

CHURCH CALENDAR AND EVENTS

November 19	9:30 a.m. Elders meet for prayer
November 19	9:45 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
November 19	11:00 a.m. Worship Service
November 19	4:30-5:30 p.m. Adult Choir Practice
November 19	6:00 p.m. Combined Thanksgiving Worship Service at First ARP
November 23	7:00 a.m. Thanksgiving Breakfast
November 26	9:45 a.m. Combined Sunday School– Guest missionary speakers
November 26	11:00 a.m. Worship Service
November 26	Informational Congregation Meeting
November 26	No Sunday Evening Activities

SPECIAL THANKSGIVING ARP OFFERING

Twice each year at Thanksgiving and at Easter the ARP Church collects a special offering to support some of the ministries of our denomination. The Thanksgiving Season Special Offering is for the benefit of: Christmas Benevolent Fund, Outreach North America, Erskine Theological Seminary, and The American Bible Society. Please see the brochure on the board in the vestibule for more detailed information about these ministries.

WARM THE CHILDREN

The Outreach Committee will be collecting cold weather items to warm the children that are in need in our local schools. We will be collecting items from Sunday, November 5th until Sunday, December 10th. Please bring new items such as mittens, gloves, scarves, toboggans, jackets, etc. There is a red collection box in the vestibule.

THANKSGIVING WORSHIP SERVICE

Please plan to join us this evening at First ARP in Gastonia at 6:00 p.m. for a combined Thanksgiving Worship Service with other local ARP churches. Rev. Fowler will be preaching the sermon.

THANKSGIVING BREAKFAST

We will have our traditional Thanksgiving Breakfast on Thursday, November 23rd at 7:00 a.m. The men will meet at 5:00 a.m. to prepare breakfast for the congregation, any relatives, friends or neighbors that want to come.

VISITORS, PRAYERS & PRAISE

If you are a visitor and interested in learning more about our church and the Associate Reformed Presbyterian denomination, please see one of the greeters in the vestibule. If you would like to receive our newsletter or other information about our church, by mail or by e-mail, please provide us with any pertinent information using the Yellow Friendship Register found in your bulletin. You may place it in the offering plate or in the wooden Church Office box, located in the vestibule, as you leave this morning. The Yellow Friendship Register can also be used to submit prayer requests or notes of praise.

CAN COLLECTION

Please remember to save and bring in your aluminum cans. This is an ongoing effort, all proceeds go directly into our Music Conference Fund, which is used to help with the cost of the conference. Please bring your cans to church and place them in Felix Alpizar's truck or see Ava Mauney. Ava will be taking a load of cans to the collection site soon.

MANY THANKS

Thank you to our Crowders Creek Church family for all of the prayers, calls, cards, visits and more during Angela's recent surgery and recovery. We are so blessed by you all.
~ The Hoose Family

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The Christmas Program will be on Sunday, December 17th at 6:30 p.m. followed by refreshments. Program practice will be on Saturday, December 16th at 10:00 a.m. followed by the children's Christmas Party. It's not too late to sign up for the program, please let Dana Fowler or Chris Oates know by December 10th. We would also like to encourage those that have a craft or artistic talent to display them in the Fellowship Hall.

IMPORTANT MEETINGS

Following the service next week (Nov. 26th) there will be an informational meeting to present the budget approved by the Session. Following the Dec. 3rd worship service a congregational meeting will be held to:

- 1) adopt the budget
- 2) elect 2017 church officers

Please be in prayer for these very important matters for the church.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

The church office will be closed Thursday and Friday of next week in observance of Thanksgiving. I will be in the office Monday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Please let me know if you have any announcements or information for the bulletin by Monday afternoon. ~ Melissa

COMMUNION/LORD'S SUPPER

TODAY WE OBSERVE THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER. To the Lord's Table are invited all who are communicant members in good standing at any evangelical church, who trust in Christ alone for salvation, and who are seeking to live for the Lord according to the Scriptures.

Larger Catechism Question # 174 - *What is required of them that receive the sacrament of the Lord's supper in the time of the administration of it?*

It is required of them that receive the sacrament of the Lord's supper, that, during the time of the administration of it, with all holy reverence and attention they wait upon God in that ordinance, diligently observe the sacramental elements and actions, heedfully discern the Lord's body, and affectionately meditate on his death and suffering, and thereby stir up themselves to a vigorous exercise of their graces; in judging themselves, and sorrowing for sin; in earnest hungering and thirsting after Christ, feeding on him by faith, receiving of his fullness, trusting in his merits, rejoicing in his love, giving thanks for his grace; in renewing of their covenant with God, and love to all the saints.

Larger Catechism Question # 175 - *What is the duty of Christians, after they have received the sacrament of the Lord's supper?*

The duty of Christians, after they have received the sacrament of the Lord's supper, is seriously to consider how they have behaved themselves therein, and with what success; if they find quickening and comfort, to bless God for it, beg the continuance of it, watch against relapses, fulfil their vows, and encourage themselves to a frequent attendance on that ordinance: but if they find no present benefit, more exactly to review their preparation to, and carriage at, the sacrament; in both which, if they can approve themselves to God and their own consciences, they are to wait for the fruit of it in due time: but, if they see they have failed in either, they are to be humbled, and to attend upon it afterwards with more care and diligence.

SOCIAL CONCERNS OFFERING

The Social Concerns committee is the church's arm for helping persons in need. Helping the needy is in keeping with many Bible verses including Deuteronomy 15:11 - "You shall open your hand wide to your brother, to your poor and your needy, in your land." It is historic Presbyterian practice to collect an offering for the needy during the service where Communion is served. This special offering is separate from regular weekly church tithes and will be credited to the social concerns line item on the church's budget and used to help those in need. Please use the pew envelope and label it "SC." The basis for any tithe or offering is an act of thanksgiving to God for His many blessings - as Jesus put it, "Freely you received, freely give" (Matt. 10:8).

SERMON NOTES - November 19, 2017

“Shepherding Sheep”

1 Peter 5:1-5 New International Version (NIV)

¹To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder, a witness of Christ's sufferings and one who also will share in the glory to be revealed: ²Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers-- not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; ³not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. ⁴And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away. ⁵Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

Sermon Help for Children

- Listen for the pastor to say the words below and check off a column each time he says the word!

Key Word	1st time	2nd time	3rd time	4th time	5th time	6th time	7th time	8th time
elder								
church								
leader								
shepherd								
sheep								
God								
Jesus								
people								