GREEN TREE TIMES

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November Brings All the Feels



Fallen leaves are a playground of fun!

November is the month when the colorful leaves fall from the trees and require work to remove them but also become a playground in the back yard for whoever wants to play! Just choose to play!

It's also the month that sneaks in and brings with it the holiday season that seems to start mid month and continue until the New Year. That feels like excitement and anticipation but can also feel like a lot of pressure and stress.

To eliminate the "stress" part and enjoy the "exciting" part, try to only do things that bring you joy. Sometimes you need to do things that bring the kids or others joy, but then your joy will come from the trickle down effect. Just find the balance and have a Happy Holiday!

Pittsburgh kicks off the season with the celebration of the Annual Highmark Light Up Night, downtown on Saturday, Nov. 22nd. The activities will be plenty and for everyone! More information at downtownpittsburghholidays.com.

The People's Gas Holiday Market downtown will open the Friday night before, on Nov. 21, and will be located in parts of the Cultural District due to the construction in Market Square. This market offers a one of a kind shopping experience modeled after the original Christkindlemarkt from Nuremberg, Germany in 1545. This atmosphere will definitely get you in the mood for the season.

The Rink at PPG Place opens Fri., Nov. 14 as well. Online advance ticket purchases are available now at therinkatppgplace.com.

The Gingerbread House display will be held again inside the City-County Building and will kick off on Light Up Night.

Phipps Conservatory kicks off the season on Nov. 14 at 5 p.m. with their *Holiday Magic! Wild Winter* Winter Flower Show and Light Garden and will offer extended night time candlelit hours until 11 p.m. This year will offer many new and exciting features! Information available at phipps.conservatory.org.



The beautiful Winter Flower Show

~photo courtesy Phipps Conservatory

Pittsburgh Botanic Garden's Dazzling Nights returns on Nov. 23 - Jan. 3, 2025. This event is a night time walking experience through a large, natural environment into a wonder-

land of lights, sounds, snow, and interactive installations! Nightly live entertainment and a million lights will bring holiday cheer. Food and drink options will be available for purchase. Info and tickets at pittsburghbotanicgarden.com.

The local neighborhoods will be having holiday events this month. Check the borough websites or call the local library to see what's happening near you.

As unbelievable as it is, it's also time to start shopping! If possible, try to buy local and support our communities and small businesses.

Right around the corner, try shopping downtown Carnegie at the various small businesses like More Than Words, Ooh La La Boutique, Modern Mercantile, The French Spy, Full Moon Candle, Country Chic Sisters



Holiday Shopping Season

Boutique and Woolly Bear Books and Gifts. Info at carnegieborough.com

Crafton has the Blue Snail Gift Shop at 24 E. Crafton Ave., which has some wonderful one-of-a-kind items. Definitely worth stopping in and then have something to eat at Sarafinos.

Contemporary Crafts is having CRAFTED, their annual holiday season shopping event on Fri., Nov. 21, 5:30-9 p.m. Explore the merchandise and find the perfect gifts. Info at contemporary craft.org.

Visit the *I Made It! for the Holidays Market*, the indie craft marketplace, at The Galleria of Mt. Lebanon on Sat., Nov. 22, 10 - 4 p.m. and at The Block Northway on Sat., Nov. 15, 10 - 5 p.m. and the retail location at The Mall at Robinson every day during

mall hours. Information at imadeitmarket.com.

The 2025 Pittsburgh Vintage Mixer will be held at The David L. Lawrence Convention Center on Sat., Nov. 8 and will feature vintage clothing, retro decor, mid-century furniture, classic toys, vinyl records and more. In addition to shopping, have fun with the interactive exhibits and live music. Information available at pghvintagemixer.com.

Save the Date for the one-of-a-kind *Handmade Arcade 2025*, being held at the convention center on Dec. 4, 2025. Info at handmadearcade.org.

You can even support local business without living your home with lovepittsburghshop.com. Everything is made by a local artist and they offer anything you can imagine!

An event that serves as the perfect break for in between all of the busyness of the season is the escape offered by the Three Rivers Film Festival and the Pittsburgh Shorts Film Festival. It is being held Nov. 12-23 and will feature 23 independent feature films in a variety of genres and 113 short film screenings. This event never disappoints. Info at 3rff2025.eventive.org.

November is also a reminder month of our many blessings and a time that encourages us to celebrate and enjoy them to the fullest with fun, food, family and friends. We are reminded to be grateful and to give thanks, and more importantly, we are reminded to give back so that others can give thanks!

With November comes colder temperatures and difficult times for many. We can help in a variety of ways throughout the holiday and winter season. Below are a list of organizations that you can explore and contact to see what best fits with your ability to help.

Food insecurity is one of the most important issues that we face and you can help by contacting the Greater

(Continued on page 3)

MUSINGS... PIDDLING AROUND (A CLASSIC)



Editor's Note: Sharon Eakes is a personal and executive coach, who is a regular columnist for our paper as well as for the Huffington Post. She is the author of Fresh Views on Resilient Living.

"It is in the piddling around time where magic happens."

~Friend of a friend

This episode is addressed especially to those readers who tend toward workaholism – who value productivity above all else, even if they don't like to admit it. Like me.

Bad Rap

My friend Laurel Elders wrote a blog on the value of Piddling Around, which included the above quote. That prompted me to piddle around by researching piddling around. Here are some definitions I found in various dictionaries:

-To waste time doing something that is not important or useful. We should stop piddling around and get busy – Merriam-Webster.com

-To spend time aimlessly - The Free Dictionary

-Doing little or nothing worthwhile or constructive, same as fiddle farting. – Urban Dictionary

Even the definitions seem to yell, "get back to work."

I found some synonyms for this aimless way to spend time: doodling, noodling around, fiddling around, fooling around, fribbling, goofing off, messing around, puttering, playing, dallying, putzing, dawdling, dillydallying, lolling, horsing around.

And then, the antonyms: buckling down, knuckling down, setting to, settling down, all of which are supposed to be better.

Guilt Rap

We've somehow come to believe that working all day – nose to the grindstone, is what we SHOULD be doing. Who said so? And what if doing that makes us miserable or is not sustainable?

A coaching client who feels guilty when she goofs off told me the other day that she often goes through her days like an automaton. From task to task - feeling heavy. Then she stopped to reflect and wondered how others could stand to be around her.

Many of us grew up with the message "Play after all the work is done." So when we play before all the work is done, we feel guilty. Which puts a damper on the play.

What if the work is never done?

Good Rap

I want to shine another light on Piddling Around and its friends.

-Piddling around rests and refreshes body and brain

-Putzing can create space for great creativity and innovation

-Fribbling allows us to lighten up and we're more pleasant to be around.

-Goofing off is fun. And fun is healthy. For people locked into productivity, Piddling Around is good for our physical and mental health.

There is something about fiddle farting (my favorite definition) that

expands the space both inside and around us. That spaciousness allows for many more possibilities.

What about these words and how they relate to Piddling Around?

- -Wondering
- -Wandering
- -Being Receptive
- -Innovating

Invitation

Grow the magic and the creativity in your life by piddling around more. Intentionally and with purpose. The intention is to grow your enjoyment of life, and the purpose is to have a sustainable work habit, so you can live long and be healthy.

COACHING QUESTIONS/TIPS:

- 1. How often do you goof off, piddle around, putter without guilt?
- 2. How would you love to goof off, but you don't, because there is just too much to do?
- I3. Intentionally give yourself the gift of piddling around, to let the magic happen. Don't let, "I can't, you don't understand, easy for you to say" stop you. Just do it.

Note from the Publisher: If you enjoy reading Musings, Sharon has gathered them together in a book, titled "Fresh Views on Resilient Living." It would make a great holiday gift! It's available on Amazon or you can scan the QR code to go to the link.



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Community News and Events

Sign up now for the annual **Gingerbread House Making Event** at the **Crafton Public Library**, 140 Bradford Ave. in Crafton. Event is Sat., Dec.6 at 9a.m. Sign your child up in advance and pay the \$5 fee at the library desk before Dec.3. All children must be accompanied by an adult (free). No walk-ins day of event. Light refreshments, picture with Santa and Mrs. Claus from 1-3 p.m. A \$10 donation would be appreciated! Celebration of Lights starts at 6 p.m. at Crafton Park. See Santa, some wintry characters, entertainment, and free hot dogs and snacks!

St. Raphael the Archangel Holiday Craft Show, Sat., Nov. 15, 9 a.m.- 3 p.m., SS. Simon & Jude Parish Life Center (gymnasium). 75 tables of crafts, Chinese Auction of items donated by the participants, 50/50, bake sale and food available for purchase. Plenty of parking.

The South Hills Women's Club, 80+ years strong, will meet on Tues., Nov. 11, at Scott Twp Lodge, Park Drive, Carnegie, at 7:15 pm. Guest speaker, Mary Jane Kuffner Hirt, author of *The Mount Washington Transit Tunnel Disaster*, will take readers back to Christmas Eve, 1917 to the worst transit incident in Pittsburgh history. Refreshments and dessert will be served. If interested in attending, please contact Diane at 412-965-4714. New members and guests are welcome.

The **College Club of Carnegie**, in our 92nd year, welcomes members and guests to enjoy our "Luncheon of Thanksgiving" meeting on Sat., Nov. 1, at Bella's on Fort Couch Restaurant, 91 Fort Couch Road, 15241. Doors will open at Noon, with lunch to follow. Entertainment will be provided by G.C. Gibson, musician. A 50/50 Raffle will be offered to benefit our scholarship program. Women with post-secondary educations are invited to call Therese Condit for further information at 412-279-4458.

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Pittsburgh Community Food Bank at pittsburghfoodbank.org

The Western PA Diaper Bank at wpadiaperbank.org.

The Salvation Army is the site for Project Bundle-Up, Angel Tree and Adopt A Family, Holiday Meals and Food Assistance, Holiday events and more. Information available at easternusa.salvationarmy.org/western-pennsylvania

Toys for Tots is very helpful for kids in need. Info at toysfortots.org.



Volunteering at the food bank. ~photo courtesy pghfoodbank.com

You can brighten the day of a long-term care patient by participating in Presents for Patients. Info at stbarnabashealthsystem.com, click on charities, then Annual Charity Events.

(continued from front page)

There are many places that I haven't mentioned but the organization Pittsburgh Cares can help you find the volunteer program for you. Info at pittsburghcares.org.

Whether you are busy raking leaves, shopping for gifts, making food and preparing for festivities or volunteering your time, try to take in all the goodness of the season and leave the rest behind!

Happy Holidays!



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The Fishin' Hole



by Sam Hall

The craziness up north on the Erie Tributaries is officially in full swing with the last week or so producing lots of rain and cooler temperatures in the area. The steelhead are in the streams for sure. Conditions change rapidly and now there is a new tool to help vou decide whether or not to make the drive. There are live cameras available to show you the lake and Walnut Creek and even the parking lot there, so you can make a well informed decision. All you need to do is go to fishusa.com/webcams to access the live look. This is an awesome tool. If you are heading up, stay dry and warm and remember the key to steelhead will always be the drift of your bait. The more natural your bait looks in the water column, the more bites you will get.

Closer to home the cooler temperatures and rain are also very welcome in our local streams and rivers. A very slow walleye bite for most of September and a good chunk of October has changed dramatically with the temperatures. I had a day late in the month on the Ohio River that produced walleye throughout the day even after the sun was well up in the sky. The walleye and Smallmouth are

now officially preparing for a long winter. That means getting as many calories as they can before food sources become more scarce.

Search for baitfish activity and you will be where the fish are. Live shiners or fathead minnows are an awesome bait any time of the year, but especially now when they represent a highly nutritious meal for hungry game fish. Hook a shiner up through the bottom lip and slowly jig it or just bounce it off the bottom with a small split shot. Keep everything moving toward you very slowly and the walleve will do the rest of the work. The fish will be near points and drop-offs. Walleye and bass will use these areas to round up and trap baitfish, plus the drop to deeper water allows them to feel safe and secure while hunting.

If you like to chase the trout close to home, the news is excellent. The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission says they will be stocking nearly 90,000 adult trout this fall. In fact, Pine Creek, Racoon Lake, Canonsburg Lake and Dutch Fork Lake have all just recently received a fresh stocking. Trout are voracious in the cold water and you will have great luck with mealworms, red worms, and, salmon eggs. The key to enjoying any fall fishing is your personal comfort and the comfort of anyone you bring along. Remember you can always take off a jacket or hat if you get too warm, but you can't put them on if you forgot to bring them along. That is a lesson I have learned fortyseven times!

Soon there will be talk of ice fishing and this month the PA Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) is hosting an online event that will give you all the skills and information you need to do so safely.

Join PFBC staff and Fishing Skills Instructor, Don Kelly, owner of Tackle Shack in Wellsboro, to learn the basics of ice fishing!

Those who attend this virtual program will get an invitation to attend an in-person ice fishing program in January/February 2026, weather pending!

This virtual program covers the following:

- * Ice Safety
- * Where to find fish in the winter intro to habitat maps





- * Basic ice fishing gear needed to get started
- * Next level ice fishing gear
- * How to use the ice fishing gear

Just go to pa.gov/agencies/ fishandboat, then click on upcoming events to register for free.

Keep those lines tight and send your pictures and stories to samdhall@comcast.net.



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Fun and Games for Kids



Page created by Matthew Hall

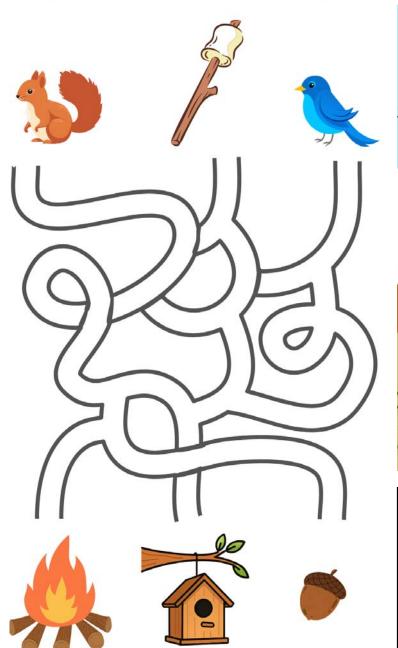
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Check out the most recent Big Kit Lil' Kaboodle issue!

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Website: ingramupchurch.org Rev. Wayne D. Meyer

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straphaelcgs.org

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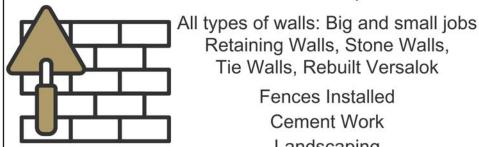
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