

The Good News Letter

Vol. 27 Issue 11

November 2025

A Thanksgiving Hymn That Sees God's Hand Everywhere

For a hymn that captures the beauty and gratitude of Thanksgiving, All Things "Bright and Beautiful" is a perfect choice. Its lyrics paint vivid pictures — flowers opening in the morning sun, birds singing, golden sunsets, purple-topped mountains and rivers rushing by. It all leads to this joyful reminder: *"He gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell: How great is God Almighty, who has made all things well."*

The hymn was written by Cecil Frances Alexander (1818–1895), an Irish-woman with a passion for teaching children about God. She wrote many hymns for her Sunday school class, later collected in *Verses for Holy Seasons*.

But her ministry went beyond music — she spent her life serving the poor, comforting the sick, and caring for the grieving. When she passed away, "a great throng" gathered to remember her, honoring both her faith and the beauty she shared with the world.

Christian Symbol



CIRCLE — The circle is a symbol for God, as well as for eternity, due to its lack of a beginning or an end. It also reminds us of how the church year (not unlike the secular calendar) flows from season to season and moves smoothly from Christ the King Sunday (the culmination of the liturgical calendar) to the First Sunday of Advent (a new beginning). Indeed, the One who rules all is the same One whose first and final comings we anticipate anew during Advent.



We will be celebrating the Lord's Supper on November 2nd during worship. If

you are an ordained Elder or Deacon, you can serve communion. Please sign up. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex, or call the church office at 605-347-2395.

You may also join us on Facebook Live Sunday mornings by going to **<https://www.facebook.com/FirstPresbyterianSturgis>**.

The service will also be viewed on our website, **www.fpcsturgissd.com**, a short time after 11:30 a.m.



Our Sunday Worship Schedule and Live Streaming Services

9:00 a.m. (children & adult)
10:00 a.m. ~ Worship Service
11:00 a.m. ~ Fellowship

November 2nd ~ 21st Sunday after Pentecost ~ Daylight Saving Time ends "Fall back!"

Kathy McKillip/Choir to sing

November 9th ~ 22nd Sunday after Pentecost

Jerry Simmons/Bells to play

November 16th ~ Worship ~ 23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Don Nettleton

November 23rd ~ Worship ~ Christ the King Sunday

Carole Skalsky

November 30th ~ Worship ~ 1st Sunday of Advent

Melinda Williams



As the leaves fall and the days grow shorter, November invites us to pause, give thanks, and prepare our hearts for the season ahead. These announcements will help our congregation stay informed, inspired and connected all month long.

All Saints' Sunday: Honoring the Faithful

On November 2nd, we'll observe All Saints' Sunday during morning worship. This is a time to remember and give thanks for those who have gone before us in faith—family, friends and fellow believers who have touched our lives and pointed us to Christ.

Veterans Day: Thank You for Your Service

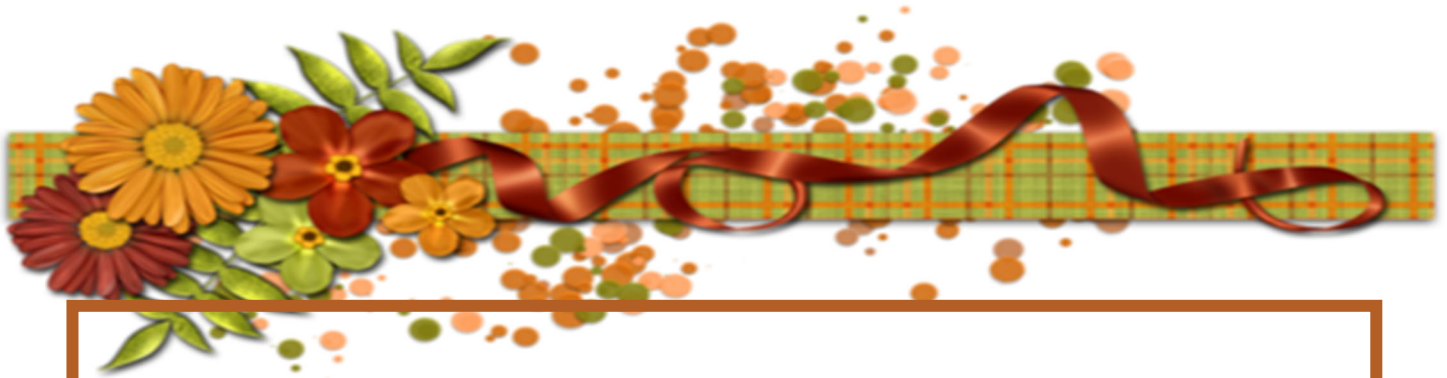
On November 11 as we honor our veterans for their courage, sacrifice and commitment. Please take a moment to recognize those who have served and to pray for peace in our nation and world.

Community Thanksgiving Meal: All Are Welcome

Alliance of Churches is hosting a free Thanksgiving meal on November 27th at 11:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Sturgis Community Center. Whether you'd like to enjoy a plate or serve others, this is a wonderful way to share God's love with our neighbors. Please get a hold of Deb Looby.

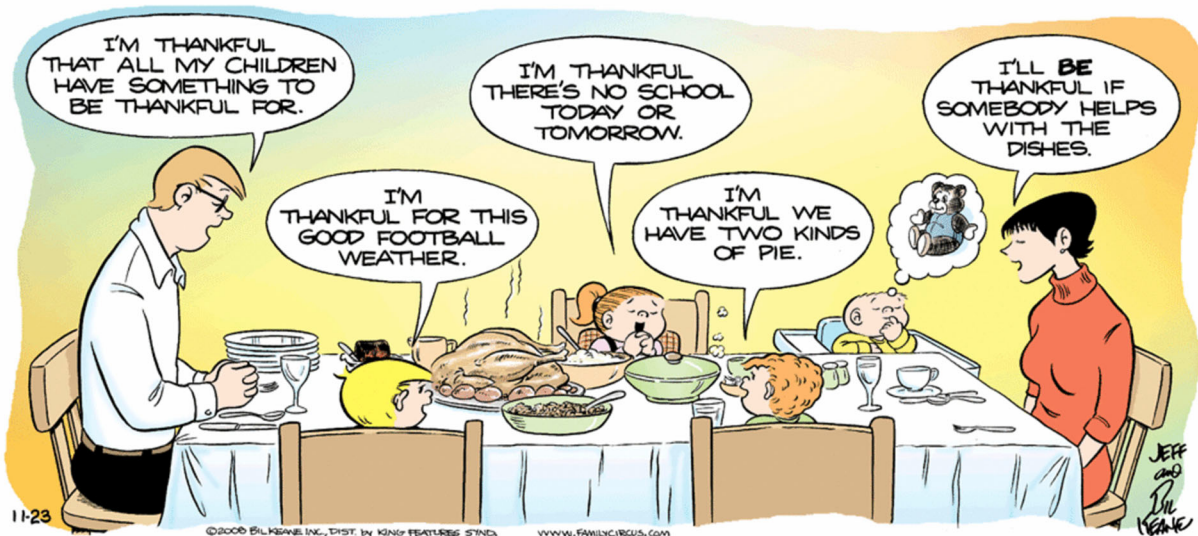
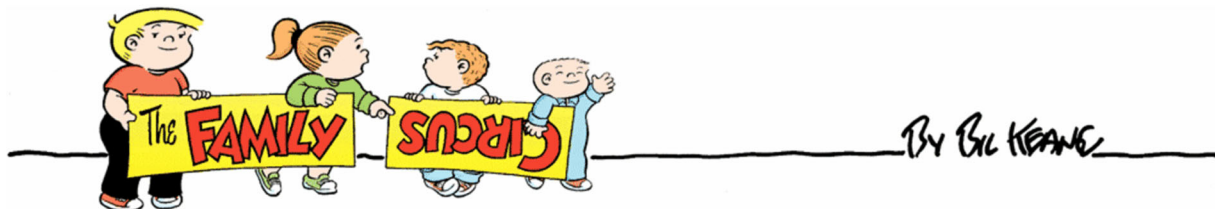
Advent Is Almost Here: Prepare Your Heart

The season of Advent begins November 30th. Join us each week in worship as we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ with hope, peace, joy and love. Watch for details about our Advent devotional and special services.



November 2nd ~ Mission (after worship)
November 3rd ~ 5:30pm ~ Worship
November 4th ~ 6:15pm ~ Deacons
November 6th ~ 1:00pm ~ PW Circle
November 6th ~ 6:30pm ~ Christian Education
November 10th ~ 5:00pm ~ Welcoming
November 11th ~ 5:30pm ~ Finance, Personnel & Stewardship
November 13th ~ 12:00 p.m. ~ Alliance of Churches
November 18th ~ 5:30pm ~ Building & Grounds
November 18th ~ 7:00pm ~ Session

Church Meeting





November 2nd



Volunteers help run the First Presbyterian Church. We have sign-up sheets in the narthex for Nursery, Scripture readers, youth group meals, meals on wheels, and communion. Below are a few the sign-up sheets and dates that are open. If you would like to help, please contact the church office (605) 347-2395 or presbychsecretary@gmail.com) or put your name on the sign-up sheet in the narthex. Thank you for your help.

Position	Nov. 2	Nov. 9	Nov. 16	Nov. 23	Nov. 30
Nursery					
Scripture Reader	Carole Skalsky				
Parish	Parish 2	Parish 3	Parish 4	Parish 1	Parish 2
	Nov. 5	Nov. 12	Nov. 19		
Youth Group Meal			Pizza		



Thanksgiving is the expression of gratitude for blessings we have received. I am very thankful for your kindness and generosity to the people of Sturgis and the surrounding area. If you wish to make a monetary donation please designate "Food Pantry" on the memo line of your check or offering envelope.

First Presbyterian Donations:

Total 2018	3164 pounds
Total 2019	2371 pounds
Total 2020	818 pounds
Total 2021	1227 pounds
Total 2022	876 pounds
Total 2023	937 pounds
Total 2024	1043 pounds
January-September 2025	707 pounds

November's suggested items:

November 2	Italian
November 9	Ravioli/SpaghettiOs
November 16	Rice/Rice-A-Roni
November 23	Thanksgiving Dinner
November 30	Canned Meat

Please also continue to save Lynn's Dakota Mart receipts; the money received through this program is utilized for purchase of regularly stocked products at the Food Pantry. For each \$10,000 in receipts the Food Bank receives \$100.

Please feel free to contact me at 605-490-3078 or betty.nettleton@gmail.com if you have any questions or suggestions. Thank you for your continued support!

Betty Nettleton

Special dates

- All Saints' Day, *November 1, 2025*
- Daylight saving time ends, *November 2, 2025*
- Veterans Day, *November 11, 2025*
- Thanksgiving Day, *November 27, 2025*
- Christ the King Sunday (last Sunday of church year), *November 23, 2025*
- 1st Sunday of Advent *November 30, 2025*



Welcome to November, a time to focus on Thankfulness. We have so many blessings. Thank you to those who have provided food and time to the monthly Northern Hills Connection meals. Thank you to the dedicated, fun-loving group of women who come together monthly for study, laughter, fellowship and most importantly love.

The next meeting will be held November 6, 2025 at 1PM. Hostess Beth Bauer. Bible Study will be Living a Chocolate Life Chapter 8, "Sweet Surrender." Study guides are available in the church office. We hope you can join the fun (no reservations required)!



First Presbyterian Church,
C.I.S.S. would like to thank you for your food donation. Your support to our organization is so important to us.

Thank you
C.I.S.S. Staff



First Presbyterian Church,
C.I.S.S. would like to say thank you for your donation and continued support to our organization.
Thank you
C.I.S.S. Staff



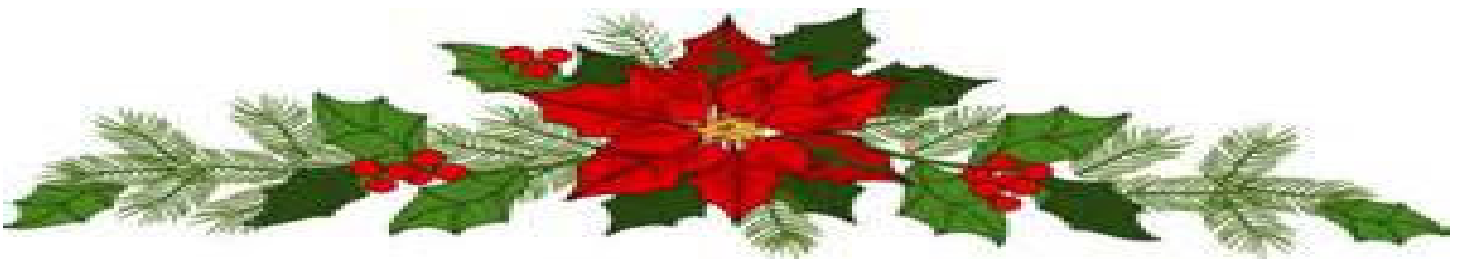
November 2025 Daily Bible Reading Blessings & Thanksgiving

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come by Henry Alford, 1844

1. Come, ye thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest home; all is safely gathered in, ere the winter storms begin. God our Maker doth provide for our wants to be supplied; come to God's own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.
2. All the world is God's own field, fruit as praise to God we yield; wheat and tares together sown are to joy and sorrow grown; first the blade and then the ear, then the full corn shall appear; Lord of harvest, grant that we wholesome grain and pure may be.
3. For the Lord our God shall come, and shall take the harvest home; from the field shall in that day all offenses purge away, giving angels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast; but the fruitful ears to store in the garner evermore.
4. Even so, Lord, quickly come, bring thy final harvest home; gather thou thy people in, free from sorrow, free from sin, there, forever purified, in thy presence to abide; come, with all thine angels, come, raise the glorious harvest home.

Day 1 Jeremiah 17: 7-8
 Day 2 Proverbs 16: 20
 Day 3 Psalms 95: 1-7
 Day 4 2 Corinthians 9: 8-11
 Day 5 Matthew 5: 1-12
 Day 6 1 Timothy 2: 1-4
 Day 7 Psalm 128: 1-4
 Day 8 James 1: 22-25
 Day 9 John 20: 29
 Day 10 Psalm 32: 1-2
 Day 11 1 Corinthians 9: 22-23
 Day 12 Ezekiel 34: 26-27
 Day 13 Psalm 1: 1-3
 Day 14 Hebrews 12: 28-29
 Day 15 Ephesians 1: 3-6

Day 16 Psalm 5: 11-12
 Day 17 2 Corinthians 4: 13-15
 Day 18 Hebrews 13: 15-16
 Day 19 Psalm 33: 12-15
 Day 20 Genesis 1: 27-29
 Day 21 Isaiah 30: 18
 Day 22 Mark 10: 15-16
 Day 23 Luke 14: 13-15
 Day 24 Acts 3: 25-26
 Day 25 Colossians 2: 6-7
 Day 26 Romans 4: 6-8
 Day 27 Psalm 106: 1-3
 Day 28 Colossians 3:15-17
 Day 29 Romans 10: 11-13
 Day 30 Numbers 6: 24-25



On November 29th at 10:00 a.m. we will be decorating the Church for Christmas & Advent. If you are able to help, please stop by the church. Your help is very much appreciated.



ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY

Remembering the Saints

November 2nd is All Saints Sunday. During worship we will remember those of our church members who died and went home to God—made saints by the gracious mercy of God. We lit the Christ candle to remind us of whose hands we are in and rang a bell at the reading of each name to give thanks. These saints were:

Betty Voorhees
Barbara Simons



NOVEMBER

birthdays & anniversaries

November 1

Tyler Kaitfors
Carron Kopren

November 2

Reba Loobey

November 3

Mike Heilman
Deb Looby
Landon Schriock

November 4

Lisa Baldwin

November 7

Tyler Hicks

November 9

Carla Harrison

November 11

Cal Corey

November 12

Thomas Nettleton

November 13

Randee Matz

November 14

Christy Hedderman

November 17

Reese Komes

November 18

Cassie Hicks

November 19

Barbara Hudson

November 30

Paul Brandt
Judy Lewis

November 3

Dick & Deb Lester



*Called to
Be Saints*

Remembering The Saints

When Paul wrote to the church in Rome, he addressed his letter “To all God’s beloved ... who are called to be saints” (Romans 1:7, NRSV). Paul regarded his fellow believers as people who have responded to the good news of Christ by choosing to follow and serve God.

The New Testament emphasizes that Christians are God’s beloved — special people set apart to receive his grace and to be his witnesses. All people whose minds and hearts are devoted to God are “called to be saints.”

About 700 years after the church began, leaders designated November 1 as All Saints’ Day to honor people whose lives reflect Christ dwelling within them. Because of what God has done for us, all Christians can wear the label of saint.

Veterans Day salute

After fighting in World War II, Luther Bergeland wasn’t done serving his country — or his God. The Minnesota farm boy, who “came back to faith” during combat, later served for decades as a military chaplain. For his actions in the field in Korea, Bergeland was awarded the Bronze Star. Then during Vietnam, he served in the Army Reserves in Colorado, tasked with informing family members about soldiers’ deaths.

Despite the challenges, Bergeland embraces the special role he was able to play for four decades, sharing Jesus and his love with countless people. “That’s what we did, preaching and reaching out to people,” he told a reporter. “I always liked the military very much because it just did a lot for me, and I hope I did a lot for it.”

On Veterans Day, we salute Bergeland and all the men and women who selflessly serve.



HAPPY THANKSGIVING FROM THE STAFF OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Carla Harrison ~ FPC Secretary
Morgan Pickett ~ Disbursing Treasurer
Clint Jandreau ~ Custodian
Brenda Schaffer ~ Chancel Choir Director
Carole Skalsky ~ Chapel Bells Director,
Director of Family Ministries

STEWARDSHIP

TIME, TALENT, & TREASURE

Stewardship Committee

It's time to begin our yearly stewardship campaign and we think it's appropriate to relate our campaign to the harvest season we have just completed. To look around our world at the great abundance that God has seen fit to put in our lives makes us bow down in awe at His wonders – from the beautiful maple tree in front of our church, to the gorgeous fall weather we have been enjoying, to fruits and vegetables we have enjoyed from our own or other gardens, to the greener than normal prairies and pastures that we call home and to new life at birth and eternal life that comes after death. We also praise him for our church home, where we come to worship Him with our church family. All of this, and more, we will remember when we take the time to decide what portion of our riches we will pledge back to Him.

We will be having Consecration Sunday on November 16. Please prayerfully consider what you will pledge to enable our church to continue our mission of bringing glory to His name.

~ Stewardship Committee, Nancy Remington, Dedi LaRue, Tyler Kaitfors, Ray Kaitfors, Cathie Anderson, Carole Skalsky, Morgan Pickett, and Mary Esther Michels



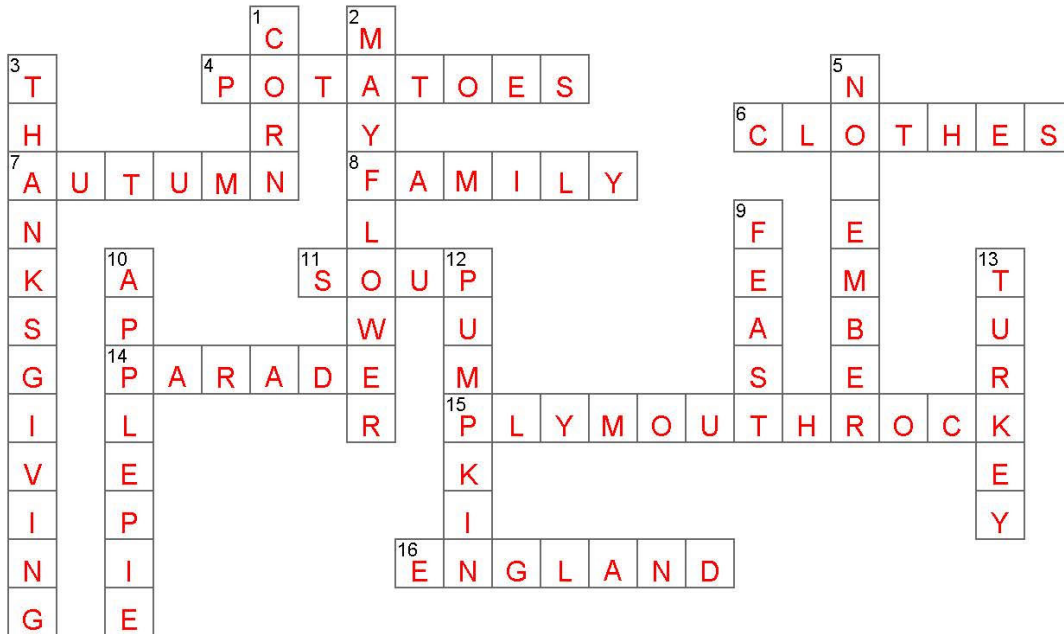


Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						All Saints Day
21st Sunday ² after Pentecost 9am Sunday School 10:00am Worship/ Holy Communion 11:00am Fellowship Parish 2 11:00 am Mission Daylight Savings Ends	³ 5:30pm Worship	⁴ 9:00am Home Communion 5:30pm Deacons	⁵ 11:30am Men's Lunch 5:30pm Youth Grp 7:00pm Choir	⁶ 1:00pm PW Circle 5:30pm Bells 6:30pm CE Meeting	⁷	⁶
24th Sunday ⁹ after Pentecost 9am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Jerry Simmons 11:00am Fellowship Parish 3	¹⁰ 5:00pm Welcoming	¹¹ 5:30pm F/P/S	¹² 11:30am Men's Lunch 5:30pm Youth Grp 7:00pm Choir	¹³ 12:00 p.m. AOC @ Love, Inc. ~ GLC 5:30pm Bells	¹⁴	¹⁵
25th Sunday ¹⁶ after Pentecost 9am Sunday School 10:00am Worship ~ 11:00am Fellowship Parish 4	¹⁷	¹⁸ 12:00 p.m. Northern Hills Connection 5:30pm B & G 7:00pm Stated Session	¹⁹ 11:30am Men's Lunch 5:30pm Youth Grp 7:00pm Choir	²⁰ 5:30pm Bells	²¹	²²
²³ 9am Sunday School 10:00am Worship 11:00am Fellowship Parish 1 	²⁴	²⁵	²⁶ 11:30am Men's Lunch 7:00pm Choir	²⁷ 11a.m.-2p.m. Thanksgiving Meal at SCC	²⁸	²⁹ 10:00 a.m. Decorate the Church for Advent/ Christmas
1st Sunday of ³⁰ Advent 9am Sunday School 10:00am Worship/ 11:00am Fellowship Parish 2				 Closed Thursday & Friday HAPPY THANKSGIVING Have a wonderful holiday!		

Name: _____

Date: _____

Thanksgiving Crossword



ACROSS

4. Thanksgiving food that can be mashed or baked.
6. The pilgrim's made them from linen, wool and leather.
7. The season of Thanksgiving.
8. People you are related to.
11. Made with special recipe from butternut squash.
14. Long line of people marching down the street.
15. Where the Pilgrims got of their ship.
16. Country that Pilgrims came from.

DOWN

1. Yellow vegetable grown by Native Americans.
2. The ship that brought the Pilgrims to North America.
3. Holiday of this crossword.
5. Eleventh month of the year.
9. A big meal.
10. Thanksgiving dessert made from apples.
12. Large orange vegetable.
13. Bird eaten at Thanksgiving.

APPLE PIE	THANKSGIVING	PLYMOUTH ROCK	PUMPKIN
ENGLAND	TURKEY	PARADE	CLOTHES
NOVEMBER	POTATOES	MAYFLOWER	SOUP
FEAST	FAMILY	AUTUMN	CORN