

The Presbyterian Press



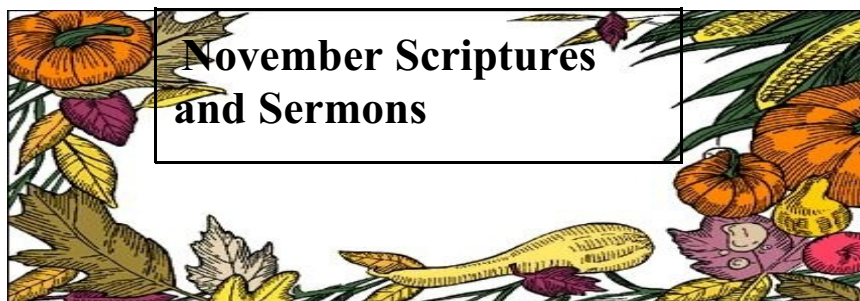
Publication of First Presbyterian Church of Clarksburg 2023



Clocks go back one hour November 5th

Thanksgiving is a time of gratitude to God, our Creator and Provider, whose guidance and care go before us and whose love is with us forever. Thanksgiving is a time to reflect on the changes, to remember that we, too, grow and change from one season of life to another.





**Nov. 5 23rd Sunday After Pentecost -Sacrament of Holy Communion -All Saints Sunday
Congregational Meeting for the election of church officers after church**

Scriptures: Joshua 3:7-17
*1 Thessalonians 2:9-13

Sermon Title: "When God Speaks"

Theme: When someone mentions the Word of God, we usually think of scripture. That is good and true. But it is not the only way that God speaks to us. Preaching is God's word to us. It is not on the same level as scripture. Still there are times when God speaks through the preacher directly to our hearts. God still speaks to us!

Nov. 12, 24th Sunday After Pentecost

Pastor John on vacation. Maureen Wright, Stated Clerk of the Presbytery and Transitional General Presbyter, will be preaching.

Nov. 19 25th Sunday After Pentecost - Sunday before Thanksgiving

Scriptures: Judges 4:1-7
*Matthew 25:14-30

Sermon Title: "Catch - 22"

Theme: In the parable of the talents it is important to realize that the first two servants who invested what they were given are not being rewarded for investment success. Rather they are rewarded for risking. The third servant is not condemned because he preserved what he was given, he is condemned because he refused to risk.

Nov. 26 Christ the King Sunday

Scriptures: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
*Matthew 25:31-46

Sermon Title: "What Does This Mean?"

Theme: Jesus tells a parable about sheep and goats, about the judgment of God at the end of the

age. Yet, we are not sure what this means. Does it mean that we are working our way into heaven after all? That seems unlikely. Or does it mean simply that Jesus is king so that we don't have to be? Or is there something else here entirely?



Children's Moments

- 5th -
 12th - Terra Burnett
 19th - Heather Sigmon
 26th -

- 5th - Beckie Alvaro
 12th - Kandy Atkinson
 19th - Amy Strange
 26th - Andrea Myerberg





- 2nd - Cole Delawder
Michael Lonsinger
4th - Rev. John Koerner
Gary Nickerson
7th - Theresa Koerner
11th - Judy McQuaid
Jeff Strange
20th - Frank Simmerman
22nd - Gia Corsini
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First Presbyterian Church

Session Agenda

Wednesday, October 18 5:30 p.m.



- George Lilley, chair of Presbytery's Committee on Ministry, joined us to address questions and concerns about the upcoming transition when your pastor retires. Maureen Wright, the Transitional General Presbyter, for our presbytery will also be preaching here on Sunday, Nov. 12th. Maureen will stay in the sanctuary after the worship service to answer any questions that the congregation may have.
- The choir is scheduled to sing two Sundays a month. The bell choir will play on the last Sunday of the month. Jeanne will have special music the other Sunday(s).
- Session approved doing the Lenten Lunches and Services in 2024. If we can get enough kitchen help, we will do seven Wednesdays.
- Fellowship time after church continues to be scheduled
- The Personnel Committee has completed annual reviews with staff.
- Stewardship dedication Sunday will be Oct. 29th. Letters, Time and Talent Sheets, and pledge cards have been mailed out.
- Ice maker has been repaired
- Cement fiber board to replace old red boards in alley has been ordered.
- Notification system for water, smoke, and police has been installed. We are trying out this system. More units may need to be added in the future.
- Toilet in men's restroom repaired. (Thanks, David Nuzum)
- Heat tapes have been hooked up. (Thanks, Jeff Mitchell)
- Elected elder Delawder to our commissioner to presbytery on Saturday, November 18 First Charleston.
- There will be a special session meeting after church on Oct. 29th for the purpose of receiving new members.
- Stained glass windows have been sold. \$150 for the little one. \$350 for both big windows.
- Suzi Heger attended a training session for elders so that she is authorized to celebrate communion in the absence of an ordained Presbyterian minister.
- The session had voted to match the congregation's peace making offering with monies from our mission fund. 25% of the amount collected plus the matching funds from session will stay locally and go to support CASA.

Pastor's Report:

hospital visits: 3 **Other significant Pastoral visits:** 24 most by phone

Sacrament of Communion: Was celebrated on October 1 to 52 people. It was celebrated at the Palace on August and served to 5 people. **Home communion** was served this month with the help of Elder Connie Leuliette to 8 people.

Pastor's Discretionary Fund 2023 -

We have assisted with \$8,499.69 through Oct. 17th, 2023.

Month	Requests	Completed	Amt. Pledged	Amt. Disbursed
January	2	2	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
February	13	13	\$1,435.54	\$1,435.54
March	10	10	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
April	5	5	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
May	6	6	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00
June	9	9	\$ 900.00	\$ 900.00
July	2	2	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
August	7	7	\$ 700.00	\$ 700.00
September	13	13	\$1,300.00	\$1,300.00
October	14	14	\$1,464.15	\$1,464.15



John's Jottings

"In all things give thanks . . ." - 1 Thessalonians 5:18

On pretty days I like to take my long handled gripper and take a walk around the outside of the church. I take along a box and pick up the trash I find. Yes, I know that is not officially part of my job. But it is something easy that I can do that makes the church look more beautiful and it is a good excuse to get out of the office and enjoy the sunshine.

Occasionally I might find a larger piece of trash, but that is rare. Most of the trash is just little things, a cigarette butt, a tissue, a paper cup - that sort of thing. None of these things seems all that significant in itself. "It's just a little piece of paper. What could that hurt?" Yet, all those little pieces began to add up and distract from the beauty of our church.

That got me to thinking about all of the positive little things that people do around the church that also add up. So in this Thanksgiving month, I would like to say thank you to all of you who do the little (and the big) things around the church that make our ministry possible.

So many of the things that are done draw no attention at all. Yet they are important nevertheless. So I thought it would be interesting to see how many people know who does these small necessary things. How many of the following questions can you answer correctly? (I'll give you the answers next month).

Who does these things?

1. _____ makes sure there is fluid in the candles under the cross in front.
2. _____ makes sure that there is a glass of water for the preacher, worship leader, and organist.
3. _____ prepares the communion elements.
4. _____ makes sure the doors are locked after the service.
5. _____ counts the offering after worship.
6. _____ coordinates the worship leaders.
7. _____ coordinates the people who do children's time.
8. _____ decorates the outside of the church and keeps the green space looking beautiful.
9. _____ changes light bulbs when they burn out.
10. _____ fixes plumbing issues.
11. _____ fixes electrical issues.
12. _____ picks up loose papers in the pews after the service and makes sure the necessary items are present and straight in the pew racks.
13. _____ coordinates the hot chocolate giveaway for the Christmas parade.
14. _____ delivers or mails prayer shawls.
15. _____ sets up the bell tables when the bell choir plays.
16. _____ coordinates fellowship snacks after the service.
17. _____ provides a meal after a funeral if the family wants one.
18. _____ puts the session minutes in the session book.
19. _____ keeps the membership rolls up to date.
20. _____ purchases cleaning supplies, paper towels, etc for the church.
21. _____ is Clerk of the session.
22. _____ is moderator of Deacons

If you can correctly answer at least 10 of these questions, you are more aware than most. If you can answer 15 of them correctly, you are amazing. If you can answer all 20 correctly, you qualify for sainthood.

This is by no means an exhaustive list. It is merely a sample of the large number of people who are working behind the scenes to make good ministry possible.

A big thank you to all of our volunteers and to all of our staff!

Hope and confidence

Pastor John

