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## ■ ■ ■ A Word from Pastor Kris

### Counterculture

#### Living Generously in a World That Says Otherwise

Our world is full of messages about success, security, and status. We're told to hold tightly, accumulate more, and measure our worth by comparison. But the way of Christ leads us in a completely different direction.

This November, we're walking through a series called **Counterculture** — a call to live generously, love deeply, and root our identity not in the world's expectations, but in God's transforming grace.

Last Sunday, we began with **"Who Are You? — Transformed, Not Conformed" (Romans 12:1-2)**, exploring how God reshapes us from the inside out. If you missed it, you can catch up on our YouTube channel and join us as we continue learning how to live differently in the world God loves.

Rooted in our Wesleyan and United Methodist tradition, this series invites us to resist the pressures of consumerism and scarcity-thinking. Instead, we're called to be people of **compassion, humility, action, and generosity**. Each week, we're seeing how followers of Jesus are invited to live by a different standard — one shaped by God's love, not cultural norms.

— CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

## Hope United Methodist Church

3474 Rothsville Road, Ephrata, PA 17522 (717) 738-3774

office@hopeumcephrata.gov ■ www.hopeumcephrata.org ■ www.facebook.com/hopeumcephrata

Sunday School 9 a.m. ■ Worship 10:30 a.m.

## Series Highlights:

**Week 1: Who Are You?** — *Transformed, Not Conformed* (Romans 12:1–2) God reshapes us from the inside out.

**Week 2: Who Are You Wearing?** — *Clothed in Christ* (Colossians 3:12–17) Living with compassion, humility, and love.

**Week 3: Love in Action** — (1 John 3:16–18) Generosity that's visible, practical, and contagious.

**Week 4: Authentic Loving, Authentic Giving** — (Matthew 22 & Genesis 1) Discovering how giving flows from knowing who we are.

As we continue through this series, we're preparing not for a pledge drive, but for a **spiritual reset** — a time to realign our hearts and habits with the generous heart of God. In January, we'll share our **2026 Narrative Budget**, telling the story of how our giving sustains and expands ministry, showing where the greatest needs and opportunities lie. We will provide pledge cards then, if you like to participate in the process for yourself.

This is not just about money. It's about learning to see **everything we do and give — our time, our service, our presence, our resources — as sacred acts of worship**. Money is part of that, but it's only one piece of who we are and what we offer back to God.

Right now, our community and our neighbors need that kind of generosity more than ever. Many are facing real hardship — families losing SNAP benefits, individuals struggling with food and housing insecurity, neighbors wondering how to make ends meet. When the church rises up in generosity, we become God's answer to someone's prayer. But to respond when the need comes, we first need hearts that are ready to give — open, trusting, and rooted in grace.

As we head towards the end of the year, I invite you to reflect and pray:

Where might God be calling you to live differently?

How might generosity — in all its forms — be your own countercultural act of faith?

Together, let's prepare our hearts to give, to serve, and to shine with the transforming grace of Christ.

With gratitude and hope,

**Pastor Kris**

## ► SERMON SERIES:

### “COUNTERCULTURE - A STEWARDHIP & GENEROSITY SERIES”

November 2 ..... Part 1 - Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

..... All Saints Sunday

..... Who Are You?

..... Romans 12:1-2

November 9 ..... Part 2 - Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

..... Who Are You Wearing Today?

..... Colossians 3:12-17

November 16 ..... Part 3 - Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

..... Love in Action

..... James 2:14-18

November 23 ..... Part 4 - Reign of Christ Sunday

..... Authentic Loving, Authentic Giving

..... Matthew 22:15-22, 34-40

### **Remembered with Love**

**October 10**

Dave Morgan - Brother-in-Law of Tony & Leona Luciano

**October 13**

Miriam Luciano - Cousin of Pastor and Tony Luciano

**October 19**

Sandy Ogle - Grandmother of Pastor Kris

**October 20**

**Betty Good - Member**

# Office Notes

*The Office will be closed on Thursday, November 27  
Have a Safe and Happy Thanksgiving!*

## **FOR A USEFUL CALENDAR**

Please fill out the yellow forms on the Administrative Assistant's desk to schedule meetings.

## **UPDATES**

Please inform the church office whenever you set your next meeting date or select your next book or topic for your Sunday school or study. Thank you!

## **DEADLINES**

Please submit all items for the bulletin by **12 p.m. Wednesdays** and by the **15th of the month** for the next Whisperings.

## **FLOWERS & BULLETINS**

*Contact Sandy Muckle if you want to sponsor altar flowers less than a week in advance.*

You may share an altar flower order with a friend, so that each person keeps one bouquet of flowers after the service and the total price still equals \$50. Two dedications may go in the bulletin.

**Sponsor Flowers - \$50.00**

Available: November 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30

**Sponsor Bulletins - \$10.00**

Available: November 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30

## **CAN WE HELP?**

For financial assistance, please contact Pastor Kris at 717-738-3774

## **Correction to the Directory:**

Larry Bickhart's correct number is 717-738-7653

Please notify the office of any changes to your contact information.

## **Hope UMC Staff and Office Hours**

**Pastor: Rev. Kris Pursel**

**Administrative Assistant: Laura Luciano**

**Director of Music: Lisa Helock ■ Organist: Dave Luck ■ Sexton: Doreen Deamer**

**Tuesday - Friday ■ 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.**



# Bingo Night - October 18



# Harvest Home

On Sunday, October 26 Hope Church held our annual Harvest Home event. Pictured are some of the donations of food and paper products. This year, Hope helped two families with the remainder going to Ephrata Area Social Services. Thank you for your generosity - Sandy Schmid



# News and Meetings

## One Great Year of Sharing

### Good Samaritan Ministries

Through Sunday, **December 28**, we will be collecting for Good Samaritan Ministries. The donation jar is in the Sanctuary. As of **November 2**, we have collected a total of **\$326.00**.

Thank you!

## November Dates

- 1 All Saints' Day
- 2 All Saints' Sunday
- 4 Election Day
- 9 Veterans Sunday
- 11 Veterans Day
- 15 **December/January Newsletter Deadline**
- 16 **Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Deadline**
- Fellowship Sunday
- 23 **Hanging of the Greens**
- Servant Stage Christmas Show**
- Nativity Displays Due Up**
- 27 **Thanksgiving Day**
- 30 **Poinsettia Orders Due**
- Christmas Bags in the Lobby**

## Weekly Events

### Bells of Hope

Wednesdays at 6 p.m.  
Sanctuary

### Senior Choir

Wednesdays at 7:15 p.m.  
Choir Room

### Monday Night Bible Study

Mondays at 7 p.m.  
Conference Room  
(Room 226)

### Women's Book & Bible Study

Thursdays at 10 a.m.  
Wide Awake Room 221

### Men of Hope

Fellowship Hall  
(First Friday of each month is at Gus's restaurant.)

## Daylight Saving Time ends Nov. 2.

Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour!



## Fellowship Sunday

Fellowship Time follows morning worship service on the **3rd Sunday of each month**. Do you have a special snack that you enjoy? Bring it for all of us to enjoy on Fellowship Sunday! As a congregation, we are all responsible for the goodies we munch on while we visit and catch up with each other.

Write it on your calendars: "Bring a snack to share at church!" (In lieu of a snack, donate drinks and paper products.) – Thank you for taking part in Fellowship Sunday!

## **Church Administration Meetings**

All meetings are at 6:30 p.m. unless specified.

Finance - Tuesday, November 11 at 5 p.m

Trustees - Tuesday, November 18

SPRC - Tuesday, November 18 at 5 p.m.

Church Council - Thursday, November 20



**ELECTION  
DAY IS  
TUESDAY,  
NOV. 4**



**POLLS  
ARE OPEN  
7 A.M.  
TO 8 P.M.**



### **Notice**

The November newsletter deadline will  
be for a December and January  
newsletter.

Thank you.







**The Giving Tree** - will go up after Thanksgiving, in time for the First Sunday of Advent on November 30. We will be sponsoring 3-4 families. Food and gifts will be due on Sunday, **December 14**. All gifts are expected to be delivered by Wednesday, **December 17**. Thank you!

**Staff Christmas Gifts** - We will be showing our deep appreciation to our church staff again this year with monetary gifts. If you would like to share in this giving, please see Melissa Readman or Paul Trella. Last day to donate will be Sunday, **December 14**. Thank you!

**Nativity Displays** - If you have a Nativity display you'd like to share, please bring it in and place it on a sanctuary window sill or in the lobby for the Christmas season. All displays should be set up by Sunday, **November 23**. Thank you!

**Poinsettia Orders** - are due on **November 30**. Please complete the order form and place it, along with your payment, in Carol Peters' mailbox. Make checks payable to *Hope United Methodist Church*. **Questions? Please contact the Church Office at 717-738-3774**. Thank you!



**Christmas Card Recipients** - bags will be set up in the lobby on Sunday, **November 30** to collect your cards for our church family who are or may be homebound at times. All cards are due on **Sunday, December 14**. Thank you!

# Upcoming Events

## ► **Veterans Day** - Tuesday, November 11

We plan to honor our veterans on **Sunday, November 9** and do not want to miss anyone who attends or visits Hope Church. We have information on V. Bear, L. Bickhart, J. Gerhart, E. Lapp, R. Lindberg, B. Peters, J. Seifert, J. Smith, S. Smith and B. Tucker. If you know of anyone else or have more to add, please submit it to the Church office no later than **Sunday, November 2**.

## ► **Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes**

**Wednesday, November 16**

We will be participating in this annual mission project of Samaritan's Purse. Now might be a good time to start shopping for items to fill a box or two. Shoeboxes are due back by **Sunday, November 16**. If you have any questions, please see Sandy Schmid.



## HANGING OF THE GREENS

**Sunday, November 23 - After  
Sunday Worship Service. Apple  
Cider and Donuts will be served.**

## ► **Christmas Eve Afternoon Solo Concert**

Presented by Brenten Megee - Weist Church - Wednesday, December 24 at 2 p.m.

## ► **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**

Wednesday, December 24 at 7 p.m.



## **Order your Christmas Poinsettias today!**

Each red plant comes in a 6.5 inch pot with 5+ blooms.

Cost is \$10 each.

---

**ORDERS DUE SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30!**

Number of plants: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name/s: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to *Hope United Methodist Church*. Please complete this form and place it, along with your payment, in Carol Peters mailbox .

**Questions? Please contact the Church Office at 717-738-3774. Thank you.**



*you're invited!*

# **CITY GATE'S GIVE BACK GALA**

The countdown is on!

Join us on Saturday, November 8, 2025 for an unforgettable evening of inspiration, celebration, and impact at the City Gate Gala.

Enjoy a beautiful evening with dinner, connection, and powerful words from our guest speaker, LaVerne Kreider — a spiritual leader with a heart for healing, growth, and revival.

All proceeds benefit the work of City Gate Ministries to serve those in need right here in our community.

Let's gather for a night of purpose.  
RSVP today to secure your seat!

**Saturday, November 8, 2025**  
**4:00 PM - 7:30 PM**  
**The Foundry48, Lititz**





# CHRISTMAS COOKIE EXCHANGE AND SWEATER JAMBOREE



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14  
FELLOWSHIP HALL

RIGHT AFTER WORSHIP SERVICE  
STAY TUNED FOR MORE DETAILS



SERVANT  
T A G E

# A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Touring Across Lancaster County  
November 7 - December 21

*A faithful rendition of  
Dickens' timeless tale of  
redemption, charity, and  
the spirit of Christmas!*

Coming to  
**HOPE UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH**

**Sunday, November 23  
7:30PM**



SERVANT  
T A G E

**ALL SHOWS PAY-WHAT-YOU-WILL**

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT  
SERVANTSTAGE.ORG OR CALL 717-455-0255



# REMEMBERING OUR SAINTS

## OCT.2024 ~ OCT. 2025

Marg Martin	October 30	Sister-in-Law to Judy Hachkowski
<b>Eli Lapp</b>	<b>October 31</b>	<b>† Member</b>
Shirley Burkett	November 8	Wife of Rev. Harold Burkett (Lisa Helock)
Jody Klopp	December 12	Husband of Lisa Klopp
Tom Wenzel	December 19	Husband of Diana Wenzel
Dick Hopkins	December 21	Friend of Tom & Ivy Texter
Nathan Everly	January	Grandson of Jerry & Shirley Rankin
<b>Elizabeth (Betty) Stoll</b>	<b>January 19</b>	<b>† Member</b>
<b>Evelyn Shaar</b>	<b>January 25</b>	<b>† Member</b>
Police Officer Cameron Giving	February 21	Virginia Beach Police Department
Police Officer Christopher Reese	February 21	Virginia Beach Police Department
Police Officer Andrew Duarte	February 22	West York Borough Police Department
Detective Joseph Azcona	March 7	Newark, NJ Police Department
Mike Hess	March 10	Tony & Leona Luciano's neighbors son
<b>Donna Imhoff</b>	<b>March 15</b>	<b>† Member</b>
Christopher Haus	March 15	Son-in-Law of Ray & Gale Martin
Patricia Noll	April 6	Niece of Leona Luciano
<b>Charles Anderson</b>	<b>April 7</b>	<b>† Member</b>
<b>Doris Smith</b>	<b>April 14</b>	<b>† Member</b>
<b>Richard Erisman</b>	<b>April 30</b>	<b>† Member</b>
<b>John Boyer</b>	<b>May 2</b>	<b>† Member</b>
<b>Richard Imhoff</b>	<b>May 6</b>	<b>† Member</b>



# REMEMBERING OUR SAINTS

## OCT.2024 ~ OCT. 2025

Darlene Graham	June 9	Executive Director of KPETS
David Woomer	June 17	Brother-in-law of Barbara Waite
<b>Elizabeth (Betty) Anderson</b>	<b>June 26</b>	<b>✝ Member</b>
Dorthy Hartman	July 16	Mother of Diane Wealand
June Schmid	July 27	Sister-in-Law of Dave & Sandy Schmid
Timothy Hassell	July 31	Son of Marie Hassell
Esther (Marie) Hassell	August 9	<b>✝ Member</b>
<b>Franklin (Frank) Widder</b>	<b>August 26</b>	<b>✝ Member</b>
Barry Fair	September 2	Classmate of Diane Hornberger
William Ronald Fulton	September 27	Father of Kelly Martin (Preschool Teacher)
Dave Morgan	October 10	Brother-in-law of Tony & Leona Luciano
Miriam Luciano	October 13	Cousin of Pastor and Tony Luciano
Sandy Ogle	October 19	Grandmother of Pastor Kris
Betty Good	October 20	<b>✝ Member</b>



# Veterans Day - We Thank Our Vets!



## NATIONAL GUARD

**Vernon Bear**  
Specialist

1955-1963



## ARMY



**Larry Bickhart**  
Corporal 1962-1965



**Steve Smith**  
Captain 1985-1995

## NAVY



**Jack Smith**  
Machinist Mate 1952-1956



**Bill Peters**  
Fireman 1953-1955



**Jerry Gerhart**  
Radarman 3rd Class  
1953-1957



**Ron Lindberg**  
Boiler Technician 3rd Class  
1963-1967



**Bruce Tucker**  
Fire Control Technician  
1967-1973



**John Seifert**  
Aviation Metal Smith and  
Aviation Store Keeper 1975  
-1979

# Adult Sunday Schools & Studies

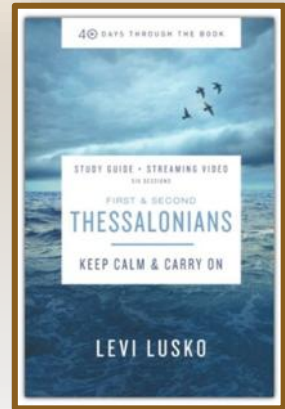
## **Seekers** - Bruce Tucker

Sundays 9 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

**September 7 thru October 12**

Studying ***First & Second Thessalonians: Keep Calm & Carry On*** by Levi Lusko

Join Levi Lusko on a journey through Paul's words to the Thessalonians that will encourage you to stay grounded, remain faithful, and keep being diligent as you wait for Jesus' return. To the believers in Thessalonica, Paul addresses many of the core beliefs and practices that Christians of all maturity levels need to know to honor Jesus and impact *the world*. In this six-session study (streaming video included), bestselling author and pastor Levi Lusko guides you through these short letters from Paul, revealing how to press on and not become discouraged in your faith.

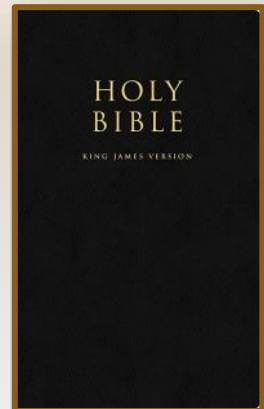


## **The Way** - (*a name given to the earliest followers/disciples of Jesus*) - Rev. Kevin Readman

Sundays 9 a.m. in the Conference Room (Room 226)

**October 19**

Studying ***the book of Jude, and exploring it's call and challenge to our following of Jesus.***



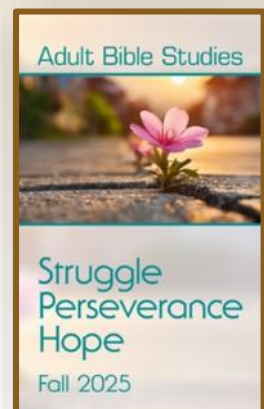
## **Wide Awake** - Melissa Readman and Sandy Schmid

Sundays 9 a.m. in Room 221

Starting on **September 7**

Studying ***Adult Bible Studies - Fall 2025 - Struggle - Perseverance - Hope*** by Kevin Baker

This fall, our Bible lessons follow the theme "Struggle. Perseverance. Hope." They reacquaint us with Hebrew women whose faithfulness helped further God's plans; challenge us with Jeremiah's commitment; and offer us insights into living in love, faithfully imitating what is good, and praying with confidence. Our class is a traditional adult Sunday study class. All ages are welcome. We start the class with devotions and then have an adult study.



## Men of Hope Book & Bible Study

Fridays at 7:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

*(First Friday of each month is at Gus's Restaurant)*

Starting on **September 12**

Studying *City In Shambles* from the book of Nehemiah

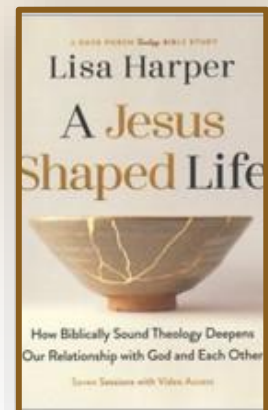


## Monday Night Bible Study - Bruce Tucker

Mondays at 7 p.m. in the Conference Room (Room 226)

**September 8 thru October 20**

Studying *A Jesus Shaped Life* by Lisa Harper



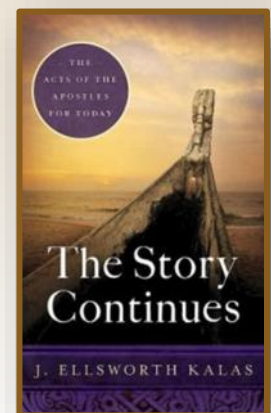
## Women's Book & Bible Study - Sandy Schmid

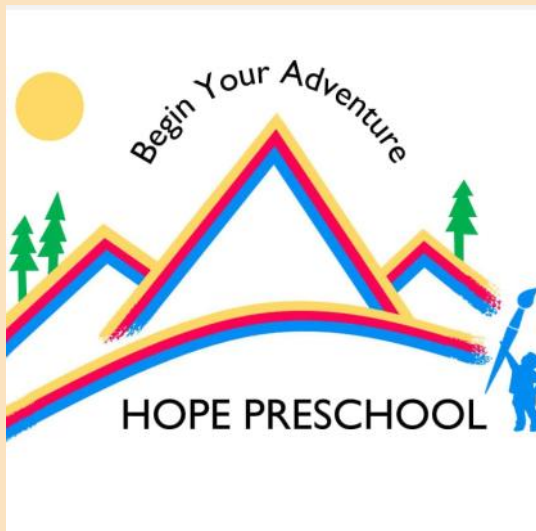
Thursdays at 10 a.m. in Room 221

Starting on **September 25**

Studying *The Story Continues* by J. Ellsworth Kalas

At the very beginning of our faith, the Christian population numbered a few thousand, measuring only one percent of the world population. Today a single mega-church can boast a comparable number, and together, Christians now number more than two billion people. It all began with this little body of believers who knew a secret that needed to be shared. How did they do it? And what can we learn from them? Join best-selling author and beloved pastor, J. Ellsworth Kalas, as he explores the book of Acts to uncover the ministry motivations of the first followers—ordinary people who accomplished the extraordinary and who can serve as a guide for today's believers to carry on. Because the work is not done.





## ► Hope Preschool Prattle

Hello from the preschool!

Fall is in full swing and the students have all been enjoying the beautiful Indian summer we were blessed with this year. We were able to continue using the playground before the colder weather settles in.

We had a very successful Sub & Sandwich Sale in October/November and we will be replacing the benches on the playground that are unable to be

repaired. Thank you to everyone that ordered subs!

November looks to be just as exciting as October but with the holiday season starting it will be a shorter month and there is so much to accomplish. Our themes for this month are Fall, Thanksgiving and Nocturnal Animals. Lancaster County Parks came out and gave a presentation on animals that are active at night. The children always really enjoy these programs.

Believe it or not the classes will start preparing for Christmas towards the end of November since December is an even shorter month with only 3 weeks in school.

We hope everyone stays safe and warm and enjoys the start of another holiday season!

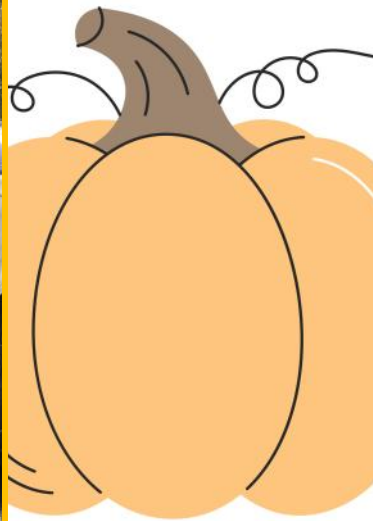
Blessings!

Mrs. B





# Pre School Pictures





# Pre School Pictures



# THANK YOU NOTES...

- ❖ **Thank you - Children's Coats** - We collected a total of **\$665.00**. Thank you for your generosity - Sandy Schmid
- ❖ **Thank you** - to everyone who made the Bingo event happen - Kevin Readman
- ❖ **Thank you** - Bingo Night was a great success, with 40 attendees and \$77.00 raised - Fellowship Events Committee
- ❖ **Thank you** - to everyone who signed up to provide two weeks of meals for the Kenworthy's - Sandy Muckle
- ❖ **Thank you** - we were able to purchase 45 children's coats for Ephrata Area Social Services - Sandy Schmid

## Children's Coats

Thank you to all who donated funds to buy children's coats. We collected **\$665.00** and we were able to buy 45 coats for EASS - Sandy Schmid







## Wild Church

Partnership with Hope Meadow

“The seasons change, and you change, but your Lord abides evermore the same, and the streams of His love are as deep, as broad, and as full as ever.”

— Charles H. Spurgeon

**Upcoming Gathering:**

**November 23 at 3pm**

Our gatherings include reflections, observations, poetry, and your input!

# Donations & Assistance

## ► City Gate Needs:

Individually wrapped snacks like granola bars, cookies and chips. Kitchen sized garbage bags, paper towels, 7 inch paper plates and bowls.

## ► Ephrata Area Social Services Needs:

Donations of non-perishable items can be made Monday – Friday, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM.

They are in urgent need of the following: canned corn (do not need mixed vegetables), tomato sauce (not pasta or spaghetti sauce), canned fruit (they already have a lot of pears & apricots), egg noodles, ramen noodles, flour, sugar, salt and pepper, condiments, personal hygiene items (body wash, shampoo/conditioner, deodorant), and paper towels. All donations are greatly appreciated!

## ► Good Samaritan Services Needs:

Paper towels (high need), twin sheet sets and comforters (high need), pillows, twin/queen winter blankets, cleaning supplies, laundry detergent and gift cards (\$25 gas, groceries, etc.).

### **Good Samaritan Services**

Please place your donations in the basket underneath the visitor table in the lobby.

Thank you!

### **Ephrata Area Social Services (EASS)**

Please place your donations under the coat rack in the lobby. Thank you for your continued support of EASS and the work they do for our local community

# THANKSGIVING



## WORD SEARCH PUZZLE



Find the words listed below in the grid.

T	R	A	D	I	T	I	O	N	A	C	D	E	G	B
F	P	U	M	P	K	I	N	F	R	S	B	U	R	W
G	H	T	I	G	B	F	D	E	T	Q	L	V	A	A
F	E	U	J	J	O	U	H	A	R	V	E	S	T	Y
A	I	M	G	H	K	O	N	S	F	C	S	V	I	B
M	Z	N	A	X	P	L	M	T	B	D	S	A	T	Z
I	W	Y	T	U	R	K	E	Y	P	R	I	S	U	C
L	G	I	H	L	J	M	K	N	O	Q	N	T	D	X
Y	S	T	U	C	O	R	N	V	E	W	G	A	E	D
K	B	L	V	M	C	N	D	O	E	P	F	R	G	E
N	O	V	E	M	B	E	R	H	J	I	P	I	E	F



CORN  
FAMILY  
BLESSING  
NOVEMBER

TURKEY  
PUMPKIN  
HARVEST  
GRATITUDE

PIE  
FEAST  
AUTUMN  
TRADITION





# Miracles of Snow Geese

by Clyde McMillan-Gamber

Canada geese are stately and tundra swans are elegant, and both species have calls I always enjoy hearing. But the great masses of handsome snow geese that winter in the Mid-Atlantic States from October to March are overwhelmingly sensational to experience. Their great flocks, created by God, like all life on Earth, are inspiring to experience, as many of us know from hordes of snow geese at Middle Creek each spring.

Hundreds of thousands of snow geese raise goslings on the treeless Arctic tundra of Alaska and Canada. Thousands of those snow geese migrate south to salt marshes, estuaries and human-made impoundments in New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland and Pennsylvania where they spend the winter feeding on rye shoots, and corn kernels in harvested corn fields.

About twice a day, each winter day, great flocks of snow geese fly off protecting waters, amid a din of their honking and wing flapping, to land in fields to feed. When the whole great mass leaves the water at once, the background temporarily disappears behind a veil of large, flapping birds. And the background vanishes when these geese land on a field to feed.

Flocks of snow geese circle a field to look for potential danger before landing on that field. Round and round the geese fly like a swirling, noisy blizzard. When they feel "the coast is clear" some of the geese parachute down, with wings fully extended, into the wind for flight control, to the field like wind-driven, giant snow flakes, followed by more and more scores of hungry, descending geese at every turn of the goose blizzard, until the whole great horde is feeding. From a distance, that particular field looks like snow fell just on that one field, wall to wall, turned white by the great gatherings of snow geese.

When full, the great mass of snow geese takes flight again, with a roar of wings and excited voices, all seeming to honk loudly at once, and flies swiftly back to their watery homes to rest, digest, preen their feathers and socialize. Their take offs, flights and landings are well organized, as they should be to avoid mid-air collisions. Their take-offs start when the geese at one end of the flock rise like someone lifting a corner of a sheet off a bed. And each goose lifts off in turn across the flock, like a sheet, until the far end of geese takes flight as well and joins relatives in the air. Soon thousands of large birds are in speedy flight in the air at once, all gabbling at once, with never a collision among them. Snow geese are most intriguing, miraculous, and inspiring to experience when in great, noisy masses in the air. There is no other spectacle quite like it in this area.

Most snow geese in this area have white feathering, with black wing tips. But some snows have gray body feathering, and white necks and heads. Those are called blue geese, a color phase of the snows.

Great masses of snow geese are truly spectacular, and exciting to see. They, like all life on Earth, are wonderful, beautiful creations of God. Nature is beyond our capacity to create.



Check out Clyde's nature blog: [NaturesWondersByClyde.blogspot.com](http://NaturesWondersByClyde.blogspot.com).  
Each short story is like taking a walk with your very own park naturalist!