

Pastor's Pen

Let Your Faith Overcome Fear



Dear Congregation,

Some of us wrestle with worry and fear. We wrestle about all kinds of things: fear of the dark, of heights, of dirt, of germs; fear of commitment, or fear of rejection; worry about work or money; about chronic pain, or the outcome of serious illness; about confrontation or difficult relationships; about past trauma, future disaster, loneliness, or failure. There is no end to the things we may fear or worry about.

There is a beautiful episode recorded in the Gospels about faith overcoming fear. The disciples were in a boat with Jesus out on the sea of Galilee when a big storm rolled in. Jesus was asleep when the storm hit. Here's the version from Mark 4:36-41.



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-SA-NC

Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?"

He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"

They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"

Surrounded by the storm, the disciples were terrified. They probably felt they had the right to be afraid. It could have been a deadly storm. It seems from their comments they were upset with Jesus: “Don’t you care about us?!” Maybe they expected him to get up and pitch in with the oars!

Yet in asking the question, they showed they did not yet fully understand or believe in him. They did not yet know him well enough to trust his love for them and his power to both protect and save them, whatever the circumstances.

Jesus was not worried. He was asleep peacefully because he knew his heavenly Father was watching over them with love. He had no concern whatsoever for his or their safety, because he trusted God. He knew the Father had given him all those who followed him. As it says elsewhere: “My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father’s hand.” ^{John 10:27-29}, and in another place, “I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you.” ^{Luke 10:19}

The storm episode shows the disciples had a lot to learn about Jesus, and a lot to grow in faith. Their eyes were on circumstances, not on the God who loved them. This is why Jesus challenged their lack of faith. “*Why were you afraid?*”

Fear and faith do not get along well together. If we want our faith to thrive, we must boot fear out the door. “There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out all fear.”^{1 John 4:18} That is easier to do if we are following Jesus and learning to know him better. God loves us. Loving him in return means getting rid of all fear.

Credit the disciples with this: they woke Jesus up looking for help. Sometimes it takes storms to force us to seek God for help, which gives Jesus a chance to show his power and demonstrate his love for us.

What are you going through today that has you tied up with fear, worry, or anxiety? Whatever the storm or situation, you can trust Jesus. Put your faith in him. “Cast your cares on him, because he cares for you!”^{1 Pet. 5:7} You won’t be disappointed.

Yours in the love of Christ! Dr. Chris Fisher



Worship & Preaching Schedule Sept – Oct 2025

Sunday Worship: 9:00AM Live & Online

11:00 AM Coffeehouse Worship in Fellowship Hall

Saturday Worship: Live at 6:00 PM

9 AM Theme: *Genesis, God and Science*

Coffeehouse:

11:00 Worship Time

11:30 Alpha Course 2025

- Sept 7** ***13th Sunday after Pentecost w/ Holy Communion
Labor Day Weekend***
9:00 AM – Intro to “Genesis, God and Science”
11:00 AM – Coffeehouse Worship
- Sept 14** ***14th Sunday after Pentecost***
9:00 AM – Mr. Brian Reading, guest preacher
11:00 AM – Coffeehouse Worship
11:30 AM – Alpha 2025 Session 1 (lunch provided)
- Sept 21** ***15th Sunday after Pentecost***
9:00 AM – Genesis, God and Science II
11:00 AM – Coffeehouse Worship
11:30 AM – Alpha Session 2
- Sept 28** ***16th Sunday after Pentecost***
9:00 AM – Genesis, God and Science III
11:00 AM – Coffeehouse Worship
11:30 AM – Alpha Session 3
- Oct 5** ***17th Sunday after Pentecost w/ Holy Communion***
9:00 AM – Genesis, God and Science IV
11:00 AM – Coffeehouse Worship
11:30 AM – Alpha Session 4
- Oct 12** ***18th Sunday after Pentecost***
9:00 AM – Rev. Ralph Saunders, guest preacher
11:00 AM – Coffeehouse Worship
11:30 AM – Alpha Session 5
- Oct 19** ***19th Sunday after Pentecost/Laity Sunday***
9:00 AM – Mr. Doug Esposito, lay preacher
11:00 AM: Coffeehouse Worship

11:30 AM – Alpha Session 6

Oct 26

20th Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 AM – Genesis, God and Science V

11:00 AM – Coffeehouse worship

11:30 AM – Alpha Session 7

Nov 1

(Saturday) – Alpha Day Away (sessions 8-12)

Nov 2

All Saints Day w/ Holy Communion

9:00 AM – Genesis, God and Science VI

11:00 AM – Coffeehouse Worship

(No Alpha Today)

Nov. 9

Anniversary Sunday

10:00 AM – *Guest Preacher Rev. Dr. Reid Thomas*

11:30 AM – Anniversary lunch and Thanksgiving

Feast sponsored by the Community

Lunch Team.

(No Alpha Session Today; resumes Nov 16)



Communion Offerings

Sept 7

The Vineyard

Oct 5

Pastor's Discretionary Fund



123rd Anniversary Sunday: November 9, 2025

Combined Worship: 10 AM

Thanksgiving Theme Lunch: Noon

Guest Preacher: Rev. Dr. Reid Thomas

Our 123rd Anniversary is here! We will celebrate together on Sunday, November 9 with one combined service at 10 AM, lunch to follow at 11:30.

Our guest preacher is Rev. Dr. Reid Thomas, who lives in Lexington, Kentucky with his wife Amy, where he serves as a teacher and professor at Asbury College. Dr. Thomas served as youth pastor at our church in the early 1990s, Amy closely helping. We are delighted to welcome them back this Anniversary.

This year's Anniversary Lunch is a special combined event with our Community Lunch ministry. Community lunch is typically offered 2nd Saturday of the month, reaching area residents with a complimentary lunch and fellowship. This year, in honor of our anniversary, we are combining the two meals by moving Community lunch to Sunday, while still inviting area residents.

Thanks to Kelly Daly and her team for this combined effort. The meal theme will be Thanksgiving. Kelly will appreciate all volunteer help she can get! We'll have sign-ups in October.



Preaching Survey Results

Dear Christ Fellowship Church,

Thanks for your response to the impromptu preaching survey on Sunday, Aug. 17. Considering the survey and some recent related requests, this fall we will first tackle a series on **"God, Genesis, and Science,"** moving to other survey topics in the future. Stay tuned.

Books of Bible

- 1) Genesis chapters 1-11
- 2) Psalm 34:15; Psalm 35:27
- 3) Proverbs
- 4) Gospels: Red letter words
- 5) Gospel of John; with an apologetics twist
- 6) Book of Romans

Topics:

- 1) The case for God in science
- 2) Origins and Authority of the Bible
- 3) A better understanding of the Bible & God's word within
- 4) Jesus in the Old Testament – prophecy and fulfillment
- 5) Encouragement & Hope for Daily Life after loss/grief
- 6) Forgiveness
- 7) Overcoming fear
- 8) Kingdom Living:
- 9) God's will about Marriage, Divorce, & Remarriage (is it allowed?)
- 10) Christian principles for raising children
- 11) Christian principles for managing money
- 12) The Christian and work – works and deeds
- 13) Traps and pitfalls for today's Christians (in books, movies, music, worship, entertainment...)



What's Happening in the Lawsuit

August 2025 Update

On August 14, the Montgomery County judge certified the lawsuit for a bench trial. This means it will be heard by the judge himself, not a jury. In a separate hearing a few days later, the judge scheduled the **trial to begin on March 30, 2026**, blocking out 7 days for the trial. The case centers on two charges: breach of contract and promissory estoppel. We will update you on further developments as they become available.

What should we be doing in the meantime? Keep doing the work of the Kingdom! Live as faithful disciples, keep praying, share the good news, worship fervently, do the good works God has given you to do. Do not worry about the lawsuit, the conference, the UMC --- or even about yourself! Pray for our lawyers and for those who oppose us. Ask the Lord for a favorable outcome.



NEW CHURCH LOGO

Our new logo is being used on our letterhead and will soon be available to order on shirts and other items. Here is a preview of the new logo as it has been perfected for promotional use.



Please Help Us with Your Online Worship

Dear Friends, if you are watching our Sunday worship services online, we're glad you are tuning in. Drop a comment from time to time to let us know you tuned in. If you can get here, please try to come. Online worship is a nice supplement to being part of the church, but it should not be a long-term replacement for meeting together in person. Being together in the body is the best way we can encourage each other in faith.

If you are blessed by the church, kindly consider giving to support it. You can give through the church's website (www.havencfc.org), or through the **QR code** in this newsletter.



Church Prayer Ministry Updates

6 Things to Pray about in Sept – Oct 2025

- 1) Pray for those in authority everywhere, and for the spread of the Gospel, including in hostile countries.
- 2) Pray for fellow believers everywhere, including brothers and sisters in our church, for strength and endurance in faith, even where there is suffering and persecution.
- 3) Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.
- 4) Pray that our church will be faithful and bold in sharing the Gospel! Pray for our church leadership, for every ministry team, and for the missionaries and outside ministries we support.
- 5) Pray for spiritual awakening in our County. Pray for your neighbors' salvation. Pray for our upcoming Alpha Outreach Program, for our work to renew Children's ministry, for our youth and young adult ministries and their leaders, and for all our small groups and outreach ministries.
- 6) Pray for the lawyers at the NCLL who represent us in the civil lawsuit, and for those who oppose us.
- 7) Pray for the sick, those in prison, those who are in trouble or in need. Pray God will show you how to love them practically – in action, and not just words, remembering what Jesus said: "Whatever you did for the least of these, you did for me."

Weekly prayer team ministry continues.

We continue to call our members to join the prayer rotation of praying for a week, one hour each day. We ask you to pray for the Kingdom of God to come more fully in our church and community.

An invitation to spend concentrated time with God each week:

Consider spending serious time alone with God each day in prayer and searching the scripture. Your whole day will be blessed.

Do you have a testimony to share?

Please consider sharing your story as part of our faith-stories series. Contact the office at office@havenfirstumc.org if you want to share.

NEWS FROM THE VINEYARD

I PRAISE God for how He is moving through this group of believers on the hill to make a difference in the lives of folks from our church and community who need a hand with food, household and personal hygiene items through our monthly distribution and emergency assistance. This next season we hope to increase the number of ways we have to come alongside those in need beyond our monthly distribution but will need help from each of you to make it happen.

A big thank you to everyone who has helped with the many moving parts involved in making this ministry happen each month. Thanks to your donations of money, items and time we have helped more than 60 households each month on distribution day and another 5-15 households between distributions. August has been our biggest month in a while with 80 households helped on distribution week and another 8 households receiving special help throughout the month.

While we are thankful for the increased number of church folk who assist with the Vineyard, the need is great, and more help is needed. Please consider donating to the Vineyard monthly either through monetary donations marked "Vineyard" or donations of food, personal hygiene items or household items. Donations of gift cards to purchase food for the emergency needs that have been coming up would also be greatly appreciated.

Each month we also provide a time of refreshments for those who attend the Vineyard Worship Service. Many thanks to Bonnie D. for her help providing food for this fellowship time. She is now passing the "Spatula" to Darlene who has also been helping each month. Please see Darlene if you are willing to assist her.

We would like to start providing opportunities for folks in need to come volunteer with not only Vineyard set up as our current team has been doing but with making items to sell, cards and crafts to hand out to our shut-ins and folks in nursing homes, budgeting,

meal planning, couponing, cooking, opportunities to explore faith, etc.

Assistance is needed to organize the following activities we would like to start off with this fall: Crocheting/knitting group to make shopping bags/mats/purses out of plastic yarn made from the bread bags we have begun to collect, a crafting day/s in November and December to make cards/ornaments for outreach, a baking day the second week of December and meal while watching one of the Chosen Christmas specials.

We also need volunteers to help with any of the following areas: Praying for this ministry and the folks we serve, someone to help contact stores and businesses for donations, an extreme couponer, help with shopping and help on distribution day.

Blessings,

Marcy and the Vineyard team.

Faith Community Nurse's Notes

Brought to you by Ann Moyer, RN FCN

Personal Hygiene

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them, from Genesis 1:27. Our bodies are fearfully and wonderfully made by God. Corinthians 1:19 clearly states that our body is a temple with the Holy Spirit residing in it. We belong to God and should honor God with our body. In order to do that, we need to take care of it.

Good personal hygiene is crucial for overall health. Good personal hygiene are behaviors that improve cleanliness and include:

- Frequent handwashing, especially after using the bathroom and before and after handling food or touching pets, sneezing or coughing.
- Shower/bathe regularly making sure to cleanse the armpits and genital area well as they produce more sweat and are more prone to infection.
- Oral hygiene, brush and floss teeth two times daily and be sure to have regular dental check ups.
- Trim and clean your fingernails and toenails, dirt and bacteria can readily gather there. Scrub underneath nails and use clean nail grooming tools.
- Wash hair regularly with running water to remove dirt and oil that causes unwanted residue on the scalp and hair which may increase the chance of infection and an unpleasant odor.
- Wear clean clothes, especially underwear and socks. This helps to prevent infections as well as body odor.
- Keep bedding, towels and personal items such as combs and brushes clean by washing them each week.

Good hygiene promotes physical and mental wellness as it helps thwart bacterial, fungal and viral infections. Feeling fresh and clean boosts self esteem and confidence. Take good care of the beautiful temple God created in and for you.

Romans 12:1 Therefore, I urge you brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God-this is your true and proper worship.

Information from;
<https://www.cdc.gov/hygiene/about>
<https://www.healthdirect.gov.au/personalhygiene>

WEEKLY PRAYER WARRIORS

August 31- Sept. 6: April Bergen

Sept. 7-13: David Williams

Sept. 14-20: Lisi Fisher

Sept. 21-27: Glen & Vickie Brink

Sept. 28-Oct 4: Sue Rudiman

Oct. 5-11: Jean Twardzik

Oct. 12-18: JoAnn Daum

Oct. 19- 25: Dot Murphy & Darlene Beers

Oct. 26- Nov. 1

The **MoMs** Fall Semester will meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month beginning on **September 2** from **6:00-7:15 PM**. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact April at 570-640-1259.

The graphic has a background of horizontal lines, resembling notebook paper. At the top, the text 'SHOP BACK TO SCHOOL DEALS FOR' is written in large, bold, blue capital letters with a red outline. To the right of this text are several colored pencils. Below the text is the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child logo, which features a green circular border with the text 'Samaritan's Purse' at the top and 'OPERATION Christmas Child' at the bottom. In the center of the logo is a white airplane with a red ribbon tied around its fuselage. To the right of the logo is a bulleted list of school supplies. At the bottom left of the graphic are several colored crayons.

- crayons
- pencils
- sharpeners
- erasers
- notebooks
- index cards
- glue sticks
- markers
- scissors

The amazing journey of a simple Shoebox Gift begins with **YOU** and results in **Evangelism & Discipleship!** Will you partner with us to share that glorious hope of Jesus? We will again be collecting shoeboxes for **Operation Christmas Child**.

“Shoeboxes” can be picked up in the Narthex beginning on **October 5** and are due by **Sunday, November 9 (Anniversary Sunday)**

The photos from Embrace Grace baby showers on social media tend to stop people in their tracks. They capture something powerful—the joy, awe, and gratitude on a mama’s face as she walks into a room filled with beautiful decorations, piles of diapers, and people who truly see her. For many, it’s the first time they’ve felt that kind of love.



Those moments are amazing—but they’re just the beginning.

Embrace Grace isn’t just a sweet 12-week program followed by a goodbye. It’s meant to be a bridge into something deeper: a spiritual family. A place to belong. A community where a mom can grow in faith, raise her baby in the church, and discover her God-given purpose.

And what we’ve seen over and over again is this: the moms come back.

They come back to support new moms, share their stories, lead groups, and simply show up with a hug and a “You’ve got this.”

One alumni put it best: **"I didn’t just get a baby shower. I got a new life."** That’s our prayer for every mama!

This fall, would you join us in praying for the mamas in our community and the mission ahead? We’d also love for you to consider a few ways to get involved:

- **Invite** moms with little ones to our *MoMs* small group
- **Volunteer** as a helping hand in the nursery
- **Celebrate** God’s goodness with us at our **Annual Baby Shower** on *Saturday, October 18 at 10:00 AM*

Together, let’s surround these mamas with love, prayer, and support as they raise the next generation!



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2024

10:00 AM - NOON

FELLOWSHIP HALL

PLEASE RSVP BY OCTOBER 8 TO A MEMBER OF THE EMBRACE GRACE TEAM

APRIL BERGEN, NANCY KRAFT, OR ANN MOYER

*****IF PURCHASING A GIFT FROM THE BABY REGISTRY IN THE NARTHEX,
KINDLY PLACE THE HEART ON YOUR WRAPPED GIFT*****

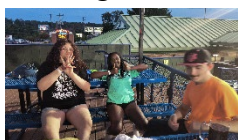


Summer's Over! New Life Begins!

Can you believe another summer has passed? Did you have a good time even with the sweltering heat we had in July? There were plenty of events this

summer in which our youth had chances to gather together during the summer.

June offered our annual trip to watch the Reading Phils with fellow congregants at the



pavilion. Then a week later, strike some pins at the Strike Zone Alleys and chow on pizza and fries (helps with release of the bowling bowl



down the lane).

July offered support to the Vineyard (Marcy appreciates) to help community with food (spiritually and physically).

Then a group of youth ventured to Harvey Cedars, NJ for a spiritually filled week with other churches. For those at the Youth Sunday service can attest the effect it had on them from their testimonies. Sadly, the month ended in stormy weather vs playing mini-golf and ice cream at Heislars.



We ended our Summer in August with an attempt to 'escape' from Fall at the Escape Room in Pine Grove. Then we joined with additional churches for Back to School Bash at the JAM Center.

September starts our new season with a new concept in our gatherings. First is our day of gatherings – we have moved to Thursday evenings from 6pm to 8pm.

With several of our youth involved in after-school activities or family gatherings that mostly fall on Wednesdays and weekends, Thursday was an appropriate day with also the church schedule.



The other part is bringing more worship into our gatherings with singing and music praise at the beginning of our gatherings (it gives extra time for any coming late too.)

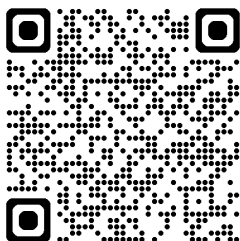
We will have a special monthly series on mental wellbeing and emotional healing. The series is called 'Faith Over...' and will be run by Lisi Fisher on the second Tuesdays of the month. The first date will be October 7th at 6pm (yes, this is the 1st Tuesday for October).

Special events for both September and October (some tentative) are: One Rock/One Community support (Sept 13), See You at the Pole (Sept 24), Pumpkin Patch support (Oct 12), and Roller Roost (Oct 26).

We'll keep you updated of any changes on the Youth Web site. Also, there may be new changes to notifications coming soon. But for now, we'll continue to use Flocknote for signups and polls, along with text and email groups for immediate messages.

God Bless,
David and Stacey

Want to participate in youth events? Do we have your emergency contact information? To help us be ready for anything (mostly positive), we need to have an updated permission/emergency contact/photo release form. Use the QR Code below to open and fill the form.



Youth Ministry Ignite Fall/Winter 2025 Calendar

Date	Time	Event	Location	Additional Info
August 24, 2025	5:30 – 7:30pm	Back to School Bash	JAM Center	
September 13, 2025	TBD	One Rock/One Community Event		Community support event with YL Schuylkill (Dual Camp Cash event if with both groups)
September 18, 2025	6 – 8pm	Youth Worship		
September 24, 2025	7:00-7:30am	See You at the Pole Event	Multiple School Locations	Student lead worship and prayer time at the School Flagpole
September 25, 2025	6 – 8pm	Youth Worship		
October 4, 2025	6 – 8pm	Youth Worship		
October 7, 2025	6-8pm	Faith Over... Series	Youth Room	Special monthly series with Lisi Fisher on youth mental wellbeing & emotional healing
October 12, 2025	12pm – 5pm	Pumpkin Patch Event	SH Island	Community support event (Camp Cash Event)
October 16, 2025	6 – 8pm	Youth Worship		
October 23, 2025	6 – 8pm	Youth Worship		
October 25, 2025	6 – 9pm	Skate/Laser Night	RollerRoost	Have some fun at the Roost!
November 6, 2025	6 – 8pm	Youth Worship		
November 11, 2025 (TBD – Veteran's Day)	6-8pm	Faith Over... Series	Youth Room	Special monthly series with Lisi Fisher on youth mental wellbeing & emotional healing
November 20, 2025	6 – 8pm	Youth Worship		
November 23 – December 6, 2025	Thanksgiving Holiday Time Off			
December 9, 2025	6-8pm	Faith Over... Series	Youth Room	Special monthly series with Lisi Fisher on youth mental wellbeing & emotional healing
December 18, 2025	6 – 8pm	Youth Worship		
December 21, 2025	5 – 7pm	Youth Christmas Party		
December 22, 2025 – January 4, 2026	Christmas/New Years Holiday Time Off			

Information above subject to change. Updates will be relayed both on the Youth Ministry's webpage

<https://www.havenfirstumc.org/youth-ministry> and via text or email.

Finally, here's a mystery pic for our youth being built for game time.

There are 9 ways to think about it:



October 18th 2p-4p

Christ Fellowship Church
420 Saylor St. Schuylkill Haven

Ceramic Painting

Fall & Christmas Themed

Sign up in the Narthex or Call to register:
(so that there are enough supplies)

Virginia 570-516-7264

Or

Kelly 570-527-9104

PAY AT THE DOOR
PRICES VARY FROM \$25 TO \$30
PAINT & BRUSHES PROVIDED

Proceeds to Benefit the
COMMUNITY LUNCH

Puzzle!

Use the words provided to complete the puzzle.
Then write the numbered words in the correct blanks
below to complete Psalm 67:6, NIV.

WORDS:

GOD, BLESSES, HARVEST,
YIELDS, US, LAND

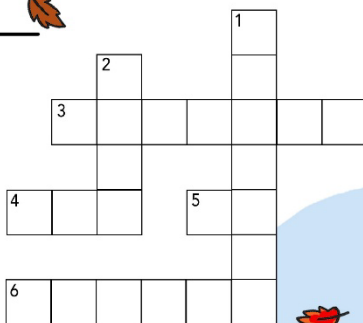


ACROSS

3. Rhymes with farthest.
4. Rhymes with nod.
5. Rhymes with thus.
6. Rhymes with fields.

DOWN

1. Rhymes with messes.
2. Rhymes with hand.



The

2

6

its

3

;

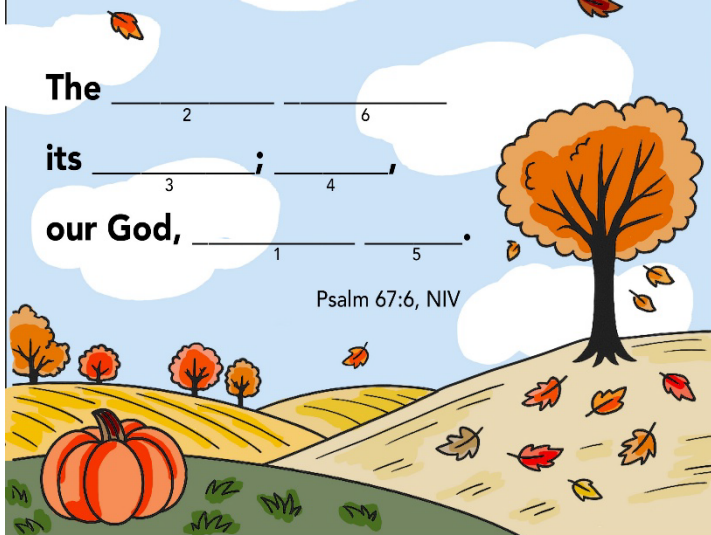
4

our God,

1

5

Psalm 67:6, NIV



Answer: The land yields its harvest; God, our God, blesses us. Psalm 67:6, NIV

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The Circuit Writer
September / October 2025

Christ Fellowship Church

*“Our Mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the
transformation of the world”*

*In Person Sunday Service at 9:00 A.M. & Saturday Night at 6:00 p.m.
11:00 A.M. Coffeehouse Worship Service
You can also join us online at: www.havenfirstumc.org Or like us on
Facebook and join us there.*