

# First Presbyterian News

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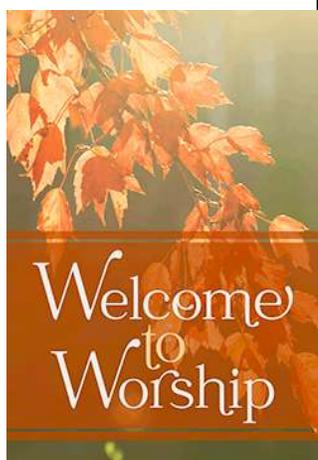
First Pres. Family,

November is a pivotal time in the life of our church. Our stewardship campaign is well under way and pledge cards are being prayerfully submitted. The 2022 Budget has been approved by the Session and will be ready for distribution at the November 14 congregational meeting. For that same meeting, the nominating committee is assembling a slate of candidates to serve as elders, deacons, and trustees. To top off the month we will celebrate the first Sunday of Advent on November 28.

It is fitting that we do our part to bless the ministry of Christ's church through our pledges of time, talents, and financial support before we celebrate the birth of the one who is head of the Church. Our faith and commitment to Christ are confirmed by our willingness to "step out in faith" as we look toward the coming new year. Advent celebrates not only the first coming of Christ at His birth, but also the promise of the second coming. Our faithful service and support reflect the love of God in Christ which has taken root in our hearts and our confidence that Christ will fulfill each and every promise of God yet to come. Regardless of what the new year might bring, we can be certain that the love of God in Christ will be with us.

Revelation 22: 12-13 "Behold I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done. I am the Alpha and Omega, the first and the last, the Beginning and the End."

~ Rev. Glenn Coleman



**November 7 - Twenty Fourth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Sermon Title: "Kinsman Redeemer"**

**Scriptures: Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17; Hebrews 9:24-28**

**November 14 - Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Title: "Intimate God"**

**Scriptures: Psalm 16; Mark 13:1-8**

**November 21 - Christ the King Sunday**

**Sermon Title: "Meet Your King"**

**Scriptures: Psalm 93; John 18:33-37**

**November 28 - First Sunday of Advent**

**Sermon Title: "When He Comes"**

**Scriptures: 1 John 2:18-29; Luke 21:25-36**

**December 5 - Second Sunday of Advent**

**Sermon Title: "A Voice in the Wilderness"**

**Scriptures: Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 3:1-6**





**Time Change:** Daylight-Savings time will be ending November 7. Mark your calendar so you will remember to turn your clocks back in time for services, so you can show up on time, and not an hour early.

**Ladies' Circle** – Our next meeting for the Ladies' Circle will be this Tuesday, November 2 at 10:30 am in the Philathea Room. We had a great discussion last month; we are using the Upper Room as our source material. All women are invited to attend.

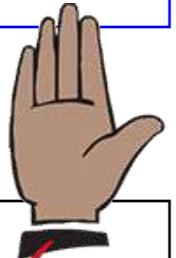


*Prayer List*

**Prayer List** - Luanna Jordan, Tricia Burton's daughter had pacemaker surgery, and some additional issues, but is home with a new diagnosis, and feeling better. David and his mother, friends of Chris Jones', has lingering effects from COVID; Kelly Dunaway, passed from COVID; Ann Carlisle had surgery and is recovering; Carl Utley diagnosed with Melanoma—having surgery in November. Rhoda VanBenschoten, Ted's sister;

Continued prayers for Donnell Corelle, Dabney, Lorene, and Keith Gilliam's are all in need of prayers. . Del Pool can still use prayers. Marge Nelson continues to improve. Mark Foster, Sandra McGregor; Gail Smith, Glenn and Cynthia's neighbor; Bob Duncan, Don and Dargan's friend; Wynn Henderson, Mark and Carol Foster's grandson, Chris Hutcherson, Don Smith; Terri Hazelwood's cousin doing better, but still needs prayers; Kim Bradshaw passed; Jamie Jennings passed from COVID; Steve Anderson passed away; Barbara Purcell, Betty Plaster's sister in Seattle passed suddenly.

**Congregational Meetings** - On Sunday, November 14 will be the second meeting where we will review the 2022 budget, and elect new officers. Mark your calendar.



Women's Bible study began in October. They are using *The Screwtape Letters*, by C.S. Lewis as their text. They have had a good turnout, but others are welcome to join. Books are available in the library for \$3. They meet at 10:30 each Thursday in the Fellowship Hall.

VOTERS MEETING

**Stewardship** - This is an excerpt of a sermon from the famous Pastor Harry Emerson Fosdick on the nature of stewardship: *"The Sea of Galilee and the Dead Sea are made of the same water. It flows down, clean and cool, from the heights of Hermon and the roots of the cedars of Lebanon. The Sea of Galilee makes beauty of that water because it has an outlet. It gets to give. It gathers in its riches that it may pour them out again to fertilize the Jordan plain. But the Dead Sea with the same water makes horror. For the Dead Sea does not give, it has no outlet. It gets to keep."*

Jesus loved the Sea of Galilee; he chose disciples from its fishermen. He chose to base his ministry from Capernaum by the sea. He calmed a storm there, walked on its waters and helped Peter walk on water for a brief time as well. Following his resurrection Jesus cooked fish and ate with his disciples on the shore of Galilee. Beauty and fruitful ministry emanated from the Sea of Galilee and blessed the world in many ways. As Fosdick said in contrast: "the Dead Sea does not give." As we give, we receive blessings and as a church we can emanate blessings around us.

Blessed  
to Be a  
Blessing



## Shoeboxes for kids



## Operation Christmas Child – It's More Than a Shoebox

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In addition to containing treasured gifts, **OCC shoeboxes are also resources for outreach.** Long before shoeboxes arrive in more than 100 countries, volunteer National Leadership Teams train pastors and community leaders who want to share the message of the Gospel and bless children. The leaders learn how to host child-friendly outreach events, and how to implement The Greatest Journey follow-up discipleship program.

In 2019 in a **Tanzanian village, local elders became angry** when the Gospel was shared, and they took all of The Greatest Journey materials and burned them. But later they saw how blessed the children in the village were by the shoebox gifts so they allowed another distribution to take place in 2020. At the event, the elders listened to the Gospel message and gave their overwhelming approval to Operation Christmas Child. Now, the elders are reading the discipleship materials themselves!

In Germany, Ani, a young woman from Armenia, learned that her host family was involved with Operation Christmas Child. Ani was so excited because when she was 12 years old **she received a shoebox, and it changed her life.** Now, she is volunteering in the German OCC office and sharing her story.

In 2020 over **3.5 million children participated** in The Greatest Journey and over 1.3 million came to faith in Jesus!

**We have the opportunity** to be a part of this world-wide ministry. OCC shoeboxes are available in both foyers and the downstairs lobby. Inside each box is a flyer with more information about the program and suggestions about what to include in your shoebox. Please include a \$9 offering to help with the costs of shipping and The Greatest Journey materials – checks should be made payable to First Presbyterian Church.

Again this year the **Build a Shoebox Online** program is being offered for those who can't or prefer not to go out to the store and shop. Simply go to [www.samaritanspurse.org/OCC](http://www.samaritanspurse.org/OCC). You will be given choices of age range, gender, and content selection. The cost (which includes the \$9 offering) is \$25, and you will need to pay online with a credit card. If you choose this option, please notify the office or Kim Albert ([kalbert@ntelos.net](mailto:kalbert@ntelos.net) or 434-579-5011) so your contribution can be included in our goal count.

The deadline is **Sunday, November 14**, to return boxes to the church office. Our goal is 30 shoeboxes. What a simple but amazingly impactful way to begin the Christmas season by sending God's love all over the world through Operation Christmas Child!

***“Those who have never been told of Him will see, and those who have never heard will understand.” --Romans 15:21 ~ Kim Albert***

**Elections** - Twice in November we will have the opportunity to vote. Once for the community leaders, and then for our upcoming new leaders—officers, deacons, and trustees that will lead us and help guide the church for the coming years. Don't forget what a privilege it is to vote, be active in both events.



★ **Veterans Day:** ★  
Thank You for Your Service!

**Honoring our Veterans** - Veteran's Day has its roots in what was called Armistice Day, when a peace agreement ended World War I on November 11, 1918. President Wilson proclaimed that Armistice Day was to be marked with solemn pride in heroism and with gratitude for victory as well as the “opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice.” In 1954, the remembrance was renamed Veterans Day to honor all U.S. military personnel. It's a reminder to pray for and honor all who serve and sacrifice, to support and assist their families, and to pray that God will bring peace on earth. ~ NewsletterNewsletter



## Happy Thanksgiving!

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As we approach Thanksgiving, I am always drawn to the increased ideas of expressing gratitude.

We are commanded to "Cease not to give thanks" (Ephesians 1:15-16), in deed we should "in everything give thanks" (1 Thessalonians 5:18).

Though examples are many, I came across a wonderful example that I thought I'd share. In the book *The Hiding Place*, a true story of Corrie ten Boom; who with her family hid Jews during World War II. As with many others who tried to help the Jews during this time, eventually they were discovered and sent to a concentration camp.

Corrie and her sister, Betsie, hid a bible as they were being escorted out of their home, miraculously it was not discovered. The conditions were horrific and crowded. Corrie, feeling discouraged fell down on the bed, just to quickly jump up because fleas were biting her legs. She questioned how they could possibly survive and live in such a horrible place. As she was complaining, her sister Betsie pointed out that the answers lie in the Bible, she read in 1 Thessalonians 5:14-18 (read, for better understanding) finding the words comforting. As she read the scriptures, Corrie couldn't believe what her sister was saying, "give thanks in all circumstances." Corrie asked, "how can I be grateful for fleas?"

Later, they began holding Bible study in the barracks, first hiding in a corner, but more and more prisoners began to come to enjoy, to their amazement the guards never interrupted their study, whereas others were closely supervised.

Later they found the guards and supervisors would not enter because of the fleas! The very thing that Corrie had complained about, had actually been protecting them all the time from the guards, they could hold Bible study, and many were blessed by their efforts and the comfort that naturally comes from reading and sharing the word of God.

Wow! What a lesson. How many would find gratitude that they live in a flea infested area? But for those girls it was a blessing from God for them to be there so they could continue to worship and share the gospel message.



I know as a member of the Church of Jesus Christ, I too, am commanded to share the gospel. I enjoy the opportunities to share my thoughts and beliefs each month. I know the Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ lives, and loves each and every one of us. He wants us to know Him, and to share that message with others. As we "receive all things with thankfulness [we] shall be made glorious."

How grateful I am to the Lord, for all He does for me, and I praise His name and give honor unto Him for my many blessings and for His patience with my follies.

Wishing you all a wonderful Thanksgiving! ~ *Sherolyn*

## Searching for a New Pastor



**The PNC Update** - Last month I took an opportunity to "vent" about just how difficult this process has been. We are not the first group that has endured trials. James, who was the leader of the Christian church in Jerusalem, reminds us that we will face trials and temptations. He says it is important that we persevere and put our faith in action.

<sup>2</sup> Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, <sup>3</sup> because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. <sup>4</sup> Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything... <sup>12</sup> Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him. - James 1:2-4, 12 (NIV)

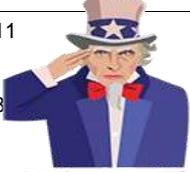
This month not much has changed. We continue to wait on some complicated issues to be resolved with one candidate while our search firm moves forward vetting additional potential pastors for our church. In all of this we press on putting our faith in action while seeking God's will for our church. We hold on to the assurances found in His word well put by the apostle Paul.

*13 Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. - Philipians 3:14 (NIV)*

We covet your prayers as we persevere in the task that you have entrusted to us.

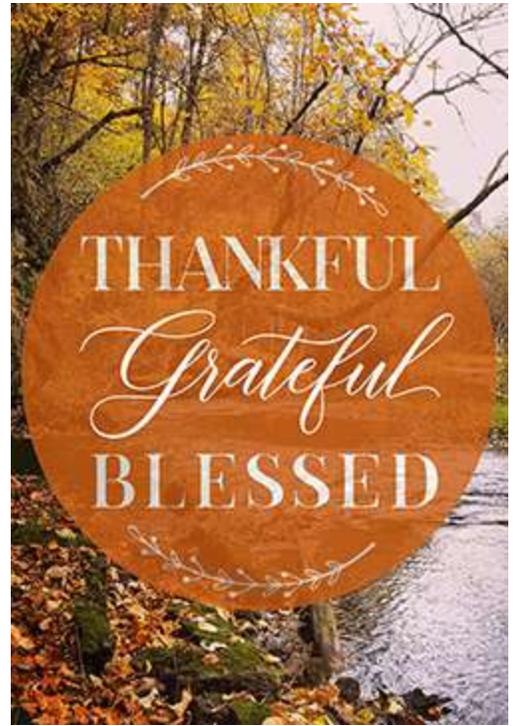
Grace and peace, *Don Cherry*. PNC Chairman

# NOVEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>31</b> <b>10:00 - Sunday School</b> <b>11:00 am—Worship</b> 6:00 pm NA	November 1 6:00 pm NA	November 2 Election Day 10:30 am Ladies' Circle 12:00 PM NA	November 3 12:00 PM AA 6:00 pm NA <b>6:00 pm—Choir</b>	November 4 8:00 pm - AA	November 5 12:00 PM AA 7:00 pm NA	November 6 AA 6:00 PM
<b>7 - Daylight Savings Ends</b> <b>10:00 - Sunday School</b> <b>11:00 am—Worship</b> 6:00 pm NA	8 6:00 pm NA	9 12:00 PM NA	10 12:00 PM AA 6:00 pm NA <b>6:00 pm—Choir</b>	11  <b>PAYING TRIBUTE TO OUR VETERANS</b>	12 12:00 PM AA 7:00 pm NA	13 AA 6:00 PM
<b>14 - Congregational Meeting</b> <b>10:00 - Sunday School</b> <b>11:00 am—Worship</b> 6:00 pm NA	15 6:00 pm NA	16 12:00 PM NA <b>6:00pm Deacons</b> <b>7:00pm Elders</b>	17 12:00 PM AA 6:00 pm NA <b>6:00 pm—Choir</b>	18 8:00 pm - AA	19 12:00 PM AA 7:00 pm NA	20 AA 6:00 PM
<b>21 - 5 Cents a Meal collection</b> <b>10:00 - Sunday School</b> <b>11:00 am—Worship</b>	22 6:00 pm NA	23 12:00 PM NA 	24 12:00 PM AA 6:00 pm NA <b>6:00 pm—Choir</b>	25 	26 - Office Closed 12:00 PM AA 7:00 pm NA	27 AA 6:00 PM
<b>28 -</b> <b>10:00 - Sunday School</b> <b>11:00 am—Worship</b> 6:00 pm NA	29 6:00 pm NA	30 12:00 PM NA	December 1 12:00 PM AA 6:00 pm NA <b>6:00 pm—Choir</b>	December 2 8:00 pm - AA	December 3 12:00 PM AA 7:00 pm NA	December 4



- 3 Norma Henderson\*
- 7 Susan Wilkinson
- 8 Jim Albert
- 10 Sarah McCollum
- 11 Irene Smith\*
- 11 Matthew Bain
- 13 Kim Wickemeyer
- 14 Bob Hughes
- 16 Peggy Burton
- 20 Russell Lee
- 21 Andrew Ferguson
- 23 Debbie Ferguson
- 23 Jean Long
- 26 Pat Hay
- 27 Maelyn Fraser Freshour
- 28 Mike Marvin
- 30 Kathy Debiec



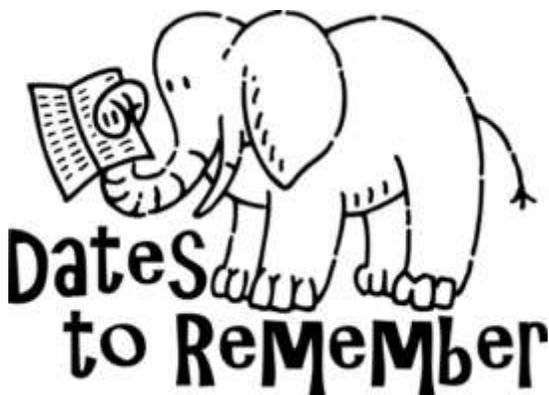
\* In Memory

If we don't have your birthday listed, please call the office and let us know.

Session Notes: **Since our last Newsletter, our Session discussed:**

The Session met on Tuesday, October 19, 2021.

1. Rev. Coleman opened the meeting with prayer and updated the Session on congregational news.
2. Requests for baptism of the Harrell twins and wedding for Les Powell IV were approved.
3. A congregational meeting has been set for Sunday, October 24<sup>th</sup> for the purpose of electing four members to serve on the Nominating Committee.
4. A congregational meeting has been set for Sunday, November 14<sup>th</sup> for the purpose of electing church officers for the Class of 2024 and to present the budget for 2022.
5. Letter of Intent (our contribution) for the Peaks Presbytery was approved.
6. A letter from Lorene Gilliam submitting her resignation as Deacon for personal reasons was received and accepted.
7. The PNC has an ongoing conversation with a promising candidate. Vanderbloemen is preparing to present some additional candidates.
8. Finance Committee - First nine months financial reports were reviewed. Giving is down, we are over \$31,000 behind year-to-date vs the 2021 budget.
9. This year's Christmas project will be raising money to help purchase a tractor for the hospital in the Nuba Mountains of Sudan (Persecution Project).
10. We will participate in Operation Christmas Child again this year.
11. We will have "Virtual Poinsettias" again this year with proceeds contributed to the Christmas project.
12. Worship Committee - Next communion will be Sunday, December 5, 2021, and during the Christmas Eve Service.
13. Work continues developing the Church Operations & Policy Manual.
14. Rev. Coleman closed the meeting with prayer.



**Upcoming :**

**Ladies' Circle** - Tuesday, November 2 at 10:30 am.

**Choir** - Each Wednesday at 6 pm.

**Women's Bible Study** - Each Thursday at 10:30 am

**Deacons** - Tuesday, November 16 at 6:00 pm

**Session** - Tuesday, November 16 at 7:00 pm

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