

CONNECTIONS

Web Site: www.annandalereformedchurch.org

Our Mission Statement

We are a family in Christ called together by the Holy Spirit to serve God in our community. We are placed here to worship, to nurture and serve, all to make the joyous life in Jesus Christ more accessible to our neighbors.

October 2022

Vol 32, No 10

Pastor's Monthly Notes

Hello Faith Family,

Happy Fall! Have you asked, "Where did the summer go" or "Where has this year gone"? These are the statements I find myself making throughout the year, every year! So, here is our reminder to appreciate every gathering, every person, every moment!

How do we do this? How do we appreciate? I think we can cultivate mindfulness, which is sort of like the time and place where appreciation flowers. There are books written on mindfulness, so I may not do it justice in this format. But you experience this too, right? Does it help you when you approach your days with an increased awareness of just how special our time here on this earth is? I think so. It helps us to have more appreciation for God's blessings, more gratitude. Does this sound like prayer? I think so...the kind of prayer where you finish talking and rest in God's presence for a moment, a minute, or more. Mindfulness is even in the kind of prayer where you are walking in the brisk air appreciating the beauty of God's creation.

On the other side of that coin, making effort toward mindfulness can also give you regret as you evaluate your tendency to get caught up in the trouble, the race of this world. Though regret is not pleasant, it helps us to

understand ourselves a bit better and re-orient once again.

I'm not suggesting that living "mindfully" is somehow going to make time stop. Time marches on and we will again say, "Where did the time go?". This is just a simple reminder to make the most of this elusive time God has blessed us with. Before you know it, we will be saying, "Where did the fall go?". Let's make the most of it by appreciating every gathering, every person, every moment! I'm so grateful for you and look forward to worshipping the Lord together next Sunday!

*In Christ,
Rick*

Psalm 90

¹ Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. ²Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. ³You turn us back to dust, and say, "Turn back, you mortals." ⁴For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past, or like a watch in the night. ⁵ You sweep them away; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning; ⁶in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers. ⁷ For we are consumed by your anger; by your wrath we are overwhelmed.

⁸You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your countenance. ⁹For all our days pass away under your wrath; our years come to an end like a sigh. ¹⁰ The days of our life are seventy years, or perhaps eighty, if we are strong; even then their span is only toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away. ¹¹ Who considers the power of your anger? Your wrath is as great as the fear that is due you. ¹²So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart. ¹³Turn, O LORD! How long? Have compassion on your servants! ¹⁴. Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days. ¹⁵ Make us glad as many days as you have afflicted us, and as many years as we have seen evil. ¹⁶ Let your work be manifest to your servants, and your glorious power to their children. ¹⁷ Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and prosper for us the work of our hands— O prosper the work of our hands!

Children's Church/Education

Hello! It's hard to believe that September is ending already. We have had a great time getting reconnected again after a short break over the summer. On September 11th, we learned about God's ultimate plan for the world and how He takes something bad meant for evil and turns it around for good. What an amazing God we serve! The following Sundays, we learned more about God's transformational story that brings us out of sin, washes us clean, creates a new life for us, and ultimately brings us to eternal life with Him. We are excited to move into discovering the needs of different people groups around the world and how God's plan reaches them. We are also excited to take part in the creation of fall care packages for our college students. God gives us so much and we are excited to give back and love on our older students!

Pastor Appreciation Month

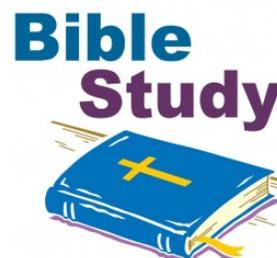


All of **October** is celebrated as Clergy Appreciation Month. **Clergy Appreciation Day** is always the second Sunday in **October**. It is **Oct. 9** this year.

Take a moment during this month to write or e-mail a short appreciation message to Pastor Rick and his family.

*Thanks Pastor Rick, Jessica, and family
for all you do for our Faith Family!*

Woman's Bible Study



We had our first (four week) Zoom Ladies Bible Study this past Tuesday evening. It was a wonderful time of sharing what it means to live by faith.

This week's focus is on truth.

We'll be meeting again (through Zoom) this coming Tuesday, October 4th, from 7-8 pm. Roxanne Alpaugh has organized this study (we are so grateful!) and is the contact person if you'd like the link to join the meeting. roxannealpaugh65@gmail.com



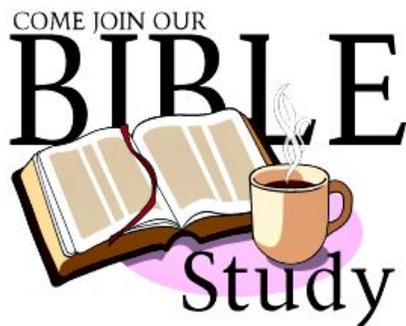
Kid's Korner

The first few weeks of September I revisited our Faith Steps. These were in preparation for when Children's Church started. On the 11th we talked about making sure God was a part of our story and on the 18th, we discussed making him the author of that story. We will finish September with what things will make us have a great story

In October we will talk about ways to make our story one that reflects God's word.

Below is a link to help you remember our message

<https://pin.it/28Ctt6M>



Men's Bible Study meets each Thursday at 9:00 am in the church sanctuary.

The study is 45 minutes long and has a Biblical focus with real world application.

We have ordered books to guide us in the meetings.

Come join us. Coffee is available.

Worship

World Communion



This month we highlight World Communion Sunday. *World Communion* Sunday is a celebration observed by several Christian denominations, taking place annually on the first Sunday of October, which promotes Christian unity and ecumenical co-operation.



Music Ministry

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=crglRDh6laA>

Here's a song that reflects the breadth and power of our Lord's Communion service.

**“Not Angie’s List”, but
“ARC’s List”**

Notary Public:
Chip Riddle: 908-735-5743

Auto Repair:
Quality Auto Service Center, LLC
All makes & models autos (and
boats and planes)
Contact Owner/Operator
Rick Lebbing: 908-806-6014

Directory Update



Please take a few minutes to review your information in the 2022 Directory. If there are any changes, additions, or corrections, please let Joyce know **before November 30th**. We are preparing the directory for 2023.

**From the Mouths of
Babes**

THE WATER PISTOL

When my three-year-old son opened the birthday gift from his grandmother, he discovered a water pistol. He squealed with delight and headed for the nearest sink. I was not so pleased. I turned to mom and said, "I'm surprised at you. Don't you remember how we used to drive you crazy with water guns?"

Mom smiled and then replied, "I remember!!"



Little Davie watched, fascinated, as his mother smoothed cold cream on her face.

"Why do you do that, mommy?" he asked.

"To make myself beautiful," said his mother, who then began removing the cream with a tissue.

"What's the matter?" asked Little Davie. "Giving up?"

**Updated Guidelines for Mask &
Social Distancing.**

Consistory has posted the protocol for mask wearing based on the CDC level of risk.

The level of risk is posted each week on the table as you enter the narthex.

At present we are in the low level. Masks are optional

Blessings,

LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • → Masks optional • → Food can be in the building 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • → Masks recommended for adults • → Masks required while singing • → Masks required for children and teachers • → Food outside only 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • → Masks mandatory always • → No food

STAY HEALTHY



We want you all to keep healthy. Don't forget we have the hand sanitizer in the narthex f

LADIES SOCIETY

The ladies will meet for lunch and devotions on Wed. **Oct. 5th** at Franks - 12 Noon. All ladies are welcome to attend.

"I am." is the shortest complete sentence in the English language.

Missions

For the month of October, the Mission Committee will be sending a monetary donation to WAWZ 99.1 radio station

*Don't forget our "52 week a year",
Food pantry
ministry.*



*One can from each of us each week will
make the difference to so many.*

*Thank you for your
ongoing support*



Outreach and Hospitality

College Care Packages



We will be sending our 3 college students a Halloween care package.

Would you like to help fill their box with goodies, small fun items, and notes of encouragements?



Please bring your giftings by Sunday, October 16th. There will be a container marked College Care for you to place your items. We will then box them Monday, October 17th. and send them out.

RCA Global Mission Box from Oman has arrived!

This coming **Sunday, October 2nd, World Communion Sunday**, there will be a display with information and special items from this nation of peoples. Please take a moment to see where you can make a difference with prayers and a financial donation. A basket will be placed for any donation amount and will be sent to help these missionaries to make a difference, in Christ's love, through hospitality, to this Muslim nation.

Equipping the Saints

Workshops for church leaders and volunteers

Saturday October 22, 9am-12pm

Three Bridges Reformed Church
Coffee and snacks available at 8:30

RSVP: [Email Pastor Dawn](mailto:PastorDawn@threebridges.org) to say you're coming and if you know what workshops you're interested in, let us know that (so we can plan the right size room!)

Join us for a morning of learning and discovery! We are planning plenary sessions and workshops that cover a wide variety of topics that will help you sharpen your skills as a church leader or volunteer. Here is a look at the workshops so far:

Consistory 101

Whether you're a brand new elder or deacon or you've served on Consistories for several terms, this workshop will remind us of the role and goal of being an Elder or Deacon.

Stewardship and Finances

Learn about the best practices regarding church finances

VP corner

Are you a VP? Don't miss this chance to speak frankly with other VPs.

The Life cycle of a church

Everything has a life cycle, including organizations. Where is your church in its lifecycle?

Worship Planning - alongside or in the absence of a pastor

What goes into planning a worship service? Perhaps you serve on your church's worship committee and would like to understand more about planning worship. Or maybe your church is in transition or about to go into transition without a pastor. Let's take a look at planning worship.

Churches in Transition

What happens when a church is in transition? When a pastor leaves for a new call? When a pastor retires? What is supervision exactly?



Sunday, **November 6**, 2022, 2:00:00 am
clocks are turned backward 1 hour to
Sunday, November 6, 2022, 1:00:00 am
local standard time instead.

Remember when you go to bed on Saturday
the 5th to set your clock back 1 hour and
enjoy that extra hour of sleep.

Speaking of clocks.....Since all
the clocks in the church are battery run we
have no way of knowing if we have had a
power outage or not. The lights on the ramp
are on a timer and when there is a power
outage, we need to adjust the clock on the
timer for those lights. If you have a small
electric clock that you no longer need, we
would love to have it so we will know when
there is an outage.

Youth Night

Youth Night is up and running again! It's
amazing how much middle and high
schoolers grow over the course of a month or
two!



Youth night is open to grades 6-12. All youth
are welcome to attend. We have also opened
our meetings to Lebanon Reformed and High
Bridge Reformed youth. We'll continue to
meet in the lower level of the church. Our
evenings begin with games followed by
eating pizza and finally ending with a
meaningful lesson. Parents can drop their 6th-
12th grader(s) off at the church (near the
lower-level entrance at 6:30) and come back
at 8:00.

We have made Youth Night open to our
friends at High Bridge Reformed Church and
Lebanon Reformed Church. We are looking
for additional volunteers who feel God has
given them the gifts to share with these
kids. If you, or someone you know might
feel led, please reach out to either Jessica or
Rick at 908-310-1310

You Know You're Living in 2022, when

You accidentally enter your password on the
microwave.

You haven't played solitaire with real cards
in years.

You have a list of 15 phone numbers to reach your family of 3.

Your reason for not staying in touch with friends and family is that they don't have e-mail addresses.

You pull up in your own driveway and use your cell phone to see if anyone is home to help you carry in the groceries.

Leaving the house without your cell phone, which you didn't have the first 20 or 30 (or 60) years of your life, is now a cause for panic and you turn around to go and get it.

You get up in the morning and go online before getting your coffee

Two Choices

What would you do...you make the choice. Don't look for a punch line, there isn't one. Read it anyway. My question is: Would you have made the same choice?

>

At a fundraising dinner for a school that serves children with learning disabilities, the father of one of the students delivered a speech that would never be forgotten by all who attended. After extolling the school and its dedicated staff, he offered a question:

'When not interfered with by outside influences, everything nature does, is done with perfection. Yet my son, Shay, cannot learn things as other children do. He cannot understand things as other children do. Where is the natural order of things in my son?

The audience was stilled by the query.

The father continued. 'I believe that when a child like Shay, who was mentally and physically disabled comes into the world, an opportunity to realize true human nature presents itself, and it comes in the way other people treat that child.'

Then he told the following story: Shay and I had walked past a park where some boys Shay knew were playing baseball. Shay asked, 'Do you think they'll let me play?' I knew that most of the boys would not want someone like Shay on their team, but as a father I also understood that if my son were allowed to play, it would give him a much-needed sense of belonging and some confidence to be accepted by others in spite of his handicaps.

I approached one of the boys on the field and asked (not expecting much) if Shay could play. The boy looked around for guidance and said, 'We're losing by six runs and the game is in the eighth inning. I guess he can be on our team and we'll try to put him in to bat in the ninth inning.'

Shay struggled over to the team's bench and, with a broad smile, put on a team shirt. I watched with a small tear in my eye and warmth in my heart. The boys saw my joy at my son being accepted.

In the bottom of the eighth inning, Shay's team scored a few runs but was still behind by three.

In the top of the ninth inning, Shay put on a glove and played in the right field. Even though no hits came his way, he was obviously ecstatic just to be in the game and on the field, grinning from ear to ear as I waved to him from the stands.

In the bottom of the ninth inning, Shay's team scored again.

Now, with two outs and the bases loaded, the potential winning run was on base, and Shay was scheduled to be next at bat.

At this juncture, do they let Shay bat and give away their chance to win the game?

Surprisingly, Shay was given the bat. Everyone knew that a hit was all but impossible because Shay didn't even know how to hold the bat properly, much less connect with the ball.

However, as Shay stepped up to the plate, the pitcher, recognizing that the other team was putting winning aside for this moment in Shay's life, moved in a few steps to lob the ball in softly so Shay could at least make contact.

The first pitch came, and Shay swung clumsily and missed. The pitcher again took a few steps forward to toss the ball softly towards Shay.

As the pitch came in, Shay swung at the ball and hit a slow ground ball right back to the pitcher. The game would now be over. The pitcher picked up the soft grounder and could have easily thrown the ball to the first baseman.

Shay would have been out and that would have been the end of the game. Instead, the pitcher threw the ball right over the first baseman's head, out of reach of all teammates.

Everyone from the stands and both teams started yelling, 'Shay, run to first! Run to first!'

Never in his life had Shay ever run that far, but he made it to first base. He scampered down the baseline, wide-eyed and startled.

Everyone yelled, 'Run to second, run to second!'

Catching his breath, Shay awkwardly ran towards second, gleaming and struggling to make it to the base.

By the time Shay rounded towards second base, the right fielder had the ball. The smallest guy on their team who now had his first chance to be the hero for his team.

He could have thrown the ball to the second-baseman for the tag, but he understood the pitcher's intentions so he, too, intentionally threw the ball high and far over the third-baseman's head.

Shay ran toward third base deliriously as the runners ahead of him circled the bases toward home.

All were screaming, 'Shay, Shay, Shay, all the Way Shay'

Shay reached third base because the opposing shortstop ran to help him by turning him in the direction of third base, and shouted, 'Run to third! Shay, run to third!'

As Shay rounded third, the boys from both teams, and the spectators, were on their feet screaming, 'Shay, run home! Run home!'

Shay ran to home, stepped on the plate, and was cheered as the hero who hit the grand slam and won the game for his team.

'That day', said the father softly with tears now rolling down his face, 'the boys from both teams helped bring a piece of true love and humanity into this world'.

Shay didn't make it to another summer. He died that winter, having never forgotten being the hero and making me so happy, and coming home and seeing his Mother tearfully embrace her little hero of the day!

We all have thousands of opportunities every single day to help realize the 'natural order of things.' So many seemingly trivial interactions between two people present us with a choice:

Do we pass along a little spark of love and humanity, or do we pass up those opportunities and leave the world a little bit colder in the process?

A wise man once said every society is judged by how it treats it's least fortunate amongst them.

Prayer Power (Article 4)

Romans 8:26

“In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our

weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. “

Paul continuously faced unimaginable trials. What kept him going? He knew when he couldn't pray, the Spirit faithfully prayed for him.

When you are feeling discouraged, read Romans 8. Be encouraged. The Holy Spirit is praying for you. What a pretty powerful prayer partner!

Bills travel through the mail at twice the speed of checks.



- 10-01 Savannah Exley
- 10-02 Rebecca Carvatt
- 10-08 Michelle Betza
Julia Brock
- 10-10 Jennette Betza
Rick Lebbing
- 10-15 Marc Farley
- 10-16 Jeffrey Steele
- 10-16 Craig Hughes
- 10-20 Cassandra Collucci

**Send contributions for
Connections to Joyce Murphy at
joyce@murphy.org**

**Next Issue
Oct. 31st
Contribution Deadline
Oct. 18th**



**Google Group Email for Prayer
Concerns & Internet Password**

To access the Google Group email, the address is arc7218@googlegroups.com
ARCGuest WiFi password is faith.

*"A circle is round - it has no end,
that's how long I want to be your friend!"*
~Anonymous~



Caring

Remember, if you have information about someone sick, in need of some sort of assistance, celebrating a very, special event, suffering from the loss of a loved one, or someone who needs our prayers and/or help, call one of your consistory members.

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Elders:
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Jody Lebbing 908-458-0703
Lynn Hughes 908-638-8887
Deacons:
Richard Theesfeld 908-319-9983
Bruce Alpaugh 908-638-6579
Roxanne Alpaugh 908-638-6579



