



**Ashland Presbyterian Church**  
 116 Ashland Road  
 Cockeysville, MD 21030  
 Phone: 410-527-1844  
 The Rev. Shannon Meacham, Pastor  
 On the web at: [www.ashlandpc.org](http://www.ashlandpc.org)

# Ashland Church News

## November 2018

### *Pulpitshenanigans*

It's November and I should be writing a newsletter article about thanksgiving, about gratitude, and about family. In a way I am, but today it takes a slightly different turn.

Last week several bombs were mailed to former presidents and first ladies, sitting congress people and citizens affiliated with the Democratic Party, not simply putting the individuals in danger, but the mail carriers, truck drivers, and anyone who works in the warehouse facilities. In addition, two African Americans were killed while grocery shopping in Louisville, Kentucky and eleven people died in their place of worship in Pittsburgh.

Tragic. And God weeps for them.

I am reminded of a statement made by J. Herbert Nelson, the Stated Clerk of the PCUSA a few years ago in the aftermath of Charlottesville:

*We acknowledge that Scripture has been misused to justify white supremacy and racism. However, we proclaim that the Bible's message presents a far more consistent and insistent witness to God's love for diversity and justice. This may be observed in God's delight in the varied creation; heard in the words of prophets who reject oppression and commend justice as true worship; seen in the life and ministry of Jesus Christ, who values all persons regardless of any aspect of their identity; and experienced through the work of the Holy Spirit, who consistently blows through all the divisions we create, to reveal God's love for all humanity.*

These words are still true today and unfortunately need to be said again.

As we enter this November, we begin our Stewardship Season and our 2019 theme "Abundant Joy, Overflowing Generosity". And I am reminded to "hold tight to what is good, return no one evil for evil."

**Clerk of Session**  
 Bob Williams

**Church Treasurer**  
 Pamela Caras

**Financial Secretary**  
 Cathy Griffiths

**Session Members**  
2018-2020  
 Jerry DeBoer  
 Rene Florendo  
 Tom Griffiths  
 Will Nassau  
 Jacquie Sasser  
 Carla Ulgen  
 John Walter

**Pre-school Director**  
 Anne Auvil

**Organist & Music Director**  
 Sheila Slade-Lee

**Office Manager**  
 Cecil Weber



Ashland Presbyterian Church  
 @AshlandPresbyterianChurch

## ***Pulpitshenanigans (continued)***

We must mourn the chaos of our country, our community and our world. We must have a moment to allow the gravity to overcome us; we must shake our heads in hopelessness. For a moment.

I hold tight to the idea that Jesus waited three days from his death until his resurrection. This cornerstone of our faith is a reminder that we cannot skip over grief. It does us no good to stick our heads in the sand or cover over tragedy with platitudes. But mourning lasts only for a time, and joy comes in the morning.

On the third day Jesus rose from the dead.

On the third day it was time to get back to work and promote the mission and ministry of God. There is a time for mourning and grief, and it is an important time, but we must also move beyond it, with help.

And where does our help come from? Our help comes from the Lord who made heaven and earth.

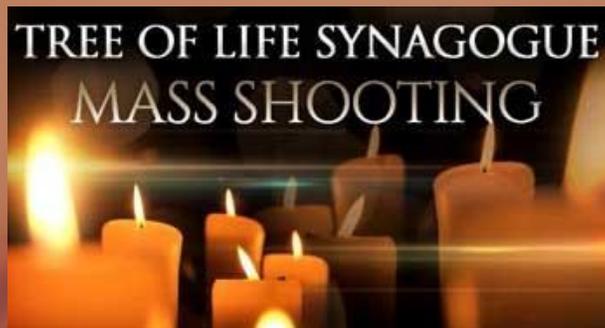
So live into hope after grief. All is not lost.

It's a busy month and I would ask if you feel the enormity of the world's grief, then come to worship and gather with your community so we can share our burdens and our hopes together.

On November 11 we will celebrate Stewardship Commitment Sunday. One of our youth, Amy Eshelman, will give a Stewardship message on where she has found Abundant Joy and Overflowing Generosity here at Ashland. On November 25 we will celebrate our faith through Thanksgiving together in worship.

Join us, all is not lost.

In Christ,  
*Pastor Shannon*



**Please pray for the survivors and the families of those who fell victim to Saturday's shooting at Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, PA:**

*Pray for hate in our country to dissipate . . .*

*Pray for hardened hearts to yield . . .*

*Pray for our broken world to heal .*



**On Sunday, November 11, we will celebrate Stewardship Sunday with a special service at 10:30 am Worship. 2019 will be a “Year of Joy” for the congregation so we kick off our Stewardship Campaign “*Abundant Joy, Overflowing Generosity.*”**

**During the service, we will hear from one of our youth who will share a stewardship message of finding abundant joy and overflowing generosity at Ashland. Special and joyful music will be provided by Greg Small and a Jazz Combo.**

**A stewardship packet was mailed this week. Your packet includes a letter from the pastor, a four day devotional, and a commitment card. Please take the time to read the pastor’s letter and the devotional. Then complete your commitment card. Bring the commitment card with you to worship on Sunday, November 11 or you can mail it to the office.**

**Together, as a community, we can fill Ashland with  
Abundant Joy and Overflowing Generosity!**



**Hello and Happy Fall! Hope everyone is enjoying the crisp weather.**

**In October, 3rd quarter statements, with a reminder of your 2018 commitment (if you made one) were mailed. Your financial giving supports the vital needs of our building, operations, ministry and mission projects. Please compare this information with your records for accuracy and if you have specific questions about your statement, please contact Cecil, our Office Manager, who keeps the confidential records of contributions.**

**Unfortunately, as of the end of September (3<sup>rd</sup> quarter) we are in the negative to support the requirements for the budget by about \$10,000 for operating and mission. We know this is starting to become a very busy time of the year, so you if you can look at your family budget and, if you are financially able to, please consider helping make up this shortfall. Thank you for your all your contributions and support you have given this year and in the past.**

**Peace,  
Cathy Griffiths  
Financial Secretary**

## Town Hall Meeting



A Town Hall Meeting was held on Sunday, October 21 after Worship. The purpose of the Town Hall was to talk about Pastor Shannon's upcoming sabbatical leave in 2019. Here is the sabbatical timeline:

### Pastor Shannon's Time Away

#### **April 22-28, 2019- "There has to be a Beach in this somewhere." -myself**

My journey will begin at Rehoboth Beach in Delaware. This will be a time of rest and enjoying the restorative waves from the ocean. I will spend a week in a solo retreat catching up on sleep, tuning out the responsibilities of work and home, while walking the beach and communing with God.

#### **April 29-May 19, 2019- "Home, where my thought's escaping, home, where my music's playing, home, where my love lies waiting silently for me." -Simon & Garfunkel**

My husband and I have worked hard to make our home a retreat. Our children will still be in school so this month at home will allow me to truly embrace a time of renewal and to reconnect with my family in our home environment. I will meet with a spiritual director, practice my music and photography, including putting aside time for hikes for some outdoor photography.

#### **May 20-May 31, 2019 - "Rejoice in the Lord Always, Again, I say Rejoice." -Philippians 4:4**

The next two weeks my husband (also a pastor) and I will "Journey to Greece" (literally the name of the tour!). The tour will be a mixture of cultural experiences such as touring ancient churches, listening to local music, and rest. I believe that ancient places like this have a "soul" to them and this "soul" can radiate and cleanse a weary heart and bring joy. Through the spiritual discipline of photography, I will capture the journey to show the congregation when I return.

#### **June 4-July 1, 2019 - "When there is love in the home, there is joy in the heart." - The sages of Pinterest**

I will spend another three weeks at home while I rest from our life-changing journey to Greece, help the kids finish up their year in school, and continue the spiritual practices begun before the trip.

#### **July 2-10, 2019- "Think of all the joy you'll find when you leave the world behind and bid your cares goodbye." -Peter Pan**

There is no joy as infectious as seeing my children happy and excited! Our children (two girls and two boys between the ages of 5-10) will be ecstatic to see their favorite characters come to life! All six of us would travel to Disney World in Orlando, Florida for a 5-day Disney Cruise. This will be a journey of a lifetime for all of us!

#### **July 11-August 1, 2019 "There's No Place like Home." - Dorothy, The Wizard of OZ**

Recover from Disney and continue spiritual disciplines.

#### **August 2-5, 2019 "A Jazz musician is expressive, intensely feels, fervently articulates & adventurously journeys into the unknown to create their world." - Anonymous**

To celebrate the conclusion of the sabbatical time my husband and I will travel to the Newport Jazz Festival, in Newport, Rhode Island. My husband and I connected over jazz and music, along with our love of God and community. Jazz is arguably the most creative form of music and live music often is a worship experience for me and makes my soul come alive.

## Pastor Shannon's Time Away (continued)

**August 6-11, 2019 "I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete." John 5:11**

The last week of my time of renewal will be spent at home in prayer and thanksgiving, preparing to send the kids back to school and to return to work, refreshed and renewed in joy. I will start the process of re-entry into full-time ministry. I will speak to my spiritual director for guided reflection on how to keep the healthy practices of my sabbatical time going when I return to church.

### Congregational Timeline

"Joy is the infallible sign of the presence of God." – Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

During the 16 weeks' time of renewal, we have structured our time prayerfully; we will spend time in fellowship with our church family, experiencing our Journey of Joy. Our congregation plans to hire a "Renewal Pastor" for the sabbatical Time. The hope is to live into being Easter people through a "Journey of Joy." We will also have area artists. These artists will be special musicians from the Baltimore area, a painter and sand artist to do visual art during the worship services and Biblical Storyteller to fully embody scripture. Each artist or pastor will be asked to share with us the joy they find in their artistic ministry.

Members of the sabbatical team will have a system of contact in place allowing the congregation's needs to be met to sustain the healthy boundary of no contact while Pastor Shannon is on sabbatical.

We also have planned two fellowship events, one at the beginning and one at the end of Pastor Shannon's time of renewal. This joyous festival at the beginning will be the week after Pastor Shannon leaves for her time of renewal and will give us an opportunity to joyously welcome our "Renewal Pastor." The second, a "Welcome Home" party, will be upon Pastor Shannon's return. She will share stories of her trip to Greece, and we will ask our local Greek restaurant to cater and hire a band to play live music. We believe, like the disciples, that joy and celebration are linked in good food and fellowship.

*Awakening to the fresh dawn of the morning  
Not knowing what new paths this day will bring,  
But trusting in His gentle hands to guide you  
Just as He cares for every mortal thing,  
And stumbling forth find strength you lacked so badly  
Stream in to give a sense of fullness.*

*With dusk the toil of day brings healthy tiredness,  
And climbing stairs one wonders all the more  
How many friends perhaps you'll meet tomorrow  
And what life's traveling onwards has in store.  
How often, then, to lie as sleep steals over  
And count the blessings that He brings to you,  
Through people who are happy just to serve Him.*



**On Sunday, November 11, Special Music welcome Greg Small & Jazz Combo who will share their talents with us at Worship at 10:30 am. which is Stewardship Sunday. Here is information about the members of the group:**

**Greg Thompkins, Saxophone**

Hailed as "...one of Baltimore's premier tenor saxophonists..." by the Baltimore Sun, Greg has performed with the Allmighty Senators, Lafayette Gilchrist and the New Volcanoes, the Baltimore AfroBeat Society, and many others. An active educator, he is currently on the faculty of Music and Arts (Ellicott City, Timonium, Arundel Mills), where he maintains an active private studio of saxophone students. In 2007, Greg co-founded the Baltimore Jazz Education Project (BJEP), a nonprofit that seeks to raise funds to musically educate undeserved youth in the greater Baltimore area. He holds a Bachelor of Music from Towson University. Please visit [www.rolandparkjazz.com](http://www.rolandparkjazz.com) and [www.jazzbjep.com](http://www.jazzbjep.com) for more information.

**Greg Small, Piano**

An active pianist and trumpeter in the area, Greg has performed with trumpeter Chris Gekker, saxophonist Chris Vadala, Jazz One, the Potomac Jazz Project, and many others. In 2010, he released "Singularity," a solo piano recording of largely original music. A committed educator, Greg maintains a thriving teaching studio at Music and Arts (Ellicott City, Laurel). He holds degrees from the University of Maryland, College Park (Master of Music, Jazz Piano), Towson University (Bachelor of Science, Psychology), and Shepherd University (Bachelor of Arts, Trumpet). Please visit [www.gregsmall.net](http://www.gregsmall.net) for more information.

**Jeff Reed, Bass**

One of the most in-demand side musicians in the area, Jeff has been described by Downbeat Magazine as playing with "...deliberation using rubato and artfully applied glissandi to infer breath, or perhaps sighs of sadness." Appearing on nearly 30 albums, he has worked extensively with bass clarinetist Todd Marcus, multi-instrumentalist Warren Wolf, and NYC-based guitarist Kevin Clark, among many others. Currently an adjunct faculty member at Towson University, Jeff holds a Master of Music from the University of Maryland, College Park, and a Bachelor of Music from Towson University. Please visit [www.jeffreedbass.com](http://www.jeffreedbass.com) for more information.

**Chuck Ferrell, Drums**

Often referred to as "the quiet drummer," Chuck has been playing professionally since the age of 14. After receiving a Bachelor of Music from Virginia Commonwealth University, Chuck left his native Virginia to begin a thriving performing career in the Baltimore-Washington area. In addition to work with bassists Keter Betts and Gary Grainger, pianist Lafayette Gilchrist, vocalist Melba Moore, and many others, Chuck is also a dedicated educator, maintaining an active private studio of percussion students at Music and Arts (Ellicott City). In 2010, he co-authored the book Groove Theory: A Comprehensive Guide for the Drum Set Percussionist. Please visit [www.chuckferrelldrums.com](http://www.chuckferrelldrums.com) for more information.

**Looking Ahead:**

**Sunday, December 23 Brass Reflections**  
**Sunday, January 13 Kuznik Violin and Cello Duo**



**Do you like to sing but can't commit to joining the choir full-time? Would you like to sing for the Christmas Cantata on Sunday, December 9? Contact choir director Sheila Slade-Lee at [sheiasladelee@gmail.com](mailto:sheiasladelee@gmail.com) or talk with her on Sunday after Worship.**

# CHURCH NEWS

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4 SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30 AM;  
WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION 10:30 AM; FELLOWSHIP AFTER WORSHIP;  
DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS**

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11 STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY; SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30 AM; WORSHIP  
10:30 AM WITH SPECIAL MUSIC: GREG SMALL & JAZZ COMBO;  
FELLOWSHIP AFTER WORSHIP**

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18 SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30 AM; WORSHIP 10:30 AM;  
FELLOWSHIP AFTER WORSHIP;**

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 25 SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30 AM;  
THANKSGIVING WORSHIP SERVICE 10:30 AM; FELLOWSHIP AFTER WORSHIP**

## POINSETTIA SIGN UP

**Poinsettias will once again decorate our sanctuary on Christmas Eve. Sign up sheets are on the table in the hallway. Choices are 7" poinsettias in either white, red or pink. The cost per poinsettia is \$18.00. We need to place our orders by November 25. You can sign up now and pay later if you need to! Both checks and cash are acceptable. Checks should be made out to Ashland Presbyterian Church; please note on the check it is for poinsettias.**



## 2019 CUBA ENCUENTRO

The Presbytery of Baltimore's partnership with El Centro Presbytery in Cuba invites you to attend its 6th Bi-annual Gathering to be held February 15-22, 2019. Spend three days as a guest of one of El Centro's 13 congregations and then gather with the group for four days of celebration, worship and study.

The conference is ideal for those who wish to explore a Cuban church-to-church partnership alongside congregations who've established relationships with our Cuban sisters and brothers.

Cost: \$1200 all expenses included;  
\$ 300 deposit required.

Deadline for registration and deposit:

Thursday, Nov. 15, 2018

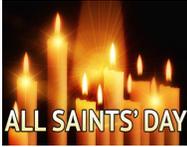
Contact: Susan Krehbiel, 410.433.2012 ext. 151/  
skrehbiel@baltimorepresbytery.org



**Sunday School 9:30 am  
Worship 10:30 am  
Fellowship after Worship**

**WEEKLY EVENTS ...**

Sundays	Special Needs Troop #927 2:00 p.m.; Church of the Nazarene 5:00—7:00 p.m.
Mondays	Daisy Troop #1623 6:00-8:00 pm
Tuesdays	Daisy Troop #625 6:00-7:00 p.m.; Church of the Nazarene Choir Practice 7:30—9:30 p.m.
Wednesdays	Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings 8:30 p.m.
Thursdays	Contemporary Worship Practice 6:30 p.m.-7:30 pm; Chancel Choir: 7:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
Fridays	Church of the Nazarene 7:30 pm -9:30 p.m.—2:00 a.m.
Saturday	Alcoholic Anonymous Svc. Mtg. 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Church of the Nazarene 7:30-9:30 p.m.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 	2	3
4 Sunday School 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am 	5 Project Linus 9:30 am	6 	7	8	9	10
<b>Pastor Shannon Away</b>						
11 Sunday School 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am <b>Stewardship Sunday</b> <b>Special Music Greg</b> <b>Small &amp; Jazz Combo</b>	12	13 Session 6:30 pm	14	15	16	17
<b>Pastor Shannon Away</b>						
18 Sunday School 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am	19	20	21 Newsletter Deadline	22 	23	24 Sarah's Hope 2-5 pm
<b>Office Closed</b>						
25 Sunday School 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am <b>Thanksgiving Liturgy</b> 	26	27	28	29	30	

# ASHLAND CHURCH FAMILY CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays	Anniversaries	Deacon/Elder Ordination Anniversaries
11/01 <i>Susan Williams</i> 11/05 <i>Sandy Losemann</i> 11/08 <i>Priscilla Barrett</i> 11/10 <i>Yvonne Fausnaugh</i> 11/11 <i>Mary Thompson</i> 11/12 <i>Harriet Cole</i> 11/15 <i>Julie Wagner</i> 11/16 <i>Julee Ward</i> 11/22 <i>Kim Aspden</i> 11/25 <i>Sarah Beckwith</i> 11/26 <i>Penny DeBoer</i>	11/28 <i>Jacque &amp; Bill Sasser</i>	<i>None this month</i>

## ASSIGNMENTS

2018	November
<b>USHERS/ GREETERS</b>	11/4 <b>Laura Ward</b> <b>Joanna Shang</b>  11/11 11/18 11/25
<b>SERVERS</b>	11/4
<b>LITURGIST</b>	11/11 <b>Sue Ruhl</b>
<b>VAN DRIVERS</b>	11/4 <b>Jerry DeBoer</b> 11/11 <b>Butch Zink</b> 11/18 <b>Bob Hensley</b> 11/25 <b>Bob Hensley</b>
<b>FELLOWSHIP</b>	11/4 11/11 11/18 11/25

*Why not become more involved in Worship? Sign up to be an usher/greeter, liturgist or server. Sign up sheets are on the table in the hallway.*



### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The Uptown Metro Coalition in conjunction with the Episcopal Coalition has a list of opportunities for working at Habitat in the coming months.

Volunteer dates are:

**Saturday, November 10**

**Friday, November 30**

**Saturday, November 17**

**Saturday, December 1**

If anyone in the congregation is interested in one or more of these days to give some of their time to this mission, please contact **Dick Uhler** and he will get you involved in that day and project. Thank you for your support and prayers.



*Daylight Saving Time ends at  
2 a.m.  
on November 4.  
Don't forget to turn your clocks  
back one hour.*

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