

The Federated Messenger

October 2026

“Philippians, Partner in the Gospel” by Pastor Stephen Pettis

As we come to the end of our sermon series, Contend: Fighting for the Faith, we are diving right into the book of Philippians. Philippians is a great book for us to study, especially as we have just completed our evangelism training. Paul is writing to believers who believe the gospel and understand that they are called to advance the gospel by sharing it with others. Throughout this letter, Paul encourages the Philippian believers to continue living for Christ and advancing the gospel with joy, even when following Jesus becomes difficult.

Who were the Philippians? To understand Paul's letter, it helps to understand the city and the people he was writing to. Philippi was a Roman colony in Macedonia. After the famous Battle of Philippi in 42 BC, Roman veterans were settled there, and the city developed a strong Roman identity. Roman laws, customs, and culture shaped the city, and its citizens would have taken great pride in their connection to Rome.

The story of the Philippian church begins in Acts 16. Philippi was not originally Paul's destination. After the Holy Spirit prevented Paul and his companions from going where they had planned, Paul received a vision of a man from Macedonia calling them to come and help. They followed God's direction and traveled to Macedonia, eventually arriving in Philippi. There they met Lydia, a worshiper of God and a seller of purple cloth. As Paul shared the gospel, Acts tells us that “the Lord opened her heart” to respond. Lydia and her household believed and were baptized, becoming part of the beginning of the church in Philippi.



But the church did not have an easy beginning. Paul and Silas were beaten and thrown into prison, yet they prayed and sang hymns to God. God used their suffering to open another door for the gospel, and the Philippian jailer and his household came to faith.

From the very beginning, the Philippian believers learned that following Christ comes with a cost, but God remains faithful through every circumstance. Paul writes this letter to thank them for the joy and encouragement their partnership in the gospel has brought him during a difficult season. He also challenges them to continue growing in love, knowledge, discernment, and the fruit of righteousness.

As we begin our journey through Philippians, we are reminded that the gospel is worth advancing, following Christ is worth the cost, and we can have joy even when life is difficult.

Meanwhile, Back at the Ranch...

The Positives and Negatives

by Reilly Melin

At the start of any new season in the year, I am sure that there are things you begin to look forward to enjoying, or possibly things that you dread having to endure. As soon as I walked over to the Indoor Arena for our first night of Fall Horse Lessons, I had a moment of excitement as I envisioned an evening with a crisp chill in the air, going back to my house to a warm fire and turning on Thursday Night Football (Skol Vikings!). I believe the feeling I experienced is called Hygge (pronounced: h(y)oo-gə) which is a sense of comfort, coziness and warmth.

For many, I am sure that the realization of fall brings many dreaded thoughts of bitter winter weather, shoveling snow, and paying increased heating bills being right around the corner. With any shift in one's typical routine, due to the change in season, comes positives and negatives, and to focus on the negatives only will be a great detriment to your mental health and soul and not to mention a disregard for the positives still yet to come. So, as the seasons change and your schedule starts to shift, we ought to make every effort to focus on that which brings us peace while embracing and giving to Jesus the things that do not. Philippians 4:4-9 is a great example of how we ought to guide our minds at all times. For some practical examples of how you ought to think, here are some positives in the midst of negatives you may face this upcoming season.



Negative - You were unable to or forgot to attend our Stampede on Sept. 26th.

Positive - We have a Couple's Night Out coming up on October 21st

Negative - The temperatures are beginning to drop lower than what you would prefer.

Positive - You can purchase and consume delicious coffee from Coffee Helping Camps which also supports WLD Ranch.

Negative - You need to cut, split and stack firewood.

Positive - God has created a beautiful tapestry in the trees outside for you to enjoy while you work.

Negative - Immediately after fall arrives, winter will be right around the corner.

Positive - Winter means Christmas, which means **Kid's Christmas Shop** will be here before you know it. **Dec. 4th & 5th.**

Negative - Winter also means snow, and shoveling and plowing said snow.

Positive - Snow also means sledding and our hill will be open for said sledding with hot chocolate, cookies and a roaring fire to gather around with the other, rational parents

Thank you to everyone that filled a Blessing Boot. Your generosity provided **\$3,694.44** to the Ranch for building upgrades.

Couples' Night Out

An opportunity for a husband and wife to Strengthen Your Marriage during a fun evening at WLD Ranch

Friday, October 30, 2026
6:00pm-9:00pm



Dinner :: Fall Fun
Devotion :: Campfire

WLD
RANCH

www.wldranch.com/couples

Springfield Senior Center



Tuesday, October 13

Springfield Senior Center will meet in the Family Center at 9:45 a.m.

Pastor Keith Nitschke from the United Church of Springboro will have devotions.

Lynette Straite will present a program using "Chalk Drawing".

Exercises will be led by Jule and a delicious lunch will be served at Noon, all for a \$3.00 donation.



OCC SHOEBOXES

by Beth Rigden



It's here! It is time for the annual Operation Christmas Child Packing Party! Join us in the Family Center on Monday, October 12th, anytime from 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM and pack a few boxes! We will be packing 500 boxes for children ages 5-9. **These boxes are tangible expressions of God's love to children in need around the world.**

On Sunday, October 11th following the second service we will be bringing all the packing items upstairs from the OCC room downstairs and setting up for the packing party. If you are available to help with this or help with the packing party, it would be very much appreciated.

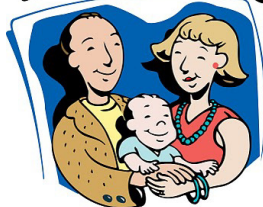
If you would like to pack a box at home, there will be boxes available in the Welcome Center beginning on Sunday, October 6th. All the information will be included with your box and will give you ideas of items to pack and what is not allowed to go in your box. **Boxes will need to be turned in on Sunday, November 15, 2026. National Collection Week is November 16-23.**

Thank you to those of you who have donated items all year long, bought soccer balls, helped at work sessions, crafted items, sponsored a box—all of us working together make this possible.

Remember —It's All About Jesus!

Each Sunday in October family pictures will be taken to update our pictorial directory. These pictures will be taken in the Family Center. Please plan to get your whole family together on any Sunday in October **and get your picture taken for the Directory!** It won't be complete without **YOU!**

Church Photo Directory



PEOPLE FOR LIFE EVENTS

13th Annual

LIFE RUN 5K/10K & Fun Walk

Organized by People for Life
Saturday, October 10, 2026

- Slade Park, 7840 Slade Rd., Harborcreek
- Registration & Sign-In Begins at 7:30 a.m., Race Time: 9 a.m.

Registration Fee is \$30.00 or \$15.00 for ages 7-15

Questions? Contact Race Director Karli Van Der Volgen at (814) 450-5049.

AND

3RD Annual Fall Dinner, October 23
Colony Banquet Facility, 3014 W. 12th
Doors open at 5 p.m., Program at 6 p.m.
Special Guest Speaker, Katie McMahon
Reservations \$35, Students \$30

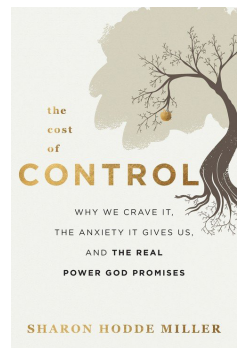
Due by October 18

(See more information at PeopleforLife.org)

The Cost of Control

by Sharon Hodde Miller

Did you know that your daily habits are instilling in you a false sense of control over your life? This leads to anxiety and broken relationships when things appear to go off track. But God has a solution: trade that so-called control for influence.



This is a new study open to any woman who would like to join either Tuesday or Thursday.

- **Tuesday night, starting October 6th,** 6:15 – 8:30 p.m. at Anita Glover's residence, 3511 West 11th St., Erie, PA
- **Thursday morning, starting October 8th,** 9:30-11:00 a.m. in the Family Center, currently rooms 6 & 7.



◆ **Celebration Class**

This class is for people celebrating their “mature” years in the church dining room, studying the scriptures on the current sermon series.

- ◆ **Men’s Class** – Studying the book of Mark, led by Pastor Rick, Bob Pettis and others. Meet in the Church Basement Room 32.
- ◆ **Ladies Class** – Studying “The Heart of Change” led by Tobi Magill and Suzanne Barton, Room 10 in the church basement.
- ◆ **Faith Chapel Ladies Class** –following an inductive study on Romans 6-8 (Part 2) led by Tracy Shinko. All ladies welcome!
- ◆ **Sanctuary Class** – a verse by verse study of the book of John, led by Jerry Hills in the sanctuary.
- ◆ **Everyone’s a Theologian** - What do Christians believe and why? This series on Systematic Theology is designed for new believers and anyone wanting to grow in their understanding of God’s truth. Meet in **Room 29**, Church Basement
- ◆ **College & Young Adult Class** – Room 28 in the Church Basement, exploring what the Bible says about topics relative to life, led by Mike and Cheryl Anderson.
- ◆ **Good News Class** – Family Center Office Room, studying the book of Philippians with Seth Huntley and Sam Ring leading.
- ◆ **Midlife In Christ Class** – led by Rick Fails and Jamie Greig in Room 31 in the church basement, studying The Fruits of the Spirit
- ◆ **Heart and Soul Class** – led by Paul Burgess in Room 19/20 of the church basement, studying “The Promise of Heaven”, by David Jeremiah.
- ◆ **The Upper Room Class** – led by Pastor Mal Beall and Paula Adams. Open to Young Adults both single and married. Meeting in the big room upstairs in the church and studying a variety of topics.



Kids Church is for children 4 years old thru 5th grade in the Family Center. The children should be signed in at the Family Center desk by a parent/caregiver before services and promptly picked up afterward.

Infant and Toddler care: During the 8:15 a.m. service, unsupervised Infant/Toddler rooms are available for families to use. Also, there is a nursing mother’s room available during both services at the back of the sanctuary. Infant and Toddler care *is* available during the 11 a.m. service in the Family Center. **MORE VOLUNTEERS** are needed to care for the children. If you can help, please contact the Church Office or the Welcome Center Desk.

If you are interested in being part of the cleaning/packing work team for the **Pill Bottle Recycling Program**, please contact **Amy Bovaird at 814-431-4266** or **Suzanne Barton at 814-392-4383**.



The times for the recycling operation will be as follows: **(meet in the Church Dining Room) October 15, 1-4 PM**
November 9 1-4 PM December 7, 1-4 PM

More Volunteers are needed

SPRINGFIELD COMMUNITY TRUNK OR TREAT @ THE FED

OCTOBER 24, 1-3 PM

SIGN UP to host a trunk at the Welcome Center Desk. Please bring in donations of individually wrapped candy or snacks to the Fed Kids Sign-in Desk. Thank you for helping us spread the love of Jesus!

SVFD Chicken & Biscuits

Sunday, October 18

11:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Federated Church Family Center

MENU:

- Chicken & Biscuits, Mashed Potatoes, Mixed Vegetables, Dessert and Beverage

COST:

Adults \$10, Children under 10 \$5

Dine in or Take Out

Come out and support your volunteers





OCTOBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURS.	FRI	SAT.
				1 9:30 AM Ladies Bible Study 6:30 PM CR	2	3 Men's Work Weekend at WLD Ranch
4 8:15 & 11 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School 6-7:30 PM Ignite	5 7 PM Men's Bible Study	6 3:30 PM SALT (Students After School Learning Truth)	7 10 AM Golden Circle 6:30 PM JOURNEY 7 PM Prayer Meeting	8 9:30 AM Ladies Study 10 AM Fed Moms 1-3 OCC Workday 6:30 PM CR	9	10 Women's Retreat at The Castle
11 8:15 & 11 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School 4 PM Praise Choir Women's Retreat at the Castle	12 Columbus Day 10 AM-7 PM OCC Shoebox Packing 7 PM Men's Bible Study	13 9:45 AM Senior Center 3:30 PM SALT 6:30 PM Leader- ship Meeting	14 10 AM Golden Circle 6:30 PM JOURNEY 7 PM Prayer Meeting	15 9:30 AM Ladies Study 1 PM Pill Bottle Ministry 6:30 PM Ladies Study and CR	16	17
18 8:15 & 11 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School SVFD Chicken & Biscuits 6-7:30 PM Ignite	19 7 PM Men's Bible Study	20 3:30 PM SALT	21 10 AM Golden Circle 6:30 PM JOURNEY 7 PM Prayer Meeting	22 9:30 AM Ladies Study 10 AM Fed Moms 1 PM Tabitha Tm. 6:30 PM CR and Ladies Study	23	24 1-3 PM Trunk or Treat
25 8:15 & 11 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School 4 PM Praise Choir	26 12 PM Mobile Food Pantry 7 PM Men's Bible Study	27 3:30 PM SALT	28 10 AM Golden Circle 6:30 PM JOURNEY 7 PM Prayer Meeting	29 9:30 AM Ladies Study 6:30 PM CR and Ladies Study	30 Youth Late Night- er	31 

OCTOBER CHILDCARE SCHEDULE

VOLUNTEER 2	VOLUNTEER 1	SERVICE	DATE
		8:15 Kids Church Helper	Oct 4
		9:30 Check In Desk	
Mary Ellen Hulley	Amy Swartzfager	9:45 Toddler Room	
		9:45 Nursery	
		10:45 Check In Desk	
	Amy & John Swartzfager	11 Toddler Room	
	Keah Bush	11 Kids Church Helper	
		8:15 Kids Church Helper	Oct 11
--	Liz Bright	9:30 Check In Desk	
	Mary Ellen Hulley	9:45 Toddler SS	
	Jacki Manley	9:45 Nursery	
Brooke/Violet/ Savannah	Emily Corbett	11 Toddler Room	
--	Liz Bright	10:45 Check In Desk	
	Jaelin Snyder	11 Kids Church Helper	
		8:15 Kids church helper	Oct 17
--	Taylor Billings	9:30 Check In Desk	
Amanda Nagle	Mary Ellen Hulley	9:45 Toddler Room	
Nolan Gilroy	Sydney Anderson	9:45 Nursery	
Connie Solomon	Josiah Merrit & Amy Pettis	11 Toddler Room	
--	Taylor Billings	10:45 Check In Desk	
	Azalea Ring	11 Kids Church Helper	
		8:15 Kids Church Helper	Oct 25
	Terena Snyder	9:30 Check In Desk	
Tamim Fenton	Mary Ellen Hulley	9:45 Toddler Room	
	Kayla Fralic	9:45 Nursery	
	Terena Snyder	10:45 Check In Desk	
Violet/Savannah	Melissa Greig	11 Toddler Room	
	Jaelin Snyder	11 Kids church Helper	