A Living Branches Community Newsletter

November 2026

SUMMIT NEWS

SOUDERTON MENNONITE HOMES

***ANNUAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**
Each year we prepare a disclosure statement for the Department of Insurance, which regulates life plan communities. This year's disclosure will be available by the end of October. If you are interested in having a copy, please call the administrative office receptionist. Give your name and phone number, and a copy of the disclosure will be delivered to you.

SARA SPOTLIGHT

Reminder - SARA is for emergency situations

How do I know that my pendant is still working?

Your pendant checks in with the SARA system on a regular basis. When the SARA system detects a low battery, it will send an alert to staff with plenty of notice

FOOD COLLECTION FOR KEYSTONE OPPORTUNITY CENTER
November 15-24

We will collect nonperishable food for the Keystone Opportunity Center's food pantry. Please place donations on the tables in the main lobby. The donations will be blessed during the Thanksgiving Eve Service on November 25.

APPLE ORCHARD Café

10% off total check
Not Valid on Sundays

Expires: December 1, 2026

FROM THE DESK OF PASTORAL CARE

November is a time to gather and give thanks. Thanks for God's protection throughout the past year. Thanks for our family, friends, and those who have cared for us along the way. Thanks for the memories we still cherish of those who have gone before us. In giving God thanks for all these wonderful gifts, we are living our best 'Thanks-Living' lives.

On Wednesday, November 25th the pastors of Living Branches invite you to come together and take time to praise God for all He has done for us this past year. Our Thanksgiving Eve Service is a time to bring all three Living Branches campuses together into one blended service. The celebration will take place in the Derstine Chapel at Dock Woods, will be live streamed to the Summit View Auditorium at Souderton Mennonite Home and the Activity Room at the Willows. As a way to represent each of our wonderful communities, staff and residents from all three campuses will be participating in our service as they lead us in song, scripture, and the bringing of God's word. Ed Brubaker will also be joining us that afternoon. It will be a wonderful time to be reminded of how God has blessed us individually, while celebrating together as a whole community. The live service will take place at 2pm.

To bless the larger communities around us, our offering will be given to Keystone Opportunity Center in Souderton, PA. This organization is committed to helping community members in need by offering a comprehensive array of social services that educate, encourage, and empower them to become self-sufficient. All campuses will be taking a monetary collection at the Thanksgiving Eve Service. Both Souderton Mennonite Home and The Willows will also collect food donations. Please check with one of our pastors if you have questions.

Our prayer is that this service will remind us that even though we live on different campuses, Living Branches is one united community who serves a gracious and loving Lord. Let's give thanks to the Lord for all He has done for us by lifting up together one voice and one song. May you be blessed!

-Pastors Tami, John, Susan, Debra, and David

Daylight Savings Time
Turn your clocks back one hour
Sunday, November 1.

SO MANY GREAT FULL FACILITY PROGRAMS ARE HAPPENING IN NOVEMBER WE COULDN'T FIT THEM ALL ON THE FRONT PAGE:

- **11/3 Service of Remembrance**
- **11/5 Auracast**
- **11/5 Honoring our Veterans**
- **11/5 On the Front Porch, Alton Fly**
- **11/6 Bon Appetit "Julia Childs"**
- **11/11 John Nicholas from Telford VFW**
- **11/13-11/14 Holiday Bazaar**
- **11/17 Mike Jesberger as Abraham Lincoln**
- **11/19 Third Thursday: John Bryant**
- **11/20 Suburban Training Club**
- **11/21 Strolling String Youth Orchestra**
- **11/24 Bill Monaghan**
- **11/25 Thanksgiving Eve Service**
- **11/30 Souderton Men's Alumni Chorus**

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE
Tuesday, November 3
2:00 p.m.
Summit View Auditorium

AURACAST
Thursday, November 5
10:00 a.m.
Summit View Auditorium

If you have difficulty hearing in the Summit View Auditorium, please consider attending the Auracast presentation. The meeting will include a sound booth volunteer, a resident using Auracast with his hearing aid, and an audiologist.

MORE PROGRAMS ON PAGE 2

Souderton Mennonite Homes' Auxiliary's Annual

HOLIDAY BAZAAR



Friday, November 13
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
&
Saturday, November 14
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

- Crafters and Baked Goods in the Front Lobby, Summit View Auditorium, and Fellowship Room
- Specials in the Corner Store
- Oyster Stew in the Apple Orchard Café

All proceeds benefit the residents of Souderton Mennonite Homes

FULL FACILITY

HONORING OUR VETERANS WITH HERB KAUFMAN: THE HEROES AND HISTORY OF THE MEDAL OF HONOR
Thursday, November 5
2:00 p.m.
Summit View Auditorium

ON THE FRONT PORCH WITH ALTON FLY
Thursday, November 5
6:30 p.m.
Summit View Auditorium

BON APPETIT WITH JULIA CHILD
Friday, November 6
2:00 p.m.
Summit View Auditorium

See Linda Kenyon's portrayal of "Julia Child" as she tells the story of this American cook, author and television personality (1912-2004).

VETERAN'S DAY WITH JOHN NICHOLAS FROM TELFORD VFW
Wednesday, November 11
10:30 a.m.
Summit View Auditorium

Veteran John Nicholas from the Telford VFW, as he shares memories that honor all that served this country. This program is open only to our Veterans. All veterans are encouraged to attend this program honoring their service. Please RSVP or sign up at the RL bulletin board no later than November 6th. Please call Heather Scattergood at ext. 42225 with any questions.

GETTYSBURG ADDRESS WITH MIKE JESBERGER
Tuesday, November 17
2:00 p.m.
Summit View Auditorium

Join historical reenactor, lecturer and tour guide, Mike Jesberger, who will provide an engaging presentation on the Gettysburg Address. Learn about Lincoln's visit to the Battlefield and revisit the circumstances that led him to deliver his most enduring speech at the dedication of the Soldier's National Cemetery in 1863.

THIRD THURSDAY JOHN BRYANT
Thursday, November 19
6:30 p.m.
Summit View Auditorium

John has served in a variety of non-profit leadership roles for more than 45 years. This includes local church ministries, senior living communities, parachurch organizations, and higher education.

SUBURBAN DOG TRAINING CLUB
Friday, November 20
1:30 p.m.
Summit View Auditorium

Suburban Dog Training Club recently relocated to Huntingdon Valley. They have been providing dog training classes in the community for over 50 years. They offer a variety of classes (puppy kindergarten, beginners and manners classes) with the main goal to train dogs to become well-mannered members of the family. For those individuals who wish to pursue advanced training with their dogs we offer Competition Obedience and Rally classes along with a Foundation for Dog Sports class.

STROLLING STRINGS
Saturday, November 21
2:00 p.m.
Summit View Auditorium

Please join us as we enjoy a performance by the strolling Strings Youth Orchestra. Strolling Strings is an independent youth orchestra for string players ages 6–18 with at least one year of playing experience. They are based in Harleysville, and their students come from Montgomery and Bucks Counties. They give young musicians opportunities to perform, learn, and make music together.

BILL MONAGHAN PLAYS YOUR REQUESTS
Tuesday, November 24
2:00 p.m.
Summit View Auditorium

THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE
Wednesday, November 25
2:00 p.m.
Summit View Auditorium

SOUDERTON ALUMNI MEN'S CHORUS WITH JON LEIGHT
Monday, November 30
6:30 p.m.
Summit View Auditorium

Purposely left blank

FROM THE DESK OF THE RL NURSE:

St. Luke's Hospice and Palliative Care
Thursday, November 12
2:00-3:00 p.m.
Summit View Auditorium

November is recognized as National Hospice and Palliative Care Month, a dedicated observance to raise awareness about end-of-life care and dispel common misunderstandings surrounding hospice.

Some people incorrectly view hospice as "giving up", or something you sign onto when you have a few days left to live. In reality, hospice care focuses entirely on controlling symptoms, providing comfort, and maximizing a person's quality of life. It is a great support service that can help for weeks or months.

In June, one of our preferred providers, Wellness Hospice and Palliative Care, was here to discuss their services.

Join me to meet another of our preferred providers: St. Luke's Hospice. Many of St. Luke's team are the same caring professionals from Grandview Hospital.

If you think hospice care is in your, or a loved one's future, you should meet the people who would be providing that care.

See Janice Carroll with any questions or for more information.

Grief Support Group:

Wednesday, November 4, 1:00 p.m. FRAB

Wednesday, November 18, 1:00 p.m. FRAB

Please note an upcoming change to our monthly Grief Support Group. Starting in November, it will be held on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month at 1pm in Friendship Rooms A & B. We will be starting a 13-session program called GriefShare® which includes videos and group discussions. Workbooks will be available to purchase for $15 but are not required to participate. For questions, contact Pastor Debra Neild or RL Social Worker Megan Wolf.

SOUDERTON MENNONITE HOMES
Residents' Association

FROM YOUR RA PRESIDENT (Dick Close)

From our windows here at SMH, November arrives like a gentle visitor, painting the maples amber and red while cool air surrounds us on our walk around the SMH campus. We treasure the busy mornings and quieter afternoons, when neighbors gather for stories, puzzles, and watching the leaves fall. Thanksgiving brings a special glow to our villas, cottages and apartments. Soon we will visit family or have them here for the comforting aromas of turkey, sage, and pumpkin pie. We share with loved ones and our special friends here at SMH cherished memories of holidays gone by. Around the table, we share our gratitude to the Lord for His faithfulness and blessings. Once again, looking out the windows November's bare branches remind us that beauty remains, even as seasons change and life grows quieter and deeper. Happy Thanksgiving!

LOOKING AHEAD TO DECEMBER

Living Branches will be hosting our version of a ***German Christmas Market*** at all 3 campuses Thursday, December 3rd.. We will hold our version of this event.

We are looking for residents to share their special holiday collections and/or favorite items you display each year to share from 11-3 in the Front Lobby. We will have special holiday huts made for these displays. Please see your Life Enrichment Coordinator to participate. We hope to make this a very special day to remember!

RL ACTIVITIES

MINDFULNESS SESSIONS OFFERED (SU)
Monday, November 2
Monday, November 16
11:00 a.m.

Monday, November 9
Monday, November 23
10:30 a.m.
First Floor Lounge

Heather is offering mindfulness sessions all holiday season on a weekly basis. This practice offers you the opportunity to take time away from spending so much time in your head and learn to just sit with yourself in the present. It is easy to forget this during the busyness of this time of the year. If you are interested in learning more about this in time for the holiday season, please sign up at the RL bulletin board or contact Heather Scattergood for more information.

GENIUS BAR!
Wednesday, November 11
3:15 p.m.
Library

GRANDFRIENDS
Tuesday, November 17
4:40 p.m.
Cafe

GIFT GIVING POLICY FOR LIVING BRANCHES TEAM MEMBERS

REMINDER:
As the holidays approach, please remember that team members are not permitted to accept tips, gratuities or gifts from residents or residents' family members.

RL TRIPS

NEW – PLEASE NOTE:
Sign up for all trips (except grocery shopping) on the Sign-Up sheets located on the table outside of the RL Gym.

BOSCOV'S POTTSTOWN and LUNCH at the SUNSHINE CAFE
Thursday, November 5th
9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Cost: $7.00 transportation

POMODORINO'S DINNER DINE AROUND
Thursday, November 19th
4:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

GROCERY/SHOPPING TRIPS

Grocery shopping lists will be posted on the RL Trips Bulletin Board as usual.

LANDIS SUPERMARKET
Tuesday, November 3
Tuesday, November 17
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

TRADER JOE'S
Monday, November 9
9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Giant / Walmart
Tuesday, November 24
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

FUTURE TRIPS CURRENTLY SCHEDULED

Wednesday, December 9th – Hunterdon Hills Christmas Show

If interested, please sign up by November 1st.

"ON THE FRONT PORCH" With Dick Close

We are approaching our 4th year anniversary of meeting and hearing from over 40 of our neighbors here at SMH. What a joy to hear how different people have journeyed through life as well as the joys of meeting new friends. It is getting harder and harder to find people who are willing to say "yes" to coming "On The Front Porch". I need to hear from you that you would be willing to share your life with us. I give you a set of questions for you to pick out whatever you would want to talk about and for sure, we don't talk about things you prefer not to address.

This is an opportunity for you to reflect back on your life and see how God has led you through so many adventures and experiences. Many here at SMH sit in silent agreement as you share your life that similar things happened to them—like heating the house with a coal stove or using an outhouse!

So please consider saying "Yes" so we can continue welcoming visitors to the Front Porch on the first Thursday night of the month.

KRISTEN'S FITNESS CORNER

Focus on Fall Prevention

Benjamin Franklin famously said "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." Our goal in the Fitness Center this month is to apply that adage to fall prevention. Reduce your fall risk by taking the CDC's Steadi Survey and practicing the sit-to-stand exercise. The Steadi survey identifies risk factors and allows you to investigate and fix underlying dangers, such as home hazards, poor balance and leg strength. Getting out of a chair may seem simple, but your ability to do so actually reveals a great deal about your health. To assess this, we use the sit-to-stand test, which measures how many times you can rise from a chair to a standing position in 30 seconds. It tells us about your strength, balance and flexibility.

Together the Steadi survey and sit-to-stand test give great insight into your health and can help pinpoint where you need to build strength to help prevent falls. The sit-to-stand test takes just 30 seconds to complete, but its results can provide insights into your health. Come into the fitness center to participate.

Take the Challenge: Drop in the fitness center to fill out the Steadi survey and do the sit-to-stand test. All results are private. Kristen will put together your personal plan to help you increase your number. Work on your sit-to-stands during the month of November and take the assessment again. Complete the challenge and enter the prize drawing.

Turkey Trot Scavenger Hunt
November 16 – November 20

Pick up a scavenger hunt paper in the fitness center. Follow the clue each day to find the SMH turkey and the answer to the Thanksgiving trivia question. You will also take a sticker for your sheet. At the end of the week turn your paper into the fitness center and collect a prize.

The 2026 Friendship Games: On 10/2/26 Souderton Mennonite Homes participated in the Friendship Games at Meadowood retirement community. The Friendship Games are an opportunity for residents of CCRCs in Southeastern Pennsylvania to gather and participate in friendly competitions. Many thanks to our athletes and volunteers who were amazing representatives of SMH!
Billiards: Jim Moyer (Apts) – *Silver Medal Winner!,* **Bocce:** Ari Koudis and Valetta Kaczur, **Brain Games:** Judy Previti, **Golf:** Fran Nikles, Jim Moyer (Villas), **Relay Walk:** Ellen Koudis and Reuben Strawn, **Shuffleboard:** Kay Derstine, Jim Maust – *Bronze Medal Winners!,* **Swimming for Living Branches:** Alton Fly, **Wii Bowling:** Ken Sellers, **Volunteers:** Dick Close, Will Alderfer and Ruth Ann Moyer (Villas)

FROM THE RL SOCIAL WORKER

Medicare Open Enrollment
October 15th -December 7th

Do you need assistance choosing a Medicare plan that is best for you? PA MEDI (Medicare Education and Decision Insight) offers counseling over the phone or in-person at several Montgomery County Sites. MEDI counselors provide free, confidential, and unbiased advice on original Medicare, Medicare Advantage, Medigap, and Part D drug plans. See RLSW, Megan Wolf, for a list of local MEDI sites or if you need help scheduling an appointment.
PA MEDI Helpline: 1-800-783-7067

Save the Date:

Wednesday, December 9th at 1:00 p.m. (SVA) VMSC/Indian Valley EMS will be here to provide information on their 2027 subscription program and help with new or returning enrollments.

Please notify the front desk when you will be on vacation or away from your residence overnight. It is helpful from a safety and security perspective to know when a residence is not occupied. It also alleviates packages being delivered and sitting in the hallway during your absence.

FUND DEVELOPMENT

Annual Giving Request for Benevolent Care

As we approach the time when many of us begin to plan for our year-end giving, we want to remind you about the Benevolent Care Ministry at Living Branches. The gap in funding for residents who are no longer able to pay the full cost of their care continues to grow each year and we appreciate your ongoing support. It is through your faithful gifts that we are able to provide quality care for all of our residents, regardless of their financial status. Year-end mailings will be sent out by the end of November. Contributions should be returned to the Fund Development office no later than Thursday, December 31, 2026, in order to be acknowledged for the 2026 tax year. Thank you for considering Living Branches in your year-end giving!

Legacy Giving Reminder

The end of the calendar year is also the time when we remind Legacy Giving Circle of Faith members about their annual support for the benevolent care ministry at Living Branches. If you have pledged a gift for 2026, you have until Thursday, December 31, 2026, to fulfill your pledge. If you don't remember if you have fulfilled your pledge, please contact:

Rose Hackman, Admin Assistant for Fund Development
215-368-4438, ext. 44305
Rose.Hackman@LivingBranches.org
or
Colin Ingram, Associate Director of Fund Development
215-368-4438, ext. 44304
Colin.Ingram@LivingBranches.org



Looking for a unique holiday gift? Pick up a 4 oz. bag of *Not Your Grandma's Coffee* available in The Corner Store or Acorn Shop during the Holiday Bazaar through December.

A stocking stuffer perfect for sharing with family and friends near and far this holiday season.

FROM THE VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR'S DESK

November is a time for giving thanks. THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO as volunteers who serve others and bring joy to our community. We appreciate all who swiftly completed the annual volunteer requirements! Well done!

If you have not finished the yearly requirements, you have until November 4 to finish. Send me your flu, TB survey, and any updated COVID documents. To view the in-service video and take the quiz, go to https://livingbranches.org/volunteer-inservice. The quiz will automatically be sent to me and when you pass, you will be in good standing.
If you have any questions, contact Suzanne Zomberg Suzanne.zomberg@livingbranches.org
215-723-9881 ext 42298. My office hours are Tues. Wed. Friday 8:30 – 4:00pm. Happy Harvest!