our Stated Supply Pastor beginning in November. Day Care News: October 11th-a visit from the Green Ridge Fire Company, October 17th - APC Day Care Pride Day, later in October visits were made to Highland Orchards and to Colonial Plantation. A Halloween Parade and Refreshments was held at the end of the month. The Adult Class study for October was a video entitled: "The Authority of the Laity." Many of our congregation and teachers and students from the Day Care participated in the Aston Community Day Parade.

Twenty-five years ago -2001— Pastor Pam Cowan in her "From the Pastor's Hat Rack Column" wrote that the unseen hand of God folded in prayer was poised just above our heads and hearts watching over us. Day Care Events: students visited Arasapha Farms and also visited the Colonial Plantation. Johnny Appleseed Day, Picture Day, and the Halloween Parade were also celebrated. On October 14th, a blessing of the animals service was held... In October we celebrated with a Talent and Art Show.

Thirty years ago - 1996- Pastor Scott Cupp's "Ex Cathedra Column" spoke about World Communion Sunday bringing us together with our sisters and brothers around the Lord's Table. The Adult /class was studying the Gospel of Luke with Dick Hartranft as the teacher. The Flea Market was held on October 12th. Dave Nickey was honored by Sun Oil Company for 30 years' service.

Thirty-five years ago -1991- Pastor Scott Cupp in his "Ex Cathedra Column" wrote that we as a country need to do a better job of caring for unwanted children and we need to remember that these children are blessed by God in Christ. On October 13th Connie Nickey shared her slides and spoke about her year of studying in Spain. On October 19th, a Halloween Party was held for the children of the Church and the neighborhood. The Deacons "Who's Who Column" featured member Elizabeth Ivins who was June Sidoriak's mother.

Memories Continued on next page

Forty years ago -1986- Our Session was still searching for an Interim Pastor since our Pastor of twenty plus years, Bob Boell left in July to become Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Corning, New York. On World Communion Sunday we were led in Worship by Rev. John McAnlis. On Sunday October 19th Rev David Cassie of the Presbytery led our Worship. Connie Nickey and Jennifer John reported in the newsletter about their experiences as attendees at the 1986 Presbyterian Youth Triennium at Purdue University. Dave Nickey received two awards from the American Chemical Society. On October 12th Rev. Jean Meserve a candidate for our Interim Pastor position.

Forty-five years ago -1981- Pastor Bob Boell wrote that being a peacemaker was not an option for us as Christians. To be a Christian we must be peacemakers. On October 4th an Evening Fireside Vesper service was held with special music and a large bonfire. On October 18th, the Mariners held a Scavenger Hunt at various places in Aston Township. The Adult class study for October was: "What Do Presbyterians Believe" led by Fred Wiley. A mission supper was held on October 25th where Missionaries Alfred and Peggy Schlorhotz spoke about their mission work in West Pakistan.

Fifty years ago -1976- Our Junior and Senior choirs both received new robes. The old Senior Choir robes were given to a small church in Pemberton Ohio and the Junior /choir robes went to the First Presbyterian Church in Brooklyn, New York.

As the leaves turn to red and gold we the Church of Jesus Christ look forward to the opportunities to tell our communities about the Good News of Jesus' gift of forgiveness and love. May the following words from the first verse of Bill and Gloria Gather's Hymn "Because He Lives" inspire us in our witness for Jesus our Redeemer and Savior.

"God sent His son, they called Him Jesus, He came to love, heal, and forgive; He lived and died to buy my pardon, An empty grave is there to prove my savior lives."
Chorus: "Because He lives, I can face tomorrow, Because He lives all fear is gone; Because I know He holds the future. And life is worth living just because He lives."

Grace and Peace,

Bill Schuler, Jr.

Recipe of the Month
Sausage Tortellini Soup

Ingredients:
1 lb mild (or spicy) italian sausage
1 yellow onion, chopped
3 carrots, chopped
3 stalks celery, chopped
½ tsp black pepper
2 tsp italian seasoning
1 tsp salt
6 oz tomato paste
½ cup flour
7 cups beef broth
20 oz cheese tortellini
2 cups heavy cream
2 cups fresh spinach
½ cup grated parmesan (plus more for serving)

Instructions:

1. In a large stockpot over medium high heat, add onion and saute in olive oil for a minute before adding in the sausage. Cook for a minute or so and add spices. Continue to cook until browned.
2. Add carrot and celery and cook until vegetables soften
3. Stir in tomato paste and cook for about 5 minutes until fragrant
4. Sprinkle in flour and and stir fr a minute to cook the raw flour.
5. Gradually pour in the broth stirring well and bring to a boil. Redue to a simmer for about 5 minutes.
6. Stir in cream, tortellini, and spinach. Simmer until the tortellini is tender.
7. Finish with the parmesan ans stir until melted.
8. Serve and top with more parmesan cheese.

Aston Pres. Learning Center

October 2026 Learning Center Events

October 8th - Scarecrow Day
October 12th - School Closed for Columbus Day
October 13th - Halloween PJ Day
October 14th - Vision Screening
October 20th - Black and Orange Day
October 22nd - Trunk or Treat
October 28th - Pete the Cat Day
October 30th - Halloween Party/Parade

APC Learning Center

Happy October! So many things to look forward to this month as our little ones continue to adjust to school. Some special days we are looking forward to this month are Scarecrow Day, Fall PJ Day, Halloween Spirit Day, Black and Orange Day, Pete the Cat Day, and Halloween! So much fun to have! We are excited for Fire Prevention Week with our yearly visit from Aston Township FD as we get to explore emergency equipment and learn about fire safety. We are also looking forward to our Trunk or Treat night, and Halloween Parade that will be here before we know it. The learning center is already filled with the excitement of fall as our little ones are hard at work learning their Halloween songs that can be heard throughout the building! We hope you all have a fun, spooky, safe month ahead!

October is also a very special month for our Toddler Teacher, Ms. Vicky as she marries her high school sweetheart, Drew! The countdown is on; our little ones have been very excited practicing a song they sing with Ms. Vicky as she takes down chain links counting down the days until her wedding. It's adorable, and we are all excited!