

# Highterian

## Pastor's Note

Trick or Treat? The kids are practicing and deciding what costumes they will wear. The stores are full of Halloween costumes and candy. Crowded around the Halloween decorations are pretty fall wreathes and signs that say, "Grateful, Thankful, Blessed." Everywhere we look, we are reminded that we are changing seasons. Many people say Fall is their favorite season. And for good reason. We get a break from the often-brutal heat of summer. We are able to watch the leaves change into the beautiful array of colors that nature grants them each year. Families return to the routine of school and practices and games on the weekends. There is so much to love about this time of the year.

Unfortunately, instead of enjoying this time of the year, we start focusing on what comes after Fall: Winter. Instead of enjoying the cooler temps, we hear people say things like, "You better enjoy this weather now. Before you know it, there will be snow on the ground." Sadly, many of us do this in areas of other than just the seasons. Instead of enjoying the moment, we start thinking about what is coming up ahead.

This pattern of worrying about what may or may not happen in the future must be part of human nature, because Jesus addressed it when he said to his followers:

<sup>22</sup> "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. <sup>23</sup> For life is more than food and the body more than clothing. <sup>24</sup> Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! <sup>25</sup> And which of you by worrying can add a single hour to your span of life? <sup>26</sup> If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? <sup>27</sup> Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. <sup>28</sup> But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, you of little faith! <sup>29</sup> And do not keep seeking what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. <sup>30</sup> For it is the nations of the world that seek all these things, and your Father knows that you need them. <sup>31</sup> Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well."

– Luke 12:22–31

Instead of worrying about what will come after Fall, let's live in present. Instead of worrying about what is ahead of us, God has given us something to focus on: God's Kingdom. When we are focused on the kingdom, instead of ourselves, we are able to recognize and enjoy the gifts God has given and trust in him for the future and the present.

— Rev Sharon Bell

## Great things are Happening at HPC!

**50 Shoeboxes packed!** All that is left to do is bless the boxes and collect the suggested fee for shipping (and so much more). The mission of Operation Christmas Child is “to provide God’s love in a tangible way to children in need around the world, and together with the local church worldwide, to share the Good News of Jesus Christ”.



**Salvation Army Stockings** We are hoping to schedule a sewing party early in Oct and a stocking packing party later in October. We still use need some more stockings sewn, if there are folks who enjoy doing that. We would like to do 100 stockings for local children and 20 for Senior citizens. We have lots of school supplies, toys, etc. to fill stockings. We may be requesting a few specific items as needed.



Last year we sent 15 stockings to the **WV Children's Home Society** Ona Emergency Shelter for boys and girls ages 10 to 18. As mentioned above, we have a generous supply of stocking fillers and I think we would have no problem filling them with a few items geared to older kids with gift cards. We have most of the items needed to make a donation of duffle bags, blankets and pillows for the second time this year.

**Veterans Home** We have 30 pillows and are very close to completing 30 hand made red, white and blue pillowcases to go with them for Veteran's Day.



We delivered a van full of donations to the **WV Children's Home Society**. These included suitcases, back packs, a duffle bag, toys, and so many clothes, shoes and purses! There was a co sleeper, potty seat, stuffed animals and lots of baby blankets for **Baby Steps Society** and books for the **Ona Emergency Children's Shelter**. All of these are operated by WVCHS.

Shout Out to Karen Albers who has donated over 500 hats this year alone and is still crocheting! So far this year Karen's hats have been donated to **Harmony House** and packed in shoeboxes. as colder weather approaches, we have so many more organizations that would love to have these!

**Patty's Pillows** We gift pillows, each with a handmade pillow case, to a variety of organizations throughout the year, such as Foster Children, Harmony House, Serenity House, and the Veteran's Home. New needs are presenting themselves all the time.

**Betty's Bargains** Betty has been a supporter of the Cabell Co Coalition for the Homeless since its formation. She shops Estate Sales at Woodlands for furniture and household items to donate to Harmony House. Pat Pinkerton, who conducts the sales, supports her efforts by giving her special prices.

### **Support the Missions that Speak to You**

We are not asking everyone to contribute to every mission project. We have folks who feel strongly about a wide variety of missions; Some give time, some give items, some do the shopping. If you would like to contribute funds to any of our missions, you can send cash or check to the church with a note specifying which mission

## Mission Committee

Making a delivery of our donations to the **Harmony House Rapid Rehousing Program** is a special day! When you open the car hatchback, and they are so happy to see the towels, pots and pans, large tray of silverware and so many other items, it means a big smile on your face! The September delivery included several dinner dishes and bowls, casserole dishes, 12 hand-held can openers (thanks to a special monetary donation), flannel throws, shower curtains, 5 new pillows, and more. Shelter items are also much appreciated, and this past month we delivered ladies underwear and socks and a bag of personal hygiene items.

Program director, Jacki Woods has suggested six special rehousing needs for the month of October. They include the following:

- **Can Openers**
- **Dish Soap**
- **Wash Cloths**
- **Hand Towels**
- **All-Purpose Cleaner**
- **Dish Drainers**



Fellows working in the shelter at Harmony House helped unload our September deliveries and asked if we would please consider donating **men's underwear, sizes medium and large**. There is a shortage of that item for their shelter.

Donations (either new or slightly used) may be brought to the church and left in the "wagon display" in the Narthex or in the Blessings Room across the hall from the church office. In the Blessings Room, please place items on or in front of the table under the Harmony House sign. If anyone would prefer giving a monetary donation instead of shopping or has questions about this mission, you may call Linda Hansen, 304-421-0860, or speak with any member of the Mission Committee

— *Anne Myers, Chairperson*

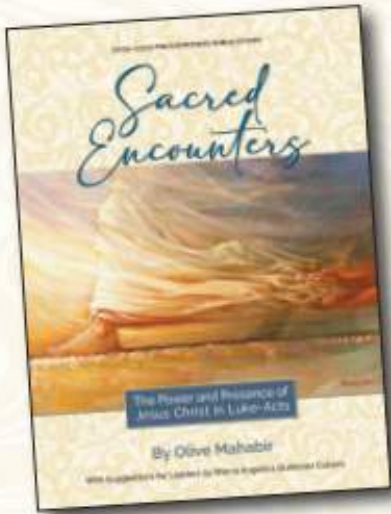
## Presbyterian Women's Circle

# Sacred Encounters

The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts

by Olive Mahabir

With Suggestions for Leaders by Wilma Angélica Quiñonez Cubero



Within the pages of this study, Olive Mahabir invites you to consider Jesus and Jesus' disciples who shared the Good News through sacred encounters with everyday people.

The Gospel According to Luke and the Acts of the Apostles, or Luke-Acts "one story in two parts," demonstrate the unfolding of God's redemptive purposes in human history and present a distinctive perspective on the person and work of Jesus Christ. Written by Luke, a physician and traveling companion of Paul, the message to the early Christian community (and to us) is radical, inclusive, and hope-filled.

Further, this message invites the church to deeper, compassionate engagement with the world. "What are the potential implications for the church if we treat our interactions as sacred encounters that demonstrate the transformative love of Christ Jesus?" (from the introduction)

### About the Authors



Olive Mahabir is a fourth-generation Presbyterian and the first in her family to be an ordained minister. She was born on the island of Trinidad and Tobago in the Caribbean. In ministry for more than 20 years she has pastored churches in Michigan, Atlanta, and Jonesboro, Georgia. She's a graduate of St. Andrew's Theological College in

Trinidad, the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, Drew University in Madison, New Jersey, and Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia.



Wilma Angélica Quiñonez Cubero is ordained as minister of Word and Sacrament in the PC(USA). She is from Puerto Rico and has served Iglesia Presbiteriana en Country Club since 2009. A specialist in ministry with people who are functionally diverse, Wilma is also an associate professor at the Seminario Evangélico de Puerto

Rico. She served the larger church as a member of the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People.

**Next Meeting**  
**October 12th**

**Neva Baldwin** is the moderator of the 1:00pm Group  
**Sally Lowe** is the moderator of the 7:00pm Group

## The Exorcism in Gerasa

Lesson Two of our “Sacred Encounters” in our Presbyterian Women’s Bible Study is entitled...**The Exorcism in Gerasa**. I know you may be asking yourself...what or where in the world is Gerasa? Actually, it’s a city located east of the Sea of Galilee and the River Jordan. This was one of the scenes of a sighting where Jesus had released the demons from a man.

Come join us and hear the “rest of the story.” There are many stories regarding sacred encounters, and we will study many of them this year. The “Main Idea” of this month’s lesson is... “Jesus’ presence and human vulnerability can result in a personal and communal transformation.”

This second encounter reveals to us the ways in which Jesus is present with people who live without the support of their communities due to rejection, confusion, and fear. Despite our society’s tendency to isolate people who are struggling, lesson two challenges us to trust that no illness—physical, spiritual, or mental—has the power to exclude anyone from the saving grace of Jesus.

Both evening and day groups meet on the second Thursday of each month in Fellowship Hall from September to May. Can’t or don’t really want to commit to every month attendance? Feel free to come join us when you can and when it fits your schedule.

If you have questions or would like more information, please feel free to call Neva, Sally, or myself.

Hope you will consider joining us. Thank you.



— *Shelia Brownfield, Moderator of HPC Women*

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**October 12th**

**Neva Baldwin** is the moderator of the 1:00pm Group  
**Sally Lowe** is the moderator of the 7:00pm Group

# COMMUNITY COOKOUT

## IN THE PARK

Join us for a day filled with music, laughter,  
diversity and a picnic in the park.

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22ND, 2023**

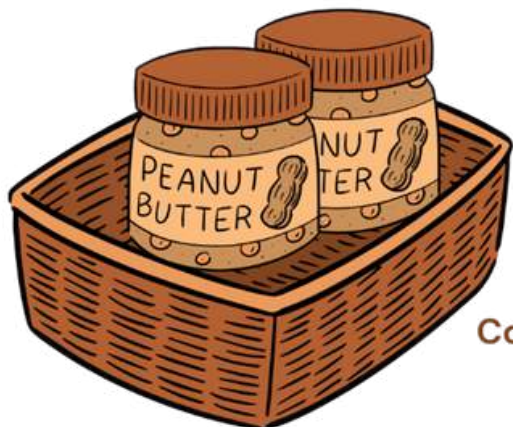
**1-4PM RITTER PARK**

**SHELTER #2**

**OPEN  
TO ALL**



Help us collect  
**100 Jars of Peanut Butter**  
for New Baptist Food  
Pantry



Collection Basket is in the Foyer



**October Donations included...**

- Can Openers
- Dish Soap
- Wash Cloths
- Hand Towels
- All-Purpose Cleaner
- Dish Drainers
- Men's Underwear (specifically sizes M & L)



## Wednesday Night Dinner: Dr. Terry Fenger



Dr. Terry Fenger joined the Department of Microbiology in the School of Medicine at Marshall University in 1979 with his research and teaching focus being Virology. Between 1979 and 2020 he taught second year medical students in areas of viral diseases, antiviral drugs and vaccines and virus replication. In 1992 he was approached by members of the WV State Police crime laboratory to provide instruction in molecular biology. This effort morphed into the developing and teaching of multiple courses which in 1995, became the basis for the Master Degree Program in Forensic Science at Marshall. This degree program now offers four areas of emphasis in forensic DNA technologies, forensic chemistry, crime scene investigation, and digital device forensics.

Terry retired as director and instructor of the Forensic Science Center in 2017. As of June 2023, Dr. Fenger came back to Marshall to serve as the Interim Executive Director for the Forensic Science Center while also teaching a course in molecular biology to forensic science students.

During October's Wednesday Night Dinner, Dr. Fenger will discuss the important roles vaccines have played in eliminating and reducing devastating diseases worldwide such as smallpox, polio, and measles. While also addressing, the different types of vaccines that have been developed and utilized over the last several decades specifically mRNA vaccines. mRNA vaccines are a game changer in preventing severe diseases caused by viruses and in this talk, Dr. Fenger will dispelled the misconceptions about this type of vaccine.

**Dinner will include:** Pork Chops, Smashed Potatoes, Green Beans, and Fried Apples

# Happy Birthday

Margie Stone	10/1
Charles Woolcock	10/5
Elijah Dorey	10/6
Andy Blackman	10/7
David Woodward	10/9
James Lamp	10/16
Larry Miller	10/16
Joe Barbera	10/19
Herb Myers	10/22
David DeMattie	10/22
Shelia Brownfield	10/25
Betty Barrett	10/26
Bob Lowe	10/28
Evie Butcher	11/1
John Smith	11/2

# HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

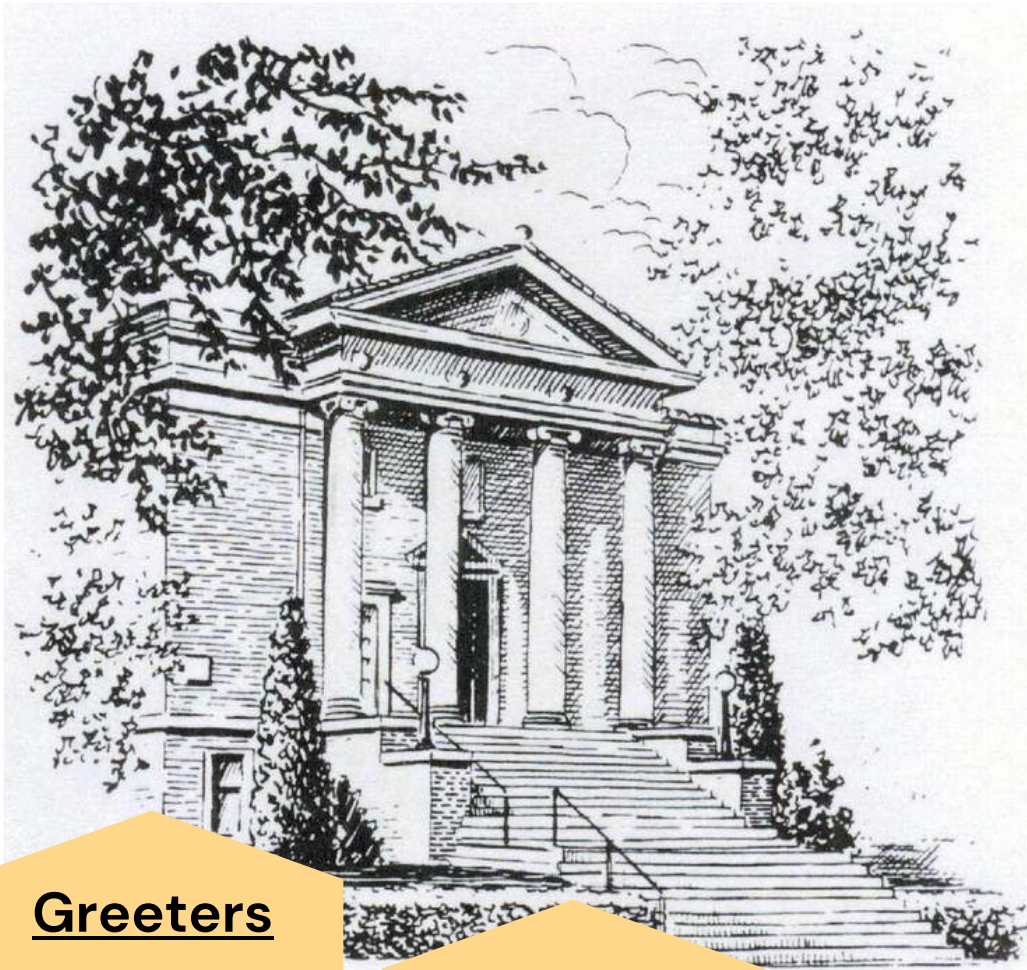
## OCTOBER

23rd Tara & Mike Barbera

## NOVEMBER

5th Kalyn & Kevin Dorey

20th Libby & David Haught



**Greeters**

**October 1**

Jim & Mitzi Cyrus

**October 8**

Sam Bauserman

**October 15**

Kevin, Kalyn, Elijah, & Manny Dorey

**October 22**

Bob & Linda Hansen

**October 29**

Terri Effingham & Libby Haught

**Elders**

**Class of 2023**

Kalyn Dorey  
Amy Browning  
Anne Myers

**Class of 2024**

Carla Lapelle  
Brian Specht  
Debby Stoler

**Class of 2025**

Gary Baldwin  
Pam Curtis  
Howard Aulick

**Staff**

Rev. Sharon Bell  
**Pastor**

David Chenoweth  
**Choir Director**

Emma (Em) Rau  
**Secretary**

Sarah Specht  
**Director of Christian Education**

Alanna Cushing  
**Organist**

Jane Armstrong  
**Sexton**

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**Church Office Hours**

Tuesday-Friday 9am-1pm